



Unheralded Women
of Mississippi Celebrated
During Women’s History Month

Four outstanding community servants celebrated for their untiring service

A Women’s History Month brunch or praise and worship service?

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

Was it a Women’s History Month brunch or a Women’s History Month praise service? That is the question. Whatever it was, it lifted spirits and electrified the audience.

On Saturday morning, March 26, when most people were still sleeping, the 2nd-floor banquet room of the King Edwards Hotel/ Hilton Garden Inn, in downtown Jackson, was packed with wall-to-wall seating of a bright-eyed audience poised to celebrate women’s achievements.

The elegant décor of the room set the tone for “giving honor to whom honor is due,” as the saying goes. Four hard-working, people-serving women were recognized for their outstanding community service and achievements. They were WLBT News Anchor Maggie Wade, Pastor Jennifer Biard of the Jackson Revival Center, Senior Vice President and Director of Minority Business Development Debra McGee of Bank Plus, and Tougaloo College President Dr. Carmen Walters.

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Honoree Debra McGee (4th from right) surrounded by friends at the brunch. PHOTOS BY GAIL BROWN

such as BankPlus, The Kirkland Group, Premier Events, and others who purchased tables and gave donations, the event benefited the honorees’ charity of choice with a \$500 donation.

The event also included Nissan videos for audience view about the new electric cars that are coming as well as other products of the automotive giant.

The honorees’ segment was moderated by Mississippi native and popular comedic entertainer Rita Brent, a proud JSU alum. She filled the audience with laughter throughout her role at the brunch. On a serious note, Brent told the

audience, “It is so important to give people their flowers while they can still smell them.”

Wade-Dixon, who recently celebrated 40 years in the media, chose the American Heart Association’s Women of Impact as her charity, of which she is a member. “I don’t know whether you know it or not but African-American women die so often of heart disease because we mistake the signs as indigestion or heartburn,” Wade-Dixon said.

Wade-Dixon is widely known for her tireless work with WLBT’s Wednesday’s Child Adoption Program. “And now over 7,000 chil-

dren are in their forever homes,” she shared.

Dr. Walters chose the Pretty with a Purpose Foundation of Natchez, Miss. “I’m excited to be here,” Walters said. She explained that she met a young woman when she arrived at Tougaloo as president who commuted there to work from Natchez every day. She was a single mom with a beautiful baby,” Walters said. Continuing she said, “But the commute got too difficult and she had to leave her job at Tougaloo to take care of her child.” She said

Brunch
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Tougaloo College unveils Edward Blackmon Jr administrative building sign

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Amidst mild winds and warm weather in Tougaloo, MS at Tougaloo College, an unveiling ceremony of a sign in recognition of the administrative building named for Attorney Edward Blackmon Jr., was held March 30 at 2 p.m. in celebration of Social Justice Week.

Presiding over the program was Montae’l Z. Williams, president of the Student Government Association. In his opening remarks, Williams stated that Tougaloo College has been nationally known over 150 years, for being at the forefront in standing up for social movements for change. Attorney Blackmon is well known in his role as one that has fought for justice and equality to bring about change.

Greetings were brought by Asst. Professor of Political Sci-



Attorney Edward Blackmon and family l-r: Lawrence Blackmon, Enyla Chenise Blackmon, Atty. Barbara Blackmon, Edward Blackmon Jr., Summer Rae Blackmon, Madison Edward Blackmon and Bradford Jerome Blackmon. PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY

ence Lawren M. Long, Ph.D., Division of Strategic Initiatives and Social Justice. He was recently appointed director of the Eric Holder Public Policy Program

Special remarks were made by

Trustee Emeritus Wesley F. Prater, M.D., Tougaloo College Board of Trustees. Dr. Prater offered congratulations to the Blackmon family and said in 1978 when he and his partner returned to Mis-

issippi and were looking for an attorney to establish their medical practice, they were told to meet with Attorney Blackmon of Canton. They set up a meeting with Blackmon after meeting with several other attorneys. During that meeting Blackmon talked about Tougaloo College for an hour, and he and his partner’s legal business only 30 minutes. Prater said, “During that time, my partner and I gave each other ‘a look’ that said this is our attorney.”

Prater went on to say, “We chose him because he could relate to physicians in a way of understanding what we needed to do from a medical stand point.

About 15-20 years later, the two men ended up serving on the Tougaloo Board of Trustees together. Prater noted that while serving on the board, Blackmon was 200%

Tougaloo
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Dianna Freelon-Foster, an unheralded woman of Grenada County, Miss.

Historically, Grenada’s first African-American and female mayor who’s ‘unapologetically black’



Freelon-Foster

By Marilyn Reed
Contributing Writer

“I salute my ancestors and elders still living, who fought and died in Mississippi, throughout the United States, and throughout the western hemisphere to assert our humanity in the fight for liberation and justice.” This quote by noted author and activist Akindele Omowale Umoja is what Dianna Freelon-Foster says she hopes her life and her work have been.

Freelon-Foster is a lifelong Mississippi native, having been born and lived in the county of Grenada all her life. Dianna’s work as a community activist and organizer has been shaped by her early entry into the freedom struggle in Grenada, Miss. through the 1966 Grenada County Freedom Movement.

She was one of about two hundred and fifty (250) students who integrated the public schools in Grenada. This was one of the most violent and horrific school integrations in, not only the state, but in the nation. That violence ignited a fire for freedom in Foster.

“The spark of activism was lit for me over fifty years (50) years ago during the 1966 Grenada County Freedom Movement at the age of 15,” said Freelon-Foster. “As one of about 250 students

who integrated the ‘White School’ the principal sent me and other students into a mob of white men with sticks, tree limbs and other weapons to face their wrath for us ‘thinking we could come to their schools.’” She has often, and still says, that it was a day she will never forget.

While serving with that same spark of fire as president of the Grenada Chapter of the NAACP, Freelon-Foster was elected mayor of the City of Grenada in 2004, becoming the first African-American and female to hold this position.

Throughout the years, she has volunteered with several after-school programs, severing as director and securing funding for those programs. In addition, she has advocated for children with special needs and children in the general school setting by assisting parents in hearings, preparing for hearings, and working for what is in the best interest of ‘the student.’

“A story I often tell is this,” Freelon-Foster shared. “Years ago I would read to students in a Head Start Center and would also visit the Head Start Center that my child attended. I was often struck by the enthusiasm, the intelligence and the excite-

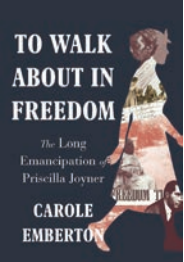
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Inside

Nissan and the Black Automotive Media Group select 13 JSU students for Multimedia Automotive Apprenticeship



To Walk About in Freedom



Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

Infant/toddler food pantry receives support from local organizations



(L-R) Rho Lambda Omega vice president, Dr. Chelsea Crittle and Alpha Kappa Alpha and Women's Healthcare and Wellness chair, Maya Thompson

Special to The Mississippi Link

Magnolia Medical Foundation has a new infant/toddler food pantry thanks to the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Rho Lambda Omega chapter.

On March 25, in observance of National Nutrition Month, several cases of infant formula, toddler snacks, baby food and diapers were donated to Magnolia Medical Foundation.

Dr. Sandra Melvin, CEO, Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health was pleased to support this effort. "By providing local mothers with access to healthy food choices for their babies, we are reducing food insecurity and putting children on

the path to good nutrition."

Food insecurity is a social and economic condition where access to food is limited or uncertain. Mississippi had the highest rate of projected food insecurity in 2020. According to the non-profit Save the Children, one in three children in Mississippi is experiencing hunger.

Food insecurity has broad effects on health due to the mental and physical stress that it places on the body.


"Often times when we address food insecurity, infants and children are left out," said Asia Haynes, program manager, Magnolia Medical Foundation. "That is why we are so grateful for this donation from the Institute and the AKAs. This will help us


continue to serve families in our community."

The Magnolia Medical Foundation, located at 256 East Fortification Street, Jackson, MS, provides health services to high risk and underserved individuals and communities.

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.

For more information, call (769) 524-8002.






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MISSISSIPPI

Freelon-Foster

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ment of the children. Years later, I would see these same students in grade school, especially around the 3rd and 4th grades, and the excitement, the laughter, the confidence would be gone. I would go to discipline hearings with some of them in schools for ridiculous actions that should not have been viewed as anything other than normal behaviors expected of children and if they were a bit more, it should have been addressed via interventions.

“During this time, I was reading books by writer/author Jawanza Kunjufu focusing on Black Boys and in a ‘ah hah’ moment realized that these children were ‘being broken.’ And, in this moment today, where there appears to be an assault on teaching an accurate and ‘critical thinking’ history curriculum, one of Kunjufu’s quotes ring loudly:

‘That’s why history is so important, because if our children had been taught correctly, they would have a burning spirit for freedom, liberation and self-actualization.’ This quote comes from his book Developing Positive Self-Images & Discipline in Black Children.”

Freelon-Foster has served on the Grenada County Executive Democratic Committee for several years working to elect accountable leadership in her community and to encourage civic engagement from members of the grassroots community.

As founder and director of Activists with A Purpose, now Activists With A Purpose Plus, she has been actively engaged in issues around public education working to advocate for a first-rate quality education system accessible to all children, engaged with voter education and registration, helping her community to understand the importance of the Census and redistricting process, working around issues of juvenile justice, racial justice and equity across all institutional structures.

“The things I have learned from Mother Dianna have been very beneficial to me,” said Walter Bennett, member of Activists with a Purpose. “She began my interest in civil engagement over 20 years ago. I am grateful. I have traveled and discovered many things due to tutelage.”

Among other things, Freelon-Foster is currently involved with the Mississippi Coalition to Abolish Corporal Punishment in the public school system. Also, she and members

of the board of Activists with A Purpose have secured a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council to produce a documentary on the 1966 Grenada County Freedom Movement as part of its Reflecting Mississippi Project.

