

U.S. House January 6 attack; Chairman Bennie Thompson lays out the investigation ahead



Thompson

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

During two interviews on January 2, Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS) outlined steps moving forward after months of investigation of the violent January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol by Donald Trump supporters. The chair of the special committee to investigate the January 6, 2021 attack said in a January 2nd interview that the violent insurrection “appeared to be a coordinated ef-

fort on the part of a number of people to undermine the election.”

Thompson also indicated that the Department of Defense may have interfered with assistance to the Capitol from the National Guard.

“There were significant inconsistencies in coordination, that the National Guard from the District of Columbia was slow to respond, not on its own, but it had to go to the De-

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New AARP research shows strong support for expansion of medicaid in MS

Voters surveyed want tax dollars brought back to the state to expand Medicaid Health Care

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The expansion of Medicaid in Mississippi to residents earning less than \$18,000 a year has the strong support of voters age 50+ in the state, according to new research released recently by AARP Mississippi.

The survey found that almost seven in ten older voters (68%) see Medicaid expansion as important. Medicaid is the government program that covers health care and long-term care for Americans with low incomes, including seniors, adults with young children and persons with disabilities. It is jointly funded by the federal and state governments.

“Expanding Medicaid will help about 44,000 Mississippians aged 50-64 who have

lost their jobs or are struggling to make ends meet in jobs without health benefits,” said Kimberly L. Campbell, Esq., state director of AARP Mississippi, which serves more than 260,000 members age 50+ in the state. “These hard-working family, friends and neighbors earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but earn too little to be eligible for other affordable healthcare coverage.”

Expanding Medicaid would not only help these individuals, it would also help the state’s economy and budget. Medicaid expansion will create an estimated 21,700 jobs, according to The Commonwealth Fund. It also would help Mississippi’s rural hospitals keep

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‘The Big Finish,’ the-time-to-press call of a Sensei who impacted ‘countless’

Reflections of the life and legacy of an unsung hero



Everett PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF SENSEI REX EVERETT

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

New Year’s Day is supposed to bring a new beginning, but shockingly it ended the match called life for a “gentle giant” and an “intentional man,” Sensei and Deacon Chairman Rex D. Everett. According to family, Everett, 57, a New Hebron, Miss. native, unexpectedly died in his Clinton home.

News of his unexpected death drew a chain of heavy-hearted, emotional reactions around the nation from those who knew him well. Prayers and condolences flooded social media.

Posting a happy photo of Everett and herself on Facebook, Kartessa “Tess” Bell, a Jack-

son education, leader wrote:

“Big Finish!”My karate family knew when Sensei yelled “Big Finish” during training or competition, it was time to press, commit to the plan both mentally and physically, and complete the business at hand. Today – new meaning to those words. My heart is broken...

Bell, who earned her first degree Black Belt in 2005, told *The Mississippi Link* that she was vacationing in Dubai when she heard the news. “I was in disbelief, she said. “Saddened. Shocked. Indescribable pain. Bewildered. My soul is deeply saddened and still weeps at such a tremendous loss. Sensei impacted countless lives.”

“Because of Sensei Rex, I am



ICHII! NII! SAN! SHI! Another day of intense workout with Master Zenpo Shimabukuro (center), son of Shorin-Ryu Seibukan’s founder, Zenryo Shimabukuro

a Regional Mississippi Karate Association Champion, Regional AAU Karate Champion, National AAU Karate Champion, and Junior AAU Coach of a Champion. In addition, I have had the opportunity to referee official karate tournaments, train other students at Everett’s Karate and Tougaloo Upward Bound, and serve as a role model to girls and women showing them that they ‘can do this, too,’” Bell said.

A 4th degree Black Belt, Everett was the owner and operator of Everett Karate School. He started karate after graduating in 1987 from Mississippi College (MC) where he played football on a full scholarship and remained an active alumni.

He was a Mass Media Communications major.

Dr. Jim Turcotte, vice president and executive director of MC’s alumni association, stated: “Rex was a hard worker during his time at Mississippi College. He was highly thought of by everyone who knew him.”

“We were all simply shocked. Rex was the baby of our family,” said an older brother Major Donel Everett, from his Philadelphia, Penn. home. “I have had a lot of people calling me crying who knew Rex from MC,” he said.

Major Everett, an MC Hall of Famer, is a former NFL

*Everett
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Attorney Yemi L. Kings honors the legacy of three Civil Rights legends with mural dedication ceremony

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

On Wednesday Attorney Yemi L. Kings held a mural dedication ceremony depicting images of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Medgar Wiley Evers and Rev. R.L.T. Smith, Sr. which was painted on the side of his law office by local artist Christopher Windfield.

Members of the community and media gathered outside the office of Kings and Associates, LLC located at 2703 Martin Luther King Drive for a close-up and to take pictures with their cell phones of the mural which was completed just a few weeks prior to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s holiday celebration and a few more weeks prior to observing Black History Month.

Kings said the idea of the mural came to him over a year or two ago but he didn’t know an artist to hire for the job. He told *The Mississippi Link* that he found the artist through a Facebook post asking for recommendations. Once found, he moved forward.



Attorney Kings in front of Mural

PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY

When asked what inspired him to choose those particular legends he said one reason was the location of his law office and the legends for whom the streets were named. He said, “Freedom Corner is around the corner from my office, at the intersection of

MLK Drive and Medgar Evers.”

Kings, who is the grandson of the late Civil Rights icon, Rev. R.L.T. Smith Sr., said, “I also wanted to pay tribute to my grandfather who contributed so much to civil rights.”

Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth

Stokes spoke of the life work of Evers, whom he said gave his life to make sure black people had opportunities to succeed in life and Dr. King who stayed on the battlefield, having given his life

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Inside

Civil Rights Attorney Ben Crump named to TIME Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People

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She Raised Her Voice



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Mississippi legislators face full agenda in 2022

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi legislators begin their three-month session on Tuesday with a clear idea of several issues that will come up for debate. One of the first orders of business will be adopting a plan to redraw the state's four U.S. House districts, expanding the majority-black 2nd District because it has lost population during the past decade.

The lone Democrat in Mississippi's congressional delegation, Rep. Bennie Thompson, wanted his district to grow by encompassing all of Hinds County. Instead, the plan advanced by a Republican-led redistricting committee will stretch the 2nd District farther south along the Mississippi River and allow Republican Rep. Michael Guest to keep affluent areas of northeastern Hinds County in the 3rd District.

Republicans hold strong majorities in the state House and Senate, so the plan recommended by the redistricting committee will be rubber-stamped.

At some point during the session, legislators will reapportion the 122 districts for the state House and the 52 districts for the state Senate, also to account for population changes revealed by the 2020 Census. This task is complicated because of the number of districts and because of the egos involved. It's likely that at least one current legislator will see his or her district dissolved to make room for a new district in a growing area.

Medical marijuana is a volatile issue that will attract lots of attention. In November 2020, a

wide margin of Mississippi voters approved an initiative to allow medical marijuana, and a program was supposed to be in place by the middle of 2021. In May, the state Supreme Court ruled that the initiative was not properly on the ballot because Mississippi's initiative process itself was outdated — a decision that also left the state without a way for people to petition to put issues in front of voters.

After the court ruling, a Republican-led group of legislators spent months negotiating on a medical marijuana program with the hope that Republican Gov. Tate Reeves would call the House and Senate into special session to put it into law during the fall. Reeves, however, has balked at their plan. He says it would allow Mississippi to be overrun with recreational marijuana.

A medical marijuana plan is likely to be put into law during the regular session, with or without the governor's blessing. Reeves recently said he will try to persuade some Republicans to stand with him if he vetoes a bill.

Teacher pay is another big topic for the 2022 session. Lots of politicians talk a good game about wanting to help teachers, but will it happen? A pay raise was not included in the initial budget recommendations made by legislative leaders.

An effort to eliminate the income tax could be the biggest fight of the session. House Speaker Philip Gunn really wants it — and if he gets credit for doing it, that could help him among conservatives if he challenges Reeves in the 2023 Republican gubernatorial

primary. But does Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann want this? It's not clear he does. A bill can't go to the governor if it can't pass the Senate, where Hosemann presides.

Legislators will debate ways to spend \$1.8 billion in federal pandemic relief money. Leaders say they want projects that would bring generational change. Could this include significant spending to improve Jackson's troubled water and sewer system? Or will money for water and sewer improvements get divided among a lot of cities, counties and small water associations?

Legislators frequently grab headlines with social issues. Republicans are likely to try to ban the teaching of critical race theory, even though there's no indication it's being taught in Mississippi schools.

Some lawmakers could try to ban COVID-19 vaccine mandates, even though Reeves has made clear he does not intend to ever set a statewide mandate. Mississippi has some of the tightest requirements in the U.S. for children to be vaccinated against other diseases before entering day care or public or private school, and the state generally receives praise for this from public health advocates. Will the fervor for opposing COVID-19 mandates cause legislators to rethink other vaccine requirements?

That's one fight that the overworked Health Department probably would like to avoid.

Emily Wagster Pettus has covered Mississippi government and politics since 1994. Follow her on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/EWagsterPettus>.

Legends

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for freedom and justice for all.

Stokes then spoke of Rev. R.L.T. Smith. He said, "When there were boycotts in Jackson a lot of black people didn't have money to buy food. He provided food for many of them. As a property owner in west Jackson, he provided housing for blacks when they had nowhere else to live." Stokes commended Kings for keeping the legacy of Rev. R.L.T. Smith, Sr. alive and for continuing to invest in the community.

Prior to asking Rev. Royce Smith, son of the late Rev. R.L.T. Smith, Sr. and father of the late Robert Shuler Smith to bless the food that was being served at the dedication, Kings asked for a moment of silence for his cousin, his mentor, the late Robert Shuler Smith, former D.A. of Hinds County.

When Rev. Royce Smith was asked by *The Mississippi Link* what his feelings were

regarding the mural dedication Smith replied, "It brought me back to thoughts about the boycotts of the 60's when my dad was fighting for blacks to have equal rights." He recalled how bricks were thrown in their windows at home and at the grocery store his dad owned. Smith said he always listened to his dad and tried to follow suit as a youngster growing up.

He said, "I remember the times when public water fountains were labeled 'for whites' and another 'for blacks,' and when blacks could not try on clothes in stores before purchasing them.

Smith also said that his son, Robert Shuler, would be very proud of the mural depicting his grandfather, Dr. King and Medgar Evers.

Kings said he was very pleased with the dedication which he thought was excellent.



Atty. Kings, Rev. Smith and Ward 3 Councilman Stokes



Christopher Wingfield, artist



Eddie James, Jackson Fire Dept., at the dedication



Councilman Stokes speaking



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



MISSISSIPPI

Everett

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player who played for the Philadelphia Eagles, Cleveland Browns and Atlanta Falcons. He also served on the MC Board of Trustees from 2006 to 2012.

“Rex could have gone pro as well, but he suffered some injuries in college. He received an offer but he declined,” said Major Everett.

Not going pro did not hinder Rex Everett from excelling further. “Rex was always busy, very energetic. Rex was the ultimate ntrepreneur,” Major Everett said.

Osmond Everett, who is eight years older than his baby brother, said Rex Everett gets his entrenenueral spirit from their late parents, Carlie and Velmon Everett. “We owned two barber shops,” said Osmond Everett. The Everetts were farmers, landowners, and their father performed multiple jobs. Their mother worked outside the home as well.

Osmond Everett said, “I was the middle child, and our mother always taught us to go off, do well, and reach back and help the younger sisters and brothers. Rex was my project. He looked to me, and I knew him better than anyone.”

Rex Everett’s biography reflects a busy life. He worked with Nationwide, State Farm and Shelter Insurance as a claims adjuster for many years. He owned and operated an Allstate Agency for several years. Prior to his death, he was an independent insurance agent.

He started karate after graduating from Mississippi College. He was taught by Sensei Dan Smith of USA Seibukan Martial Arts who issued this statement Jan. 1. upon hearing of Everett’s death.

“It is with great sadness that I bring you the news of the passing of my longtime student, Rex Everett. Rex was truly a wonderful person and an outstanding role model. He touched the lives of so many people of all ages through Seibukan. To know Rex was to know a sincerely kind and genuine soul. He will be greatly missed by his family, students and friends in his Seibukan family. If I get any other pertinent information I will certainly share it with you. Please keep his family and his students in your prayers. Thank you.”

He loved traveling to various karate tournaments including AAU Junior Olympics, state, and local tournaments. He traveled to Okinawa, Japan and Budapest, Hungary.

He was also a water aerobics, kick box and step aerobics instructor at the YMCA. Rex Everett was not only active in the karate world but also considered a great man of faith who loved God and people. He was a member of Progressive Morningstar Baptist Church of Jackson pastored by Rev. Terrick Williams. He served as deacon chairman and a member of the male choir.

