

New pastor installed at College Hill surrounded by distinguished clergy



(L-R) Rev. Carl E. Jordan, II (pastor's brother) Rev. Darryl Smothers, Rev. Reginald Garrett, Rev. William Wheeler, Dr. F. R. Lenoir, Dr. John Wicks, Dr. Matthew Canada, Pastor Jordan, Dr. Jerry Young, Dr. C. J. Rhodes, Rev. Willie Tobias, Rev. Robert Cotton, Sr., Rev. Alvin Carter, Rev. John Johnson, Rev. Calvin Peoples

By Daphne Monix Higgins
Contributing Writer

Men anointed by God filled the rostrum and overflowed into the congregational seating within College Hill Missionary Baptist Church to witness the installation of Rev. Chauncy Jordan, Sr., the 15th pastor of the 115-year-old institution with Rev. Willie Tobias, pastor of New Mount Zion Baptist Church presiding. The installation program, a special church service for a newly appointed minister, is an occasion to recognize the calling of the pastor, to acknowledge his responsibilities and duties, and to

remind the congregation of their duty to follow their new pastor's lead. All of the protocol surrounding this special event was followed as College Hill members, visitors and family members of Rev. Jordan gathered at the church, located at 1600 Florence Ave, in Jackson, to show appreciation for the newly installed pastor. Deaconess Debra McGee extended a welcome followed by a recognition of visitors by Lanae Williams. Dr. Matthew L. Canada, pastor of Pilgrim Rest M. B. Church, Madison, delivered the Installa-

tion Message, reminding those present that "Working Together" is the key to success. He was introduced by one of his members, Rev. Alvin Carter. Canada in his message paraphrased the classical movie, "The Wizard of Oz," highlighting the individual needs of each character as they pooled their strengths for one common goal and achieved a positive outcome in the end. This same concept was shared during Jordan's first message to College Hill members on July 18, 2021, and continues to be his strategy for the church. Jordan

shared in that first message that his short-term goal was to build upon current relationships and forge new relationships in order to work on God's plan and carry out his mandate and mission. He said he wanted to learn more about the history of College Hill, its' heartbeat and what has allowed the church to survive over a century. Jordan said his long-term goal is to ensure there is an intentional effort to be a great example in a multi-generational church. After the keynote message by *College Hill* Continued on pages 3

Black Mississippians invisible to our highest elected office



Governor Reeves signing Confederate Heritage Month Proclamation

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

COMMENTARY

Here in Mississippi, it seems like many things are taken for granted – "that's just the way it is," becomes the refrain. Many things are just not talked about, even if they are seen in the bright light of day. The Governor of Mississippi sees many things. But I have to wonder if he sees black people at all. If he did, wouldn't he naturally and publically celebrated Black History Month? He doesn't. Must be beyond his Christian reach. As a percent of population, no other state has more African Americans than Mississippi – the state Tate Reeves presides over. People around the world know about Black History Month, but here in Mississippi, it's negotiable whether it's acknowledged or not. There are 2,976,000 people in Mississippi, but 39% of them – 1,400,000 people are invisible to our own governor, despite his claim to govern for all of Mississippi. Conversely, he has no trouble seeing the heritage of the confederacy though. Each year proclaiming April as Confederate Heritage Month and April 25th as Confederate Memorial Day despite the confederacy being inescapably tethered to slavery. Nine of the top ten newspapers in Mississippi, by reported circulation, acknowledge Black History Month and provide overall coverage of events during the month, and some include Opinion and Editorials in their print and digital pages. Mississippi television stations seem to cover the topic; WTOK in Meridian, WJTV & WLBT in Jackson, WLOX in Gulfport, just to name a few. WDAM in Mosselle covers the Black History Month Parade in Hattiesburg. Black newspapers – well, they always see black people. Moreover, black newspapers exist to ensure that black people are seen and heard as full-fledged members of our

society – imagine that. So what about our neighboring governors? Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards publically acknowledges Black History Month, as does Georgia Governor Brian Kemp and Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson. Tennessee Governor Bill Lee made a proclamation for Black History Month in 2019, but I couldn't seem to find one more recently. Even Alabama Governor, Kay Ivey, who acknowledged wearing Black Face 50 years ago, has acquiesced. Despite celebrating confederate monuments and passing a CRT bill, she managed to publically celebrate civil rights figures such as Coretta Scott King each week in February this year, and last year named the first ever black poet laureate in Alabama's history – Ashley M. Jones. The United States itself has recognized Black History Month every year since Gerald R. Ford's official recognition in 1976. Several other countries, including Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom devote a month to acknowledging Black History and black achievements. Technically, Black History Month had its origins in 1915 in Chicago. In 1924 there was Negro History and Literature Week later renamed Negro Achievement Week, and then Negro History Week in February 1926. Official recognition by the country came fifty years later. National entities that sponsor Black History Month include The National Gallery of Art, Library of Congress, National Archives, Smithsonian, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, National Park Service and National Endowment for the Humanities. The corporate world has increasingly seen the value

Invisible
Continued on pages 3

Committed to Service: The women of AKA feed Jackson's homeless

By Sunshine Noel
Student Intern

On a beautiful, sunny-skied Saturday afternoon, the ladies of the Gamma Rho Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha joined together to spread love, light and meals to those in need. Audrey Hall, advisor of the Jackson State Gamma Rho chapter, expressed how good it felt to be able to get out, and give back. "This is what we're about, taking care of the community. It's a beautiful day, so the Gamma Rho Chapter of JSU said, "Hey, let's go see if we can be a blessing to the homeless."

The ladies started at Poindexter Park, and divided the rest of the lunches left over at Smith Park. They packed up sandwiches, water and even gave out fruit. Along with that, they took the time to pray over the parks as well as with some of the people within them.

"If more organizations could get together and do what we're doing, the homeless population wouldn't be as heavy as it is



Ladies of Gamma Rho Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMMA RHO CHAPTER

now," said Hall. "I've been volunteering since I was 16 years old, and giving back to people who are less fortunate than me has always been something that holds a special place in my heart," explained Ayanna Preyor, a senior at JSU. Preyor, along with help from her line-sister Jessica Ross, played a big part in organizing the day of service. Ross, much like Preyor, agreed that service meant a lot to her as well. "I was raised to put others before yourself, and

I try to live every day like that with God first." Ross explained how although grateful for how fortunate she may be compared to others, she never wants to lose sight of those who are not.

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Pastor Chauncy L. Jordan Sr.



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Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

When Civil Rights history walks right through your door



James Meredith at WeBelieveDigital Studios

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Last Wednesday afternoon, James Meredith and Dr. Roslind McCoy Sibley walked through the door at the WeBelieveDigital Studios on Livingston Road for an interview with Socrates Garrett. Yes, THE James Meredith, Civil Rights Icon.

The hour-long interview was arranged through the publisher of *The Mississippi Link*, Jackie Hampton, and occurred at the behest of Dr. McCoy Sibley, daughter of the late Drs. A.H. McCoy and Rose Embly McCoy. Dr. McCoy Sibley’s mother was a psychologist, civil rights activist, and long-time educator at Jackson State University where the main campus auditorium bears her name. Her father was a dentist and NAACP leader who helped desegregate Jackson schools. The Federal building in downtown Jackson bears his name, the first Federal building in the nation named for a black man.



Roslind McCoy Sibley at WeBelieveDigital Studios

Meredith, 88, was a joy to have in the studio. True to his reputation, he is a man of few words – yet when those words are shared, he is direct like a laser beam. In addition to his friendship with the McCoy family, he also has a close relationship with Garrett. He indicated that “except for my baby brother, there is no one else that I’ve spoken with more than Socrates Garrett.”

Meredith, an Air Force veteran and former student at Jackson State, was a prominent figure in civil rights history, about which volumes have been written. In 1962, he became the first African-American student admitted to the segregated University of Mississippi. Back then he did not receive the same warm welcome that he did today. After having twice been denied admission, calls from Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to then Governor Ross Barnett, a devout segregationist, facilitated Meredith’s arrival and registration at Ole Miss. Hundreds of deputized



Socrates Garrett interviewing Meredith and Sibley in WeBelieveDigital Studios

U.S. Border Patrol and Federal Bureau of Prisons officers ultimately escorted him through those doors.

In 1966, Meredith was shot and wounded severely by a white gunman on the second day of his March Against Fear, a 220 mile route from Memphis to Jackson. His solo March was intended to shine light on the racism prevalent in the South and to encourage voter registration after the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Once word got out about the shooting, people from across the country took up the cause. By the time Meredith rejoined the march prior to arriving in Jackson, his solitary march had grown to 15,000 – the largest civil rights march in Mississippi history.

The interview felt intimate. It was unique in its transparency, and of course, very informative. Don’t miss the chance to watch this special presentation at a time that is convenient to you. *Go to this web address <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvEjLKLApIM>*

In Loving Memory George Coleman Amerson

February 1, 1947 - April 14, 2022



Amerson

On February 1, 1947 Cleotha Amerson and Bessie Collins Amerson of Jackson, Mississippi, were blessed with their fifth child, George Coleman Amerson.

George was named after his two grandfathers George Amerson and Coleman Collins. Family and friends affectionately addressed him by both names, ‘George Coleman.’

George confessed Christ at an early age and devoted his life to service in the ministry, including attending Union Seminary in New Orleans, LA. He served as an associate pastor at Mt. Sinai M.B. Church in Algiers, LA. And later returned to Jackson where he remained a faithful member of New Hope Baptist Church.

He attended the legendary Lanier

High School and was a manager of the undefeated Lanier Bulldog’s Men’s National Negro High School Basketball Championship team in 1965.

After graduating from Lanier, he enrolled in the United States Air Force and served the country faithfully during the Viet Nam War. Upon returning from Vietnam, he was employed in sales for Sherwin Williams. He served in the National Guard and maintained his father’s barber shop, ‘Mr. Cle’s’ until his father succumbed to failing health.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Vivian Amerson Watson and his grandson, Leonard Holton III. He is survived by two children, Betsy Sabrina Amerson Holton of Heath, TX; George Coleman Amerson, Jr. (DeMonica) of Spring, TX; their mother, Betty Allen Amerson; three granddaughters, Sydne’ Marie Holton, Alexis Gabrielle Amerson and Hailey Nicole Amerson; two sisters, Yvonne Joyce Amerson Etheredge and Gloria Jean Amerson; and one brother, Cleophus Amerson (Carolyn); two nieces, seven nephews, and a host of other family members and friends.

