

Magnolia, Miss. still buzzing about Saturday’s Arts 2 Health 2 Wellness Event

Lead organizer receives Senate resolution for dedicated efforts in raising mental health awareness

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

While many around the state of Mississippi may have been out Easter shopping Saturday, April 16, a crowd of folks in Magnolia, Miss. was packing city hall as early as 10 a.m. for the beginning of something unique.

They gathered for a city’s first: Arts 2 Health 2 Wellness Event. Spearheaded by hometown native-returning Traci Patterson Cook, along with co-sponsors Mayor Tammy Witherspoon and Edward “Bull Moose” Johnson, the event raised awareness as to how the arts can be used to promote mental health wellness.

“I am so excited about this day,” Patterson Cook told the audience. “This day was a vision that God gave to me.”

She later shared with *The Mississippi Link* that having grown up in Magnolia, she was exposed to the arts and civic engagement at a very young age. “I was involved in public speaking, and community projects that taught me leadership skills and public service. These experiences definitely gave me confidence and strong interpersonal skills, but it was my exposure to music through piano performance that gave me even



Sen. Kelvin Butler (left), Dist. 38, presented a Senate Resolution recognizing the significance of the Arts 2 Health 2 Wellness Event to co-sponsors Traci Patterson Cook (center) and Mayer Tammy Witherspoon. PHOTO BY GAIL BROWN

more. Playing the piano was a way to express my feelings, an outlet for my emotions and it gave me a way to tell my story.”

The Arts 2 Health 2 Wellness visionary also said, “That’s what

the arts do for us. They give us a common language of storytelling. Our stories resonate with others and empower them to tell their stories. And from art we can move

to holistic healthiness and sound

mental health and wellbeing. That is what this event is all about.”

Using theme, “Art as Storytelling and Healing,” Magnolia’s city

Magnolia

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Inside Jackson city limits farmers combat their neighbors’ lack of fresh produce

The story behind the story

By Ann Marie Cunningham
The Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting

Mississippians have been going hungry for decades, as Robert F. Kennedy discovered 55 years ago this month.

In the 1960s, the state deliberately withheld food aid from Delta communities, hoping to starve blacks into leaving Mississippi. At the urging of Marian Wright, a young NAACP lawyer in Mississippi, Kennedy took an April day from his 1967 campaign for president to visit the Delta. He was shocked to meet starving children and parents who skipped meals. “We’re not doing what we should be doing in this country to deal with this problem,” he told reporters.

Around the same time, civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer purchased 40 acres in the Delta to be home to the Freedom Farm Cooperative. Born in the Delta, one of 20 children of sharecroppers, Hamer recalled, “I know what it’s like to be hungry ... I know what it’s

like to be without food ... we worked all the time, but we never had enough to eat.”

FFC would grow to over 600 acres, offering a way that sharecroppers, tenant farmers and domestic workers could grow their own food and become self-reliant. With this co-operative food system, black residents could stay in the South, live off the land, and create a healthy community. The FFC didn’t last, but the idea spread to other communities.

Today, many impoverished people in Mississippi, including residents in rural areas and south Jackson, face a lack of fresh fruits and vegetables. Their towns and neighborhoods are food deserts, meaning they lack grocery stores or farmers’ markets and fresh produce within 10 miles. Residents’ diets may be limited to fast food or chips and soda from corner stores or gas stations.

Jackson, although the state’s capital and urban center, has neighborhoods that are food

Jackson

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Ayres-Elliott

Inside

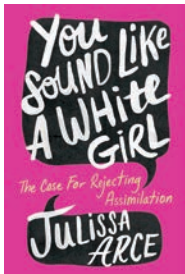
Changing the dynamics: JSU has first Hispanic head drum major and prancing J-Sette

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You Sound Like a White Girl

Page 14



Mayor’s Town Hall Meeting at New Jerusalem (South)



Richard’s garbage truck PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

There were over 100 in attendance at New Jerusalem Church (South Campus) on Raymond Road, Thursday, April 14 at 6 p.m. Mayor of Jackson, Chokwe Antar Lumumba, focused on the garbage contract as promised. Senior Pastor Dr. Dwayne K. Pickett Sr. provided an opening prayer.

The mayor shared he had used a blind scoring process which led to having four options covering one versus two pick-up days per week, and with or without bins. He sought council’s input at that juncture, which he was not required to do, and the options were reduced to two. Then he selected the lowest bid, which was \$7.3M lower for the initial six years of the contract, and \$12.2M lower if extension options are added – for a total of ten years. \$102,000 lower each month. Once the name of that lowest bidder was revealed – the black contractor, Richard’s Disposal of New Orleans, the chaos began.

Two employees from Richard’s Disposal; Kimberly Muller, assistant chief marketing director and Darnell Randolph, operations manager, both spoke about transitioning into a new contract and doing their best to address the many bumps in the road that come with that. You can contact them using a new number for any questions or concerns – (769)-333-4222, and 311 gives them a daily pass down.

Mayor Lumumba stated that Richard’s is starting from scratch, because there was no turnover of information between companies. He also mentioned that each residence will receive a bin, and that the use of bins will reduce the stress on the workforce.

Questions were raised from the audience about cost, and Attorney Catoria Martin indicated a slight increase with the new contract of 64 cents per month, partly because of EPA requirements. She stated for a family of four, the combined water, sewer and solid waste collection will not exceed \$100 per month.

Hinds County Board of Supervisors President, Credell Calhoun, shared that the supervisors are working closely with the mayor to address infrastructure issues, and especially the water in South Jackson. He said, “Last year parts of South Jackson were without water for four weeks, and that is just unacceptable because of the toilets.”

The mayor brought up the \$13M being allotted for a golf course. He said, “I’m for all of Jackson, not just parts of Jackson.” He said there was a Bill for \$40M and another Bill for \$25M for water issues and nothing happened. “The City requested \$5.7M for the Jackson Police Department to help fight crime and received zero.”

He continued, “The Legislature found money for a 10-hole golf course, a \$10M parking garage in the Fondren area, a water tower for UMMC, a water tower for the fairgrounds – so this is what their decisions are and so I want you to be aware that if you are not at the table, you are likely on the menu.”

He warned that the next focus they have is privatizing the water system. “They are giving it to a company for them to run – don’t be tricked by that – I want you to know that isn’t about fixing anything, that’s about being able to change the rates and that’s about taking profits from the City.”

Long-time businessman Socrates Garrett came to the microphone and said, “We have to hold Richard’s responsible because this is an economic engine for the black community. When a black man is a million dollars a year lower and can’t win in an 85% black City, we got a real problem. We cannot allow that to happen. We ought to be marching in the streets, ought to be having a parade for Richard’s, ought to be out there when they are picking up trash and encouraging them, and do everything we can to support this mayor.”

Pastor Pickett closed the evening sharing that he tried to stay out of it until ten sanitation workers from the previous trash

Town Hall

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Is Critical Race Theory all that critical? Virtual Town Hall Discussion

By Sylvia Whatley
Contributing Writer

Members in the LEAD (Leadership, Excellence, Achievement and Development) program of the Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presented a virtual Town Hall discussion that shed light on what is becoming a major social action concern. Entitled “Is Critical Race Theory All That Critical,” four panelists detailed issues, misinformation and misunderstandings surrounding the recently passed Mississippi legislation.

Panelists included Mississippi State Rep. Christopher Bell, Multi-Media Journalist Brittany Brown, Howard University graduate student Jarrius Adams and Jackson State University student Calvert White. JMAC Sorors and LEAD members Michelle Henry and Lacius Caddle served as moderator and facilitator.

Gwendolyn Handy, JMAC president, explained the webinar: “We truly understand that there is still confusion on what “Critical Race Theory” is and



Calvert White

what it represents in and for our communities. The Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority’s focus is to continue to have dialogues with individuals and or organizations who will be able to explain and talk openly in “layman’s terms” on this issue.”

Panelists gave their perspectives and insight into what Critical Race Theory is and is not, discussed the theoretic-



Brittany Brown

cal, legal and academic framework of CRT, explained Senate Bill 2013 that prompted some black Mississippi legislators to walk out of the Capitol, and answered questions related to effects on education, how history is taught, systemic racism, mischaracterization and intent.

It was noted that Mississippi is the 15th state to pass a law related to CRT, even though “Critical Race Theory”

is not mentioned in the recently passed legislation and has not been taught in Mississippi schools.

The panelists urged everyone to educate themselves on the subject, not just listen to what others say; to challenge elected officials to be accountable; to watch what other states are doing related to CRT; register to vote, vote, get involved and ask questions.



Rep. Christopher Bell



Jarrius Adams

Shirley Tucker, Mississippi State Social Action Coordinator for Delta, expressed the sentiment of the virtual audience to the panelists: “Thank you all for your diligent work on these key issues that are and should be of importance to all of us. We should all take up the charge that these panelists gave us to be more engaged and vocal and to let our voices be heard on social issues that im-

pact our communities.”

Linda Webster, Committee Chair stated, “We are so thankful to the LEAD Committee for bringing this discussion on Critical Race Theory to the forefront for a deeper and open conversation with the community,”

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Magnolia

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hall had been transformed in to an art gallery. The gallery featured such exhibits as “Expressions of Blackness: Across the African Diaspora and Beyond” by resident artist, Charmagne Andrews; “What If?” artwork by Eva Gordon Elementary (Assistant Principal Chander Jenkins and Community Activist Kevin Brown); and Otken Elementary students (Instructor Sara Doman). The gallery also featured “Abstract and a little Picasso” by talented fifth-grade guest artist, Carrie Patterson, of Glen Burnie, Maryland.

During the morning half of the event, local, area and visiting attendees were treated to an artistically and colorfully decorated table of refreshments and an information table of valuable health and wellness resource materials secured by Patterson Cook and also provided by an outstanding panel of presenters.

Speaking of the panel, the audience listened attentively (some on the edges of their seats) to professional expertise on the topic: “Preventive and Mental Health Matters!” Panelists included Health Educator Ida Anderson of the Mississippi State Department of Health, Chief Innovation Officer and Senior Strategist for The Jackson Medical Mall David Bickham, and Mental Health Therapist Kontonya Barfield, MSW, CMHT of Hattiesburg, Miss.

Anderson told the audience it is very important to know “how do you feel about yourself; how do you feel about you?” She said it is also important to know your numbers (i.e. vital signs, cholesterol) because all of these play an important role in one’s holistic well-being. She also brought along some home COVID-19 test kits for those who might need them.

In addition to their professional mental health training and knowledge each panelist also shared heart-touching trauma and/or mental health testimonies.

Bickham admitted that Saturday was his “first time speaking publicly” about what he went through during his “mental health journey” as a youth and during his early college years. “In my case, I had suffered severe depression as a child as a result of trauma abuse,” he said.

Barfield, who gave a powerful testimony of how her brother’s tragic death affected her. She pointed out that although she is a licensed certified social worker, she had to seek professional help to get herself together.

A strong advocate for children’s mental health, Barfield told the audience in working with children and parents, educators have to recognize that children are uniquely different and they all do not learn the same way. She warned against labeling children as “bad.”

