



# Mississippi Black History Makers: Catalysts for change

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

Mississippi Black History makers stand tall and touch the lives of many beyond their horizons. Visionaries, motivators and risk-takers, they reject the status quo by moving into opposite directions to improve the world around them. Congressman Bennie Gordon Thompson, Attorney Constance Iona Slaughter-Harvey, Judge Tommie T. Green, Dr. Robert L. Smith and Dorothy Stewart Samuel were influenced by civil rights activists Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer and others. They have stood the test of time as stimulators of positive change. The longest-serving African-American elected official in the State of Mississippi and the lone Democrat in the Mississippi Congressional Delegation, Thompson has been fighting all his life for the rights of all peoples. An effective problem solver, he is a passionate

public servant. As a civil rights activist within the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), he organized voter registration drives in the Delta for African Americans when he was a student at Tougaloo College. Once a teacher, the politician has been the U.S. representative for Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District since 1993. Former mayor and alderman of Bolton, his hometown, he was a founding member of the Mississippi Association of Black Mayors and an elected Hinds County supervisor. He authored legislation creating the National Center for Minority Health and Health Care Disparities which subsequently became law. Attorney Constance Iona Slaughter-Harvey of Forrest County charged the Mississippi State Highway Patrol with practices of the Ku Klux Klan. "Their mission was to keep us in line," she said. Hence, in retali-

ation, she changed the course of Mississippi in the hiring practices of state troopers when she filed a lawsuit six months after graduating as the first African-American female from the University of Mississippi's School of Law in 1970. Two years later Mississippi's first black state troopers: Walter Crosby, Lewis Younger and R. O. Williams were hired. This new norm produced startling stares from the public for years amid broken racial barriers. Now 50 years later, Slaughter-Harvey, the first female black judge in Mississippi, reflected, "They never got the recognition and appreciation that they truly deserve." Despite this observation, Williams maintained that working to ensure public safety and enforce the laws of the road on state and federal roadways, highways and freeways is a "dangerous but good profession." "I just wish Walter

Crosby [who died Dec. 8, 2021 at age 71] could be here today." "My goal is to improve the accessibility, efficiency and accountability of the criminal and civil justice system...for fairness, respect, dignity and equity," explained Judge Tommie T. Green. Green is the first African American and the first woman in the position of Senior Circuit Court Judge of the Seventh Circuit Court District (Hinds County) of Mississippi. In 2003, Green, Court TV, local ABC, NBC and CBS affiliates televised coverage of a multimillion-dollar negligence case in the state which originated in Green's courtroom. History was made as this was the first time that Court TV or local networks had broadcasted full coverage of an entire trial in Mississippi. The judge initiated investigations of the Hinds

History  
Continued on pages A3



## Nissan's new EV production to make 'strong investment in Canton's future'

### Employees, local and state officials excited over the \$500 million announcement



Jérémie Papin

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

Recently, Nissan Canton announced a \$500 million investment in which its Vehicle Assembly Plant will become a center for U.S. electric vehicle (EV) production. Before a crowd of employees, local and state officials, and a host of other Nissan team leaders, community leaders, invited guests, and the media, Chief Operating Officer of Nissan Motor Corporation, Ltd. Ashwani Gupta said, "It's an honor to be here with you today to share some news about the future of the Canton Plant and Nissan of the United States." The \$500 million is to transform Canton assembly plant to build all-new Nissan and Infiniti EV models beginning in 2025. Not only that, but the investment will also include the retraining and upskilling of nearly 2,000 jobs. In a prior press comment, he emphasized that "Nissan is making a strong investment in Canton's future, bringing the latest technology, training and process to create a truly best-in-class EV manufacturing team." The effort is a part of Nissan's Ambition 2030 plan which calls for 23 electrified models for the Nissan and Infiniti brands globally, including 15 all-electric vehicles by 2030. "[We] will truly showcase the best of Nissan and Infiniti," Gupta expressed. He said the announcement marked the first of several new investments that will drive the EV revolution in the U.S.

Internationally, as part of its Ambition 2030, Gupta said that Nissan will invest \$18 billion over the next five years. The company has already invested \$13.5 billion in its U.S. manufacturing operations. He credited strong partnerships with state, county, and local governments, Nissan America, and most importantly, the "dedicated" employees, "their most valuable asset," for making the Nissan-Mississippi relationship, a huge success. Reiterating the essence of the history-making announcement, David Johnson, who served as program guide, said, "Wow! Two, not one, but two, all-new, all-electric models to be built right here in Canton, Mississippi." Johnson is senior vice president, Manufacturing and Supply Chain Management - North America. Nissan America Chairperson Jérémie Papin told the Canton team, "I am so proud of you; what a great day it is. But what makes today even more special is we are just getting started." Gov. Tate Reeves compared the event to being at a national championship college game, "and we are winning every step of the way." "This \$500 million capital investment would not have happened had it not been for the hard-working workers of this facility," Reeves said. "I could not be more excited to be here with you to thank each and every one of you for your efforts and to commit that

Nissan  
Continued on page 3

# Gravitas Ventures acquires documentary, "Twenty Pearls: The Story of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc."

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Gravitas Ventures has acquired the U.S. and Canadian distribution rights for "Twenty Pearls: The Story of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.," an intimate documentary film introducing the storied history of Alpha Kappa Alpha, America's first sorority for black college women. Narrated by Phylicia Rashad and written and directed by Deborah Riley Draper, Twenty Pearls tells the story of a powerful sisterhood created in 1908 that has influenced significant watershed moments in history, including World War II, NASA, Civil Rights, Voting Rights, Women's Rights, HBCUs and Public Health. With a multi-platform launch date of February 22, 2022, Twenty Pearls will be available on Prime Video, iTunes, YouTube, Google Play and Vudu, to name a few. Retailers like Amazon will carry DVDs for sale and the film will be available



The film also features interviews with International President and CEO of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, Miss Universe Ireland Fionnghuala O'Reilly, Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Fierst, and many more.

in libraries as far as Canada. Initially released on Comcast's Black Experience channel in March 2021, the acquisition by Gravitas and launch during Black History Month is timely in presenting this documentary to broader North American

and worldwide audiences. "The story of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is not a black story; it is an American story. Through our partnership with Gravitas, our goal is to ensure that our story is broadly told by making it more acces-

sible to diverse audiences," explained Glenda Baskin Glover, International President and CEO of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®. Director Deborah Riley

AKA  
Continued on page A5





# Forward Lookers Club celebrates 50 years of service



Members of the Forward Lookers Federated Club at the Heritage Exhibition PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

*Special to The Mississippi Link*

A Heritage Exhibition, reflecting the program services, activities and contributions of Forward Lookers Federated Club, adorned the College Hill Baptist Church Family Life Center, as the club celebrated its 50th year Founder's Day observance Friday, February 11, 2022.

The exhibit of photographs, memorabilia, historical documents, souvenir program books and award-winning scrapbooks chronicled program services, activities and contributions of

the club during its 50-year existence and honored those who have led and supported the organization.

Forward Lookers, a local affiliate of the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, the regional Southeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., was organized in 1972 under the leadership of Clara Alexander Jackson and Dr. Jessie B. Mosley.

The club's scholarship, named in honor of founder

Clara Alexander Jackson, is awarded annually to two elementary education majors attending HBCUs in Mississippi.

After acknowledgement of charter members Mavis Chambliss, Kattie McCullough and Patricia Alexander Sims, who were unable to attend, a procession of past club presidents preceded the welcoming and introduction session.

A ceremony, "We Remember" (In Memoriam), honored club founders, leaders and twenty-one deceased members.

After a viewing of the ex-

hibits and a photo session, the program proceeded in three acts, based on the anniversary theme, "Celebrating A Past, Cherishing the Present, and Claiming Our Future through Leadership, Scholarship and Service."

Act I of the celebration, "Celebrating a Past," included a skit which reviewed and celebrated the 50-year history of Forward Lookers Federated Club while honoring its founder, charter members, and past and present memberships. The skit also gave credence to the cadre of

generous supporters during its existence.

"Cherishing the Present" was the focus of Act II, which featured a video presentation summarizing the current works, services and activities that Forward Lookers and its members are currently engaged in. The six focus areas covered monetary donations, services, scholarships, media/technology, leadership and heritage celebration.

The focus of Act III was "Claiming Our Future," and it included an in-depth assess-

ment to encourage members to "move out of their comfort zones" into a more futuristic trendsetting mindset, thus setting the stage for the development of future sustainability, evaluation and programmatic strategic planning.

After a brief recap, the socially distanced event was concluded with a prepackaged, personal lunch to go.

The well-organized, historical observance was instructive and inspiring, giving incentive for needs to be met, as the club moves forward to the future.



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

MISSISSIPPI



## Nissan

Continued from page 1



(L-R) Jeff Younginer, Chandra Vasser, Andrew Tavi, Ashwani Gupta, Governor Tate Reeves, Jérémie Papin, Nelda Connors, Mayor William Truly, David Johnson and Congressman Michael Guest

we are going to continue to work together with your leadership team to make sure that Mississippi remains the best place not only in America but the best place on the globe to create jobs and to raise a family.”

Johnson echoed Reeves’ sentiment about the employees. “This wouldn’t be possible without the hard work and unwavering commitment of the employees who call Canton home,” he said. “Let’s build this future together.”

One of those unwavering employees is Derek Polk, director of Operations for Paint and Fascia. “I have been here 19 and a half years; I’m one of the original employees,” Polk told *The Mississippi Link* after the press conference.

Regarding his reaction to the announcement, Polk said: “Obviously, we are excited. This is great for the future of Mississippi not just the Canton plant. The economic development, the job opportunities, the advantages, the growth and the future. This is a state-

ment that Mississippi is a major player in the automotive industry.”

Andrew Tavi, senior VP for external affairs and sustainability, is also excited. He shared that the announcement really reinforces Nissan’s commitment to the state of Mississippi, to Canton, and to the 5,000 hardworking men and women at this plant.

“It’s going to allow us to bring advanced technology, first of its kind to Mississippi,” Tavi said. “It’s going to allow us to train and upskill our employees so they can build the vehicles of the future. This announcement really facilitates Nissan Canton, not only being a key manufacturing center for us now, but also into the future. We are really excited about that.”

Canton’s Mayor William Truly told *The Mississippi Link* that the announcement is “extraordinary and amazing.”

“The new technology [to build] electric cars gives us an opportunity, particularly Canton, to become a



(L-R) Alderman Lafayette Wales, Alderman Tim Taylor, CAO, Jacqueline Amos, Alderman Fred Esco, Jr. and Mayor William Truly, Jr. PHOTOS BY GAIL BROWN

part of this,” Truly said.

He is especially pleased that Nissan is willing to train Canton’s citizens in its Workforce Development Program.

“I am hoping that I can negotiate with Nissan to certainly include our high school kids who might be interested in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering. With this kind of development, this kind of futuristic era, we have to make certain that our high school kids (juniors and seniors) and our citizenry are involved in learning skills that will help them take care of themselves and take care of their families.”