Activists with a Purpose has been very intentional with their efforts to tell the story of the Grenada County Freedom Movement by highlighting individuals who faced real fear and risked it all to demand full citizenship by claiming their right to vote. Those tributes are a source of pride to the individual profiled and to their families.

Vanessa R. Reed, a history teacher in Meridian, has worked with Freelon-Foster on various projects. “Everything she does is from her heart, said Reed. “The love for her people and justice drives all that she does. Her passion and commitment are consistent.”

“Diane Freelon Foster is a powerful Sister Warrior who has never been afraid to stand up for justice even when it made her unpopular,” said Nsombi Lambricht Haynes, executive director of One Voice. “A community leader and former mayor, she’s a model for all women struggling to be strong in a state that wears us down with its racism. I’ve learned so much from Diane over the years, and I hope to continue learning, working and laughing with her.”

Freelon-Foster has traveled extensively with historians across the nation and internationally to human rights conferences, in academic settings focusing on confronting violent pasts and both national and international conferences with a focus on historical dialogues, justice, civil and human rights struggles and memory.

She has traveled to Amsterdam, South Africa, Canada, and many cities and states across the nation, to include Philadelphia, Pittsburg and Penn State, PA, Elaine, AK, North Carolina and Jackson, MS.

When asked how she views herself, Freelon-Foster said, “I’ve given a lot of thought to this in recent days. What I say about myself is that I am ‘unapologetically black.’ Many people view this in terms of nationalism or braggadocious when really it is neither. It’s a response to anti-blackness; a response to the invisibility of blackness; a response to America’s desire to the erasure of a people and the covering of the blood on its hand and it’s history.”

Brunch

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this young lady is making a difference in Natchez with young girls with her new foundation, “Pretty with a Purpose.” The young lady, Ms. Washington, was there to receive the check.

Walters, Tougaloo’s 14th president, is considered “a respected, passionate and strategic thinker with broad knowledge. She brings a blended set of skills and over 24 years of leadership in curriculum and policy development, fundraising, student enrollment and retention management, team building, conflict resolution, strategic planning, and organizational management. She has a reputation for leveraging collaborative partnerships with public and private organizations, enabling students, faculty, and staff to cross institutional boundaries and engage in innovative instruction to ensure student success.”

She recognized her Tougaloo students and alumni who were in attendance.

McGee chose the charity Dress for Success Metro Jackson where she has done so much work for over the years. This is the first and only affiliate of Dress for Success Worldwide in the state of Mississippi. “Each year we provide services to over 500 disadvantaged women in our community and the Mississippi Delta. It empowers women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.” McGee said she was so humbled to be among the honorees. In her video, she said, “I help people fulfill their dreams and make things happen.”

Othor Cain, co-organizer of the event, “replied, “And, you do just that.”

A veteran banking administrator and a member of College Hill M.B. Church in Jackson, McGee also serves on the Nissan Advisory Board.

Pastor Biard, who is known internationally for her ministry and service to Mississippi and the Jackson community, chose the Corporation for Global Community Development. According to its website, Corporation for Global Community Development is an established 501(c) (3) which serves as the outreach arm of Jackson Revival Center Church. It was formed in 2007 for the purposes of fighting hunger and promoting the holistic growth and development of underserved individuals and communities throughout the state.

Biard was also on the program to do words of encouragement. It was then that the event took on a totally different atmosphere. The audience burst into a spirit of praise and worship as she elevated the roof with the Word of God, which emerged into a mini-sermonette on the



David Johnson of BankPlus and Gloria Johnson, Entergy of MS, retiree

different seasons one can find him or herself in during life: the growing season, pruning season, wilderness season and the harvest season (aka ‘your take-over season’). She clearly defined and characterized each season.

“I came to declare to every woman under the sound of my voice: this is your take over season. You must understand that in this season you may feel overwhelmed at times, but the thing to remember is how blessed you really are. You have to remember how mindful that the Lord has been concerning you. In this season I want to admonish you to be a good steward over everything that God has given you... And, in this season, you got to be careful not to get so caught up in your blessings that you forget the Blessor who gave you the blessing. Don’t forget to cling to God as you did in the pruning, growing and wilderness seasons.”

Biard told the crowd, “We are here to celebrate some amazing women who are in their harvest season. Look here, God is so mindful that He says that you can’t celebrate them without some of it coming back to you.” The on-their-feet audience filled the atmosphere with applause, amens, and shouts of praise as Biard went to her seat.

“After a good sermon like that they would say, ‘the doors of the church are open,” jested Brent.

“Our honorees were all so deserving of being celebrated. Thank you community for showing up for Maggie Wade Dixon, Carmen Walters, Jennifer Biard and Debra McGee,” said Cain in his appreciative Facebook post.

His sentiments were echoed by co-organizer, Carol Woodson. “Exactly what Othor Cain said. We are exhausted but exhilarated. There are no words to explain the outpouring of support we had at the inaugural WHM brunch,” Woodson posted.

Tougaloo

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President Walters



Dr. Prater



Atty. Blackmon

vested in Tougaloo College, always providing a strong spirit of service.

The occasion and unveiling of the sign was given by Tougaloo College President Carmen J. Walters, Ph.D. Walters recalled after having several interviews for the position of president of Tougaloo College, Dr. Prater, who was then chairman of the Board of Trustees, told her she needed to see Atty. Blackmon.

Later on, having not gone to see Blackmon, she received several calls that suggested the same. In fact, she said callers would say to her, “You haven’t gone to meet Attorney Blackmon yet? In awe she wondered, “who is this man?” Walters said when she went to see Blackmon, he asked, “How may I help you?” She responded, “I came to kiss the ring.” The audience laughed as Walters brought Blackmon to the podium for remarks.

Blackmon said as he and his sons were coming down the sidewalk for the occasion of the unveiling, memories of his days at Tougaloo began to flood in, and he got carried away. He told them of how he often walked down that sidewalk around midnight when in school. In reminiscing, he said, “They called me the tail dog.” Blackmon got so carried away he did one kick and as a result told Dr. Prater he might need to see a doctor.

On the serious side, he said, “This is where we

came to become young men and young women. I did not want to leave Tougaloo when the time came.”

After graduating from Tougaloo with a B.A. degree in political science, Blackmon attended The George Washington University Law Center in Washington, D.C. where he received his Juris Doctorate in Law. In 1989, he and his wife, Attorney Barbara Blackmon, formed the law firm of Blackmon & Blackmon in Canton, Mississippi, where he presently serves as the firm’s senior partner.

Blackmon’s many honors, awards and citations include the Lawyers Weekly USA 1999 Top Ten verdicts (\$144,000,000); National Law Journal 2002 11th winningest verdict (\$171,270,000); Named as one of the Nation’s Top Ten Litigators by the National Law Journal 2002; Named to Memphis Magazine’s Top Attorney in the Mid-South, 2014; National Academy of Personal Injury Attorneys 2014 Top 10 Attorney Award; The George Washington University law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award; The NAACP State Conference Medgar Evers Medallion Award; The Magnolia Bar Association R. Jess Brown Award; and, the Tougaloo College Hall of Fame.

The unveiling ceremony ended with a tour of the Edward Blackmon Jr. Administration Building. Activist Tony Bounds served as tour guide.



M/C Othor Cain, Troy Johnson, news anchor WAPT, Maggie Wade, news anchor, WLBT



Pastor Michael Brown and Pastor Jennifer Biard



Friends, family, Tougaloo alumni and elected officials at the unveiling



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A tribute to mothers during Women’s History Month

Ode to the Mother

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

(keepin it real for a minute, as inspired by Joni S. Hursey – three cub Mom)

When we talk about giants, we talk about so many things

There are the mountains, buildings, ships, artists and stars – no doubt about it.

Isn’t it about time though that we talk about the Mothers?

Oh, you’re not sure? Well let me help you to see.

They do it all, they make it look easy and they rarely complain.

Getting you up in the morning, your face, teeth, breakfast, outfit, hair, backpack, lunch

Tell me about your day – son/daughter, homework, chores, bedtime story, prayers and goodnight kiss

Not just today. Every day. Every day for years and years. Year after year.

And makes those relationships right at school; advocate, involved, fierce defender of her cubs

Mental checklists, never ending, all about you, drop-offs before school, notes remind you you’re loved

Don’t forget that dentist appointment, practice, Sunday school, and all those fundraisers pulled together

Fountain of nourishment. Fountain of glue. Keeping it all together – on track -

keeping it moving – Mom

She forecasts the weather. Already knows the storm will come. Always has you ready.

You get knocked down, wipe that snuffle – fall off the bike, wipe that knee, my brave boy, that’s my girl

Knows you’re gonna meet “her” or “him” puppy love, you just wanna die, she’ll get you through.

Without her a million ant hills would truly seem like Mount Everest’s forever

Wanna belong, want to fit in, but she never let you forget what’s most important – who you are

Yes, I know, I know, it’s hard, but I know you can do it – don’t forget what is in you

Mom is in you, and every ounce of struggle and triumph she ever had is in you.

Can you see it now? Now you see what I am saying when I say giant?

Here’s comes Easter, and who ensures you have your outfit, basket for Easter Egg hunts, and pictures?

Not just this Easter, but every Easter dress or suit you ever put on, every single year. Year after year.

Giant, I tell you, Mom is a giant.

Oh, and don’t forget – when she is not being Mom, she has just a few other things going on.

She’s a daughter, a woman, a wife, a worker, a homemaker and a friend.

Top Mississippi lawmakers reach deal on income tax cut

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi House and Senate leaders reached a deal Saturday to reduce the state income tax over four years, saying it would be the largest tax cut in the state’s history.

“We are positioning ourselves to be one of the most tax-friendly states in the country,” Republican House Speaker Philip Gunn said.

Starting next year, the 4% income tax bracket would be eliminated. The following three years, the 5% bracket would be reduced to 4%.

After the first year, the tax-free income levels would be \$18,300 for a single person and \$36,600 for a married couple, lawmakers said.

