

Historic U.S. Vice President visits historic Mississippi Delta city

Greenville: ‘a place ... full of talent and tenacity of vision,’ says

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

There was no April fooling about the historic event that unfolded Friday, April 1, in the Mississippi Delta City of Greenville.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the first black and first female Vice President of the United States graced the city with her presence to promote the Biden-Harris administration’s commitment to investing in America’s small businesses and communities.

She was greeted on the tarmac when she landed by U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol and by Greenville’s own history-maker, Erick D. Simmons, the first African-American male mayor of the city. Then she was given a motorcade tour through the city with one business stop before speaking later that day at the E.E. Bass Cultural Center, 323 S. Main Street.

At the E.E., Mayor Simmons told the reportedly 120 or more invited guest and members of the media, local, state and national: “Today is a great day for the City of Greenville. It is a great day for the State of Mississippi. It’s a great day for small businesses and their communities. It’s a great day for America.”

It was most certainly a great day for small business owner, Joyce Johnson of Joycee’s Fabric and Sewing Center. Not only did Johnson receive a visit at her shop from Harris but also afforded the opportunity to introduce the history-making vice president on her first visit to Mississippi in that capacity.

“This was a special visit for me because Vice President Harris and I were taught to sew by our mothers and grandmothers,” said Johnson, who has been sewing for 45 years. “Like many small businesses, the COVID-19 small business threatened my livelihood. I had to make serious decisions whether I could keep Joycee’s open. But thanks to the Hope Credit Union and programs like Paycheck Protection Program, I found out that I had options that would allow me to keep my business open and my dream alive.” The crowd burst into applause.

Johnson said she was so honored by Harris’ visit to her sewing center, and also that the visit was “proof” that the Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring small business



Vice President Harris on stage at the E. E. Bass Cultural Center in Greenville, MS PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

owners and those wanting to start their own business can be successful.

Introducing Harris as having been a champion for small businesses in the Senate and now, Johnson said, “Vice President Harris, it is clear that you believe all small entrepreneurs no matter where they live or who they are deserve the opportunity to succeed...I present to you the Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris.”

The crowd roared with cheer and extensive applause as Harris took the stage. “Ms. Joyce, I want to thank you for that introduction,” Harris said. She said visiting Johnson’s shop and seeing all those beautiful dresses really took her back. “I know what it means to have a place like that in the community...,” she said.

Before beginning her speech, Harris recognized and thanked Simmons, Rep. Thompson, and Hope Credit Union CEO Bill Bynum for the roles they played in her visit to Mississippi.

Harris referred to Thompson as a “true champion for the people of this state.” “I did not make this trip and its plans without checking in with Bennie Thompson,” she said. “I have seen him over the years in the halls of the capital; sometimes when the cameras are on and sometimes when the cameras are not on. He is always fighting for the people of Mississippi,” Harris.

Earlier, Thompson had similarly complimented the Biden-Harris Administration. Thompson said in reference to his support of the Biden-Harris Ad-

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U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson



Joyce Johnson introduces Vice President Kamala Harris

Mississippians react to VP’s first visit



Greenville Public Schools Superintendent's Public Relations Specialist Everett Chinn displays a banner to welcome Vice President Kamala Harris. PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

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

Excitement buzzed around the City of Greenville, Miss. early Friday, April 1, about the anticipated arrival of the first African-American and first female Vice President of the United States.

“*The Mississippi Link* was honored to be an invited media representative of the Black Press to provide coverage of the history-making event,” said Publisher Jackie Hampton. Hampton is also an officer of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) aka the Black Press.

Prior to Harris’ arrival to the city’s E.E. Bass Cultural Center, 323 S. Main Street, excited groups and individuals, gathered outside of the United States Secret Service (USSS)-secured area with welcoming signs.

Among them were officials and leaders of the Greenville Public Schools, whose building is across the street from the culture center. Superintendent Debra Dace told *The Mississippi Link*, “Yes, we’re very honored to have our Vice President Harris visit our small city of Greenville.”

“And, we are just elated. Although she is not visiting the schools today, we will have an opportunity to see her and hear about the support that she is going to provide the small businesses because the small businesses all help to support the school district. So, just hearing about the opportunities that our businesses will have is as exciting for the school district because that means that we’ll have that much more support...”

Dace shared that GPSD is one of the first school districts to partner with a four-year college for an early college-entry program.

Also outside of the secu-

rity zone bearing welcoming banners were members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. who were poised to wave at their internationally-known sorority sister. They declined comments without their chapter president present.

The following are various reactions and excerpts of reactions from others before and after the event:

“It [the VP’s visit] means a lot. As a commissioner, I know that the president, with all of his executive orders,...has oftentimes talked about communities that are left behind: poor communities, rural communities, and communities of color. This fits all categories. As Transportation Commissioner, I’m fighting to get monies for the infrastructure system to add to what we are already doing. – Mississippi Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons (On the steps of the E.E. Bass)

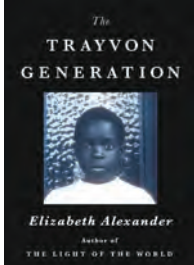
The Mississippi Link also asked Simmons his opinion on whether the SBA EIDL and companion grants should be brought back for the many small business owners who may not have known or had time to access them before the December 31, 2021 deadline. Simmons replied:

“Of course, there are those small businesses that were trying to make a comeback, but they ran out of juice ... because the funds are no longer there. They need another booster. Just like we need another booster for the virus, these businesses need another booster in order to survive and make it through inflation. As food prices and everything are going up, they are struggling. Some businesses still have to pay rent when they don’t have income...So all these things

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Inside
Part 1: What’s getting in the way of elected black leaders?

Trayvon Generation



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A Holmes County businesswoman recently featured in an ICBA publication

She’s described by family/friends/partners as a phenomenal, steeped in ‘humility.’

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

When it comes to women history or women achievements, Beulah Greer ranks among them all, but you will never know it if she has to tell you.

She will never tell you that on Friday, April 1, she and the non-profit she co-founded was featured with Mark Ouellette, first vice president and director of affordable housing for BankPlus in and about BankPlus on the Independent Community Bankers of America’s (ICBA) website: <https://independentbanker.org/2022/04/creative-banking-for-the-communitys-benefit/> The article by Colleen Morrison, a Maryland writer, is titled, “Creative Banking for the Community’s Benefit.” ICBA is the nation’s voice for community banks.

“I have so enjoyed working on housing effort with Beulah over the last decade,” said Quелlette. “Her desire to help her community is inspiring. She doesn’t take “no” for an answer and this attitude has helped to improve the lives of countless families in Mississippi.”

“Mrs. Greer is a phenomenal woman. What she represents is the true meaning of a role model,” said BankPlus Senior Vice President and Community Development Director David Johnson. “She is a great leader and woman of God. She inspires me and encourages me to be the best that I can be.”

Greer will never tell you that she and her husband, Leslie Greer, her high school sweethearts, started a community game room business in Lexington when there was not



Greer

one prior called Fun City. That game room building has been renovated and expanded to house their founding of the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC), a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization officially started in 2003, where she serves as executive director.

She will never tell you that under the CSLC umbrella, they operated one of the largest, if not the largest, after-school tutorial programs and summer enrichment camps in the county, helping hundreds down through the years. Leslie Greer often tells the staff how they started out selling a popular brand of donuts just to pay their after-school teachers until they could do better.

“Our after-school teachers were dedicated to seeing that children succeed more so than how well they needed to be paid,” Beulah Greer recalls. “Several of them would volunteer their time after leaving their long days of teaching at school, and we and the parents were so grateful.” Unfortunately, the after-school tutorial and summer enrichment have been on a hiatus partly due to the COVID-19

pandemic.

Beulah Greer will not tell you that as executive director over the years, CSLC, its board, and participating partners have effectively provided a multiplicity of programs and services for and to the community through successfully implementing more than 10 million dollars in federal grants. These programs help youth and adults with housing repairs, homebuyer education, healthy adolescent relationships and prevention and intervention training and more.

A more recent grant is a \$2.5 million SBA Community Navigation Pilot Project as part of the Biden-Harris administration to help small businesses with technical assistance.

She will not tell you of the numerous certifications, awards and accolades that she has earned. She probably won’t tell you that she is a former statewide monitor for the Mississippi State Department of Education, Special Education Services. She will not tell you that she received the October 2013 Outstanding Minority Business Award by the Mississippi Minority Business Association MMBA.

“I was always taught to allow my works to speak for me,” said the Lexington, Miss. native who spent part of her early childhood growing up with relatives in Chicago before returning to Mississippi to be with her siblings.

“We are so very proud of our sister,” said Jeanette Friar. “She goes above and beyond for us and for anybody that she can help. She is just a genuine sweet person.”

Her nieces and nephews concur

with her siblings. “Mrs. Greer is a phenomenal woman, said nephew Antwan Clark. “What she represents is the true meaning of ‘role model.’ She is a great leader and inspires and encourages us to be the best that we can be.”

Humble and modest, Greer said, “I’ve just never been one to toot my own horn. “I just want to do God’s will, and when I’m done, I want Him to say, ‘Well done my good and faithful servant.”

A longtime friend, classmate and employee Luebertha Banks said: “I have known Beulah since the fourth grade. She was a shy, quiet, not outspoken person, stayed to herself. She was an A/B student. It would hurt her heart to receive anything less. She always wants to do her best in whatever she does. She cares about people and their welfare and loves to give back to her community.”

Banks is coordinator for the CSLC International Home Instruction for Preschool Youngster’s (HIPPY) program.

Other members of Greer’s staff share similar sentiments. One member said, “She is so humble that she’d rather work downstairs with the staff instead of in her beautifully, decorated executive office upstairs. She is friendly and moves to get things done like the ‘Energizer Bunny.’”

Greer says she never wants anyone to think that she is perfect. “I’m not. Jesus is the only perfect One,” she stressed.

Henry Luckett, one of her project directors, describes her as “focused, goal-oriented, a great administrator who expects the best

from her employees, caring and understanding but requires dependability and loyalty, and puts family ahead of work but always looks at the big picture to assure business success.”

“She always tells us how she wants us to succeed because when we do, the organization does,” said Lucretia Holmes, who works with the HIPPY program and the SEED program. “I admire her strength and fortitude.”

Speaking of family, like the woman in Proverbs 31, they call her blessed.

“My “mom is like no other, she has raised me to be the person I am today. She has done so much for me over the years; taught my everything about life and so much more. My mom has always gone out of her way to make sure others were happy before taking care of herself first. I thank her for her kindness, generosity and love shown me over the years,” said her eldest Antonio Greer of Atlanta.

He, his wife Rosalind and their children, Katlyn and Austin, recently visited. “I hated to see them go back home,” said Beulah Greer.

“My grandmother is a phenomenal woman who will travel to the moon and back to accommodate the needs of her family and to support her loved ones. I commend her for her perseverance through all she has endured, because as we all know, Beulah Mae Friar never stops working. I continuously strive to be half the woman she is, and she should always remember that we love and appreciate her for all she does,” said her oldest granddaughter, Katlyn.

Her brother Austin said, “Granny is smart, kind, thoughtful and gives me anything I want.”

