

Future of solid waste collection in Jackson still unresolved

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

It seems like there is only one thing clear in what has become a trashy war over garbage collection in The Capitol City – Jackson City Council only wants to do business with Waste Management, the incumbent garbage collector since the late 1980’s, and Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba does not.

The conflict has been making headlines ever since last summer when Mayor Lumumba objected to Jackson City Council’s discussion that the city re-sign its contract with Waste Management for another six-year term. Waste Management’s contract was due to expire at the end of September 2021.

A face-off occurred in court with the end result being that Waste Management would provide an additional six months of services – which lasts through the end of this month. Subsequently, another Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued, and using a blind-scoring process, Richard’s Disposal emerged with the lowest bid. Just as in previous bidding attempts by numerous other companies, the City Council found fault with this one too.

So the lawsuits continue as the mayor and the City Council stick to their positions, as the rest of us await the outcome. The Special Judge assigned, Jess Dickinson, heard nearly two hours of discussion (via Zoom) on Monday, March 21, as to whether or not intervenors (WM trying to join with City Council, and Richard’s Disposal trying to join with Mayor Lumumba) would be accepted.

It appears that all parties have agreed to the facts of the case, on the record; therefore, there is a possibility of avoiding a jury trial. The judge gave the parties until Tuesday, March 22, to send him their positions on the matter and seemed to indicate that he would render his decision on the question of intervenors by Tuesday midnight. Further, he stated that depending on the stipulations of the parties involved, he would like to make a ruling before the end of the month – which coincides with the expiration of Waste Management’s six-month extension.

The mayor is quite aware that competition in municipal contracting is a healthy practice – without competition, the true market price for goods and services cannot be known. That is clearly the case here –the shift to Richards Disposal from Waste Management saves the taxpayers over \$100,000 per month, or over \$7.2 million taxpayer dollars over the six year life of the contract.

Beyond the cost savings, Mr. Richards, who has been successfully hauling garbage in

COMMENTARY

New Orleans and Baton Rouge, and been in the sanitation business since 1978, has stated emphatically that all of his hires will be able to receive benefits.

This is in stark contrast to the current vendor who reportedly utilizes a workforce of 30% from temp services. How can a man or woman support their family while earning minimum wage from a temp agency and not have any benefits? Waste Management is an international conglomerate, trading on the New York Stock Exchange as WM, and by its own reporting ended the quarter on December 31 with \$4.68 billion of revenue.

In comparison, filings with Dun & Bradstreet, indicate that Richard’s Disposal, Inc. earned \$13.67 million last year; not last quarter, last year. Two waste hauling companies, two very different balance sheets.

One simple truth in this whole saga is that the majority of Jackson City Council members are African American (5-2), and the trio of Stokes (Ward 2) – Hartley (Ward 5) – Banks (Ward 6) seem so strongly opposed to any black firm getting the contract.

Our City is predominantly black (85%) yet less than 5% of contracts for good and services are awarded to black-owned companies. It sure makes me wonder what is motivating the trio. Is this just a typical Mississippi allegiance to history; resisting change and forward movement – or is there more to it?

At the City Council meeting February 1, the trio dressed-down Alvin Richards, the soft-spoken black businessman. Standing in the lobby observing the proceedings, I was ashamed of what I was seeing with my own eyes and lowered my head. And that was before Councilman Aaron Banks, a man half his age, asked him if he was qualified to do the job.

When I’m trying to better understand why people behave the way they do, and especially at an intersection with race, I often call my longtime friend Thea in the heart of Philadelphia, PA, a professional black woman who has lived tremendous experiences and has great wisdom. I asked her yesterday why these elected black officials can’t see that they are hurting black workers in Jackson. She told me, “Everyone focuses on the fact that white people just don’t see us, but it’s also true that many black people don’t see us either.”

The contract with Richard’s Disposal could be the beginning of a significant black economic engine for our city. Just imagine if the entire Jackson City Council could see that.

The third day of Confirmation Hearings reveal two troubling reasons GOP senators oppose Judge Jackson

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The constant badgering and apparent lack of respect toward Supreme Court Justice nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson during 13 hours of testimony Tuesday, and throughout Wednesday, only revealed two essential reasons why Republican senators oppose the D.C. jurist.

First, she’s the pick of President Joe Biden, a Democrat. Second, and more troubling, Jackson is a black woman.

“Many Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee are wasting no time embracing the kind of bad-faith scrutiny often reserved for women and black nominees – beneficiaries of affirmative action, in one GOP senator’s parlance,” Political Analyst Brandon Tensley wrote in an analysis for CNN.

“Some Republicans, lacking a coherent strategy, are pressing Jackson for her views on The 1619 Project and the children’s book ‘Antiracist Baby’ – because ‘critical race theory,’ though neither has anything to do with the job she’s being considered for,” Tensley determined.

“Others are trying with great effort to cast the nominee as weak on crime by distorting her past work defending Guantanamo Bay detainees and her sentencing in child pornography cases.”

If confirmed, Jackson would emerge as the first black woman to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In questioning Jackson, South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham continued the theme of his GOP colleagues, claiming the jurist is weak on crime – specifically regarding defendants



Judge Brown’s parents keeping a watchful eye on their daughter as she responds to unorthodox questioning. PHOTO BY ROY LEWIS, © COPYRIGHT 2022

charged in child pornography cases.

Repeatedly interrupting Jackson’s responses and egregiously misstating her position, Graham suggested the judge didn’t consider computer usage a sentencing enhancement.

Her face displaying disbelief in the senator’s behavior, Jackson remarked that she not only sends offenders to prison but orders lengthy periods of supervision following their release.

“Senator, all I’m trying to explain is that our sentencing system, the system that Congress has created, the system that the sentencing commission is the steward of, is a rational one,” Jackson stated. “It’s a system designed to help judges do justice in these terrible circumstances by eliminating unwarranted disparities and ensuring that the most serious defendants

get the longest periods of time in prison.

“What we are trying to do is be rational in dealing with some of the most horrible kinds of behavior.”

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell claimed Jackson was evasive in a floor speech.

“Judge Jackson is receiving a calm, respectful process, unlike the treatment that Senate Democrats typically inflict on Republican presidents’ nominees,” McConnell decided. “But unfortunately, thus far, many of Judge Jackson’s responses have been evasive and unclear. She’s declined to address critically important questions and ameliorate real concerns.”

However, Sen. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York praised Jackson. “At times, the judge also displayed one of her greatest traits: her grace and

poise, even when Republicans asked intentionally misleading questions,” Schumer remarked on the Senate floor. “Republicans tried to land a blow, but Judge Jackson kept her cool.”

When Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) attempted to get Judge Jackson’s position on Roe v. Wade, the jurist noted that the Supreme Court is currently considering efforts to overturn that law, making it inappropriate for her to comment. Cornyn pressed, asking, “What does viability mean when it comes to an unborn child in your understanding?”

The judge responded: “I hesitate to speculate. I know that it is a point in time that the court has identified in terms of when – the standards that apply to regulation of the right,” Jackson

*Jackson
Continued on pages 3*

Jackson native, NAACP leader Emmett Burns dies at 81

The Associated Press

The Rev. Emmett C. Burns Jr., a civil rights leader in Maryland who also served in the General Assembly for 20 years, died at age 81.

Maryland State Delegate, Benjamin Brooks Sr., who succeeded Burns in the legislature, told *The Baltimore Sun* that Burns died Thursday at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore from complications of a fall.

Burns joined the House of Delegates in 1995, becoming the first African American elected to statewide government office from Baltimore County.

While a legislator, Burns led a successful campaign to name the Baltimore/Washington International Airport for Thurgood Marshall, the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.



Burns

Burns “was very instrumental and strong leader in the community,” Brooks said. “He was a man of morals, values, ethics and integrity. We are going to sorely miss him.”

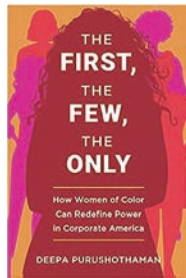
A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Burns got involved in civil rights work at a young age. His son, the Rev. Engel Burns, said his father grew up several blocks away from where civil rights

leader Medgar Evers maintained an office.

After serving in several ministerial positions, the elder Burns in 1971 became director of the Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP, where he led protests against segregation and filed lawsuits seeking equal city services for black and white people. He relocated to Baltimore in 1979 to become an NAACP regional director for Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

The Rev. Burns relocated to Baltimore in 1979 to serve as the NAACP’s first regional director, serving Maryland, Washington, and Virginia. He and his wife started Rising Sun First Baptist Church in 1983, and he retired from the NAACP 10 years later.

Survivors include his wife, the former Earlene Poe, along with three sons and five grandchildren.



A full-page photograph showing three people (two women and one man) practicing yoga in a courtyard. They are all in a tree pose (Vrikshasana) on blue mats. The background is a large, modern brick building with large glass windows. The building has 'Blue Cross of Mississippi' and 'BAPTIST' signage. The scene is well-lit, suggesting daytime. The overall tone is positive and health-focused.

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 **MISSISSIPPI**

Black Women & Allies Call to Action & Speak Out Rally was held Thursday, March 10, 2022, prior to Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson’s Senate Confirmation Hearings to serve on the United States Supreme Court. The rally was held in front of the Supreme Court.

Photos by Roy Lewis Copyright 2022



Melanie Campbell, president & CEO NCBP, lead the Black Women & Allies Call to Action Rally



Elsie Cooke-Holmes, national president, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, joins the crowd of women in a chant.



Janice Mathis, Esq., executive director of the National Council of Negro Women, cheers with all the black women and their allies



Black Women & Allies Call to Action & Speak Out participants

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Learn more and register for these free events at msmuseumart.org.

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ART

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Jackson

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responded.

Cornyn shot back: “No one suggests that a 20-week-old fetus can live independently outside the mother’s womb, do they?” Cornyn asked.

To which she responded: “Senator, I’m not a biologist,” she replied. “What I know is that the Supreme Court has tests and standards that it’s applied when it evaluates regulation of the right of a woman to terminate their pregnancy.

“The court has announced that there is a right to terminate, up to the point of viability, subject to the framework of Roe, and there is a pending case that is addressing these issues.” Another Republican, Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, suggested Jackson was too compassionate for the Supreme Court.

“It seems as though you’re a very kind person, and there’s at least a level of empathy that enters into your treatment of a defendant that some could view as may be beyond what some of us would be comfortable with, with respect to administering justice,” Tillis said, piggybacking off colleagues like Graham who called the judge a “nice person.” Jackson disputed Tillis’ assessment.