Republican Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann said the tax cut plan is responsible.

“Our constituents expect us to fund core government services in infrastructure, education, healthcare and other areas,” Hosemann said in a statement Saturday. “Our budget experts have assured us we can continue to do this and significantly ease the tax burden on hardworking Mississippians.”

Mississippi is one of the poorest states in the nation, and its income tax generates 34% of state revenue. The poorest residents would see no gain from eliminating the income tax because they are not paying it now.

Mississippi has enjoyed robust tax collections the past several months, partly because of increased federal spending during the COVID-19 pandemic. But the state also faces expensive budget items, including

a long-running court case that requires improvements to the mental health system. Legislators have rarely put all the required money into a school funding formula that has been in law since the late 1990s.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Josh Harkins, a Republican from Brandon, said the tax cut would reduce state revenue by \$185 million the first year. By the final year, the figure would be \$525 million. The state-funded portion of the budget is nearly \$7 billion.

The tax cut plan will come up for votes in the full House and Senate in coming days, and it is expected to pass.

Gunn and Hosemann had been at odds over tax-cut proposals the past several weeks.

Gunn and Republican Gov. Tate Reeves wanted to phase out Mississippi’s income tax over several years. Hosemann sought a more cautious plan to reduce, but not eliminate, the income tax and to reduce the grocery tax and temporarily suspend the state gasoline tax.

Under the deal reached Saturday, the gas tax and the grocery tax would not change. The deal specifies that s by 2026, legislators should evaluate whether to phase out the final bits of the income tax.

“The goal is elimination of the income tax in Mississippi, and we have made a major milestone toward that goal here today,” said House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Trey Lamar, a Republican from Senatobia.

Reeves on Saturday called the plan “a good step” but said he still

wants to eliminate the income tax.

“It is a win at the beginning of this fight. It is not the end,” he wrote on Twitter.

Russ Latino is president of Empower Mississippi, a group that advocates limited government and has pushed for elimination of the income tax. He praised the deal legislators reached Saturday.

“It’s happening in a quick way that’s going to put money back into working people’s pockets at a time where we’ve got record inflation,” Latino said.

Nine states don’t have an income tax and one more, New Hampshire, only taxes interest and dividends, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Opponents of repealing the Mississippi income tax point to Republican-led Kansas, which enacted big tax cuts in 2012 and 2013 but repealed many of them in 2017 after large and persistent budget shortfalls.

Under current laws, a single person with no dependents in Mississippi currently pays no tax on the first \$12,300 of income. Because of tax cuts approved years ago, the tax-free amount will increase to \$13,300 after this year. The state has a 4% tax on the next \$5,000 of income and a 5% tax on all income above that.

Saturday night was the deadline for legislators to file final versions of tax bills and budget bills. They missed the budget deadline and filed placeholder bills. They face a Monday deadline to approve spending plans for the state budget year begins July 1.

Mississippi reveals redistricting for state House and Senate

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi legislators on Sunday unveiled plans to redraw the state House and Senate districts to account for population changes revealed by the 2020 Census.

The House has 122 districts, and the Senate has 52. Republicans hold wide majorities in both chambers, and the redistricting plans are unlikely to change that. The next elections for four-year terms are in November 2023.

Senate President Pro Tempore Dean Kirby by Pearl said Sunday that the Senate redistricting plan keeps the same number of Republican-leaning and Democratic-leaning districts as now.

About 62% of Mississippi residents are white, and about 36% are Black, according to the Census Bureau.

Historical voting patterns in Mississippi show districts with higher populations of white resi-

dents tend to lean toward Republicans and districts with higher populations of Black residents tend to lean toward Democrats.

In the Senate, most of the territory now represented by Republican Sen. Melanie Sojourner of Natchez and Democratic Sen. Albert Butler of Port Gibson were combined into a single majority-Black district. Kirby said a new majority-white district was created in Rankin and Smith counties, near the Jackson metro area.

“Nobody got exactly what they wanted,” Kirby said.

In the House, districts now represented by Democratic Rep. Tommy Reynolds of Charleston and Republican Rep. Chris Brown of Nettleton are being absorbed into surrounding districts because their areas had stagnant population.

One new House district is being created in DeSoto County in the northwestern corner of the state, and one new one is be-

ing created in coastal Harrison County.

The House redistricting chairman, Republican Rep. Jim Beckett of Bruce, said he asked representatives for their ideas in drawing the updated map.

“You tell us what’s the core part of your district,” Beckett said. “In a perfect world, how would you like to draw your district?”

The Census showed the Delta had the largest population loss in Mississippi between 2010 and 2020.

DeSoto County continued its growth surge. Parts of northeastern Mississippi, the metro Jackson suburbs and coastal counties also gained population.

The House and Senate are expected to approve the redistricting plans in coming days. Because legislative redistricting is done through a resolution rather than a bill, Republican Gov. Tate Reeves will not have the power to sign or veto the plans.

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Nissan and the Black Automotive Media Group select 13 Jackson State University students for Multimedia Automotive Apprenticeship

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A partnership has been created for students interested in exploring multimedia career opportunities within the automotive industry. Through the Black Automotive Media Group (BAMG), minority students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) will participate in a 10-week, field-credit academic program that's comprised of virtual training and mentoring sessions also known as The Driving Force (TDF).

TDF evolved following a series of discussions between automakers and BAMG members in 2020. Those conversations began with an effort to improve the diversity and inclusion of African-American journalists covering the industry and the opportune moment presented itself to help prepare the next generation of mobility media experts.

"Our collaboration with Jackson State University and Nissan America marks the 6th academic program with HBCUs that allows us to extend resources and

experience to black students," said BAMG founding member Kimatni D. Rawlins. "The Driving Force will continue to help shape career pathways for talented scholars while offering more perspective on automotive industry opportunities."

For the Spring, 2022 academic session, TDF welcomes 13 students from Jackson State Uni

The TDF program would not be possible without the commitment and support from Nissan Americas.

"The Driving Force Program is a great opportunity to build interest and enthusiasm for the auto industry among the next generation of young professionals," said Ashli C. Bobo, director, Corporate Communications, Nissan North America. "We look forward to working with BAMG to educate Jackson State University students about the world of automotive journalism and communications."

TDF is led by respected media specialists Kimatni D. Rawlins of Automotive Rhythms Com-

munications, Marcus Amick, and Greg Morrison from Bumper2Bumpertv, with additional support from an array of black automotive journalists and publishers.

"The Department of Journalism and Media Studies is pleased to be a part of TDF with BAMG and Nissan America," said Dr. Elayne Hayes Anthony, chairman of the JSU Department of Journalism and Media Studies. "Our students will gain pertinent skills that will open new doors in the automotive industry. We are honored that our students can engage in an industry that will continue to hone their skills in writing, interviewing, public relations and social media. We appreciate the team at Nissan for supporting the partnership."

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Nissan, Jackson State University, and the Black Automotive Media Group

The Students

KC Madison

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Jordan Riley

Raphael Beckworth

Iasha Chaney

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Pierre Andrews

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AR Automotive Rhythms

Local Mississippi teachers launch new programs through Nissan and BankPlus Mini Grant Program

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Pouring into communities where we operate is at the heart of Nissan's mission. Over the last 15 years, Nissan and BankPlus have partnered on the Mini Grant Program for Mississippi teachers – funding projects across the district.

For the 2021 to 2022 school year, more than \$20,000 is being awarded to nine teachers.

The six grants are funding elementary and middle school programming focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Life Skills 101, Learning to Love Letters and more.

Kimberly Popichak, a special education teacher at Mannsdale Upper Elementary, is using her grant award on supplies to help her students continue to develop their strengths and interests – while exposing them to STEM activities. Two teachers, Carney Holloway and Peri Frazier, of Old Town Middle School, applied to continue their work on teaching basic life skills to students school-wide.

"It is teachers who do the crucial work of supporting students and continuously encouraging them to learn new things," said Parul Bajaj, senior manager, Philanthropy. "We are honored to further their efforts to create positive change in their schools."

The Canton Public School District received three grants for Canton High School and Myers Can-

Nissan and BankPlus officials with local teachers in Madison County who received mini grants for their classrooms.

ton Schools of Arts & Sciences programming.

At Canton High School, new choir director Marjorie Williams plans to use her award to build a choir program for students. Natascha Beals-Bradley and April Anderson at Reuben B. Myers School of Arts and Science are seeking to build interest and support students on the subjects of grammar, vocabulary and mathematics.

With these recent contributions, nearly 2,000 children in these programs are impacted. To date the program has given over \$900,000 to the Madison County School District and the Canton Public School District.

Thanks to the works of these dedicated teachers and their programs, the future will be bright.

Teacher and elementary school students enjoying their classroom work.

Sprains and Strains

By Vince Faust
Tips to be Fit

Spring is here or so it seems and there's no mask mandate and we're starting to get out. Many of us will over do it and suffer a sprain or a strain. It can be a very painful situation.

These injuries can happen to people of all ages. While these injuries can be very painful, they are not life threatening but they can make your daily life difficult. We should never take them for granted. These injuries can become serious problems and then become life threatening.

Your body's muscles are soft tissue. Your body has over 600 muscles that are attached to your bones by tissue called tendons. Your bones are hard, dense, strong and rigid. You have over 200 bones that help to support your body. Your bones are connected with ligaments.

Sprains and strains occur when the force of impact is greater than your body part can withstand. Sometimes, overuse injuries can degrade tissues and joints and set the stage for a sprain or strain.

A sprain is when you tear a ligament at a joint. A mild sprain can have swelling but most of the time it will heal very quickly. You shouldn't take a mild sprain for granted because if you ignore it and rush back to activity before you heal that could lead to weaker bones and ligaments that can lead to a more severe injury.

A sever sprain can involve a fracture or a dislocation of a bone at your joint. A strain is a stretching or tearing of a mus-



cle or tendon.