Her son Martez shared this: “She is an excellent mother, a very attentive, caring, loving and sheltering mother. As a businesswoman, she works hard, always caring about her employees. My mother is on the go all day to make sure the business is running right.” Martez’s wife, Brandi, who often volunteers, said, “It doesn’t matter whatever you need. She is there to help.” “Granny always has a smile on her face,” said Cicely, their daughter.

Takila Greer describes her mother as “lovely, kind, a sweetheart, the best momma God could have given me. I am so grateful to God for her. She is the best granny to my little girl, Aaliyah.

Aaliyah, 7, and the youngest grandchild, said her granny is “a nice woman and the thing that I like most about my granny is that she takes me to the store and she plays roblox with me.” Aaliyah said she aspires to be the next CSLC administrator.

Leslie Greer often describes his wife as a hardworker as well. “When she has it in her mind to finish a report, she will stay up almost all night to finish it,” he said. He is proud of her and her dedication to the business and most importantly, to the people they serve.

In 1990 Beulah Greer founded Justice Bail Bonding Company, a well sought-after business in Holmes County. At that time there was only one other minority woman-owned bail bonding company in the county.

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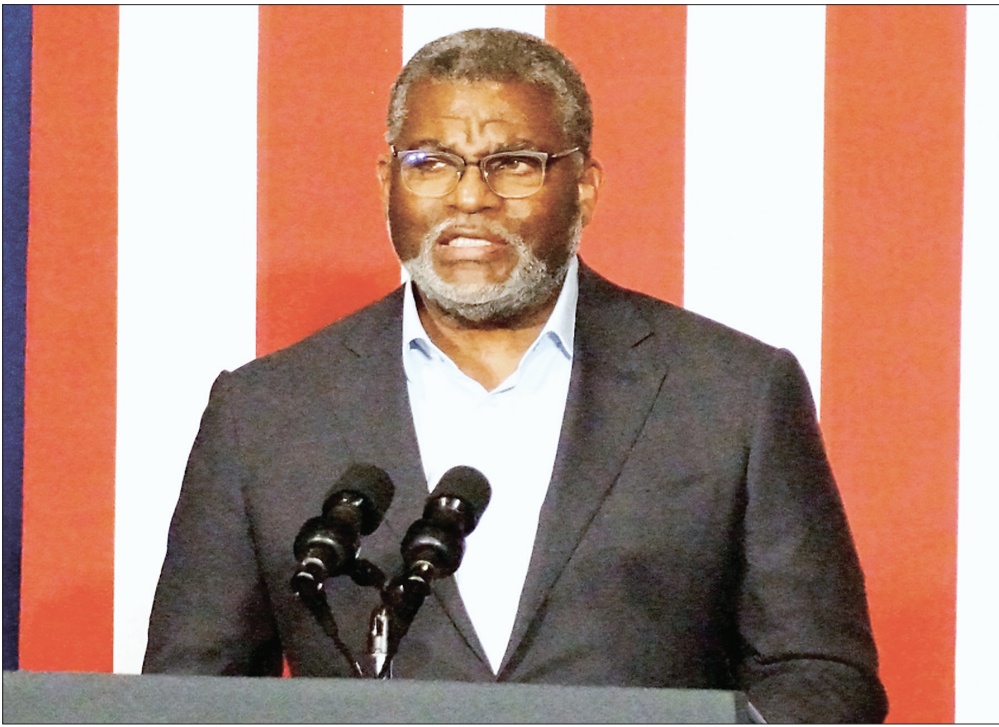
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Bill Bynum of Hope Credit Union



Mayor Errick D. Simmons

administration it is “easy when you are working with folks who want to do the right thing and are doing the right thing.”

Harris acknowledge Hope Credit Union CEO as “the great Bill Bynum.” She said Bynum and his organization have helped so many people in Mississippi and across the south with the opportunity and hope to be all they can be.

She said Bynum once told her, “Well now, Madam Vice President, if you really want to see what is going on [in terms of small businesses] you come to the Mississippi Delta.”

Bynum, who had served on the Biden-Harris Presidential Transition team, told *The Mississippi Link* Saturday afternoon that because Harris had been a champion for small businesses a long time, he wanted her to see the progress being made in the Delta. “So, I really appreciate the fact that she cares about the issues and cares about the people of Mississippi and in cities like Greenville,” Bynum said.

During her speech, Harris referenced the flood of 1927 that covered the city of Greenville, and how the people of the city bounced back. She stated, “Greenville is a city built on the ambitions and aspirations of its people. America is built on the ambition and aspirations of its people. She went on to say, “People with the ambitions and aspirations...transform dreams into reality.”

Harris explained how turning ambitions and aspirations into action often requires capital, i.e. capital to start a business or to buy or renovate a home. She said it requires financial services like checking and saving accounts, credit cards and lines of credit “As you know well, not everyone in our country,

sadly, can access this essential support,” Harris said. She further explained that black entrepreneurs are three times not likely to apply for financial support out of the fear of being turned down by a bank. She pointed out that community lenders like Hope Credit Union were created to serve those overlooked and underserved aspiring entrepreneurs.

Harris shared that the administration is extending and expanding the Small Business Administration (SBA) 2011 Community Advantage Loan Program for community lenders so that “more small businesses will be able to benefit.”

The administration is also investing in housing, through community lenders, for construction and rehabilitation projects as an effort to increase the numbers of affordable homes and lower the cost of living for families throughout the country.

“I will end with this,” she said. “You know when they talk about making a come- back, they talk about Wall Street. I think they should talk about places like Greenville.” The audience erupted into applause.

“This is a place that can help us check the temperature of how we are doing because this is a place that is filled with people full of talent and tenacity of vision.”

Harris said that when people are given the opportunity, they can build something and that there are communities like Greenville all across the south that are reservoirs of ambitions and aspirations.

“When we lift up communities like Greenville, we lift up small businesses, and all America benefits,” the history-making Vice President of the United States, HBCU, Howard University alum concluded.

VP visit

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Greenville Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Debra Day pauses for a photo in front of the school district office across from the E.E. Bass Culture Center where VP Harris spoke. PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

are affecting small businesses.”

Mississippians from practically all sectors were invited and cleared to attend the historic event.

This is what a Delta native and key member of the state’s ecumenical community had to say:

“I am going to tell you right away. I don’t think there is any question about it. It is extraordinarily encouraging and motivating to all of us who are a part of this regions. No question.” – Dr. Jerry Young, pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Jackson and president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

After the event, Sen. Derrick Simmons reacted to his twin brother Mayor Errick Simmons’ hosting the vice president’s first visit to the state of Mississippi.

“I am extremely excited about that. I’m so proud of him, and my mom is as well. She is also actually extremely excited about the historic times for the City of Greenville... My dad, who passed a number of years ago, would be so, so proud and happy to see Vice President Harris come to Greenville, and especially under Errick’s administration. From a legislative perspective. Sen. Simmons said, he would like to see the legislature “Take federal dollars and at the state level figure out how we can improve or create programs so that those federal dollars can get to small businesses. We need to set up programs at the state level. I’ll be looking forward to doing that.” – Sen. Derrick Simmons (MS, D-12).

Jim Hood, former Mississippi Attorney General for 16 years, shared this reaction: “I’ve known Vice President Harris while we served as AG together. She is a kind soul that cares about people. She, Bo Biden, and I all served. That way I got to know [the now] President Biden, and they both absolutely care from the heart about people, particularly people that just need a little help. I am so honored that she came down here, and I am glad to come down to visit with her and to see her for a minute.”

Hood is currently practicing law in Chicka-

saw County.

Among the chatter on the sidewalk in front of the center was heard the voice of longtime state legislator and history-maker, Sen. David Lee Jordan: “I hope that Greenville can become an oasis. The fact that the VP of the United States who happens to be an African-American female picked a town in the Mississippi Delta, Greenville, instead of Jackson, says a lot because this is where the money is really needed. I think we got a good friend in the White House, and we got a black lady vice president to make her first trip to the Mississippi Delta is great.”

Also attending the event were Beulah and Leslie Greer, founders of the nonprofit, Community Students Learning Center (CSLC), Lexington, Miss. Beulah Greer said: “Friday’s visit by the vice president is another shining example of how committed the Biden-Harris administration is in providing small businesses what they need to start and to grow. As I sat in the audience thinking about the fact that CSLC is a hub for one of the administration’s SBA Community Navigator Pilot Projects (CNPP), I felt humbled and thrilled that we are already a part of the its’ boots on the grounds helping small businesses become what Vice President Harris termed, ‘agents of economic prosperity.’ We are so grateful and honored that our Community Navigator Pilot Project was invited to attend.

Greenville’s first lady, Dr. Temika Simmons, a Jackson native, told *The Mississippi Link*: “For Greenville, today is an incredible opportunity to be able to show the amount of attention that the Biden-Harris administration is paying to small businesses and across Mississippi...What’s most significant is that we have with the mayor being the first black male mayor and then this first black vice president being here in the Mississippi Delta, where the Emmett Till measure was just passed. That’s significant and it signals the direction that the country is going. But more so, it’s potential, if we continue to work collaboratively with people of all talents across all races, across all backgrounds to move the nation forward.”

Retraction/Correction in the March 24, 2022 edition of The Mississippi Link

In the commentary entitled: ‘Future of solid waste collection in Jackson still unresolved,’ the following comment was made: “At the City Council meeting February 1, the trio dressed down Alvin Richards, the soft-spoken black businessman. Standing in the lobby observing the proceedings, I was ashamed of what I was seeing with my own eyes and lowered my head. And that was before Councilman Aaron Banks, a man half his age, asked him if he was qualified to do the job.”

The comment was misattributed to Councilman Aaron Banks. It was Councilman Kenneth Stokes who had asked that specific question.

By telephone on April 2, 2022, I apologized to Councilman Banks for my mistake.

Christopher Young
Contributing Writer



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“Building on the Foundation of Love, Hope and Unity” – Church Anniversary and Dedication Service

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Even though attendees of worship service at College Hill Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. Chauncy Jordan, wore masks on Sunday, one could sense the abundance of smiling faces underneath the masks of nearly 400, many of whom had attended virtual services each Sunday.

It was a historic day as the church, not only celebrating 115 years of being in existence, but was also dedicating its new sanctuary that was completed in 2020 under the leadership of former pastor Michael T. Williams. Because of the pandemic, the dedication did not take place until Sunday. Rev. Dr. Williams, by invitation of Pastor Jordan, served as guest speaker for the occasion.

The College Hill Baptist Church history states it had its humble beginning in 1907, under an oak tree, on the south side of Florence Avenue in Jackson, approximately one hundred yards from its present site. Initially, services were held in Robinson Hall on Rose and Pascagoula Streets under the leadership of Rev. J. W. Hall, who was elected the first pastor. After a few months College Hill was given a gift of land for a church site from Jackson College, now Jackson State University.

Deacon Louis Wright gave historical reflections beginning with what he referred to as a parallel to the ‘Devine will of God.’ He said, “God placed in the heart of the 2nd president of Jackson College, Dr. Luther G. Barrett, that the property from where the church was organized, be given to the church as a site for College Hill Baptist Church.” This gift was approved by the board.