“I follow the statute that applies to judges that Congress has set forward, including the nature and circumstances of the offense, the history of the character and characteristics of the defendant,” Jackson stated.

When belligerent Texas Republican Ted Cruz attacked Jackson and demanded that, if confirmed, she recuses herself from an affirmative action case involving Harvard University, the judge said she planned to sit out that decision. Jackson sits on Harvard’s Board of Overseers.

Cruz defiantly ignored Judiciary Committee Chair Dick Durbin’s (D-Illinois) repeated admonition to allow Jackson to answer his questions and that his time expired.

Cruz asked Jackson to define a woman, shouting that she’s the only nominee not able to answer that question. “I know that I’m a woman,” Jackson retorted.

Democrats hope to keep its caucus together in voting for Jackson’s confirmation. Without any GOP support, Democrats need all 50 senators to confirm Jackson, elevating her as the first black woman to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court.





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The Mississippi Museum of Art's Center for Art and Public Exchange unveiled the final project from 2021 national artist-in-residence Shani Peters. The project promoted self-care and honored black mothers and caretakers in Jackson.

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PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY



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Leaders respond after police sickout in Mississippi city

The Associated Press

Police officers in a northeast Mississippi city tell a newspaper that they blame the police chief for low morale that led to a sickout earlier this month when an entire five-officer shift called in sick.

Four Columbus officers and a supervisor didn't appear for work on the morning of March 11, all calling in sick. Police Chief Fred Shelton and other officers covered the shifts.

Officers speaking anonymously to *The Commercial Dispatch of Columbus* say that Chief Fred Shelton and other city officials are to blame for unhappiness. Shelton said he may be able to address some officer concerns, but said others are "sour grapes."

A longtime officer, Shelton said the complaints did not surprise him.

"I've been through eight chiefs, and some of the stuff they're complaining about is stuff I complained about," he said.

The department has had a history of officer unrest, dating back at least to the 2015 shooting of Ricky Ball, a black man, by white officer Canyon Boykin. The officer was indicted for manslaughter in Ball's death, but Republican Attorney General Lynn Fitch dropped the charges after taking office in 2020.

Complaints allege a culture of favoritism and retaliation, which along with low pay drives offi-



cers to leave. They also say Mayor Keith Gaskin has allowed the problems to persist.

Officers also complain about selective discipline, lack of equal access to training and promotion, commanders and poor equipment.

The department is budgeted for 64 officers but has fewer than 50 now. Officers say even then, there aren't enough patrol cars to go around.

Gaskin said he and Shelton had talked about "probably every issue that has been brought up."

"Officers tell me it's not so much pay but morale," the mayor said. "It's a young staff and they're having to deal with a lot of pressures,

and the city doesn't have a plan of training them or a clear path to higher salaries or promotion."

Gaskin said the city is trying to buy more cars, but said improving equipment is hard because of limited money.

Shelton said training decisions are made by supervisors, but said he doesn't want officers to load up on training only to seek work elsewhere.

"You bring that training back to benefit the police department," Shelton said. "If someone wants to be a firearms instructor, I'm not going to send him to 40-hour training if he's going to leave."

Shelton said if officers feel they

are being retaliated against or discipline is improper, they can file a grievance. However, he said no officers have filed grievances. Shelton said he's also trying to accelerate promotional exams.

Gaskin and Shelton agreed that a recent anonymous survey of police officers would help provide a road map for bettering the department.

"(Shelton) and I have to bring morale up," Gaskin said. "That's the main thing. We know we can't give pay raises right now."

"I wish I could write a check and cover it all, but I can't," Shelton said. "We've got to be able to sustain it."

Delta food pantry seeks larger space as it continues to grow

The Associated Press

A food pantry in the Mississippi Delta is seeking to find more space to distribute food to the needy.

Hearty Helpings Food Pantry has been providing hope for people and families who are unsure where they will get their next meal, *The Delta Democrat-Times* reported.

Owner Pandora Redmond recently sought the assistance of the Washington County Board of Supervisors for a building to use as a base of operations. At a recent board meeting, Redmond described how the pantry got started in 2009 as she was providing home care services as a nurse.

"Over the years, it has really grown and has become a great support to the community. Prior to the pandemic, we were serving 200 to 300 people a month," Redmon said. "When the pandemic hit, the numbers went up and we served over 40,000 individuals, 18,000 families and gave away over 300,000 pounds of food."

Dollar General also accounts for a significant portion of Hearty Helpings' food donations.

"When Dollar General donates, they donate 40,000 to 50,000 pounds at a time," Redmond said.

With Hearty Helpings picking up three times a week from Greenville and Indianola's Walmart locations, they house at least 40,000 to 60,000 pounds of food at any given time. The current building just isn't sustainable, Redmond said.

Board members planned to consult with the county administrator and attorney regarding space for the food pantry.

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The Hub offers Hinds CC JATC students collaboration space

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Students at Hinds Community College's Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center have a new place to work and collaborate between classes and it comes with a very historical twist.

The Student Hub or, "The Hub" for short, officially opened Feb. 25 on the Sunset Drive campus. JATC Dean of Students Dr. Tim Rush said it's important the campus have a place for students to gather and work together. "This is a really good shot in the arm and well-deserved for the students of JATC," he said.

The Hub provides a space for students to learn about prominent African-American figures in and around Mississippi. Plastered on the walls are graphics displaying several distinguished figures, from civil rights icon Medgar Evers to daytime television legend Oprah Winfrey.

When students come into the room, they will be immersed in a mini lesson about the significant achievements and contributions of black Mississippians. The Hub will also host



Tim Rush in the Student Hub

traveling exhibits from the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

Ahmad Smith, Recruitment and Outreach coordinator for M2M, said students will be able to attend special programs to help them academically and in life, with different guest

speakers coming in to talk with students about finances, campus and community resources, and other relevant topics.

"The Hub has been a priority of President Stephen Vacik," said Chief of Staff Renee Cotton said. "The very first time Dr. Vacik stepped on campus,

one of the things he said was, 'We really need a place on campus for students. We need a place that is not a lab, and that is not the library. A place where they can grow and learn, where they can study and they can share. A place that is really just for students,'" she said, adding that the Hub is a fulfillment of that vision.

This project is supported by the U.S. Department of Education Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI) formula grant program, which was established by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 and is authorized under Title III, Part A, Section 318, of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA).

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Alumnus Charles Magee, PhD, secures patent for fruits, vegetables, and nuts rehydration system



Magee

Alcorn State University newswire

Charles Magee, '70, may have created the invention of a farmer's dream. He has designed an all-in-one system that rehydrates, sanitizes and provides long-term storage for fruits, vegetables and other perishable items.

Magee, a native of Prentiss, Miss. and a professor of Biological Systems Engineering at Florida A&M University, spent his early years on a farm in Jeff Davis County, which gave him a preview of agriculture.

His latest invention can give flowers, fruits, vegetables and nuts new life.

"It is a system and chamber where you can rehydrate wilted vegetables," said Magee. "You can also use the same system to disinfect the vegetables and sanitize the vegetables and use it for long-term storage. Most vegetables only last in the supermarket for 10 days."

The system works by adding water to perishable items.

"The goal is to restore the internal pressure of a perishable product so that it will be nice and firm again. That is the essence of the system."

With the system, fruits, vegetables and nuts can be preserved for months.

Farmers who manage small or large farms must prove that their product is contamination-free by obtaining certification. The system sanitizes items to ensure they are free of E. coli and salmonella.

"Poor farmers just don't have the technology to do that, but it's coming for them as well," he said. "Once a

product has been identified with E. coli, it doesn't matter whether they are a big farmer or a small farmer; they will have to pull them from the market. It will be detrimental for that particular product."

The newly designed system can serve as long-term storage for farmers who may not be able to afford such a facility.

"Small farmers or small producers do not have the facilities for long-term storage," said Magee. "Some may sell at the farmer's market or a roadside stand, and if they don't sell all of their vegetables from that day, especially the leafy vegetables, the vegetables will be wilted, and the farmer will have to throw them away."

"If the farmer can bring the vegetables back home and use this system to rehydrate them, folks won't know the difference, whether they were harvested the same day or five days ago," he said.

His recent patent is just one among eight awarded, while eight others are pending.

An accomplished engineer, he has been recognized as the first to achieve many notable accomplishments, from being the first African American to earn a doctorate in agricultural and biological engineering from Cornell University to the founding director of Florida A&M University's Biological Systems Engineering (BSE) program.

Magee was recently elected as a Senior Member in the 2022 class of the National Academy of Inventors.

D.C. Rep. Norton introduces Universal Pre-kindergarten Bill

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) has reintroduced her Universal Pre-kindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act, which would provide federal funds to encourage states to provide universal prekindergarten to every child, regardless of income.

According to a news release, the bill would afford the benefits of early childhood education to all families, many of which are currently not able to afford it.

"The earliest years of childhood are critical for brain development, which means that every child should have access to the benefits of early childhood education," Congresswoman Norton said.

"Just as providing K-12 education is essential, universal pre-kindergarten is an investment that we must make as a nation to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed."

Norton's bill fills the prekindergarten education gap by using existing public-school infrastructure and standards for public school teachers, which would make prekindergarten more affordable and accessible.

Norton's bill would institutionalize prekindergarten, like kindergarten today, in publicly funded schools for parents who desire it, according to the congresswoman's office.

"My bill would establish and expand prekindergarten programs in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-old children," Norton stated.

The prekindergarten years are critical for children's brain development, she insisted.

"My bill seeks a breakthrough in public education by provid-



Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) has reintroduced her Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act, which would provide federal funds to encourage states to provide universal pre-kindergarten to every child, regardless of income./Urban.org

ing funding for states to add prekindergarten for children at three and four years of age, like kindergarten programs for five-year-old children now routinely available in public schools," the congresswoman asserted.

"This bill would eliminate major shortcomings of unevenly available day care and, importantly, would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools," she said.

Norton continued:

"My bill provides federal funds to states, which must be matched by at least 20 percent of a state's own funds, to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools, regardless of income.

"The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, must be taught by teachers who possess equivalent qualifications to those teaching other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique money-saving aspect of my bill is that it uses the existing public-school

infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all, saving billions of dollars in implementation costs."

She added that the success of Head Start and other prekindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence on the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandates the expansion of early childhood education to all children.