Service was held Monday, April 25, 2022 at Collins Funeral Home, Northside Chapel. The eulogy was given by Dr. Jerry young, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church.

The interment was held Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery in Newton, MS.

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College Hill

Continued from page 1

Dr. Canada, the installation for Pastor Jordan began. The Charge to the Congregation was given by Dr. John A Wicks, pastor of Mount Nebo Baptist Church and the Charge to the Pastor was given by Rev. John R. Johnson of Morning Star Baptist Church. The Act of Installation included a special prayer by Dr. F. R. Lenoir with the laying of hands on Pastor Jordan, as he was surrounded by all the ministers present. Dr. Lenoir serves as moderator of the Jackson District Missionary Baptist Association, Inc. and is pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church.

Prior to the newly installed pastor’s remarks, his wife, Dr. LaShanda Jordan, and one of the couple’s two sons: Joshua (Chauncy Jr. was unable to attend), shared comments with those present. Dr. Jordan told the congregation that “College Hill has a wonderful and committed pastor.” She added that this was not being said because he is her husband, but because he will do all that he can to work with his new team to move the church forward. She also thanked College Hill for allowing her “to come in and be” herself and be received with love.

Son, Joshua, followed his mother by saying that his first day at College Hill was similar to being the new kid at school. He noted that when he first arrived, he didn’t know anyone, but within a matter of days he’d made new friends and felt like he was home. He thanked his mother for her support and then verbally shared his love for his father. As he shared his admiration, the love he expressed caused tears to stream from his father’s eyes, as well as many of those present.

The program’s co-chairs, Jacquelyn Hampton and Frank Yates, shared their gratefulness to everyone who assisted in helping to make the day memorable and presented Pastor Jordan and LaShanda Jordan a framed family portrait on behalf of the College Hill family.

Dr. Jerry Young, president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, gave the final remarks and the benediction. After the benediction a reception dinner was held in the College Hill Family Life Center.

See photos page 15.

Invisible

Continued from page 1

of Black History Month and spares no expense in acknowledging it annually. To them green American dollars are actually colorless.

Governor Reeves is always advocating for economic advancement in Mississippi, just not black economic advancement. And here in the Capitol City where the African-American population is 85%, and where he lives and works every day – try to think of three black economic engines.

Okay, can you think of two truly meaningful black economic engines in Jackson? One?

There are things that cannot and must not be taken for granted. Leaders lead from the front, not from behind. Leaders never lead effectively with a blindfold firmly shielding them from the truth. Black people and white people are equally God’s children – even in the Governor’s Mansion and the Mississippi State Capitol.

To remain steadfastly opposed to black advancement is more than just willful prejudicial defiance, it’s the manifestation of hatred baked into the DNA – an utter lack of basic human regard.

AKA

Continued from page 1

“To be able to help them means the world to me.”

People in the park expressed their gratitude to the ladies, and hoped they would see more people coming out to do the same.

Following the day of service in the park,

on Sunday, the Ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., The Glamorous Gamma Rho Chapter Jackson State University, began their Charter Day Celebration with a powerful worship service at Holy Temple Baptist Church pastored by Hall.



Gamma Rho Chapter members praying

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMMA RHO CHAPTER



Worship service at Holy Temple Baptist Church

PHOTO BY GAIL M. BROWN

Ward 6 Town Hall meeting at Glory Empowerment Center

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

Pastor Aaron Banks, the second-term councilman for Jackson’s Ward 6, hosted a Town Hall meeting Thursday night at his Glory Empowerment Center, 115 Maddox Road in South Jackson at 6 p.m. There were nearly 40 citizens and 12 twelve JPD officers, including Chief James Davis, in attendance.

Councilman Banks read what he referred to as Statement of Fact as to why he voted the way he did on the garbage contract and mentioned all the encouragement that he has received during this process.

He mentioned having four winning bids in one RFP: once a week pickup with a cart (FCC), once a week without a cart (FCC), twice a week with a cart (Richard’s), and twice a week without a cart (Waste Management). “It was clear to me that the majority of citizens in Ward 6 wanted twice a week pickup without a cart,” Banks said.

He explained that the council then eliminated the two bids with once per week pickup, and then the mayor selected Richard’s Disposal.



Councilman Banks at Town Hall meeting

PHOTO BY CHRIS YOUNG

Banks cited the following reasons for his nay vote on the mayor’s selection:

1) Tonnage versus households – He stated that Richard’s bid was based on tonnage versus households (53,000), and my problem with that is that your tonnage of collections in June is vastly different than your tonnage of collections in November. He cited Thanksgiving as to the reason why.

2) Cost of gas to run the trucks to cover all 113 square miles on an adequate timeline makes him wonder if there could possibly be

an underbid on a proposed job just to get the job. He spoke to “a colleague, Councilman Banks (same last name) in New Orleans and he was in a situation two years ago where he had a trailer on the back of his truck and he was going through New Orleans to pick up trash,” implying that Richard’s was not doing their job.

3) The principal that cheaper is not always better.

4) If there is going to be an increased price from what the city charges the ratepayers, then as a councilperson I must do my research to ensure a quality service.



Attendee asking question of Councilman Banks

PHOTO BY GAIL BROWN

5) With all that we have going on, this is not the time for trial and error and the manifestation of what’s showing right now currently when it comes to our garbage collection.

He went on to share some of the timeline of the process and court actions and mentioned the concept that if the mayor was allowed to rule by minority fiat, then there would be no need to have seven council members present.

“The sad reality is that the way, the place we are in can effect governments in every municipality within the State of Mississippi, in-

cluding the state, by setting a precedent where a mayor or any executive can run the city without it’s legislative or the state without it’s legislative branch,” said Banks.

After concluding his statement, he introduced Tomeka Williams with the Red Cross who shared details of the upcoming plans to use 100 volunteers to install free smoke detectors throughout Ward 6 on May 14. She reported that on next Saturday, April 30, the volunteers would be going door-to-door in heighten awareness. She encouraged residents to go to the Oak Forest Head Start and

SoundtheAlarm.Org/MS for more information.

Councilman Banks’ staff distributed handouts detailing upcoming public hearings about the city’s Annual Action Plan and Applications Workshops related to Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership funds (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS funds (HOPWA).

The public hearings will be on May 10, May 11 and June 15. Please contact Ms. Kathy at Councilman Banks’ office for more details. She can be reached at 601-960-1089.

A four-page handout of Active Code Violation Cases in Ward 6 was also distributed. Once the floor was open for questions, from constituents, about a dozen engaged with remarks focused on everything from clogged ditches to potholes, to sewage, to policing issues.

JPD Chief Davis gave remarks and then his entire executive command staff, precinct commanders, and several others, introduced themselves and provided their cell phone numbers.



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The City Plaza (formerly the Jacksonian Promenade) Community Clean-Up and Fest

2460 Terry Road • Jackson, MS • April 23, 2022

PHOTOS BY ANITA YOUNG

**A new redevelopment
in South Jackson
over 250 volunteers
participated**

"Our Community Clean up and FEST was outstanding with over 250 volunteers. We had over 45 community partners who helped to make it a success. We are thrilled," said Juanita Doty of the Juanita Sims Doty Foundation in Jackson.



Mississippi Community Lupus Warriors, Inc. to host 2nd annual Lupus Awareness Walk



Lupus Warriors seated – Tontonya Jackson (L-R) Chiquita Campbell, Brittany Williams, Varranda Love, Mekeshia Pierre, Krystal Williams, Kristy Ramos, De'saree Thigpen and Jessica Taylor
PHOTO COURTESY OF MS COMMUNITY OF LUPUS WARRIORS, INC.

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Community Lupus Warriors, Inc. will host its 2nd annual Lupus Awareness Walk Saturday, May 7, from 8 a.m. to noon at Davis Road Park located at 2512 Davis Road in Byrum. The public is invited to attend. Registration will begin at 8

a.m. and activities of the walk, such as door prizes and giveaways will begin at 9 a.m.

To pre-register go to Eventbrite: Coins for a Cure Lupus Walk 2022.

Since the first walk MCLW has connected with over 50 Lupus warriors around the Jackson Metro area and throughout

Mississippi.

"We are not done yet, we have work to do," said Mississippi Lupus Warrior Varranda Love. Love is a visual arts teacher with the Jackson Public School District.

She may be reached at 601-813-4204 or mslupuswarrior@gmail.com.



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



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

To Qualify:

- Child must be 3 or 4 on or before September 1st
- Family must reside in Hinds County
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"Families of children with disabilities are encouraged to apply regardless of income."