Truly said Nissan’s being in Canton for nearly 20 years has had a tremendous impact on the county as well as the city.

“Particularly, we have a tremendous number of citizens who are actually hired by Nissan. Nissan gives a lot of scholarships to our educational system, and it has just been wonderful for us.”

## History

Continued from page 1

County Detention Center by the Hinds County Grand Jury, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors and the U. S. Department of Justice to curtail jail riots, constitutional violations and injuries and deaths of jail detainees. Further, in the Mississippi legislature Green promotes training, certification and increased benefits for court personnel.

Terry native and long-time Jackson resident, Dr. Robert L. Smith, was exposed to medicine at the age of 10 by a white Jewish doctor who, when he retired, gave him a set of medical books. Years later (1961), he graduated from Howard University, and while he was preparing to accept a residency in obstetrics and gynecology, was called to practice in Mississippi. In 1962 he had a rude awakening of discrimination and inequality. He joined the civil rights movement.

“I placed myself repeatedly in harm’s way for the sake of health care,” he stated. Smith worked closely with Medgar Evers and other members. After Evers was assassinated, he continued to treat civil rights workers who were injured during demonstrations. During James Meredith’s 1966 March Against Fear, Smith was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s personal phy-

sician.

He became the first Southern Medical Field Director and founded the Medical Committee for Human Rights to train northern doctors who traveled south to render services for civil rights workers during Freedom Summer in Jackson in 1964. He was an adjunct professor at Tufts University (Boston, Mass.), Meharry Medical College (Nashville, TN), and Jackson State University. In Providence, Rhode Island, Smith was professor emeritus in the Department of Community Medicine at Brown University. He engaged in aligning the pre-health program at Tougaloo College. The civil rights veteran received the Medal of Valor Award from the American Medical Association in Honolulu on Nov. 13, 2017.

Smith admits that though improvements have been made in Mississippi, “We still have a long way to go to achieve better population health for both white and black people.”

“If you have pride in yourself, you will respect yourself and pretty much demand that others respect you, and you will provide for your people. It’s on us to create for ourselves,” asserted Dorothy Stewart

Samuel.

Gone since July 6, 2018, but not forgotten, Stewart Samuel graduated from Holy Ghost Catholic School, studied at Jackson State College (now JSU), attended the Universidad Nacional de Mexico as a Fulbright Fellow, attended University of Mississippi, Mississippi College, Clark University (Worcester, Mass.) and San Francisco State University. Samuel retired from the Jackson Public School System after 30 years of teaching and founded Women for Progress of MS, Inc. in 1978. The Clinton native brought her lifelong skills to the organization which promotes community consciousness and change. As co-host, she and Willie Jones, president of Women for Progress Radio Broadcast, presented important community issues and discussions on how people can empower themselves. The show continues each Wednesday on WMPR, 90.1 at 7:30 p.m.

These trailblazers tapped into their values so as to make Mississippi a better place in which to live. Influenced by the Civil Rights Movement, they learned that their place is wherever there is a need to make a difference.

## AKA

Continued from page 1

Draper, a 2022 NAACP Image Awards nominee for the OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network docuseries “The Legacy of Black Wall Street” for Outstanding Breakthrough Creative (Television), is well known for her previous documentaries “Olympic Pride, American Prejudice” and “Versailles ‘73: American Runway Revolution.”

Draper said interviewing Alpha Kappa Alpha member and Vice President Kamala Harris for Twenty Pearls was an extraordinary moment for her as a filmmaker.

“Vice President Harris spoke to the power of black women when we come together and organize, what that looks like, and how that force can change the world.”

As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® herself, Draper said, “Being able to tell our own stories is our cultural inheritance. If we don’t tell our stories, who is going to tell our stories the way they should be told?”

Twenty Pearls is produced by Coffee Bluff Pictures (Deborah Riley Draper and Lacy Barnes, producers) and executive produced by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® International President and CEO Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, The Honorable Kimberly M. Esmond Adams, Cynthia D. Howell, Martha Perine Beard and Cheryl Polote Williamson.

**About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®**

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) is an international service organization that was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American, college-educated women. Alpha Kappa Alpha is comprised of over 300,000 members in more than 1,000 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the United States, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Liberia, Bahamas, Bermuda, the Caribbean, Canada, Japan, Germany, South Korea, South Africa and in the Middle East. Led by International President and Chief Executive Officer, Glenda Glover Ph.D., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is often hailed as “America’s premier Greek-letter organization for African-American women.” Visit [www.aka1908.com](http://www.aka1908.com) for more information.

To pre-order *Twenty Pearls* on iTunes, visit <https://apple.co/3szzYqH>



# Powering the future

Entergy Mississippi is committed to a brighter future for generations to come. That means empowering students with the skills they’ll need for the jobs of tomorrow. So we support Mississippi schools with grants for science, engineering and math programs. That keeps brain power in our communities and inspires innovation and industry to come. [entergymississippi.com](http://entergymississippi.com)

**We power life.™**



# Can the Scott Building be saved?



Roslind McCoy Sibley pictured beside photo of her mother, the late Rose Embley McCoy, in the lobby of the Rose Embley McCoy auditorium located at Jackson State University. PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSLIND MCCOY SIBLEY

By Roslind McCoy Sibley, MD  
Contributing Writer

A demolition contractor’s answer was a qualified, “Yes.” Reassuring, but how? A grant? Given the 40-year saga, most people would doubt it. Clouds may be lifting. First, a building is available without involvement of JRA or City Hall.

Archivist Angela Stewart found information which helped unfold the story behind that dilapidated building. This untold chapter of the Historic District underscores the importance of Black History Month. Likely a cause for soul searching, it could be “the why,” the catalyst for doing the impossible. For some, that is what Farish Street was/is all about.

Bringing positive deeds to light, informs some, reminds others, why Farish Street is legendary. The past has its place, but the main objective here is to link past with future prospects. That is what the Farish Street Project sought. Despite all odds, that is what people on Farish Street have been doing over a century.

Individuals were propelled to achieve greatness. In my opinion, there must have been divine intervention. Formerly enslaved men and women and their children began the outstanding legacy of the Farish Street community shortly after Reconstruction. Even the *The Clarion-Ledger* daily newspaper gave them high praise in the following excerpt from a 1904 article:

“The negroes were never so prosperous as now and more of them are launching business concerns than ever before ...They are buying their own homes, thus putting themselves on independent footing. The established banking institutions are carrying more deposits made by negroes than ever before in the State’s history and the assessment rolls show that they are entering all classes of business.”

In fact, some became wealthy; a few, millionaires. According to the documentary, The Farish Street Project at olemiss.edu, Farish St. grew from 1890 to 1940. Dr. Sidney Redmond was the founding father. He was a physician and a lawyer. His brother, A. M. Redmond, was a pharmacist with his own dispensary. Both were prominent members of the National Republican Party which, at that time, was the party of Lincoln. Several Farish St. colleagues, voting members of the Party, switched to the Democrats to vote for Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Truman.

There was also growth after World War II. Sources documenting the number of businesses and professionals are listed online. One source reported as many as 52. In 1930, Dr. A. H. McCoy built a building with his dental office on the second floor. His grandfather was a slave who was emancipated at 21 years old.

Dr. McCoy strongly believed

in the philosophy of self-sufficiency. His mentors and colleagues apparently did as well. Shortly after the war, Dr. McCoy opened the Ritz Theater next to Stevens’ Kitchen. It was the 1st movie theater built, owned and operated by a black man in America. He had to go to Atlanta to buy the chairs because, as he put it, “My money wasn’t green enough for these white folk in Mississippi.”

Taken as a whole, Farish Street was practically self-sufficient, a predominantly black microcosm of society. Part of its success; however, was due to whites, and so was part of its decline.

Few photographs remain, showing the similarity between buildings on N. Farish and E. Capital Streets. It is assumed, and may be verifiable, they were built at the same time, by the same builders, but for different people. The very existence of a Farish St. hinged on the fact that it was a necessary by-product of segregation in the Jim Crow South. Since whites did not want blacks mixing with them in their schools, stores, restaurants, hospitals, homes, playgrounds, fairs, movies, teams, swimming pools, beauty salons, barber shops, bathrooms, waiting rooms, water fountains, etc., they gave “coloreds” a range of scaled-down versions. Jackson’s Farish St. may have been one of the more generous solutions.

Our ancestors took advan-



The Scott Building on Farish Street PHOTO BY KEVIN BRADLEY

tage. Businesses were not exclusively black. Neither were customers, clients, patients nor vendors. A few whites, Jews, and other immigrants, helped blacks thrive, not merely survive, into the 1970’s and 1980’s. At one elaborate wedding in the mid 1980’s, Central United Methodist Church was at full capacity with over 400 guests in attendance.

The cornerstone at the upper façade is a glimpse of history, “WA Scott 1912.” The Scott Building was built by Rev. William Alexander Scott Sr. With his wife, Emmeline, he ran a printing company which published the first black newspaper in Jackson as well as printed and distributed church bulletins throughout the state. From Edwards, MS, where two sons were born, they made their new home on the second floor.

WA Scott died in 1928. Prior to his death he laid two foundations which are still standing 110 years later. That one which is so great, “stands on the shoulders of the one which came before.”

The Scott Building may be the oldest building on Farish St. built by a black business owner. We have authentic, physical evidence. Due to storm damage in 2021, it became apparent that there may be no choice, but to tear it down. Otherwise, restorative action must be started in the near future.

The Scott’s became one of the most influential families in America. Emmeline Southall

Scott left Jackson and moved to Atlanta in 1928 after her husband’s death. She honed her publishing skills, while tutoring and encouraging her sons.

The Scott Building was last operated around 30 years ago, as a jazz club. “Demolition by Neglect” has left only the brick walls, and even they need repair.

The qualification on that “yes” meant, it can be fixed, but at what cost?

The Scott Building could fill a void, if repurposed, as a Farish St. Visitor’s Center, for one thing. This is an open invitation, an unofficial RFP, if you will. Nowhere, is there a designated place for first-hand knowledge of Farish Street, our version of “Black Wall Street.”

The “baby-boomers,” now “seniors,” witnessed the heyday of the oldest, continuous, black business district in America. The younger generations know of its bad reputation.

The Scott Building could sell “the T-shirt,” refreshments, post cards, reminders of the Dr. A. H. McCoy Federal Building, City Hall, Capitol, Governor’s Mansion, Colleges, Johnny T’s, Alamo, “Big John’s,” former Peaches, Dennis Bros. Shoes, Mississippi State Flag, and the Scott Building, itself. If lottery tickets were sold, that would almost guarantee an increase in the score on Trip Advisor.

Many tourists still come, some attracted by publicity from the failed development of the 200-300 Blocks. Buses of

students learn about the Civil Rights Movement, led by university faculty from all over the country.