Former Progressive Morning Star Deacon Chairman Darrell Hopkins, who played football with Everett at MC, said Everett exemplified the mark of a good leader because he knew how to follow. “He’s the type that would do whatever needed to be done in and out of the church. If he had the time to do it, he would do it. That was one of the things that I respected about him,” Hopkins said.

Longtime friend and student Kenneth Williams and his children were trained in Karate by him. “Everybody in our house took Karate except my wife Vivian,” said Williams aka “Coach.” His wife was very supportive and would observe them in training. “I have known Sensei Rex since 2002, and I have never seen him get upset,” Williams recalled. William’s daughter Jessica and son Buck earned their Black Belts.

Williams’ daughter, Jessica Williams Owens, shared this memory of her martial arts teacher:

“Sensei Rex was the first person I could talk to in life without even talking. I know that sounds weird but it was like he could tell when I was ready for competition or when I needed some extra assurance. I have so many memories with him that I feel the pain of losing him but also the joy of getting the opportunity to experience life with him. His smile was so comforting, his way of making light of bad situations shaped me, his ability to make people feel love without ever saying those words taught me how to love others.... I am thankful that God saw fit to make him a part of my life and I will carry on his legacy.”

Derek Pruitt, owner of Pruitt Martial Arts on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, has known Rex for over 20 years. He described him as “caring, strong and compassionate.” “A lot of people don’t know all the things he did and what revenue [through karate] he brought to the cities of Jackson, Ridgeland and Madison. He worked very, very hard.” Pruitt also reflected on Everett’s time-to-press compe-



Sensei Everett and AAU Karate Regional Director for Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas Rannie Ladner



Sensei Rex Everett and Sensei Jessica Williams Owens at the 2007 National Karate Championship



Everett during his appearance on FOX 40 providing safety and self-defence tips

tition call, “Big Finish.”

“Rex was all about collaboration,” said his nephew and sidekick Victor Keyes. “He did not mind working with other karate programs. It was easy for him on a Saturday or something to say, ‘let’s run down to Hattiesburg and see what we can do down there.

Former YMCA coworker Floyd Williams, currently of Visit Jackson, said, “Rex would work to do whatever he could to strengthen the community. He gave of himself 100-plus, very freely. I don’t think Rex ever met a stranger.”

Everett’s Karate was not only known in Mississippi, but also Louisiana, Alabama, overseas.

AAU Karate regional director for Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, Rannie Ladner said, “Sensei Rex was a super nice guy who was always willing to help the Karate program and especially his own students. He was a good friend and always smiling and reaching out to people who were in need of help. Always pushing his students to be the best they could be in the dojo and in life itself. He will be missed.”

Valarie Barrett Everett, a Philadelphia native and wife of his brother Major, said she admired how well he “was a mentor to young people.” “I think that is his greatest legacy: the positive impact he had on young people and young adults,” she said.

Keyes and Bell concur. He said all of the young people his uncle worked with learned discipline in the right way. “He taught them how to compete in the right way, and they helped each other. He had a spirit of showing them that once you earned your Black Belt, you go back to help others.” Keyes said Everett had a group that competed well in tournaments and brought home many championship trophies and accolades.

“Charity begins at home,” he said. “Not only did my Uncle Rex impact me, he impacted the next generation. All my nieces and nephew were inspired to take Karate under him just because he was a “great uncle.” “Better than you, Uncle Vic,” he said one of his nephews told him.

As part of its community, Everett’s Karate has been featured in a series on FOX 40 News segments, providing viewers with safety and self-defense tips.

According to Bell, Sensei Rex instituted a grade-check policy and made sur-



Sensei Everett with Black Belt Kartessa “Tess” Bell



Sensei Everett training student Barak Stringer



Everett and Black Belt Angelina Rios

prise visits to schools to ensure students excelled academically. He often attended their school events and “provided emotional or mental support when students’ loved ones transitioned or to those students needing the extra support from a father figure,” she said.

Barak Stringer, another Black Belt, was one of those inner-city youth, “I started karate when I was 12. I did not grow up with my father in my life. He inadvertently became like that father figure for me. And, his Karate program became like a safe haven for a lot of us that were in the Jackson metro community. It was like a family outside of family.” Stringer is now a ninth-grade Algebra teacher in Dallas.

Family and friends shared that Rex Everett was also a jokester. “He was very humorous, an entertainer,” said Osmond Everett.

“With each karate trip or event, there was never a dull moment with Sensei Rex. His smile and sense of humor were infectious,” said Bell.

“He would have us cracking up back in the church office after church,” said Hopkins. Family and friends said that he could do comedic impressions of just about anyone famous.

Everett is survived by his two sons: Rex “Maxwell” Everett and William Everett; five of nine siblings: Delmont, Russia, Osmond, Major and Wendy; and a host of other relatives and friends.

“Although he completed the ‘Big Finish,’ his light will continue to burn within each student or person he has ever encountered,” concluded Bell.

The Homegoing Celebration of Rex D Everett can also be streamed LIVE on Progressive Morningstar Baptist Church Official Page ONLY (Saturday, January 8, 2022 11 a.m. CST)

Arrangements:
Viewing: Friday, January 7, 2022 (9 a.m. - 7p.m.)

Westhaven Funeral Home
3580 Robinson St., Jackson, MS 39209
Funeral Service: Saturday, January 8, 2022 (11 a.m.), Progressive Morningstar M.B. Church, 3677 Robinson Street, Jackson, MS 39209.

Burial: Saturday, January 8, 2022, immediately following funeral services, North Pleasant Hill M.B. Church Cemetery, 495 North Pleasant Hill Road, New Hebron, MS 39140.

Investigation

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partment of Defense. We have actually fixed that right now, where the mayor of the District of Columbia can access the Guard right now,” Thompson said.

Thompson is planning televised hearings of the committee’s work in January. Thompson also mentioned a task force within the committee that will investigate the financial support of Trump supporters who attacked the Capitol on January 6, 2021. The committee is bi-partisan with two Republicans: Reps. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) and Liz Cheney (R-WY).

The attack on the legislative branch of the U.S. government happened on the same day that the election of President Joe Biden was to officially be certified as the victor of the 2020 presidential election by Congress. The certification process is typically a non-eventful procedure that involves officially receiving the certification papers of all the states during an hours-long ceremony and vote on the House floor.

There were 147 Republicans in the U.S. House who voted against the certification of Biden’s election even after the violent attack on the Capitol.

On January 6, 2021, former President Trump, who lost to President Joe Biden on November 3, 2020 by over 7,052,770 votes, had only 14 days left to remain in The White House before Biden’s inaugural. On the morning of January 6, 2021, Trump appeared at a gathering of his supporters and lied to them, as he had since November 2020 claiming the election was “stolen.” Trump’s lie that his election loss was the result of fraud has been advanced on Facebook by his supporters and in right-wing media non-stop.

“I think it is critically important, given everything we know about the lines that he was willing to cross, he crossed lines no American president has ever crossed before. You know, we entrust the survival of our republic into the hands of the chief executive, and when a president refuses to tell the mob to stop, when he refuses to defend any of the coordinate branches of government, he cannot be trusted,” Rep. Cheney said about Donald Trump on January 2.

Trump lost to Biden by double the amount of votes that he lost to Hillary Clinton in 2016. Clinton won the popular vote by 2,868,686 votes but lost the electoral college 304 to 227.

“All of us here today do not want to see our election victory stolen by emboldened radical-left Democrats, which is what they’re doing. And stolen by the fake news media,” Trump bellowed from a stage on the eclipse near The White House. “We will never give up, we will never concede. It doesn’t happen. You don’t concede when there’s theft involved,” Trump continued citing no evidence.

Several Republican election officials in states such as Georgia, Arizona and New Mexico certified Biden as the winner of the election without controversy.

Trump’s supporters violently attacked the Capitol shortly after Trump’s speech, over-running entrances, assaulting police officers and breaking glass doors during the violent insurrection at the Capitol. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser called governors in surrounding states for assistance from their National Guard.

Trump’s supporters set up a fake guillotine they said was for Pence on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol between the reflecting pool and a memorial of U.S. Grant. Trump’s supporters chanted “hang Mike Pence” in the Capitol during the insurrection.

“We have significant testimony that leads us to believe that the White House had been told to do something. We want to verify all of it,” Thompson said on CNN.

The next committee meeting is expected soon.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered.

Medicaid

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their doors open and retain doctors and nurses. Furthermore, due to a recent change in federal law, if Mississippi lawmakers expand Medicaid health care to residents who earn under \$18,000 a year, an additional bonus of \$400 million in tax dollars will come back to Mississippi from Washington, D.C.

“Mississippi is one of only 12 states that has not expanded Medicaid,” Campbell said. “If we don’t, those tax dollars will keep being sent to other states like Arkansas, California, Louisiana and New York, instead of coming home to Mississippi. We can’t let that keep happening.”

AARP’s survey shows strong bipartisan support for Mississippi state lawmakers to bring that \$400 million dollar bonus back to the state to expand Medicaid, with 99% of Democrats, 82% of Republicans and 81% of Independents saying it is important to do so.

“If the legislature does nothing, tens of thousands of Mississippians will continue to lack the health coverage they need and the state will lose out on a \$400 million dollar bonus in tax dollars returned to us from Washington,” Campbell said. “The voters of Mississippi want and need Medicaid expansion. The time for action is now.”

Learn more about Medicaid expansion in Mississippi at www.aarp.org/ms.

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

Dr. Helen Chavis Othow dies at 89

April 21, 1932 – January 1, 2022



Othow

Dr. Helen Chavis Othow was born to the late Benjamin Franklin Chavis Sr. and Elisabeth Ridley Chavis April 21, 1932. She departed this life January 1, 2022. She was the second of four children: her sisters, the late June Chavis Davenport and Dr. LaRhoda Francine Chavis and her brother, The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Franklin Chavis, Jr.

She was reared in a loving home and attended St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church in Oxford, N.C. since childhood, where she was a member of the choir, the Altar Guild, and the Vestry. She attended the public schools of Oxford, Angier B. Duke Elementary School and was graduated from Mary Potter High School in 1948.

As a lifetime career teacher, she wanted her church to become more involved with the schools and youth in Oxford to help students achieve at a higher level. In February 2010, she sponsored through the Granville Arts Council an Artists-in-the-Schools program at Northern Granville Middle School and Mary Potter Middle School. In 2009 she coordinated the Centennial Celebration of St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church. Over the years she also coordinated several summer enrichment programs for underserved students at St. Cyprian's.

She attended St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, attaining the B.A. Degree in English and French in 1952; the M.A. Degree in English from North Carolina College in 1958; and the Ph.D. Degree in English from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin in 1971. It was there that she met her late husband, Paul Anade Othow from Sudan in East Africa, while they attended the University of Wisconsin. They were married in Gambela,

Ethiopia in 1971. To this union was born her beautiful daughter, Ajulonyodier Elisabeth Othow in 1973. The three members of the family toured East Africa, and in the 1980's, Helen and Anade taught at the University of Juba in the southern region of Sudan. Through their efforts the couple brought over 30 refugees to reside in the United States, from Sudan; Ethiopia; Sierra Leone, West Africa; and the Dominican Republic.

Dr. Othow was chairperson of the Division of Humanities at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, from 1974 to 1979 and chairperson of the English Department at St. Augustine's College from 1984 to 1996, where she directed the Bush-Hewlett Writing Across the Curriculum program.

As a professor of English, she received tenure from St. Augustine's College in 1999. In addition to teaching at St. Augustine's College, she has taught English at several colleges and universities throughout the United States: North Carolina Central University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Wisconsin, Meredith College, North Carolina State University, and Howard University in Washington, D.C. After her retirement in 2001, she taught online at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia; Louisburg College in Louisburg, North Carolina; and Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

She received numerous awards for her scholarly endeavors and contributions to society. Her biography appears in *Twentieth Century Writers*, 2005; *Who's Who Among African Americans*, 2000; *Certificate of Completion*, the Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware, 2001; *Vermont Studio Center Fellowship for Writers* in Johnson, Vermont; *St. Augustine's College Outstanding Faculty Plaque and Trophy*; *United Negro College Fund Faculty Research Grant*; *Plaque for Scholarly Achievement*, Presented by the North Carolina Central University Faculty Senate in 2007; and numerous National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar Grants for College Teachers.

She is the author of *John Chavis: African American Patriot, Preacher, Teacher, and Mentor 1763-1838*, published by McFarland Publishers in 2001; a novel, *Flight to Gambela*; a book of poems, *Lift High the Ramparts*; and *A History of the Chavis, Ridley, and Satterwhite Families of Oxford, North Carolina*, published by the Library of Congress. Her dissertation *The New Decorum: Moral Per-*

spectives of Black Literature, the University of Wisconsin, 1972, is also published by the Library of Congress.