As president of the trustee board, Wright was very much involved in the building of the new sanctuary which began in 2018. He reflected on the many challenges that slowed down the process such as a very rainy fall season. The church and the building committee persevered and, with what seemed to be an unspeakable joy, Wright ended by saying, there is power in your name, God we believe, God we believe – we know hope is never lost, for there is still an empty grave, move the unmovable, break the unbreakable, we’ll see miracles, there is power in your name, God we believe.” Wright was given a standing ovation with thunderous applause.

Pastor Jordan presented the former pastor of College Hill, whom he stated needed no formal introduction. He said, “We have the honor of welcoming back home the immediate past pastor of College Hill Baptist Church. Rev. Jordan received a loud applause when he said, “You don’t want to go to heaven until you have heard the word preached by Dr. Michael Williams.”

Williams chose as his title” Keep Your Focus on the Foundation.” He developed a very strong message utilizing the chosen theme, “Building on the Foundation of Love, Hope and Unity.”

He told the congregation that they were not in a tournament, but rather, on the same team. He spoke of a quote made by the great philosopher and priest, Martin Luther, who once said, “Where ever God builds the



Pastor Chauncy Jordan



Dr. Rev. Michael T. Williams PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Inside view of College Hill on Anniversary/Dedication Sunday

church, the devil builds a chapel.” He said sometimes no matter how good things are going, the devil will come in and cause division in the church.

The dedication ceremony followed the preached word. Pastor Jordan led the Litany of Dedication and Rev. William Wheeler rendered the prayer of dedication. An unveiling of the cornerstone was led by members of the M. W. Stringer Grand Lodge and the ringing of the church bell by Haley Johnson and Kylee Sandifer, members of the children’s ministry.

Closing remarks were made by Audrey B. Wiley, chair of the Anniversary and Dedication Committee. Wiley praised her co-chair Malena Dow and thanked the Executive Ministry and everyone that helped to make everything a success. She thanked the Hostess Ministry, of which she chairs, for their help in assisting to serve full dinners for everyone to take home and encouraged those watching virtually to drive by and pick up their dinner.

At the end of her remarks she said, “Excuse me, but I have to rush out to get my apron on and help serve.”

Other participants included The College Hill Mass Ensemble under the direction of Rev. Andrew Lewis, Minister of Music; scripture by Ethan Franklin, opening prayer by Rev. Calvin Peoples, a welcome by Denise Griffin-Whittington, tithes and offerings led by Tobias Barnes and offertory prayer by Nia Hodges. Brandon Mitchell, guest soloist, sang “Great is thy Faithfulness.”

Pastor Jordan, was asked by

The Mississippi Link afterwards, what was going through his mind in that he seemed so excited sitting in the pulpit.

He said, “I was thinking back two years ago when I wondered what would the church be like in the future.”

Pastor Jordan started his leadership as pastor during the pandemic when the church was having virtual services only. He said seeing so many people in the sanctuary and others watching virtually was amazing. “Doing it together was such a wild moment,” he stated. He said the message by Pastor Williams was so relevant and so spot-on in tying into the theme.

Williams said he was so enthusiastic in seeing so many of his former members. When asked how did it feel returning to his former church he said, I was truly, truly excited. It was an anticipatory excitement as I drove on the parking lot of College Hill. I was tremendously touched by the blessed welcome I receive from so many people. They made me feel like I had never left the church.” He continued, “Pastor Jordan could have reached out to anyone across the country but he chose me and I was humbled.”

Williams resides in South, Haverden, MS. He is a member of St. Paul Baptist Church in Mt. Olive, MS. He serves full-time as executive pastor of discipleship. He said his current church reminds him so much of College Hill. The members are very warm and friendly. “I know now God lead me there,” he said.

See photos of Anniversary/Dedication Sunday on page 16.

In Memoriam Remembering Danella Brownridge Catchings

August 9, 1941 – March 30, 2022



Catchings

Danella (Dan) Brownridge Catchings was born in Noxubee County (Macon), MS on August 9, 1941. She was the third of nine (9) children from the union of the late James and Arna Mae Brownridge. Her early childhood education began in a one-room church school. The church was next door to her house, and her Aunt Susie McDavid was the teacher. Dan was one of approximately 15-20 of the children who attended Cedar Grove Baptist School.

She graduated from R. E. Hunt High School in 1959, attended Dillard University and graduated from Jackson State College in 1965. She taught biology at the middle and high school levels for 34 years. She retired from Jackson Public Schools in 1998.

While attending Jackson State College, Dan

met her life partner, Howard D. Catchings, III. On December 19, 1965, they exchanged vows and to this union four (4) children were born, one of which preceded her in death, James B. Catchings.

Dan loved sewing and was an expert seamstress; she was an avid skilled bridge player; she was an award winning tennis player; and as she called it like many others, she enjoyed “going to the boat,” her favorite pas time.

She had her bridge friends, her tennis friends and her casino friends. People loved being around her because she was always so much fun, she was honest, straight forward, spoke her mind and was hilarious. That hilarious trait was with her all the way to the end, she was always making us laugh.

Dan leaves to cherish her memory one (1) daughter Sebrina Tillman (Reginald) of Jackson, MS; two (2) sons Douglas Catchings (Michelle) of Jackson, MS; Daniel Catchings (Jacqueline) of Wylie, TX; a daughter-in-law Kischa Catchings (the late James’ wife) of McKinney, TX; one (1) brother James D. Brownridge (Ina) of Binghamton, NY; four (4) sisters, Nettie Pilate of Memphis, TN; Sylvia Bradley of Kissimmee, FL; Faye Evans (Alvin) of Columbus, MS; and Sharon Evans of Asheville, NC; nine (9) grandchildren, one (1) loving brother in-law Walter Catchings (Bertha) and sister-in-law Sylvia Catchings (the late Roosevelt Catchings’ wife); Mary Flowers a special friend and loving caregiver and a host of relatives and friends. Dan was a loving wife, devoted mother, and a great friend to many.

Services were held April 5 in Jackson at Blacks Chapel Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. John O. McNeal. Rev. Dr. Hickman M. Johnson delivered the eulogy.

Arrangements and services were entrusted to Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home

Danella “Dan” Brownridge Catchings “the life of the party”



(L-R) Daniel (Danny) Catchings, son; Howard D. Catchings, husband; Sebrina Catchings Tillman, daughter; and Douglas Catchings, son

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

What a celebration of love it was at Blacks Chapel Baptist Church on Robinson Road in Jackson as friends and family gathered on Tuesday to say farewell to Danella Brownridge Catchings of Jackson, MS. “Dan,” as she was affectionately called by many, was the wife of local businessman Howard D. Catchings.

The Master of Ceremony, Douglas Catchings, opened up with a shout – out of thanks to special people. He thanked Miss Mary for helping his mom, his Aunt Sharon for helping him spring into action through nights of difficult times, his brother Daniel for making a great ten-minute family video to share with family and friends and his sister Sabrina for orchestrating the homegoing.

Prior to bringing up his brother Walter Catchings to sing “The Lord’s Prayer,”

Douglas said, “Walter and my mom had a different relationship. Whenever the family were gathered together for an event, they competed for the position of “the life of the party” and the attendees were not able to hold their laughter, as many present must have recalled such occasions.

Hearty laughter broke out prior to Douglas introducing Carol Fielder a bridge friend. Douglas said when he was 14 or 15, he went to St. Louis with his mom for a bridge tournament. She fussed each night about how bad a partner she had. It was on this occasion that Douglas realized how competitive she was.

Carol told of their friendship that spanned over 50 years to include attending national tournaments together. With deep emotions, Carol tried to tell of some of the other things she learned from Dan, whom she said was polished and successful. She said, “The es-

sence of Dan is that she loved life and never took herself seriously.” She said that she was sure God greeted Dan in heaven with a smile and it was a joyous occasion in heaven.”

Others paying tribute included Ruby Hendricks who spoke of her as a tennis friend, Teresa Poole spoke of her as a mentor, Faye and Sharon Evans as a sister, and Daniel Catchings, spoke of her as a mother.

Words of encouragement were given by Dr. Jerry Young, pastor and president of the National Baptist Convention, USA; acknowledgements given by Leroy Walker, local businessman, and a poem entitled “Mom” was given by Sebrina Catchings Tillman, daughter. After another solo, “Troubles of the World” by her son Walter, the eulogy was given by Dr. Hickman M. Johnson, pastor of Farish Street Baptist Church in Jackson.

Phil Bryant had his sights on a payout as welfare funds flowed to Brett Favre

By Anna Wolfe

Text messages obtained by Mississippi Today reveal NFL quarterback Brett Favre briefed Gov. Bryant about the flow of state grant funds to his experimental drug project, a deal that was shielded from public view. Bryant was all set to accept stock in the company hours after he left office – then arrests were made.

Former Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant used the authority of his office, the weight of his political influence and the power of his connections to help his friend and retired NFL quarterback Brett Favre boost a fledgling pharmaceutical venture.

Then he tried to cash in on the project when he left office, text messages show.

Favre believed he could make millions as an early investor in a drug company. He just needed a little more political and financial capital to push the enterprise into the end zone.

“It’s 3rd and long and we need you to make it happen!” Favre wrote to the governor in late December 2018, according to text messages recently obtained by Mississippi Today.

“I will open a hole,” Bryant responded, piggybacking on the

football metaphor.

Less than a week later, Favre would meet with Bryant’s welfare officials to strike a deal for a \$1.7 million investment in the biomedical startup Prevacus, which promised it had found a treatment for concussions. Prosecutors now say that money was stolen from a federal program intended to serve the state’s poorest residents – a pot of money that had virtually no oversight.

Bryant said he did not introduce Prevacus to Nancy New, the nonprofit director who made the payments and now faces bribery, racketeering and embezzlement charges.

But newly uncovered text messages show that, at the very least, Favre told Bryant that New had started funneling public funding to the drug company shortly after he began advocating on its behalf.

As governor, Bryant assisted Prevacus, the company at the center of Mississippi’s ongoing welfare embezzlement scandal, in finding investors and gaining favor with federal regulators.

Then, two days after he left office, Bryant agreed by text to accept stock in the company.

“Now that you’re unemployed I’d like to give you a company

package for all your help,” Prevacus founder Jake Vanlandingham wrote in a Jan. 16, 2020, text. “... We want and need you on our team!!!”

“Sounds good,” responded the former governor, who was getting ready to take over a private sector lobbying firm. “Where would be the best place to meet. I am now going to get on it hard...”

In a three-hour-long interview with Mississippi Today on April 2, Bryant said that despite the timeline revealed through the candid messages – which he acknowledged “doesn’t look good” – he never intended on accepting stock in Prevacus and did not read his texts carefully enough to pick up on the fact that the company had received public funding in the first place.

“I should’ve caught that and I just simply didn’t,” Bryant said.

This story was originally published by Mississippi Today (<https://mississippitoday.org/2022/04/04/phil-bryant-brett-favre-welfare-scandal-payout/>) and is made available through a Mississippi Poverty Reporting Collective funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and managed by Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity.