In 2014, Operation Understanding DC led a bus tour of diverse student ambassadors to trace the route of the Freedom Riders and visit places of interest in Jewish culture. When they came to Farish St., Eric T. Washington Jr. saw his “Uncle Doc’s” name on the Federal Building, creating quite a stir. People from all over the world come to get a sense of nostalgia in a real, live “hood.”

Farish St. has always been an “Entertainment District” and so much more. People have stretched their imagination, waiting for the rebirth of a place where African Americans thrived independently.

This is a realistic chance for the dream not to be deferred. The cost of restoration of the Scott Building is prohibitive for most individuals. Federal funding, at least for infrastructure, might be the right jumpstart at the right time.

Saving the Scott Building would go a long way toward revitalization, joining forces with those making strides in the 400-800 Blocks. That would show that re-creation of the predominantly African American, economic empowerment zone is underway. *The Clarion-Ledger* should then report that positive change, something closer to the 1904 than the 2015 article about the Farish St. Historic District.



# Janice Staffney recalls how ‘street basketball’ paved her way to JSU Hall of Fame

Special to the Mississippi Link

Janice Staffney was born and raised in West Jackson and is a proud product of the Jackson Public Schools. Those who grew up with her in the Washington Addition neighborhood, probably called her “Polly,” a name her family and close friends still affectionately use.

While attending Jim Hill High School, Staffney began putting her “street ball” talent to use. During her sophomore year, she earned All City (1980). She was awarded Jim Hill’s MVP (1979-82), All State (1982) and also in 1982, became the all-time leading scorer (a record held for eight years).

Because of her highly successful basketball tenure at Jim Hill High School, playing as point guard, sports writers at *The Clarion-Ledger* selected her as Metro Player of the Year in 1982.

Staffney continued her basketball career at Jackson State University, where she received numerous honors. Among them included Best Defensive Player in 1986. and 1987, MVP in 1987, All SWAC First Team 1987 and Five Time SWAC Player of the Week in 1987. She was voted All Black College All-American in 1987, No. 9 for all time field goals in a season, 1986-87, tied sixth for all time season points (519) in 1986, in addition, she was No. 12 for all time free throws (99) in 1986-87 and was recognized as one of JSU’s All Legends Women Basketball Team Members in 2015. In 2016, Staffney was inducted into the JSU Sports Hall of Fame.

After her basketball career at JSU, Staffney was drafted to play overseas but declined.

She returned to Jim Hill High School where she branded her legacy. Staffney served as head coach for the girls’ basketball team for ten years and was varsity assistant coach for 10 years, starting in 1995. She retired from the Jackson Public School District after 31 years of service.

Today, Staffney spends a lot of time taking care of family but if she sees a basketball and a hoop, her ‘street play’ takes over.



Staffney



## Women of excellence honored by Diabetes Foundation

Special to the Mississippi Link

The Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi honors two women who passionately pursue the betterment of their communities. La’Verne Edney, JD and Anna Asher, MD are the 2022 recipients of the “Women of Excellence” award, selected by the DFM and will be honored at the 17th Annual Ultimate Fashion Show.

La’Verne Edney is from Arcola, Mississippi and now resides in Jackson, Mississippi with her two children and two grandchildren. She received her undergrad degree from Alcorn State University and then furthered her education at Mississippi College School of Law, earning her law degree. Edney now works for Butler Snow Law Firm, where her main area of practice is pharmaceutical litigation.

Anna Asher is from Hattiesburg, Mississippi and now resides in Madison, Mississippi



Edney



Asher

pi with her husband and two children. She received her undergrad degree from Yale University and then furthered her education at The University of Mississippi School of Medicine, earning her medical degree, then further completed her Dermatology Residency Program at Tulane University Medical Center. Asher now works at Belle Meade Medical Dermatology and Madison Medical Group.

Edney and Asher have re-

ceived numerous prestigious awards over the years and are cherished by the community.

If you would like to join us in paying tribute to these two women by sponsoring a table or purchasing a ticket, call 601-957-7878 or visit msdiabetes.org. The Ultimate Fashion Show is April 21, at the Country Club of Jackson. All proceeds of the event go towards Camp Kandu, the DFM’s camp for kids with diabetes.





Can’t come to us? We’ll come to you. Now offering statewide mobile closings.

Call us today for your new home purchase, construction loan, or refinance.  
601-398-2347





TOUGALOO

1869

COLLEGE

*Where History Meets the Future*

TOUGALOO COLLEGE  
**IS BLACK**  
HISTORY

WWW.TOUGALOO.EDU | 601.977.7700





## The Mississippi Senate passes proposed bills toward \$6.57 billion

### Mississippi Link Newswire

The Senate passed a host of appropriation bills proposed toward the \$6.57 billion, total state support budget for the 2023 fiscal year.

Among the Senate's proposals is a pay raise to bring state employees who are under the State Personnel Board (SPB) up to the minimum pay level of their job classification as defined by SPB, and a \$9.26 million increase for employee health insurance. However, department heads have the authority to exceed the minimum pay level but can grant no more than a 10% raise in any given year up to market if the SPB deems the raise is equitable, and the agency has the funds available.

When the Senate receives the Department of Education appropriation bills, originated in the House, the plan is to allocate \$170.2 million toward the \$210 million public school teacher pay increase plan outlined earlier in Senate Bill 2444, which occurs over two years. In the second year of the plan, the Senate plans to appropriate an additional \$45 million.

The Senate passed appropriation bills to allocate \$1.4 billion of the \$1.8 billion received directly to the state as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Among the appropriation bills passed was Senate Bill 3057, which transfers \$49 million in ARPA funds from the Mississippi Healthcare Workforce Development Program Fund, the Mississippi Nursing Preceptor Grant Program Fund, and the Mississippi Health Science Training Infrastructure Grant Program Fund to Accelerate MS, toward the Nurse/Health Science Workforce Development and Retention Act to provide nurse training at community colleges and institutions of higher learning.

A companion bill, Senate Bill 3058,

was passed and would allocate \$6 million in ARPA funds from the Hospital Nursing and Respiratory Therapist Professional Loan Repayment Program Fund to the Institutions of Higher Learning Student Financial Aid Fund toward \$3,000 annual school loan repayment for up to three years for the health professionals.

Senate Bill 3056, proposes \$750 million in ARPA funds for water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure projects. It would allow \$400 million in reimbursable grants for cities and counties for a one-to-one match on the ARPA funds provided to them by the federal government. Of the amount allocated to cities and counties, \$50 million is provided for a two-to-one match to any city that received under \$1 million in ARPA funds. The plan also provides \$350 million for Rural Water Associations and Utility Authorities with two hundred fifty (250) or more residential meters to receive a one-to-one match on any funds available or any ARPA funds provided to them by the counties for a maximum of \$2.5 million per entity.

Senate Bill 2081, lays out reasons why an appointed state officer can be removed from office for certain forms of willful neglect. The bill reads in part, "If any public officer, state, district, county or municipal, shall be convicted or enter a plea of guilty or nolo contendere in any court of this state or any other state or in any federal court of any felony other than manslaughter or any violation of the United States Internal Revenue Code, of corruption in office or peculation therein, or of gambling or dealing in futures with money coming to his hands by virtue of his office, any court of this state, in addition to such other punishment as may be prescribed, shall adjudge the defendant removed

from office; and the office of the defendant shall thereby become vacant. If any such officer be found by inquest to be of unsound mind during the term for which he was elected or appointed or shall be removed from office by the judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction or otherwise lawfully, his office shall thereby be vacated; and in any such case the vacancy shall be filled as provided by law."

Senate Bill 2358, would allow political parties to determine the amount of filing fees candidates should pay.

Senate Bill 2575 would limit the speech of judicial candidates. It amends current law by adding, "No judge of any circuit court may provide an opportunity for any candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge or chancellor to address the public during court terms."

Senate Bill 2373 would amend current law, removing the requirement that the governor make appointments to the Professional Engineers and Surveyors Licensing Board from names submitted by the Mississippi Engineering Society or the Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors.

Senate Bill 2658 would delete provision that required rates of reimbursement to not be changed unless amended by the Legislature.

All bills were sent to the House for consideration.

On Tuesday, February 15, 2022, Jackson State University Day at the state Capitol. Senators Sollie Norwood and Derrick Simmons recognized JSU President Thomas Hudson, Athletic Director Ashley Robinson, and Head Football Coach Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders on the Senate chamber floor. The special guests, along with the JSU football team, were honored by the Mississippi Senate with Senate

Concurrent Resolution 534 celebrating their historic winning season after the legendary retired NFL cornerback took over the program in his first head coach role.

The House of Representatives also honored the school. The Tigers have set a program record with 11 wins and captured the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Title for the first time since 2007. The Tigers qualified for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Title Celebration Bowl for the first time. Sanders' son Shedeur, a freshman quarterback, led the offense and was the 2021 Jerry Rice Award recipient, and the defense ranking as the SWAC's best, Jackson State has gone 11-1, including 9-0 against conference opponents. JSU averaged 42,293 fans at its six home games – a single-season record for an FCS school. Coach Prime was named SWAC "Coach of the Year" and FCS "Coach of the Year."

On Thursday, February 17, 2022, Senator David Blount honored two retired Mississippi State Parole Board members on the Senate chamber floor. Steven Pickett, former chairman of the Parole Board, was commended for being the longest serving chairman after 30 years of service to the State Parole Board. Nehemiah Flowers Jr., was also recognized for his retirement from the board. Both addressed the body.

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, is the deadline for original floor action on appropriation and revenue bills originating in the Senate. Thursday, February 24, 2022, is the deadline for reconsideration and passage of appropriation and revenue bills originating in the Senate. Friday, February 25, 2022, is the deadline to dispose of Motions to Reconsider appropriation and revenue bills originating from the Senate.

## Stop the violence in McComb

### COMMENTARY

By State Senator Kelvin E. Butler  
D-District 38, McComb, MS



On Sunday, February 20, 2022, a terrible crime occurred in McComb, Mississippi in which 6-year-old Oterrious Marks was killed in a drive by shooting.

The baby was in a park on Minnesota Avenue and 6th Street being a child, full of life, full of love and full of promise. Then Oterrious was gunned down and four other people wounded, police say by four black male teens.

The crime sickens me and shouldicken and anger every other person in our community.

Here in Black History Month, we have black men killing children over something that can never be enough to have committed drive by shootings over.

Parents, I plead with you to get your children, teenagers and young adults in check because the senseless taking of life in the black community is out of control and beyond sad.

If you know your children are out gang banging turn them in. Maybe the help they can get from the judicial system will save their lives and prevent others from suffering what the family of Oterrious Marks is suffering in the wake of their innocent young child being killed over nothing.

I am asking McComb to come together and assist law enforcement in any way possible with information to help save our community.

And I am pleading with parents whose children are into criminal activity – get them help and off the streets before more lives are ruined.