Through God's help she also coordinated the installment of the Historic Highway Marker for Dr. G.C. Shaw and Mary Potter Academy in Oxford. She was the founder and president of The John Chavis Historical Society and assisted in the unveiling and rededication of the new Historic Highway Marker for John Chavis in Raleigh, N.C. on July 11, 2010. She is also responsible for the installation of a permanent sign at the likely gravesite of John Chavis located on the former Willie P. Mangum plantation, having found it after extensive research, along with that of numerous other unmarked graves for enslaved people in Rougemont, North Carolina.

She was a member of the Nature Lovers Garden Club; Les Gemmes, Inc.; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; The College Language Association; The Association for the Study of African American Life and History; The Langston Hughes Society; The Zora Neale Hurston Society; The Anna J. Cooper Society; The North Carolina Writers Network; The Mid-Atlantic Writers Association; The National Council of Teachers of English; The Toni Morrison Society; The Oxford Women's Club; The National Mary Potter Alumni Association; and The John Chavis Historical Society. Through the John Chavis Historical Society, she coordinated Oxford's First Annual International Festival, which in its fifth year is bigger and better and is now held in beautiful downtown Oxford.

She leaves to celebrate her life, her brother, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. (Martha); her sister, Dr. LaRhoda Francine Chavis; her daughter, Ajulo Othow Norman (Collis) and grandson, Collis Raymon Norman Jr.; an adopted sister, Carol Faye Payton of Houston, Texas; four step-granddaughters, Abigail Norman, Mercedes Norman, Jasmine Norman and Princess Norman; five nieces: Marva Elisabeth Davenport, Ana Elisabeth Chavis, Paula Chavis Jones, Nicole (Nikki) Bullock, and Renita Peace Timberlake; four nephews, Benjamin Franklin Chavis, III, Franklin Chavis, Reginald Louis Chavis, and John Mandela Chavis; great nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Contributions may be made in care of the John Chavis Historical Society to the Dr. Helen Chavis Othow Scholarship Fund to St. Augustine's College and to the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin.

Celebrating the Life of Johnny Allen Morrow

October 21, 1954 - December 27, 2021



Morrow

Johnny Allen Morrow, fondly known as "Bootsy" was reared in Jackson, Mississippi and attended Lanier High School and Jackson State University. Johnny was a well-known and respected entrepreneur, businessman and collector in the Georgetown Community in Jackson.

He owned and operated his own automobile car dealership and detail car shop for decades at Five Points in the Jackson area. He was the first African-American automobile wholesaler in the state of Mississippi. Because of Johnny's extensive knowledge and expertise, automobile dealerships relied heavily upon him to provide dollar figures to trade for automobiles that needed appraising.

To the automobile industry, he was known as Johnny 'Retail' Morrow. He had a passion for collecting and restoring antique cars. He referred to his inventory as 'The Morrow Collection.' Some of his vintage cars appeared in the movie, "The Help."

A legend, a thinker, an innovator, a visionary, a historian and a creative genius, Johnny used his many talents and hobbies to establish a rental hall and multi-purpose complex known as "The Room" located at Five Points in Jackson. The State of Mississippi House of Representatives honored Johnny with a resolution commending him for his outstanding service and dedication in preserving Mississippi's unique and diverse history in the establishment of "The Room." It was Johnny's passion and vision to create such a facility to preserve some of Mississippi's most interesting and fascinating history. A car enthusiast and history buff, he – brought honor to the State of Mississippi through his dedication to this endeavor. He also garnered national attention for this venture. Many famous celebrities such as Muhammad Ali, Dan Aykroyd, Snoop Dogg and Morgan Freeman have frequented "The Room."

Johnny was featured in several media outlets such as *The Clarion Ledger*; *Jackson Advocate*; *The Mississippi Link*; *The Northside Sun and Boom Magazine*.

He appeared in local news stories and television broadcasts, such as Mississippi Roads, WLBT's Look Around Mississippi, WJTV's Mississippi Moments

and Focused on Mississippi during Black History Month.

One of Johnny's many community projects was the development of a magazine entitled *Jackson Cars*, *The Legends of the Automobile Industry*. He reflected on the automobile industry pioneers he encountered during his career. His fascination with their journey to success led him to publish their stories and contributions to the city of Jackson.

In 1965, the Lanier High School Basketball team, The Bulldogs, was the only Mississippi high basketball team to ever win a national championship. It was during the civil rights movement turmoil and the team was not properly honored. Their trophy set in the Lanier High School Trophy Case for 48 years. Johnny organized state, city, county, businesses and individuals to help get the team recognized. In January, 2013 the team received their national championship rings and were inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. Their story also became part of our nation's Congressional Record.

On September 12, 1992, Johnny married the love of his life, Hazel. She was his loving and devoted wife for 29 years. They enjoyed traveling and spending time together. He referred to her as his "jewel." One Christmas, Johnny surprised her with a Shih Tzu puppy, Prince. They both adored and spoiled him during his twelve-year life with them. Johnny's love for animals led him to surprise Hazel yet again, with Kobe, their pet Shih Poo.

To cherish his memories, he leaves his loving wife, Hazel; one brother, Leon (Debra) Morrow of Jackson, MS; one sister, Frances Quin of Jackson, MS; a special sister-in-law, Tameaker Hicks of Edwards, MS; a brother-in-law, Dwight (Linda) Johnson of Greenville, MS; father-in-law, Melkiah Barnes of Edwards, MS; a special cousin, Elvie Willis of Jackson, MS; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. His loving mother, Leona M. Morgan, preceded him in death.

Johnny was a "people person" who never met a stranger. He loved music, watching football, socializing with his friends and telling jokes. Bootsy was known as "everybody's buddy." He was admired and loved by so many.

Celebrating a life well lived Lynda B. Bullet

October 13, 1951 – December 18, 2021



Bullet

October 13, 1951 ushered a phenomenal change into the lives of many. On this day, Lynda Doris Beasley became not only the first born to Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Beasley, but the first grandchild to both maternal and paternal grandparents, and the first to allowed multiples to have the distinction of being aunts and uncles. As such, she became the awesome melding of the Beasley and Booth families, where she was constantly surrounded with gladness and delight.

Lynda had a carefree childhood in the Hopewell Community of Collins, Mississippi (Covington County) where she was baptized as a Christian into fellowship at Old Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. H.L. McKnight. She was actively involved in various auxiliaries of the church including the choir, Usher Board, Sunday School, Baptist Training Union and Vacation Bible School. These experiences contributed greatly to shaping her Christian values and character.

Lynda attended Hopewell School until 10th grade when the school system design called for progression to Carver Central High School. Although she was a standout basketball player at both schools, she expanded her

adventures to become a majorette in the high school marching band. She enjoyed all aspects of her educational experience and developed life-long friendships which have been demonstrated by her continuous involvement in the Carver High School Alumni Association.

Her educational journey naturally progressed to Alcorn State University as she followed in the footsteps and tradition of aunts, uncles, cousins and various community influencers. While there, she and twenty-one other young ladies pledged and became the first on-campus line of Signa Gamma Rho Sorority. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education at Alcorn, and later studied Accounting at Jackson State University. She is a member of the Metro-Jackson Alcorn Alumni Association Chapter.

Greater dynamics of her time at Alcorn State University came when she met her life partner Irving Bullet, Jr.; they married in 1975 and established their new home in Jackson, Mississippi where their children Trey and Venus were born. There was never a time when she did not look out for the well-being of her household. As an exceptional mother, and expert housekeeper, and an excellent cook, her cornbread dressing and homemade dinner rolls were always requested items for holiday meals.

She was a career United States Government employee, having served in the Social Security Administration; the Department of Housing and Urban Development; the Internal Revenue Service; and the Justice Department. Lynda retired with 37 years of federal service.

From her earlier days, she knew that a well-rounded family and household required more than physical nourishment; thus, the family joined New Hope Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Emmitt C. Burns. As an active member, Lynda participated in the choir,

Women's Missionary Union, Sunday School, and previously served in New Members Assimilation Ministry, Crown Financial Ministry, and Women's Prison Ministry. She was always excited about participating in Christmas and Easter cantatas. In her own compassionate way, she quietly served the needs of elderly acquaintances when they needed a helping hand.

Her joy became fulfilled on earth through her three grandchildren – Zach and Alex (Trey's sons); and Elle (Venus' daughter). To them, she is GiGi and she has left a lasting legacy for each of them to remember through her personal touch and interactions with each one. Her face beamed and her eyes sparkled more when they were in her presence, facetimeing on a device, or talking on the phone.

Surviving family members are her dedicated husband of more than forty-six years, Irving Bullet, Jr.; their son "Trey" Irving Bullet, III (Tomika); their daughter Venus Ross; and their daughter-in-love Quenshanta Bullet. Her surviving siblings are sisters Jacqueline Beasley, Cynthia Beasley, and Sheila Beasley; and her only brother Cedric L. Beasley. Lynda is also survived by her brother-in-law Allen Martin and his wife Nikki, and sister-in-law Jeanette Martin. Other surviving family include two paternal aunts – Vera B. Floyd and Delois Beasley, and one maternal uncle – Gevillion Booth and his wife Everlean; along with nieces Alicia, Brittany, Jasmine, Kaci, Kendra, and Madalyn; and nephews Allen James, DaJuan, Elyias, Khalil, Luther, and Taylor. Many cousins from the Beasley, McCann, Booth, Posey, Campbell, and Davis lineage are also survivors, several of whom are like sisters and brothers. Lynda is predeceased by her father Leroy Beasley (2005), her mother Mildred (Booth) Beasley (2015), and her sister Patricia A. Beasley (2014).

Old birthday card inspired clinic owner to defy expectations

By Sarah Haselhorst
Associated Press

It's been 26 years since Mary Williams retrieved an envelope from the trash that held her 26th birthday card.

She'd thrown it out with little thought. "RN Williams" was scrawled on the envelope and \$3 had been tucked inside. One for her. Another for her daughter. And the remaining dollar for her son. The "RN" a preemptive nod to her soon-to-be registered nurse title.

At 26 and a few semesters away from graduating a registered nursing program, Williams was ready to quit. She was isolated by her white classmates. Thrown complex patients by a challenging professor. The last stretch felt too long.

Her mother, Emma Williams, knew it wasn't. She was the first person to call her daughter, her ninth child of 10, "RN."

Signed with simple reverence, the card read: "With love, Mama." A week later, her mother was gone.

Williams rummaged through the trash, laminated the card and envelope, never looked back and became more than her mother and the people of her tiny Marks hometown ever expected.

Twenty-six years later, from behind her desk in an office adorned with diplomas and awards, it's not a question of whether her mother would be proud.

"She was easily satisfied by the small things," Williams, now 52, said.

But Mary Williams isn't. She never has been.

The people who come to her clinic in Clarksdale, just 16 miles from her hometown, know that. It's a community that raised her. She stayed to do what outsiders couldn't: Deliver health care to a rural area in desperate need of faith in the system.

She is them. And they trust her.

Becoming RN

On an October day when the Delta was high with cotton, Marks, a town of under 2,000, sat in silence. The city building towered above matchbox houses, some with chipped and split siding. Streets like Peach, Ocean and Walnut cleaved through the main drag.

It's a place Williams, as a young bookish girl, vowed to leave.

Her childhood home, a three-room house with no bathroom, is all she and her nine siblings knew. Their single mother was too sick to work, so the eldest son, Morris, was the breadwinner, buying Mary's cheerleading uniform and shoes.

The Williams children could go to school or work. College was never spoken about, not even with Mary Williams who was a voracious reader and found comfort cooped up



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

in a library. Instead, education was imbued with scripture and frequent trips to church.

At 15, Williams had her daughter. By 17, a son.

"Most people would write them off, they feel like they've just messed their life up," Williams' brother, Don, said of teenage mothers in Marks. "But (Mary) had a good support system. We didn't have nothing. We just had love."

Love from her siblings could help watch her children. Love could give her advice and faith. But love couldn't pay the bills. And it wasn't enough to temper her anger.

"I felt like life had given me a bad deal," Williams said. "My friends didn't have children or a boyfriend who was cheating on them, they had money and cars. All this stuff I didn't have."

She tried a few classes to become a medical secretary. It never panned. She worked assembling picture frames in Coahoma County. It never fulfilled her.

Life wasn't supposed to be this small, Williams would say to herself.

Maybe it was the anger still rattling her or a mission to quell her mother's nagging that had Williams signing up to take a test to get into a licensed practical nurse program at 18. She was through working in a factory. But the last thing she wanted to be was a nurse.

She'd planned to fail.

Days after Mary took the exam, Emma Williams was overjoyed. Her daughter had passed. With flying colors. Then her daughter tried an interview for the program.

A man on the panel would say:

"Make sure that girl gets in school," Mary remembered.

At 19, raising two children, Williams graduated Northwest Mississippi Community College as a licensed practical nurse. Working at a Clarksdale hospital, she'd left Marks behind.