Early learning programs mainly have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to some low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by the bill, Norton concluded.

"My bill provides a practical way to universal, public pre-school education for the majority of families. The goal of the bill is to afford the benefits of early childhood education to the working poor, lower middle class, and middle class, most of whom have been left out of this essential education for their children," she stated.

"We cannot afford to allow

the most fertile years for childhood development to pass unenriched. My bill responds to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as to today's brain science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood."

Finally, the congresswoman said considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-old children is overdue. The absence of viable options for families demands our immediate attention, she declared.

"My bill reflects what jurisdictions throughout the nation increasingly are trying to accomplish. The District of Columbia, for example, has achieved an extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve D.C. public schools," Norton remarked.

"I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation."

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Arthritis

By Vince Faust
Tips to be Fit

Most people think arthritis is a disease of older people. It's not, it affects people of all age groups. In 2002, 66 million Americans reported arthritis or chronic joint symptoms. 43 million (21%) of U.S. adults aged 18 and older had self-reported, doctor-diagnosed arthritis. An additional 23 million adults (11%) had possible arthritis. That's means that one in seven Americans suffer from some form of arthritis, including as many as 285,000 children.

Arthritis takes a heavier toll among women with nearly two-thirds of the people with arthritis being women.

Arthritis limits everyday activities, such as walking, dressing and bathing for more than three million Americans. You should see your doctor concerning arthritis if you have joint pain, joint stiffness, or inability to move normally and have swelling that last more than two weeks.

Arthritis costs the U.S. economy \$86.2 billion annually. Arthritis is the second most frequently reported chronic condition in the United States. Arthritis is reported by approximately 21 percent of adults. Nearly 80 percent of adults either have or know someone with arthritis. Arthritis prevalence increases with age, among adults over age 65, the prevalence of arthritis is 48 percent.

Arthritis affects more than 34 million Caucasians, more than 4.5 million African Americans and nearly 2.6 million Hispanics. The prevalence of arthritis is higher among wom-



en (24.3%) than men (17.1%). In 2001, 68 percent of people with arthritis or chronic joint symptoms were younger than 65 years old. In 2001, 28.4 percent of men and 37.3 percent of women in America had arthritis or chronic joint symptoms.

If prevalence rates remain stable, the number of affected persons ages 65 years and older will nearly double to 41.1 million by 2030.

The medical term Arthritis refers to more than 100 different diseases that cause pain, swelling and the limitation of movement in the joint and con-

nective tissue. Arthritis is usually chronic which means that it will most probably last a lifetime.

While there are many old wives tales about the causes of arthritis, there are no specific causes for most forms of the disease. How the disease affects the body varies depending on the form of arthritis.

The three most common forms of arthritis are osteoarthritis (OA), fibromyalgia and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative joint disease that affects the cartilage. This form of arthritis

causes the cartilage to deteriorate causing pain and loss of movement as bone begins to rub against bone.

Fibromyalgia can be distinguished by widespread pain affecting the muscles and the attachments to the bone.

Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease that causes the joint lining to become inflamed. The chronic inflammation causes deterioration of the joint, pain and limited movement.

Other serious and common forms of arthritis or related disorders include:

Gout. This condition results from a defect in the body chemistry. This painful condition most often attacks small joints, especially the big toe. Gout is almost always completely controlled with medication and a change in diet. Gout affects about 1 million Americans, mostly men.

Systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus). This condition causes inflammation that damages the joints and other connective tissue throughout the body. Lupus affects black women more often. Lupus affects about 131,000 Americans, mostly women.

Scleroderma. This disorder causes thickening and hardening of the skin. Scleroderma is a chronic disease that can also affect your joints, blood vessels and internal organs. It affects women three to five times more often than men. This disease usually starts between the ages of 30 to 50.

Ankylosing spondylitis. This condition affects the spine with the resulting inflammation causing fusion of the bones of the spine. This disease affects about 318,000 Americans, mostly men.

Juvenile arthritis. This is a general term used for all forms of arthritis that affect children.

There are no curers for arthritis, but we can reduce the impact it has on your everyday life. The key to this reduction is early diagnosis and a treatment plan tailored to the needs of each individual.

There are several healthcare professionals needed to treat a person with arthritis. Your primary or family doctor is the first

healthcare person most people will come in contact with when treating arthritis. This doctor will use your pattern of symptoms, medical history, a physical examination, x-rays and lab tests to determine whether you have arthritis, the type, how severe your condition has become and what treatment you need.

The Arthritis Foundation recommends that you should find out as much as you can about your arthritis and your treatment.

The following are a few questions suggested by the Arthritis Foundation.

1. What type of arthritis do I have?
2. What is happening to my body as a result of my arthritis?
3. What is the purpose of this treatment?
4. How and when will this treatment make me feel better?
5. Can I expect any negative side effects from this treatment?
6. What should I do if I experience side effects?
7. What will happen if I leave my arthritis untreated?
8. What are my treatment options? (In terms of medication and/or therapies)
9. Which other health professionals should I see?
10. What classes might help me learn more about my arthritis?
11. What lifestyle changes should I consider?
12. What type of assistive devices can help me accomplish my daily task?
13. How is my arthritis likely to change in the future?
14. When should I return for a follow-up visit?

US adult smoking rate fell during first year of pandemic

By Mike Stobbe
AP Medical Writer

The first year of the COVID-19 pandemic saw more Americans drinking heavily or using illicit drugs but apparently not smoking.

U.S. cigarette smoking dropped to a new all-time low in 2020, with 1 in 8 adults saying they were current smokers, according to survey data released recently by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Adult e-cigarette use also dropped, the CDC reported.

CDC officials credited public health campaigns and policies for the decline, but outside experts said tobacco company price hikes and pandemic lifestyle changes likely played roles.

“People who were mainly social smokers just didn’t have that going on any more,” said Megan Roberts, an Ohio State University researcher focused on tobacco product use among young adults and adolescents.

What’s more, parents who suddenly were home with their



A man with a protective mask smokes a cigarette while waiting for a bus in Detroit, Wednesday, April 8, 2020. U.S. cigarette smoking dropped to a new all-time low in 2020, with 1 in 8 adults saying they were current smokers, according to survey data released Thursday, March 17, 2022, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Adult e-cigarette use also dropped, the CDC reported. AP PHOTO/PAUL SANCYA, FILE

kids full-time may have cut back. And some people may have quit following reports that smokers were more likely to develop severe illness after a

coronavirus infection, Roberts added.

The CDC report, based on a survey of more than 31,000 U.S. adults, found that 19% of

Americans used at least one tobacco product in 2020, down from about 21% in 2019.

Use of cigars, smokeless tobacco and pipes was flat. Cur-

rent use of electronic cigarettes dropped to 3.7%, down from 4.5% the year before.

Cigarettes were the most commonly used tobacco product, with 12.5% of adults using them, down from 14%.

Health officials have long considered cigarette smoking, a risk factor for lung cancer, heart disease and stroke, to be the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.

In 1965, 42% of U.S. adults were smokers.

The rate has been gradually dropping for decades for a number of reasons, including taxes and smoking bans in workplaces and restaurants. But a big part of the recent decline has to be recent price hikes, some experts said.

For example, British American Tobacco – the company that makes brands including Camel, Lucky Strike and Newport – increased prices four times in 2020, by a total of about 50 cents a pack.

Interestingly, the number of cigarettes sold in the U.S. actually went up in 2020 – the first

such increase in two decades, the Federal Trade Commission reported last year.

It’s possible that fewer people smoked, but those who did were consuming more cigarettes.

“That’s a viable hypothesis – that you had people with more smoking opportunities because they weren’t going to work,” said University of Ottawa’s David Sweanor, a global tobacco policy expert at the University of Ottawa.

It’s also possible that the CDC survey underestimated how many people are smoking, either because some respondents weren’t honest or because the survey missed too many smokers, he said.

Other surveys have suggested that for many people, alcohol consumption and illicit drug use increased in the first year of the pandemic.

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P R E S E R V E D

The voice of God

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. — John 10:27

One of the more memorable ad campaigns from the early 2000's featured a bespeckled young man with a cell phone asking one simple question, "Can you hear me now?" Even if people didn't remember what company was being promoted, they remember his now infamous response, "Good!"

Maybe I'm looking at it in too simplistic terms, but I'd like to believe that God asks us the same question and gives us the same response. However, based on all that we have going on in our daily lives and our personal and professional lives, can we really say that we hear him?

Like many of you, I marvel and think about the many

times I heard God's voice of direction, correction and protection in the past. But I wasn't always 100% sure. In some instances, I had to wait until something miraculous happen for me to believe, after the fact, that it was God's voice.

I was relieved when this topic came up in an old Sunday school class because it made me realize that I wasn't the only one who struggled with hearing God's voice. In fact, an even more intriguing question of being able to distinguish the voice of God from that of the devil came up in that same class.

To put it simply, we recognize the voice of what we spend the most time with. Just like we recognize our family and friend's voices without them identifying themselves because of the amount of time we spend with them, we should also be able to recognize the voice of flesh, God, and the devil without them announcing "It

is I!" We have to learn how to train our spiritual ears to know the difference. Easier said than done, right?

It's easy to say that we need to spend time in prayer, but it's much harder to give practical ways to do that. For me and others who I've learned from, it's really a matter of turning off the television (even Christian TV), turning off the music (even the most anointed ones) ...and sitting in complete silence.

I've also been taught that there are always three voices speaking to us: the voice of God, the voice of our flesh (carnality) and the voice of the devil. Now comes the tricky part: how do you tell the difference between each one? God doesn't always speak with a Barry White type audible voice nor does the devil always hiss like a snake.

God speaks of our future (destiny and purpose), the flesh speaks of our present (impulsive desires) and the

devil speaks of our past (reminders of past disappointments, etc.). More importantly, God's voice is one of reassurance and often speaks to our unbelief.

Just like in Genesis 1, we see a God creating things just by the words of his mouth, we also see that working in our everyday lives. The creation of new things and new beginnings are just a few ways that you know the voice you hear is that of God. The devil will never have you create something that will positively affect your future...and your flesh is not patient enough to wait for it to happen.

Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based 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 preserved-bypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

Playing with your conscience is very deadly

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



What does your conscience say? What is God saying to you? He is the one you really must answer. What is your inner being saying? What is the little voice down deep inside telling you? Many people play with the deadliest possession they own. Playing with your conscience is very deadly.