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

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- 2) **Proof of family's income** - tax return, W 2, pay stub, SSI, Social Security, child support, TANF, grants/scholarship, unemployment, and any other source of household income
- 3) **Proof of Hinds County residency** - lease, mortgage statement, current utility bill (light, water, gas or sewer), current phone or cable bill
- 4) **Child's Social Security number**
- 5) **Medical insurance of child (if applicable)**
- 6) **IEP or IFSP (if applicable)**
- 7) **Legal guardianship (if applicable)**
- 8) **Documentation of foster care (if applicable)**

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

**PRIORITY DEADLINE:
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Helping Families,
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Mayor Willie White: dynamic mayor forges ahead

Port Gibson strides forward amidst adversity

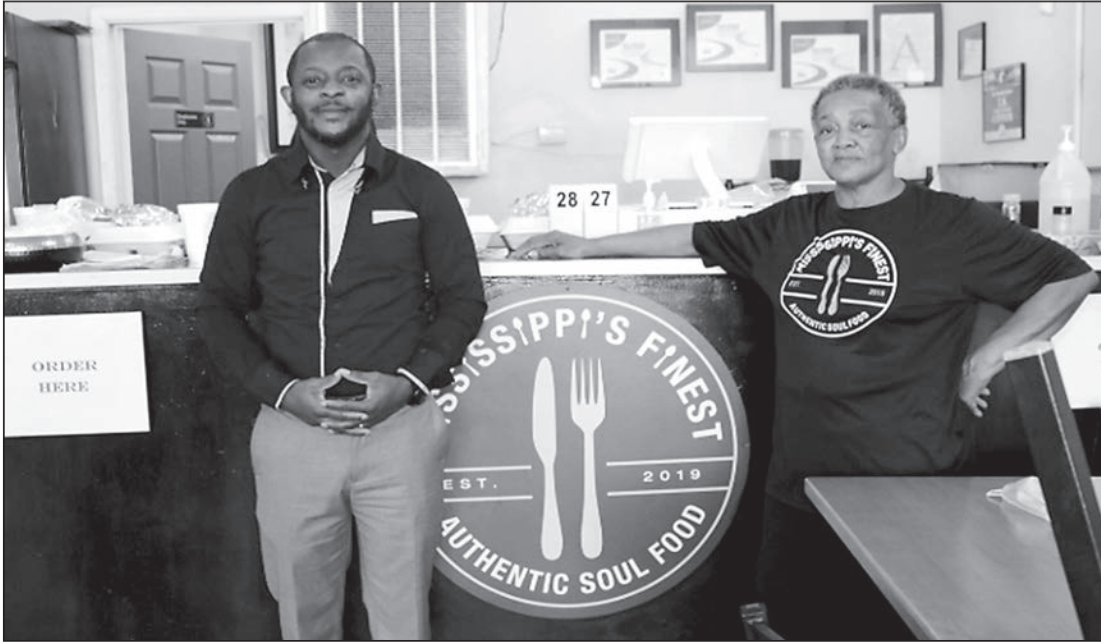
By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
Contributing Writer

Port Gibson, the southwest Mississippi city, civil war leader General Ulysses Grant described as, “too beautiful to burn,” battles on amidst adversity. Honorable Willie White and city leaders gallantly manage Port Gibson with courage and conviction.

Like a number of southern states, the city grapples with challenges. The quest for jobs, industries, factories, shops, restaurants and other economic establishments yearn for spots in the otherwise magnificent city.

Some Port Gibson residents who know its history lament over the city’s phenomenal decline. Some cry over Port Gibson’s deterioration from its once booming status to the current era of depreciation. Some observers yell that it is on a downward trajectory with zero prospects for redemption.

Port Gibson’s hospital, clinics, grocery stores and churches were strong. However there is grand scope for major upgrades. More businesses can evidently foster the towns inevitable quest for advancement. Cognizant of these economic assets or the dire need thereof, some city leaders are striving to steer the community forward



Mayor White and Rev. Ray Coleman, restaurant owner PHOTO BY JERRY DOMATOB

to the best of their ability.

The once vibrant city, some commentators assert used to attract folks from all parts of the state and indeed country, battles along.

Today, under the tutelage of Mayor Willie White’s regimen, hopes for Port Gibson’s growth sparks optimism even though crises may loom large.

As Mayor Willie asserts, “Our plan coming in was to restructure the city’s foundation, prioritize the immediate needs and secure a better foreseeable future for all citizens.”

A dynamic youth with vision

and insight for the community, Mayor White is doing his utmost to channel Port Gibson on the path of booming socioeconomic advancement. He is working hard to uplift Port Gibson.

Grand Gulf, an atomic plant, is the foremost economic and business institution in Port Gibson. Established in the 1970s, it witnessed an upgrade recently. Grand Gulf offers job opportunities for residents and people from the neighborhood.

As the century advances, Port Gibson like other southern cities needs to upgrade and

remodel the infrastructure. Improvements and elevations of the water system, roads and buildings will also strike tender chords in the hearts and minds of residents. Some admirable progress has been made in that direction.

Better housing along with other economic investments, will be highly appreciated.

For example, Mrs. Felton, Pastor Felton’s wife, infuses a new lease of life in the city with the health outfit she efficiently runs. Remodeling and repairs in the city and its environs will be zestfully welcomed. Mayor

White notes, “It is our intention to get everyone involved in the city’s restoration.”

Port Gibson’s school system is currently under the auspices of a seasoned and progressive educator, Dr. Sandra Nash. She will hopefully steer the system in the right direction. Her understanding of the organization is a plus for the area.

Rising test scores along with high performance in extra-curricula activities will put broad smiles on the faces of stakeholders.

Additionally investments in any area of Port Gibson’s economy is definitely a magnificent step forward. It will be immensely appreciated.

Port Gibson’s amicable, welcoming, cheerful and helpful population is a major asset to the area. Their warmth, courtesy, friendliness and approachability is a definite plus for the city.

Welcome to Port Gibson, which came into being in 1802.

Mayor Willie White studied business and education in college and is a clergyman. Born and raised in Port Gibson, he is a product of the educational establishment.

Rev. Micahael

The son of Rev. Michael White, of Claremount M. B. Church, he served the com-

munity as a teacher, businessman and alderman. He also proficiently led and trained boy scouts in the area for decades.

Mayor White is also a graduate of Alcorn State University and is a proven leader and businessman reputed among other things for training leaders. He is a resourceful, tactful and respected leader.

Current Port Gibson City Ward leaders are: Connie Watson, Chelshe Archie, Myrtle Hedrick, Steve Chambliss, Scott Davis and Nicole Young. The City Hall administration includes: Isom Coleman III (city clerk), Adrienne Reed (deputy clerk) and Debreonna Thompson (court clerk).

Mayor White’s predecessors on the job were Mayors Fred Reeves, the first male African-American leader to hold that office and Amelda Arnold, the first African-American female to serve in that capacity and office.

Mississippi set to become final state with equal pay law

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi will become the final state with a law requiring equal pay for equal work by women and men.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves signed House Bill 770 Wednesday, and it will become law July 1.

A 1963 federal law requires equal pay for equal work, but Mississippi was the only state without its own law since Alabama enacted one in 2019.

The Mississippi law says a lawsuit must be filed within two years of when a worker “knew or should have known” about pay discrepancies.

If the pay discrimination lawsuit is successful, the employer would have to increase wages of the lower-paid worker rather than decrease wages of the higher-paid one, said House Judiciary A Committee Chairwoman Angela Cock-



Angela Cockerham

erham, an independent from Magnolia who pushed for the legislation.

The law says businesses with at least five employees must pay equal wages to women and men who work full-time jobs that require “equal skill, education, effort and responsibility” and that are done “under similar working conditions.”

Several exceptions are allowed, including seniority,

merit, quantity or quality of production and “any factor other than sex,” including salary history and whether there was competition to hire an employee.

Cassandra Welchlin, leader of the Mississippi Black Women’s Roundtable, advocates for equal pay but said the new law is “harmful” because it would allow an employer to pay a woman less than a man based on the pay history that workers bring into new jobs.

A 2017 report by the Mississippi University Research Center showed women earned 27% less than men for full-time work in Mississippi, compared to a 19% wage gap nationwide. The study said some of the gap could be explained by the types of jobs women and men were working, but the unexplained wage gap remained about 18% in Mississippi and about 15% nationwide.

Nissan to observe Juneteenth as an employee paid Holiday

Special to the Mississippi Link

In the spirit of equity and inclusivity, Nissan has added Juneteenth to their holiday schedule for all United States employees.

Juneteenth National Independence Day is a U.S. federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. It was signed into law by President Joe Biden, June 17, 2021.

Nissan Corporate Commu-



nications made the following statement in writing Tuesday to *The Mississippi Link* regarding this announcement:

“Recognizing this milestone

of freedom aligns with our commitment to provide a workplace where employees feel respected, valued and heard. Juneteenth is a recognition of something that is central to America’s identity – the pursuit of liberty and equality for all. While reflecting on the significance of the day, we will also consider how we can continue to build a better workplace at Nissan, and a better society, for everyone.”

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President Hudson celebrates the graduating class of 2022 with letter to the JSU Community

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Dear Jackson State University Community,

As we approach this commencement season, I am filled with a tremendous amount of pride and gratitude – two sentiments that I hope this year’s graduates feel as well.

I am proud of each and every student who will don their cap and gown and walk across the stage to receive their well-earned Jackson State University diplomas. When the Class of 2022 matriculated to campus in fall 2018, they never could have anticipated navigating a college career amidst a global pandemic. I swell with pride whenever I consider the resilience and fortitude every one of these students exhibited, and I hope that they feel a similar sense of self-fulfillment in earning their degrees.

Of course, becoming a college graduate is a personal achievement. These students deserve to have their individual names emblazoned on their diplomas. However, we would do well to remember that we



Hudson

never undertake these journeys alone.

I am immensely grateful to every person who helped this year’s graduates make it to this day. From their family and faculty members to the JSU staff and their fellow students, each graduate depends on the support of countless people who help them in ways large and small, seen and unseen.

In particular, I would like to make a special note of gratitude to all the donors whose

pay a special tribute to those who help eliminate financial barriers from our students’ pathways. Without these donors and friends of the university, many would not receive the support they need and deserve.

To the Class of 2022, as you prepare to transition from JSU students to alumni, hold onto this combination of pride and gratitude that you must be feeling in this moment – pride in your achievements and gratitude for those who helped make them possible. This delicate balance of hubris and humility is required for any journey you undertake. I hope that, as you look forward to your future, you will give back to a place so integral to your past. Please consider supporting your local alumni chapters so that students, like you, get the support needed to make it to graduation day.

Once again, congratulations to the Class of 2022.

Best regards,
Thomas K. Hudson
President

Jim Hill scholar prepares lunch for student body and JPS administration

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jim Hill High Scholar Janiyah White prepared a soul-food lunch for her fellow peers and members of the JPS administration Wednesday, April 20, 2022. The day’s menu consisted of crispy fried chicken, yams, greens, her famous Mississippi macaroni and cheese, and cornbread.

During the 2020 quarantine, Janiyah started a catering business and restaurant called Thee Flavor Trap out of the necessity to put her talents to good use while staying safe at home.

“I look at it in a positive way because I am a teenager, just like the rest of the teenagers out there, and sometimes it can be hard trying to stay on track or stay on course, and it’s very



easy to get sidetracked. So, you have to put your focus and attention on something you know you can do,” said Janiyah. To-

day, her brand reaches over 16,000 people per day on social media.