"When I moved from Marks to Clarksdale, the people didn't see a little poor girl who had children in school," she said. "They saw a beautiful, intelligent woman who was able to move the needle."

But Williams was quick to realize registered nurses were calling the shots. She was thirsty for more. Time spent in college, stepping away from a Marks mindset, showed her she deserved more.

"When she says she's gonna do something, she has no shadow of doubt," Rava Pittman, Williams' cousin and fellow nurse practitioner, said.

It's not an empty sentiment. Or one to stroke Williams' ego. It's shared by her brothers Don and Morris. Even before there was college, Emma Williams saw Mary's brazen confidence.

In the three decades Mary Williams has been a nurse, she's earned the highest degree in nursing education: Doctor of Nursing Practice.

By 2018, she did what would've seemed inconceivable three decades ago, opening Urgent & Primary Care of Clarksdale.

A Clinic For A Community In Need

In the near three-hour stretch from Mississippi's capital city to the 15,000-person town of Clarkdale, somewhere along the cotton-plaited highway, you'll see Mary Williams

before you meet her.

With a smile as bleach-white as her crisp lab coat, matched by a string of pearls, her image is pasted across a billboard. Warm and welcoming, like she has all the time in the world to listen.

But she's unexpected. Her neatly parted hair, trendy magenta scrubs and ever-dinging Apple Watch are a sharp contrast to the known agricultural and trading town, some patients walking into her clinic with mud-crusted ranch boots.

She isn't an anomaly, though. City slicker looks or not, Williams' patients mostly know her backstory. She's a beacon of hope and an honest voice.

It's why they showed up in droves when she first opened her clinic on Good Friday three years ago.

Clarksdale Urgent & Primary Care clinic was formed around the notion of filling gaps, staying open late and offering weekend hours to the community who were stricken by 9-to-5s. Her focus is on managing diabetes and hypertension.

"It's like raising a newborn," she said of her clinic.

Lately, though, COVID-19 has consumed her practice. The clinic's typical 15-20 patient load has skyrocketed at times to nearly 30. She's tested hundreds of people. Vaccinated hundreds of others. Some patients are fearful of the vaccine. Others see it as the only power they wield.

But she's the perfect person to explain the complexities of COVID-19 to a community that's been plagued with poor health care and lacking access. She watched as her mother suffered with inadequate health care. She knew what it was like to be the only black woman in a class full of prospective nurses.

She isn't clouded by a savior complex. She meets her patients where they are and listens in a way only a true daughter of the Delta could. It's hard to imagine it's a career Williams wanted nothing to do with when her mother prodded her all those years ago.

In between seeing patients one day in November, Williams thinks back to her mother's card. How it still hangs on her fridge. How she looks at it constantly as a reminder of her roots.

The front of the card pictures a rushing waterfall capped by a rainbow and a quote by writer B.J. Hoff: "Begin every day with your eyes on the rainbow – seek the bright hope and the joy on the way. ... Open your arms wide and welcome each moment – gratefully gather the gifts each day."

Mary has done just that. She's seen past the pain of losing her mother and focused on the gift she left: Two letters on a birthday card.

Hosemann: State should provide insurance for working people

By Leah Willingham
Associated Press/Report for America

One of Mississippi's top legislative leaders said Tuesday that the state should provide health insurance for working people, but sharply rebuffed a question about expanding Medicaid.

Republican Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann said that instead of "talking about some nomenclature that's three presidents ago," lawmakers should be looking at how real people are being impacted by lack of insurance in the nation's poorest state.

"What does that mean? What is the expansion of Medicaid? That is a lazy question," he said to a reporter who asked him about his thoughts on expanding Medicaid – something 38 states have done – during a news conference on the first day of the legislative session. "What you need to be thinking about is how we are going to cover people that are working in Mississippi that have catastrophic illnesses. That's the real question."

Hosemann said lawmakers are drafting a proposal that would bring health insurance to working people in Mississippi, but said it's too early to provide details on what format that plan would take. When asked whether a proposal could be presented this session, Hosemann said it would be made "as soon as we can do it."

Medicaid is a health insurance program for the needy, aged, blind and disabled. It is paid by federal and state money. Mississippi has about 3 million residents, and Medicaid already covers more than 763,500 people, about 25% of the population.

But Mississippi is one of 12 states – all of whom have GOP-controlled legislatures – that have not approved expanding Medicaid coverage to the working poor, which is an option under the Affordable Care Act that was signed into law in 2010 by then-President Barack Obama.

During a separate news conference Tuesday, House Speaker Philip Gunn said he doesn't support expanding Medicaid and that it's not a realistic plan in Mississippi.

"I don't see that as a way forward in Mississippi," he said. "We need to be looking at ways to get people off Medicaid, not put them on Medicaid."

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves and his Republican predecessor, Phil Bryant, have said they believe Mississippi cannot afford to put more people on the program, even with the federal government paying for most of the tab.

Hosemann said he often hears stories from Mississippi residents who have been impacted by a lack of coverage. On Tuesday, he spoke about a woman in Greenwood who worked at Dollar General and didn't go to the doctor because she was without health insurance. She later found out she had cancer and died, leaving behind a husband and children.

"That's happening in Mississippi for working people," he said.

Republican Sen. Chad McMahan of Guntown said he thinks lawmakers should at the very least hold hearings on Medicaid expansion and study what a Mississippi proposal could look like. The state is missing out on \$1 billion a year that could revitalize rural hospitals that have closed or are at risk of closing, he said.

McMahan said his family didn't have health insurance when he was growing up. When he was a teenager, he was hurt and they were saddled with a \$21,000 hospital bill. His father and mother, a carpenter and clerk, spent years paying it off.

"I've never forgotten what it's like to not have health care coverage," he said. "It's a scary thing."

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

FedEx to sponsor free MLK Day at the Two Mississippi Museums

Mississippi Department of Archives & History

FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX), the world's largest express transportation company, is supporting free admission to the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History Monday, January 17, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The museums will also be free on Sunday, January 16.

"We are grateful to FedEx for their continued support of our annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration," said Katie Blount, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

"At FedEx, we believe that when we connect people and possibilities, we

can change the world," said Rose Flenorl, manager of Global Citizenship at FedEx Services. "We are proud to support free public admission to the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History, to help visitors connect with Dr. King's legacy, and leave inspired to drive positive changes of their own."

The museums will open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, January 17. Museum hours for Sunday, January 16, are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Safety precautions at the museums include requiring all visitors to wear face masks and observe social distancing guidelines while inside the building.

At 6 p.m. Monday, January 17, join us for the annual MLK Night of Culture program in the Craig H. Neilsen Auditorium of the Two Mississippi Museums. This year's theme is "Those Who Stayed," inspired by the stories of the individuals who remained in Mississippi during the Great Migration, a population movement of African Americans who left their homes to seek better opportunities in the northern and western states in response to racial injustice in the rural South.

The event is free and includes live poetry and performances by Jackson State University's MADDDRAMA theatre troupe, Hinds Community

College's MONTAGE Theatre of Dance and other featured artists. Seating is limited.

The event will also be streamed live on the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum Facebook page.

Dr. King's involvement in Mississippi included attending the funeral of NAACP state field secretary Medgar Evers in 1963, visiting Greenwood in support of Mississippi Freedom Summer in 1964, and testifying in support of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) during the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

For more information call 601-576-6850 or email info@mdah.ms.gov.

Parents raise the alarm about violence in schools, say their vote depends on improvement

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

A new poll revealed that parents continue to express “legitimate concerns” about violence in schools, increased bullying and a lack of mental health resources.

Alarmingly, the poll released by the National Parents Union found that 59 percent of parents are very or extremely concerned about how schools are teaching race and diversity.

“Many black parents are worried that schools are being harsher on students of color compared to white students,” researchers noted in the poll.

The National Parents Union counts as a network of parent organizations and grassroots activists committed to improving the quality of life for children and families in the United States.

Conducted from November 19 to November 23, the survey included 1,233 parents who also count as registered voters.

Researchers found that 84 percent of parents are concerned about how schools address the threat of violence, and 59 percent identified increased bullying or violence in school as a significant issue.

About 52 percent said student mental health, after coping with the pandemic, is a significant issue as well.

“Parents have very legitimate concerns about violence in schools, increased bullying and a lack of



About 52 percent of parents said student mental health after coping with the pandemic is a significant issue.

mental health resources,” Keri Rodrigues, co-founder, and president of the National Parents Union, said in a statement.

“Now, it is incumbent on schools to do something about these issues, especially given the federal funds available. It’s not rocket science. Rather than repaint a football field, first, make sure that there are enough counselors to help students cope with mental health issues,” Rodrigues asserted.

The poll also asked the parents who responded if they were concerned about the threat of violence and which worries them the most.

The top three most pressing concerns remain:

- 44 percent: schools not having enough counselors, psychologists or social workers to work with students
- 42 percent: schools not having

resources to keep weapons out of schools

- 39 percent: schools not having school resource officers or police accessible on campus
- 59 percent of parents are extremely or very concerned about how schools are teaching race and diversity. Among black parents, 69 percent share this sentiment, which drops slightly to 67 percent among Hispanic parents.

Of the overall number of parents who are at least somewhat concerned (79 percent):

- 48 percent say what concerns them the most is schools not teaching accurate information about the issue of race.
- 42 percent are most concerned about schools pushing a progressive agenda onto students
- 56 percent of GOP parents who are concerned say this is their top

concern

- 32 percent are most concerned that schools aren’t focused on the issue enough
- 46 percent of black parents who are concerned say this is their top concern
- 78 percent of parents are concerned about how schools are handling disciplinary issues
- Nearly half (46 percent) of black parents who said they are concerned about how schools are handling disciplinary issues are worried that schools are harsher on students of color compared to white students
- 38 percent of parents trust Democrats to do a better job of handling education; 31 percent trust Republicans; 14 percent trust both equally; 11 percent trust neither.

Among parents who identify as Independents, 28 percent trust Republicans and 20 percent trust Democrats.

“These findings underscore the importance of the very thing we have been imploring school leaders across the country to do – listen to the parents in your community,” Rodrigues stated.

“It also reinforces the need for those running for office to take the concerns of parents very seriously or risk losing elections.”

About 52 percent said student mental health after coping with the pandemic is a significant issue, as well.

JPS prepares for return to in-person learning January 6, 2022

The Mississippi Link Newswire

All Jackson Public School District schools returned to in-person learning Thursday, January 6. Teachers reported back on January 5.

The district is continuing a virtual instruction option for Pre K-6th grade scholars for families that would like to continue virtual learning. Families who prefer to end virtual instruction will have the option to have their scholars return to traditional, full-day, in-person schedule by notifying their school.

The Mississippi State Department of Health reported a recent surge in new coronavirus cases following the Christmas and New Year holidays. Additionally, the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) recently updated recommendations for isolation and quarantine to balance the protection provided by vaccination and booster doses. According to the new CDC guidelines, any student or employee who tests positive will be required to isolate for at least five days, regardless of vaccination status. If the positive individual has been free from fever and all other COVID-19 symptoms for five days, that individual may return to the school setting.

Due to the recent surge in positive COVID-19 cases in the Jackson are, JPS is reducing attendance by 50% at all indoor athletic events effective immediately. They will continue to monitor the coronavirus data from state and local officials and make the necessary adjustments to attendance guidelines.

All attendees should continue to wear masks, practice social distancing and use clear bags at all indoor athletic events. Unvaccinated athletes are still subject to weekly COVID-19 tests.

Parents are encouraged to keep their scholar at home if their student feels ill.

Masks will continue to be worn by riders and drivers on all school buses and by all faculty, staff, scholars and visitors inside school buildings.

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Your seafood smelling fishy, don't eat it

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

When buying fish, you should know your store. The store should have good refrigeration. When it's on display, the ice should cover enough of the fish to keep it cold. Fresh fish should smell fresh. It should have a mild sea breeze odor. It should never have a strong fishy odor. A whole fresh fish should have bright clear and shiny eyes. The scales should be shiny and cling tightly to the skin. The gills should be bright red or pink. Steaks and fillets should be moist and free from drying or browning around the edges.

Never buy fish at a store when cooked seafood is stored next to raw seafood. When buying canned fish, never buy swollen or dented cans.

Fish is also bought frozen. When buying frozen fish, make sure the packages are not damaged and the fish are frozen solid. Never buy frozen fish that is covered with ice crystals or appear to have freezer burn. Always buy frozen fish that is below the frost line in the display case.

Frozen shellfish should be packaged in closefitting, moisture proof containers. Frozen shellfish that is prepared such as crab cakes or breaded shrimp should be frozen solid and should not show any discoloration, drying or have an unpleasant odor.

Fresh prawns, shrimp, lobster, soft shell crabs and rock shrimp



should have a uniform light colored tail without any discoloration. Mollusks in the shell should be alive and hold tightly to their shells when handled. If you buy fresh oysters look for a natural creamy color within a clear liquid.