## MOORE & MOORE Cleaning Service



**Craig Moore**  
Owner/Operator

*All Types of Cleaning Services  
Over 30 Years of Experience  
Free Estimates  
Licensed & Bonded*

### Moore & Moore Cleaning Services Commercial & Residential Cleaning

*We clean: Office Buildings, Schools, Daycares  
Churches, Restaurants - whatever you need.*

*Floor Stripping & Waxing, Carpet Cleaning,  
Restrooms & All Other Janitorial Services  
with Professional Results*

**601.317.2735**

Email: [craig.moore78@yahoo.com](mailto:craig.moore78@yahoo.com)

[www.mooreandmoorecleaningserviceandautosalesllc](http://www.mooreandmoorecleaningserviceandautosalesllc)

2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213

*The person that sends us the most referrals will  
receive a \$200.00 referral fee.*

**MAID SERVICES AVAILABLE**

**Subscribe TODAY**

2659 Livingston Road • Jackson MS, 39213  
601-896-0084 • [www.mississippilink.com](http://www.mississippilink.com)

## The Mississippi Link

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
e-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK ONE**

☐ 1 year

☐ 2 year

☐ 3 year

**\$32**  
1 year  
subscription

**\$64**  
2 year  
subscription

**\$96**  
3 year  
subscription

**Thank you for your order. Order a subscription for a friend!**

## The Mississippi Link™

**Volume 28 • Number 19**

*February 24 - March 2, 2022*

© copyright 2022. All rights reserved.

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

Member:



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

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

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

Postmaster:

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

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

The Mississippi Link accepts no responsibility for unsolicited materials and in general does not return them to sender. Manuscripts and photographs submitted for publication are welcome by The Mississippi Link, but no responsibility can be taken for sources considered to be authoritative, because the publication cannot guarantee their accuracy. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content, is prohibited.



# Breaking the Chains – Uniting Hidden Figures

**Daphne Monix Higgins**  
*Contributing Writer*

As the celebrations of black achievements in history continue to be shared across the country, the Youth Ministry of College Hill Missionary Baptist Church is vigilant in recognizing the accomplishments of those they worship with year-round.

The Youth Ministry, along with the collaboration of the church's Usher Ministry, presented the third installment of their Black History Program.

Shirley Davis, a member of the Usher Ministry, served as the presider of the most recent session entitled, "Breaking Every Chain: Celebrating Black Excellence through the Faithfulness of Hidden Figures."

After a powerful rendition of "Lift Every Voice Sing" by Amy Johnson, Davis stated, "We are paying homage to the hidden figures of College Hill. We are celebrating unsung heroes; those persons who do great deeds but receive little or no recognition. The time has come celebrate several of those individuals who are members of our church."

Staging their presentations as a "Who Am I" skit, several members of the Youth Ministry performed brief characterizations of a few members of west Jackson

church.

The representations began with Lanae Williams portraying Sherry Rankin. Rankin, whose husband is also a member of College Hill, is active with the Sunday School Workers Council, the choir and several other ministries at the church. At the end of her tribute to Rankin, Lanae said, "I love her because she is so sweet! She puts a smile on my face." Rankin, an educator, who was unaware of the selection as a Hidden Figure said, "This was a surprise. Thank you, everyone. To God be the Glory!"

Kateena Smith portrayed the next honoree for the evening, Malena Dow. Over the years, Dow has served the church through the Public Relations Ministry, Christian Education, Pastoral Support and many more auxiliaries. Professionally, she has held the titles of teacher, skilled profession writer, public speaker and made history as the first African-American chairman of the Board of the Jackson YWCA. Dow's husband, Robert, also a member of College Hill, looked on as Mrs. Dow made note of Kateena's presentation of her. Dow said, "My little sister, I was blessed by your presentation tonight. Thank you to all of the presenters. You were wonderful."

The next presenter was Blake Hansberry, who gave an imper-

sonation of Dr. Timothy W. Rush, Sr. Blake identified Rush as a God-fearing husband, father, educator, philosopher, motivational speaker, community advocate and fun loving. Blake quoted Rush saying, "I've taken my family all across the country using my own navigational system, me. He ended with one of Rush's favorite sayings: "Go to college and continue your knowledge, to be a student: smart, bright and true. If they can make penicillin out of molded cheese, I'm sure that they can make something out of you." Rush, whose wife Linda, leads the Youth Ministry, thanked Blake saying, "Blake, you did a good job. You must be watching me. You all did a good job. Black History is living history; keep the faith!"

Elijah Green thrilled his honoree, Lenora Barnes Reed, to squeals. Reed, a 60-year member of College Hill, currently leads the Intercessory Prayer Ministry, but has served in and continues to serve in several ministries since joining College Hill. Her daughter, Jonora Reed Coleman; son-in-law, Jimmy Coleman; and two grandsons, Jonathan and Justin, are active members of the church, as well.

A self-described socialite, Reed loves travelling, shopping and spending time with family.

Displaying her excitement from Green's tribute, Reed said, "Thank you for talking about me. I really enjoyed listening to everyone tonight. I think we should do this more often. We do a good job at College Hill with our youth department."

Joshua Jordan spotlighted the next honoree of the evening, Bernard Bridges. During Jordan's presentation he identified Bridges as someone whose siblings thought him to be lazy. Jordan quoted Bridges as saying, "My siblings called me lazy because when we were younger, we had to pick cotton. I would pick enough for a pillow to lay down." Bridges, who loved to read and was excellent in math, is now an executive with a prominent bank in Jackson. Bridges, who is married to College Hill member, Sharon, serves on several boards including: Headstart MS, Goodwill Industries, the YMCA, and MS School for Math and Science. He is a founding member of 100 Black Men of Jackson and Columbus (MS).

Bridges showed his appreciation for the honor saying, "Thank you all so very much. I was thoroughly surprised. I appreciate College Hill for recognizing all of us."

Ethan and Maddy Franklin ended the evening's salutes by honoring John and Frances Morris, two long time educators in the metropolitan Jackson area. The couple has led several ministries at the church and continue to serve as an active deacon and deaconess. Maddy referred to one of Frances' favorite quotes, saying, "When you stand up in front of the class you have to have confidence. Stand up and speak with confidence." Deacon Morris and wife said they were pleasantly surprised. Morris said, "It is so wonderful to be thought of, especially from a Christian perspective. Thank you, very much. It was a great honor. We want to especially thank the two children who knew everything about us. They were fantastic. Mrs. Morris ended saying, "I just want to say thank you for thinking of us. This is a challenge to do more. We appreciate all of the work that you do at the church, and we accept the challenge."

The evening's speaker, Miss Jackson State University, Halle Coleman; shared words of encouragement with the audience. The Clinton native is a senior journalism major, who is also the editor of the school's newspaper, the *Blue and White Flash*. She also holds membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She shared background information on JSU, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities saying, "We have really rich history. We have a lot of notable alumni, and we also have a lot of Hidden Figures. I want to encourage you all to continue to stay in school, hone in on your skills and go to an HBCU; but consider JSU first. I'm so impressed by all of the presentations tonight and I'd like to commend all of the presenters. Youth, use your resources. You have a lot of support from your church members. You are surrounded by mentors."

The program also included poetic presentations by Mary Joyce Sanders and Robert Sulton. Sanders named several of the trailblazers affiliated with College Hill, including the church's first pastor, Rev. S.W. Hall, and other members: Sam Bailey, Gertrude Ellis, Emmitt Hayes and Charence Higgins. She said that there are many not named but are serving with passion and love.

Linda Rush said, "These young



**Bernard Bridges**



**John and Frances Morris**



**Lenora Reed**



**Malena Dow**



**Sherry Rankin**



**Tim Rush**

people choose to portray the people they most admired at College Hill and they did an awesome job. "We are expecting to close out the month with even more exciting activities."

Rev. Chauncy Jordan, the church's pastor said, "To our youth who have utilized their gifts tonight, what an awesome way to just shine the light on the trailblazers who are among us at College Hill Missionary Baptist Church. I've been blown away from all of

the presentations that have been occurring from our first week of celebration through now. Each week continues to bless our hearts. I trust and pray that all that we have witnessed will motivate us to go out and blaze some new trails. I want to encourage and challenge you to go out with the memory and spirit of these Hidden Figures you have spotlighted tonight. There is still some great work to be done. Write history of your own, break every chain."

Jackson Public Schools

# SALUTES

# BLACK

# HISTORY

# MONTH

**JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Transforming lives through excellent education



# My shingles experience

By Vince Faust  
*Tips to Be Fit*

Last week I was feeling great. I was getting into the gym regularly. I even took a picture after my workout last Monday wearing my Captain America t-shirt. By Wednesday it felt like someone had kicked me in the stomach and punched me in the back. I was in the doctor's office feeling the worst I had ever felt in my life. By Saturday I called the doctor on call. Now I had a rash and a pain was at a 10. It took my breath away.

The on-call doctor prescribed some medication for the rash and told me to go to the doctor if things got worst. They did and I was on my way to the nearest urgent care center. They sent me to the ER. In the next 15 minutes they had me on morphine for the pain. I was at a lost. The ER doctor told me I had shingles.

I said, "I don't have enough symptoms." Then he showed me my back. Then I saw the rash on my stomach, side and back. I saw the red ugly raised bumps. I'm not suppose to get sick. I write about health. And I got the shingles vaccine. What happen?

I got more education on shingles. According to the CDC, the rash occurs in a single stripe around either the left or the right side of the body. In other cases, the rash can develop on one side of your face. Shingles on your face can affect your eyes and cause vision loss. In rare cases in people with weakened immune systems, the rash may be more widespread on the body and look similar to a chickenpox rash.

Symptoms of shingles can include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Chills
- Upset stomach



Many people think that shingles is just a rash, so they wait for it to go away like poison ivy or sunburn. That would be a big mistake. If you think you have shingles, action is needed immediately. Shingles is a neurological emergency. The center of the infection is deep inside your body, within sensory nerve

cells close to your spinal cord or brain. In some cases the infection can spread into your spinal cord or brain and can cause myelitis, pneumonia, encephalitis, stroke, spinal cord injury, sepsis and bacterial infections.

I didn't have any of the symptoms except the stomach pain. Because I got

the shingles vaccine I was told I would not get all the symptoms. Shingles is a neurological emergency. I'm glad I didn't keep self-diagnosing my situation.

The herpes zoster is a virus in the herpes virus family, which causes chicken pox in children and shingles in adults. The herpes zoster is not sexually transmitted. You cannot get shingles from a person that is infected with shingles. You can get chickenpox from someone who has shingles but only if you have never had chickenpox or never received the chickenpox vaccine.

You are contagious with shingles until your last blister has scabbed over which usually occurs in about 10 to 14 days. Anyone who has had chickenpox is at risk for getting shingles.

You can unintentionally spread the virus to people that have never had chickenpox. If you're in contact with a person with shingles, you should avoid directly touching their rash. You should avoid touching their clothes, bedding, towels or anything else that might have touched their rash.