Bickham, who describes himself as a futurist, and all the panelists stressed never be ashamed to seek professional health from a therapist or other specialists.

During audience participation, retired educator Geneva Patterson said, “We’re going to have to break this stigma that we put on our children and on ourselves. There is a difference in being slow and being special.”

Artist Andrews said that not only does art help with the mental health issue but the growth and development period. “It is something that is used for our enjoyment but it can also help us to work out stress; just working with coloring books ...it can be an enriching experience to help people to feel better,” she told *The Mississippi Link*.

During the event, Mayor Witherspoon recognized two members of her Youth Council for the role they played in helping with the event: Miss South Pike High Alexis Smith and Council Vice President Samuel Nimox. “They are dynamite. If I need anything, these two are here for me,” Mayor Witherspoon said.

Patterson Cook recognized Johnson for his dedicated help as well as sponsors, including First Unity Federal Credit Union, Rosehill Missionary Baptist Church, South Pike High School Class of 1979 and Schools Against Vaping. Others are still sending funding support for the art2health2wellness event.

“Members of the community are still talking about how meaningful and needed the wellness event was,” Patterson Cook said. “Everyone is asking when is our next event and saying, “we need more of this.”

“People listened to jazz music after the event under the City Hall pavilion and shared personal stories of trauma and healing. It was such a day of community caring and sharing.”

Musical entertainment featured Jackie Clemmons, Braxton Cook and sound by Clifton O’Bryant.

Other helping participants included the Rosehill Missionary Baptist Church Student Ambassadors; Graphic Artist, Christina Eaglin; Caterer Dee’s Creations; Construction and Design by Marcus Steptoe.

A crowning presentation of the event took place when Mississippi Senator Kelvin Butler, District 38 and a Magnolia native, showed up to present Patterson Cook with a Senate Resolution for her efforts from the State Senate.

“This is a big deal for Magnolia,” Butler said as he thanked the mayor for allowing the event to take place. “Magnolia, Miss. in the house; how about that?” “I love my little town and look at what God is doing in our town.”

Town Hall

Continued from page 1

collection company came to his church and told him about their working conditions. They told him about the loads they were required to carry and going to their supervisors to report the blood in their stools and asking for a break, only to be told to go back and finish another route because

nobody else could come. “In all my effort to not want to get involved in politics I thought about the greatest mentor that I ever had and he died for sanitation workers in Memphis,” said Pickett.

He applauded Mayor Lumumba for his courage, then offered a closing prayer.

Jackson

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deserts, but it also has several farms within its city limits. You can meet these farmers in Jackson most Saturdays at the Mississippi Farmers Market, sponsored by the State Department of Agriculture and Commerce at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds.

One farmer is a Millsaps College graduate. Another farm represented, Wurmworks, offers worms to compost your food waste so you can plant your own vegetable crop in rich soil. Then there’s Cindy Ayres-Elliott in her signature pink straw cowboy hat, vintage jewelry and, in March, Mardi Gras beads. She greets many customers with hugs. Ayres-Elliott’s colorful Foot Print Farms truck is parked right outside the Farmers Market shed; inside, her tables are stacked with the highest piles of produce on sale.

Ayres-Elliott is a native Mississippian from a distinguished activist family. In 1975, her grandfather, a civil rights veteran, had a child at Jackson State University, and realized the state only provided funding to white institutions of higher learning like Ole Miss. Jake Ayers sued the state in federal court – successfully 20 years later – to obtain funding for historically black colleges and universities. In 2002, the state and a majority of plaintiffs reached an agreement to award the three historically black institutions \$503 million over 17 years. Ayres-Elliott herself graduated from Rust College, a private historically black college in Holly Springs, with a bachelor’s in business administration, and then became only the second Mississippian to become a National Rural Fellow. This leadership program, which no longer exists for business students, offered her graduate study under professors from Harvard and MIT, and the chance to identify barriers to raising employment and livelihoods in rural areas, and to create plans to surmount those obstacles.

Once Ayres-Elliott had completed her fellowship, she moved to New York and did well working on Wall Street as an investment banker. After 9/11, she returned to Jackson and got a master’s degree and a doctorate in urban higher education from Jackson State in 2006. She went to work

for a local nonprofit that focused on agricultural policy. But she wanted to do more than talk to farmers. In 2010, she “traded high heels for work boots” and “designer suits for overalls.” She became a farmer herself, setting up Foot Print Farms on 68 acres in west Jackson.

Foot Print Farms has several projects to combat Mississippi’s food deserts. Ayres-Elliott knows that “We have a higher-than-average incidence of diabetes and heart disease, in part because healthy foods have not always been accessible.” In partnership with the State Department of Health, Foot Print supplies boxes of fresh produce in season to needy families living in food deserts. Families that can afford a modest fee can subscribe to a Community Supported Agriculture, which delivers fresh produce to them every month. During the pandemic, Foot Print has secured donations and supplied fresh food to three schools in impoverished parts of Jackson.

Since many families in Jackson have small gardens, at the Farmers Market, Ayres-Elliott offers Salad in a Box, a plastic bin that holds a collection of small plants like lettuces and carrots that can be transplanted to a garden or to pots on a fire escape. Salad in a Box can grow into salads all summer long.

The road to Food Print Farms turns off a Mississippi state highway, but it leads quickly past stone walls and fields. Once you enter the farm gate, a herd of curious Black Angus cows hover close to their fence to greet you. Opposite them is a big plastic tent for weddings, parties and other events. Before the pandemic, Ayres-Elliott encouraged “agro-tourism” with her own events like The Common Table, conversations with artists that featured meals cooked by Jackson chef Nick Wallace, who was subsequently discovered by Bravo’s program, Top Chef.

Plastic greenhouses mean Food Print Farms can grow crops all year round, ready to supply farmers’ markets and Mississippians who suffer “food insecurity.”

Ann Marie Cunningham is MCIR’s Reporter in Residence. Contact her at amc@mississippipicir.org.

SBA hosts Meet and Greet Roundtable with SBA Regional Administrator Allen Thomas

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The U.S. Small Business Administration, Mississippi District Office (SBA) hosted a Meet and Greet Roundtable with Regional Administrator Allen Thomas Friday, April 15. It was held on the 10th floor, Suite 1000 at the SBA Mississippi Training and Conference room located at 210 E. Capitol Street in Jackson.

The overall purpose of the press conference was to tout recovery and investment dollars in Mississippi and provide access to ongoing SBA programs. The media was invited to come and meet some of the participants.

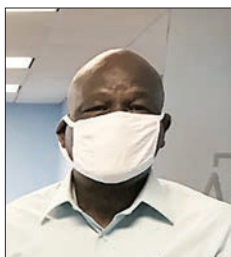
John Michael-Martin of Renaissance Community Loan Fund (RCLF) was one of the participants. Martin told *The Mississippi*



Thomas



Michael-Martin



Broger

Link that his company extends credit to start-up businesses and they do not require a lot of red tape. He said, “We serve the underserved, those that banks don’t want.”

Martin’s company also serves established businesses through its’ commercial lending program. This program will tailor a loan to meet specific needs. He said, “I enjoy what I do. We fit where no one else fits.”

Joseph Broger with Score Mississippi was also a participant. Score’s mission is to offer free business advice, conduct small business workshops and provide numerous templates and tools to help a startup business or help an existing business to grow or sustain itself. Broger said they do a lot of virtual training.

“We have about 11 million people nationally that we have helped,” he stated.

Allen Morris Thomas was appointed SBA Regional Administrator for the Southeast by the White House December 6, 2021. As regional administrator, Allen has oversight responsibility of the SBA’s Southeast Region which serves 8 states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

When asked by *The Mississippi Link* what he really does, he laughed, took a seat and said, “What I really do, you don’t have that much time in the day for me to talk about what I really do.” On a very serious side Thomas said the SBA is so much more than what people really know. He said people have no concept of what all it covers.

“Two years ago I was the one

looking for a PPP Loan. With 480 employees I had no idea what the next week would bring.” He said that experience really changed him and is the reason he serves in his current role.

Thomas said with \$8 billion in traditional lending, SBA has touched millions of families during COVID. Traditional lending and the process around PPP and Disaster Recovery is a big piece of what they do.

He said FEMA does their part but SBA is the one that steps in for the long term during disaster recovery which includes hurricanes, tornados and other disasters. He said hurricane season is coming up and they are already getting ready.

Thomas said SBA is on the ground helping people even when

they have not heard from their insurance company. SBA can fund people in advance, and when they get their insurance money, they can have that portion taken out.

Other big pieces he said are services specifically for women in business, small minority businesses and those in the military. He said part of his job is trying to right-size the landscape of seeing that not just large contractors are the ones being awarded contracts.

With a lot of enthusiasm Thomas said, “We do a lot. People can go to SBA.Gov and start asking questions and reach out to their district staff for help.

A three-time former mayor of Greenville, North Carolina and long-time entrepreneur and business owner, Allen said he has gone through a lot and seen a lot.



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Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter Life Members support local HBCU Career Closets

Special to The Mississippi Link

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter, located in Jackson, Mississippi, is the oldest and largest chapter in the State of Mississippi. For nearly eighty-four years, the chapter's service to the Metro-Jackson area has thrived through scholarships, community support and so much more for our sorority's National Program Zetas Helping Other People Excel (Z-HOPE).

During the spring of 2019, the Life Members of Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter initiated a service project to support the Career Closet at Jackson State University. Later in 2021, the project was extended to include the Career Closet at Tougaloo College. Both closets provide free services to their students.

Under the current leadership of Latisha M. Skinner, Chapter President; Sonia O. Butler, Life Members Committee Chairperson and Rosalind K. Garner, Life Members Committee Co-Chairperson, the committee has



JSU check being displayed: L-R) Emoni Price, Jessie Bishop, La'Kitha Hughes, Dr. LaVenita Cottrell, Latisha M. Skinner, Prenita Welch, Margera Harris and Nicole Jointe

donated items, volunteered time to organize the closets, participated in sponsored events and provided monetary support even during the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. The committee has generously supported these two great institutions with over \$4,200 in donations.

The Jackson State University Tiger Career Closet provides professional attire to currently enrolled students who are in

need of clothing for job interviews or while representing the university at various functions.

Dr. Lashanda W. Jordan, Executive Director of the Career Services Center, stated: "The funds donated by the Life Members were used to purchase clothing items such as suits, ties, socks, dresses and pearl necklace sets for the closet. With limited resources in staff and funding, it has been rewarding

for us to have the additional support as the life members who volunteered truly have hearts of servants that will never be forgotten."

The Tougaloo College Office of Career Services' (OCS) mission is to provide opportunities for students concerning the selection of career objectives, employment opportunities and graduate/professional school selections.



Tougaloo check being displayed: (L-R) Dr. Mercidee Curry, Jessie Bishop, La'Kitha Hughes, Dr. Melissa McCoy, Latisha M. Skinner, Patrice Sims, Prenita Welch and Alma Miller

Dr. Melissa McCoy, Director of Career Services/QEP extends gratitude to Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter Life Members for their donation to the career closet and looks forward to future collaboration. She stated: "The funds provided will be utilized to purchase professional clothing for deserving students when preparing for Experiential Learning Opportunities such as intern-

ships, externships, research and on campus involvement."