You may experience strains because you lift something too heavy or you work a muscle too hard. Strains in the neck and back can be reoccurring health issues.

Remember R. I. C. E. D. if you have a strain or sprain. This acronym is Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation and Doctor. I added the "D."

Here's what they mean:

Rest. Don't use the injured part. Using an injured body part will only aggravate the injury. When all the swelling, discoloration, pain or tender-

ness has completely subsided and lost strength has been recovered, it should be safe to exercise.

Ice. Apply ice to the injured area as soon as possible. If you can apply ice in the first 10 minutes, you can significantly reduce recovery time. Cold constricts blood vessels and this will help limit internal bleeding, prevent some swelling and help control pain. Ice can also help limit the potential severity of your injury.

Compression. Rapping or gently compressing the area with massage will give sup-

port, help to reduce swelling and discoloration and prevent tissue separation at the site of the injury.

Elevation. Elevating an injured area also helps to reduce swelling, along with the reduction of pain and discoloration.

Continue R.I.C.E. for 24 to 48 hours, or until you see your doctor.

Not all minor strains and sprains need to be evaluated by your doctor but if your symptoms don't diminish or they don't go away you should see your doctor.

You should go to the doctor:

- If the injured area is painful to the touch
- If there is significant bruising and swelling
- If there is significant deformity.
- You can't use the injured part of your body
- Bone is sticking out of your skin
- If you heard a snap or pop at the time of your injury
- Your injured area is cold, numb or tingly
- The cause of your injury suggest that it severe
- Your injury involved your head, neck or spine

• You have trouble breathing
Some severe injuries may not need a 911 call. A broken finger, broken toe or a sprained ankle are examples of injuries that don't require a 911 call.

If you decide to transport an injured person you should have someone else drive so you can keep an eye on the injured person. If the injury is to the neck, pelvis, hip or thigh you should call 911.

Sprains and strains can take a few days to a year to recover. You should strive for a gradual, progressive improvement of your injury. You should try to restore your strength and stability to your injured body part before you return to your sport, fitness activity or work. A professional can help provide you with strength and stability exercises to help you heal and minimize the risk of a repeat injury.

You should call 911 if:

- You are involve in a motor vehicle accident
- You are injured because of a fall that was greater than your height
- You safety helmet was broken during your accident
- The victim is not fully alert
- The victim is younger than 3 years old
- If the victim appears frail or is older than 65 years old
- Victim complains of a neck or back pain
- Has tingling or weakness in their extremities

You can help prevent sprains and strains by strengthening muscles around your joints. Regular exercise can also build a strong skeletal framework and help prevent injuries.

FDA oks another Pfizer, Moderna COVID booster for 50 and up

By Lauran Neergaard
and Matthew Perrone
Associated Press

U.S. regulators on Tuesday authorized another COVID-19 booster for people age 50 and older, a step to offer extra protection for the most vulnerable in case the coronavirus rebounds.

The Food and Drug Administration's decision opens a fourth dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines to that age group at least four months after their previous booster.

Until now, the FDA had cleared fourth doses only for people 12 and older who have severely weakened immune systems. The agency said this especially fragile group also can get an additional booster, a fifth shot.

The latest expansion, regardless of people's health, allows an extra shot to millions more Americans – once the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention weighs in with its own recommendations.

One lingering question is whether everyone who's eli-

gible should rush out and seek the dose right away.

Everyone eligible for a first booster who hasn't gotten one yet needs to, FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks said. But the second booster is only for these higher-risk groups because there's evidence protection can wane and FDA decided the option "will help save lives and prevent severe outcomes."

The move comes at a time of great uncertainty. COVID-19 cases have dropped to low levels after the winter surge of the super-contagious Omicron variant. Two vaccine doses plus a booster still provide strong protection against severe disease and death, CDC data show.

But an Omicron sibling is causing a worrisome jump in infections in Europe – and spreading in the U.S. – even as vaccination has stalled. About two-thirds of Americans are fully vaccinated, and half of those eligible for a first booster haven't gotten one.

Pfizer had asked the FDA to

clear a fourth shot for people 65 and older, while Moderna requested another dose for all adults "to provide flexibility" for the government to decide who really needs one.

FDA's Marks said regulators set the age at 50 because that's when chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes become more common, increasing the risks from COVID-19. As for the immune-compromised, Marks said those patients are more likely to see their immune protection wane sooner and therefore can benefit more from extra protection.

Only the Pfizer vaccine can be used in those as young as 12; Moderna's is for adults.

There's limited evidence to tell how much benefit another booster could offer right now. FDA made the decision without input from its independent panel of experts that has wrestled with how much data is required to expand shots.

"There might be a reason to top off the tanks a little bit" for older people and those with

other health conditions, said University of Pennsylvania immunologist E. John Wherry, who wasn't involved in the government's decision.

But while he encourages older friends and relatives to follow the advice, the 50-year-old Wherry – who is healthy, vaccinated and boosted – doesn't plan on getting a fourth shot right away. With protection against severe illness still strong, "I'm going to wait until it seems like there's a need."

None of the COVID-19 vaccines are as strong against the Omicron mutant as they were against earlier versions of the virus. Also, protection against milder infections naturally wanes over time. But the immune system builds multiple layers of defense and the type that prevents severe illness and death is holding up.

During the U.S. Omicron wave, two doses were nearly 80% effective against needing a ventilator or death – and a booster pushed that protection to 94%, the CDC recently reported. Vaccine effective-

ness was lowest – 74% – in immune-compromised people, the vast majority of whom hadn't gotten a third dose.

U.S. health officials also looked to Israel, which during the Omicron surge opened a fourth dose to people 60 and older at least four months after their last shot. The FDA said no new safety concerns emerged in a review of 700,000 fourth doses administered.

Preliminary data posted online last week suggested some benefit: Israeli researchers counted 92 deaths among more than 328,000 people who got the extra shot, compared to 232 deaths among 234,000 people who skipped the fourth dose.

What's far from clear is how long any extra benefit from another booster would last, and thus when to get it.

"The 'when' is a really difficult part. Ideally we would time booster doses right before surges but we don't always know when that's going to be," said Dr. William Moss, a vaccine expert at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of

Public Health.

Plus, a longer interval between shots helps the immune system mount a stronger, more cross-reactive defense.

"If you get a booster too close together, it's not doing any harm – you're just not going to get much benefit from it," said Wherry.

The newest booster expansion may not be the last: Next week, the government will hold a public meeting to debate if everyone eventually needs a fourth dose, possibly in the fall, of the original vaccine or an updated shot.

Even if higher-risk Americans get boosted now, Marks said they may need yet another dose in the fall if regulators decide to tweak the vaccine.

For that effort, studies in people – of Omicron-targeted shots alone or in combination with the original vaccine – are underway. The National Institutes of Health recently tested monkeys and found "no significant advantage" to using a booster that targets just Omicron.

P R E S E R V E D

Shock treatment

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Over 35 years ago, my father died and became one of the walking dead. What I mean by this is that he died but was brought back to life. I was in my college dorm room when I got the call from my younger sister that something had happened to my daddy. She was crying uncontrollably, and I could barely make out what she was saying. The only thing I could understand between her sobs was “Daddy had died but was on his way to the hospital.” I immediately hung up the phone, grabbed the keys to my car and rushed out of my room. I could barely control my emotions and drove as fast as I could to the hospital on the other side of town. All that kept running

through my mind as I sped in rush hour traffic was what could have happened. I found out what my sister meant when I got to the hospital. He had actually died but was brought back to life by a next-door neighbor who knew CPR. EMS technicians then transported him to the hospital where we got the diagnosis that he had both sleep apnea and heart arrhythmia. Because of the sleep apnea, he’d stopped breathing while he was taking a nap. While he’d stopped breathing, his heart had also stopped beating. He stayed in the hospital for months as doctors worked to repair the damage to his heart and vital organs. Part of the solution for his heart arrhythmia was to install a defibrillator which would shock his heart back to normal rhythm if it ever stopped again. When the heart stops, the machine sends a bolt of electricity that

my father doesn’t even feel... but it keeps his heart beating on time. We didn’t completely understand how an electrical shock wouldn’t bring him more pain, but we were glad that they were able to keep him alive. Psalm 37: 4 says that if we delight in the LORD, he will give us the desires of our heart. Delighting in God means that we make a conscious decision to follow his will even in the most difficult circumstances, even if those circumstances include a broken heart. When our hearts become weakened or even dead to sin, God sometimes allows jolts (disappointments, setbacks, etc.) to get our hearts back on rhythm. Psalm 51:17 also reminds us that “The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.” In other words, I never

thought that having a shock to the heart would be a good thing. I remember some “shocks” that have jolted my heart. What these jolts did was remind me that even though I thought my “heart” was right, I still needed to work on genuine forgiveness. Like my daddy, I didn’t realize that I had a problem with that issue, until something happened that broke my heart. In the healing process, God showed me how that jolt was not intended to “kill” me but merely to show me that my heart needed to be strengthened. 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 @she-wanda.

Study God’s word, it is an order

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



God has given us an unusual formula for going upward. The world does not like this formula, and many church people do not like it. Nevertheless, the way to go up with God is to go down. You may say in your mind, “You can’t go up by going down,” but God says you can go down. First Peter 5:6 states, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.” The way up with God is always down. You need to prepare yourself with the wisdom that the Word of God gives you. You must be a consistent reader of God’s Word and study it. You ought to become a familiar student of the Bible. Many people know much about the internet, the sports world, and the automotive world; however, not very many people become students of God’s Word. James wrote in James 1:21 that it is “the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.” Each of us ought to have the desire to be faithful to God, but not necessarily the desire to be mighty. We are not seeking to be great. The child of God should not strive to be great or mighty, but he should strive to be faithful and true. Jeremiah 45:5 says, “And seekest thou great things

for thyself? Seek them not.” Another means of preparing your heart before the Lord was given by Jude in a two-part formula in verses 20-21: “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, (Oh, how important it is for every child of God to live grounded in the faith of the Word of God, believing in the promises of Word, holding to that which God has given you, exercising yourself daily in a faithful walk). God wants to see His children standing strong, firm and tall with Him amid fiery trials or in the storms of life. In the times of affliction, through the maze of terrible temptations, God wants to see you survive. He wants you to be on the winning side all the way, praying in the Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

You must keep yourself in the love of God. How can you prepare your way before the Lord? You must avoid bitterness and shun every hateful thought and ill-mannered temptation. You must keep yourself under constant subjection to the Will of God and be in full obedience to the Lord. You must obey God. Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton, VA 23669.