Once JPS Nutrition Executive Director Marc Rowe learned of Janiyah and her brand, she was allocated \$5000 to prepare lunch for her classmates with assistance from Jim Hill’s Child Nutrition Team. The funds were used to purchase equipment and ingredients.

“It’s evidence of what we do as a school and community and how we build opportunities,” said Jim Hill Principal Bobby D. Brown. “Once we see that students have burning passions, we give them all the support. I think people should know that Jackson Public Schools is on the rise again, and we are trending in the right direction.”

JPS receives grant to expand high quality access to its Pre-K program



The Mississippi Link Newswire

In an effort to expand access to its high-quality Pre-Kinder- garten (Pre-K) program, the Jackson Public School District received a \$9 million Early Learning Collaborative (ELC) grant to educate more than 1,200 early scholars over the next three years.

JPS will use these state matching funds to administer, implement, monitor and evaluate its Pre-K program, improve the quality of educational experiences offered to four-year-old scholars, and extend developmentally appropriate educational programs and services.

Mississippi started building its first publicly funded early childhood education infrastructure in 2013 after the passage of the Early Learning Collaborative Act. The law provided \$3 million in funds to establish a limited number of Early Learning Collaborative (ELC) pre-K programs in underserved areas throughout the state.

The collaboratives are partnerships among school districts, Head Start agencies, child care centers, and non-profit organizations. The district’s collaborative partners include Jackson State University’s Lottie W. Thornton Early Childhood Center, Little Saints Academy and Head Start provider Hinds County Human Resource Agency.

“We are extremely proud

and humbled to receive this grant to support our commitment to a Strong Start as part of our Strategic Plan,” said Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene. “The grant will go a long way in ensuring our Pre-K scholars have access to high-quality, full-day, early learning opportunities. It also supports our vision of every child entering kindergarten ready to experience school success.”

Over the past three years, the district has expanded the number of PreK scholars served from 480 in 2019 to 764 this school year. The ELC grant will allow the District to grow high-quality Pre-K programming to educate more than 1,200 early scholars.

Research shows that scholars who engage in high-quality early learning perform better in school and complete more years of education.

“Early learning collaboratives have proven to be successful, and they continue to give Mississippi’s youngest students access to a quality early childhood education, positioning them for greater academic achievement,” said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education.

“This ELC expansion marks the largest expansion since the program was established in 2013, and I couldn’t be more grateful for the continued investment from lawmakers.”

A key to Stop the Violence, wisdom from our elders

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Guns injuries have become the leading cause of death among youth for the first time according to an analysis of federal data by University of Michigan researchers. This analysis based on CDC mortality data from 2020 and published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The data showed that gun deaths among children and adolescents age 1 to 19 increased 29% from 2019 to 2020. This jump caused gun deaths among youth to pass vehicle deaths. Vehicle deaths had been the leading cause of death among youth and adults since the 1950s. We've tried numerous projects to reduce this trend. Most have had little affect on reducing gun violence and our youth. Blame was placed on the police, the district attorney's office, no jobs, no education opportunities, on gun control. All of these issues are problems, but is it the reason for all the violence we had in the United States? My suggestion is wisdom from our elders.

According to U.S. Statista Research Department in 2020, 13 to 20 year olds committed most of the violent crimes in the U.S. Most of the victims knew their perpetrator. People that are young, immature and lack self-control are committing most of the violent crimes in the US. More police, more



convictions nor more jobs will control this mental health issue that is causing the violence. Two thirds of the U.S. teens have had an anger attack so severe they have destroyed property or threatened or attacked another person.

Each day about 10,000 Americans will turn 65. By 2030 one in five Americans will be 65 or older. That's a lot of wisdom. "With age comes wisdom" is supported by research. Studies find that seniors are better equipped than younger people in solving social conflict. Seniors have an advantage in seeing multiple points of view, were more interested in searching for compromise and were more willing to acknowledge

that there might be things about a difficult situation they don't know. If you put all of these attributes together it make people 60 and older much wiser than our youth.

In the study findings published in an online edition of the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Science" they found that there is evidence that seniors are wiser for solving group and individual conflict. This was true regardless of the level of education.

One study had participants read "Dear Abby" that involved personal conflicts between spouses, friends and siblings. The participants were asked what they thought should be done in the situation. The older

people came up with wiser answers. The seniors had multiple points of view and were more interested in searching for compromise as found in other studies.

The key to this wisdom is the change in our brains as we age. Recent neuroimaging research finds that older adults use more of their frontal lobes on memory tasks than younger adults. The frontal lobes of our brain helps with abstract reasoning, problem solving, concept formation and multitasking. Older adults use of the their frontal lobe is a compensation for decline in other cognitive abilities. This greater use of the frontal lobes allows us to reason more fully about social conflicts.

If you find your teen experiencing any of these systems get help:

- Fits of rage
- Increased energy
- Irritability
- Sudden episodes of impulsive behavior
- Racing thoughts
- Tingling
- Tremors
- Palpitations
- Chest tightness
- Temper tantrums
- Heated arguments
- Tirades
- Slapping, shoving or pushing
- Shouting
- Physical fights and property damage
- Threatening or assaulting
- Use alcohol or drugs
- Can't manage anger or frustration
- Hangs out with violent peers
- Have a history of aggressive behavior or bullying
- Have learning difficulties and other problems at school
- Witness violence at home or in the community

It can be difficult to acknowledge that your teen has a problem. As an adult we need to get them help.

Remember your teen's brain is growing mentally and their prefrontal cortex (the center for self-regulation, reasoning and impulse control) is not fully developed. You should not expect them to have clear decision-

making. Their brain can be trained.

Seniors can help teens by:
Helping your teen to manage their anger

Developing healthy and meaningful connections with their family

Forming well-developed social skills

Developing good sleep hygiene.

Poor sleeping habits significantly affect our emotions, how we control them, and our overall mental wellbeing. Teenagers between 13 and 18 years old should get around 8.5 hours of sleep per night

Learn and adopt problem solving by coming up with more than one solution to a problem.

Learn to think before taking action and finding creative or physical outlets for anger.

Try to understand and re-frame situations to make a better assessment of events.

Try to understand the emotions that impact us and being capable of managing reactions to them.

Identify when to concede ground and when to push for a good outcome.

Teach them to interrupt the feeling. Have a plan to do something else when they find themselves in a bad situation.

If you have a social conflict look to an older person to give you advice. Most times a senior will listen to a teen and help.

CSLC SEEDS project to virtually raise awareness concerning children's mental health

MSDH Newswire

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and May 1-7 is Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. To help raise awareness, the Community Students Learning Center's (CSLC) Strategies for Emergency Empowerment for Delta Students (SEEDS) project will present a virtual forum, "Children's Mental Health Awareness: Don't Stigmatize; Recognize!"

The virtual event takes place via Zoom Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 6 p.m. The Zoom Meeting ID is: 833 8408 0123 | Passcode: 584955 | or you may dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago).

It is open to the parents, youth and educators in Holmes County as well as to others concerned about the health and wellness of youth and young adults.

Certified professionals will present and provide information to help attendees achieve the following outcomes:

- A better understanding that mental health IS NOT anything of which to be ashamed;



Barfield

- Learn that as many as one in six U.S. children ages 6-17 has a treatable mental health disorder such as depression, anxiety problems or attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). – (World Health Organization);

- Learn where to find available mental health resources for children and young adults (i.e. wrap-around services);



Felder-Reeves

- Recognize that children are unique and many learn differently; and

- Recognize that the consequences of not addressing children's mental health conditions early can extend into adulthood, limiting opportunities to lead fulfilling lives as adults.

The presenters will be as follow: 1) Kotonya Barfield, a Certified Mental Health Thera-

pist/Social Worker. She is employed with Youth Villages in Hattiesburg, Miss. She has spent her life caring for others and using her personal experiences helping many through traumatic experiences. 2) Sherri Felder-Reese, a retired educator/school counselor who wears many hats: CEO of Lexington Colts Youth sports, Inc., CEO of Agape Counseling,

LLC, the 2022 Miss Department of Health Ambassador, a Women's Health Advocate and a Youth and Community Advocate. 3) Dr. Persephone Lowe, a Licensed Professional Counselor – Supervisor (LPC-S), who is the owner and founder of Lowe's Counseling Center, LLC which began in Greenwood, and is now based in Olive Branch, Miss. Licensed in



Lowe

Mississippi and Tennessee, Dr. Lowe provides counseling to families and individuals. The services in which I provide relate to anxiety, depression, trauma, stress, grief, etc.

"We are so thankful that these experts are taking the time out of their busy schedules to help us and our community partners raise awareness about the importance of addressing children's mental health," said CSLC SEEDS Project Director Henry Luckett.

CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer concurred. "Mr. Luckett and our SEEDS community partners Holmes County Consolidated School District, Region 6 Life Help Mental Health Services, and Families As Allies have been doing an outstanding job serving the needs of children and their families," said Greer. SEEDS is funded by SAMHSA.

There will be several prize give-a-ways.

For more information, contact Luckett or Greer at (662) 834-0905.

P R E S E R V E D

A dream is a promise God’s heart makes

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“Oh God, I thank you for closure and the end of that friendship. Please continue to give me your peace.”

That was a prayer that I prayed a few years ago right before I drifted off to sleep. A once close friendship had ended, and I was praying for a little peace of mind. I was disappointed (and maybe even a little angry), but I was accepting what I saw as the natural end to our friendship. But when I woke up a few hours later, I realized that I’d had a dream that showed the exact opposite of what I’d just prayed for happening.

I wrote details of the dream

down in my prayer journal and made a mental note to pray later for clarification on what the dream meant.

The details of the dream actually showed me reconciling with my friend. How could that be? I was honest about missing the friendship, but I was also honest about being ready for a new type of friendship.

My initial thought was that surely God had gotten my prayer mixed up someone else’s and that the dream was a mistake. But the dream stayed on my mind for the rest of the day. In fact, when I got home from work, I made it a point to pray, dig up my books on dream interpretation and look up some of the symbols.

I was determined to get an answer from God one way or the other about that dream.