The Proverb writer said in Proverbs 6:27, "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" Many people try to play with fire. They play around the edges of sin and wonder why things are not working out right for them. They wonder why they are having this or that problem. You cannot play with fire and not get burned. You cannot play with your conscience and not be affected by the outcome.

Hebrews 13:18 says, "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly." Honesty must be an important part of the Child of God's life. Honesty is compromised so many times and seemingly so easily among those who claim to be Christians. I am talking about real openhearted honesty.

Some people promise you something and never do it. Old age forgetfulness is one thing, but if they tell you one thing and they remember it, and then decide they are not going to do it,

then that is not being honest. If you deliberately renege on your word, you are not being honest. Sometimes people get themselves in a situation where they make statements and then do not live up to them.

Suppose you were to tell your wife that you like her hair when you really do not, and then when you go to church, the pastor preaches on honesty. So, God begins to stir your heart and put you under conviction for the answer that you gave your wife. Now, you must ask God to forgive you and go back to her and say, "Honey, do you remember when you asked me if I liked your hair? I lied to you. I did not really like it." As you try to get out of the hot spot, you often get into another one. The point is, you need to be honest with each other, with all men, with yourself, with your pastor, and with God.

The pastor ought to be honest with his people, even when they are good people, or his favorites. Does a pastor have favorites? Well, Jesus had some favorites. James and John were His favorites. You can read about their having special privileges that the rest of the apostles did not possess. They were His main disciples. Some people work well together and have a good relationship, and God blesses it. You need to be careful of what you criticize. Jealousy will destroy your soul.

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



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Keep the faith during difficult times, better days are ahead

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



Tough times don't last but tough people do. We have heard that expression more than one time. However, I will say that even when you are tough, bad things will sometimes happen to good people.

I suspect with today's uncertain times, more of us are a bit more anxious and frazzled.

This period of challenge started in my opinion with COVID-19 which then led to the pandemic. It was an unwanted guest that disrupted our lives. Before the coronavirus, our lives were pretty much ordinary. We worked hard, had some social interactions and were at home. Our routines were set, and we did not alter them much. We just stayed the course.

We have been in this pandemic for approximately two years. Things we took for granted, we cannot take for granted anymore. This illness brought death to our doorstep. Millions of people passed away from it. Its long-term effects are still with many of our citizens. Our lives took a hit health-wise which have had multiple consequences. Jobs were lost and our economy changed.

Grocery items now cost more. As a personal example, my bananas costs more. I pay it because they are good for me. I am sure you have similar stories.

Gas prices are skyrocketing. According to the American Automobile Association, the national average for a gallon of gas is \$3.53.

In College Station Texas, gas prices rose \$.07. Julie Carpenter, a resident said, "We have two full size vehicles so it's \$100 to fill up so that's obviously a pretty good chunk of money each month."

"There's a lot of variables that go into what we pay at the pump, the price of crude oil being the biggest variable of course" said Daniel Armbruster, AAA Texas spokesperson.

Gas people who know say you should never let your car go below a fourth of a tank. Good advice yet the prices have us tossing and turning.

Goods and services are simply on the rise, seemingly every day. Purchases that we once made without much thought are now making us pause.

Are you buying a car anytime soon? According to Lending Tree and the Kelley Blue Book, last year, the average cost of a car was \$42,258. Mind you, that price point didn't include gas, insurance and maintenance.

Because of these uncertain times, many people are opting to buy used cars. If you are, beware of the warranty you receive because once you buy it, it is your vehicle. Have the car inspected before you purchase it.

This is an uphill battle, yet I believe better days are ahead.

Let's hear Civil Rights icon, Reverend Jesse Jackson say one more time, "Keep Hope Alive."

And yes, we must keep it alive. We must admit that what is happening overseas is affecting us. When that confrontation ends, some good times here will begin. Unfortunately, wrongdoing is at work but right is around the corner and will prevail.


The pandemic is slowly coming to an end. Reports say approximately three-quarters of U.S. adults are fully vaccinated. Some nations like Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom have said it's over and are lifting most health restrictions.

Michael Osterholm, an infectious disease epidemiologist at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, said, "If there was ever a time for humility among scientists and policymakers with this virus, it's now. We are in totally uncharted territory from the perspective of understanding what a pandemic is, how it starts, how it unfolds and how it ends."

It is clear that we must keep hope alive.

Medicaid expansion in Miss. closes the health insurance gap

By Dr. Sandra Melvin
*Institute for the Advancement of
Minority Health*



Nearly 20% of Mississippi residents live in poverty, the U.S. Census Bureau tells us. Former President Barack Obama said it well: "If poverty is a disease that infects the entire community in the form of unemployment and violence, failing schools and broken homes, then we can't just treat those symptoms in isolation. We have to heal that entire community."

Healing the entire community means we must collectively address pressing issues like the health insurance coverage gap. Since 2014, states have had the option to expand Medicaid eligibility to include adults with incomes under 138% of the federal poverty level, which would close the health-insurance coverage gap – meaning that a family of four making less than \$26,500 would have access to health insurance.

Unfortunately, Mississippi is one of 12 states that continue to force working families to suffer without health-insurance options. This is appalling given the fact that Mississippi currently leads the nation in deaths related to cardiovascular disease, infant mortality, diabetes and obesity.

Mississippi's health-care system ranks last among all states

across a range of measures: access to health care, quality of care, health care utilization, cost of care, health outcomes and income-based health-care disparities. Low-income Mississippi residents face significant challenges in accessing affordable health care.

In 2019, the state had the fifth-highest uninsured rate in the country, The Kaiser Family Foundation reports. Nearly one out of five residents live in poverty. This is important because health insurance makes a difference in whether and when people get necessary medical care, where they get their care and how healthy they are.

Uninsured people are far more likely than those with insurance to postpone health care or forgo it altogether. The consequences can be severe, particularly when preventable conditions or chronic diseases go undetected.

Closing the health insurance coverage gap is one of the policy measures shown to be effective in reducing health disparities. Increasing access to Medicaid for Mississippi families means longer windows of health-care coverage for mothers before and after their pregnancy resulting in improved birth outcomes.

Studies also found that among those with chronic disease, Medicaid expansion contributed to increased insurance coverage and improvements in payer mix, improved access to care, and better

health outcomes including disease management and mortality. To date, 38 states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Medicaid expansion, and 12 states have not. Mississippi is one of those 12.

Expanding access to health insurance also reduces hospitals' uncompensated care and lessens the financial burden of health care for working families. Cutting uncompensated care costs helps patients, hospitals and state budgets. These costs lead to medical debt, which hospitals may seek to collect even from very low-income patients; become part of patients' credit history, reducing their access to loans; and sometimes cause people to declare bankruptcy.

These costs burden hospitals, making it harder for them to invest in new technologies or equipment, maintain needed capacity to serve patients or even remain open.

Finally, uncompensated care costs burden state budgets because many states cover part of these costs. Medicaid expansion dramatically reduces this burden for hospitals.

Expanding Medicaid can also be a form of economic stimulus. The infusion of federal spending would give a boost to the state's economy. A study by the Commonwealth Fund found that Mississippi would realize substantial savings from Medicaid expansion, resulting in \$333 million in

reduced state spending on existing Medicaid populations over five years. In addition, Mississippi would qualify for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021's enhanced federal funding, which would provide an estimated additional \$747 million in federal dollars. In total, it is estimated that the state could achieve \$1.2 billion in savings over five years, against only \$956 million in costs.

Closing the health insurance gap through Medicaid expansion improves health outcomes by increasing access and use of health-care services. It also results in increased provider revenues and reduced uncompensated care while stimulating economic growth.


Without Medicaid expansion, the health, wealth and economic sustainability of Mississippi's working families is at stake.

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health was established in 2019 to reduce health disparities among disadvantaged and underserved minority populations in the Mississippi through the development of collaborative partnerships with community stakeholders and the implementation of evidence-based public health interventions with a particular focus on health equity.

Dr. Sandra Carr-Melvin is an epidemiologist, the Mississippi NAACP's Health Committee chairwoman and the CEO of the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health.

A respectable attitude – 'quit playin'

By Vincent L. Hall
Texas Metro News



It just irks me and rattles me to my bones to watch black people major in the minors and minor in the majors. We have enough negative stereotypes as it is. But this "attitude" thing just kills me, on social media, in person, or wherever I see it.

Some days, it seems like people are ready for a fight everywhere I go. What's worse is that the offenders are punching down rather than up. We beat up on underpaid store clerks and wait staff. Too many of us aim straight to fisticuffs without ever considering one another's feelings or position.

You never know when you are looking square in the eyes of someone who just lost a job, a loved one, or their righteous mind. My "Papa" also had some

advice that bears repeating and retelling.

My paternal grandfather, Ed Hall, did not play. No one would ever have to tell you to quit playin' because it never got started with him. But, as he has passed on so many adages to me, let me share one with you for the sake of those raising children.

Papa would often say, "It's nice to be nice, but when you can't, kick 'em in the ass."

With no change in either his resonant tenor or in his expression, Papa would make his usual recital, and I was always left wondering what the hell he meant. It took me several years and lots of social and business interactions, but I finally got it. So, quit playin' and listen.

The concept of "attitude" did not commence with the entrance of any one race of people. I would be personally pleased to remand it to the court of its original ethnicity. Watching TikTok and other social media outlets,

has bought my hypothesis to the conclusion that even white folk who want to be like us quickly adopt what they believe to be our main ingredient: an attitude.

When Papa said it's nice to be nice, he meant that one should carry and respond with a pleasant and courteous demeanor, first and for as long as possible.

However, if your original offer of respect and civility is met with resistance and callousness, then the time has come to fight. Unfortunately, many of our children have an attitude without a cause.

All of this "mean-mugging" and looking tough, as well as the plain disrespect that is obvious in our children, is not in our heritage and new to our culture. My grandmother told me to raise children well enough that someone besides me would like them.

We are a people who have been genetically blessed with the ability for humor and good-

will. Your children should know that a winsome personality makes them fully ready for success, after good health and a trained mind.

The very first words to teach your child are to say "thank you," each and every time that it is appropriate.

My mama says, if you say thank you well enough, people want to do something else so they can hear you repeat it. Everyone loves an appreciative child, and everyone wants to know that they are appreciated.