Former Gov. Phil Bryant (right) poses with Brett Favre (left) and a \$5,000 check from a local car dealership to the Mississippi Special Olympics. Credit: COURTESY @PHILBRYANTMS ON TWITTER

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JPS hosts ribbon-cutting ceremony at Callaway High to showcase renovations and improvements

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Callaway High School hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of renovation projects Thursday, March 31, 2022. The renovations are a result of a \$65 million bond that was passed by taxpayers in 2018. Some of the renovations include improvements to the science labs, the library, restrooms, the gymnasium and its HVAC system, the central courtyard, and exterior signage. The net worth of the projects cost an estimated \$8 million.

“It is indeed a great day to be a Charger,” said Shemeka McClung, principal of Callaway High. “Today’s ceremony is a tangible reminder of our mission, which is to inspire a lifelong passion for learning and to help our scholars become the best versions of themselves, with integrity and responsibility at its core. This is made possible, in part, by our unwavering commitment to providing the highest quality teaching and learning environment for our faculty and our students. These upgrades and renovations are a bold reflection of that commitment.”

Mr. and Miss Callaway Jared Brister and Tierra Sheriff were also in attendance at the ribbon-cutting ceremony and acted as tour guides for Central Office staff, contractors and other guests in attendance.

“These renovations have allowed me to play home basketball games in my senior year,” said Brister. “My brother did not get that chance. To be able to say that I played in this gym during my senior year is really special to me.”



Ribbon-cutting ceremony at Callaway High School in Jackson, MS



Jackson Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene



Wells APAC receives most Art and Writing awards in MS for third consecutive year

The Mississippi Link Newswire

For the third year in a row, Ida B. Wells APAC scholars received more regional and national Scholastic Art and Writing Awards than any other school program in Mississippi. Wells APAC scholars received 202 awards, including 67 Gold Keys, 55 Silver Keys, 72 Honorable Mentions, 1 Silver Key Senior Portfolio, 2 Gold Key Senior Portfolios (the only 2 in the state), and all 5 of the American Vision Nominees (which are the 5 best-in-show).

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards were founded in 1923 and, for nearly a century, have inspired bold ideas in creative teens throughout the country.

Entries are selected for awards without knowledge of the student’s gender, age, eth-



nicity or hometown by some of the foremost leaders in the visual and literary arts.

Jurors look for works that exemplify the awards’ core values: originality, technical skill and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

Regional, national and traveling exhibitions showcase se-

lections of award-winning student work each year.

Selections of student work are highlighted annually in Best Teen Art and Best Teen Writing, and a list of all National Medalists is included in the Yearbook. National Medalists are eligible for scholarships of up to \$10,000.

Tougaloo Athletics adds men’s and women’s soccer

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Tougaloo College Department of Athletics has announced the addition of men’s and women’s soccer beginning in the Fall of the 2022-23 school year.

This will be the first time the college has offered men’s and women’s soccer since the 80’s. Realizing that soccer is gaining a lot more momentum around the country, the college administration wants to build this program to help foster diversity and attract more students, both domestic and international.

The last program that existed at Tougaloo College was over 30 years ago.

Tougaloo women’s soccer will join the ranks of other HBCU soccer programs in the state of Mississippi like Jackson State, Alcorn State and Mississippi Valley State.

Tougaloo men’s soccer will take on the mantle of being the

only HBCU men’s soccer program within the state of Mississippi. It would also be one of a very few HBCU Men’s Soccer programs in the country alongside Howard University, Fisk University, Huston – Tillotson, Oakwood University and Talladega College in Alabama.

“I really want to build a competitive program here at Tougaloo. It has always been my dream to coach soccer at an HBCU and now is that time,” says head coach for men’s and women’s soccer at Tougaloo, Ahmad Smith. “I would like to prove that soccer not only exists in our state, but that we can compete in it as well. Though there are some barriers with establishing and growing the program, we will work to create our own opportunities here.”

Tougaloo College Athletics Program is a member of the Gulf Coast Athletic Confer-

ence (GCAC), the Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

Though the soccer program is currently “Independent” in status they look to join the conference in the Fall of 2023. Their home matches are expected to be played at Central Jackson Soccer Organization (CJSO) near Callaway High School.

The last spring game will be played April 3 at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. This game and your support is important because it helps the Tougaloo Soccer Program join the NAIA. Please come out and support.

For more information about intercollegiate athletics and soccer at Tougaloo College, contact Athletic Director Keith Barnes at kbarnes4@tougaloo.edu or at (601) 977 – 4479.

When lightning strikes

By Vince Faust
Tips to be Fit

I normally write an article about lightning in June which is “lightning awareness month” but we are getting lightning earlier every year. I want you prepared now.

According to the CDC males are five times more likely than females to be struck by lightning. Children and young adults aged 15–34 years are victims of lightning strike more often. Construction and farming are the two most common occupations for victims of lightning strikes.

Lightning causes more deaths in the United States than any other weather hazard including blizzards, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Did you know the lightning could occur not only during heavy rainstorms but also during heavy snowstorms, hurricanes, forest fires and volcanic eruptions? Beware of your hair standing on end or skin tingling. This is a sign that a lightning strike may be imminent.

Lightning travels at speed of up to 300 miles per second. A lightning flash can happen in about a half a second. In that half second, the lightning flash superheats the surrounding air to a temperature five times hotter than the surface of the sun. Nearby air expands and vibrates, forming sound that we hear as thunder. Sound travels slower than light, so it seems that thunder occurs later.



To tell if the lightning is too close, count the number of seconds between the flash of the lightning and the sound of the thunder and divide by 5. This is the number of miles that the storm is away from you. If the number you get is less than 7, the storm is too close and you should try to find safe shelter.

Even though the entire flash lasts only a fraction of a second it can injure humans in several different ways: (CDC)

- Direct strike: Victims may sustain a direct strike, which is often fatal.

- Contact injury: This occurs when lightning strikes an object, such as a car or metal pole that the victim is touching.

- Side flash: This occurs when

lightning splashes or bounces off an object, such as a tree or person, onto the victim.

- Ground current: This occurs when lightning strikes the ground near a victim and the ground current passes from the strike point through the ground and into the victim.

- Streamer: When the air is charged with electricity during a lightning storm, bursts of energy, or streamers, can come upward from objects near the ground. Sometimes these streamers travel upwards through people, causing harm to the victims.

- Blast injury: The lightning’s blast effect, thunder, may cause either primary injury, such as ruptured eardrums, or tertiary

injury, such as blunt trauma when the victim falls or is thrown.

Even if the lightning strike doesn’t cause death it can cause serious injuries. This includes cardiac arrest, brain injury, nerve damage and major burns.

The first thing you should do if someone near you is struck by lightning is to call 911. Other steps you should take depend on the victim’s situation. Most people want to help when they see someone get hurt, but lightning storms can cause danger for rescuers as well as victims. You should avoid putting yourself or other rescuers in a position where they could also be at risk for another lightning strike. When you can, you

should move the victim to shelter before beginning any kind of first aid.

If your victim is not breathing, you should start chest compressions. Check the victim for a pulse at the carotid artery at the side of the neck or femoral artery (groin) for at least 20-30 seconds. If you don’t detect a pulse, start cardiac compressions.

If you are in situations that are cold and wet, you should put a protective layer between the victim and the ground. This may decrease the chance of hypothermia that the victim can suffer which can complicate the resuscitation. If you are in a wilderness areas or an area far from medical care you should

prolonged basic CPR. Please give chest compressions in a very forceful manner.

When a thunderstorm threatens, the National Weather Service advises us to:

- Avoid high or open places.

- Go inside a large building or home.

- Go inside a hard top car and roll up the windows.

- Stop swimming or boating as soon as you see or hear a lightning.

- Stay away from telephone poles and tall trees if you’re caught outside.

- Stay off hilltops.

- Stay away from farm equipment and small metal vehicles, such as motorcycles, bicycles and golf carts.

- Avoid wire fences, clotheslines, rails and any other electrical conductors.

- Stay several yards apart if you are in a group.

- If you are inside lightning can still cause problems.

- If you are inside:

- Don’t stand near windows, doors and electrical appliances.

- Don’t attempt to unplug TVs, stereos, computers or any electrical appliances during a storm.

- You should avoid any contact with piping including sinks, baths and faucets.

- Don’t use a landline telephone except for emergencies.

- No lightning safety guidelines can give you a 100% guarantee of total safety, but they can help you avoid a lightning casualty.

Canopy promotes autism acceptance month this April

Mississippi Link Newswire

Canopy Children’s Solutions (Canopy), Mississippi’s largest nonprofit provider of behavioral health, educational and social service solutions, will spread awareness, promote acceptance and foster inclusivity by recognizing Autism Acceptance Month this April.

A neurodevelopmental condition, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects individuals in a variety of ways. One of the challenges that arises with autism is the unique way each individual is impacted, resulting in a “spectrum” of strengths and challenges that often manifest very differently from person to person.

Effective solutions are available to help children with autism thrive and achieve more. Canopy uses Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, tailored specifically to each child and adjusted through evidence-based behavioral interventions. For children 8 and under, Canopy’s Early Intervention Autism Clinic provides children with a comprehensive and individualized behavior identification assessment to determine their unique strengths and challenges.

“We try to come in every day and give it our all, to make every little incremental step towards the ultimate goals that we have outlined for them in their treatment plan,” says Dr. Chris Furlow, director of Autism Solutions. “We’re here for the chil-

dren. We’re here for each other. We’re going to give them the help they so desperately need.”

An estimated 11,000 children and adolescents in Mississippi may be affected by autism. If you are concerned about your child’s development, discuss these concerns with your child’s pediatrician as soon as possible. Research shows that the earlier a child begins to receive intervention treatments, not only for autism but also physical, emotional or developmental disorders, the better the long-term outcome of the child.

We’ve a very strong, family-oriented work culture. Not just with the families we work with, but in our work family as well,” Dr. Furlow continues. “We show up to work every day to transform lives. Not just the lives of our children, but the lives of our families too.”

For more information on Autism Solutions at Canopy, visit mycanopy.org/autism-solutions.

ABOUT CANOPY CHILDREN’S SOLUTIONS

Canopy Children’s Solutions is Mississippi’s largest and most comprehensive nonprofit provider of children’s behavioral health, educational and social service solutions. Founded in 1912, Canopy offers a full array of integrated, community-based services in all 82 counties as well as intensive campus-based and educational programming.

For more information, please contact 800-388-6247 or visit us on the web at mycanopy.org.

Virtual discussion truth checks health misinformation

Special to the Mississippi Link

The Institute for the Advancement Minority Health will host a virtual panel discussion to debunk health myths and truth check health misinformation disseminated via social media. At 7 p.m., Thursday, April 14, 2022, a panel discussion featuring Dr. Timothy Quinn and Dr. Freddie Kency Jr., will highlight the increasing danger of health misinformation. Both physicians know first-hand how inaccurate counsel from the Internet impacts patients.

Dr. Quinn is a family physician, and Dr. Kency is an emergency medicine physician. Asia McCoy, IAMH program manager, will moderate the conversation.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, health misinformation leads individuals to make decisions that could have dangerous consequences to their well-being. Communities are constantly flooded with misinformation on social media in the form of hoaxes, false claims and untruths. Misinformation, along with mistrust of the healthcare system, is the foundation of historical inequities in medical treatment and discrimination.