It's best to buy fresh seafood the day you're going to eat it. If that isn't possible, you'll need to store it in the refrigerator or freezer until it is prepared and cooked.

Seafood is an excellent source of protein, monounsaturated fatty acids and a lot of minerals. Seafood contains the highest sources of iodine and potassium. Most Seafood is also low in saturated fat.

Fish can be categorized as freshwater fish, saltwater fish and shellfish. Each of the categories differs slightly in nutritional value.

egories differs slightly in nutritional value.

Freshwater fish provides magnesium, phosphorus, iron, zinc and copper. Saltwater fish and shellfish are rich in iodine, fluorine, phosphorous, copper, iron, calcium and cobalt. The fat content of fish varies not only with the size and type of fish, but with the time of year. Fatty fish, which include halibut, mackerel and salmon, are higher in fat but contain more vitamin A and D. Shellfish are low in fat but are higher in cholesterol than most other fish.

Storing Seafood Safely
Fresh fish, shrimp, scallops, freshwater prawns and lobster tail can be stored in tightly sealed freezer bags or plastic containers and kept in the refrigerator. Fresh scallops and

crustacean tails will keep three to four days. Fresh fish will keep for five to seven days.

Scallops, crustacean tails and fish can be frozen in water and stored in the freezer at 00F for four to six months. You should thaw these frozen items in the refrigerator overnight.

Live, hard shell mollusk can remain alive for a week to 10 days stored without ice in the refrigerator if kept at 340F and 380F.

Freshly shucked mollusks can be kept for up to 10 days if packed in ice and stored in the refrigerator.

Fresh soft shell crabs can be stored up to two days if stored in freezer bags and packed in ice in the refrigerator. They can be kept for up to six months when stored in freezer bags and stored

in a freezer at 00F. They should be thawed in the refrigerator.

Handling and Safety

To avoid problems when handling or preparing your fish for cooking, you should take some precautions. You should always wash your hands with hot soapy water before and after handling raw seafood. Don't leave cooked or raw seafood unrefrigerated for more than two hours. This includes preparation time. When marinating fish, do it in the refrigerator and always throw away the marinade you used. Bacteria will linger on all the surfaces that raw fish touches.

Don't reuse a dishcloth or a sponge used to clean up counters or other surfaces that you've used during your food preparation. You should replace sponges on a regular basis. You should always wash your counters, utensils, plates, cutting boards and other surfaces that have been touched by raw seafood. Always use hot soapy water to clean up after handling seafood. This should include the inside of your refrigerator.

Cooking

When cooking fish, the 10-minute rule is a good guide to cook fish. This rule also applies to baking, broiling, grilling, steaming and poaching. Measure the fish at the thickest part. Figure 10 minutes of cooking time for each inch of thickness. If the fish measures less than one inch, try 3 to 5 minutes. Add five minutes if the fish is cooked in a sauce. Double the

cooking time if the fish is frozen.

Fish is done when the flesh is opaque and begins to flake easily when tested with a fork at the thickest part. Fish is usually ready when the internal temperature reaches 1450F.

You should cook shrimp until it turns pink and is firm. Depending on the size, it takes three to five minutes to boil or steam one pound of medium sized shrimp in their shell.

Shellfish, such as clams, mussels and oysters will become plump and opaque when cooked completely. The edges of oysters will turn up when completely cooked. Scallops turn milky white or opaque and firm when completely cooked. They take three to four minutes to cook thoroughly depending on the size.

Lobster turns bright red when completely cooked. You should allow five to six minutes per pound. Don't put the lobster in the pot until the water begins to boil. The cooking time doesn't start until the water starts to boil again after putting the lobster in the pot.

If you enjoy raw or lightly marinated seafood, you should make sure your seafood comes from certified waters. You can ask to see the certificate. You should keep this type of seafood dish refrigerated until you get ready to eat the food.

Seafood can be a safe nutritious protein source if we handle our seafood carefully.

FDA authorizes Pfizer boosters for ages 12 to 15

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to expand the use of a single booster dose to include use in individuals from 12 to 15.

The agency announced in a news release that they also would shorten the time between the completion of primary vaccination of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and a booster dose to at least five months. Additionally, the FDA said it would allow for a third primary series dose for certain immunocompromised children ages 5 through 11.

"Throughout the pandemic, as the virus that causes COVID-19 has continuously evolved, the need for the FDA to quickly adapt has meant using the best available science to make informed decisions with the health and safety of the American public in mind," Acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock, M.D, said in a news release.

Dr. Woodcock said the FDA determined that the protective health benefits of a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to provide continued protection against COVID-19 and the associated serious consequences that can occur including hospitalization and death, outweigh the potential risks in individuals aged 12 through 15.



The FDA said it reviewed real-world data from Israel, including safety data from more than 6,300 individuals aged 12 through 15 who received a booster dose of the vaccine at least 5 months following completion of the primary two-dose vaccination series. "These additional data enabled the FDA to reassess the benefits and risks of the use of a booster in the younger adolescent population in the setting of the current surge in COVID-19 cases," the agency noted in the news release.

The FDA said data shows there are no new safety concerns following a booster in this population. There were no new cases of myocarditis or pericarditis reported to date in these individuals.

The FDA also authorized the

use of a single booster dose five months after completion of the primary vaccination series of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

"Since Pfizer initially submitted safety and effectiveness data on a single booster dose following primary vaccination, additional real-world data have become available on the increasing number of cases of COVID-19 with the Omicron variant in the U.S.," agency officials wrote.

No new safety concerns have emerged from a population of over 4.1 million individuals 16 years of age and older in Israel who received a booster dose at least five months following completion of the primary vaccination series, the release continued.

Additionally, they said peer-

reviewed data from multiple laboratories indicate that a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine greatly improves an individual's antibody response to be able to counter the Omicron variant.

"Authorizing booster vaccination to take place at five months rather than six months may therefore provide better protection sooner for individuals against the highly transmissible Omicron variant," the FDA noted.

"Given the demonstrated safety and effectiveness of a booster dose when administered five months after the primary vaccination series, and the fact that a booster dose may help provide better protection against the rapidly spreading Omicron variant, the FDA has determined that the known and

potential benefits of administering a booster to individuals ages 12 and older at least five months following completion of the primary vaccination series, outweighs the known and potential risks."

While today's action applies to the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, the FDA said it continues to review data concerning all available vaccines and will provide additional updates as appropriate.

Children 5 through 11, who have undergone solid organ transplantation, or who have been diagnosed with conditions that are considered to have an equivalent level of immunocompromise, may not respond adequately to the two-dose primary vaccination series, researchers contend.

Thus, a third primary series dose has now been authorized for that group. "This will now allow these children to receive the maximum potential benefit from vaccination," the agency continued.

The FDA previously authorized a third primary series dose for use as part of the primary immunization series in individuals 12 years and older. The agency said the potential effectiveness of an additional dose in children 5 through 11 years of age was extrapolated from data in adults.

Researchers used prior analyses conducted as part of the authorization process for healthy children to inform safety in this population and determined that

the potential benefits of the administration of a third primary series dose at least 28 days following the second dose of the two-dose regimen, outweighed the potential and known risks of the vaccine. To date, the FDA and CDC have seen no new safety signals in this age group.

Children 5 through 11, who are fully vaccinated and are not immunocompromised do not need a third dose at this time, but the FDA said it would continue to review information and communicate with the public if data emerges suggesting booster doses are needed for this pediatric population.

"Based on the FDA's assessment of currently available data, a booster dose of the currently authorized vaccines may help provide better protection against both the Delta and Omicron variants. In particular, the Omicron variant appears to be slightly more resistant to the antibody levels produced in response to the primary series doses from the current vaccines," said Peter Marks, M.D., Ph.D., director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

"With this in mind, the FDA has extended the range of individuals eligible to receive a booster, shortened the length of time between the completion of the Pfizer primary series for individuals to receive a booster and is authorizing a third protective vaccine dose for some of our youngest and most vulnerable individuals."

P R E S E R V E D

Golden Girls lessons

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“Thank you for being a friend, travel down the road and back again. Your heart is true, you’re a pal and a confident.” For so many, those words are part of the theme song of one of the most iconic shows in television history, *The Golden Girls*. I’m not ashamed to admit that I’ve been a fan of that show from when it first aired in the mid 1980’s. As I’ve gotten older and am now closer to the age of the “girls,” and have had a chance to rewatch the episodes many times, I have a new perspective of the show that includes seeing it from a spiritual point of view. When I first saw the show, I thought it was cute because it

showed that older people still have vibrant romantic and platonic friendships. It was one of the few times that we saw the fullness of the lives of older women and men. They weren’t just stuck in rocking chairs watching television all day long. The death of the last surviving *Golden Girl*, Betty White, on New Year’s Eve 2021, just a few weeks shy of her 100th birthday, made me think about the many lessons I learned by watching and rewatching the show. For starters, the show emphasized loyalty and friendship. It also showed that you are never too old to reinvent yourself. Another important lesson was that living your best life is not limited by how old you are and that you cannot let what others think about you control what you think about yourself.

Even though the show was never overly spiritual, I see spiritual lessons as well. Rose was sweetly naïve and worked hard to see the best in everyone. Her character reminded me of Titus 1:15 which reminds us that “To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.” Her stories often showed how she saw things through her “rose-colored” glasses even if others saw them very differently. She was a stark contrast to Dorothy whose view was often negative and cynical. But even in showing the differences in the characters, the show illustrated how it’s important to respect the differences of others even if we do not agree with those differences. On a larger spiritual

level, that is a life lesson that we can all apply regardless of age, gender, class or religious affiliation. Philippians 2:3-4 encourages us, “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” The show did this by giving viewers a glimpse into the lives of a group of women who showed how being a true friend starts with being compassionate toward yourselves and others. RIP Betty White! 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.

I’m living for Christ

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



Many things will come our way during 2022, but the Lord will not allow any more than we can bear. If it comes our way, we can bear it. We read in 2 Timothy 2:1-3, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (NKJV).” We must be good soldiers for Jesus Christ and endure hardness. We must ask God to give us the grace to endure hardness. On our jobs we must endure. We must endure without sin. We cannot have any sin in our lives. If we do, God is not going to bless us. Second Timothy 2:3 reads, “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” We do not have time to get involved with the things of this life because we

want to please him who has chosen us to be soldiers. We want to serve Him, not man. When adversity comes our way, we need to trust in the Lord, and He will bring us through it. Romans 8:31 says, “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against?” If God be for us, even if the entire world is against us, we are going to prosper. According to Matthew 10:22, “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” We must not quit. We must endure to the end, until death, if we want to be saved; then He will give us a crown of life. Do not back up, do not give up, and do not give in, regardless of what people do or what they say. The race is not given to the swift, and the battle is not given to the strong; but he that endures to the end will be saved. Just take our time and run the race. When Jesus returns, we who are alive are going to meet the Lord. 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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Covid 2022: A new year, new fears

By Marilyn M. Singleton, MD, JD
Physician at Marilyn M. Singleton, MD



By now, Dr. Fauci's Covid "fearspeak" has become background noise.

Yes, the new "Omicron" variant is making its way around the world. Fortunately, reports from South Africa as well as other studies indicate that Omicron's illness is milder than Delta.

Even Fauci-friendly public health physicians have cautioned that there is "absolutely no reason to panic."

In 2022, we should panic because opioid overdoses took the lives of 100,000 fellow Americans from April 2020 to April 2021 – an increase of 28 percent from the same period the year before.

The statistic is appalling but not surprising given the Covid lockdowns coupled with millions of doses of fentanyl and other illicit drugs flooding across a porous border.

We should panic because one in ten Americans has diabetes and one in three Americans has prediabetes. Moreover, 89 percent of the diabetics are overweight (Body Mass Index over 25). Just over 73 percent of the U.S. population are overweight and 42.5 percent are obese (BMI over 30). Worse yet, obesity among adults, age 18 to 25 years increased from 6.2 percent to 32.7 percent over the last 40 years.

Instead of Dr. Fauci telling us we have to relinquish our individual choices when it comes to the increasingly ineffective current Covid vaccines, he should emphasize the effect of obesity on Covid outcomes. According to the CDC, about 78 percent of people who have been hospitalized needed a ventilator or died from Covid-19 have been overweight or obese. Patients are demanding informed consent to be weighed in the doctor's office. Yet curiously, informed consent is not required for experimental mRNA vaccines.

We should fear the blatant abuse of power by our public servants in the name of public health. We should be afraid when our top health bureaucrat, the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary declared "it is absolutely the government's business" to know people's vaccination status."

We should panic when elected representatives jump on the medical privacy-bet damned bandwagon. The House of Representatives handily approved the Immunization Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2021 which would establish yet another government database. This one is an "immunization information system," that can share every vaccine dose with not only with other governmental but private entities.