After carefully looking up symbols and corresponding scriptures, I came to what I thought was a good conclusion. God was testing me. The dream was my emotions and my flesh trying to get me to believe something that obviously wasn’t supposed to happen. The more I tried to dismiss the dream, the more reminders I got through prayer about the importance of reconciliation.

My answer came just a few days later. Things began to happen that made me see that the dream was not just my emotions getting in the way... but God trying to show me a choice that I’d soon have to make. In fact, less than a week after I had the dream, my friend and I reconciled.

I felt like the many characters in the bible that had dreams. Job 33:14-15 even

said “For God does speak – now one way, now another – though man may not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds, he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings.”

The classic Disney film Cinderella had a song that said that a dream is a wish your heart makes. I really believe that sometimes dreams are the promises that God’s heart makes to us.

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 preservedby-purpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

P A R T 1

A day of great wickedness

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



In Genesis, Chapter 14, we can read that a war broke out, and Sodom was overthrown. Lot was taken captive. Lot’s uncle, Abraham, along with his servants, rescued Lot from that terrible bondage. Afterward, Lot went into Sodom again instead of staying out of there.

In Genesis, Chapter 19, we find Lot sitting at the gate of Sodom. He was actually an official of the city. No doubt, he was considered to be one of the elders.

What was in Sodom? The Bible lets us know that Sodom was filled with great sinners, great sin, and great wickedness, which included the sin of homosexuality.

Today, our society whitewashes sin, but God still names things as they are in His Word. In our society, people call a drunkard an alcoholic, a thief is called a kleptomaniac, adultery is called an affair, and one involved in Sodomy is called gay. God does not dress up sin; He calls it just what it is – sin.

Sodom had moral pollution, and it also had mental pollution. It had such an effect on Lot that it corrupted Lot’s faith and his family. He lost his leadership as head of the family. At one time, his family probably looked to him for leadership. Now his word no longer had any effect. No doubt, his family said: “Why leave Sodom?

You didn’t. You were rescued, but you came back. It must not be that bad since you returned. Why did you come back if it was such a bad place?”

We read that Lot went from the plains of Jordan with his uncle to incest in a cave. That is how sin works. Look at the steps of some people. They go from one sin to another. What did Jesus say about Lot’s Day? He said in Luke 17:30, “Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.”

Today, we have daily living as in Noah’s day, great sinners as in Noah’s day, deliverance offered as in Noah’s day, and destruction coming as in Noah’s day. The day in which we are living right now is fast approaching the sins of Sodom if it has not already surpassed the sins of that day.

Today, we see things going on out in the open that people used to be embarrassed and ashamed to partake of behind closed doors. Lesbian women are openly showing affection toward one another, and gay men are doing the same. They have “gay days.”

The Walt Disney Company is one of the biggest backers of homosexuality there is today.

We thank God for those who do not want to live wrong, but they are getting fewer and fewer.

Lot’s thoughts were, “The grass is greener on the plains of Jordan.”

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



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Burying black cemeteries: Off the record

By Oscar H. Blayton
Pres. Black Chamber of Commerce

It is a tragedy when we lose a loved one. That tragedy is compounded when are unable to visit their final resting place to honor and remember them.

Black cemeteries have been under assault by antagonistic forces in this country since the very first black body was interred in American soil. And that assault continues to this day.

The most recent assault comes in the form of a bill being proposed in the U.S. Congress titled the African American Burial Grounds Preservation Act. This bill introduced by Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-NC) and Reps. A. Donald McEachin (D-VA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) is akin to a mushroom – raised in the dark and nurtured on manure. I would venture to guess that none of these Congressional representatives has given serious consideration to the wording of this bill or its implications for the families and the descendant community of those buried in black cemeteries.

It seems to be the case that an organization in Richmond, Va., known as Cultural Heritage Partners, is the architect of this bill and I can find no convincing connection between this group and a motivation to preserve black cemeteries for the sake of black descendants or to honor their dead.

In a recent meeting with congressional staffers familiar with this bill, it became clear to descendants of those buried in black cemeteries, as well as other stakeholders, that little, if any, input was sought from the black community as this bill was being drafted. It also was telling that a request was made by a congressional staffer that the meeting’s discussion be “off the record.” The only time someone wants a discussion to be off the record is when they want to keep information from the public.

While all the individuals at the meeting representing descendant groups are very active in trying to preserve black cemeteries and raised important concerns during the meeting, two individuals pointed out issues that need to be reiterated here.

One was raised by Dr. Michael Blakey, the National Endowment for the Humanities Professor of Anthropology and American Studies at the College of William & Mary. He was the director of research for the New York African Burial Ground Project, now the African Burial Ground National Monument.

Dr. Blakey informed the congressional staffers that individuals and groups within the African-American descendant community should be considered stakeholders, entitling them to direct involvement in making decisions about how best to manage burial grounds. This would include involvement in decisions related to the handling of accidentally exposed remains or those subject to removal.

Another consideration of importance was raised by Brian Palmer, a Peabody Award-winning multimedia journalist whose work has appeared in the *New York Times* and *Smithsonian* magazine and on PBS, CNN and the BBC as well as other print and broadcast outlets. He is a former bureau chief of U.S. News & World Report’s Beijing bureau and is a visiting professor of journalism at the Columbia Journalism School.

For years, Mr. Palmer actively

has been involved in securing the rights of descendants of African Americans buried in black cemeteries in Virginia and across the country.

Mr. Palmer raised the point that while individuals who have purchased burial plots do not technically own the land on which those plots sit, they still have ethical and moral rights that should be recognized in this legislation. Their ties to these sites should grant them parity with property owners.

Dr. Blakey, Mr. Palmer and others pointed out that this legislation as written will harm, rather than protect, descendant communities and the black community at large.

While Rep. Adams and Rep. McEachin may be well intentioned, their lack of attention to detail in the language of this bill is concerning. That, coupled with the fact that they have joined as co-sponsors with a Republican congressman who refused to vote to impeach Donald Trump for the January 6th insurrection, raises a glaring red flag.

Our representatives in Congress must be more astute when signing on to legislation. Just because a bill has the words “Black” or “African American” in its title does not mean that it is meant for our benefit. The African American Burial Grounds Preservation Act is worded in such a way that the major beneficiaries will be the owners of the land where the black cemeteries are located, while at the same time disempowering the descendants of those buried there.

This bill would create great windfalls for white property owners who happen to have African-American burial sites on their land, while freezing out the descendants of the deceased buried there.

The examples of outrages across the country are too numerous to detail here, but to cite one example, records indicate that in Richmond, Va., two black cemeteries were given to a private entity, Parity, LLC, which is owned by a single white individual. Parity, LLC does not have a nonprofit 501(c)(3) designation but is benefiting from government funds given to nonprofit organizations that are enhancing the value of the two cemeteries through development and improvement. Every dollar of enhanced value accruing to these two cemeteries accrues to the wealth of the owner of Parity, LLC. It is these types of injustices that the African American Burial Grounds Preservation Act will continue to perpetrate.

Thousands of black cemeteries are spread across America and many of them are in need of care. But a Trojan horse of a bill disguised as a boon to these cemeteries is in actuality a mechanism to further disempower those who care for the graves of the departed. The bill as written is not a solution to the problem. Instead, it will be a further cause of damage, and possibly outrage.

Before the African American Burial Grounds Preservation Act becomes law, we must raise our voices and let Congress know that we do not want white opportunists to use the bodies of our deceased ancestors to line their pockets with government money at the expense of the descendants of those who are buried on their land. This bill must be rewritten so as to honor those African Americans buried in black cemeteries and not profit off of them.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia. His earlier commentaries may be found at <https://oblayton1.medium.com/>

OPINION

Prostate cancer rising in Black America

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



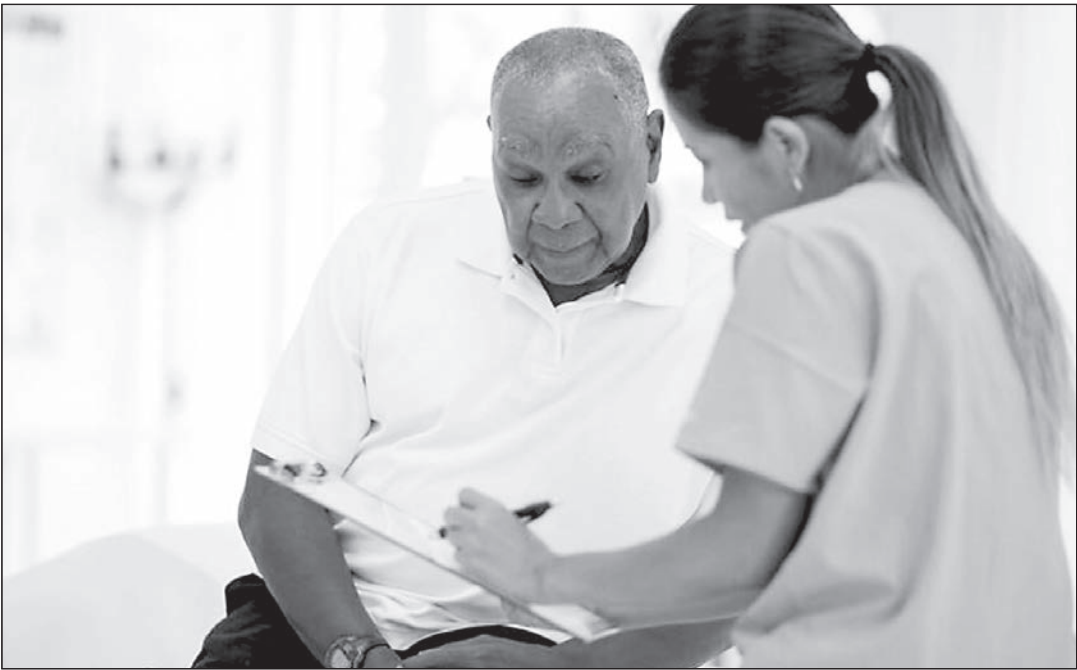
As the United States continues to grapple with its legacy of systemic racism, debates on issues such as police brutality and racial profiling, the economic gulf between blacks and whites, and the dearth of access to affordable educational opportunities, there is one area that has received far less attention: The gap in positive health outcomes that African Americans – and particularly black men – face.