During the virtual discussion, participants will learn how they can reduce health disparities by understanding, identifying and stopping the spread of health misinformation. The discussion is open to the public.



Kency

Register at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/Cpa3tH7/truthcheckevent>. For more information, contact the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health at iamh@advancingminority-health.org or at (769) 572-5263.

PANELISTS

Dr. Freddie Kency, Jr. – Dr. Freddie Kency Jr., was selected as the American Academy of Emergency Medicine’s (AAEM) first Black Young Physicians Section director during AAEM’s 27th annual Scientific Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri. Kency, a board-certified emergency medicine physician, is also one of AAEM’s 2021 Board of Directors. Kency is a community emergency medicine physician at Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi. He is an assistant professor of emergency medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), and also served as a physician for the U.S. Navy from 2011-2015.



Quinn

Dr. Timothy Quinn – Dr. Quinn is medical director of Quinn Healthcare, PLLC. As a family physician, he thoroughly understands the human condition and utilizes effective communication, teaching and interpersonal skills to empower patients to make significant lifestyle changes to improve their health. Dr. Quinn serves as the principal investigator of multiple clinical trials for Merck and Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Corporation. During the past two years, Dr. Quinn has worked with the Mississippi State Department of Health on several grants including Pre-Diabetes and Chronic Disease Quality Initiatives. He is a member of the City of Jackson Medical Taskforce, as well as the collaborating physician for the City of Jackson Employee’s Clinic. Dr. Quinn is also a collaborating physician for Cigna Health Springs. He developed and is currently leading the Children’s Health Initiative, to raise aware-



McCoy

ness of the importance of childhood physicals, partnering with MS State Medical Association, MS Academy of Pediatrics, and MS Academy of Family Medicine.

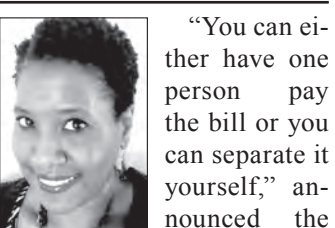
MODERATOR

Asia McCoy – Asia McCoy, MPH, is a native of De Kalb, Mississippi. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology, with an emphasis in exercise science from the University of Southern Mississippi. McCoy continued her education at the University of Southern Mississippi by earning a Master of Public Health, with an emphasis in Health Policy and Administration. McCoy currently serves as a program manager for the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health. She oversees the day-to-day functions of the Maternal and Child Health Program, the Overdose Data to Action Program, and the COVID-19 Emergency Response Program.

P R E S E R V E D

Options and opportunity

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“You can either have one person pay the bill or you can separate it yourself,” announced the waitress as she casually handed the check to my co-worker’s husband and then walked away from the table. We (meaning the five women) sitting at the table looked at each other as we discussed what it appeared that the waitress was telling us. “Why do WE have to separate it? Did she ask us if we wanted separate checks?” We all agreed after a few minutes that she never gave us the option of having separate checks. When we brought it to the waitress’ attention, she flippantly responded that was the company policy, and we had no other options.

WHAT? No Options? We

didn’t agree with that and told the restaurant manager how the bill was presented to us. Her response was a little better: she told us that we could have the option to have them separated, it just took longer and on busy nights, they just didn’t do it.

Even though this was a few years ago, I still think about how the waitress’ decision to put everything on one check made us feel like we had our options taken away from us.

We all want to feel like we have options. I think that part of the frustration and anxiety the people are expressing about the current pandemic and as well as the economic situation is that people feel like we don’t have options.

The government tells we have to wear a mask regardless of how we feel about it. We take a lower paying, less pleasing job because we need a job. We live in a smaller house or apartment because that’s all we can af-

ford. In other words, we feel we have no other options.

But even when we feel we have no other options, we do have God’s purpose which provides unlimited opportunities. Proverbs 19:20 perhaps puts it best: “We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but GOD’s purpose prevails.”

Which would you rather have: options or opportunity? Some may say that they are the same but there is a difference. Options are an alternate course of action like plans A, B, C and so on. Opportunities, on the other hand, are favorable circumstances that lead to advancing or making progress.

Options are a result of us trying to exercise our free will over a situation. We then get stuck trying to exercise our options when God wants us to faithfully explore his opportunities. Focusing on options might be a sign that we are attempting to make

God’s purpose fit our plan. God wants us to fit into His purpose and His plan.

As we end the Lenten season of sacrifice, we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. The truth of the opportunities that John 3:16 provides is powerful: “For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

Resurrection reminds us of the opportunity to receive God’s grace and his gift of eternal life.

Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email preserved-bypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

The coming of the Lord is very near

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



As we look at the uniqueness of our day, by all the signs, it appears that the coming of the Lord is very near. Jesus said in Matthew 16:3, “And in the morning, it will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?”

An old saying is, “Red sunset in the morning, sailors take warning. Red sunset at night, sailors take delight.” In other words, when you look at the sky and see the clouds rolling in, you can discern that a storm is coming. If you see a cloud with what seems to be a tail coming down to the earth, you can discern that a tornado is coming. So it is in the spiritual.

We can discern these things by the signs that we are seeing today, such as the letting and the division. These things are signs of the perilous, dangerous, ungodly times in which we are living, yet people are going on as if they will live for another hundred years. In essence, Jesus said, “You can discern the sky and realize that a storm is coming, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. You are living carelessly.

You claim to have an experience of salvation, yet you have no power to live righteously.” Many people have a mere form of religion. They are far from being what God wants them to be. Too many people are not excited about being saved. They go on without giving it much thought.

If you are going to make Heaven your home, you must dig deep and get settled on a sure foundation, because the storms of life are coming, and they are knocking many people off the foundation. Why? Because they have not dug deep enough.

Some trees have their roots/s near the surface of the ground. They may withstand many storms, but one day a storm will take down those trees. Other trees have tap root systems, and the roots go deeply into the ground. The more the wind blows and the drier it gets, the deeper the roots go. Storms come along and bend those trees almost to the ground, but they come right back up because their roots are deep.

My friends, the storms are rolling in as never before. If you will let the storms do their work and dig deeply into God’s eternal truth, then when someone comes along with false doctrine, you will not be moved.

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

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Lessons Republicans can learn from Ukraine

By Dr. John Warren
San Diego Voice and
Viewpoint/NNPA Member



While Russia brought almost 200,000 troops against the people of the Ukraine, the most impressive thing was not the numbers of the attackers, but the unity of the people who rose up to meet the assault on their culture and their way of life.

The Republican Party here in the United States is much like the Russians, attacking a way of life without regard for life or property. The destruction of life and property is much like the assault on our democratic institutions such as the fair election of a President of the United States, according to our own Constitution. Yet, the Republicans, much like the Russians, have no regard for anything that exists outside of their own marching orders.

Just take a look at the hearings to nominate Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the United States Supreme Court. Like the Russians looking at the institutions and culture of the Ukraine, yet bent on destruction of the same with no regard for their value, the Republicans understand the value of the U.S. Supreme Court and the importance of those who serve. These same Republican senators have twice voted to confirm Judge Jackson to two courts, yet, this time, senators like Mitch McConnell and Lindsey Graham, who have voted twice for her in the past, now refuse to vote to confirm this black woman to the highest court in the land. To support their insanity, they created concepts like Judicial Philosophy, which have nothing to do with service. Interestingly enough, the Constitution does not even require that a Supreme Court Justice be a lawyer, just get confirmation.

As the Russians left and are continuing to leave the bodies of men, women and children in the streets as symbols of the human carnage of their war crimes, so are bodies being left in the streets of this country as the result of mass shootings by weapons so many Republicans refuse to outlaw like AK47 assault rifles, which have nothing to do with the Second Amendment Right to keep and bear arms.

Yes, like the Russians, the Republicans do not care about the threat to democracy and the way of life it guarantees to all Americans. While some allow the use of bullets, others prefer voter suppression, the removal of polling sites and penalties for eating or drinking while waiting in long lines to vote.

The good news is that we, the American people, still believe in democracy, our constitution, and equality for all. Like the people of Ukraine, we can unite and fight the inhumane and conspiratorial conduct of our Republican Russians. Like the people of Ukraine, we must rally around democracy and fight with the weapons of our institutions and our votes to remove the Russians among us.

PART 1 What's getting in the way of elected black leaders?

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer



Black-owned business in the City of Jackson and Hinds County are awarded less than five percent of the contracts for goods and services, yet our population is 85% African American in Jackson, and 73% in Hinds County. Think about how broken that is.

Despite the majority of our City Council and 100% of our Board of Supervisors being African American, little appears to be changing to help advance the economics of African Americans. Without engines for economic growth, their plight will continue, and so this story is the first in a three-part series, published in subsequent weeks: What's getting in the way for elected black leaders – what are the solutions – and how to implement the solutions to bring about change.

The garbage contract going to a black contractor would be a huge and even historic lift in the community. Full time jobs with benefits means an ability to support families. Our local broadcast networks always highlight the cost savings, and there is no debate – \$100,000 per month remaining in City coffers would be wonderful.

The bigger story though is that Mr. Richard's, of Richard's Disposal, has stated on the record, that he will not use temporary employees. Temporary jobs, and in this context without any benefits, provide a means only for basic survival – not for the well-being of families. Full-time jobs with benefits means that our workers can have insurance and a living wage to be able to truly provide for their families.

Standing against this contract is an example of how the black com-

COMMENTARY

munity is being let down by black elected officials.

In observing these bodies over the past year, the Board of Supervisors and City Council do some things very well. They bring in diverse clergy to make invocations before the start of each meeting. They ensure the Pledge of Allegiance, that's the one ending "with Liberty and Justice for all," is always recited. They are wonderful at proclamations that honor folks for a host of different reasons, service pins, centenarian recognition, etc. There are ordinances to change street names very regularly. The claims dockets are also a major focus; paying the bills.

However wonderful these routine aspects of the elected officials' duties may be, nothing is changing where it counts the most for black families – purses and wallets.

I reached out to some of our elected officials in an attempt to get their perspective on what's getting in the way of increasing economic prosperity for black businesses in Jackson/Hinds.

Bobby "Bobcat" McGowan, District 5 Supervisor, spoke to me by telephone and I asked him what's getting in the way of more prosperity for African Americans in Hinds and he indicated "we've got to come together as a unit and we are not – that's the foundation and we don't have it right now. We can't build a house without the foundation. You got to stay focused on putting God first, and people forget that." He stated other reasons too: "One of those is volume – you've got to be able to do what you say you can do when you make a bid, and many times that is not the case." He indicated he'd be happy to sit down with me one day and talk more about it.

Credell Calhoun, District 3

Supervisor and president of the Board of Supervisors, has been in positions of public service for 42 years. By telephone he shared that "The state bidding process is designed to go to the lowest and best bidder, and that the large companies – the more affluent companies – typically win out, and African Americans still don't get their fair share." He went on to say, "There is legislation allowing up to 20% for minority contractors, it got a green light, but because of a Court decision in the Carolinas and a requirement for a state disparity study, it never got funded. Haley Barbour was the governor then and he never allowed it to proceed. Everyone knows it's not equitable, but you still must pass muster with the Courts, and that's where we are."