Since 1920, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated has continued to foster the ideals of service, charity, scholarship, civic and cultural endeavors, sisterhood and finer womanhood. A community-conscious, action-oriented organization for over 102 years, the sorority's outreach and service to the community has been phenomenal.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE Terry High School Fatal Vision reenactment



Students listen intently to the emergency management teams on hand to speak to them about the dangers of drinking and driving.



Recently, Alexis Arrington signed to continue her basketball career at the next level while at Pearl River Community College. Here she is pictured with her teammates and coach Ruth Buck.



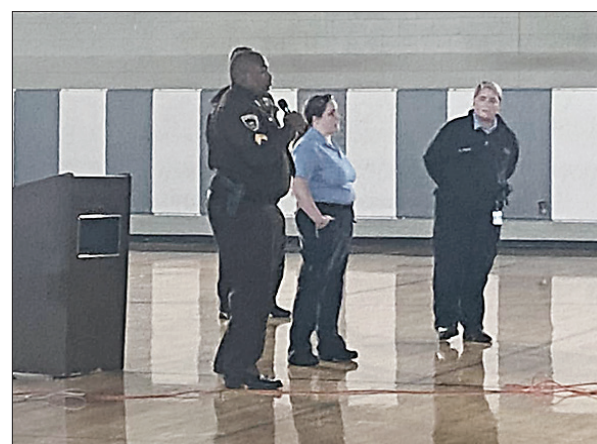
Emergency management teams recreated a fatal drunk driving accident in the parking lot of Terry High School.



The National Honor Society recently held their annual induction ceremony for new members. To maintain membership in this honor society, students must maintain outstanding grades, attend meetings and participate in numerous community service activities.



A part of the Fatal Vision reenactment included a "life flight" simulation.



The Sheriff's Department along with several agencies address the students of Terry High School.



The Terry High School Drama Department will present 67 Cinderellas April 21, 2022. Which princess will he choose? You must come to the play to find out.




The Terry High School Prom King and Queen were selected at prom on April 15, 2022. These students are Gavin Caston and Alexis Arrington.

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MAID SERVICES AVAILABLE

**Mississippi Municipal League
announces support for increased
statewide investment in reentry
programs to help local businesses
and boost local economies:**

**Statement by Mayor Errick D. Simmons
in support of Second Chance Month**

Special to the Mississippi Link

Second Chance Month is a nationwide effort to raise awareness about the harmful collateral consequences of a criminal conviction, and unlock opportunities for people impacted by the criminal justice system.

Mississippi Municipal League 2021-2022 President Mayor Errick D. Simmons of Greenville issued the following statement regarding state and local investments in reentry programs for formerly incarcerated Mississippians in support of Second Chance Month:

“Mississippi’s communities feel the effects of any policy or fiscal decision made at the state level first and most acutely. Similarly, the business leaders and community members of our state’s municipalities have suffered from the economic challenges wrought by the pandemic, inflation, and labor shortages.

“Recent bipartisan-supported criminal justice reform efforts have paved the way for more Mississippians, who have long been denied the opportunity, to safely return to their families and communities. As they return home, they will also have the opportunity for employment at many of the businesses that are vital parts of local and regional economies throughout the state. This year, state leaders appropriated \$500,000 to help support housing and reentry programs. The Mississippi Municipal League strongly supports continuing to build on investments in reentry programs that prioritize employment, housing, training, and other services formerly incarcerated Mississippians need to have a real second chance, including those who



Mayor Simmons

have had to serve long sentences.

“These types of long-term investments will yield considerable dividends for Mississippi’s cities and towns in increased public safety, stronger local businesses and more resilient economies. Investing in reentry programs can also save hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars currently being spent to incarcerate Mississippians and enable municipalities to allocate funds to programs and priorities that will grow their economies and advance public safety”

Second Chance Month efforts are led by Prison Fellowship, a faith-based nonprofit serving currently and formerly incarcerated people and their families, and an advocate for justice reform.

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Scholar Athletes recognized by JPS superintendent



(l-r) Principal Alvanette Buchanan, coach Renauldo Milsap, Kendarius Smith, Breland Davis and Supt. Errick Greene

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Two rock star scholar-athletes from Murrah High School, Kendarius Smith and Breland Davis, were recognized April 5, 2022, by Superintendent Errick L. Greene and the JPS Board of Trustees for being selected as

U.S. Youth Soccer All-Americans. Smith and Davis will represent JPS and the state of Mississippi in the All-American Series series in Mesa, Arizona. They were joined by Murrah Principal Alvanette Buchanan and coach Renauldo Millsap.

Clinton High School Jakiya Michael signs to play soccer in Illinois

Clinton High School Newswire

Jakiya Michael has been a consistent attacking threat for the Lady Arrows Soccer Team, and she's solidified where she will continue her academic and athletic career after graduation.

On Wednesday, April 20, Jakiya Michael signed a letter of intent to play soccer at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Jakiya has helped lead the Lady Arrows to two North State Championships and two MHSAA 6A Soccer Championship appearances. She's a recipient of the Lady Arrows Golden Boot Award, Offensive Player Award and the Arrow Award.

She was selected her senior year to participate in the 2022 Mississippi Association of Coaches All Star Game. As a junior, she also played in the 2021 Central Mississippi All-Star Game.

Off the pitch, Jakiya is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, FCA and Spanish Club.

Jakiya Michael is the daughter of Cheri and Demarcus Dillard.



Michael

MVSU holds 23rd Presidential Inauguration



L-R - Lashunna Blackmon-McGinnis, Jerry Redmond, Jr., Robert Jackson

Special to The Mississippi Link

The Mississippi Valley State University National Alumni Association (MVSUNAA) held its "Presidential Inauguration 23" benefiting the Dr. Carolyn B. Ford Professional and Scholarly Endowment fund with an official swearing-in ceremony Friday, April 15, at 3 p.m. in the Walter Roberts Auditorium.

Jerry Redmond Jr. was sworn in as MVSUNAA's 23rd national president; LaShunna Blackmon-McInnis, first vice president; and Robert Jackson, second vice president – three of a trusted and proven group of chapter members who have committed to lead the charge of maximizing institutional excellence through dedication, innovation and resource.

MVSUNAA is a non-profit organization given the privilege of tax exemption to increase private and in-kind gifts and foster philanthropic activities for the University. The Association strives to develop, support and build relationships among primary stakeholders – alumni, corporations, university affiliates, foundations, local community and businesses – through the execution of advancement services and the following goals:

- Build a productive non-profit organization that will strengthen the University's capacity to obtain private support
- Raise funding for endowments, scholarships and programs to support the university's vision to enhance the quality of its students' educational experience
- Increase alumni participation and giving
- Increase the number of corporate sponsorships, grants, and other financial resources
- Improve relations with the Mississippi Delta Region and beyond.

Rickey Thigpen, Ph.D., served as the honorary chairman of MVSUNAA's 2022 Inauguration Activities, which commenced with a pre-reception at 1:30 p.m. and concluded with a gala reception at Devera Ball Alumni House after the swearing-in ceremony.

"I accept this honor as a challenge to do more and be more intentional about demonstrating commitment to my Alma Mater. What an appropriate challenge as we inaugurate a new Association Leadership team and philosoph," said Thigpen.

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Sarah Anderson's cancer journey

MSDH Newswire

Detecting signs of cancer early is essential to preventing serious illness. That's why regular medical checkups with your doctor and dentist are so important.



Mississippi-born Sarah Anderson experienced the first signs of oral cancer while still in high school. When she was older, a doctor's checkup found advanced cancer that had consumed most of her jaw and spread to areas of her head.

Sarah was pregnant at the time, and received surgery and extensive treatment as soon as her child was born. After a long and difficult recovery with mental and emotional challenges, Sarah is now a head and neck cancer survivor.



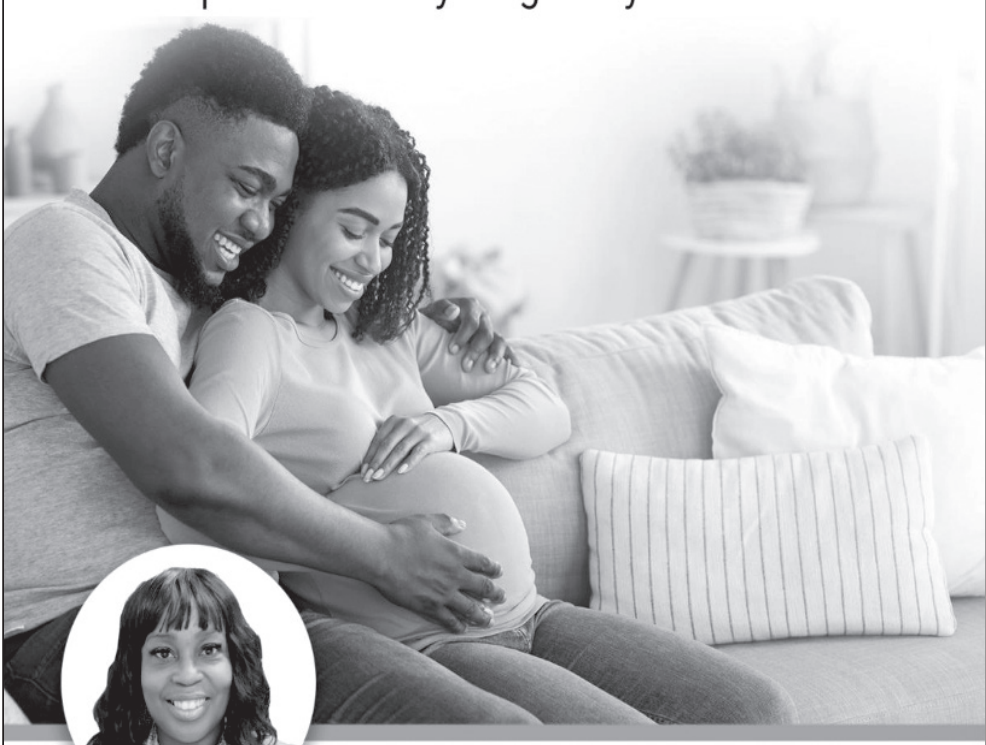
Anderson

Special webinar will assist moms-to-be



Mommy Basics:

Tips to a Healthy Pregnancy Session 2



Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3qdXCbN>

Participants will receive a \$15 gift card and a diaper pass!

Facilitated by: Sylvia Thomas of Magnolia Medical Foundation

MSDH Newswire

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health and Magnolia Medical Foundation will host a webinar for moms-to-be. Mommy Basics: Tips to a Healthy Pregnancy-Session II will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

The session is facilitated by Sylvia Thomas, Magnolia Medical Foundation. The link to register is <https://bit.ly/3qdXCbN>. Participants will receive a \$15 gift card and a

diaper pass.

For more information, call 769-572-5263.

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.

First, second and third hand smoke



By Vince Faust

Tips to Be Fit

I still don't know why people still smoke today when there is so much medical proof that smoking causes cancer for the smoker and the people around them. Next to cocaine, smoking is the most addictive and lethal habit affecting humankind today.