While the COVID-19 pandemic shined a light on these fissures, its beam barely touched the edges of the problem. Yet according to government data, Black Americans are generally at higher risk for heart diseases, stroke, cancer, asthma, influenza and pneumonia, diabetes and HIV/AIDS than their white counterparts. Black people also have the highest death rate and shortest survival of any racial/ethnic group in the United States for most cancers.

These are abhorrent figures anyway you look at them, but especially when considering that many of these deadly diseases – at least when detected early – are treatable and survivable. Prostate cancer, for example, has a five-year survival rate for men diagnosed with it of greater than 99 percent if the cancer is detected during the early stage.

Yet, black men have a 70 percent higher rate of developing prostate cancer than white men, and research from the American Cancer Society found that black men are more than twice as likely to die from prostate cancer than their White counterparts.

One of the key reasons for these staggering disparities is



Black men have a 70 percent higher rate of developing prostate cancer than white men, and research from the American Cancer Society found that black men are more than twice as likely to die from prostate cancer than their white counterparts. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO/ NNPA

the fact that black men are overall less aware of the threat this form of cancer poses to them and have less resources available to them to receive testing and monitoring for the disease. Thankfully there are members of the black community like billionaire investor Robert F. Smith, The Today Show Co-host Al Roker, and activist comedians such as Chris Tucker and Steve Harvey who are raising their voices – and contributing their dollars – to combat this affliction.

Robert Smith, for example, recently donated \$4 million of his own money to New York City’s Mount Sinai Medical Center to create the Robert F. Smith Mobile Prostate Cancer Screening Unit. This mobile home-sized bus will tour New York City neighborhoods where men are at a higher risk of developing prostate cancer and offer screenings and educational materials about the disease.

This proactive approach that

brings diagnosis tools directly to the communities most at risk is the type of action that our nation needs when it comes to battling a disease that more than 13 percent of African American men are expected to develop in their lifetime. But Smith can’t be the only one doing this and New York City cannot be the only place where this type of outreach is occurring.

Whether it is other philanthropists, local or regional health centers, or state and federal officials, there is a desperate need for creative solutions to getting more people screened and saving more lives. Smith’s initiative is an innovative approach, but there are other ways to spread awareness and boost screenings in the Black community.

Whether it be through an advertising and outreach campaign to pop-up health centers and tents, the COVID-19 vaccine push in the black and other minority communities can serve as a good example of how to

quickly and efficiently get more black men screened for the disease.

For too long, prostate cancer among black men – and the disparity in health outcomes within the community overall – has remained relatively low profile, but now we have a way to resolve this issue. The pioneering black journalist and one of the effective voices and leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Ida B. Wells said it best, “The way to right wrong is to turn the light of truth on them.” It is long overdue to turn on a brighter national light on prostate cancer and Black America.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles on PBS TV stations throughout the United States who can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

Being sick and tired does not mean these shootings will stop

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



It just means you are sick and tired, nothing else. I leave my house each day with a mixture of apprehension and caution. There isn’t a panacea you get that rids you of these senseless shootings.

Living like this is a bit unnerving to me. We seem to be a society of shootings at times.

What happened to the good old days? The good old days are long gone and will never return. Of course, that is my opinion, and you may think otherwise.

If you think otherwise, then good for you. I bet you are not a valid senior citizen like me. I have seen a lot and so have other senior citizens and we have a different perspective. We know what the good old days really were.

Those days allowed us to go into the public square and not have to worry about getting hit by a stray bullet. We didn’t

see men shooting one another.

Back in years gone by, black men settled their disagreements at the worse by fighting each other. Guns weren’t used or even seen.

In my neighborhood in Winston-Salem NC, I never saw a gun. There were not reports or talk about guns in the neighborhood.

Those were the good old days.

People sat on their porches and laughed and joked. They told tall tales which made you think, did that really happen? You see, we had great storytellers.

Before you think it was perfect, I will stop you and tell you that it wasn’t.

We had the police, and we had a fear of them. Yet there was not this monthly shooting of black men by white police officers.

Driving while Black has become a sad but truthful axiom about what is happening to black men by the police.

We are being stopped and shot by the police. Strangely and unfortunately, these traffic stops have led to our un-

timely deaths in too many cases.

Most recently, we have seen another black life end at the hands of a white police officer.

On April 4, 2022, Patrick Lyoya lived his last day on earth. He was shot by a Grand Rapids, Michigan police officer.

Lyoya was a black Congolese refugee, and the white police officer has yet to be identified.

How did Lyoya lose his life? The reports say it was a routine traffic stop. More specifically, it was for an unregistered license plate.

It is my opinion that there is nothing routine about being stopped by the police.

So, it begs the basic question of humanity, how do you lose your life over an unregistered license plate?

These types of incidents have me sick beyond words. It is reprehensible to watch this happening in America.

Peter Lyoya, Patrick’s father said, “My heart is broken to see an officer being on top of my son and to shoot him in

the back of the head, my heart is really broken.”

I just wonder at that critical moment, was the officer’s only recourse of action to shoot him in the back of the head.

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights has requested the Department of Justice launch an investigation. The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Michigan is also involved.

Vickie Levengood, spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights said, “At some point between late 2019 or sometime in 2020, we initially reached out to both agencies hoping to discuss options for collaborative investigations or some help in investigating this pattern or practice issue.”

This term, “pattern or practice” has come about because of what is happening from a social justice perspective in Michigan.

Let us pray for the family of Patrick Lyoya. They should not have this kind of pain and suffering. Patrick Lyoya should still be living.

Completing a journey over 30 years after it started, Jeff Sloan describes his trek back to Jackson State University

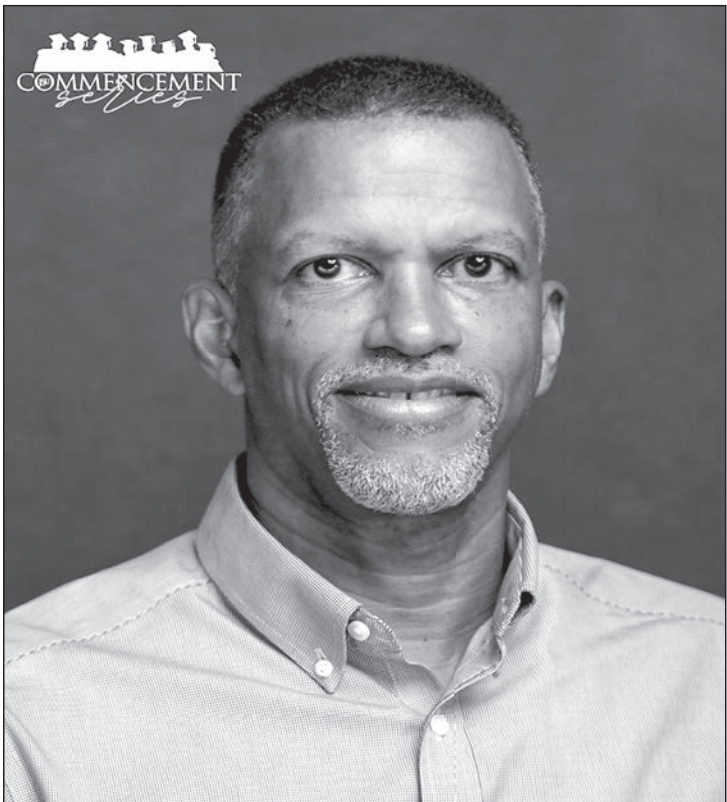
Jackson State University Newswire

When Jeff Sloan first matriculated to Jackson State University in 1984, he said he was given “everything you need to succeed.” He was the first in his family to go to college and attended JSU on a full scholarship.

He cultivated a vast network of friends who became like family, people with whom he would remain close after leaving Jackson State and who, years later, would act as “uncles and aunts to my kids.” As a self-described introvert, Sloan says that Jackson State is where “I found my voice and found myself.”

In the spring of 1990, when this time at Jackson State came to an end, he felt like he was leaving with everything – except a degree.

Coming from the small town of Meridian, Mississippi, and without a family history of pursuing higher education, Sloan says, “I didn’t have the discipline or ... a baseline on how to actually study. That kind of



Jeff Sloan returns to JSU after 30 years to finally complete his degree. PHOTO BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU

started me down a path of not really being focused on what I needed to do.”

Sloan says that he had “false pride,” which prevented him from taking advantage of the

Jackson State resources that were there to help him and stopped him from seeking assistance from those in a position to support him.

Instead of walking in a cap and gown during commencement exercises, he walked off campus in search of a job. Ultimately, Sloan started his career at Dell Computer Company before moving to DuPont Photomask and Thermo Fisher Scientific, where he works today in trade compliance. As a working professional, he would go on to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Park University and Herzing University, respectively.

Despite the academic and professional success he achieved, “Over the past few years with the pandemic, I just started really thinking about things that I regret in the past that I could do something about,” Sloan says. “And one of the things that I wanted to do was to finish my degree at Jackson State University...it’s going to be my third

degree, but it’s going to be the one that I take the most pleasure in.”

Despite living in Orlando, Florida, with his wife and children and a full-time job, Sloan re-enrolled at Jackson State University in the fall of 2020. This time, he’s been taking classes online as he pursues his professional interdisciplinary degree.

Ever since his first stint as a Jackson State student, Sloan has been involved in the JSU community. He’s a long-time member of the alumni association. While he was technically an alumnus based on credits earned, it has always been important to him to become a graduate.

He hopes his story can be useful to current Jackson State students and those who left without finishing their degrees.

“Even if you don’t succeed the first time, you can always go back and finish what you started,” Sloan says. “I want to still support the school that that has given me so much.”

Sloan has been giving back to JSU, even as he works to pursue his degree, by recruiting students to come work at his company.

“That’s been my goal for the past year, year and a half,” Sloan says. “Trying to bring more people from Jackson State University into my world at Thermo Fisher Scientific.”

In 2020, Thermo Fisher committed to hiring more than 500 students from historically black colleges and universities. Sloan is doing what he can to identify high-potential students and alumni, recruit them to apply and support them during the application process.