Edwards, Mississippi has a population of 1,117 based on the 2020 Census, and Mayor LeKentric Caston indicated that he has only been in office for nine months but a couple things stick out for him on the topic. "You have to look at the work that has already been done and the quality, and also the ratings on some of these companies by the Better Business Bureau (BBB). He also mentioned that some companies are coming close but lose bids by just \$15-20,000, so they need to do better in their bidding."

Bolton has a population of 868 based on the recent Census, and Mayor Lawrence Butler, who indicated that he has served as mayor since 1980, kept it very simple when asked what's getting in the way. "People just won't get along. This has been going on for a long time. Do you remember when Bill Russell was trying to be both player and coach of the Boston Celtics? K.C. Jones and Sam Jones didn't like it, they just couldn't get along and agree." He also mentioned the Mississippi Conference of Black

Mayors as a tool to help with making progress.

Dr. Brian Grizzell, Ward 4 Councilman, encouraged communication by email, and responded to the core questions: "I believe that all capable businesses should have an opportunity to compete fairly in the marketplace. I am an educator and business owner, and completely understand how important it is to have black owned businesses engaged in the marketplace. With respect to Municipal B2C and C2C activities, it is equally important to have black business participation. However, we oftentimes run into capacity issues and tend to move to companies that are able to quickly move in and get things done...especially when it comes to public works matters. Larger firms tend to have the capacity necessary to restore services to the residents of Jackson quickly. I've had conversations with some black business owners on some issues and, unfortunately, there was a required downtime to help get resources to do the work. When dealing with water customers and tax payers, the people just aren't that patient or understanding... they want their services on!"

Answering the question - what's getting in the way – he stated "Networking, advocacy and capacity. Sometimes the "process" intimidates black business owners. Businesses must be legitimate and must be on the approved vendor's lists. That process, alone, turns people off."

Calls and messages left for Angelique Lee, Ward 2 Councilwoman, resulted in partial contact, but ultimately I was not able to speak with her to obtain her perspective prior to deadline.

Messages left for Virgi Lindsay, Ward 7 Councilwoman, and current City Council president, were not returned.

Fighting the corruption of power

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



We keep learning more about the attack on the U.S. Capitol. And we keep learning more about the many schemes former President Donald Trump and his team tried to use to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

In some ways, it is discouraging. We know just how badly Trump's inner circle was corrupted by his desire to keep power at all costs. We had lawyers writing memos about how to break the law and stop Congress from affirming Trump's defeat. We had members of Congress repeating his lies about a stolen election and trying to take the decision away from the voters.

In other ways, it is encouraging that the truth continues

to come out. News stories that expose lies and corruption remind us of the importance of a free press. The investigation by the Jan. 6 select committee reminds us how much we need the checks and balances that are built into our system.

Those checks and balances – like the ability of Congress to conduct oversight of the Executive Branch – are necessary to prevent abuses of power and hold politicians accountable.

But for those protections to work, we must have public officials who are committed to upholding the rule of law. That's not what we're seeing from former Trump staffers and advisers. Just the opposite. They are stonewalling the congressional investigation and defying its subpoenas.

And with just a few exceptions, congressional Republicans are not acting honor-

ably. Rather than embracing the search for truth, they try to discredit the investigation. Rather than face up to the anti-democratic rot in their party, they would like to sweep it all under the rug.

Let's be clear. Trump and his lawbreaking friends are trying to keep Americans from learning the truth about the attack on Congress and the attempt to overthrow the will of the voters.

Specifically, Trump and his supporters are trying to run out the clock. They are counting on their allies taking a majority in the House of Representatives in this year's elections. And then they'll shut the investigation down before the full truth can come out.

That would be disastrous for our democracy.

Consider just a few of the things we have learned recently.

When the White House handed over logs of Trump's calls on the day of the insurrection, there was a seven-hour gap covering the crucial hours before, during and after the attack on Congress. What violations of law are hiding in that gap?

We also learned that Ginny Thomas, a hard-right activist and wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, was in regular contact with Trump's chief of staff Mark Meadows in the days and weeks after the presidential election. She embraced even the most extreme and ridiculous far-right conspiracy theories about the election.

She even said she hoped it was true that members of the "Biden crime family," reporters, and elected officials were being arrested and would be held on barges in Guantanamo Bay to face military trials for sedition. She urged Trump

not to concede defeat.

It just so happens that Justice Clarence Thomas was the only Supreme Court justice who backed Trump's attempt to keep White House records from being shared with the Jan. 6 Committee. It was an 8-1 vote. That explains why so many people are now calling on Thomas to resign – or at the very least to recuse himself from any other cases about the insurrection that come before the Court.

We can't make Clarence Thomas act honorably. But that doesn't mean we are powerless to protect our democracy.

It was we the people who voted Trump out of power. Trump's ability to pressure and bully election officials and legislators into joining his corrupt schemes was limited by the fact that he lost in multiple battleground states, not just one. His supporters' ability

to shield him from accountability will be determined in part by what happens in this year's elections.

When Americans go to the polls this fall to elect members of Congress, we will not only be participating in democracy, we will be determining its future.

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

Connecting the Dots Foundation, Inc. honors Women of Distinction providing healing, promoting hope

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

National Women's History Month spilled into April with Connecting the Dots Foundation, Inc.'s gala, filled with the spirit of grace and compassion, at Jackson Convention Complex (105 E. Pascagoula Street) Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 6 p.m. Acknowledging the national theme for Women History Month 2022: Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope, lifelong Mississippians, Maggie Wade of WLBT and Walt Grayson of WJTV, welcomed a crowd of 235. In their laid back unique style, Wade and Grayson came loaded with exuberance that they displayed throughout the event's duration.

First black woman director in Hollywood and prolific writer, Maya Angelou, referenced uniqueness some years ago when she said, "If you're always trying to be normal, you can never know how amazing you can be." Wade and Grayson highlighted that throughout their careers, six women tested their skills, moved beyond normalcy, aspired to great heights and made unique contributions that left indelible impressions in their care for humanity within their lives. Those impressions made them honorees for the evening.

Sonja Fuqua, Ph.D., RN, serves as chief clinical services officer for the Community Health Centers Association of Mississippi (CHCMAS). She empowers clinicians and community health centers via training and technical assistance in the practice of achieving better outcome measures. With almost 40 years in nursing, Fuqua has assisted families and novice nurses in the birthing process, engaged in the Jackson Heart Study and is a consultant with healthcare organizations applying for renewal or initial Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition.

Deborah Wright, DBA, is certified through the State of Mississippi Commission of Proprietary Schools and College Board to provide Workforce training programs. The epitome of women in business leadership, Wright has 30 years of entrepreneurial experience and is the first African-American woman in the world to own 100 percent of a truck driving training school (Mississippi Truck Driving Training, Inc.). Wright's most affectionate honor is the recipient of the Ida B. Wells Business Woman of the Year Award.

Jasmine Owens Chapman, DDS, is the first chief executive officer at Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center, with 31 locations in both rural and underserved communities in Warren, Copiah and Hinds. She has held that post for 23 years. Named as one of Mississippi's Most Influential African-Americans by *Our Mississippi Magazine*, Chapman received the Kappa Alpha Psi (Southwestern Province) Dis-



Laura Tucker, honoree



Marilyn Johnson-Luckett, Laura Tucker, Andrea Phillips, Sonja Fuqua, Jasmine Chapman, Alisa Williams, Deborah Wright



Attendees immersed in the moment. PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

tinguished Citizen Award and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Centennial Public Meeting Award.

The first female director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is Alisa Habeeb Williams, BS, NRP. In the aftermath of 9/11, she assisted the U.S. Department of Justice in the development of course curriculums for the PATRIOT (Preventive Antiterrorism Threat Recognition and Interdiction Operational Techniques). In 2021 Williams was appointed as the director of the Mississippi COVID Response and Recovery Unit. In this vital role, she plans, develops and evaluates matters pertaining to COVID for the state of Miss.

Chief Nursing Officer for the Mississippi State Department of Health is Laura Tucker, MSN, RN. She has served in a number of capacities in the department for 32 years. The honoree directs public health nursing practice and policy, as well as other policy within the agency. Actively involved in COVID-19 activities, Tucker works with many persons to plan, organize and mitigate COVID-19 in Miss.

A Jackson family physician, Andrea Lynn Phillips, M.D., provides quality services in healthcare and clini-

cal research with compassion and professionalism to the underserved in the declining urban West Jackson community. She is committed to helping ensure that safe and effective medicines are available for all populations in the clinical research arena. Phillips believes that she is called to include people of color in clinical research trials, and "in the work of the church...trials impact people where they live." Currently serving on the board of the Mississippi Public Health Institute and on the Mayor's COVID-19 Task Force for the City of Jackson, the honoree was among Legendary Doctors from the African-American community who spearheaded a campaign to demonstrate the safety of COVID-19 vaccinations in 2021.

In addition to giving deference to the honorees and front-line workers during the ongoing pandemic, Marilyn Johnson-Luckett (Ph.D., MPPA), founder and CEO, noted that the foundation gives "recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided both healing and hope throughout history." Their efforts "help...promote and sustain hope for the future."

In keeping with the above, the foundation awarded eight

\$1000 scholarships to the following young women who are seeking careers that provide healing and promote hope for Women History 2022: Whitney Ryan – School of Nursing – Mississippi College; Kaycee Jackson (Canton, Miss. resident) – University of Boston – Political Science; Donald Page – Tougaloo College – Sociology; Mississippi School of Law (award recipient to be selected); Lashannon Morgan – Jackson State University – Master of Public Policy Administration; Kiara Johnson – Tougaloo College – African American Studies; Shelby Ryan – School of Nursing – Mississippi College; and Desirre Broadnax – Tougaloo College – Sociology.

State Health Officer, Thomas Dobbs (M.D.), gave a virtual address and emphasized the significance of the growing number of women working in the field of health. He encouraged women to continue active participation and stated, "The majority of leaders in the Department of Health are women." Dobbs expressed his continued interest in the health field and reminded the audience of the COVID pandemic.

Reacting to the celebration, Ramona Jones asserted, "There was so much love and encouragement in the room. Listening

to the recipients as they gave their acceptance speeches was inspiring."

"I enjoyed seeing our women being recognized for their contributions and dedication towards making others' lives a little more comfortable. These heroic women make a difference during this pandemic, making sacrifices and thinking about the welfare of the poor and less fortunate. I personally look forward to attending this event every year and learning about how women are changing the world every day."

Robert Smith, M.D., commended Johnson-Luckett and her entourage for their outstanding community outreach.

Entertainment was provided by vocalist Maya Davis, saxophonist Tiger Thomas Rogers and dancers Rebeckah Schmits and Sarah Owens (Ballet Magnificat).

The spirit of togetherness was exemplified when Johnson-Luckett (who dreamed of serving others since age 12) stated in her closing remarks, "Our history is our strength." Such an utterance brought to mind the words of author Helen Adams Keller who lost her sight and hearing when she was 19 months old: "Alone, we can do so little. Together, we can do so much."