The only reason that tobacco is still legal unlike other lethal drugs is because of economics. The government still makes money from the sale of tobacco. If there were no profit from the tobacco there would be no tobacco industry.

The tobacco industry also has a strong lobby in Congress that reminds many congressional representatives that they receive funding from their industry. This fact keeps effective legislation from being passed.

Only 25% of the American population smokes, but their deadly habit can do harm or even kill the other 75%.

If you are around someone who smokes you are smoking too. First, second and third hand smoke (FS&THS) can cause lung cancer and even in people who have never smoked. Evidence suggesting First, second and third hand smoke have links in adults to cancers of the larynx, pharynx, nasal sinuses, brain, bladder, rectum, stomach and breast cancers. In children FS&THS is linked to lymphoma, leukemia, liver cancer and brain tumors. There's no safe level of exposure for FS&THS.

Almost half (46.8%) of black nonsmokers in the United States are exposed to FS&THS. This exposure is higher among people with low incomes. 2 out of every 5 (43.2%) nonsmokers who lived below the poverty level were exposed to FS&THS. This means if you are black and below the poverty line you are almost assured you will be exposed to FS&THS.

Can you develop cancer from smelling smoke odors on clothing or being in a room where people have been smoking? There is no medical research about the cancer causing effects of tobacco odors, but the medical research shows that the particles that make up FS&THS can attach itself to the hair, clothing and other surfaces. Any amount of smoke exposure is dangerous and will cause health

problems.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classified secondhand smoke or environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) as a Group A carcinogen. This means it causes cancer in humans. This Group A designation has only been used by the EPA for 15 other pollutants. This list of pollutants includes radon, asbestos and benzene. They have also called ETS a public health epidemic.

Most FS&THS contains over 7,000 chemical compounds. More than 70 of these are known to cause cancer. Some of the toxins or irritants in secondhand smoke include carbon monoxide, nicotine, hydrogen cyanide, ammonia, formaldehyde and sulfur dioxide. Carcinogens in FS&THS include benzene, aromatic amines (especially carcinogens such as 2-naphthylamine and 4-aminobiphenyl), vinyl chloride, arsenic, nitrosamines and cadmium. The greater your exposure to FS&THS, the greater your level of these harmful compounds in your body.

Everyone in a public place is vulnerable to FS&THS exposure. Restaurants, shopping centers, the fronts of buildings, walking behind a smoker, groups of smokers taking a smoke break, public transportation subways and platforms, schools and daycare centers are just a few places that nonsmokers are exposed to FS&THS. Although some businesses are reluctant to ban smoking, there is no credible evidence that going smoke-free is bad for business.

What about "new" ventilation technology available to restaurants and public places? The tobacco industry has attempted to promote methods for "accommodating" both smokers and nonsmokers. This effort has included the promotion of ineffective ventilation and filtration technology, which doesn't provide protection from the bad health effects of FS&THS. These companies are doing nothing more than selling their products.

Evidence suggests that designated smoking areas may increase the risk of lung cancer among smokers and doesn't protect workers or non-smokers from the dangers of FS&THS. In addition, installation of separately ventilated smoking rooms is extremely costly to businesses.

Are smoke free laws bad for business? According to an article titled "Smoke-Free Restaurant Ordinances Do Not Affect Restaurant Business in the" *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, (January 1999) Vol. 5, No. 1) stated "Studies of sales tax data from 81 localities in six states consistently demonstrated that ordinances restricting smoking in restaurants had no effect on revenue."

According to authors A. Hyland, and M. K. Cummings, in an article titled "Restaurant Employment Before and After the New York City Smoke-Free Air Act," in the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*", (1999) 5(1) (22-27) stated that, "In New York City, where the smoke-free law went into effect in 1995, for the time period 1993-1997, restaurant employment growth was more than three times that of the rest of the state (17.6% vs. 4.6%)".

Making your home smoke-free is the most important thing you can do. All family members will develop health problems related to FS&THS if anyone smokes in your house. A smoke-free home protects your family, your guests and even your pets.

What You Can Do to Reduce the Health Risks of Passive Smoking

In your Home

Don't let anyone smoke in your home.

Where Children Spend Time

Every organization dealing with children should have a smoking policy that effectively protects children from exposure to FS&THS. This should include day care providers, pre-schools, schools and other caregivers for your children.

In the work Place

The only way to protect workers is to prohibit smoking indoors, around entrances to buildings and in common recreational areas. EPA recommends that every company have a smoking policy that effectively protects nonsmokers from involuntary FS&THS. Simply separating smokers and nonsmokers within the same area, such as a cafeteria and indoor and outdoor recreational areas, may reduce exposure, but nonsmokers will still be exposed to re-circulated smoke or smoke drifting into nonsmoking areas.

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P R E S E R V E D

Where You Belong: Ketanji's story

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“Sometimes the place you are used to is not the place where you belong.” When I heard this inspirational line in the movie *Queen of Katwe* a few years ago, I immediately wrote it down because I liked the simple truth in it. The movie depicts the struggles of Phiona Mutesi, a teenaged Ugandan chess prodigy as she realizes her potential to succeed in chess but still remains living in poverty with her widowed mother and three siblings. The film follows the typical Disney sports film formula of the underprivileged champion with a heart of gold but adds a more culturally diverse twist by setting the story in modern day Uganda. In Phiona's case, she can strat-

egize eight moves ahead in chess which is remarkable to her mentor Robert Katende, played with compassionate depth by David Oyelowo. When Katende sees Phiona struggling to grasp the opportunities that chess gives her, he reminds her that her life in the Katwe slum does not have to be her final destination. She hears him with her ears, but it takes the rest of the movie for her to fully embrace that where her life will take her. As I reflect on the movie, I think about the recent confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. Even though her grace and poise were exemplary, the viciousness of the questions she received from so many Republican Senators during the brutal hearing process made me wonder if she questioned whether the opportunity being presented to her was really for her.

Every aspect of her life was put under a microscope and dissected. This included her family background as well as her previous court cases. Because the opposition to her nomination was so fierce, it seemed like the momentum that was being used to hinder her actually pushed her to an even greater level of success. I asked a friend recently about how you can tell that what you are experiencing isn't just warfare but a sign that you are going in the wrong direction. What she shared is that the warfare is actually a sign that you are already at that new level. So, for Justice Jackson, the opposition wasn't a sign that she was not going to get the nomination; the opposition was a sign that she'd already been elevated; the nomination voting process was only a natural confirmation of what had already been a spiritual promotion.

Looking at Justice Jackson's successfully navigating the nomination hearings reminded me so much of Philippians 3:13-14: But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. As much as we pray for God to move in our lives, sometimes it is hard to accept all that the next level offers. But like Phiona, we have to press past doubts of the present to get the blessings of our future next level. *Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email preserved-bypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*

Be content in serving God

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



What will we miss by serving God? By serving God, we will miss hell. Also, if we serve Satan in this life, he will turn our life into a hell on earth, sooner or later. Eventually, he will cause us to regret the choices that we have made, and we will wish that we had never looked at the things of this old world. We need to be content in serving God. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy in First Timothy 6:6, "But godliness with contentment is great gain." Thank God, it is great gain. It is not just a little gain to be godly, holy, and to serve God in contentment. It is wonderful.

enticed." The devil tries to make sin look inviting. If we meditate on those enticements, we will begin to yield to those things. James went on to say in verse 15-16: "... sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err (be careful), my beloved brethren." Romans 6:23 tells us that "the wages of sin is death." There are wages in sin. The devil will make sure that we get paid, and they will not be good wages. The wages of sin is death. Friend, if we really want to live, let Jesus be our all in all. Let Jesus control us completely, and then we will know what is real living. When God saved my soul, when He had mercy on me and called me to be one of His own, then I really began to experience living. God manifests His love to us. In this scripture lesson, when we talk about the manifestation of the love of God, we see that the Word was sent: God sent His Only begotten Son, and gave Him so that we might live. God proved His love to us by His giving. Christian friend, we can manifest God's love the same way, through giving. Read John 3:16, New Testament. *Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton, VA 23669.*



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Across America, students must learn all history

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



That shouldn't be a controversial statement. But thanks to politicians like Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, teaching honestly about history is getting downright dangerous.

Youngkin got elected in part by embracing a dishonest campaign launched by far-right activists to make parents fear that teaching about racism represents some kind of sinister plot to shame and indoctrinate children.

Once he took office, the very first official action he took as governor was to sign an executive order supposedly designed to "get divisive concepts out of our schools."

You know what was "inherently divisive?" The Confederacy, which waged a brutal war to defend slavery from its capital in Richmond, Virginia. How about massive resistance to the desegregation of schools? How about Virginia's law that made interracial marriage illegal until the U.S. Supreme Court overturned it in 1967?

Youngkin has claimed that his order will still allow students to learn about history – both good and bad. But he also set up a tip line that parents could use to report on "divisive" teachers.

That's in the worst tradition of authoritarian politicians everywhere.

It's a terrible policy. It's a terrible way to think about education.

And, I will admit, I take it a bit personally. My ancestors were enslaved in the state of Virginia. One of my forefathers was elected to the state legislature during Reconstruction. He helped create the state's system of public education. Then white supremacists took back power, made segregation the law of the land, and made it impossible for black Virginians to build political power for decades. That's pretty "divisive" stuff.

A coalition of civil rights groups has launched the Black History is American History campaign to push back on Gov. Youngkin's efforts to force teachers and schools to whitewash teaching about history and racism. Students have the right to learn the truth about our history and our present.

We are inviting Virginia parents and families to use the governor's "tip line" to tell Gov. Youngkin that denying students the freedom to learn is bad for children, families, and the future.

Unfortunately, Virginia is far from alone. Politicians and political operatives are out to build power by mobilizing a backlash to honest teaching about racism in our history and institutions. And those efforts are connected to campaigns for so-called "Don't Say Gay" laws, which threaten teachers who acknowledge the reality of LGBTQ students and families.

And all of this goes hand in hand with a surge in censorship in classrooms and libraries. The American Library Association recently released its list of the books most often challenged last year. Most of them were about black and LGBTQ people. And that reminded me that Gov. Youngkin's campaign actually ran an ad featuring a woman who objected to the teaching of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "Beloved" in her son's senior-year English class.

Watching politicians build power by inflaming fears about black people can be deeply discouraging. It can also be intensely motivating.

As a black christian writing this column during Holy Week, I draw strength from the historic witness of the black church and its role in supporting and sustaining black people as we made history. I celebrate the power and impact of Martin Luther King Jr.'s appeal to both the Constitution's promise of equality under law and the great faith traditions' call for us to treat one another with decency and respect.

And I lift up the words of Lonnie Bunch, the founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture and now the director of the Smithsonian Institution, who reminds us that "there are few things as powerful and as important as a people, as a nation that is steeped in its history."

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.

Black no more

By Miles Jaye
Texas Metro News Contributor



Black no more, is a pledge to divest myself of anything that in word, tone or image, detracts from the entirety and totality of my human experience. If by use of nomenclature, my so-called blackness renders me one iota less human or denies me one single attribute, benefit, or protection of that afforded a whole human being, including the solemnity of soul, divinity of spirit and brilliance of the human mind, then I divest myself from that name and the use of that naming system.