Having shingles will boost your immune system and offer some protection against a rapid recurrence. That boost in your immune system can weaken with time, which can make you vulnerable to shingles again. While it is possible to have shingles more than once, but it's very rare to get it more than twice.

It's not known why the shingles virus is reactivated at a later stage in life but most cases are thought to be caused by having a lowered immune system.

The best way to avoid shingles is to get vaccinated. A vaccine helps your body create a strong defense against shingles. People over 60 that get vaccinated for shingles reduce their risk

for developing shingles by 50% and getting persistent pain of PHN by over 60%. The shingle's vaccine is even more effective with people between 50 and 60. The vaccine reduces their risk by 70%.

Vaccines can be a single dose or require more doses. If you don't receive your second dose within the recommended window after your first dose, you do not need to restart the series. You should receive the second dose as close to this time frame as possible. For the best results it's important that you complete the vaccine series.

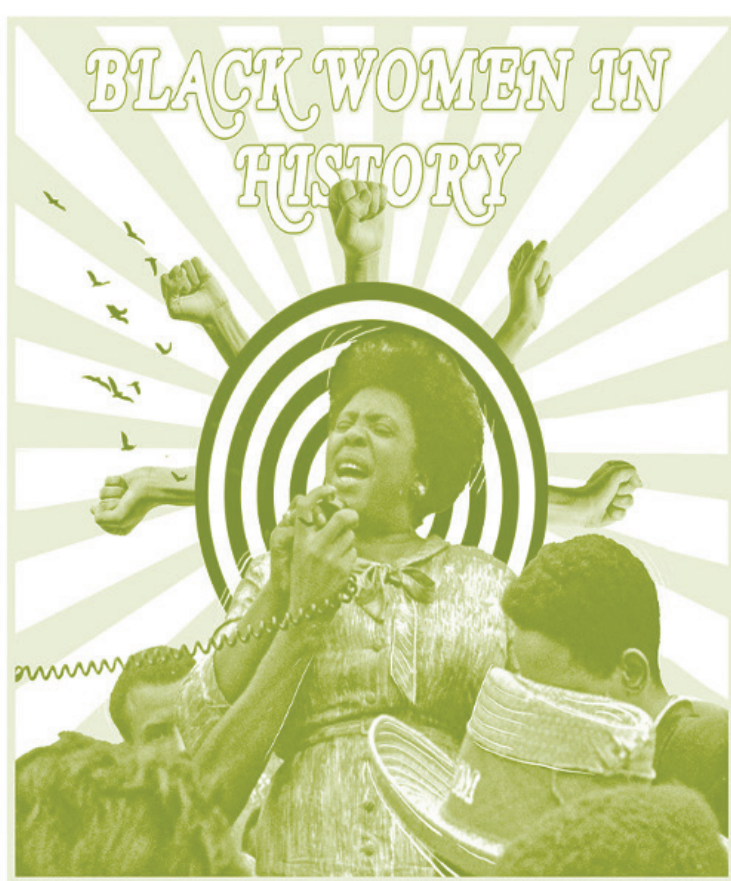
This vaccine can give you some temporary side effects. Most side effects include a sore arm with mild or moderate pain after getting a shingles vaccine. Redness and swelling where you got the shot may also occur. Some people felt tired, had muscle pain, a headache, shivering, fever, stomach pain or nausea.

One out of 6 people who got a shingles vaccine experienced side effects that prevented them from doing regular activities. Most symptoms go away on their own in about 2 to 3 days. Shingles vaccine side effects were more common in younger people.

Shingles vaccines don't contain thimerosal (a preservative containing mercury).

If you use an over the counter drug for pain that does not do the job in stopping your pain you should ask your doctor for a prescription strength medication. You have to remember that your pain medication should be managed with your doctor.

I would recommend everyone over 60 get the vaccine. I don't know what I would have done if I had experienced 50% more pain because I had not gotten the shingles' vaccine.



**"I have just as much right to stay in America - in fact, the black people have contributed more to America than any other race, because our kids have fought here for what was called 'democracy'; our mothers and fathers were sold and bought here for a price. So all I can say when they say 'go back to Africa,' I say 'when you send the Chinese back to China, the Italians back to Italy, etc., and you get on that Mayflower from whence you came, and give the Indians their land back, who really would be here at home?'"**

~ FANNIE LOU HAMER



*We honor our nation's African-American heroes and heroines, past and present*

*For non-emergency service, call  
601-982-7911*

**Contact us to learn about careers as an EMT or paramedic.**

*In emergencies,  
dial 9-1-1*

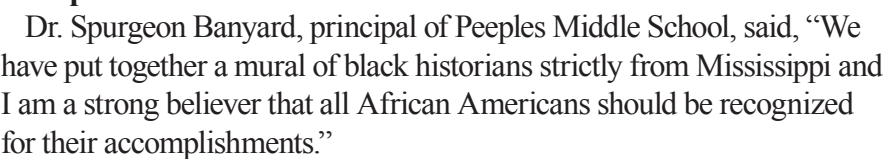
**AMR**  
600 Melvin Bender Drive, Jackson

*Now offering money-saving memberships.  
For details on membership, call 601-368-2301.*



## PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY.

Kindergarten students at Lake Elementary School created posters and shoe box displays in recognition of Black History Month. Principal Yashtas Burton said, “We wanted to give the students an introduction to the celebration of Black History Month by having them create posters or shoe box displays. It was a collaboration with parents and teachers.”



Dexter Todd said he had been working on the Black History Month program since last year but was not able to assemble it due to the water crisis the city faced last year. He is proud to have had eighth grade students help get it up this year. The display includes Black History from slavery to the Black Lives Matter era.





# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

## BEEMS WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to the Bolton Edwards Elementary/Middle School girls and boys basketball teams for winning the CMAC Basketball Championships.



MVP for the Girls was Tymara Kidd



BEEMS Girls team



MVP for the Boys was Miles Norman



BEEMS Boys team



Students, dressed in their dresses and pearls, listened to Miss Black Mississippi, Brianna McField.

4th and 5th grade girls at Gary Road Intermediate were treated to an exceptional experience. Miss Black Mississippi Brianna McField shared her beautiful thoughts and inspiring words with our young ladies. She spoke about being queens in life, online and in reality, and how to present a positive image for yourself. She offered words of encouragement and affirmation for all. Our young ladies dressed their best to attend the motivational event. We are so proud of how our young ladies represented our school during the presentations. They were well presented and polite. Thank you to Glenda Lewis for leading the organization of the event. Thank you also to the administrators and staff who helped make the event such a great success. Principal Ashley Green said it best. "Today was a great day to be a Lady Jr. Bulldog. The "Girls with Pearls" and "Realizing the Queen Within" event was quite empowering."



A student poses with Miss Black Mississippi, Brianna McField.



Miss Black America, Brianna McField, poses with students.



From left to right: Elaine Toney (Community Bank) Erin Slaughter, Lakyla Johnson, Morgan Evans, Alonza Gholar, Sha'mya Norwood, Marlicia Lyles, Eniyah Slaughter, Arianna Dixon, Zoe Jackson, Coach Brian Weeks and Hynethia Richard (Community Bank)



Students were gifted t-shirts during the presentation.





**Environmental Technical Sales, Inc.**



**“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”**

—Booker T. Washington, 19th-century politician, author, and cofounder of Tuskegee Institute, a famous historically Black college

**Sam Agnew**

**[sagnew@etec-sales.com](mailto:sagnew@etec-sales.com)**

**Bryson Agnew**

**[bagnew@etec-sales.com](mailto:bagnew@etec-sales.com)**

**Ellis Sartain**

**[esartain@etec-sales.com](mailto:esartain@etec-sales.com)**



# NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## CELEBRATES

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## REGISTRATION

### Pre-School Division

6 months - Four Year Olds  
Call 601-362-0912

**2022-2023 School Year  
Begins March 7, 2022**

### Elementary Division

K5- 5th Grade  
Call 601-362-4776

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Classroom teachers**  
(Pre-School & Elementary)
- **Cafeteria Cook**
- **Librarian** (Part-Time)
- **Resource Teacher**

**We offer small classroom sizes and a Christian curriculum.**

Submit resumes and references to:  
Mrs. Helen Young  
[hyoung@newhope-baptist.org](mailto:hyoung@newhope-baptist.org)  
601-366-7237

DR. JERRY YOUNG, FOUNDER & HEADMASTER

DR. CENOVIA BURNES, PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR

MRS. KELLI HART, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL





# Ahmaud Arbery killers found guilty of Hate Crimes in Federal Court

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

A federal jury found Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael and William “Roddie” Bryan guilty on all counts in the murder of Ahmaud Arbery.

The verdict came on the eve of the anniversary of Arbery’s murder.

The McMichaels and Bryan chased Arbery through their mostly white Georgia neighborhood in their pickup trucks, cornering him before Travis McMichael shot the innocent jogger with a shotgun.

The trio was convicted in state court and given life sentences. The federal charges included a hate crime that exposed each of the men’s history of racism.

Throughout the one-week trial, defense attorneys tried to sell the jury that, while the men weren’t “likable,” their actions weren’t driven by racial hatred.

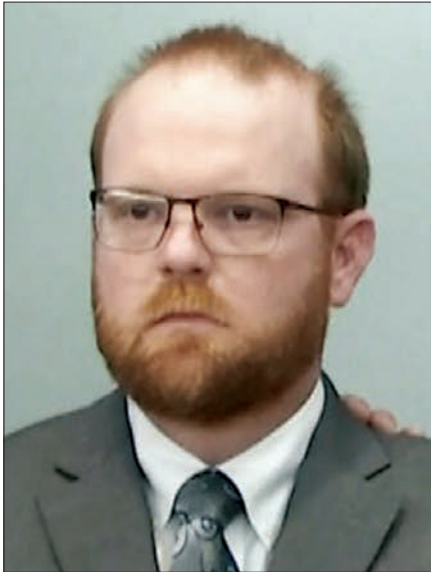
However, Prosecutor Christopher Perras ferociously attacked that stance.

The murder “was driven by their pent-up racial anger and [Travis McMichael] was just looking for a reason,” Perras insisted. He also noted that if the men thought Arbery had committed a crime, they never alerted the police.

Trial testimony from FBI intelligence analyst Amy Vaughan revealed a host of racist remarks from Travis McMichael.

Vaughn testified that Travis McMichael and his friends routinely used racist slurs directed at African Americans.

One text from Travis McMichael to a friend describes how he enjoyed his new job because he didn’t have to work



On the eve of the anniversary of his death, a federal jury found Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael and William “Roddie” Bryan guilty of hate crimes on all counts in the murder of Ahmaud Arbery

with black people.

“They ruin everything,” McMichael wrote. “That’s why I love what I do now. Not a [n-word] in sight.”

In a Facebook video that purportedly shows a group of black teenagers beating a white youth, Travis McMichael commented, “I say shoot them all,” and he referred the group as “monkeys.”

Travis McMichael also referred to a woman who dated a black man as an “[N-word] lover.”