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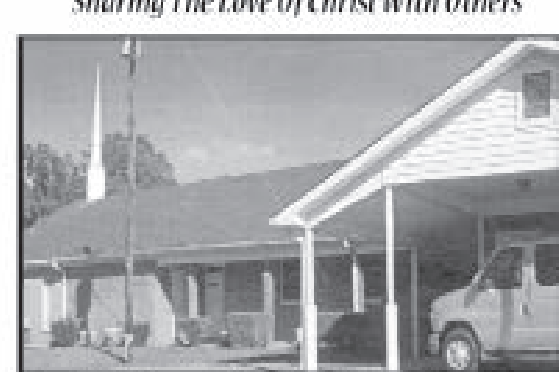


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The constant and unconscionable rejection of rules and laws is the mantra of most Republicans

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



Here are the questions for the day. Is anyone above the law? Can anyone engage in wrong and think it’s right? The knee-jerk reaction to both questions is no. Further, we have laws that we should follow. Over time, these laws have been reviewed and tweaked.

And of course, our lawmakers have created new laws for us to follow. The goal has always been to make our country a better place to live.

For example, people who look like me and women could not vote. As strange as that may sound, that was the rule in years gone by. Through struggles and stress, our right to vote is still intact. However, it must be said that some folks are still trying in 2022 to marginalize our voting power.

The past administration with a group of his minions attempted to discount our votes in the most recent election. It didn’t work. Right and reason prevailed.

Earlier on January 6, there was an insurrection at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. Unbelievable and horrible are two words that come to my mind. I am sure you can think of some other adjectives to describe this once in a lifetime event. Members of the Republican Party downplayed the event and pretended that it didn’t happen.

Legislators like Ted Cruz, Steve Scalise, Mitch McConnell and Rick Scott have signed onto this attack upon our democracy. They have sold their souls and they are void of fundamental integrity. It is hypocritical and unethical. The former president is whistling, and they are singing his tune. Secrets must be at stake because I do not understand how they can follow a fellow whose character has become unglued and unhinged. They are in the forest with blindfolds on at night.

Last week concluded the Judiciary Committee’s confirmation hearing of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the U.S. Supreme Court. The average poll numbers by Gallup, Fox, Monmouth University, Quinnipiac University and the Pew Research Center say about 53% of the American people support her confirmation. Obviously, it is good to be respected in the public square. There are a few Republicans who feel the same way.

Some reports suggest Lisa Murkowski, Susan Collins and Rob Portman will be Republican senators who will vote for Jackson. There is also good news from a Democratic senator who says he will support her as well. Senator Joe Manchin from West Virginia will cast his ballot for her. That is indeed a vote that was unknown until he said it. His vote will help stem the tide of Republicans who will vote against her.

Senator Cory Booker, Democrat from New Jersey, said, “I got a chance to witness firsthand what I think many people in America can relate to, is when you show up in a room qualified, when you show up in a room with extraordinary expertise and credentials, there are a lot of Americans who know that hurt, that you are still going to be treated in a way that does not respect you fully.”

As African Americans, many of us have been in those spaces a time or two in our lives.

The vote to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson will be coming up soon. It will be, I believe, a defining moment in American history.

Radios will be on to listen, and televisions will be on to watch as the reporting begins on Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson becoming the 1st African-American woman to be a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

I can’t wait. Can you?

Best days lie ahead for the rural economy

By Dr. Trina N. George
*State Director, USDA Rural
Development in Mississippi*



Growing up in rural Mississippi, I’ve seen firsthand the negative effects presented when communities are lacking access to

basic needs, such as clean drinking water, healthy and affordable foods, broadband technology and access to adequate healthcare services.

Earlier this month, President Biden used his first State of the Union address to talk about where our country has been and where we are going. The president mentioned a lot we can be proud of and even more to look forward to, especially in rural America.

The country has faced deep challenges over the past year, and the people of rural America know this better than anyone. But rural communities are resilient, and as the success of rural America goes, so goes the rest of the country.

That’s why the progress we have made in rural Mississippi over the past year is a good sign for everyone. By investing in water infrastructure and broadband, rural business opportunities and the American food supply chain, USDA is helping communities build a foundation for sustained economic growth.

Many are familiar with our home loan program but when I meet with our customers, I explain to them that Rural Development programs can build a community from the ground up. For example, Rural Development recently invested \$4.3 million with the Town of Como, Mississippi to make upgrades to their existing water system, including: rehabilitating the existing 300,000-gallon elevated storage tank and demolishing the existing 100,000 gallon storage tank, replacing all existing water meters with radio read meters, installing approximately 12,400 feet of new piping, and constructing a new pump station, ensuring safe delivery of water service for an entire community.

Rural Development is also making investments in high-speed internet access, including investing \$3 million with the Bay Springs Telephone Company to construct an approximately 80-mile Fiber-to-the-Premises system that will benefit thousands of residents and five businesses in the Jasper County, Mississippi service area.

Subscribers will have access to service up to 1 gigabit per second, expanding access to economic, educational, health care and public safety opportunities. A community center will be provided in an existing building where residents can access the Internet free of charge for at least two years.

These investments create jobs and economic opportunities in rural areas. They help grow the economy from the bottom up and middle out like the president talked about. And they contribute to a circular economy where the resources and wealth we build in rural Mississippi stay right here in Mississippi.

And they’re just the beginning. In the State of the Union, Presi-

dent Biden committed to investing in renewable energy, beginning to replace poisonous lead pipes – so every child – and every American – has clean water to drink at home and at school, and providing affordable high-speed Internet for every American in urban, suburban, rural and tribal communities.

The Biden-Harris Administration’s plan for the economy is already producing historic wins, and there’s room for everyone to participate, no matter their zip code. That’s why we’re optimistic that our best days lie ahead.

By giving everyone a fair shot and providing equitable access to federal resources, we can do our part to carry out the president’s economic vision. That means making more things here at home, strengthening our supply chains and lowering costs for working families. It means giving people opportunities to make a good living without having to leave the communities they know and love.

For a lot of us, that means staying right here in rural Mississippi.

We’re not letting anybody steal our joy

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



A congressional meeting room might be the last place people would expect to find joy.

But joy was in the air on the opening day of the confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. Joy was in my heart and in the hearts of so many friends and colleagues who were in the room that day.

Why were we feeling joyful?

We were joyful because this brilliant judge is about to become the first black woman ever to serve on this country’s highest court.

We were joyful because we could feel the love and pride from Judge Jackson’s parents, brother, husband and daughters.

As a father, I was joyful because my black daughter can look to a new role model. She has a new reason to believe that her

dreams, talents and hard work can take her wherever she wants to go.

We all knew that the week ahead would be a difficult one for Jackson. There would be grueling 12-hour days. There would be disgraceful lies. There would be examples of barely concealed racism. All of that happened. And none of it broke Jackson’s spirit or calm professionalism.

In the face of smears and false accusations, she gracefully explained the truth about her record and her commitment to applying the law fairly.

She showed Americans a strength grounded in faith. She demonstrated a self-confidence built over years of perseverance and accomplishment.

She spoke about her love for our country and for the Constitution.

We live at a time when the Court is dominated by judges who do not share a commitment to justice for all. We live at a time when white nationalism and

bigotry are openly promoted by powerful politicians and pundits.

Jackson’s nomination gave us a reason for renewed hope that our country can and will continue to make progress toward the ideal of equal justice under law and equal opportunity for all Americans.

It was also a reminder that millions of Americans played a part in making this moment possible.

Millions of us voted to replace former President Donald Trump with President Joe Biden, who made a commitment to putting a black woman on the Supreme Court.

Millions of us contributed to the effort to elect Sens. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff in runoff elections in Georgia. Those elections kept Republicans from controlling the U.S. Senate. They kept Sen. Mitch McConnell from being able to abuse his power to prevent President Biden’s nominees from even getting a vote, as he did so often with President Obama’s judicial nominees.

All of us who donated time and money, knocked on doors, made phone calls or sent texts to potential voters, and who cast our ballots – we all helped bring about that joyful morning on Capitol Hill. And we can all look forward to celebrating when she is sworn in as Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

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

Mississippi Is open for business

By Michael Watson
Secretary of State State of Mississippi



As a lifetime Mississippian, I’m proud of the continued advancements of our beloved Magnolia State. Amid a pandemic and volatile economy, Mississippi has continued to live up to its resilient reputa-

tion and expand its illustrious resume.

According to a recent report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Mississippi’s unemployment rate dropped from 6.6% to 4.6% in just one year. The two-point decline marks our lowest unemployment rate since 1976. However, this record low should not be a surprise to those who have followed our business

and economic data.

In 2021 alone, there were 63,093 new businesses formed in Mississippi, which is a 22% increase from 2020 and a vigorous 119% increase from the 28,869 new businesses formed in 2019. Let’s be clear; this growth is not solely due to federal COVID-19 relief dollars. Facts such as being the most affordable state in which to live and being a top-five

state for business incentive programs are driving Mississippi’s free market.

Another enhancement to our state’s economy has been our Tackle the Tape initiative. Through this initiative, we partner with Mississippi businesses, state agencies, legislative leaders and citizens to help cut regulations that hinder job growth and innovation.

Our success continues to receive national recognition and sets the standard for regulatory reform. While we cannot quantify the number of new jobs created as a result of the 70+ votes I have cast as a member of the Occupational Licensing Review Commission, we can be certain of the ever-growing list of individuals who have received assistance with overcoming some

form of red tape.