"Black is beautiful," "I'm Black and I'm proud," "Black Lives Matter" and any other slogan approved and tolerated by the controlling establishment should be called into question.

Black, as defined and described as: "The absence of light," "Deeply stained with dirt," "Characterized by tragic or disastrous events; causing despair or pessimism," "Full of gloom or misery; very depressed," "Full of anger or hatred," is of no use to me as a tool of positive self-awareness or self-identity, but only as a term I use to describe a beautiful, clear night sky.

I am not your black. What I am is light – a child of God, a piece, particle, or tiny sliver of a universe of God fabric. I am a fraction of an infinitely powerful, omniscient, omnipresent force, made, designed and rendered in the image of that boundless, imponderable God. What I am is a descendent of spirit-infused cultures and thousands of years of



The fact that African empires existed before the existence of Europe is not taught in Public schools. Why?
PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

civilization predating the Abraham of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The fact that African empires existed before the existence of Europe is not taught in Public schools. Why?

Black is a linguistic invention. Black is a redaction, a marker through the lines and pages of our history. Black is tape over the mouth of the griot. Black is the graffiti over the multicolored tapestry of our human presence across the globe throughout the millennia. A peoples' history must be told by them, not by their captors and colonizers. It must be told from their perspective, infused with the joy and tears of their remembering. Black hides the tears and mutes the cries by rendering us less than human. Black renders us invisible.

It is worth noting that recounting the horrors of slavery, remembering heroes of the civil rights movement, along with a few 19th and 20th century inventors, athletes and entertainers, in no way sufficiently pays proper tribute to the totality of our past. Only by passing down our complete stories and sharing the fullness of our heritage do we properly honor our ancestors and history, a history that long predates the 17th century in North, South and Central America and the Caribbean. We were Africans long before becoming New Yorkers, Jamaicans, Brazilians, Haitians, Cubans or Puerto Ricans.

Black no more removes the control over one's thoughts, beliefs and feelings. Black no more begins the renewal and restoration of self as God intended, by

the emancipation from oppression of the mind and soul.

If you remember nothing else, remember that you are not only the chosen people but also the original people. It's time for truth-seeking.

Discover our truth hidden in Ancient History. Discover the original names of people and places through etymology and linguistics. Learn the original regions and territories through geography and cartography. Learn African religions, mythology and ancient customs through cultural and physical anthropology.

Your thoughts, insights and respectful response to this essay may be submitted to: Website: www.therealmilesjaye.com and www.milesjaye.net

Email: MilesJayeDA@gmail.com

Ketanji Brown Jackson is now a Supreme Court Justice: Thank You America

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



Sometimes in life, the unexpected becomes real and in living color, too. The beauty of the unexpected is the unexplainable joy that it brings.

You and I have heard the expression, "Wait for it." It's a kind of delayed reaction that will eventually hit you and you will get it. When it does hit you, you can honestly and truthfully say it was a defining moment.

If you are a card-carrying member of the 4th quarter, you know that firsts really do happen. If you are like me, you are just thankful to see them.

I am an African-American male and I have seen my share of firsts, both good and not so good. The song sang by Bruce Hornsby and the Range, *The Way It Is*, fits that above-mentioned statement quite well.

I want to have some thought and reflection on the good firsts.

Politically more of us are involved in the voting process. People of color are showing up more at the polls. We are casting our ballots for competent and qualified candidates, many of whom look like us.

Barack Obama was the first African American to become president of the United States of America. I can remember that memorable night in November 2008 when CNN called the election for him.

Was your phone ringing and your text messages moving? Of course, the answer is yes. We will never forget how we felt on that life-changing night.

Did I think I'd live to see a black person become president of these United States of America? If truth be told, the answer would have to be no. As the younger generation would say, I'm just keeping it real.

As I have more life behind me than in front of me, another jaw-dropping and awe-inspiring event happened just a few weeks ago.

An African-American woman was nominated and con-

firmed to become a Supreme Court Justice of the United States of America.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is a part of the highest court in the land. Writing this statement gives me pride and unspeakable joy. She will become the court's 116th member. This is a special beyond words and imagination. President Joe Biden promised he would nominate a black woman to the Supreme Court, and he was true to his word.

The vote was 53 senators said yes and 47 senators said no. Breaking from the Republican ranks were Sens. Mitt Romney of Utah, Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska.

Those three senators showed resolve and character. Judge Brown Jackson had the credentials and the experience. The senators saw it and America saw it, too.

To those senators who decided to stay stuck in their ways and voted against her, just know that right, while sometimes delayed, will always win.

Prior to the final vote, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schum-

er called the moment a "joyous, momentous, groundbreaking day." He added, "In the 233-year history of the Supreme Court, never has a black woman held the title of Justice. Ketanji Brown Jackson will be the first of more to come."

I, along with many others, agree with Senator Schumer. Reflect on Dr. King's eloquence when he spoke about the content of our character and not the color of our skin.

While he was referencing his four children, this time-honored expression applies to all of us.

So, as we push America towards equity and opportunity hearing loved ones say you can be anything you want to be becomes more than just a set of words.

The Bruce Hornsby song is a testament to not giving up. The lyrics are, "That's just the way it is. Some things will never change. That's just the way it is. Ah, but don't you believe them."

Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson didn't believe them.

Part 3 - What’s getting in the way of elected black leaders?

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

In this final part of the series, the goal is to learn how to implement real solutions to bring about an increase in prosperity in the black business community in Jackson, Mississippi and Hinds County.

For black-owned or even minority-owned businesses, in a city with an 85% black population and a county with 73% black population, to be receiving less than 5% of contracts for goods and services – well, it can’t get any more inequitable or unjust. Compounding the sadness – this is occurring under majority black leadership.

The garbage contract becomes a perfect example of the brokenness. Jackson City Council has seven members; five black and two white, and they must work together and with our mayor if they are to be successful in delivering to their constituents. Conversely, the mayor needs to work with the council to be successful in delivering to his constituents. That is not currently happening. And to have three black council members so opposed to having a black-owned contractor picking up our trash is baffling and painful.

Enough about trash though. Looking at the larger contracting picture, several core reasons, or justifications, keep coming up: 1) people don’t get along – fighting with each other, 2) elected supervisors and council members are focused on themselves and not the best interests of the city and their constituents, 3) lack of capacity for larger contracts, 4) a complex bidding process that intimidates some black business owners, 5) lack of follow-through to provide a quality work product/adhering to a higher standard, and, 6) lack of a comprehensive plan that advocates for black businesses.

Harold Hart, the local business owner of Elim’s Art Concepts, who has done business in Jackson for 15 years, is located in the Jackson Medical Mall. As an active business leader he is very familiar with these issues and is also familiar with the business



Eddie Fair

culture and environment in Jackson. He proposes a Community Panel, with a discussion-format to promote black business and raise awareness, and like Hinds County Supervisor Vern Gavin, agrees to facilitate it in the coming months.

Eddie Fair has been the Hinds County Tax collector for going on 19 years. He spoke to me about this series and he offered his perspective generously.

“Too many hands in the cookie jar,” was his opening. He indicated that the City Council is spending far too much time on this garbage contract, and there are so many things we could be doing like water, sewer and streets – but this fighting is getting in the way, and it has become a joke. Nothing good ever comes from all this fighting, and it has to stop,” he stated.

He believes that higher quality is the first solution and that black businesses holding themselves to the right standard is critical. He stated that he also is a business owner and he tells employees that he is a business owner and not a black business owner, and expects them to act and talk professionally, to be clean and presentable to make sure that the public sees their professionalism.

“We have to have a business that is attractive to everyone,” Fair said.

I asked Fair about residency requirements as a way to stem the loss of dollars in Hinds County and he made it clear that he has already incorporated that policy for employees of the Tax Collector’s Office.



Gennie Lacy Jones

A man who has been successful in the business community for over 40 years, agreed to offer his perspective for this story. Socrates Garrett, who I have volunteered to assist with a wide range of community related projects for the past four months, spoke to me about the broad inequities that exist. In response to my questions, he highlighted the problems, yet also provided a roadmap for solutions that I wish was required reading for all elected officials.

He indicated that the African-American community as a whole must do some serious evaluations on where we are as a People, and why is it that we have similar problems in every state, city and county in America, and why is it that we as a People can’t recognize that it’s our responsibility to build, maintain and govern all activities that affect our common good.

He expanded on that premise to explain that our politicians, civic leaders and educators do not feel a sense of responsibility to create and develop a strong black business class. They see the business class as being individuals that personally benefit from the sweat of their labor and the risk that they take. They don’t see the connection between our economic conditions and all of the social ills we face.

He gave the example of college presidents, and said that they don’t see that it is their responsibility to develop an economy around the universities they preside over. “They know that it is their responsibility to raise money from



Harold Hart

alumni, grants or from visiting the state legislators, but only for their university. The VP of Academic Affairs sees it as his/her responsibility to champion the academic success of the student population. Yet there is no one in the university that is assigned a task of assessing the business community and the black economy that surrounds the university and foster a program designed to utilize the existing capacity and expand capacity where it does not exist.”

He said that the interesting thing about that is that the student body is 98% African-American in HBCUs, kids coming from poor families that are struggling to pay the tuitions.

“The administrators make no connection between the fact that if there was a stronger economy in the black community that the kids would perform better in school and would have a better opportunity to succeed,” he said. He is bewildered that leaders can’t seem to connect those dots.

He cautions that until we do, until our leaders understand that economics is the primary focus of every other ethnic group in this country, that nothing will change. “Simply put, it is the economics that provides the standard of living and the quality of life which then provides for the education system and all the other things that go on in a thriving community.”

Pressing his point further, he said, “We must educate our community and our leaders on the need of creating, developing, maintaining and growing



Socrates Garrett

an economy in our community through our black citizens. Without that foundation, we will continue to have politicians vote against African-American contractors, even though they are the low bidder. We will continue to have local elected officials, the majority of which are African Americans, awarding less than 5% of the contracts for goods and services in the community in which they themselves live. Until we do that, we will continue to see an escalation in the levels of poverty and crime that runs rampant in our communities – all tracing back to the lack of a strong black economy.”

Gennie Lacy Jones is the president of the Minority Contractors Association of Mississippi, Inc. and former director of the Office of Minority Business under Governor Musgrove. Prior to that she served as deputy procurement officer for the City of Chicago, who solved these contracting inequities decades ago through using a City Ordinance.

She was emphatic in saying, “In any environment, in any level of government, if it is intentional from the top down, it can happen. When agencies are allowed to decentralize purchasing, you lose oversight, monitoring and compliance. Having state laws to promote minority business are great, but if you don’t fund programs that promote equity, such as a disparity study, then you are promoting inequity.”

She added that minority participation never happens without action, and that “when we are inclusive of everyone, we will get

a better price point and a better product.”

She urges top-down intentionality, the transfer of knowledge through mentor proteges, and business-to-business teaming relationships. She indicates that it is very telling that minority contractors in Mississippi can be awarded million-dollar contracts with the Federal government but can’t get a \$100,000 contract in municipalities across Mississippi.