We should be afraid when the FDA sends threatening letters to pharmacists, trying to limit the use of a safe drug shown to be 60 percent effective in improving outcomes of Covid. Why? It has side effects such as skin rash, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea,

stomach pain, facial or limb swelling, neurologic adverse events (dizziness, seizures, confusion), sudden drop in blood pressure, severe skin rash potentially requiring hospitalization and liver injury.

We've seen no such letters regarding molnupiravir, the new kid on the block for Covid treatment that can cause diarrhea, dizziness, headache, hives, itching, skin rash, nausea, redness of skin, vomiting, bone and cartilage damage in children, birth defects, cancer and is only 30 percent effective.

We should panic knowing that pharmaceutical companies spent \$266,846,347 lobbying Congress, and the American Medical Association's top corporate donors are pharmaceutical companies.

We should panic about the federal government establishing guidelines (future regulations?) for news and social media on suppression of health "misinformation."

We should worry that Meta, the company formerly known as Facebook engages in Soviet-style silencing certain political viewpoints.

We should fear social engineering and panic about the media becoming the new form of re-education camps. It's hard to miss the oohing and aahing over the first transgender person to make it to the Jeopardy! Tournament of Champions. Did they fawn over the first male, the first black person, the first white person, the first Asian person? No. BTW, the first Tournament winner was a woman, and a black man won years before women and blacks knew they were inferior, weak-minded oppressed persons. Someone, please come forward and enlighten us as to why a transgender person answering questions on a game show is headline news. Viewed in the most favorable light, perhaps the media were providing welcomed distraction from Dr. Fauci and his smug and smarmy self.

We should fear misguided attempts to stop racism with racism. In the name of social justice, colleges, businesses, medical schools and K-12 schools have fallen into the trap of promoting Marxist race warfare where students and employees can learn that minorities are permanent victims of the irredeemably racist white people.

We should fear becoming accustomed to a new socially acceptable apartheid: segregation by race, vaccination status, and mask-wearing.

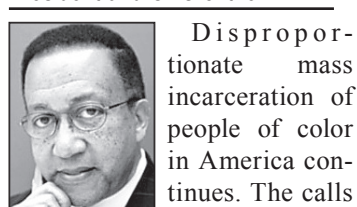
Most of all, we should fear how readily our fellow Americans acquiesced to unreasonable, unscientific demands at the altar of COVID-19.

When it comes to Covid in 2022, opt for prudence, not panic. Eat well, get enough vitamin D, exercise, wash your hands, engage with your friends, cough or sneeze in your elbow, and stay home if you are feeling unwell. If you do get sick, seek medical care immediately.

Live your life. After all, there are 14 more letters after Omicron in the Greek alphabet.

Time to lower telephone rates to call prisoners in America

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



Disproportionate mass incarceration of people of color in America continues. The calls for prison reform include proposals to lower telephone rates for prisons throughout the United States. This would benefit African Americans and other communities of color who have family members currently incarcerated.

Companies that provide communications services to prisons and jails have long drawn criticism for charging high prices for phone calls and emails between inmates and their families and friends. I've previously written about one such company – Securus Technologies – which in January 2020 did something rarely seen in corporate America, acknowledging past failures and making specific commitments to do better.

So, what has the company done over the last year to deliver on its promises?

They've brought in a number of outside advisors, including attorney and entrepreneur Yusef Jackson, who earlier this year joined the executive team of Aventiv, Securus' parent company. Aventiv announced in April 2021 that Jackson, the son of Rainbow/PUSH founder The Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, would be helping with the lowering of the price of calls and other services for the incarcerated as Aventiv worked to change some of its business practices and respond to criticism of the industry.

The company also says they have renegotiated contracts with more than 100 correctional facilities to lower the cost of calls, and over 50% of their



While awaiting further instruction from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Aventiv CEO Dave Abel said the company is continuing to look for other ways to help connect the incarcerated community to the outside world. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

calls now cost less than \$1. During the pandemic they also provided free calls, emails, and video chats – more than 95 million in total.

According to Aventiv CEO Dave Abel, the next big step in their effort to lower costs is expanding a program that lets friends and family of the incarcerated subscribe to a monthly call package that charges a flat rate as an alternative to paying by the minute for talk time. Securus announced a pilot program last year, which has since expanded to nine facilities across the U.S.

Across nine of the prison facilities, more than one third of calls have been made under the subscription plan, and the plan has reduced the per-minute cost of calls by over 50 percent, according to data shared by Securus. The company's data also showed that under the subscription plan, users utilized 75 percent of the maximum call time afforded by facilities, reflecting a rise of 15 percent compared to per-minute calls.

And in an initial customer survey, 80 percent of subscribers said they felt the service

was easier to use, and 70 percent would recommend a subscription plan to family and friends.

Securus is now working to expand the program across all its facilities, but would require approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which currently only allows per-minute phone plans. Securus has petitioned for a waiver that would exempt the pilot subscription plan from the FCC's rulemaking on per-minute call requirements, allowing them to provide subscriptions in jails and prisons in all 50 states.

This could ultimately have a big impact: there are over 2 million incarcerated Americans in thousands of facilities across the country.

"Now that we have seen the positive impact of these subscription plans, we know we need to make them available to as many people as possible," said Abel. "We're in the process of working with the FCC to modernize the regulation to allow for this type of cost saving program, while ensuring there are still strong consumer protections in place."

Some prison reform advocates and critics, however, have still questioned Securus' intentions with the subscription.

Anything Securus does "is designed to ... gouge the consumer and maximize their profits," Human Rights Defense Center Executive Director Paul Wright said, according to Communications Daily. Others have criticized the level of detail offered by Securus with Prison Policy Initiative General Counsel Stephen Rahrer saying that the company's petition to the FCC "doesn't suggest that Securus is serious about doing that."

Abel, however, says the company has provided extensive detail to the FCC, and argues that any apprehensions about the program are misguided.

"We began this program as a response to specific requests we heard from family and friends of incarcerated Americans," he said. "Now that we have the data showing us that this is something the community values, we believe that we have a duty to expand these services."

While awaiting further instruction from the FCC, Abel said the company is continuing to look for other ways to help connect the incarcerated community to the outside world.

"Those who are incarcerated deserve affordable access to the life-changing technology that the rest of us enjoy," he said. "Our goal is to put a tablet in the hands of every incarcerated individual we serve."

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

Leaving COVID-19 behind for the New Year is not possible

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



Happy New Year to you and your family. This ageless expression has been with us for many years.

According to reports, the New Year was originally celebrated on March 25. The Julian Calendar was replaced by the Gregorian Calendar, changing the formula for calculating leap years.

As a result, the beginning of the legal New Year was moved from March 25 to January 1. So here we are in the year 2022 ready to begin new plans and new dreams.

Some years back like many of you, I made some resolutions. Things that I would and wouldn't do. Maybe unlike you, my resolutions only lasted for one week. In my defense, I had good intentions.

I am now squarely in the 4th quarter of my life, trying to get to overtime. Watching

people pass away in my generation is a bit sobering. Life at any age should not be taken for granted. As a young citizen, I probably took my everyday existence for granted.

As a Christian, I have always known that we have what I call an "earthly lease." However, as a young adult, I just thought my lease would be renewed. Now in a funny way, I may be on a month-to-month lease.

Thankfully, I have celebrated a lot of birthdays. The keys for me haven't been the gifts, ice cream and cake. Don't get me wrong, I am appreciative for them. The blessings for me have been that I have pretty good health and I still have my wits about me.

Aging brings on health challenges both physical and mental.

My advice is whatever quarter of life you are in, guard it carefully. To be more specific, watch what you put in your body and the company you keep. Bad stuff and questionable people might mean

an early exit. This is just my opinion.

Our 2021 and 2022 have started the same way. We still have the Coronavirus. Spikes have occurred recently with the Delta and Omicron variants.

No matter how we spin this news story, it is not good. Twenty-four-hour flash sales, parades and celebrations cannot negate the fact that we are in the biggest health crisis of our life. The numbers are numbing, and the statistics are frightening.

COVID-19 has taken over the world.

We can't pretend it doesn't exist. Not wearing a mask when in public is putting your own life at risk. If you are going to be a part of a gathering, you better have some health and safety guidelines.

In fact, if you are in charge of the event, you owe it to your guests to have some safety checks. If they do not like them, then send them the youtube video of the event.

According to Politico, there are some telling assertions out here. First, one out of every hundred Americans 65 and older have died from COVID-19. Second, the U.S. will hit one million deaths in the Spring. At this time only 33% of Americans have received a booster shot.

President Biden has ordered a half billion COVID-19 tests to send to people across the country.

ABC News' anchor, David Muir, asked President Biden last week about testing. The president said, "Nothing's been good enough."

The refrain has been the same regarding this illness. America needs to mask up, social distance and wash our hands. More people need to receive this message and act upon it.

We are in a dark period right now. Yet let us hope that the New Year shines the bright light of hope and healing on it.

As believers, let us go into our quiet places and say a prayer. He will answer our effectual fervent prayers.

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF
MARY MAGEE, DECEASED

CAUSE NO. 21-cv-01568

VS.

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF
MARY MAGEE, DECEASED

RESPONDENTS

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE HEIRS-AT-LAW AND WRONGFUL DEATH BENEFICIARIES OF
MARY MAGEE, DECEASED

You have been made respondents in the suit filed in this Court by Petitioners
Michele Purvis Harris and Anita Howell, Individually and on behalf of Mary Magee,
Deceased. You are summoned to appear and defend against the Amended Petition for
Determination of Heirship and Wrongful Death Beneficiaries filed against you in this
action on January 26, 2022, at 9 a.m. at the HINDS COUNTY CHANCERY COURTHOUSE,
316 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, and in case of your failure to
appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things
demanded in the Amended Petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you
desire.

Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 9 day of December,
2021.

Hon. Eddie Jean Carr,
Hinds County Chancery Clerk

BY: PW Teeuwissen, D.C.

PREPARED BY:
PIETER TEEUWISSEN, MSB # 8777
SIMON & TEEUWISSEN, PLLC
621 NORTHSIDE DRIVE
Jackson, Mississippi 39206
Telephone: 601-362-8400

COUNSEL FOR MARY MAGEE, DECEASED

12/23/2021, 12/30/2021, 1/6/2022

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP
OF ENRIQUA WHITE, A MINOR

CAUSE NO. P2021-52-G/2

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

(The relief sought herein may affect your legal rights. You have a right to
notice of any hearing on this petition, to attend such hearing, and to be
represented by an attorney.)

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: UNKNOWN NATURAL FATHER OF ENRIQUA WHITE, A MINOR

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT

You have been made a Respondent to the Amended Petition for Appointment of
Guardian filed in this cause by Anita Daniel, Petitioner.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the Amended Petition filed in this action
at nine o'clock (9:00) a.m., on January 25, 2022, in the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse in

Any response to the Amended Petition may be forwarded to Robyn Teague, Esq., whose street
address is 1060 Whitsett Walk, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206.

Hinds County Chancery Clerk

BY: B. Teague, D.C.

Robyn Teague, Esq.
1060 Whitsett Walk
Jackson, Mississippi 39206

12/23/2021, 12/30/2021, 1/6/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4156

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City
Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, no-
tice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that
Jill Reyes has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application re-
questing a Rezoning from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to I-1 (Light) Industrial
District to allow for a construction storage site for property located at 0 McRaven Rd
(Parcel 825-410) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being
more particularly described as:

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

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jack-
son Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in
Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at which time all
parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question,
after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its
recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by
any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the
City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof
is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator
at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for
interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND
WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE
OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PER-
SON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANC-
ING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFER-
ENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER
PRIOR TO JANUARY 19, 2022.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of December 2021.

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

1/6/2022, 1/20/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4159

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City
Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, no-
tice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Kam-
berly C. Ledford has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application
requesting a Use Permit to allow for a tattoo parlor within a C-3 (General) Commercial
District on property located at 1411 Old Square Rd. (Parcel 511-475-6), in the First Ju-
dicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

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

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

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jack-
son Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in
Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at which time all
parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question,
after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its
recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by
any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the
City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof
is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator
at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for
interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND
WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OP-
TION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH
REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRE-
MENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY
EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO JANUARY 19, 2022.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of December 2021.

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

1/6/2022, 1/20/2022

LEGAL

Legal

Pearl Street Southwest, LLC invites bids from contractors for the historic rehabilitation
of the old Holiday Inn Southwest at 2649 Highway 80 West, Jackson, MS 39204 into
residential apartments and a health clinic. Bids will be received electronically until 12:00
P.M. CST on 01/11/22. Bids must be accompanied by a bid bond. To be considered, bids
must include all required documentation requested in the bid package. Request a bid
package at evans@gchp.net with the email title "The Pearl – Bid Package Request."