Kim Ballesteros, who lived next door to the McMichaels, told the court about a conversation in which Gregory McMichael used racist language to describe a tenant he had.

“She was a large black woman who did not pay her rent very well,” Ballesteros told the court. “Their name for her

was the walrus.”

When Gregory McMichael told her that the woman didn’t pay her rent on time, he disabled her air conditioning unit.

“You should have seen how fast her big fat black a-- came with the rent check,” Gregory McMichael said, according to Ballesteros.

The FBI’s Vaughan also testified that Bryan often used the n-word and words like “bootlip” to describe black people.

She said he routinely slurred African Americans on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

“Happy Bootlip Day,” Bryan told a friend in one message.

“I worked like a [n-word] today,” he stated.

Perras dismissed any notion that the

defense attorney’s claims on behalf of his clients somehow justified their deadly actions.

“There’s a big difference between being vigilant and being a vigilante,” he told the jury.

“It’s important for you to understand the full depth of the defendants’ racial hatred.”

Attorney Benjamin Crump released the following statement following the verdict:

“Tomorrow marks two years since Ahmaud Arbery was stalked, trapped and murdered in cold blood as he jogged through his Brunswick neighborhood. And today, after much sorrow, grief and pain, Ahmaud’s family can finally put this chapter behind them. For the last 24 months, they’ve

dedicated themselves to getting justice for their son. They’ve had to relive his brutal murder, watch and listen as he was demonized in court, and fight to share with the world who Ahmaud Arbery was and who he could have been had his young life not been so violently cut short.

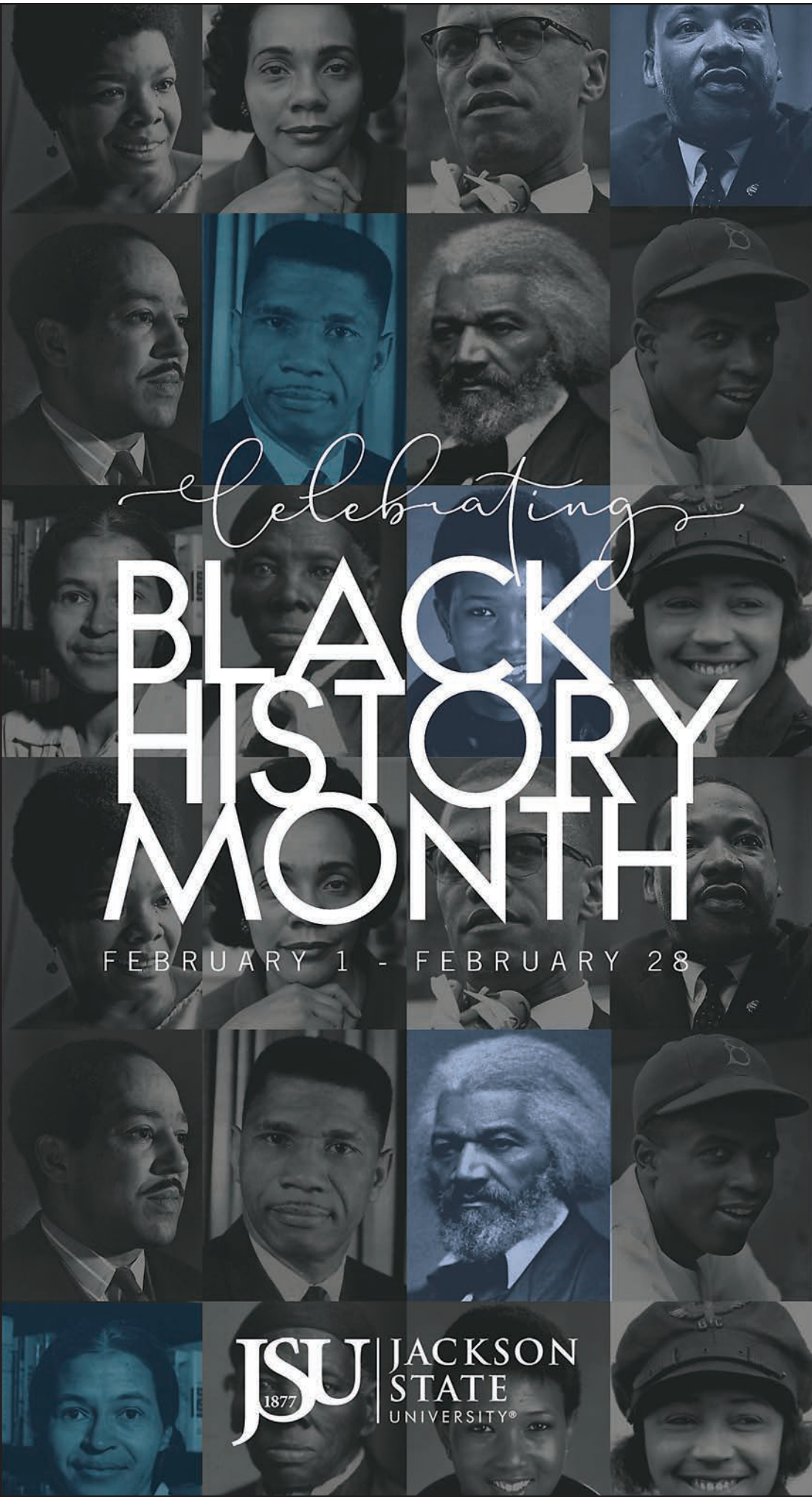
“For many of us, there was never any doubt that Greg McMichael, Travis McMichael and William Bryan targeted Ahmaud because of his skin color. But because of indisputable video evidence, disgusting messages sent by the defendants, and witness testimony, their hate was revealed to the world and the jury. We hope and demand that the severity of their crimes are reflected in the sentencing, as well.

“Ahmaud Arbery was denied the opportunity to define his own legacy, but America, we have the power to ensure that it is one that propels our fight for equal justice and dispels hate from this world. That is how we continue to honor Ahmaud and make sure his death was not in vain.”

Before the trial, the McMichaels cut a deal with prosecutors. They agreed to plead guilty to hate crime charges and serve their sentence in federal prison. However, Arbery’s parents, Wanda Cooper-Jones and Marcus Arbery argued against the arrangement. That prompted the judge to toss out the plea deal.

“Ahmaud didn’t get the option of a plea,” Cooper-Jones demanded.

The judge gave the McMichaels and Bryan two weeks to file an appeal.



celebrating

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 28

**JSU** JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY®

# WEAR TOP BRANDS. OR WORK FOR THEM.

JESSICA ALEXANDER YRIGOYEN  
NIKE EVENT PLANNER



There's ready.  
Then there's JSU ready.

**JSU** JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY®

APPLY @ FUTURETIGER.JSUMS.EDU



P R E S E R V E D

# TIPs on getting your prayers answered

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“You need to be targeted, intentional and purposeful.” A friend of mine shared these words with me last week as

he offered advice on creating and building small businesses. As he continued, he explained that in his over 30 years of experience mentoring businesses those were the three things that he saw that made the difference with a business being successful.

After his explanation, I thought about those three words (I’m calling it the TIPs strategy) not just in relation to building a business but also in relation to building my faith. I thought about the many prayers that God has answered (for which I am thankful).

I also thought about the many

prayers that God has yet to answer (for which I am still anticipating answers).

Honestly, sometimes it’s hard to hold onto my faith when I feel like God is deliberately not answering my prayers, especially when I see other folks getting the same prayer answered in 1 year that I’ve been praying for 5 years.

But what my friend’s simple yet profound statement did is give me a strategy on how to build my faith while waiting for the prayers to be answered.

For example, the first part target could easily apply to how specifically we should pray. Targeting our prayers means that they are not generic (Lord bless me and my family) but are specific and focused on a “what.” There is a Hebrew term “paga” that refers to a type of prayer that hits the mark as an intercessory prayer. According to the website opentheword.org, another translation for paga

means staking out or claiming territory. So, in praying a targeted or paga prayer, we are essentially making a specific spiritual claim...and we know that God loves us to be specific when we come to him in prayer.

In addition, intentionality indicates we should pray deliberately and diligently. It’s not just about praying without ceasing as it says we should in I Thessalonians 5:17. It’s also taking the approach mentioned in Proverbs 21:5 “The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.” Intentional means that we are not focused on doing things quickly but on doing things with a pace that leads to the attainment of the goal. When we are intentional, there is such a laser focus on achieving the goal that distractions do not deter or delay us.

The last part of my friend’s statement refers to being pur-

poseful, something that we Christians hear often in church. Purpose refers to why we do anything. One of my favorite scriptures that comes to mind about purpose is Proverbs 19:21 “Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.” This reminds us that regardless of what we plan, it is the purpose of the Lord that will prevail. No matter how fervent the prayer, only something that is ordained by God will stand.

His TIP strategy, though intended for business, also gives us a way to focus on what we pray, how we pray and why we pray

*Shewanda Riley is the author of “Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email [preservedbypurpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or Twitter [@shewanda](https://twitter.com/shewanda).*

# There is great joy in serving others

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



Jesus desires that all people seek the true and lasting riches, such as living a holy life and working in the kingdom by visit-

ing the sick, winning souls and doing many charitable deeds that manifest a Christ-filled life. These are valuable riches that are laid up in Heaven. They can never fade away nor be taken away from you. In Matthew 6:20 Jesus said, “But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.”

Today much of our society has been overcome by the spirit of materialism. Many people seem to be dissatisfied or unhappy with their things. Therefore, they continually reach out to obtain more, thinking that those material possessions will bring them happiness. Jesus let us know in Luke 12:15 that true riches are not found in the things that one possesses. However, a wise person will find true riches and real happiness when he seeks Christ first in all things.

The evil comes whenever someone allows worldly riches or possessions or position to gain control of his heart and life. Spending too much time at seeking earthly riches can become dangerous if one is not careful. This condition can subtly move in and take first place in the Christian’s life if a person does not stay alert and on guard. Anything placed ahead of Christ will soon rob the soul of peace and joy, and thus render the individual unfit for true service to the Master.

Remember that worldly fame or wealth is never proof of one being in right relationship with the Lord. There are times when riches have been mistaken for spirituality. Unfortunately, some people have thought they were pleasing God because they were blessed abundantly.

God sheds His goodness on the unjust man as well as the just man. When the Lord sends the rains, it blesses the sinner’s crops the same as the righteous man’s crops.

In First Timothy 6:9-10 the Apostle Paul wrote: “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

Earthly riches have often become a snare because many are tempted to put their trust in their riches instead of the God who gave them those riches, much like the rich, young ruler who came to Jesus seeking soul rest. He had obeyed all the commandments from his childhood, yet he lacked one thing. Something was missing in his life. When Jesus required him to go and sell all that he had and share it with the poor, his flesh cringed. He turned and went away sad and empty that day because he loved his wealth more than he loved or wanted Christ the Savior.

There is extraordinary joy in serving others and in striving to be a blessing whenever opportunity presents itself.

*Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joy nes Road Church of God, 31 Joy nes Road, Hampton, VA 23669.*



## New Horizon Church

INTERNATIONAL  
*A place of love and victory.*

**Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr.**  
1750 Ellis Avenue • Jackson, MS 39204  
OFFICE: 601-371-1427 • FAX: 601-371-8282  
[www.nhcms.org](http://www.nhcms.org)

**SUNDAY**  
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - *Worship Services*

**WEDNESDAY**  
7:00 p.m. - *Bible Class*

**TV BROADCAST**  
8:00 a.m. - *Channel 14 (Comcast)*

*Prayer Everyday: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.*



Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

1600 Florence Avenue  
Jackson, Mississippi 392024  
601-3552670 ~ 601-355-0760 (Fax)  
[www.collegehillchurch.org](http://www.collegehillchurch.org)  
[Chmbc@collegehillchurch.org](mailto:Chmbc@collegehillchurch.org)

## COLLEGE HILL

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**SUNDAY**  
**Worship Services**  
**10 a.m. in person**

Or you may worship with us via  
Facebook or our YouTube  
channel at CHMBC



Pastor  
Chauncy L. Jordan

**True Light Baptist Church**  
224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202  
Phone: 601.398.0915  
[WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG](http://WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG)

**THE**  
*Light Line*  
**PRAYER**

**JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY**  
**MORNING AT 6:00 AM**  
**CALL: 559-671-2546**

**VIRTUAL SERVICES AVAILABLE**  
**SMALL GROUP STUDY 9:00 AM**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE | SUNDAY 10:30 AM**  
**BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM**




**REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR**

 @TRUELIGHTMBCHURCH  
 TRUE LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH

## Crossroads Church of God

*Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others*



<b>Sunday Morning</b> Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 10 a.m.	<b>Sunday Worship Service:</b> 11:15 a.m. (Fellowship following worship service 1st Sundays)	<b>Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study:</b> 7 p.m.
--	---	---

**Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor**  
231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046  
Church: 601-859-2858

## New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Live Radio Broadcast  
WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



*“A Church Preparing for a Home Not Built by Man”*

**New Bethel M. B. Church • 450 Culberston Ave. • Jackson, MS 39209**  
**601-969-3481/969-3482 • Fax # 601-969-1957 • E-Mail: [Serenitynbc@aol.com](mailto:Serenitynbc@aol.com)**



## LEGAL

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF  
INTEREST BY THE  
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR SERVICES IN  
CONNECTION WITH THE HAWKINS FIELD AIRPORT PROPERTY  
DRAINAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT AT HAWKINS FIELD  
JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 003-22

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is requesting Statement of Qualifications and Expressions of Interest (each, a "Statement of Qualifications") to provide construction design and related services (the "Services") to JMAA in connection with Hawkins Field Airport Property Drainage Assessment JMAA Project No. 004-22 at Hawkins Field.

JMAA will receive sealed electronic or printed submissions only. All submissions of Statement of Qualifications to perform the Services will be accepted until Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on the "Deadline". RFQ shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows: Email: [bids@imaa.com](mailto:bids@imaa.com)  
By mail or hand delivery: JMAA's Administrative Office, Suite 300  
Main Terminal Building  
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208

JMAA will not consider any Statement of Qualifications received after Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Statement of Qualifications ("RFQ") is on file and open for the public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFQ. General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents, and Criteria for Selection.

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority Attn: Marvin Buckhalter  
Director of Procurement  
100 International Drive, Suite 300  
Jackson, MS 39208  
Telephone: (601) 664-3516  
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713 Email: [mbuckhalter@jmaa.com](mailto:mbuckhalter@jmaa.com)  
or JMAA's website at <https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement>.

Join Zoom Meeting  
Link: <https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/6895798393?pwd=TWZ2YUtsUEUwMkQVVLdnovc0hScWp6QT09>

Meeting ID: 689 579 8393  
Passcode: 079743

Attendance at the Pre-Submission Video Conference is mandatory for all those submitting Statement of Qualifications as a Prime Consultant for the Services.

After evaluation in accordance with the criteria set forth in the RFQ, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent marked first on the list. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement, in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent. In that event, JMAA will follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.

JMAA reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Statement of Qualifications, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services, and (2) waive any and all informalities and irregularities in the selection process.

JMAA has established a DBE contract goal of 30.00 % for the Services solicited by this RFQ. JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
DATE: 02/16/2022

Paul A. Brown, Chief Executive Officer

2/17/2022, 2/24/2022

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

88598-030822 – Twenty-Four Month Supply of Swimming Pool Purification Chemicals

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT HYPERLINK "<http://WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV>  
WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV, HYPERLINK "[http://WWW.CENTRALBIDDING](http://WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM)  
COM" WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM

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

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

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

Monica Oliver Acting Purchasing Manager  
Purchasing Division  
(601) 960-1025 or 1028

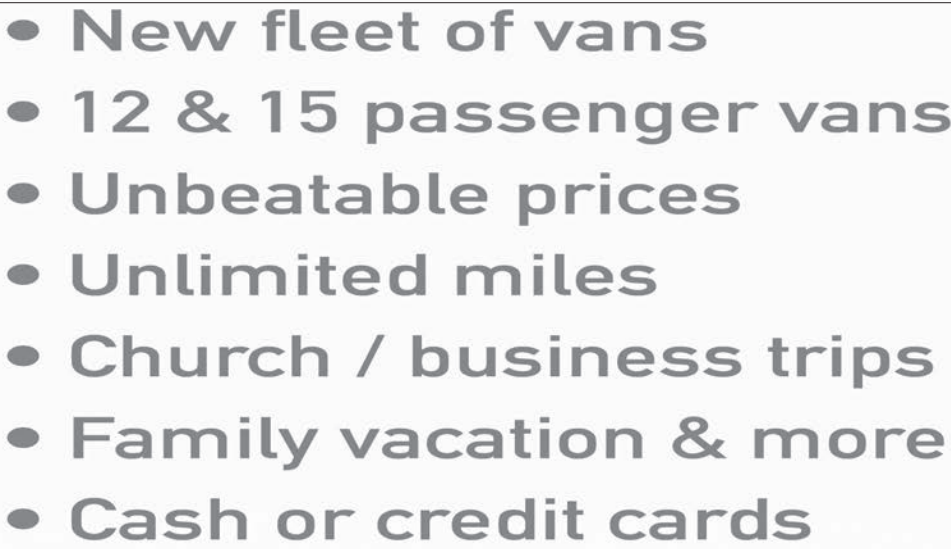
2/17/2022, 2/24/2022

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662½ South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) March 03, 2022, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing Bettie Jones at [bjones@jackson.k12.ms.us](mailto:bjones@jackson.k12.ms.us) or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at [www.jackson.k12.ms.us](http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us).

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSP Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

2/17/2022, 2/24/2022



**3840 ROBINSON ROAD - JACKSON, MS 39209 - PHONE: 601-398-1162**



Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!  
844-316-8630

FREE  
7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available  
Subject to Credit Approval

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Crossword Puzzle

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

ACROSS

1. Winged  
5. Rocket builders  
9. Hose  
10. Dance  
11. Mined metals  
12. Metal tip on the end of a lance  
13. Strong point  
15. Bullfight cheer  
16. Southern Mexican Indian  
18. Greek version of Ceres  
21. Wing  
22. Nontoxic  
26. Relating to the moon  
28. France and Belgium, anciently  
29. Instruct  
30. Evils  
31. Place to rest  
32. Egyptian river

DOWN

1. Particle  
2. Tempt  
3. A wager (2 wds.)  
4. Change the clothing  
5. Hen-peck  
6. Distribute  
7. Inscribed pillar  
8. Ancient Indian  
10. Crooked  
14. Diner  
17. Family tree  
18. Glens  
19. Avoid  
20. Passion  
23. Indonesian island  
24. Quieted  
25. Otherwise  
27. American Federation of Teachers (abbr.)

© Feature Exchange

Crossword Solution

A	L	A	R			N	A	S	A
T	U	B	E			W	A	L	T
O	R	E	S			A	G	L	E
M	E	T	I	E	R			O	L
				Z	A	P	O	T	E
D	E	M	E	T	E	R			
A	L	A			E	D	I	B	L
L	U	N	A	R			G	A	U
E	D	I	F	Y			I	L	L
S	E	A	T				N	I	L

© Feature Exchange

PICK UP

THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON

BULLY'S RESTAURANT  
3118 Livingston Road  
CASH & CARRY  
Capitol Street and Monument Street  
CITY HALL  
219 S President St  
GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX  
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.  
MCDADE'S MARKET  
Northside Drive  
MCDADE'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  
FRYER LANE GROCERY  
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  
505 E. Main Street  
SUNFLOWER GROCERY  
122 Old Port Gibson Street,  
Raymond, MS  
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  
Mississippi Hwy 18  
PITT STOP  
101 Hwy 18 & 27

BOLTON

BOLTON LIBRARY  
BOLTON CITY HALL

MCAN

Mississippi Classified Advertising Network

To place your statewide classified ad order, call MS Press Services at 601-981-3060

Classes / Training

COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer and Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! 833-992-0228 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

For Sale

GENERAC STANDBY GENERATORS provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Request a free quote today! Call for additional terms and conditions. 1-844-316-8630  
THE GENERAC PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-844-355-7099.

Insurance

AUTO INSURANCE STARTING AT \$49/ MONTH! Call for your fee rate comparison to see how much you can save! Call: 833-678-0500  
DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1 - 8 5 5 - 3 9 7 - 7 0 4 5 www.dental50plus.com/mspress #6258

Medical Supplies

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 844-821-3242

Miscellaneous

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-400-8263

Pets/Livestock

USE HAPPY JACK ToneKote on dogs and cats to insure a warm winter coat, prevent shedding and eliminate doggy odor. At Tractor Supply (www.happyjack-inc.com)

Services-General

DISH Network. \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-8 7 7 - 6 2 8 - 3143

Services-Legal

If you or a loved one worked around the pesticide ROUNDUP (glyphosate), for at least two years and has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, you may be entitled to compensation. To learn more, call now: 844-327-3556

Services-Medical

LOOKING FOR ASSISTED LIVING, memory care, or independent living? A Place for Mom simplifies the process of finding senior living at no cost to your family. Call 1-855-530-0567 today!  
STROKE AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-855-393-5067.

Advertising Solutions That Deliver STATEWIDE!



Place Your Classified Ad STATEWIDE In 100 Newspapers!

To order, call your local newspaper or MS Press Services at 601-981-3060.

STATEWIDE RATES:  
Up to 25 words.....\$210  
1 col. x 2 inch.....\$525  
1 col. x 3 inch.....\$785  
1 col. x 4 inch.....\$1050

Nationwide Placement Available  
Call MS Press Services  
601-981-3060

Week of February 20, 2022





# The HBCU Legacy Bowl is a pathway to the NFL for our student-athletes

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



Let’s say with great pride and conviction that the HBCU Legacy Bowl held on Saturday was a rousing success. It was a defining moment in the storied annals of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Sometimes, if you live long enough, life will give you some unexpected surprises. It will give you something “extra.” In New Orleans, that something extra is called “lagniappe.”