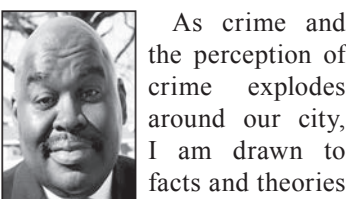
Likewise, teach your children when and how to fight; not just the usual advice that we have always given kids, "If somebody mess with you, pick up whatever you can get your hands on and try to kill 'em."

Respect is found on two-way thoroughfares and never on one-way boulevards.

Vincent L. Hall is an author, activist and an award-winning columnist.

A SoulsvilleUSA strategy for crime reduction

By Jeffrey T. Higgs
New Tri-State Defender



As crime and the perception of crime explodes around our city, I am drawn to facts and theories I have developed over the years regarding crime, its causes and how best to reduce it. Contrary to what you hear, crime has been reduced in our city, especially in areas where urban community economic development (UCED) has occurred and is led by community-engaged leaders, CDCs, nonprofits and churches, all working together to ensure our communities are safe places to live, work and play.

One such community is SoulsvilleUSA.

When we started this journey in 1999, community leaders like Marlon Foster, Andy Cates, Reginald Milton, Robert Lipscomb, Deannie Parker and others collaborated with LeMoyne-Owen College and Metropolitan Baptist Church, to create a place where residents felt safe, families could thrive, children could learn, and all were welcomed.

What we knew then was we were working on “holy ground.”

Dedicated community organizations such as LeMoyne-Owen and its 160 years of educating young people; STAX Records and its historic creation of the “music of our lives” that represented an era of progress for black people; Metropolitan Baptist Church, where Dr. King would meet and strategize; the intersection of Mississippi Boulevard and Walker Avenue, where Ida B. Wells and Peoples Grocery stood as a testament to black business success, and the



The ongoing effort of the SoulsvilleUSA Neighborhoods Development District to secure a TIF (tax-increment financing) designation for South Memphis led to this December 2021 gathering. PHOTOS: GARY S. WHITLOW/GSW ENTERPRISES/THE NEW TRI-STATE DEFENDER ARCHIVES

world-famous Four Way Grill were all founded on this historical ground.

In this community, Al Green and Hi Records produced some of the greatest music of our time and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his final speech at the historic Mason Temple.

How, then, does this history relate to crime reduction in our community?

Our collective belief is that the best way to reduce crime is to create equal economic development opportunities.

We know that a working person is less likely to commit a crime than a person who lives in poverty with no prospects of attaining sustainable income.

Moreover, a house that has a family living in it is not one that is blighted; clean streets create pride in the community.

Educated residents know how to call code enforcement and report crimes, and an informed community is a community that values itself and its

neighbors.

Simply stated, the roots of crime are poverty, blight, neglect and lack of educational opportunities.

We do not have to live this way.

Crime and violence, then, are a result of our environment and how we train our children, how we treat our citizens and how we respect our neighbors.

The Bible speaks eloquently about loving thy neighbor as thyself. Violence, crime and gun abuse are destroying our families and communities.

We must fight the elements of violence mentioned above. We do this simply by creating places that are livable and inviting.

It is our responsibility, as the adults, to create and show our youth the right pathways to success. No community wants violence and crime permeating the mindsets and behavior of its citizens.

We must fight these evils

with aggressive policies and funding that assist communities in this work. Programs that are effective are needed to help in the fight for crime and violence reduction.

SoulsvilleUSA has taken steps to move in this direction. We recently collaborated with residents and created a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District for South Memphis/SoulsvilleUSA that was a result of hundreds of residents working together for a common goal.

We believe, as a community, we are headed in the right direction. We are incorporating lessons learned from other thriving communities that have achieved success and applying them in our own neighborhoods.

We will revitalize our community using all the tools available in the toolbox.

As we enact this revitalization, our communities, hopefully, will begin to turn on the “lights of hope.”

We then can educate, inform, engage and revitalize all areas of our community, creating jobs for residents, removing blight and replacing it with positivity and hope.

While we cannot promise a “chicken in every pot,” we can promise we will work to create healthy, open inviting spaces, where crime has no place to hide.

Our dedication to this impactful work will provide jobs to those willing to work, create innovative educational technology and workforce training opportunity for those desiring to learn new skills and bring their skillsets back to the community.

These opportunities will be for those who would rather work than rob, cheat, or steal from their neighbor.

We are our neighbors’ keeper, and we will work to revitalize our community, thus bringing everyone along with opportunities to become en-

gaged in the process of this revitalization movement.

A walk of support will take place at 10 a.m., April 9, starting and ending at the corner of Walker Ave. and Dr. Hollis F Price Boulevard (Metropolitan Baptist Church), as the Memphis Crime Commission, FFUN-Stop the Killing, Memphis Police Department, City of Memphis, community partners, students, residents and neighbors walk through SoulsvilleUSA and College Park to bring awareness to gun violence in our community.

Jeffrey T. Higgs is an executive committee member of the Memphis and Shelby County Crime Commission, a founding member of the SoulsvilleUSA Neighborhoods Development District, and CEO of LeMoyne-Owen College CDC and has worked since 1999 on revitalizing communities and creating economic development opportunities for residents of Memphis.

Let’s celebrate Women History Month by adjusting Lady Justice’s blindfold

By Rep. James E. Clyburn
D-S.C., Chairman, Democratic Faith Working Group



Lady Justice is an iconic symbol of the American judicial system. In one hand, she holds scales to represent that both sides will receive a balanced hearing, and, in the other, she holds a sword to represent the power of justice. She also wears a blindfold to indicate that justice is blind and, therefore, fair. However, that fairness is not reflected in the makeup of our courts. In fact, one might say Lady Justice’s blindfold prevents her from seeing the imbalance on current federal benches.

March, the month we celebrate women’s history, I believe is an appropriate time to take a good look at the status of women in our judicial system. We all know that representation matters, and the federal judiciary has been sorely lacking on this front.

During the 2020 Presidential campaign, I often heard expres-



March, the month we celebrate women’s history, is an appropriate time to take a good look at the status of women in our judicial system. We all know that representation matters, and the federal judiciary has been sorely lacking on this front. – Rep. James E. Clyburn

sions of displeasure that there had never been a black woman on the U.S. Supreme Court, nor

had one ever been seriously considered. That is why I believed it to be appropriate and timely

that then-candidate Joe Biden pledge during the South Carolina primary that, if given the opportunity, he would nominate a black woman to the highest court in the land. He made the pledge during the South Carolina presidential debate and went on to win the state’s primary by almost 30 points gaining the momentum that took him to the White House. His victory was due in large part to the support of black women.

President Biden has upheld his pledge and has nominated the highly qualified and well-respected Ketanji Brown Jackson. If confirmed, she will be a tremendous addition to the Supreme Court and bring a different life experience to the bench than has ever been there.

It is not just the Supreme Court that is struggling to reflect the diversity of our country. Of the current 1,395 federal judges, only 8 percent are women of color, and just 4 percent are black women. In fact, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, which represents states with a combined

black population of 20 percent, has no women of color.

This issue is not new to me. When I was elected chair of the Congressional Black Caucus 24 years ago, I declared it my mission to integrate that court and went toe-to-toe with North Carolina senator and well-known segregationist, Jesse Helms. Senator Helms had blocked earlier attempts by President Clinton to integrate that circuit and even attempted to reduce its size to get rid of the two vacancies.

The battle was public and not pretty. An editorial writer from my hometown newspaper declared that it was a dispute I could not win. But I developed a scenario that convinced President Clinton to make a recess appointment and Judge Roger Gregory of Virginia became the first black person on the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in December 2000. Today Judge Gregory serves as the chief judge on that court.

President Biden has made it his mission to create even greater diversity on the federal bench,

especially for women. In his first year in office, women of color have represented more than 40 percent of President Biden’s federal judicial nominees. As of January 2022, the Senate has confirmed 22 of his minority women appointees to the federal bench, 7 minority men, 11 white women and 2 white men. That is a significant effort toward smashing a larger hole in the glass ceiling of the federal judiciary.

You might ask: When will there be enough women of color on the federal bench? I will borrow my answer from a famous response offered by the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to a similar question – with a slight modification. She said at Georgetown Law School in 2015, “I’m sometimes asked, ‘When will there be enough?’ and my answer is, ‘When there are nine.’ People are shocked. But there’d been nine men, and nobody’s ever raised a question about that.”

I think Justice Ginsburg made an appropriate observation.

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
RELOCATION OF PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGE FROM NEW ORLEANS (MSY) TO
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JAN)

JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JAN)
AT THE JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

JMAA PROJECT NO. 005-22

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking electronic bids for services in connection with the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN) to Relocate Passenger Boarding Bridge from Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) to Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN) at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

Sealed bids to perform the Work will be accepted by JMAA until 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 the "Bid Deadline"). Bids shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Email: bids@jmaa.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 publicly open and read all bids on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 4:05 p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

Questions and communications regarding the bidding procedure and schedule on this project should be directed to: Marvin Buckhalter, Director of Procurement, mbuckhalter@jmaa.com, and 601-664-3516.

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN) Relocation of PBB from MSY to JAN at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, Project No.005-22." If the submission is submitted via email, then the identification information must be provided in the email subject line. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, then the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any submissions, including bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received, after the Bid Deadline for any reason whatsoever.

JMAA will award the Work to the lowest and best bid as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered part of the Agreement. Any Addenda issued clarifying and/or changing plans and specifications; clarifying and/or changing instructions in the Instruction to Bidders; and/or answering questions in relation to the Instructions to Bidders shall become part of the Information for Bidders.

The Information for Bidders and bidding documents for the Work can be found at (<https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/>). The website will be updated periodically with addenda, reports and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Work.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 10:00am (CST) using the following login information:

<https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/95968020095>

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095
Passcode: 520966

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; to waive technicalities in the bid proposals.

JMAA has established a Disadvantage Business Enterprises participation goal of 0% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: March 16, 2022

Paul A. Brown, Chief Executive Officer

3/17/2022, 3/24/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29th, 2022, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 77-22, located at 516 N. Mill Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$750.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us.

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201). The outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, March 29th, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

3/10/2022, 3/17/2022, 3/24/2022

LEGAL

Information-2022 Special Election for Greater Belhaven
Community Improvement District

Election Date
• All registered voters residing in the proposed Greater Belhaven Community Improvement District will vote on the creation of a Special Local Improvement Assessment District to be held on April 5, 2022.
• Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Ballot Information
The ballot proposition is as follows:
Shall residents within the Greater Belhaven Community Improvement District establish a Special Local Improvement Assessment District through an additional property tax assessment of 6 mills?