Since its 2010 inception, Connecting the Dots Foundation, Inc. has had six Women History programs, one Black History with a Mission program for the local community and six Modeling for Malawi shows to raise funds for Africa. Further, the foundation has planted a church in Malawi and is purchasing furniture.

Connecting the Dots Foundation, Inc.'s board members are Representative Alyce Clarke, president; Kenneth McGriggs, MBA; Marie Pickens, LMSW, MSW, MS. ED., Secretary/Treasurer; Attorney Bethany Bridges, Fran Baker, Ph.D. and Marilyn Johnson-Luckett, Ph.D., CEO.

The event's sponsors included: Carter Jewelers (Diamond); First Commercial Bank (Diamond); United South Financial Group (Diamond); Catholic Life Insurance (Gold); iHeart Media (Silver); Jackson Advocate (Bronze); Patty Peck Honda and Mercedes-Benz of Jackson. Both dealerships sponsored the down payment for the car that honoree Phillips plans to purchase.

For inquiries, email connectingthedots@yahoo.com; Web: www.connectingthedotsfoundation.org; fax 601-353-5832; or call 601-813-5045.

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFPS
RFP 2022-05 Text Sets (K – 5th)
RFP 2022-06 Digital Print Curriculum for K – 12/Core Curriculum
Resources (English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies)

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), April 26, 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/ RFQ if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs are opened.

There are two (2) options in which RFP proposals may be obtained. Download from Central Bidding website at www.centralbidding.com for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSPD website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs/RFQs 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.

4/7/2022, 4/14/2022

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bid

Re-Bid 3190 McLeod Elementary School Renovations

Electronic and sealed 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) April 28, 2022 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning this project will be held at 1616 Sandlewood Place, Jackson, MS 39211 on April 14, 2022 at 3:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. 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 (45) calendar days from the date bids are opened

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$150.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact M3A Architecture., 4880 McWillie Circle, Jackson, MS 39206, Phone: 601-981-1227, or Email: PrestonMcKay@pmckay@m3aarch.com.

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

3/31/2022, 4/7/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. April 26, 2022, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

88598-042622 – Twenty-Four Month Supply of Swimming Pool Purification Chemicals

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV, WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM

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

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

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

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

4/7/2022, 4/14/2022

Cooperative Energy

Is currently identifying vendors for the following services during an emergency:

- Lodging Facilities
- Catering Services
- Laundry Services
- Debris Services
- Transmission Line Construction

Please contact akeene@cooperativeenergy.com by no later than April 29, 2022 if you wish to be considered as a potential vendor.

4/7/2022

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

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

2008 Honda Civic Si, Vin #2HGFG21578H705737.

Date of Sale: 4-13-22

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

3/24/2022, 3/31/2022, 4/7/2022

LEGAL

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

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

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

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

3/31/2022, 4/7/2022

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSAL FOR
HAWKINS FIELD AIRPORT HANGAR
BY THE
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
PROJECT NO. 006-22

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking electronic proposals ("Proposal") for Hawkins Field Airport Hangar (HKS).

Sealed Proposals to perform the services will be accepted at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 (the "Proposal Deadline"). Proposal shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand deliverly as follows:

Email: bids@jmaa.com

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

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) Attention: Marvin Buckhalter, Director of Procurement; (ii) the wording: "Hawkins Field Airport Hangar (HKS) No. 006-22." If the submission is submitted via email, the identification information must be provided in the email subject line. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Proposals ("RFP") is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents and Criteria for Selection. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Marvin Buckhalter, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
100 International Drive, Suite 300
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109
Attention: Marvin Buckhalter
Telephone: (601) 664-3516
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713
Email: mbuckhalter@jmaa.com

or from JMAA's website at <https://j111aa.com/part11cr-with-us/procureme11t/>.

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

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on Wednesday, May 02, 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

Date: April 6, 2022

Paul A. Brown, Chief Executive Officer

4/7/2022

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING HOMEWOOD COMPANY, LLC A REZONING FROM C-3 (GENERAL) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO R-7 (MOBILE HOME PARK) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO ALLOW FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5330 N STATE ST (PARCEL 500-1000) TO BE USED AS A MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY, CASE NO. 4152.

WHEREAS, Homewood Company, LLC has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 5330 N State St in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from C-3 (General) Commercial District to R-7 (Mobile Home Park) Residential District to allow for a mobile home community; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing has offered the recommendation to rezone the property from C-3 (General) Commercial District to R-7 (Mobile Home Park) Residential District to allow for a mobile home community; 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, January 24, 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 November 25, 2021 and December 09, 2021 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on December 15, 2021, 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 C-3 (General) Commercial District to R-7 (Mobile Home Park) Residential District to allow for a mobile home community; 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:

A certain parcel of land lying and being situated in the South ½ of Section 11, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the South line of aforementioned Section 11 with the Eastern right-of-way of North State Street and run North 27 degrees 57 minutes 10 seconds East along the said Eastern right-of-way 406.45 feet; thence leaving said Eastern line run South 63 degrees 21 minutes 34 seconds East 383.44 feet; thence South 25 degrees 07 minutes 35 seconds West 214.12 feet; thence North 89 degrees 07 minutes 27 seconds West along said South line of Section 11 a distance of 442.39 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 2.8 acres, more or less.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the of the property located at 5330 N State Street (Parcel 500-1000) from C-3 General) Commercial District to R-7 (Mobile Home Park) Residential District. 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 Vice President Lee moved adoption; **Council Member Foote** seconded.

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

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 January 24, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6U", Pages 407-408.

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



Angela Harris
Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

4/7/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF JACKSON LANDSCAPE AND ZONING ORDINANCES

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in anywise affected thereby, that the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, will be conducting a public hearing on proposed text amendments to the City of Jackson Official Zoning Ordinance as adopted on May 29, 1974 and subsequently amended.

Notice is also hereby given to all persons interested in or in anywise affected thereby, that the Planning Board for the City of Jackson will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed text amendments to the City of Jackson Landscape Ordinance as adopted on August 14, 1990 and subsequently amended.

Amendments to the text of the Landscape and Zoning Ordinances are intended to provide for more efficient Landscape and Zoning Ordinances and establish more effective landscaping and zoning regulations for the City of Jackson. Copies of the proposed text amendments will be available for review at the Office of City Planning 200 S President Street, Suite 204, Jackson, and MS 39201. For additional information please submit an email to eainsworth@city.jackson.ms.us.

The said proposed text amendments will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELCONFERENCE/ VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO APRIL 20,2022.

WITNESS my signature this the 6TH day of APRIL, 2022.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

4/7/2022, 4/14/2022

LEGAL

I/We the member of Sambou's African Kitchen LLC, intend to make applica- tion for a On-Premise Retailer permit.

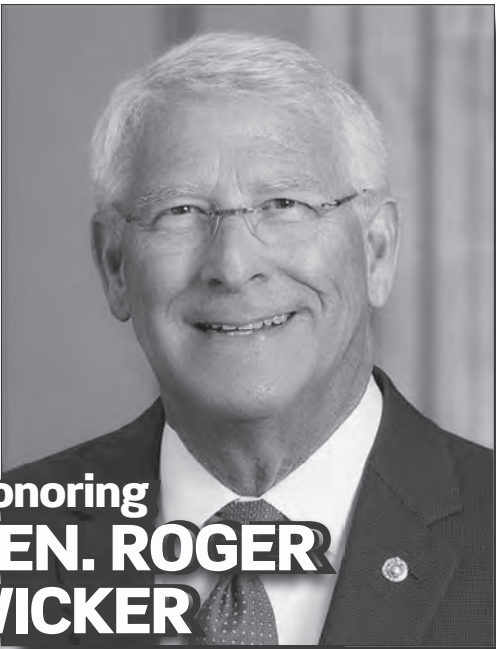
As provided for by the Local Option Alcoholic Beverage Control Laws, Section 67-1-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated. If granted such permit, I propose to operate as a 100% owned Limited Liability Company. Under the trade name of Sambou's African Kitchen Located at 1625 E County Line Rd Suite 150 Jackson, MS 39211 – Hinds County. The name, title, and address of the owner of the above named business is: Joseph Sambou Owner/Manger 132 Lakeway Dr. Madison, MS 39110

If any person wishes to request a hearing to object to the issuance of this permit a request for a hearing must be made in writing and received by the Department of Revenue within (15) fifteen days from the first date this notice was published. Requests shall be sent to: Chief Counsel, Legal Division Department of Revenue P.O. Box 22828 Jackson, MS 39225

4/7/2022

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Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quoted by Frank Sinatra

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

T H O Q Y M J Z G K L D L M T L K A V Y C
T O T K Z M Y C I Z T K Z L O T I Z K

© Feature Exchange

Cryptogram Solution

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

I 'M F O R W H A T E V E R G E T S Y O U
T H Q Y M J Z G K L D L M T L K A V Y C
T H R O U G H T H E N I G H T .
K Z M Y C I Z K Z L O T I Z K

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5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL

304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
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3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
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MCDADE'S MARKET #2
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350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
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5492 Watkins Drive

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6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
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380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

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B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
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Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
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507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
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SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
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BYRAM

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5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

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Terry Road

CLINTON

DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY
SERVICE STATION

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Week of April 3, 2022

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, 54 years later

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

On April 4, 1968, an assassin's bullet ended the dynamic life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the age of 39. King stood on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, a site that's now a museum dedicated to the civil rights champion's life.

James Earl Ray ultimately pleaded guilty to shooting King but later claimed he was a pawn in a more significant crime ring to kill the African-American leader.

On the 54th anniversary of King's death, observances took place around the nation, while those not attending specific events took to social media to commemorate the icon.

"We spend more time celebrating [King's] birth than acknowledging where he was politically when he was killed – fighting alongside sanitation workers, opposing war, racism and capitalism," historian and author Barbara Ransby wrote on Twitter. "April 4 reminds us of the power of the radical King," Ransby noted.

Maya Wiley, the incoming president of The Leadership Conference, also provided remarks via social media.

"[On April 4], 1968, Martin Luther King was assassinated for believing we are equal, shouldn't



King

be poor, and have rights," Wiley asserted. "Today, we're told to fear learning about race or gender identity, to permit voter suppression, and that a highly qualified black woman isn't Supreme Court material. We have work to do."

One day before King's assassination, the civil rights leader gave his last speech where he proclaimed that he'd been to the

mountaintop. In a sad prophecy, King prepared his followers for his demise.

"It really doesn't matter what happens now," he insisted. "We've got some difficult days ahead," he continued, before doubling down. "But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't

mind. Like anybody, I would like

to live a long life. Longevity has its place.

"But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm

happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man."

Rev. Jesse Jackson, who attended King's last speech and stood nearby at the Lorraine Motel when the assassin cut down his colleague, participated in an event at Mt. Olive CME Church in Memphis to help commemorate the 54th anniversary of that

dark day. "It's sad for me. I was with him when the shot was fired," Jackson remarked. "I can replay it back of my mind. It hurts still. I think about the progress we've made since that time."

Jackson joined Bishop Henry Williamson Sr. and others in Memphis to observe the anniversary.