1/6/2022



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LEGAL

Public Notice

All interested public and private transit and paratransit operators within Hinds, County,
are hereby advised that the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation is applying to the Mis-
sissippi Department of Transportation, Jackson, Mississippi, for a grant under Section
5310 of the Federal Public Transportation Act, as amended, to provide transportation
services to elderly and disabled persons. These services will be beyond those required
by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Service is being provided within Hinds County.
This program consists of existing services with no environmental impact, and no reloca-
tion resulting from the project.

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties, including transit and para-
transit operators, of the service being planned for providing transportation services for
persons with disabilities within the area as described above, and to ensure that such a
program would not represent a duplication of current or of proposed services provided
by existing transit or paratransit operators in the area.

Comments either for or against this service will be received at any time beginning De-
cember 27, 2021, through January 22, 2022, from 8:00am to 5:00pm. All comments
should be addressed to Mr. Primus Wheeler at the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation at
601-982-8467 or via email at pwheeler@jacksonmedicalmall.org.

12/30/2021, 1/6/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4157

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of
Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given
to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Westhaven Memorial Funeral
Home has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a
Use Permit to allow for the extension of services offered for an existing business within a
C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict on property located at 4660 Highway 80 W. (Parcel
822-365), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly
described as:

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

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

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Con-
ference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mis-
sissippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at which time all parties interested in
or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will
be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City
Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within
the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time
if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request
is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to
accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND
WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OP-
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REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRE-
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EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO JANUARY 19, 2022.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of December 2021.

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

1/6/2022, 1/20/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4158

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City
Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, no-
tice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Eliza-
beth & Bill Brister has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an ap-
plication requesting a Rezoning from R-1A (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1
(Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District to allow for the development of multi-family apart-
ments and/or condominiums to complement the changing character of the neighbor-
hood at the property located at 4562 N. State St. (Parcels 433-181, 433-182, 433-183
& 433-185), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more
particularly described as:

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

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

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

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

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jack-
son Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in
Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at which time all
parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question,
after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its
recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by
any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the
City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof
is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator
at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for
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PRIOR TO JANUARY 19, 2022.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of December 2021.

1/6/2022, 1/20/2022

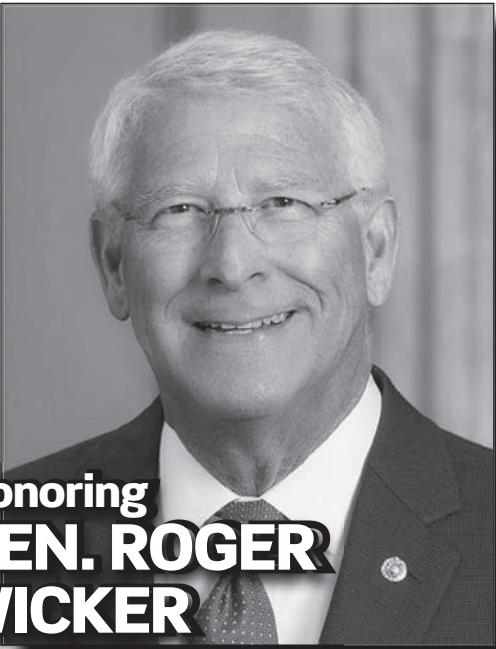
LEGAL

Bids from Contractors for Demolition

Pearl Street Southwest, LLC invites bids from contractors for demolition and abatement
at the old Holiday Inn Southwest at 2649 Highway 80 West, Jackson, MS 39204. The
scope is part of the historic rehabilitation of the property into residential apartments and
a health clinic. Bids will be received electronically until 12:00 P.M. CST on 01/11/22. Bids
must be accompanied by a bid bond. To be considered, bids must include all required
documentation requested in the bid package. Request a bid package at evans@gchp.
net with the email title "The Pearl – Demo/Abatement Bid Package Request."

Mississippi Press Association Education Foundation

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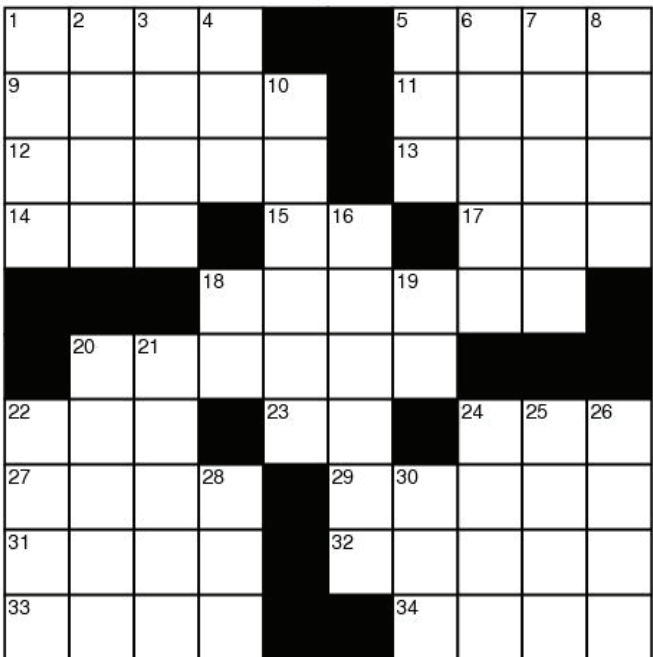
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Crossword Puzzle



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. Arbiter

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Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

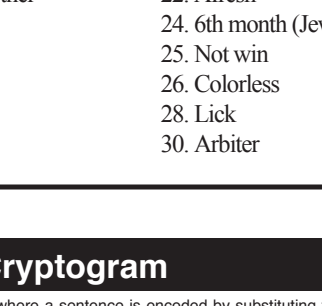
Hint: Quote by Charles M. Schulz

ABCDEF GHIJ KLMNOP QRSTUV WXYZ
P P I I P J N R N M Q P P P

UN VVP YH J J P J N R N M Q V E V V O

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Crossword Solution



© Feature Exchange

Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEF GHIJ KLMNOP QRSTUV WXYZ
N A W T H D K U P S L Z Q Y F V X M J I E G R C O B

H A P P I N E S S I S A W A R M P U P P Y
U N V V P Y H J J P J N R N M Q V E V V O

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2659 Livingston Road
DOLLAR GENERAL
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
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
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
MCDADÉ'S MARKET
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
CANTON
A & I
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
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Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY
507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
LACY'S INSURANCE
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM

DOLLAR GENERAL
125 Swinging Bridge Dr.
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

SERVICE STATION
at Exit 78
CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WELCOME CENTER
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SUNFLOWER GROCERY
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LOVE FOOD MART
120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY
126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND CITY HALL
110 Courtyard Square, Raymond
RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA

HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP
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PITT STOP
101 Hwy 18 & 27

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Week of January 2, 2022

Voting Rights battle ahead in early 2022

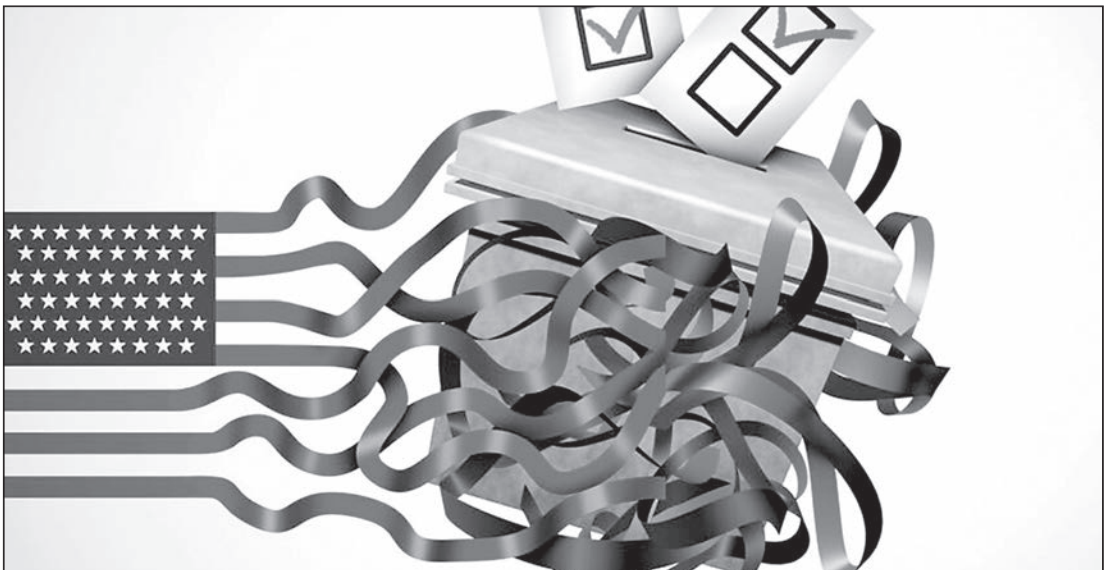
By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In 2021, 440 bills to restrict voting access were introduced in 49 states. Nineteen states passed 34 new laws making it more difficult to vote. There have been no cases cited demonstrating evidence of any widespread voter fraud. But the main focus of Trump Republicans is on unproven claims of fraud as they question the legitimacy of the 2020 elections a year away from congressional midterms.

With the clear indication that Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) are against changing the filibuster rules in the U.S. Senate, a big battle over the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021 is ahead in early 2022.

The legislation will restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which was weakened in 2013 by the U.S. Supreme Court. Now that Democrats are in control of The White House, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House, voting rights advocates are pushing hard for the passage of federal legislation that would protect voting.

After the 2020 election of President Biden, who defeated former President Donald Trump by over seven million votes, Trump's supporters have questioned the legitimacy of Biden's victory but have provided no evidence. Several



The battle over voting rights is very likely to come to a head before March 2022.

Republican States Secretaries around the U.S. certified Biden's election victory. The Capitol was attacked by Trump's supporters on January 6, 2020 on the day Biden's election was to be certified.

The issue of whether Senators Manchin or Sinema will support a voting rights exception to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021 isn't known. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) made it clear that the Senate would focus on voting rights in January. He made the affirmation days after Manchin announced he would vote against President Biden's signature legislation, Build Back Better.

On December 23, President Biden made his views on the issue clear.

"If the only thing standing between getting voting rights legislation passed and not getting passed is the filibuster, I support making the exception of voting rights for the filibuster," President Biden said.

Advocates to protect the vote have been pushing Biden and Congress to move ahead affirmatively for months. On December 21, officials in Lincoln County Georgia, a county that is nearly one-third black, proposed closing 6 polling sites for 2022. The decision comes after Republicans took over the local election board.

"SCOTUS decision gutting Voting Rights Act written by John Roberts is leading to greatest rollback of voting access and fair representation since end of Reconstruction," wrote voting rights journalist

Ari Berman.

"Republican-led legislatures across the South have redrawn election districts using fresh census data, and the new maps will leave many communities of color in the Black Belt – a region of over 600 counties stretching from East Texas to Virginia – with less political power," wrote Billy Corriher in "Facing South."

The battle over voting rights is very likely to come to a head before March 2022.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered. She may be contacted at LVBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

Sen. Schumer says Senate will vote on changes to filibuster by MLK Day

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

The U.S. Senate will vote by January 17 on whether the chamber will adopt new rules to circumvent the draconian filibuster to enable voting rights and social justice bills, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) announced Monday, January 3.

"The Senate was designed to protect the political rights of the minority in the chamber, through the promise of debate and the opportunity to amend. But over the years, those rights have been warped and contorted to obstruct and embarrass the will of the majority – something our Founders explicitly opposed," Sen. Schumer wrote in a letter to his colleagues.

"The constitution specified what measures demanded a supermajority – including impeachment or the ratification of treaties. But they explicitly rejected supermajority requirements for legislation, having learned firsthand of such a requirement's defects under the Articles of Confederation," he continued.

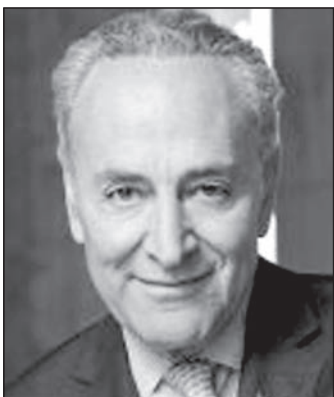
Although the Senate is evenly split with 50 Democrats and 50 Republicans, Schumer's party controls the majority, with Vice President Kamala Harris positioned to cast any tie-breaking vote.

Still, a significant hurdle remains in the senator's own party. West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin has remained steadfast in opposition to any changes to the filibuster, a centuries-old rule rooted in racism.

Manchin has shot down a swath of his party's agenda, making it difficult for President Joe Biden and others to fulfill campaign promises to faithful voters, particularly in the African-American community.

Recent history showed that when Republicans controlled the Senate, they bent tradition and rules to push through the party's agenda, including two controversial Supreme Court nominations.

With GOP-led voter suppression laws in states across



Schumer

the country and the continued police killings of unarmed African Americans, many have pushed for legislation like the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the George Floyd Justice and Policing bill.