The twelve contributors to this 3-part series; three county supervisors, one city council member, two mayors, one other elected official, four current business owners, and one retired business owner – provided invaluable information and insight. Five city council members, two mayors, and two county supervisors did not respond to requests to participate.

What really stood out for me are these things:

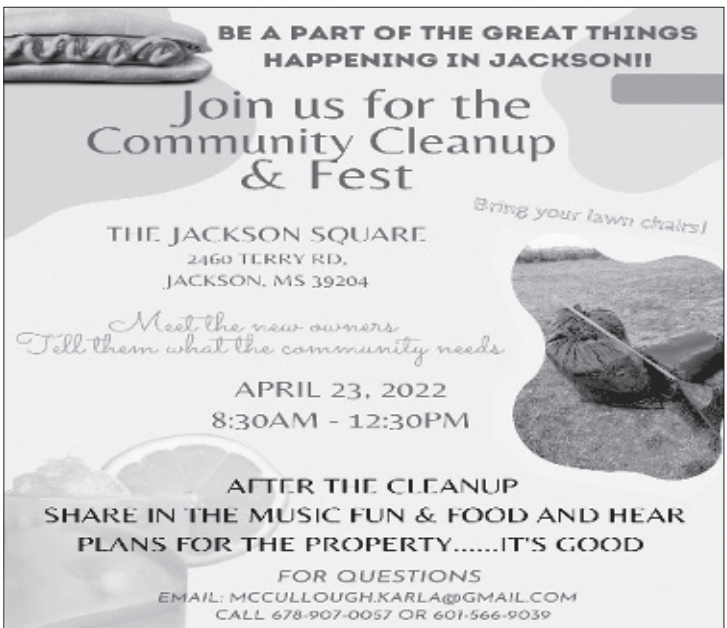
- We can solve the inequities of contract awards in Jackson and Hinds County
- We know other cities have found ways to correct systems that oppress their citizens
- We do have leaders in this community who will make a commitment to promote black business and foster fairness and inclusion
- We do need more people to grasp the vital importance of creating black economic engines in our majority black city and county
- We do need to wake up and see that nearly all our painful social problems (crime, poverty, homelessness, etc.) stem from the lack of a thriving economy
- We know that laws exist to provide a much higher percentage of contracts than we currently have
- We know that we severely lack intentional top-down leadership that promotes black business and equity in contracting
- We know that if our black elected officials are not drafting ordinances to demand more equity in contracting, then they must be satisfied with business as usual
- We know that as easily as these elected officials are voted into office, they can be voted out.

Community Cleanup & Fest celebrating a redevelopment in South Jackson

Special to The Mississippi Link

A Community Cleanup and Fest will be held at 2460 Terry Road, Jackson, Mississippi, Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The City Plaza, formerly the Jacksonian Promenade, will be the catalyst to accelerate the revitalization of the South Jackson community. Great things are happening in and around Jackson and all who desire to see the city thrive and have a heart to serve is invited to come out to the “Community Cleanup and Fest.”

The Community Cleanup and Fest will serve multiple purposes: 1) To help make Terry Road as beautiful as the people who work and live in the surrounding area; 2) To meet the new owners, former NBA player, Erick Dampier and community advocate, Dr. Karla L. McCullough, who recently acquired the 33-acre property; 3) To hear why it was vital to bring the development to the South Jackson area; and 4) To see



and hear the vision for the property’s transformation.

The community will also have an opportunity to give input on the future developments; all while enjoying food, fun and fellowship with residents, community leaders and city officials.

Come and celebrate the beginning of what is sure to be a development that provides a holistic approach to economic justice and community revitalization for the City of Jackson. Get a glimpse of the future home of a state-of-the-art athletic center.

The developers and community are grateful for the support of: The Erick Dampier Foundation, The Juanita Sims Doty Foundation, the Association of South Jackson Neighborhoods, Keep Jackson Beautiful, Revitalize Mississippi, Habitat for Humanity Mississippi, The City of Jackson, Visit Jackson, Jackson Public School District, the Jackson City Council, Jackson Police Department, Jackson Fire Department, Hinds County Board of Supervisors, the Metro Jackson National PanHellenic Council and numerous other community organizations, churches, local and state organizations.

For further information regarding the event, sponsorship, or any other questions, please contact Juanita Sims Doty at jsimsdoty@gmail.com or 601-566-9039

About Erick Dampier

Erick Dampier, former Mississippi State basketball and NBA standout from Monticello, MS,

was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 2021. Dampier was a two-time Associated Press, All-America Honorable Mention and two-time All-Southeastern Conference pick. In the 1996 NBA draft, Erick was a Round 1 Pick and 10th overall.

After 16 years of playing in the NBA for the Indiana Pacers, Golden State Warriors, Dallas Mavericks, Miami Heat and Atlanta Hawks, he came back to Mississippi and spends much of his time and resources giving back to the community.

He started the Erick Dampier Foundation that provides youth with opportunities and access to develop their basketball, social and leadership skills. He has sponsored numerous basketball camps and is the head coach for three Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) winning teams.

About Dr. Karla McCullough

Karla McCullough, a nonprofit executive director, owner of a small business consulting firm,

community and project developer, writer and child advocate is a native of Jackson. She spent the last 12 years working to build the capacity of individuals, the community and systems to establish more equitable opportunities for people of color, particularly children.

Her high-level engagement contributed to various equity trainings and creating racial equitable practices, policies and procedures for over 250+ individuals, community groups, public and private institutions, and governmental agencies nationwide.

She is executive director of the Juanita Sims Doty Foundation and serves as project director of Choose to Grow, an educational and mentoring program for the A-TEAAM, a partnership with the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute; and E-STEEM for girls, a partnership with the Cleveland Empowerment Foundation, Jackson State University and Mississippi State University



LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP

RFP 2022-08 Virtual Reality Equipment and Content

Electronic RFP 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), May 03, 2022 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all 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 www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs 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.

4/14/2022, 4/21/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 123-104, located on Latimer Ave in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$500.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us.

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201). The outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

4/21/2022, 4/28/2022, 5/5/2022

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Jackson, MS will conduct Public Hearings and an Application Workshop regarding the development of its 2022 One-Year Action Plan of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The Annual Action Planning process requires broad public participation by citizens and entities which are interested in, or are providing assistance in, the areas of housing, services for the homeless, public services and other community development activities.

The City of Jackson estimates that we will receive \$1,811,981 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; \$881,748 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds; \$159,648 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds; and \$1,428,764 in Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds for a total of \$4,282,141. Due to the Federal budget negotiations, the City of Jackson does not know the actual allocations to be awarded for 2022.

The Public Hearings will explain the purpose of the City's Annual Action Plan; discuss the City's goals and accomplishments with HUD funds; and consult with the public by accepting public comments regarding proposed activities for the programs. The Public Hearings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates at the specified locations:

May 10, 2022
Grove Park Community Center, 4126 Parkway Ave., 39213

May 11, 2022
Tabernacle Ministries, 2025 N. Siwell Rd., 39212

June 15, 2022
Warren Hood Building, 200 S. President St., 39201
(Final Public Hearing)

Application/Proposal Workshop- For non-profit organizations interested in applying for HUD funding, workshops will be held on Friday, May 20, 2022 at City of Jackson, 200 South President Street, Andrew Jackson Conference Room, Jackson, MS 39201. Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced. The Workshop will be conducted as follow:

- CDBG applicant workshop will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- ESG and HOPWA Applicant workshop will be from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- HOME Workshop will be from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Deadline- Application/Proposal packages for 2022 CDBG, ESG, HOPWA, and HOME will only be accepted electronically via email. Electronic submission instructions will be included in the application instructions. Applications will be available for download on May 20, 2022 by visiting <https://www.jacksonms.gov/housing-community-development/>. The deadline to submit all applications electronically is by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24, 2022.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, no application/proposal packages will be accepted at our office or by mail.

The draft Annual Action Plan will be available for review at the final public hearing and on the City's website at www.jacksonms.gov on June 15, 2022. The City will be accepting public comments on the draft Annual Action Plan until no later than 5:00 p.m., on Monday, July 15, 2022.

Residents with disabilities are encouraged to notify the City at least five (5) days prior to the public hearing of any needed accommodations.

For more details contact the Office of Development Assistance Division at 601-960-2155.

4/21/2022, 4/28/2022

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP

RFP 2022-07 University Partner for JPS Teacher Residency Program

Electronic RFP 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 29, 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 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.

4/14/2022, 4/21/2022

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Advertisement for Reverse Auction Bids

Reverse Auction Bid 3203 Computer Equipment Devices

Reverse Auction bidding for the above bid 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), May 11, 2022, at which time Reverse Auction bidding begins electronically. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date Reverse Auction bid opening ends.

Unpriced Specification responses must be submitted for this bid event. Specifications are due no later than (May 06, 2022 @5:00 p.m.,) local time to be the given the opportunity to participate in the auction. Vendors submitting acceptable specification responses will be invited to participate in the electronic reverse auction at www.centralbidding.com on May 11, 2022 beginning at 10:00 a.m. local time. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to participate in the reverse auction. For any questions concerning the reverse auction process or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

4/21/2022, 4/28/2022

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSAL FOR
FAA BUILDING RENOVATION
BY THE
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
PROJECT NO. 008-22

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking electronic proposals ("Proposal") for FAA Building Renovation (JAN).

Sealed Proposals to perform the services will be accepted at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 (the "Proposal Deadline"). Proposal shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Email: bids@jmaa.com

By mail or hand delivery: JMAA's Administrative Office, Suite 300
Main Terminal Building
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport
100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) Attention: Marvin Buckhalter, Director of Procurement; (ii) the wording: "FAA Building Renovation, Project No. 008-22." If the submission is submitted via email, the identification information must be provided in the email subject line. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Proposals ("RFP") is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents and Criteria for Selection. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Marvin Buckhalter, as follows: Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
100 International Drive, Suite 300
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109
Attention: Marvin Buckhalter
Telephone: (601) 664-3516
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713
Email: mbuckhalter@jmaa.com

or from JMAA's website at JAN | Connecting Jackson to the world, and the world to Jackson (jmaa.com)

Based on the Proposals received and the scoring of each proposal, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent and follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on Friday, May 6, 2022, at 10:00am (CST) using the following login information:

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

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095
Passcode: 520966

JMAA reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services.

JMAA has chosen to not establish a DBE participation goal for this RFP. However, twenty (20) points are potentially available to Respondents submitting an acceptable minority participation proposal for the Services.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

4/21/2022

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP

RFP 2022-09 K-2 Assessment Platform

Electronic RFP 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), May 06, 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 www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs 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.

4/21/2022, 4/28/2022

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP

RFP 2022- 10 Standards-Aligned Assessment for Student Practice and Enrichment

Electronic RFP 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), May 09, 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 www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs 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.

4/21/2022, 4/28/2022

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSAL FOR
PRIME FLIGHT RENOVATION AT THE SOJAN BUILDING
BY THE
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
PROJECT NO. 007-22

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking electronic proposals ("Proposal") for Prime Flight Renovation at the SoJan Building (JAN).