In just a few short weeks, Sloan will once again find himself on the JSU campus during graduation season – but this time, he will pick up the diploma he never gave up on.

“I’ve already ordered my cap and gown,” Sloan says. “I plan on walking across that stage to finish that journey that started 38 years ago.”

Suit: Mississippi high court districts dilute black vote

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi needs to update its state Supreme Court districts to ensure black voters have a chance to elect a candidate of their choice in a state with a history of racially polarized voting, black plaintiffs said in a lawsuit filed Monday.

Mississippi’s three Supreme Court districts are all majority-white, and they were last updated in 1987 over the objection of black legislators, the lawsuit said. The suit alleges that the districts violate the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution by diluting black voting strength.

About 38% of Mississippi residents are black. Eight of the nine current justices are white, and one is black.

Four black justices have served on the Mississippi Supreme Court – never more than one at a time.

The American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of Mississippi, Southern Poverty Law Center and the New York-based law firm Simpson Thacher & Bartlett filed the lawsuit in federal court in Greenville on behalf of four black residents of Mississippi.

Ty Pinkins of Vicksburg, one of the plaintiffs, is an attorney who works in the majority-black Mississippi Delta. He said it’s important that his relatives and neighbors feel they are fairly represented on all levels of government, including in the judicial system.



Attorney Ty Perkins

“I want to make sure that those family members can see themselves on the court, those neighbors that I grew up next to, they can see themselves on the Supreme Court – they can see people that look like them and they can feel confident that the justice system is fair to them,” Pinkins said.

Mississippi legislators adopted plans this year to update the state’s congressional and legislative district boundaries to account for population changes revealed by the 2020 census.

The lawsuit asks a federal judge to order an update of the Supreme Court districts, which are for the northern, central and southern parts of the state.

The black voting age popu-

lation in the central district is now about 49%, which is the highest in any of the three districts, according to the suit. A black candidate lost to a white candidate in the central district in 2012 and 2020.

“Time for these districts to change has come,” Ari Savitzky, an attorney for the ACLU Foundation, said Monday during a news conference in Jackson.

Mississippi House Speaker Philip Gunn, a Republican, said in response to questions later Monday that he had not read the lawsuit and could not discuss whether legislators will consider updating the boundaries of the Supreme Court districts.

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1-888-844-0041

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. Entrance 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 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. Entrance 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 2022-09 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 Preparing 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 non-refundable fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSD 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 is 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 JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

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 Preparing 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 non-refundable fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSD 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 is 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 JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

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Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3205 Child Nutrition Frozen Food, Meat Products, Crackers and Chips

Sealed, written formal bid proposals 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 17, 2022 at which time and place they will be publicly opened. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing bjones@jackson.k12.ms.us or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us. Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals is 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 JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

4/28/2022, 5/5/2022

LEGAL

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 Preparing 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

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, MAY 10, 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.

4/28/2022

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING BILL & ELIZABETH BRISTER/ DESIGN 4 YOU, LLC A REZONING FROM R-1A (SINGLE-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO NMU-1 (NEIGHBORHOOD) MIXED-USE DISTRICT, PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4562 N. STATE ST. (PARCELS 433-181, 433-182, 433-183 & 433-185) TO ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPERTY FOR MULTI-FAMILY APARTMENTS AND/ OR CONDOMINIUMS, CASE NO. 4158.

WHEREAS, Bill & Elizabeth Brister/Design 4 You, LLC has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 4562 N. State St. (Parcels 433-181, 433-182, 433-183 & 433-185), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from R-1A (Single-Family Residential District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the development of the property for multi-family apartments and/ or condominiums; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the property from R-1A (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the development of the property for multi-family apartments and/ or condominiums; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, February 28, 2022 to consider said change based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on January 6, 2022 and January 20, 2022 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on January 26, 2022, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described property from R-1A (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the development of the property for multi-family apartments and/ or condominiums; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that such changes would be in keeping with sound land use practice and to the best interest of the City and that there has been a substantial change in the land use character of the surrounding area that justifies rezoning the properties and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the request in said application since any previous Jackson City Council action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. That the property located in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, more particularly described as follows:

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

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

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

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

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the of the property located at 4562 N. State St. (Parcels 433-181, 433-182, 433-183 & 433-185) from R-1A (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the development of the property for multi-family apartments and/ or condominiums. However, that before for any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

SECTION 2. That the cost of publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by the petitioner.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its passage and after publication of same by the petitioner.

Council Member Grizzell moved adoption; Council Member Foote seconded.

Yeas – Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee and Lindsay.
Nays – None.
Absent – Stokes and Banks.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Zoning Council Meeting February 28, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6U", Pages 499-500.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 6th day of April, 2022.



Angela Harris
Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

4/28/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF MEETING OF

THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC) WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 11TH, 2022 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE 2nd FLOOR PLANNING CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes from March, 2022

- III. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
 - A. OLD BUSINESS
 - B. NEW BUSINESS

Case No. HPNC-22-10, requested by Jason Buckley to make renovations to changes and exterior porches located on the front, side and rear of the property located at 2111 Laurel Street located in the Belhaven Historic District.

Case No. HPNC-22-8, requested by Yasmin Gabriel to install an outdoor seating area at 612 N Farish Street located in the Farish Street Historic District

- II. OTHER ITEMS
 1. Administrative Approval COAs

- III. ADJOURN

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE, COMMISSIONERS AND APPLICANTS WILL ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING CDOTSON@JACKSONMS.GOV TO REGISTER PRIOR TO MAY 4th, 2022.

4/28/2022

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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 total 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

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LEGAL

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 ("Proposals") for FAA Building Renovation (Annex).

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"). Proposals shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Email: bid@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 of the 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 Annex.JMAA.com to the world, and the world to Jackson (jmaa.com)

Based on the Proposal received and the opening of sealed proposals, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement in form and content, 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 with 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 BIDS
BY THE
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
JAN LANDSIDE SEASONAL LAWN SERVICES
AT THE
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
JMAA PROJECT NO. 009-22

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking bids for related services in connection with the JAN Landslide Season Lawn Services (the "Work").

Sealed bids to perform the Work will be accepted at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Thursday, June 2, 2022 (the "Bid Deadline"). Bids shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

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

JMAA will open and read publicly all bid on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 4:05 p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

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

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) Bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: JAN Landslide Seasonal Lawn Services at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, JMAA Project No. 009-22." 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 of the bid envelope or container.

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

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

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

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Video Conference on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. (CST) using the following login information:

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

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095
Passcode: 520966

By Telephone: 1-301-715-8592 (USA)

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

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

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
DATE: April 27, 2022

Paul A. Brown, Chief Executive Officer

4/28/2022

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Week of May 1, 2022

DC Justice Lab helps create the Racial Equity Impact Analysis, a gun violence prevention tool

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior Nat'l. Correspondent

Data shows that black males ages 15 to 34 are shot at 21 times the rate of their white counterparts, including being shot by law enforcement at disproportionately higher rates than white Americans.

And according to several community groups, including the DC Justice Lab, unarmed African Americans are over three times more likely to be shot and killed by police than white people.

The organization noted that amid an unprecedented surge in gun violence, primarily concentrated in black and brown communities, solutions that do not exacerbate the longstanding inequities are urgently needed.

With that, the DC Justice Lab joined groups like Cities United and March for Our Lives to develop a new tool they said could help ensure solutions to gun violence become centered in equity.

The Racial Equity Impact Analysis – or REIA – uses a set of questions to help decision-makers, including legislators, government officials, and advocacy organizations, identify and assess racial equity impacts before implementing a policy.

The organizations said the goal is to develop effective and



equitable policies.

“We collaborated with other organizations and received insight and support from many experts in the field,” said Dr. Bethany Young, the DC Justice Lab deputy director.

“Black people and Latino people and other BIPOC communities are disproportionately affected by police gun violence and community gun violence. So, we were looking for tools that would allow communities to address the gun violence epidemic while ensuring that they’re not contributing to or exacerbating existing racial inequities.”

The Racial Equity Impact

Analysis (REIA) is the result of a year-long collaboration among gun violence prevention groups, including Cities United, March for Our Lives.

Led by the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence, organizations included the Community Justice Action Fund, Consortium for Risk-Based Policy and the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Prevention and Policy at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

According to a news release, REIA builds on a public health model that identifies the social determinants of health as a critical factor in violence.

These include lax gun laws, concentrated poverty, environmental lead, and alcohol abuse.

Specifically, REIA identifies and assesses factors bearing on racial equity before implementing policy.

Officials could evaluate these factors to promote racial equity, reduce victimization, and minimize arrests and incarceration.

If a policy already exists, this REIA tool can help guide ongoing implementation and amendments to that policy to address identified equity concerns.

Ideally, this tool should be a collaborative process within,

and beyond the organization, the authors stated.

“The tool aims to address the root causes of violence in communities and set parameters around when law enforcement is involved,” Dr. Young noted.

“Gun violence affects every community differently, so we want to get to the root of the problem and avoid interaction with law enforcement.”

The report accompanying the tool noted that the impact of gun violence on the lives of people within BIPOC communities remains devastating and that there is an over-reliance on the heavily punitive criminal legal system to address violence.

The authors reported that black men are arrested, denied bail, convicted or wrongfully convicted at higher rates, and issued longer sentences than their white counterparts.

As a result, the authors concluded nearly half of all black men would face arrest before 23.

Beyond laws that only focus on firearms, the authors maintained that the policy agenda of gun violence prevention should work in tandem with other advocacy initiatives.

Dr. Young noted that this includes addressing racial inequalities in housing, educa-

tion, transportation, and the criminal legal system, which all contribute to gun violence.

As an example, the authors examined Colorado’s extreme risk protection order statute – or ERPO.

The civil court orders are used to temporarily prohibit the possession and purchase of firearms by persons a court deems to pose a significant danger of harming themselves or others by possessing a gun.

The goal of ERPOs is to reduce firearm homicides and suicides by removing firearms from individuals at high risk of committing gun violence.

The lack of trust between law enforcement and African Americans in Colorado only deepened with the 2019 killing of Elijah McClain in Aurora.