Absentee Voting
• The last day to vote by absentee ballot is Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 12:00 (noon). To accommodate the absentee voting process, The Department of Municipal Clerk will be open on Saturday, March 26, 2022 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 (noon), and on Saturday, April 2, 2022 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 (noon).

Qualified Electors
• All registered voters residing in the proposed Greater Belhaven Community Improvement District (Belhaven and Belhaven Heights) will be eligible to vote in this special election. The participating polling places are as follows:

• Precinct 1- Eudora Welty Library- 300 N. State Street
• Precinct 8- Fire Station #5- 1810 North State Street
• Precinct 9- Belhaven College Library- 1500 Peachtree

3/10/2022, 3/17/2022, 3/24/2022

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
City of Jackson Colonial Circle Bridge Replacement Project
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, **Tuesday, April 26, 2022** at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of **City of Jackson Colonial Circle Bridge Replacement Project**. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

Contract time for this contract shall be **90** consecutive calendar days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. The amount of liquidated damages per day will be \$500.00 plus any additional actual costs above \$500.00 incurred by the Owner. These actual costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provision of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a contractor, bidder, or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1638. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 218 South President Street, 2nd Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4, that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex, in consideration for an award.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi Law and show current Certificate of Responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Public Contractors establishing his classification as to the value and type of construction on which he is authorized to bid.

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "City of Jackson Meadow Road Bridge Replacement Project" Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal.

Bids and EBO plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Official Bid Documents, including the Contract Documents and Drawings can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic Bids may be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Awarding public contracts to non-resident Bidders will be on the same basis as the non-resident bidder's state awards contracts to Mississippi Contractors bidding under similar circumstances. Current state law, Mississippi General Laws of 2010, Chapter 383, section 31-3-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, requires a non-resident bidder to attach to the bid a copy of the Bidder's resident state's current laws pertaining to such state's treatment of nonresident contractors. Non-resident bidders must attach to their bid a copy of any bid preference law of the state, city, county, parish, province, nation or political subdivision where they are domiciled. If there is no such law where they are domiciled, all non-resident bidders shall attach a letter to their bid stating that there is no bid preference law where they are domiciled. The bid of any non-resident bidder who fails to attach to its bid a copy of its domicile's bid preference law or a letter stating that its domicile has no such bid preference law, whichever is applicable, shall be rejected and not considered for award.

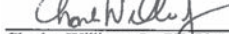
Each Bidder must deposit with his bid a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent of his bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City of Jackson. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount.

Plans, specifications and contract documents are on file and open to public inspection at the Office of CivilTech, Inc., 5420 Executive Place, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206. One (1) copy of the Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents may be procured upon payment of \$100.00 (by check, made payable to ("CivilTech, Inc."). All technical questions should be directed to Tony Lewis, (601) 713-1713, email: tlewis@civiltchinc.net). The payment is non-refundable.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that minority and women business enterprises are solicited to bid on these contracts as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities, equipment, material and/or supply needs.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on April 8, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. local time, in the 1st floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.


Charles Williams Jr., PE, PhD, City Engineer
Department of Public Works

Publication Dates: March 24, 2022; March 31, 2022
Pre-Bid Date: April 8, 2022
Bid Opening Date: April 26, 2022
Publication: Mississippi Link

3/24/2022, 3/31/2022

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30p.m., Tuesday, March 29, 2022. The City of Jackson, Mississippi requests proposals from art groups and other community development groups providing services to the citizens in the City of Jackson.

Financial assistance is available to support arts and community development activities designed to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the arts and improve the quality of life among the citizens of Jackson. This solicitation seeks proposals with an emphasis on community exposure, history and education.

Grant awards offered by the City of Jackson shall only represent supplemental funding in support of arts projects and community development based projects. To be eligible for funding, proposing organizations must have verifiable cash match contributions that equals to at least 50% of project cost.

All proposals for General Funds Arts and Community Based Grants must be submitted online. Complete application requirements are available on the City of Jackson, Department of Human & Cultural Services webpage. Visit <https://www.jacksonms.gov/departments/human-and-cultural-services/> to submit your application. Proposals must be submitted online by 3:30pm on March 29, 2022. The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. Request for Proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website listed above.

By: Adriane Dorsey-Kidd, Director
Department of Human and Cultural Services

3/10/2022, 3/17/2022, 3/24/2022

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale:

2008 Honda Civic Si, Vin #2HGF21578H705737.

Date of Sale: 4-13-22

Place of Sale: Unlimited Cars and Accessories, located at 829 South Gallatin Street, Jackson, MS 39204.

3/24/2022, 3/31/2022

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
JH FEWELL WATER TREATMENT PLANT CARBON DIOXIDE CHEMICAL FEED
EQUIPMENT PROJECT
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all materials and equipment only as required under the specifications for the construction of JH FEWELL WATER TREATMENT PLANT CARBON DIOXIDE CHEMICAL FEED EQUIPMENT PROJECT. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The entire project equipment must be delivered within (210) calendar days. The contract will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the contract time is exceeded.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full an equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) plan. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Michael Davis with the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Minority and women's business enterprises are solicited to bid on this contract as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities and equipment, material and/or supply needs.

Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in whole or in part by the anticipated funds from the EPA Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities Drinking Water Grant Program (SDWA 1459A). Neither the State of Mississippi, the Local Governments and Rural Water Systems Improvements Board, the MS Department of Health, the MS Commission on Environmental Quality, nor any of their employees, is or will be a party to this invitation for bids or any resulting or related contracts. This procurement will be subject to all applicable sections of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, as they apply to local governments.

The PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

- Office of the MSDH/DWSIRFL Program: located at 570 East Woodrow Wilson, Suite U232, Jackson MS 39215, call Lee Alford, Project Manager at 601-576-7738.
- Office of the Consulting Engineer: Cornerstone Engineering LLC, located at 600 Northside Drive, Suite A, Clinton, MS 39056, call Mauricka McKenzie, P.E., Project Engineer at 601-473-2403 office. One copy of the Specifications and Contract Documents may be procured from the Consulting Engineer, upon payment of \$100, none of which is refundable.
- Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

The BID SCHEDULE may be examined at the following locations:

- A. Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program (MPTAP)
Mississippi Development Authority, Minority & Small Business Development
Woodfolk Building
501 North West Street, Suite B-01
Jackson, MS 39201
Contact: LaTisha Landing 601-359-3448

The Standard Specifications adopted by the City Council may be procured from the Department of Public Works, if desired upon payment of \$5.00 dollars for each specification.

A NONMANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference will be held on April 1, 2022 in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room located on the first floor of the Hood Building at 200 President Street, Jackson, MS, at 11:00 A.M. local time. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi law and possess a certificate of responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Contractors establishing its classification as to the value and type of construction on which it is authorized to bid. Each bidder must deposit with its proposal, a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid for the work, payable to the City of Jackson, as the bid security.

The successful bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded. Attorneys-in-fact who sign Bid Bonds or Payment Bonds and Performance Bonds must file with each bond a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney.


Proposals shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City of Jackson's City Clerk prior to the hour and date designated above. Each bidder shall write its certificate of responsibility number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing its proposal.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all informalities


Charles Williams, Jr, PE, PhD
City Engineer, Department of Public Works

3/10/2022, 3/24/2022

U-RENTAL
Van Company



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- 12 & 15 passenger vans
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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

DOWN

1. Mongolian desert

5. Capital of Norway

9. Eve's garden

10. Capital of Senegala

11. Lading

12. Aflame

13. Factuality

15. Self-esteem

16. Country Island group in Indian ocean

18. Put in the middle

21. Hoopla

22. Decrees

26. Riot

28. Tropical island

29. Nail filing board

30. Old

31. Fib

32. Perceives with eye

1. Money

2. Smell

3. Swain

4. Charge formally

5. Lout

6. Snow slider

7. Slow

8. Sandwich cookies brand

10. Stopped up

14. Resentfully

17. Abominable

18. Insertion mark

19. Water retention

20. New

23. Court suit

24. Biblical "you"

25. Lager

27. Before, poetically

© Feature Exchange

Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

AKET

WO

SNT

KLAX

FKIDT

DBHBGAT

FKR

SIBLORKIMWLY

BL

TLTMX

WLSK

B

RIWTLC

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Crossword Solution

G	O	B	I			O	S	L	O	
E	D	E	N			D	A	K	A	R
L	O	A	D			A	F	I	R	E
T	R	U	I	S	M		E	G	O	
			C	O	M	O	R	O	S	
C	E	N	T	R	E	D				
A	D	O		E	D	I	C	T	S	
R	E	V	E	L		O	A	H	U	
E	M	E	R	Y		U	S	E	D	
T	A	L	E			S	E	E	S	

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Cryptogram Solution

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

LOVE IS THE ONLY FORCE CAPABLE

AKET WO SNT KLAX RKIDT DBHBGAT

OF TRANSFORMING AN ENEMY

KR SIBLORKIMWLY BL TLTMX

INTO A FRIEND.

WLSK B RIWTLC

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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.**MCDADÉ'S MARKET**Northside Drive**MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2**653 Duling Avenue**PICADILLY CAFETERIA**Jackson Medical Mall350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue**SHELL FOOD MART**5492 Watkins Drive

SPORTS MEDICINEFortification 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 PLACE5777 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**

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Week of March 13, 2022

House passes bill to prohibit discrimination based on hair

By Farnoush Amiri
Associated Press

Black people who wear hairstyles like Afros, cornrows or tightly coiled twists should not face bias in society, school and the workplace, the U.S. House said Friday in voting to make it explicit that such discrimination is a violation of federal civil rights law.

“There are folks in this society who think because your hair is kinky, it is braided, it is in knots or it is not straightened blonde and light brown, that you somehow are not worthy of access,” Democratic Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, the lead sponsor of the bill, said during debate on the House floor. “Well, that’s discrimination.”

The House voted 235-to-189 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of hair texture and hairstyles. The bill now goes to the Senate, where its fate is uncertain. President Joe Biden has already said he would sign the bill, known as the Crown Act, into law.

All but 14 Republicans voted against the measure, calling it



Jackson, MS native Angel Hampton with cornrow hair style

unnecessary and a distraction. They said protections against hair discrimination already exist in several federal laws.