Sealed Proposals to perform the services will be accepted at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Friday, May 20, 2022 (the "Proposal Deadline"). Proposal shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Email: bids@jmaa.com

By mail or hand delivery: JMAA's Administrative Office, Suite 300
Main Terminal Building
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport
100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) Attention: Marvin Buckhalter, Director of Procurement; (ii) the wording: "Prime Flight Renovation at the SoJan Building, Project No. 007-22." If the submission is submitted via email, the identification information must be provided in the email subject line. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Proposals ("RFP") is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents and Criteria for Selection. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Marvin Buckhalter, as follows: Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
100 International Drive, Suite 300
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109
Attention: Marvin Buckhalter
Telephone: (601) 664-3516
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713
Email: mbuckhalter@jmaa.com

or from JMAA's website at <https://jmaa.com/partner-with-us/procurement/> Based on the Proposals received and the scoring of each proposal, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent and follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on Wednesday, May 04, 2022, at 10:00am (CST) using the following login information:

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

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095
Passcode: 520966

JMAA reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services.

JMAA has chosen to not establish a DBE participation goal for this RFP. However, twenty (20) points are potentially available to Respondents submitting an acceptable minority participation proposal for the Services.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

4/14/2022, 4/21/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY
CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcels 99-57 & 99-58 (jointly), located on Peace Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the properties will start at \$500.00 (jointly). The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said properties. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us.

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201). The outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel numbers being bid on along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

4/21/2022, 4/28/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
SIGN VARIANCE FOR QUIK TRIP

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR QUIK TRIP TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

4/14/2022, 4/21/2022



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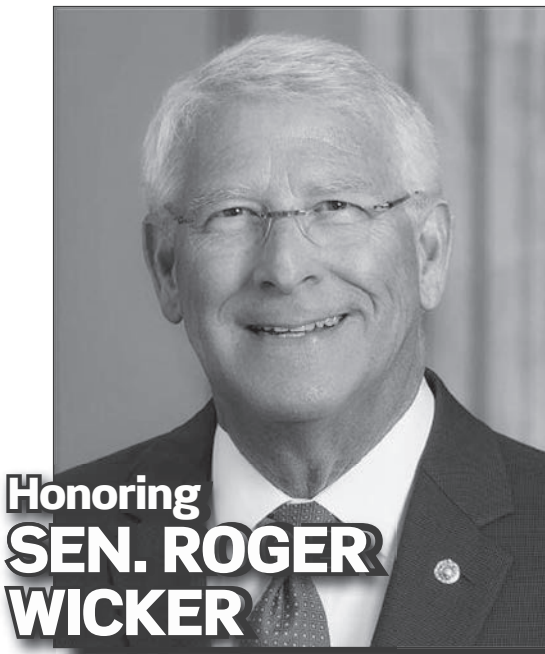
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Mississippi Press Association Education Foundation

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Thursday, April 21, 2022
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Reception 6 pm • Dinner 7 pm

Tickets \$80 each or \$600 for a table of eight
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or visit mspress.org to order

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AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

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BULLY'S RESTAURANT

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CASH & CARRY
Capitol Street and Monument Street
CITY HALL
219 S President St
GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX

2659 Livingston Road
DOLLAR GENERAL
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
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2855 McDowell Rd
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Northside Drive
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SPORTS MEDICINE
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Week of April 17, 2022

TV's 'black-ish' ends 8-season run with legacy, fans secure

By Lynn Elber
AP Television Writer

A surprise awaited “black-ish” creator Kenya Barris and his family on a 2016 visit to the newly opened National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington: An exhibit on the TV series was on display.

“I was very, very emotional” at seeing the honor, Barris said. He returned to the Smithsonian museum earlier this month for a splashy salute to “black-ish” as the end of its eight-season run approached.

“It was just surreal. The Smithsonian, as a brand, is tied to things that are lasting, that are part of what the core DNA of this world is. To put our show in that, it meant a lot to me,” he said.

Sitcoms, especially family-centric ones, are more likely to be enshrined in viewers’ memories than museums. Shows such as “The Brady Bunch,” “Good Times” and “Full House” were part of their viewers’ coming of age, with the shows and their characters beloved well beyond their original runs.

Talk to admirers of ‘black-ish’ and the same seems probable for the series, which airs its half-hour finale at 9 p.m. EDT Tuesday (midnight EDT on Hulu), followed by ABC News’ “black-ish: A Celebration” on ABC. The series was a network TV rarity: A



This image released by ABC shows Anthony Anderson, left, and Tracee Ellis Ross in a scene from the series finale of “black-ish,” aired April 19. RICHARD CARTWRIGHT/ABC VIA AP

depiction of a prosperous, tight-knit family of color, the Johnsons, with black creators shaping their stories.

“I remember when it first came out, I was concerned that it was going to be either serious and off-putting, or really sad and comical, drawing on stereotypical characters that may or may not exist in life,” said viewer Onaje Harper. The pandemic turned him into a binge-viewing convert, one who swats away online carping that the show isn’t “real.”

“It’s not real to them, but this is my everyday,” said Harper, an educator-turned-businessman in Dallas who is the grandson and son of black professionals. He

remembers feeling the same way about criticism of “The Cosby Show,” a 20th-century TV depiction of a well-off African American family.

But “black-ish” has a distinctly more layered view of race, starting with the title that reflects dad Andre “Dre” Johnson’s fear that affluence is separating his children from their ethnic identity. It also has a sharper take on race relations, Harper said.

He cited an episode in which Dr. Rainbow “Bow” Johnson, played by Tracee Ellis Ross, is being a supportive parent and volunteers for a private school fundraiser. One of the white parents offers her help, which the

show reimagines as code for, “I think you’re going to fail and you’re over your head,” as Harper recalled the scene.

“I died laughing, because the parents at my daughter’s school are amazing, but we often leave that place thinking, Oh, my goodness, I hope our daughter’s loving it, at least,” Harper said.

Jerry McCormick grew up watching Bob Newhart’s sitcoms and “Good Times” in the 1970s and ‘80s, among others. He compared “black-ish” to another comedy of the time.

“We never saw affluent black people on TV, except for ‘The Jeffersons,’” said McCormick of San Diego, who works in communications and as a journalism instructor. “I grew up in South Carolina and it helped having it on because it was aspirational.”

He sees ‘black-ish’ as akin to the grandchild of ‘The Jeffersons’ and the child of ‘the Cosby Show.’ You have Dre and Bow, a couple who truly care about each other. They parent their children. They run the house. The children are not overtaking them.”

Ladinia Brown, a New York City fraud investigator, said she loves the reality of it. The stuff is funny because a lot of is is just so true. She cited a favorite episode that tackled colorism – discrimination within an ethnic community against those with darker

skin.

“That resonated with me because my kids are like different colors of the rainbow, all different complexions, and the same thing with my family,” she said. “I really understood when they were addressing how people are treated differently within the African-American race.”

Her daughter, 19-year-old Emily Johnson, welcomed the show’s handling of issues, major and mundane, that are part of black life but largely ignored on screen. One example: a teen’s quandary over whether to keep straightening her hair or go natural.

“When I was younger, I really didn’t like my hair because I felt it was hard to manage and I didn’t like the way it looked,” Johnson said. “But over time, I appreciated my hair, and when I watched the episode I liked when (they) talked about all the things that black people’s hair can do.”

“Black-ish” also became a vehicle for sobering, nuanced chapters about racism, police violence and, in a hard-edged 2018 episode, the impact of Donald Trump’s presidency. (The episode, shelved by ABC, was released two years later on Hulu.)

The goal is “telling stories that are about something, telling stories that have a point, that are actually trying to say something. It was what television for a long

time used to be about,” Barris said – whether it was dad’s moral sermons in “Leave It to Beaver” or the social satire of Norman Lear’s “All in the Family” and “Maude.”

While “black-ish” took on thorny issues, it never surrendered the laughs in its more than 170 episodes, said Courtney Lilly, a writer on the series since its first season who became an executive producer and its showrunner.

“Obviously, there were episodes where we made sure we approached issues. But even in doing those we were relevant and funny,” Lilly said.

The series earned a prestigious Peabody Award and other awards – including multiple NAACP Image Awards for Anderson, Ross, Deon Cole and young actor Marsai Martin – but top Emmys have remained out of reach.

Asked about the show’s legacy, Barris points to its focus on those who feel unseen in the world, whatever their ethnicity, and how ‘black-ish’ sought to breach divisions.

“It’s often considered rude to talk about certain subjects that make people feel uncomfortable. We did that and, in the comfort of their homes,” he said. “I think it made people feel a little bit closer to people they may not have been close to before.”

Howard University professor says Americans are quitting ‘bad jobs’

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

It’s official, America has entered the Great Resignation.

In August of 2021, 4.3 million Americans quit their jobs, and the quit rate, measured by the government against total employment, rose to 2.9 percent.

But that was August.

According to the Labor Department’s Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, November quits reached near historic highs.

The number of workers deciding to self-terminate from their employment jumped to 4.5 million above the prior record of 4.4 million reached in September. When broken down, 3 percent of workers voluntarily left their positions, a figure that matched September’s record high.

Further, employers posted 10.6 million job openings, down from a near-record 11 million the previous month and just below July’s all-time high. Openings have now topped 10 million for six straight months.

Economists said the decline was fueled by a drop of 261,000 openings in restaurants and hotels, leaving a whopping 1.5 available jobs for each unemployed person, the most on record dating back two decades.



Howard University Professor William Spriggs (left) says Americans are quitting ‘Bad Jobs.’

After years in the restaurant industry, Colette Graack told CBS News that she left her duties in the food prep line in June 2021 in exchange for a more profound role as mom.

“I just couldn’t handle keeping on that pressure when my son needed me more,” Graack said.

Her son has autism and needs constant care, a job she will soon take as she trains to be his personal care assistant.

Graack told the network the leap proved difficult.

“Especially financially because I’m a single mom. Thankfully, I had savings at the time that we could ride that out,” she said.

Reportedly, many Americans

left the workforce recently and shared Graack’s concerns.

Despite millions quitting, millions more found new jobs. So where are they going? Often, it’s a different industry altogether.

“This notion that if you leave one industry, going to a new one requires, you know, a degree or a bunch of training, it might not be the case,” said Steve Grove, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, told CBS. “The reality is today; whether it’s the state, whether it’s a college, whether it’s your future employer, there is a ton of support and free training available to make that shift.”



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)

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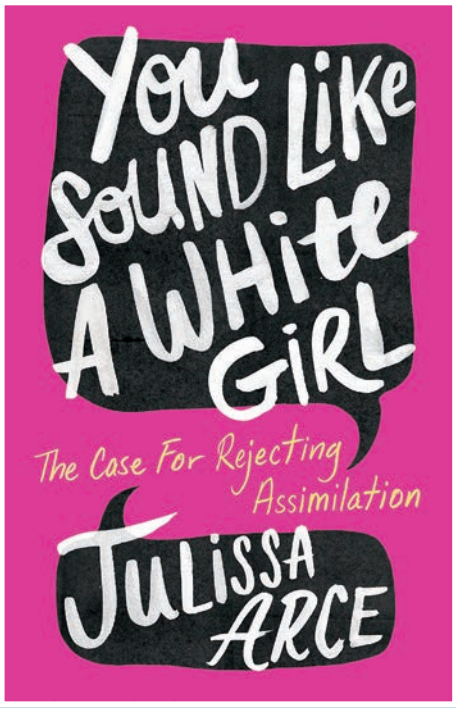
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BOOK REVIEW:

YOU SOUND LIKE A WHITE GIRL: THE CASE FOR REJECTING ASSIMILATION

BY JULISSA ARCE
C.2022, FLATIRON BOOKS
\$27.99 • 208 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

The key for the clubhouse door is off-limits to you.