The driving force behind each vote remains the same – foster an environment where businesses and Mississippians can prosper.

With a thriving commercial economy, competitive labor market, meaningful measures to rid burdensome regulations, and a meaningful personal income tax cut on the horizon, Mississippi is ripe for business.

Kamala Harris praises Black Press in ‘Off Script’ moment at Antilynching Bill signing

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

With Michelle Duster, the great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells, by her side, Vice President Kamala Harris admittedly went off-script to praise the Black Press during the bill signing ceremony for the Emmett Till Antilynching law. As the vice president and President Joe Biden delivered about 30 minutes’ worth of remarks, Harris reflected.

“Ida B. Wells,” she began midway through her speech. “The courageous nature of that incredible American who used her skill, her profession, her calling, as a journalist to help open the eyes of our nation to the terror of lynching which speaks to the role – going off script – and the importance of the Black Press and making sure that we have storytellers in our community, who will tell the story when no one else is willing to tell it,” she stated.

Named after Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American savagely murdered by a group of white men in Mississippi in 1955, the legislation received pushback from three Republicans – Andrew Clyde of Georgia, Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Chip Roy of Texas.

Each was the lone vote against the bill.

Emmett Till’s murder sparked the civil rights movement, leading to bills like the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and other social justice laws. And while the story of Emmett Till



Harris

is widely known, Harris noted other incidents of lynching throughout American history.

“So those heroes who petitioned presidents to pass anti-lynching legislation, after the murder of Mary Turner in 1918, Emmett Till in 1955, James Byrd Jr. in 1998, and James Craig in 2011, and it failed again and again and again,” Harris remarked.

“Anti-lynching legislation was reintroduced in the U.S. Congress by leaders who understood that our past must

not and cannot be forgotten. That the truth must be spoken no matter how difficult it is to speak, and certainly no matter how difficult it is to hear.”

She praised Sen. Cory Booker (D-New Jersey), and Congressman Bobby Rush (D-Illinois) for their role in seeing the bill through to passage. Harris also shouted out Republican South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott for supporting the effort.

“The people of our nation deserve the protection of this anti-lynching law,” Harris demand-

ed. “I believe so often, and it has been said, the victims of lynching were targeted because they were working to build a better America,” she stated.

“That’s what they were doing, and it was in everyone’s best interest. But unfortunately, the cowards couldn’t see and couldn’t understand. “So, today, we recognize them, our history, and let us recommit ourselves to that unfinished business as well to continue to fight for freedom, opportunity, and justice for all.”

Republican Senator Susan Collins says ‘yes’ to Judge Jackson



Jackson

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Republican Sen. Susan Collins has announced plans to vote in favor of confirming Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, bucking her party leadership and ensuring that the D.C. Circuit Court Judge will become the first black woman on the highest court in America.

Earlier, Sen. Joe Manchin announced he would vote to confirm Judge Jackson, a significant development for the nominee as the West Virginia Democrat has often cast ballots against or stopped President Joe Biden’s agenda.

Sen. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), who more often than not receives 100 percent support from his caucus, had urged Republicans to vote against Judge Jackson.

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who had previously voted to confirm Judge Jackson to her current post, is expected to cast a “no” vote this time.

Collins announced that she had met with Judge Jackson twice and that the nominee had “alleviated some concerns” the Republican had expressed.

“I have decided to support the confirmation of Judge Jackson to be a member of the Supreme Court,” Collins declared. *The New York*

Times reported that the centrist senator felt reassured that Judge Jackson would not be “bending the law to meet a personal preference” and that the nominee met her standard for serving on the court.

“In recent years, senators on both sides of the aisle have gotten away from what I perceive to be the appropriate process for evaluating judicial nominees,” Collins stated.

“In my view, the role under the Constitution assigned to the Senate is to look at the nominee’s credentials, experience and qualifications. It is not to assess whether a nominee reflects the individual ideology of a senator or would vote exactly as an individual senator would want.”

Collins’ decision means that Democrats will now be able to claim that Judge Jackson’s confirmation was indeed bipartisan. Republicans Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Mitt Romney of Utah are also viewed as potential “yes” votes on the nomination.

“There can be no question that she is qualified to be a Supreme Court justice,” Collins stated.

“Judge Jackson has a breadth of experience as a law clerk, attorney in private practice, federal public defender, member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission and district court judge for more than eight years.”

Will Smith issues public apology for Oscar smackdown

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

With news that the Academy officially launched a formal review of Will Smith’s assault on Chris Rock during Sunday’s ceremony, the Best Actor Oscar winner issued an apology to the comedian.

As those in charge of the awards show asserted they would “explore further action and consequences in accordance with our bylaws, standards of conduct and California law,” Smith issued a repentant tone for his role.

“Violence in all of its forms is poisonous and destructive. My behavior at last night’s Academy Awards was unacceptable and inexcusable,” Smith wrote on his official Instagram page. “Jokes at my expense are a part of the job, but a joke about Jada’s medical condition was too much for me to bear and I reacted emotion-



Smith slapping Rock



Will Smith

ally.”

He continued: “I would like to publicly apologize to you, Chris. I was out of line, and I was wrong. I am embarrassed and my actions were not indicative of the man I want to be.

There is no place for violence in a world of love and kindness.

“I would also like to apologize to the Academy, the producers of the show, all the attendees and everyone watching around the world. I would like

to apologize to the Williams Family and my ‘King Richard’ Family. I deeply regret that my behavior has stained what has been an otherwise gorgeous journey for all of us. “I am a work in progress.”

ANYTIME ONLINE

Breaking News

Streaming Videos

Interactive Blogs

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www.mississippilink.com

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 #2HGFG21578H705737.

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, 4/7/2022

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP
RFP 2022-04 Summer Enrichment Program and Activities

Electronic rfp or paper proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), April 15, 2022 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs are opened.

There are two (2) options in which RFP proposals may be obtained. Download from Central Bidding website at www.centralbidding.com for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSPD website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us"](http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us) www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFP proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

3/31/2022, 4/7/2022

LEGAL

JACKSON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
September 30, 2021
(With Comparative Amounts for September 30, 2020)

	Business-Type Activities		
	2021	2020	
ASSETS			
Cash	\$ 5,052,242	\$ 4,596,496	
Prepaid expenses	11,091	10,875	
Rent receivable	417,345	417,345	
Due from other governments	84,726	166,766	
Interest receivable	19,662	19,662	
Accounts receivable	30,191	7,120	
Restricted cash	28,340	28,658	
Notes receivable:			
Current portion	1,034,218	1,525,260	
Noncurrent portion	740,576	769,255	
Capital assets:			
Capital assets not being depreciated	11,267,388	11,267,388	
Other capital assets net of depreciation	<u>19,303,601</u>	<u>20,334,162</u>	
Total Assets	<u>37,989,380</u>	<u>39,142,987</u>	
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	69,593	49,451	
Due to other governments	53,250	53,250	
Interest payable	84,725	108,376	
Matured bonds and interest payable	22,682	22,682	
Long-term debt:			
Current portion	1,088,019	1,524,075	
Noncurrent portion	<u>4,313,540</u>	<u>5,400,226</u>	
Total Liabilities	<u>5,631,809</u>	<u>7,158,060</u>	
NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets	25,654,430	25,387,249	
Restricted for:			
Debt service	5,658	5,975	
Unrestricted	<u>6,697,483</u>	<u>6,591,703</u>	
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 32,357,571</u>	<u>\$ 31,984,927</u>	

	Business-Type Activities				Totals	
	Administration	Urban Renewal Projects	Rehabilitation Loan Services	Parking Facilities	2021	2020
EXPENSES AND LOSSES:						
Salaries and fringe benefits	\$ 165,774	-	155,766	106,150	\$ 427,690	\$ 327,131
Repairs and maintenance	1,274	129,764	254	33,070	164,362	49,189
Security services	-	165,975	-	85,156	251,131	241,284
Utilities and telephone	7,454	1,476	-	55,266	64,196	67,716
Supplies	1,840	-	-	1,214	3,054	6,709
Legal and professional fees	166,563	40,073	-	-	206,636	225,175
Depreciation	-	799,623	-	251,309	1,050,932	1,232,489
Interest	-	276,909	-	-	276,909	358,942
Insurance	83,150	-	-	54,694	137,844	138,646
Management fees	-	-	-	3,877	3,877	-
Sales tax	-	-	-	12,484	12,484	-
Paying agent and bank fees	-	497	42	1,779	2,318	2,306
Consultant fees	-	80,581	8,206	-	88,787	67,990
Miscellaneous	4,483	858	6,774	21,821	33,936	26,021
Total Expenses and Losses	<u>430,538</u>	<u>1,495,756</u>	<u>171,042</u>	<u>626,820</u>	<u>2,724,156</u>	<u>2,743,598</u>
PROGRAM REVENUES:						
Charges for services:						
Lease rentals	-	241,550	-	703,508	945,058	1,000,482
Interest on developer project notes	-	18,000	7,580	-	25,580	36,396
Other income	-	-	-	92	92	2,595
Contributions and grants:						
Operating	430,538	163,815	-	-	594,353	749,364
Capital	-	<u>1,522,742</u>	-	-	<u>1,522,742</u>	<u>1,500,598</u>
Total Program Revenues	<u>430,538</u>	<u>1,946,107</u>	<u>7,580</u>	<u>703,600</u>	<u>3,087,825</u>	<u>3,289,435</u>
Net Program Revenues (Expense)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>450,351</u>	<u>(163,462)</u>	<u>76,780</u>	363,669	545,837
GENERAL REVENUE:						
Investment earnings					<u>8,975</u>	<u>10,193</u>
Change in Net Position					372,644	556,030
NET POSITION - BEGINNING					<u>31,984,927</u>	<u>31,428,897</u>
NET POSITION - ENDING					<u>\$ 32,357,571</u>	<u>\$ 31,984,927</u>

3/31/2022

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-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.