“This is what the Democrats are focused on,” said Ohio Republican Rep. Jim Jordan. “Fourteen months of chaos and we’re doing a bill on hair.”

But House Democrats noted that, in several instances, judges have dismissed civil rights cases on the basis that the law does not directly cover discrimination on the basis of hair. The

House bill makes clear that hair is in fact included.

Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, who is the first Somali-American lawmaker in Congress, called the opposition from her GOP colleagues “quite disheartening.”

“These members, who are mostly male and white, who have never experienced this kind of discrimination, who don’t have the ability to actually speak to it ... really should leave it up to the policymakers who have done the work and who have experienced this level of discrimination,” the progressive lawmaker said in an interview Friday.

In addition to Afros, cornrows and twists, the bill mentions protections for other hairstyles and textures of styles that often draw prejudice against black people.

Supporters pointed to a 2019 study by Dove that showed that one in five black women working in office or sales settings have said they had to alter their natural hair. The study also found black students are far

more likely to be suspended for dress code or hair violations.

Coleman, a New Jersey Democrat, began to work on the proposal after two incidents of discrimination made national headlines. One involved Mya and Deanna Cook of Malden, Massachusetts.

In 2017, the twin sisters were told by their high school staff to remove their box braids. They refused, saying the policy was discriminatory and unevenly enforced. School administrators told them that the ban on hair extensions had been designed to “foster a culture that emphasizes education rather than style, fashion or materialism.”

For refusing to comply, Deanna, a runner who had qualified for the state finals, was kicked off the school track team. Mya was removed from the softball team and told she couldn’t attend the prom.

“It’s such a shock that it doesn’t matter who you are, how old you are, what you are – when people have hatred towards a certain group, they

don’t care. They will treat you in that type of way,” Deanna Cook told The Associated Press in an interview. “That’s why we need the Crown Act because kids are being hurt from this so badly.”

The Massachusetts attorney general eventually stepped in and ordered school officials to abandon the rule, which they did. But Mya and Deanna, now college students, said the traumatic experience stays with them.

“You expect the administration of your school to have your back, to be rooting for you and cheering you on,” Mya Cook said. “And for us, it was the total opposite – they’re trying to tear you down.”

In a December 2018 incident in New Jersey, a high school student was forced to choose between forfeiting his wrestling game or cutting off his dreadlocks. Andrew Johnson, then 16, got his hair cut courtside and went on to win the match. But he appeared visibly distraught by what had happened.

“I’ll tell you watching that

was heartbreaking,” Coleman said. “But the fact that he withstood that humiliation, that public humiliation, and immediately went and won that match says so much about that young man’s character.”

More than a dozen states have already passed legislation aimed at banning race-based discrimination of hair in employment, housing, school and in the military.

An Associated Press investigation documented how some black female service members faced discrimination in the ranks, navigating a culture that often labeled them as “aggressive or difficult” and their natural hair as unkempt or unprofessional.

Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, the lead sponsor in the Senate, said passage of the bill will should ensure that all people can “wear their hair proudly without fear or prejudice.”

“No one should be harassed, punished, or fired for their natural hairstyles that are true to themselves and their cultural heritage,” Booker said.

Speculation grows over Justice Clarence Thomas’ health

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

As the potential history-making Senate confirmation hearings continue this week for D.C. Circuit Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson’s Supreme Court bid, the health of another High Court Justice has flown relatively under the radar.

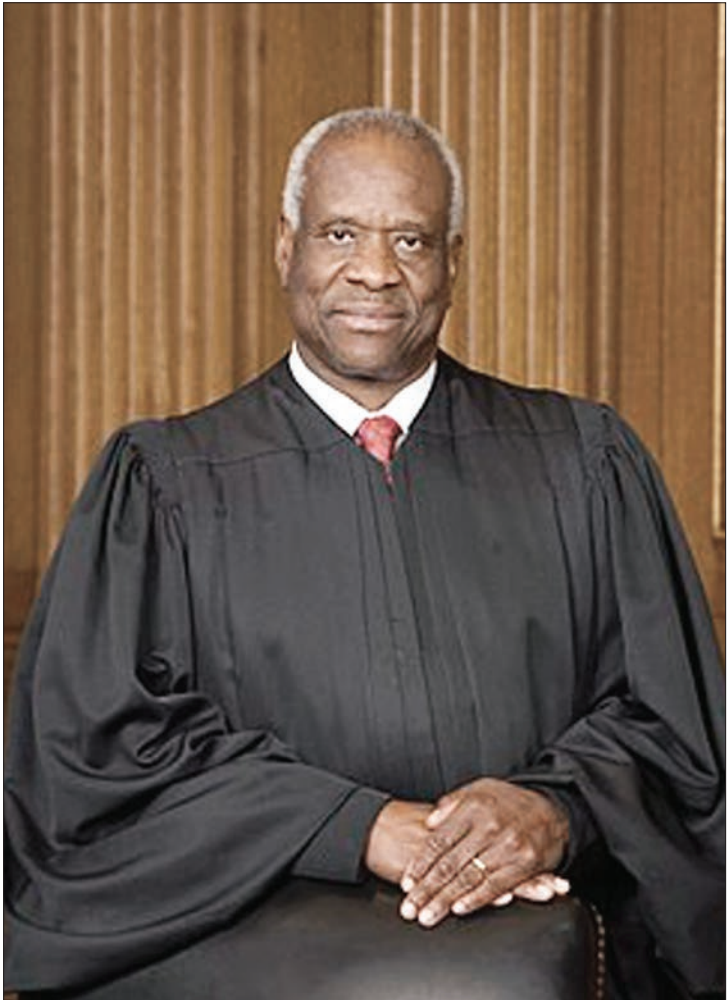
Justice Clarence Thomas, whose wife recently made headlines in revealing that she attended a January 6, 2021, rally that led to the U.S. Capitol insurrection, has remained hospitalized in Washington.

The official word from the Court is that Justice Thomas has experienced flu-like symptoms. However, the Court also has shot down speculation that the justice might suffer from COVID. They said he’s fully vaccinated and has received a booster.

Still, speculation has run rampant over the secrecy in which Justice Thomas’ hospitalization and health have been handled.

Sources on Capitol Hill have told the Black Press that a growing number of Republicans fear that Justice Thomas is “a lot worse off” than what many have been led to believe.

That fear appears to have motivated Republican senators to attack the credentials of Judge Brown Jackson in hopes of either defeating her nomination or at least prolonging the confirmation process.



Thomas

If Justice Thomas were no longer able to serve, it would provide President Joe Biden with a second pick with confirmation hearings that could occur before the November midterm elections where Republicans are favored to reclaim control of the Senate.

Justice Thomas, 73, reportedly checked into Sibley Memorial Hospital on Loughboro

Road in Northwest, Washington D.C., on March 18.

“Justice Thomas’s symptoms were abating, he’s comfortable, and could be released in the next few days,” the Court said to the media.

The statement noted that he would participate in cases by using briefs, transcripts and oral arguments, which are sometimes delivered virtually.



Hinds County Human Resource Agency Project Head State is currently accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year.



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"Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP)"

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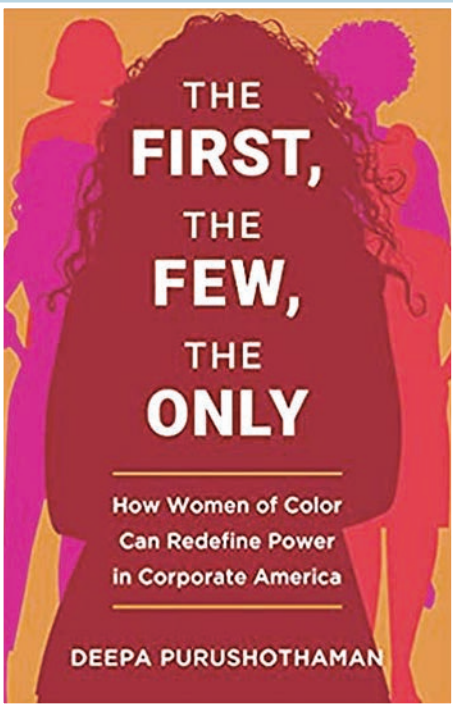
- 1) **Proof of child's age** - birth certificate, hospital birth record, or passport
- 2) **Proof of family's income** - tax return, W 2, pay stub, SSI, Social Security, child support, TANF, grants/scholarship, unemployment, and any other source of household income
- 3) **Proof of Hinds County residency** - lease, mortgage statement, current utility bill (light, water, gas or sewer), current phone or cable bill
- 4) **Child's Social Security number**
- 5) **Medical insurance of child (if applicable)**
- 6) **IEP or IFSP (if applicable)**
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To apply to Head Start or receive more information, call (601) 923-3950.



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BOOK REVIEW:

THE FIRST, THE FEW, THE ONLY:
HOW WOMEN OF COLOR CAN REDEFINE
POWER IN CORPORATE AMERICA

BY DEEPA PURUSHOTHAMAN

C.2022, HARPER BUSINESS

\$28.99 • 235 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

There’s no one like you. For most of your life, you’ve been told how unique you are, how wonderful, how important, all true. You’re one of a kind, singular, you’re like no one else on Earth. And in the new book, “The First, The Few, The Only” by Deepa Purushothaman, that probably goes to work, too. Most workplaces were made for men. If you’re a woman, you already know this. It’s evident in the height of the counters, the number of permanent