You’ll never earn the member jacket or learn the double-secret handshake. No matter how hard you try, membership to the club is totally off-limits and that’s irritating, embarrassing, and even dangerous. But read the new book “You Sound Like a White Girl” by Julissa Arce, and maybe that’s a club not worth joining.

For the first eleven years of her life, Julissa Arce was a Mexican

child living in Mexico. She was not ethnically different from any of her neighbors; in fact, “Eating the food, speaking the language, dancing to the music – it was all like breathing air.”

And then everything changed. Her parents moved their family across the border to America, a sacrifice they made to ensure better opportunities for their children but with those opportunities came struggle. Arce constantly worked to fit in, she cut her long hair, and she practiced until she could speak English almost flawlessly

but even the smallest mistake set her back in the eyes of her white classmates.

She was never going to be white. So why try?

For centuries, she says, white people have told Hispanic and black people that if they worked hard, that “everything was possible,” and they said that while they were making it impossible for anyone with darker skin to get ahead. As a result, people of color relinquished their culture and language with hopes of assimilation or, at least, acceptance.

They stopped speaking their native tongue, while white schools proudly taught it in “dual-language... programs.” Most bruisingly, the system resulted in a widely-held preference for lighter skin, and not just in the U.S.: a similar preference “infiltrates” Mexican life, too, says Arce.

The solution, she suggests, is to stop trying to assimilate, period.

“There is so much power in the uniqueness of our names, our food, our heritage,” she says. “Only when we refuse to change and instead recognize the beauty

that has been passed down to us will we truly find acceptance within ourselves.”

When you approach “You Sound Like a White Girl” and prepare to dive in, be sure to leave your assumptions at the door. Author Julissa Arce is going to make you examine everything you ever thought about your natal culture, no matter what your origins.

And she does it with an angry eloquence that makes you wonder why anyone would ever want to work so hard to fit in, anyhow. Through her own personal sto-

ries, history and research, she lets readers know that they’re not alone in their efforts to assimilate, that their frustration is not unique, and that there’s ample reason to quit the fight. It comes with a good amount of pride and not just a few surprises.

While this book may seem like it could have a “No Whites Allowed” sign hidden somewhere on the cover, nothing could be further from the truth. To make our society better, letting everyone of any race read “You Sound Like a White Girl” is key.

Changing the dynamics: JSU has first Hispanic head drum major and prancing J-Sette

By Sunshine Noel
JSU Student Intern

The spring semester has been one to remember for Jackson State, and continues to bring in new firsts. Two JSU students made history becoming the first ever hispanic head drum major for the Sonic Boom, and the first ever hispanic prancing J-Sette.

Both Dallas, TX natives, Marvin Meda and Priscilla Marin are excited about what the upcoming 2022-2023 season will bring.

Meda explained how humbling of an experience he’s had with the Sonic Boom, and how honored he was to be able to continue teaching the Boom’s style and continuing the legacy.

“I hope to show that I earned this position for a reason. I can’t wait to bring my creativity, work hard with everyone and keep that amazing sound going.”

It was important that his experience showed people that HBCUs can be for them too, no matter their ethnicity. “The family culture brought me here, and I’ve felt nothing but welcomed. I love that about JSU.”

Marin felt the same way. Having been a dancer since a child and starting her majorette journey in high school, she explained how the prancing J-Settes made her choose JSU.

“I studied the style and different schools teams and ultimately felt like JSU was the best fit for me, along with furthering my education.” She explained how everything flowed naturally for her, and she was embraced with open arms.

“I see some of the mean comments that people say, as far as how maybe I shouldn’t be here or I’m taking away from the history. However, I didn’t join the J-Settes to take anything from



Priscilla Marin



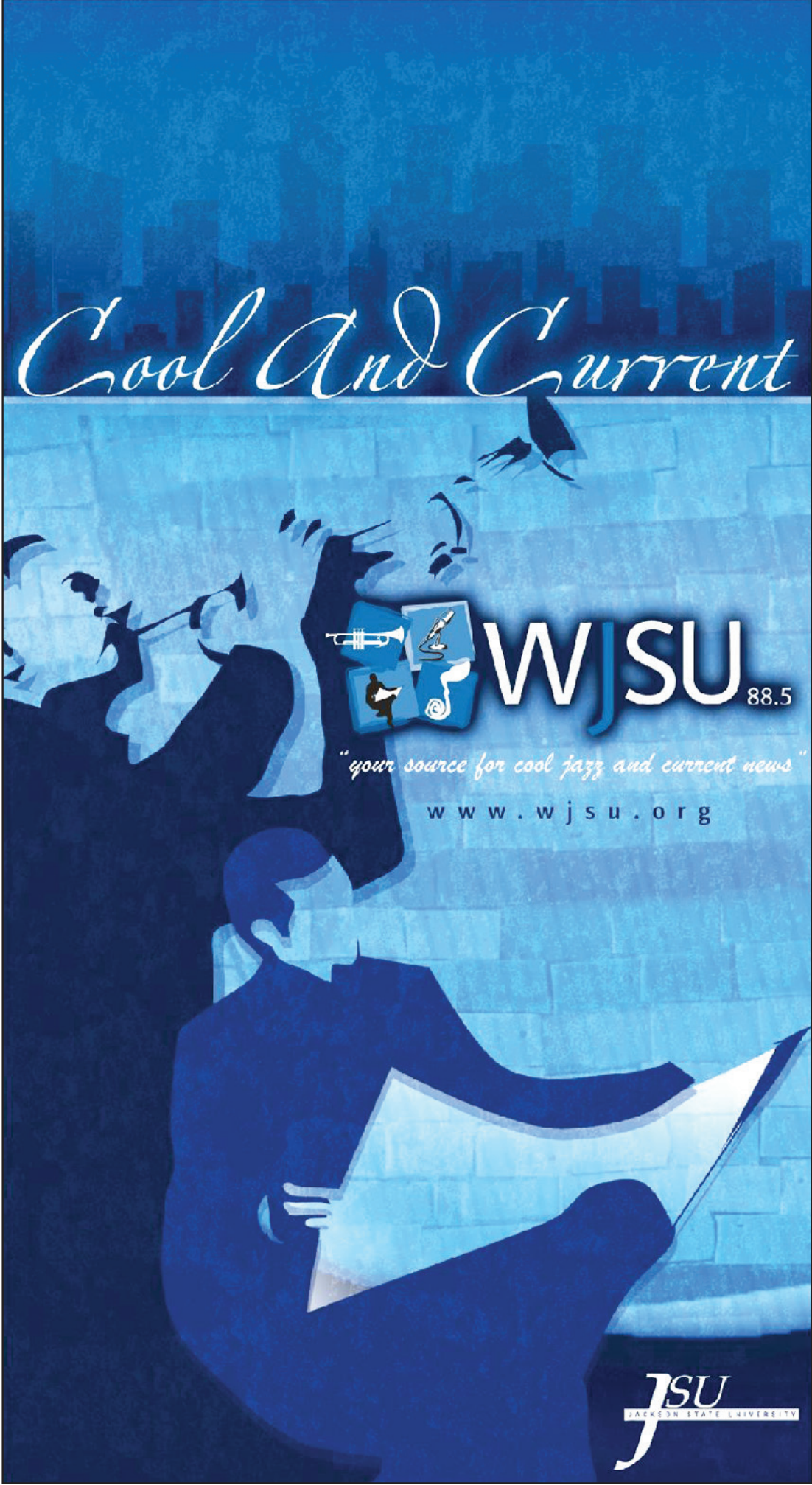
Marvin Meda

Photo Courtesy of sonicboom.ots

them or their style. I wanted to learn it, master it and show my passion and how happy I am to be here.” She continued, “Often, between HBCUs and PWIs hispanics fall in the middle of

where they should be. I may have changed history, but I will never change the legacy.”

The first home game for the Tigers will be against Grambling University, Sept. 17.



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Saturday, April 16, 2022 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Magnolia, Miss. | City Hall

HIGHLIGHTS

Photos by Gail H. M. Brown, Ph.D.



Resident Artist, Charmagne Andrews explains her "Expressions of Blackness ... " art displayed around the walls of Magnolia's City Hall.



Sen. Kelvin Butler (left), Dist. 38, presented a Senate Resolution recognizing the significance of the Arts 2 Health 2 Wellness Event to Co-Sponsors Traci Patterson Cook (center) and Maver Tammv Witherspoon.



Artwork designed and created by local and areas Magnolia, Miss. students.



Adorning their various safety masks, members of the audience are seen above listening very attentively to the presenters as they present important information about intervention, treatment, and overcoming mental health conditions.



Guest Artist, 5th Grader, Carrie Patterson of Glen Burnie, MD, explains several of her art pieces she has included in today's exhibit. One special piece is her tribute to the people of Ukraine, (the second photo from the left).



Panelist Mental Health Therapist and Social Worker Kontonya Barfield passionately shares her work in the area of children's mental health.



Panelist David Bickham, CIO & Senior Strategist, The Jackson Medical Mall, shares information and his testimony of overcoming mental health challenges.



Magnolia Mayor Tammy Witherspoon (left) introduces two members of the Mayor Youth Council who really did an outstanding job in helping them pull the event together. They are Alexis Smith (center) and Samuel Nimox (right).



Pausing for a photo opportunity following the morning session were Geneva Nero Patterson (left) who is the niece of Gwendolyn Nero Loper (right).



Panelist Ida Anderson, Health Educator, Mississippi State Department of Health, is seen here setting up give-a-ways of free COVID-19 test kits.



South Pike High School Class of 1979, classmates of the event Sponsor, Traci Patterson Cook, attended to show their support. Front row, left to right Sherry Williams Quinn, Jackie Stewart Ross Back row, left to right Leila Lumpkin, Rhonda Tobias, Valerie McArthur Williams, Traci Patterson Cook, Willie Jean Patterson Magee, Angie Standberry, and Brenda Carter.



Event Photographer Magnolia native, co-sponsor Edward "Bull Moose" Johnson was honored to pose with his former educator and librarian Geneva Nero Patterson.



Carrie Patterson, Traci Patterson Cook and mentees from Rosehill Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev Gary Brumfield (not pictured).



Guest Musician Jackie Clemmons teams with a young rising star Braxton Cook for a crowd-pleasing musical duo.



Co-Sponsor Edward "Bull Moose" Johnson (left) is engaged in conversation with former Magnolia Mayor Anthony Witherspoon as current Mayor Tammy Witherspoon smiles at a handsome young baby boy in the crowd (not shown).



Former Mayor Witherspoon and current Mayor Tammy Witherspoon and others listening to jazz music after the event.



Members of the crowd are seen here enjoying the music and each other on the lawn of the City Hall.

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