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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.

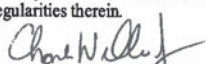
Each Bidder must deposit with his bid a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent of his bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City of Jackson. The successful bidder will be required to furnish 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@civiltechinc.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](http://www.mississippilink.com)

3/24/2022, 3/31/2022



SCAM ALERT
MEDICARE CARDS

Senior Medicare Patrol is warning Medicare beneficiaries of a new scam involving Medicare cards.

Scammers are posing as Medicare, calling beneficiaries and offering to send new, plastic Medicare cards.

-  **THIS IS A SCAM** 
- **Do not** share your Medicare number with anyone who calls, emails or texts.
 - Medicare will **never** call you to ask for your Medicare number.
 - **Review** your Medicare statements to be sure all claims belong to you.

If someone calls and asks for your Medicare number or other personal information, **hang up** and call your local SMP.

877-272-8720

.....

Tired of seniors being targeted with scams like this one? Join SMP in the fight against Medicare fraud. Volunteer to give short talks to small groups about healthcare fraud and scams or volunteer to spread awareness about the SMP program at community events in your area. Call today to find out how you can help in the fight against Medicare fraud!

www.stopmedicarefraud.org



SMP is funded by a grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, supported by grant number 90MPPG0023, 90MPPG0024 & 90MPPG0049.

Stevie Wonder's run of genius recalled on anniversary of release of some of music's greatest hits

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

When considering any run of music success – particularly from an alumnus of Motown Records – it's impossible not to reminisce about Michael Jackson's streak of brilliance with "Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "Bad."

Indeed, other artists have had their run of greatness, but none have topped the genius of Stevie Wonder, who redefined how cultural critics viewed popular music.

Some 50 years ago, the Motown legend began to unleash perhaps the most incredible and spectacular compilation of music ever recorded.

Over five years – from 1972 to 1976 – Wonder released five albums that every other recording in history will forever be measured.

Released on March 3, 1972, and with hits like "Superwoman" and "Keep on Running," Music of My Mind proved an appetizer to an exquisite meal of records.

Just months later, on October 28, Wonder put forward "Talking Book," an album that ranks No. 59 on Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Albums of All Time.

The album quickly rose to the top spot on Billboard's R&B charts, pushed by the smash hit "Superstition."

Less than a year later, on August 3, 1973, the peerless musician revealed "Innervisions," another timeless classic that included the chart-topping hits "Living for the City," "Don't You Worry about a Thing," and "Higher Ground."

On July 22, 1974, Wonder released the fourth in the series of masterpieces, "Fulfillingness' First Finale," which included Minnie Riperton's backing vocals and the Jackson Five.

The singles "You Have Done Nothing" and "Boogie on Reggae Woman" grabbed the No. 1 spot on the Billboard music



Stevie Wonder

charts.

Wonder took about two years to complete the fifth gem in his brilliant run.

That arrived September 28, 1976, with "Songs in the Key of Life," which many have called the artist's signature recording.

No one could deny the album's greatness with songs like "Isn't She Lovely," "Sir Duke," "I Wish," and "Love's in Need of Love Today."

It sold over 11 million copies and landed Wonder the "Best Album" Grammy – one of 25 over his illustrious career.

"1972 to 1976 weren't just Stevie Wonder's greatest creative years, they were the greatest creative years in music history," asserted James Watts, the CEO of Own The Grill.

"They were Rock 'n' Roll, blues and soul music's last great hurrah before the advent of punk rock, and then the new wave changed everything. And Stevie Wonder was right at the forefront of that last great creative tsunami that washed everything before, and arguably after it, away."

Watts opined that only Sly and the Family Stone's 1971 to 1974 peak could arguably compare.

"But that's about it," Watts insisted.

According to neo-funk producer and multi-instrumentalist Farees, Wonder felt limited and constricted in 1972 by the

music formats of the era.

"He proceeded to fight against the limitations of the industry and then to achieve creative freedom. Free to produce his own records and to explore new formulas beyond the usual radio formats of Motown, he released a series of immense albums," noted Farees, whose new album, "Blindsight," counts as a political call to action set to his patented "wall of groove" production style, featuring Leo Nocentelli of legendary funk pioneers, The Meters.

The album debuts in June.

Farees noted that Wonder gained creative freedom after negotiating a new deal when his contract expired with Motown Records.

"I think creative freedom was crucial for him at that time to obtain this level of musical greatness. Those records will last forever. No doubt about it," Farees insisted.

He added that the level of "awesomeness and visionary creativity" likely won't occur again.

"Innovation takes too much time and doesn't produce quick bucks," he stated. "There was a time when music was important, and people fought for it. That's really the lesson Stevie gave us with those records. Times have changed now, but not for the better. We're always moving in the wrong direction."

Sen. Manchin says he'll vote for Jackson, virtually assuring the historic confirmation

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson will win confirmation as the next U.S. Supreme Court Justice, a strong hope turned virtually factual with the commitment from Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin March 25.

Manchin of West Virginia, and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona have remained wildcards in the Democratic Party, routinely voting against their caucus and President Joe Biden's agenda.

But on Friday, Manchin declared his intention to vote in the affirmative after the country witnessed perhaps the most unprofessional confirmation hearings in history.

"I met with Judge Jackson and evaluated her qualifications to be a Supreme Court Justice," Manchin announced in a statement.

"After meeting with her, considering her record, and closely monitoring her testimony and questioning before the Senate



Jackson

Judiciary Committee this week, I have determined I intend to vote for her nomination to serve on the Supreme Court."

Following public testimony Thursday, the historic confirmation hearings concluded.

The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to meet Monday, March 28. The committee has tentatively scheduled a vote on the nomination April 4.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York) said he expects a full vote by April 11.

Democrats hope that some Republicans join them in voting to confirm Jackson. Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-S.C.), one of the main actors in these hearings,

voted in 2021 to confirm Judge Jackson to the powerful D.C. appellate court.

Graham has said he'll vote against confirmation this time.

Republicans Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, and Susan Collins of Maine, also voted to confirm Jackson in 2021.

No Democrat has publicly opposed Jackson's nomination, and Republicans have sought out Manchin and Sinema because of their track record of voting against the Democratic agenda.

It's expected Sinema will follow Manchin and vote to confirm Jackson.

If the confirmation vote splits along party lines, Vice President Kamala Harris will cast the tiebreaker, assuring Jackson's ascension as the first black woman Supreme Court Justice.

"There is nothing in Judge Jackson's record suggesting that the committee should have difficulty reporting her nomination out," Schumer demanded.

I N M E M O R I A M Madeleine Albright, first female U.S. Secretary of State, dies at 84

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Madeleine Albright, the first female secretary of state who remained a close friend with fellow secretaries, Colin Powell (the first black secretary of state) and Condoleezza Rice (the first black woman secretary of state), has died at 84.

Albright's first notable foray into the U.S. political scene came when President Jimmy Carter tapped her as his national security counselor.

Born in Prague, Czechia, Albright stood just four feet and ten inches tall. But her legacy is as significant as that of any other political figure.

Albright's family escaped the Nazis before arriving in America.

Albright would make her mark in the political sphere by advising Sen. Walter Mondale, Gov. Michael Dukakis and President Bill Clinton.

Under Clinton, she became U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and then secretary of state.

She cherished her kinship with Rice and Powell, both of whom acknowledged seeking her out for advice when they were cast in the role of secretary of state.

Following Powell's death in 2021, Albright spoke of the bond between the two respected



Albright

public servants.

"He was truly an incomparable man in every way and incredibly smart, dedicated to this country," Albright told NPR. "And turned out we were – got to be very, very good friends. And he was somebody that understood what our country needed and had served it with great honor."

Albright often spoke of her concerns about divisions in America, particularly during the Donald Trump presidency.

In 2021, she spoke of being bothered by individuals who "know about where facts come from" but ignore them.

"In a (2018) book that I wrote 'Fascism: A Warning,' I went back, and I actually looked at how fascism began, which it did with Mussolini," Albright stated during a broadcast conversation with Rice.

"The best quote in the whole

book comes from Mussolini, and he said, 'if you pluck a chicken one feather at a time, nobody notices,' and that is what I think is kind of happening in the United States," she stated.

"The major thing Mussolini did was to identify with one group at the expense of another, who then became the scapegoats. That is what worries me now. We have been, I think in many respects, artificially divided to blame somebody else."

"I think we need to respect why people are coming from where they're coming from and to make it a point to listen. And we're not doing that enough. But the main issue now is, how are we getting our information?"

Albright reportedly died surrounded by her family. Her three daughters and grandchildren survive her.



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



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

To Qualify:

- * Child must be 3 or 4 on or before September 1st
- * Family must reside in Hinds County
- * Must be a low-income family (based on the federal poverty level)

"Families of children with disabilities are encouraged to apply regardless of income."
"Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP)"

Head Start Offers the Following Services:

- * Preschool Education
- * Medical
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- * Mental Health
- * Disability
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- * Leadership Development
- * Limited Transportation

...ALL AT NO COST TO PARENTS!

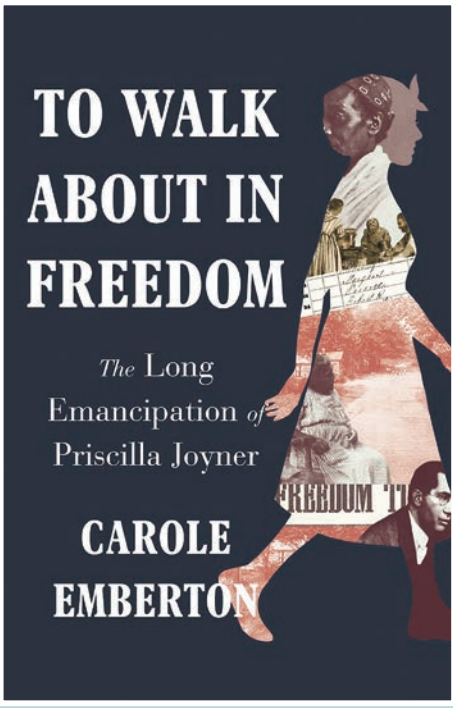
To Apply, You Must Present the Following:

- 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)**
- 7) **Legal guardianship (if applicable)**
- 8) **Documentation of foster care (if applicable)**

To apply to Head Start or receive more information, call (601) 923-3950.