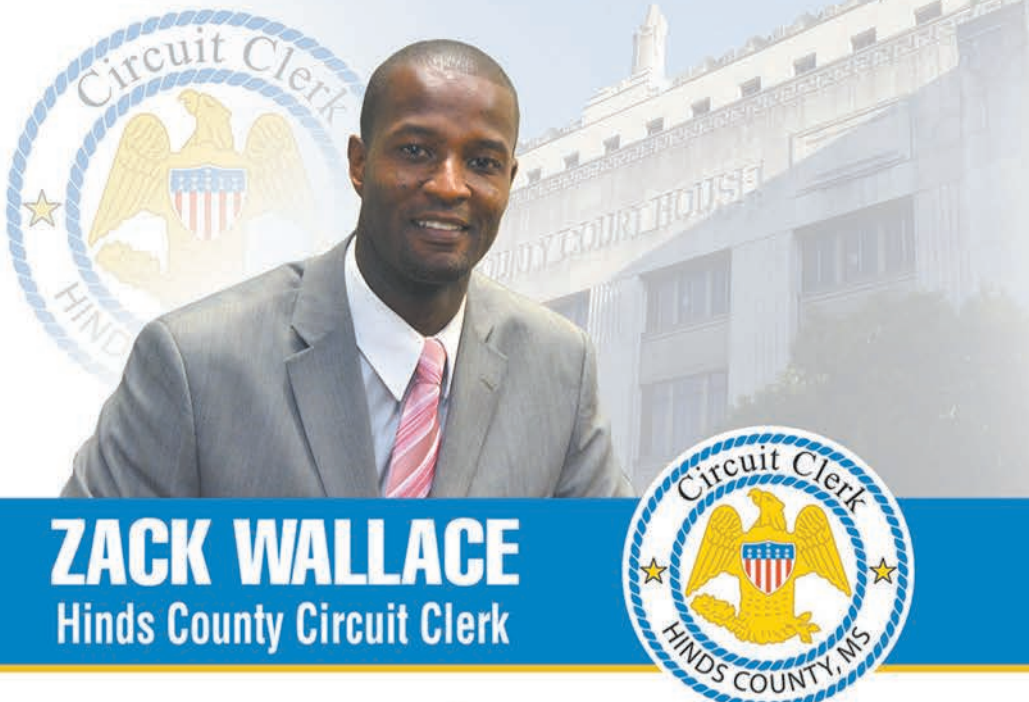
walls in the office, and the temperature of its rooms. But for Women of Color (WOC), that statement is keener, especially if you’re the first WOC in your workplace, one of a few, or the only WOC there now. So with no other WOC to bounce ideas with, no been-there-done-that work friends to hash things through, how do you survive and thrive at work? Says Purushothaman, there are three main ways. First, “Find Your Power.” Eliminate delusions that you or your bosses may hold, and

hear the messages you’re getting. They can see you, when it comes to hiring. You can fit in without losing a part of yourself. Closely notice the lessons you’ve learned from your family and your culture, and be sure that you’re sending the right lessons to the next generation. Take care of yourself “When Your Mind and Body Speak.” Look for your own joy, know the detrimental effects of racism, and ignore the urge to “work harder” just because of your skin color. Don’t feel the need to “represent.” Know

what to do about those micro-aggressions you seem to hear constantly. And finally, seize “The Power of We.” Find your community in the corporate world at large. Be open to learning, and changing “the game” from within. Know what six things to ask yourself if you’re thinking about a new job. And never forget who you are. Says Purushothaman, WOC “need to work together...in Corporate America to create what comes next.” Though it can be a little on

the new-agey side and it’s probably full of information you already know, “The First, The Few, The Only” is a pretty good book to have around. Consider it as a place for confirmation, if you’re a WOC: author Deepa Purushothaman speaks directly to your experiences and she offers sympathy and camaraderie, somewhat like a cathartic Happy Hour, but in book form. There’s advice here that you can use, including tips for those hours when you aren’t working. You can also consider this a

primer if you’re not a women and/or not of color. Supervisors, CEOs and business owners who want to do better have a place to start here, with a dive into things you don’t know, things you shouldn’t do, and irritations your new employee probably won’t tell you. “The First, the Few, the Only” is a book to read on your lunch break, or to let your boss see you reading, if you dare. Or if you work with WOC, learn and be better. There’s nothing like it.



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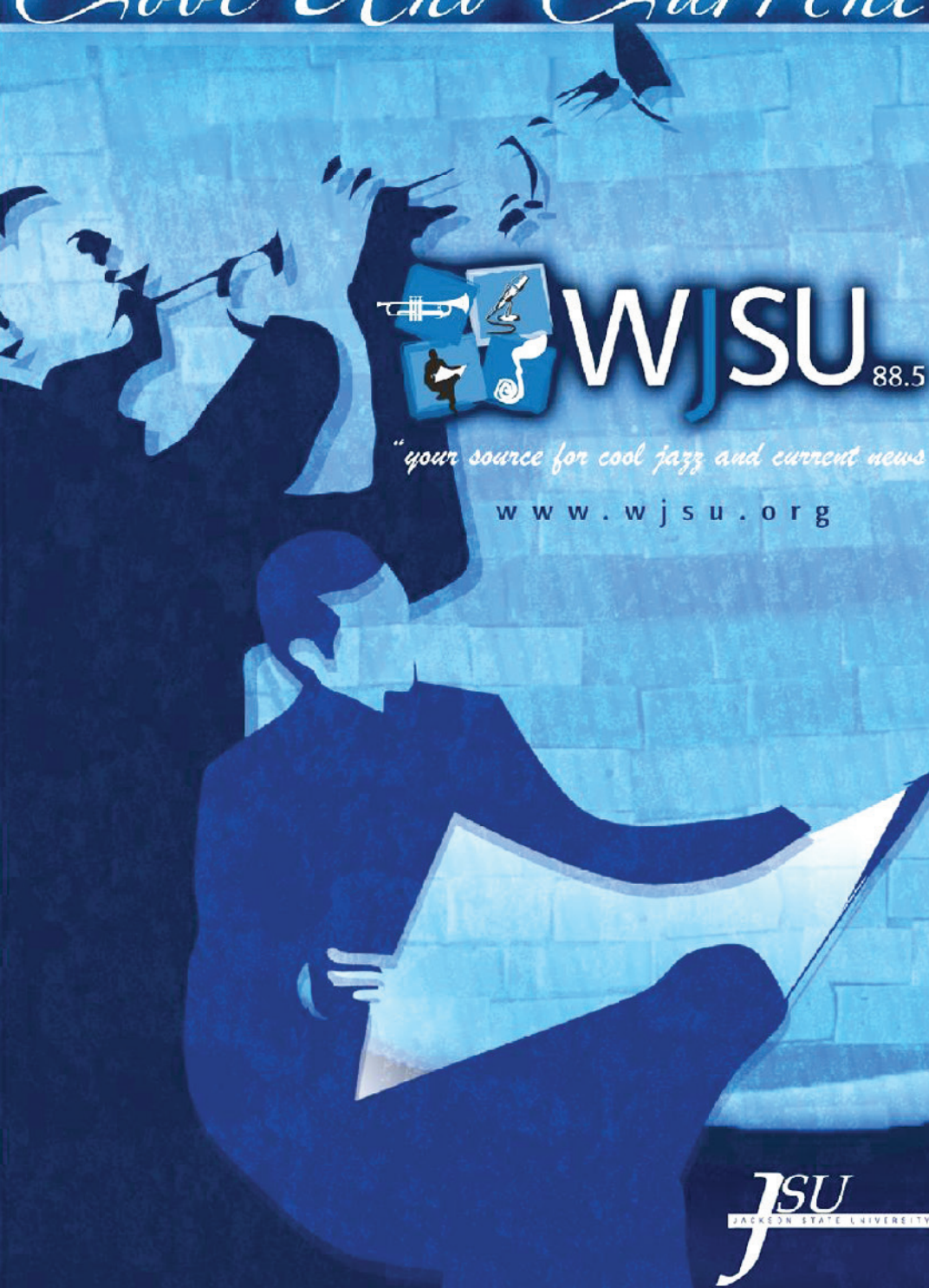
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JSU Lady Tigers earn national respect in loss to LSU

By Timothy Ward
Sports Writer

The Lady Tigers of Jackson State **ALMOST** pulled off the tournament win against LSU in Baton Rouge. The 14th seeded JSU Tigers lost 83 to 77.

Their magical season ended, but respect was gained.

The country is on notice now. Going to back to back NCAA tournaments, owning the nation's longest winning streak of 21 games, head coach Tomekia Reed, winning Coach of the Year 2 out of the last 3 years, and Amy-asha Williams-Holliday being named SWAC Player of the year,

and Defensive Player of the Year, has Tiger Nation roaring with excitement.

JSU's success is great for HBCUs as more and more players are transferring from the Power 5 conferences to HBCUs. Angel Jackson, a 6'5" player from the University of Southern California (USC) announced she is coming to Jackson State University.

Playing in a top seed's building is tough for anyone, especially someone not expected to compete. LSU (26-5) has one of the legends of Women's basketball, Kim Mulkey, as their coach. She has national championships and a

ton of WNBA players on her resume'.

Coach Reed made her dig down deep to beat her. LSU lead by 17 points, before a furious JSU rally happened. JSU came back and took the lead. Fueled by their coach getting a technical foul, the ladies' intensity picked up tremendously.

Jackson State would go up by as much as 10 points, leading 74-64 in the fourth quarter. LSU was able to go on a 19-3 run to end the game, giving them the victory. JSU lost again in the tournament. Ironically, last year coach Mulkey was the opposing coach again.

Last year, Jackson State lost to Baylor and Mulkey was the head coach. JSU was a 16th seed last year, this year they were a 14th seed. Coach Mulkey said this after the game, "What I said," Mulkey said, "(was) 'You ain't (going to) be at Jackson State long if they don't pay you.'"

Coach Reed offered this powerful quote at the press conference. "Honestly my message after today's game was, we have to continue to fight for our institution. Our conference. We have to continue to fight for our culture. We have to continue to knock on walls to get respect.

"We're knocking on walls. You've accomplished some things that hadn't been accomplished in this program and in this conference, but now it's time to come back and knock the walls down. We have to make a strong statement in preseason next year. Another strong statement. And we're gonna keep knocking until the respect is there.

"We're gonna keep knocking until we get the same as other institutions. We're gonna keep knocking, because what happens is the transfer portal evens the playing field. And with the playing fields being even, all we ask

is for everything to be fair across the board. Yes, we faced a very good team today. A very well-coached team. Yes, we came out with a game plan. Yes, we missed free throws. Yes, we made mistakes. But there was still some other things that played into that, and the world saw it. So for our institution, for our team, for our fight, we're gonna continue until we knock those doors down."

Jackson State finished the season 23-7, 18-0 in the SWAC. Miya Crump lead the team in scoring with 21 points and 5 rebounds. Ameysha Williams-Holliday, added 15 points and 12 rebounds.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Byram Middle School Fine Arts department presented to faculty, staff and students their Black History Program entitled “Stand Up.” Students participated in the event with dramatic monologues, singing and choreographed dances.

Additionally, students were treated to step demonstrations by local organizations and words of encouragement and motivation from Rev. Scottie Willis, a former Byram Bulldog.



Byram Middle School students dance during their Black History Month program.



Students took turns singing and presenting dramatic monologues during the program.



Rev. Scottie Willis addresses the students of Byram Middle School.