Both measures would supersede laws already on the books and make it easier for people of color to vote, and hold law enforcement accountable for their actions.

"The weaponization of rules once meant to short-circuit obstruction have been hijacked to guarantee obstruction. We must ask ourselves: if the right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, then how can we in good conscience allow for a situation in which the Republican Party can debate and pass voter suppression laws at the State level with only a simple majority vote, but not allow the United States Senate to do the same? We must adapt," Schumer demanded. "The Senate must evolve like it has many times before. The Senate was designed to evolve and has evolved many times in our history."

Schumer continued: "The fight for the ballot is as old as the Republic. Over the coming weeks, the Senate will once again consider how to perfect this union and confront the historic challenges facing our democracy. We hope our Republican colleagues change course and work with us. But if they do not, the Senate will debate and consider changes to Senate rules on or before January 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, to protect the foundation of our democracy: free and fair elections."

Civil Rights Attorney Ben Crump named to TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People

NNPA Newswire

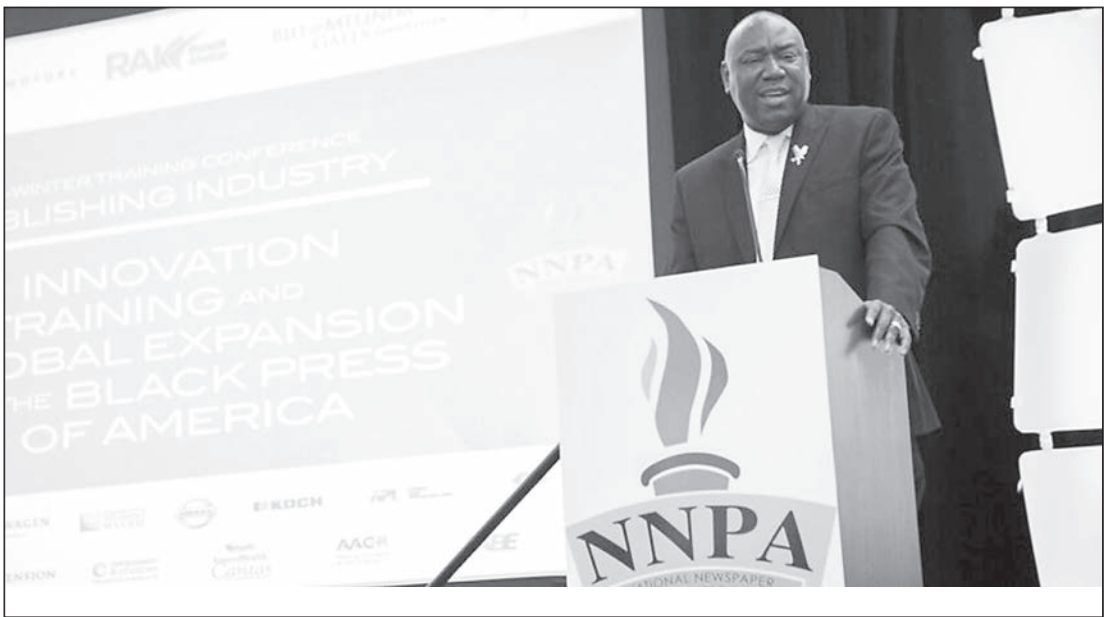
TIME named nationally renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney Ben Crump to the 2021 TIME100, its annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world, making him the only personal injury trial lawyer to make the list.

Crump has established himself as one of the nation's foremost lawyers and advocates for social and racial justice.

In addition to working on some of the most high-profile cases in the U.S., representing the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown, Crump has fought for justice for the residents of Flint, Michigan, who were affected by poisoned water; black women with ovarian cancer targeted by Johnson & Johnson to use talc products; and people who experienced discriminatory practices – "banking while black" – by some of the nation's largest banks.

He is the founder and principal owner of Ben Crump Law. "Ben Crump transcends and transforms the traditional role of a lawyer," said U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters.

"He is not only having an impact on the culture both inside and outside the courtroom, but



Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People list, now in its eighteenth year, recognizes the impact, innovation and achievement of the world's most influential individuals.

his advocacy is influencing corporate boardrooms and the highest levels of government."

Crump has been nationally recognized as the 2014 NNPA Newsmaker of the Year, The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Lawyers, Ebony Magazine Power 100 Most Influential African Americans, and has been referred to as "Black America's Attorney General."

His book, published in October 2019, Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People, documents how America is killing black people, whether

with a bullet or a lengthy prison sentence, and justifying it legally.

"It's an honor to be recognized this way and to use any influence I have to bring about greater racial justice for all Americans," Crump said.

"I am deeply grateful to every single person who has raised a voice to elevate our cries for equality, and I will continue to use any influence I have to make our laws, our justice system and corporate America more just and free of systemic racism."

He released a video with the family members of people killed by police, urging supporters to call their senators.

"Ben is shining a light on racial injustice everywhere it exists," said Rev. Al Sharpton, who has called him Black America's attorney general.

"He is changing hearts and minds, practices and precedents, laws and lives."

The list, now in its eighteenth year, recognizes the impact, innovation and achievement of the world's most influential individuals.

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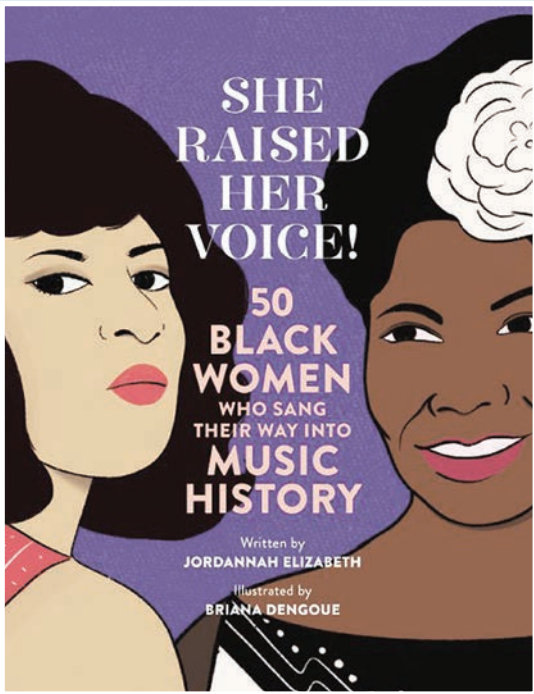
I'm a mom first.

I may be Dr. Nina Ford Johnson a pediatrician, but I'm a mom first. My babies are my top priority, always. With COVID going around affecting Black kids at a higher rate, I'm telling any parent with children 5 and older to get the COVID vaccine.



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BOOK REVIEW:

SHE RAISED HER VOICE!
50 BLACK WOMEN WHO SANG
THEIR WAY INTO MUSIC HISTORY

BY JORDANNAH ELIZABETH,
ILLUSTRATED BY BRIANA DENGOUÉ

C.2021, RUNNING PRESS KIDS
\$17.99 • 158 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Tap, tap, tap, tap.
That’s often the start of some good music. The sound of sticks hitting cymbals. The pat of a hand on a stomach or thigh, just keeping the beat. It’s what your toes do when you’re about to break out into a dance because the tunes are just so good. Tap, clap, tap, and read “She Raised Her Voice! by Jordannah Elizabeth, illustrated by Briana Dengoue.

When she was just a little girl, Jordannah Elizabeth loved lis-



tening closely to music and she paid attention to how it made her feel. Hearing Nina Simone, for instance, changed her life and sent her searching for other black female singers and their works. There were many of them, and each inspired her to reach for her dreams.
Take R&B singer Anita Baker. Her father was absent from the moment she was born and her mother died when Baker was just two years old. She grew up in foster care until she was twelve, and then she was raised by her foster sister.

Singer Natalie Cole’s father was wildly famous but she wanted her own career. Sadly, though, after two successful albums, Natalie “began to do drugs that made her quite sick.” She had to work very hard to get her career back on track.
The Pointer Sisters were only allowed to listen to Christian music when they were small. When singer Mahalia Jackson was “a wealthy international star,” she experienced racism; singing, she figured, soothed the souls of those who were likewise going through the

same thing. Libba Cotton was a left-handed guitar player, “making her stand out.” Billie Holiday had the ability to improvise with both tune and lyrics. Bob Dylan was said to have fallen in love with Mavis Staples.
And if you think you’re way too young to start finding your dream, get this: Tracy Chapman started writing her own songs at age eight. Janet Jackson performed with her brothers at age ten. Chaka Khan had her own band at age eleven. Gladys Knight won a TV-show

contest at age eight. Bessie Smith started performing at age ten.
The latest music is appealing, you have to admit that, but you also want to introduce your child to the old tunes. “She Raised Her Voice!” is a good way to begin.
By stepping back and forth through a century or so of song, and with a willingness to tell the unvarnished truth, author Jordannah Elizabeth weaves a wide range of biographies of black female performers into a sort of literary old-school mix-

tape.
Elizabeth then extends your child’s musical instruction by challenging young readers to sample the work of the singers in her book, and to pay attention to how it makes them feel.
Adults may be surprised at who’s not inside this book – no Josephine Baker, no Mary Wells, no Miriam Makeba, no Donna Summer – but these omissions leave room to continue the lessons for your 8-to-14-year-old by yourself. But first, start here: “She Raised Her Voice! is a book to tap into.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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Circuit Clerk's Office
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Jackson, MS 39205
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Fax: (601) 973-5547

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(601) 969-0052

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

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

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

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- Marriage License
- Medical License
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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Terry players selected for south state team



The Magnolia State All Star Football Game is pleased to announce that seniors Zavion Shaw and Kaleb Patterson, both of Terry High School, will be representing the Hinds County School District. Additionally, Bulldog head coach Kris Thigpen has been selected to lead the South team and assistant coach Eric Nelson has been selected to serve as an assistant coach for the South team. Pictured from left to right: Zavion Shaw and Kaleb Patterson.

Principal puckers up for piggy



Friday, Dec. 10, Ashley White, assistant principal at Gary Road Intermediate School, made good on her agreement to kiss a pig if her third graders won the most iReady weekly challenges for the 1st semester. Rind, also known as “Pork Rind,” is an eight week old vietnamese potbelly pig who will eventually weigh between 150-200 pounds. Lucky for us, and White, he is still a cute little piggy right now. Rind’s owner, Wendy Douglas of Raymond, was kind enough to bring him to school for the event. Rind was such a little gentleman that he stole White’s heart along with her kisses. When asked about her challenge, White said she would do anything to help encourage her students to be their best. We are sure third graders are already working on the next goal to make sure they don’t let her down.

Students selected to participate in honor band

Recently, the following students were selected for membership in the Mississippi Bandmasters Association 2021 State Clinic Band



Josie Bowles
(12th grade, 8th year of band, Alto Saxophone)



Matthew McGowan
(11th grade, 7th year of band, Tenor Saxophone)

Ray named District Administrator of the Year



The Hinds County School District has selected Michelle Ray as the District Administrator of the Year. Ray is the principal of Byram Middle School

Pictured from left to right: Superintendent Martin and Ray

Dr. Will Smith receives recognition



Business Empowered Mississippi Chamber of Commerce honored Dr. Will Smith December 8, 2021 with the Key to the Community Leadership Award at Sal & Mookie’s located at 200 District Blvd in Jackson, MS.

The Key to the Community Award recognizes leaders and organizations who are impacting and transforming communities with their vision and mission. Dr. Smith utilizes his gifts, talents, abilities, time, finances and resources to promote, support, build, heal, empower, educate and transform the lives of those who receive services in his community. Dr. Smith will receive a beautifully handcrafted plaque with a gold key embed.

BE Mississippi Chamber partners recognize and honor community leaders and the remarkable work they’re doing to build our communities across the state.

Pictured Smith (right) with JSU retired college professor Dr. LaVerne Gentry.

Terry senior selected as semi-finalist



Hannah Coleman, a senior at Terry High School, has been selected as a semi-finalist for the prestigious Bill Gates Scholarship and has been invited to participate in Phase II. As a semi-finalist, Hannah is one of only 2000 students from across the country. She was selected because she exhibited exceptional potential to succeed in college and beyond. Good luck Hannah!

Terry Student Council collects for angel tree



During the season of giving, Terry Student Council members collaborated with the Mississippi Angel Tree network. These students collected toys and other items for children registered with the network. Pictured are members with some of the items the collected.





HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

WE ARE HIRING!

JOIN US AT OUR JOB FAIR
WE ARE HIRING FOR BOTH CERTIFIED AND CLASSIFIED POSITIONS.

Raymond High School
Performing Arts Center
Thursday, January 20, 2022
4:00 PM- 7:00 PM

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

The Hinds County School District will be hosting a job fair Thursday, January 20, 2022, from 4PM-7PM at the new Raymond High School Performing Arts Center.



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