If you had asked me some years back about an all-star football game featuring HBCU student-athletes, I probably would have said it’s a great idea, but it probably won’t happen.

There would have been multiple reasons for our answer. For example, no sponsors, no stadium and no money. You can probably add a few reasons of your own.

I was incorrect in my assertion. Glad that I was.

Blessings come in different ways and at different times. We know they may not come when you want them, but they are right on time.

On a bright, sunny day in February, history was made. February 19 was a stellar day for HBCU athletics. At 3 p.m., the inaugural HBCU Legacy Bowl kicked off at Yulman Stadium on the campus of Tulane University.

There were two teams made up of all stars from the 4 major African-American athletic conferences. They were called Team Gaither and Team Robinson.

Jake Gaither and Eddie Robinson were legendary coaches at Florida A&M University and Grambling State University respectively.

The halftime entertainment was provided by two iconic bands, Grambling State University and St. Augustine High School (New Orleans). They gave the audience the pop and the flair that made everyone get on their feet.

The entire HBCU Legacy Bowl weekend had so many highlights and had something for everyone.

There was the HBCU Legacy Bowl Career Day held at the Hyatt Hotel. It was designed for area students to find out about job opportunities at national companies.

This celebration of HBCU excellence gave would-be employers the chance to meet with students. It is my thinking that many of them left with job offers in hand.

Careers in their chosen

fields give graduates the opportunity to network and to build professional relationships.

In many ways, that is how events like the HBCU Legacy Bowl come to be. It’s people making recommendations to others within their circle of influence.

The Black College Football Hall of Fame and multiple sponsors were the catalysts for the creation of the HBCU Legacy Bowl.

Some of the founding partners were the New Orleans Saints, Adidas, Riddell and, 15 And The Mahomes Foundation.

The co-founders of the Black College Football Hall of Fame are James “Shack” Harris and Doug Williams. It is sponsored by the Shack Harris and Doug Williams Foundation. Both are alums of Grambling State University and played quarterback there.

Other Black College Football Hall of Fame trustees are Mel Blount (Southern University), Willie Lanier (Morgan State University), and Art Shell (University of Maryland Eastern Shore).

All of them had outstanding careers in the National Football League. They excelled and achieved at the highest levels of the game. The commonality which brought them together was that they wanted other HBCU student-athletes to be successful both on and off the field.

It is my strong belief the HBCU Legacy Bowl will become an annual event. There were sponsors waiting in the wings to gauge the event’s support.

They are now believers. They are ready to sign on for next year’s game and activities.

The barometer for success is so high and that is great news for everyone involved.

Saturday’s game showed that fans will show up to watch talent and future stars.

Team Gaither defeated Team Robinson 22-6. Quarterback, Jeremy Hickbottom (Tennessee State University) was named Offensive Most Valuable Player and Defensive Back, Antwan Collier (Florida A&M University) was named Defensive Most Valuable Player.

There were no losers, only winners at the HBCU Legacy Bowl. Futures were made and careers were started.

Pro scouts were in attendance, and agents were ready to meet their new clients.

We will see many of these young men playing on Sunday in the NFL.

The HBCU Legacy Bowl is building a legacy.

# House tax plan won’t provide promised benefits; will cause long-term economic harm

By MS Senator Sollie Norwood  
(D) District 28



Mississippians work hard to take care of their families. They deserve a hand up when they’re struggling, but the tax plan proposed by the Mississippi House of Representatives is based on unfounded claims and false promises.

During this legislative session, the House proposed a tax plan that would eliminate the state individual income tax, reduce the state grocery tax, reduce the tax on car tags, and increase the state general sales tax rate to 8.5% from 7%.

House leaders claim that this plan will make Mississippi’s economy more competitive and stimulate growth. These claims could not be further from the truth.

Don’t take our word for it. In a recent report, Mississippi’s state economists concluded that a large revenue shortfall resulting from the House’s tax plan would decrease jobs, population and personal income. State business leaders have often expressed skepticism and concern over mas-

sive overhauls to the state’s tax system. In fact, a recent report by the Mississippi Economic Council cites a skilled workforce – not the state’s tax environment – as a top priority for business leaders across the state. There’s also growing consensus across the country that people don’t move to other states because of taxes, income tax cuts won’t help small businesses create jobs, and tax policy alone won’t create substantial, long-lasting economic growth.

The experience of other states that have attempted major overhauls to their tax systems should make House leaders pause before implementing a plan that could cripple our state economy.

We’ve heard the argument that other states, like Texas and Florida, don’t levy an income tax. However, this argument doesn’t tell the whole story. Mississippi isn’t Texas or Florida. Instead, House leaders should look to the experience of states like Kansas.

In Kansas, lawmakers passed legislation that massively cut state income taxes claiming to boost the state economy. Within the next few

years, their economy tanked, falling behind not only neighboring states but also the nation overall. After trying to hide the damage to their state budget by sacrificing public services like education and other critical programs, state lawmakers were forced to roll back most of the cuts they previously voted to implement.

Fifteen years from now, Mississippi lawmakers would not want to be the elected officials scrambling to restore the state’s broken tax structure due to a bad tax cut experiment led by House leaders.

Even more, the state can’t afford the House’s tax plan. According to Mississippi’s state economists, the House tax plan would cause a revenue shortfall of more than \$278 million in the first year after its enactment and around \$679 million in the second year. These revenue shortfalls would be permanent and occur every year. By 2035, the House’s tax plan could cost Mississippi over \$1.075 billion in revenue. That is almost half of the state’s general education budget, nearly all of the state’s support for public colleges and universities, and slightly less

than the total amount of money spent by MDOT on state and local road and bridge systems.

These revenue shortfalls have more than just economic implications for the state. The tremendous revenue shortfall caused by the House’s tax plan would mean that state services and programs would suffer. The truth is we’re not paying state employees. Our roads are crumbling. We have not funded our schools. We don’t have water and sewer. And without this revenue, how do we afford investments that we all want, like providing much-needed raises to the state’s teachers?

A massive tax overhaul backed by lofty dreams and unattainable projections will not benefit Mississippi. There are so many issues in the state that need addressing. Instead of focusing on one specific tax policy, we should use this legislative session to capitalize on historic opportunities for growth and investments.

We all want a growing economy, stronger communities, more opportunities, and a better Mississippi for everyone. But despite what House leaders say, the House’s tax plan won’t meet these goals.

# The Whistle Blows

By Christopher Young  
Jackson, MS



Between 4:10 and 4:20, every morning  
The whistle blows  
A Canadian National Railroad freight train passing through  
Keeping schedule with ever advancing precision  
The blast disperses to my ears nearly two miles as most still sleep  
An audible toll of continual awakening in this new world  
Cheap rent, water troubles, scores of wonderful people, the arts in abundance, and really great food  
But definitely no Texas Pete for the chicken. just Louisiana-brand all the way  
A cautiousness noted in socializing with newcomers, perhaps borne of lifelong judgement  
Where you come from and where you were born are surely the first questions asked  
The whistle blows  
Some like to say Mid-South, these days  
Nothing Mid about it, only Deep  
Frozen in Its thermal history, alive and ever refreshed  
Tens of millions for restoring the Old State Capitol building into a museum  
A brand new Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, yet not permitted to stand alone  
Thus paired with the Museum of Mississippi History.  
Two Museums. Two portrayals.  
The whistle blows  
Far from my decades long home in Navy Norfolk  
Illusions of time standing still  
Blue densely surrounded by Red  
And, oh those Blacks, have they ever not been scapegoats for a single fragment of time

To get to know one another only requires basic human regard  
How many bother  
Deal with, use, tolerate them – at least to a point  
One middle-age lady, pale like me, asked where I live  
Eventually I discover this simple question can also be calculating  
I live in Downtown Jackson, I respond – then pause  
Where else would a new arrival want to reside, I add with a smile  
Oh, you mean Jafrica, she replied without hint of smile  
The whistle blows  
Bills always being introduced down on High & President streets  
Serving the people always front of mind, presumably. So many bills and resolutions  
One even to ban the teaching of critical race theory in Mississippi schools  
For them a truer telling of its history would be – insufferable  
We can’t have White children feeling guilty is the proclaimed justification  
School vouchers; born to segregate, a perennial topic  
Their names change over time, never their intent  
Public monies siphoned from public schools - serving the people you say  
Which people  
What to do about those pesky public education rankings; always in the cellar, decade after decade  
They are the very taproot that nourishes multi-dimensional regression  
Gutted healthcare, No to Medicaid expansion; poor people could be gaming the system they say  
So much to consider when serving the people  
Economic polarity in every sector  
Racially disproportionate unemployment

rates  
Stinging poverty rates among Black Mississippians, dwarfing those of White Mississippians  
New bills designed to suppress minority voting in the name of non-existent voter fraud  
All seemingly void of shame  
Preserving a historical way of life apparently has learned mastery of shame  
Hello there Mister Crow  
It sometimes actually seems like you have faded, but we know better  
The whistle blows  
Home of the Blues  
Oh, those dark crossroads  
They say Mr. Johnson sold his soul to the devil to acquire his exquisite gifts  
His music eventually served to influence nearly every other genre of music to this day  
Birthed in the enslaved, elevated to an art form.  
My own eyes see All peoples merging effortlessly to hear the Blues  
Even when polished, there is a genuineness that touches the colorless heart; truthfulness  
The whistle blows  
I wonder if White church pastors here sermonize the evils of racism and oppression  
Who is more ordained to blast as a train whistle on this palpable truth  
Surely they recall - Love Thy Neighbor, God Created All Human Beings in His Image, and  
But if you show partiality you commit sin  
They must believe Blacks are just not human (enough)  
Perhaps a stand against racism by those in pastoral roles isn’t saleable  
Perhaps their courage coffers are empty  
Perhaps their community-dedicated eyes find everything to be hunky dory, the whistle blows  
And the whistle blows





# Committed to community.

DIVERSITY IS A PART OF THAT COMMITMENT.



For over 100 years, BankPlus has remained committed to all of our communities and the diversity that brings. Our bankers live and work in the neighborhoods they serve. We value the individual differences this brings to BankPlus. As a bank, respecting our employees' insights and opinions builds stronger services. As people, embracing our diversity creates an inclusive environment where we can all succeed together. BankPlus. It's more than a name. It's a promise. Learn more at **bankplus.net**.

# BankPlus®





Thirty years ago, the Nissan Foundation was created to help build communities that **value cultural diversity, equity and inclusion** – a mission that is still crucial today. During **Black History Month**, we celebrate the work being done in Mississippi to **honor our nation's diverse cultural heritage**.



Thank you to the **people of Mississippi** for living these values out each and every day!