PRIORITY DEADLINE: MAY 27, 2022
Helping Families, Strengthening Communities



BOOK REVIEW:

TO WALK ABOUT
IN FREEDOM:

THE LONG EMANCIPATION OF PRISCILLA JOYNER

BY CAROLE EMBERTON

C.2022, W.W. NORTON

\$28.95 • 242 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You are not confined to your chair. If you want to get up and move around, in fact, you can. Stand up, stretch, wiggle your toes, shake out the knots. Step out and drop in on the space next door or down the street and it’s okay. You’re not stuck in your chair or this room or even this building, and in “To Walk About in Freedom” by Carole Emberton, you’ll get a new appreciation for that ability. In 1935, at the end of the De-

pression, the Federal Writers’ Project (FWP) was created to put unemployed teachers, writers and editors to work, in part, by gathering oral histories, with the goal to establish a uniquely American story. Over an eight-year period, FWP workers collected 10,000 interviews, including stories from the Emancipation. Priscilla Joyner’s was one of them. She was eighty years old when two FWP workers, both of them black, came to interview her about her life. Eager to see them,

she was waiting for them on the porch of the home she’d lived in for decades. She was ready to talk... Joyner was born in January of 1858, the child of a white mother and a black father – or so she was told. She never knew for sure; the white man who gave her his name did so reluctantly. Her black birth father’s identity was something her mother took to her grave but Emberton says there were other possibilities to explain how Joyner was different than her white siblings and why they were allowed to

torment her. Though she was not a slave in the strictest sense, Joyner lived as one: she was taught domestic tasks but not how to read or write until she was twelve and her mother sent her to live with a black family, who sent Joyner to school. The move was “upsetting,” and she didn’t understand it but it turned out to be what Joyner needed. She learned to love her new home. There, she met her husband and found community... There’s no other way to say

this: “To Walk About in Freedom” is an exceptional book. On every page, in every single story, author Carole Emberton leads readers to learn something they didn’t know or to meet someone new, and it’s done between the facts of history and social mores, presented concurrently with Priscilla Joyner’s story. But Joyner’s life isn’t the only one shared here; other FWP interviewees and former slaves’ words are added to the overall, which lends further richness to what you’ll read.

Emberton then explains how some FWP interviews were nearly ruined by over-editing and “Uncle Remus” additions made by white writers and editors who insisted on it, and how Joyner’s full story was almost lost. This is one of those books that’ll make you lose track of time and your surroundings. It’ll answer questions, raise your pride, and it’ll make your head spin for days after you’re done reading it. “To Walk About in Freedom” is the book you need to keep you in your chair.

March is
National Women’s History Month
Connecting the Dots Foundation, Inc. is honoring women of distinction:
“Providing Healing ~ Promoting Hope”
~Supporting Scholarships and Historic Preservation~



Andrea Phillips, MD



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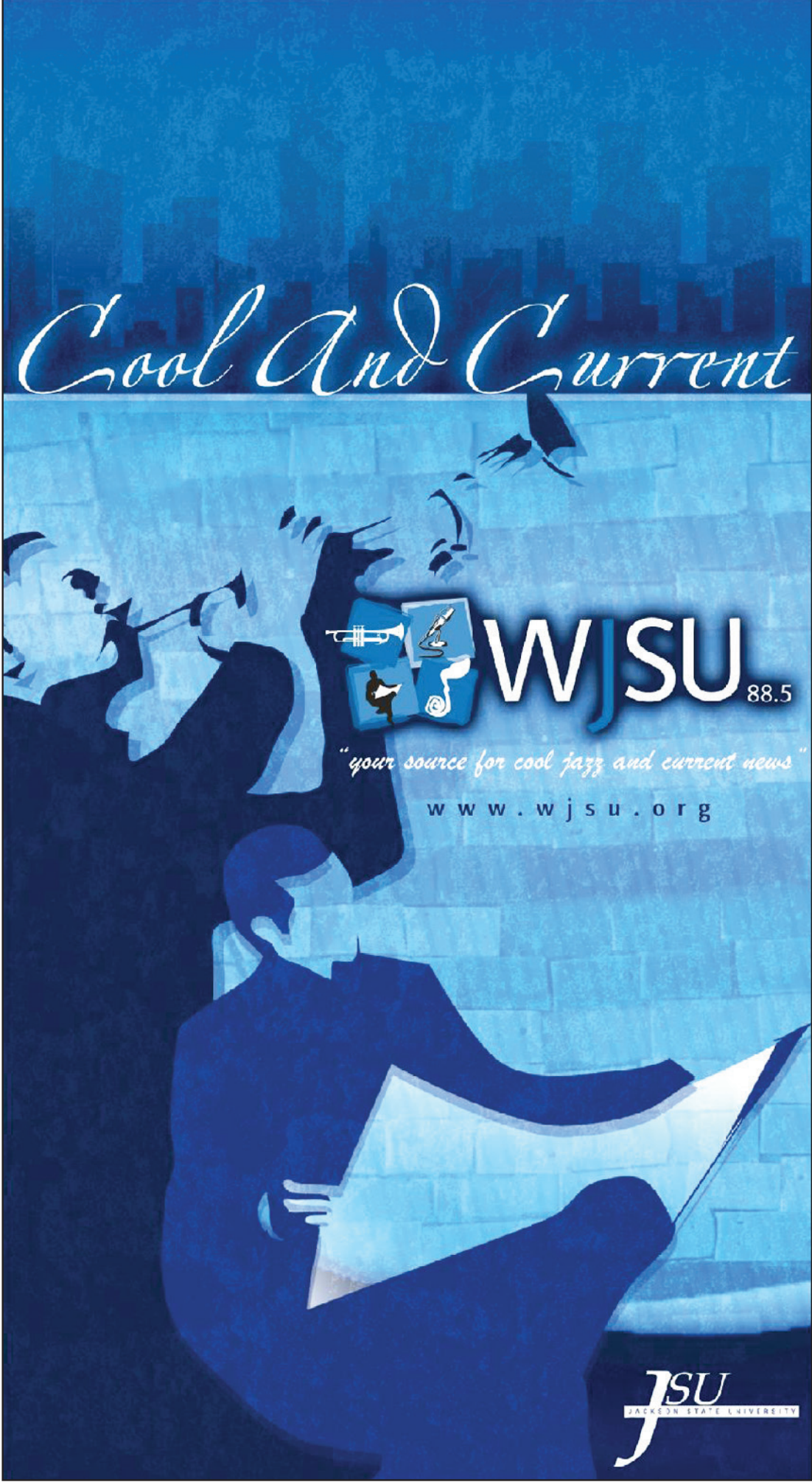


Laura Tucker, MSN, RN

April 2, 2022
6:00 p.m.
Jackson Convention Complex
105 E. Pascagoula Street
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Tickets: \$100
Tickets available at eventbrite.com
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OPENING WEEKEND

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IN EVERY
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GREAT MIGRATION

The Mississippi Museum of Art invites you to join us as we celebrate the opening of this landmark exhibition with a series of critical conversations and celebrations focused on the themes of family, ancestry, land, and self-determination.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 10 AM TO 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 10, NOON TO 6 PM
FREE EXHIBITION ADMISSION ALL WEEKEND

Artists featured in the exhibition will be in attendance:

Akea Brionne	Allison Janae Hamilton
Mark Bradford	Leslie Hewitt
Zoë Charlton	Steffani Jemison
Larry W. Cook	Robert Pruitt
Torkwase Dyson	Jamea Richmond-Edwards
Theaster Gates Jr.	Carrie Mae Weems

Along with special guests:



Saidiya Hartman
author



Darren Walker
Ford Foundation
president



Savannah Wood
Afro Charities executive
director and artist

Opening weekend events sponsored by Brian Fenelon, The Selby and Richard McRae Foundation, Ross & Yerger, Downtown Jackson Partners, Butler Snow, and the Mississippi Arts Commission.

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

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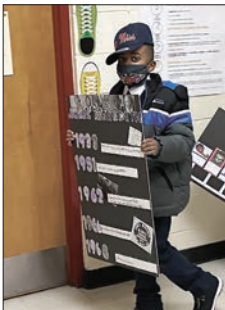


Website www.holmesccsd.org

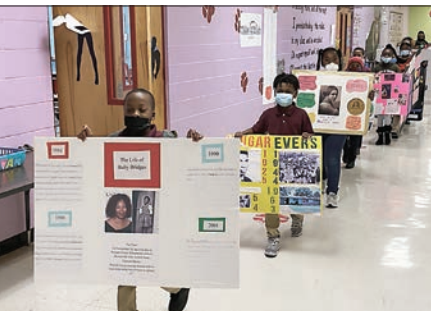
Hinds County School District Weekly Update
ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE
Gary Road Elementary Celebrates Black History Month



Gary Road Elementary School second graders celebrated Black History Month with their Famous American parade. Students researched the details about a famous American of their choice. Through this research, students learned the exciting details about their person. Then, students took the information that they learned and created a display about that person.



On the day of the parade, the second graders dressed as their famous American. The younger students lined the hallways awaiting the Famous American parade. With music blaring through the hallways, each second grader, dressed in their costumes and holding their display boards, paraded by the cheering students.



Bolton Edwards Elementary/Middle School students celebrate Black History Month.



Environmental Technical Sales, Inc.

**Pays Tribute to
Women's History Month
and salutes
Dr. Safiya R. Omari**



**for contributions
in her role as Chief of Staff
City of Jackson, MS**

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