“Colorado has quite the high rate of gun suicides attributed to white men, and one of the communities most impacted by guns is white males,” Dr. Young stated.

“Yet, you still see a situation where black people are experiencing the brunt of harsh law enforcement tactics with a goal purportedly of reducing gun violence. But if they narrowly tailored it as we noted in the report, they can address the problem of gun violence in communities feeling the impact.”

President Biden announces clemency and pardons for 78 people, details new steps for criminal justice reform

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior Nat'l. Correspondent

President Joe Biden announced he’s using his clemency powers for the first time, issuing commutations for 75 drug offenders.

Biden also issued three pardons, including to the first black Secret Service agent to work on a presidential detail, who had long professed his innocence.

“Helping those who served their time return to their families and become contributing members of their communities is one of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism and decrease crime,” Biden stated.

The president added that those receiving clemency had “demonstrated their commitment to rehabilitation and are striving every day to give back and contribute to their communities.”

The clemency recipients include Abraham Bolden, an 86-year-old former U.S. Secret Service agent and the first African American to serve on a presidential detail.

In 1964, authorities charged



Bolden

Bolden with offenses related to attempting to sell a copy of a Secret Service file. His first trial resulted in a hung jury. Following his conviction at a second trial, even though crucial witnesses against him admitted to lying at the prosecutor’s request, the court denied Bolden a new trial.

He has maintained his innocence, arguing that he was targeted for prosecution in retaliation for exposing unprofessional and racist behavior within the U.S. Secret Service.

Bolden has received numerous honors and awards for his ongoing work to speak out against the racism he faced in

the Secret Service in the 1960s and his courage in challenging injustice.

Betty Jo Bogans also counted among those cleared by Biden.

A jury convicted the 51-year-old in 1998 for possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine in the Southern District of Texas. Authorities said she

attempted to transport drugs for her boyfriend and his accomplice, neither of whom were detained or arrested.

At the time of her conviction, the White House said Bogans was a single mother with no prior record who accepted responsibility for her limited role in the offense. “Because of the harsh penalties in place at the time she was convicted, Ms. Bogans received a seven-year sentence,” the White House said in a statement.

In the nearly two decades since her release from custody, Bogans has held consistent employment, even while undergoing treatment for cancer, and has focused on raising her son. Administration officials signaled that the president would no longer wait on Congress for needed criminal justice reform.

Biden announced a \$145 million plan to provide job skills training to federal inmates to help them gain work when they are released. He added the implementation of new steps to support those re-entering society after incarceration.

Those steps include a new collaboration between the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Labor to provide job training; new grants for workforce development programs; greater opportunities to serve in the federal government; expanded access to capital for people with convictions trying to start a small business; improved reentry services for veterans; and more support for health care, housing, and educational opportunities.

“As I laid out in my comprehensive strategy to reduce gun crime, helping those who served their time return to their families and become contributing members of their communities is one of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism and decrease crime,” Biden remarked.

“While (this) announcement marks important progress, my Administration will continue to review clemency petitions and deliver reforms that advance equity and justice, provide second chances, and enhance the well-being and safety of all Americans.”



BOOK REVIEW:

THINGS PAST TELLING

BY SHEILA WILLIAMS

C.2022, AMISTAD

\$25.99 • 341 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

A life well-lived. That’s what you want them to say when you’re gone: that you used up every shred of the time on earth you were given, that you seized it from corner to corner and never wasted a minute. It’s an envious thing, to take advantage of your moments but in “Things Past Telling” by Sheila Williams, it’s not an easy thing, either.

When she stayed silent, they thought she couldn’t hear, or

was addled. But that wasn’t so. In her silence, one-hundred-twelve-year-old Maryam Priscilla Grace was remembering...

As the middle child of her father’s second wife, with brothers first and last, she was allowed to go to market with her father, as a son would. There, she listened to the languages of sellers and buyers, repeated them, and she learned. Her self-taught lessons helped her survive when, at four years old, she was captured by Portuguese men and sold to slavers.

She could smell the island of Jamaica when the ship got near – but before it could arrive, a rogue pirate vessel captained by a regal man the color of night captured the slaver and freed its cargo. She was small and alone and the pirate kept her by his side, making her his multi-tongued helper and a beloved and honorary sister.

The day that he left her with his healer was the day she began to learn how to soothe stomachs, set bones and birth babies. The auntie who taught her said that

helpful plants were everywhere – knowledge that Maryam needed when the island was raided and she was sent to Savannah, and to a slave market.

As a healer and midwife, Maryam drew a high price and was given her own cabin. She toiled, and was allowed to marry the man she loved but when her first owner’s finances fell, he sold her family away south and left her with nothing. She barely noticed when she, too, was sold.



Until her second owner finally gave her what she wanted.

It may seem, at first, like “Things Past Telling” is a little far-fetched. Pirates? A hundred-twelve-year-old woman? Ah, but sit a minute with this book and wait until it pulls you in.

Once you let go and allow the story to sweep you away, you’ll see how absolutely dazzling it really is. Author Sheila Williams takes readers on a sort of adventure in the beginning, before plunging us into a horror story that’s told with a voice that’s mournful but calm and proud.

Yes, the things that happen to Maryam are too-tightly packed in a novel of this size, but to remember that they are not entirely implausible is to enjoy a story that takes you from noisy markets in Africa to a roiling ocean to sandy islands to an austere cabin to a sunny back yard. And you never even leave your chair.

This is one of those novels that, once you’re used to the storytelling, makes your surroundings melt away. Start it, and “Things Past Telling” will be a book well-read.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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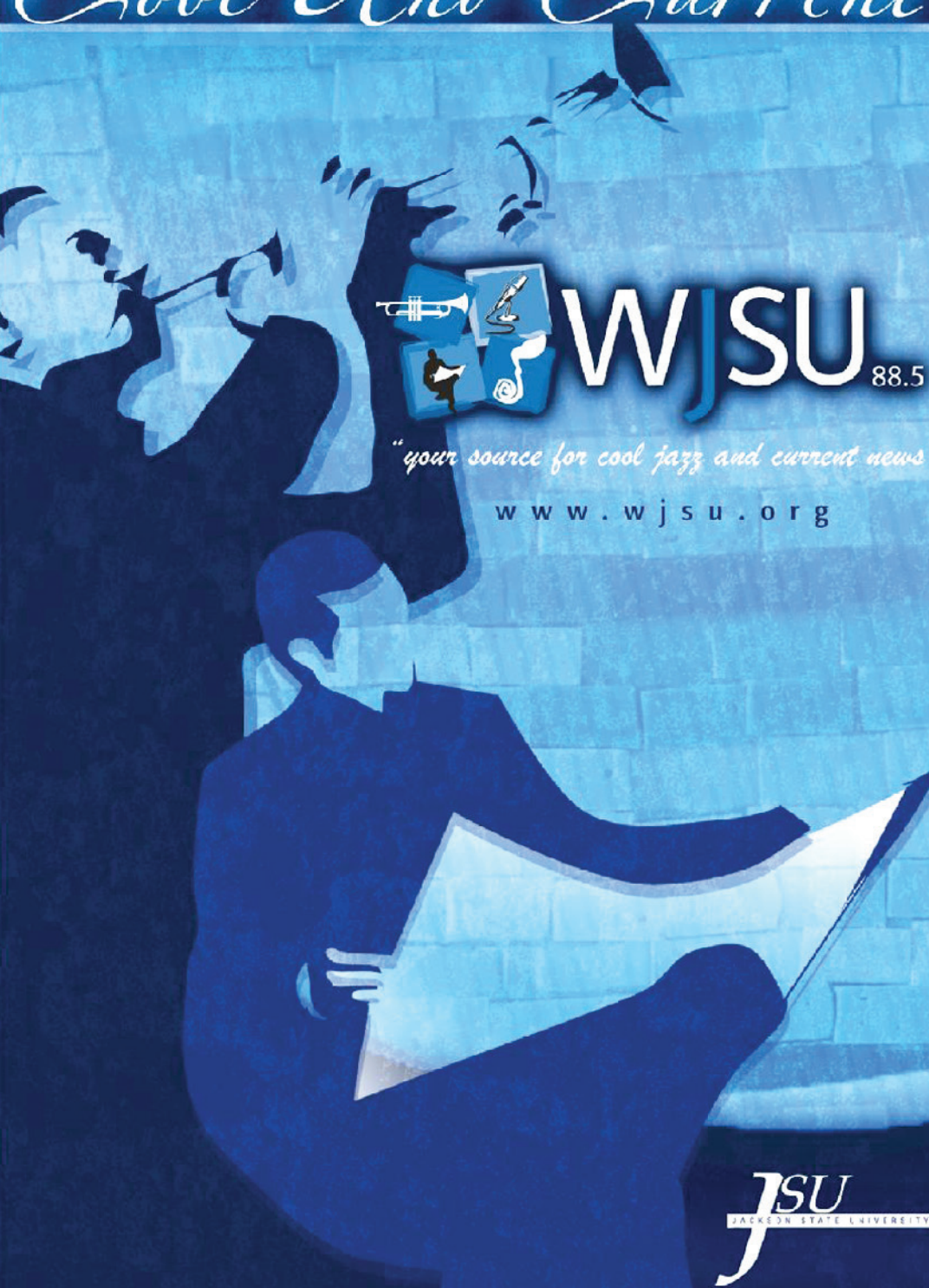
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PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Promise Night

On Thursday, April 21, UEMS hosted Promise Night. Promise Night is an opportunity for parents, students and teachers to collaborate about students' progress, for parents to learn ways they can support learning at home, and to highlight resources that can support learning outside of school.

"I cannot express enough how proud I am of our students and teachers, as well as our parents for being partners with us throughout this amazing journey. Despite the pandemic, we continue to put forth a great amount of effort to sustain our growth. It is because of our collective efforts that we were able to accomplish ALL the goals we set in 2017. Special thanks to all for making this evening a success. Special thanks to Hinds Community College - Utica Campus, Pamela Williams, Melva D. Burks, Clinton MS Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Let's continue to strive for academic excellence," said Dr. Willis Smith, principal.