"The 54th-anniversary celebration of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the most important dates in Tennessee and across the nation to observe," Williamson stated.

As part of the observance, Williamson, Jackson, and others, visited the National Civil Rights Museum, which stands at the Lorraine Motel, and the historic Collins Chapel Connection Hospital, the only hospital in Memphis that allowed black people during segregation.

"Dr. King called for non-violence to bring about change against unjust and immoral laws in situations of segregation and discrimination. We need that in today's world," Williamson said.

Illinois Democratic Sen. Tammy Duckworth agreed.

"We will never forget Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for all he did to change the course of our nation's future for the better," Duckworth stated. "Today, it falls upon all of us to continue his legacy."

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

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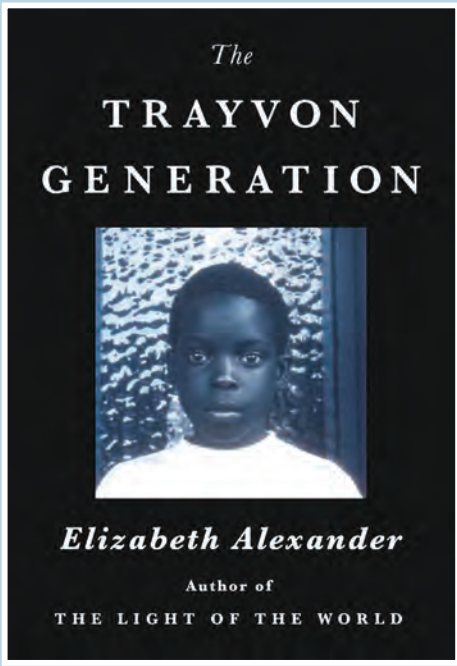
- 1) **Proof of child's age** - birth certificate, hospital birth record, or passport
- 2) **Proof of family's income** - tax return, W 2, pay stub, SSI, Social Security, child support, TANF, grants/scholarship, unemployment, and any other source of household income
- 3) **Proof of Hinds County residency**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

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BOOK REVIEW: THE TRAYVON GENERATION

BY ELIZABETH ALEXANDER
C.2022, GRAND CENTRAL PUBLISHING
\$22.00 • 160 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Your children never miss a thing. Nothing escapes their notice. They watch below and overhead, spotting objects you’ve passed by a dozen times but never truly saw.

From birth and beyond, they’re like sponges, observant and watchful and, as in the new book, “The Trayvon Generation” by Elizabeth Alexander, you wish for them better things to see.

Though it’s been a four-hundred-year struggle, the number-one problem of this century,

says Alexander, is still “the color line.” Generations have done “the race work,” but it remains an issue and she “both lament[s]” and is “enraged that... our young people still have to wrestle with” it.

She grew up “in troves of blackness,” but Alexander’s children were raised in a neighborhood where someone sent out a watch message about two black boys riding around on bikes. As the mother of those boys, now men, she knows the worry, the dreams about worrying, and the fear of not being able to keep them safe.

As a black mother, it’s impossible to “fully protect our children,” she believes.

Part of the problem is that we don’t always see white supremacy when it’s hidden right in front of us. Alexander points at artwork and paintings that hang in esteemed places, but that feature uncomfortable or even outrageous backgrounds that often go unnoticed, or that take decades to change, once they’re seen.

And we go back to what’s seen: Alexander calls her sons and black people under twenty-five the “Trayvon Generation.”

They’re the youth whose names are called when we talk about the police, and the young people whose names we don’t know. We see, and still wonder how a mother can keep her children from being “demonized,” or teach them “to access the sources of strength that transcend this American nightmare of racism and... violence.” How can she protect them, when they, themselves, are used to assuming “responsibility for the horror they could not prevent?”

“I wish,” she says, “... for our young people rest from the un-

ending labor that is race work, and from the spectral anxiety that is part of what it is to be black.”


How do you mark your pages when you read a book? Whatever you use, have a lot of them on hand because nearly every other paragraph of “The Trayvon Generation” contains a sentence or three that you’ll want to remember, to re-read, or turn over in your mind.

Author Elizabeth Alexander uses personal stories, black literature, history, racial violence and current events to paint pain inside the pages of this book.

There’s outrage here, too, but it’s different than perhaps anything you’ve read: it shows itself, then it sits back and waits to see what a reader will do before getting another punch or gasp, another George Floyd, another Angola, another “shock of delayed comprehension.”

That’s what makes this book so must-readable, so thoughtful and compelling. It’s what makes it something you’ll want to share with your older teenager and your friends, for discussion.

Find “The Trayvon Generation,” and you won’t miss a thing.





ZACK WALLACE

Hinds County Circuit Clerk



FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. BOX 327
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: (601) 968-6628
Fax: (601) 973-5547

Jury Duty Recording:
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(601) 969-0052

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Forward Lookers Federated Club presents awards and scholarships

Special to The Mississippi Link

During the 50th Anniversary and 36th Annual Heritage Celebration, Saturday, February 12, 2022, Forward Lookers Federated Club honored activists and awarded the Clara Alexander Jackson Scholarship in Elementary Education to seniors from Alcorn State University and Mississippi Valley State University, in a virtual setting.

The Heritage Award was presented to Dr. I. D. Thompson, retired educator, actor, director, writer, consultant, minister and mentor. Thompson has spent his adult life empowering others, young and old. An alumnus of Jackson State University and the University of Mississippi, where he was the first student of color in the Theater Department.

During a productive career, Thompson served at Mississippi Valley State University, Jackson State University; LeMoyné Owen College, Memphis, TN; Kennedy-King College, Chicago, IL and he has had an impact on the arts in Mississippi.

Thompson also served as a consultant for the Mississippi State Department of Education to revive failing schools and as a pastor in Clarksdale, MS. He continued his creative journey researching and writing, as he served in leadership with the Choctaw County High School National Alumni Association.

The 2022 Service Award was



Asianna Norman

presented to Derrick Johnson, NAACP president and CEO. Johnson, a veteran activist, has dedicated his career to empowering the lives of Mississippians and others. He led campaigns for civil rights and equal education. He formerly served as vice chair of the NAACP Board of Director, as well as president of Mississippi State Conference NAACP.

Johnson has guided the

NAACP through a period of envisioning and reinvigoration. He has exposed inequalities in the racial justice system and the American Healthcare system. He continues to be on the front line of the most pressing civil rights issues of our time. He has elevated the voice of NAACP and its visibility, as well as called for a national response to the coronavirus pandemic and the racial



Kyla Irving

disparities in healthcare outcomes, access and services.

Johnson, frequently featured on CNN, MSNBC, CBS, ABC and other networks, can be seen advocating on behalf of the black community and all who are affected by systemic oppression and prejudice.

The Image Uplift Award, presented annually to a Forward Lookers member, was awarded

to Helen McLaurin McDowell Jackson for 2022. Jackson was cited for dedicated service and diligent work in uplifting federated clubs on local, district, state and national levels.

She has served Forward Lookers as assistant secretary and through work with Courtesy Committee, Social and Entertainment, Newsletter, Budget, Oakley Developmental Center,

the Annual Heritage Luncheon, as a volunteer through the JPS-A-TEAAM, JSD collaboration, and for participation in State Conventions.

A wife, mother, grandmother, Jackson is a member of Christ the King Catholic Church where she is involved in Knights of Peter Claver. She also serves through outreach ministries in her local community.

Recipients of the 2022 Clara Alexander Jackson Scholarship were Kyla Irving, Alcorn State University and Asianna A. Norman, Mississippi Valley State University.

Irving, from Utica, MS, is an elementary education major with endorsements in English and literacy. She professes a love for children and a desire to have a major impact on their lives. She believes it is the teacher's job to motivate children so they will really want to learn. As a teacher, she plans to help students, while creating supportive, inspirational environment.

Norman, from Clarksdale, MS, is an elementary education major with concentrations in English and early childhood education. She aspires to become a good teacher and to continue her education after receiving the undergraduate degree. Norman has mapped out her path through graduate school, with the ultimate goal to become an elementary school principal.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Raymond Rangers Win State Championship



The team celebrates after their exciting win over Clarksdale.



The team poses in the grand foyer of the State Capitol. Front row- Coach Tony Tadlock, Principal Lorenzo Grimes, Rep. Stephanie Foster, Assistant Coach Jason Claxton, Rep. De'Keither Stamps.



The team poses on the steps of the Capitol after being recognized on the floor.



The team enjoys a catered lunch.



Coach Jason Claxton, Coach Tony Tadlock, Coach Richard Caston pose with their proclamation and trophy outside of the State Capitol.

Raymond boys basketball captured the 2022 4A State Championship by defeating Clarksdale by a score of 67-46. Raymond defeated Leake Central by a score of 57-44 in the semifinal game. Raymond finished the season with a 29-5 overall record and 12-0 district record. Raymond finished as the Regular Season District Champions and the District Tournament Champions. Raymond finished #1 in state according to The Clarion Ledger, Magnolia Hoops, SB Live and MS Hoops Report.

Then, on March 23, 2022, the Raymond Rangers Boys Basketball State Champions were honored at the State Capitol. As special guests of Representative Stephanie Foster and Representative De'Keither Stamps, the team was recognized on the floor, took a tour of the Capitol, and was treated to a catered lunch.

The Raymond Rangers consist of Tremaine Dixon, Chris Fuqua, Christian Noel, Jabarie Robinson, Matthew Gilliam, Zhakeius Jackson, Larry Lee, Dontavious Mack, Kenosha Walton, Adonis Dixon, Keymarius Lewis, Gekylenn Mosley, Eric Paymon, Jayden Singleton, Chris Stephens, Demarion Terry, Kemonte Wright Managers: Kachren Lacy, Nathan Marshall, Damarcus Mixon, Arianna Stephens Assistant coaches: Richard Caston and Jason Claxton Head coach: Tony Tadlock

College Hill MB Church 115th Anniversary and Dedication of New Sanctuary

Pastor, Chauncy Jordan • 1600 Florence Ave. • Jackson, Mississippi • April 3, 2022

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



H I G H L I G H T S

First African-American U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris

*visits Greenville, Mississippi
E. E. Bass Cultural Arts Center
April 1, 2022*

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON, JACKIE HAMPTON AND
COURTESY OF MAYOR'S OFFICE, GREENVILLE, MS



Judge Jackson rewrites U.S. History as first black woman on the Supreme Court

After arduous and volatile hearings last month, the Democratic-controlled Senate confirmed Jackson by a 53-47 vote.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

At 2:17 p.m. EST, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson entered the history books, becoming the first black woman elevated to the U.S. Supreme Court.

After arduous and volatile hearings last month, the Democratic-controlled Senate confirmed Jackson by a 53-47 vote.

“This is a special day for black communities and for all Americans and marks the start of a new era for the judicial branch of the United States,” said Spencer Overton, the president of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

“We are celebrating this joyful moment with Judge Jackson and reflecting on the significant impact she will have on our nation over the next several decades.”

Vice President Kamala Harris announced the final vote, tapping the podium with her gavel which signaled the making of history.

All 50 Democrats in the U.S. Senate voted in favor of Jackson, while Sens. Mitt Romney of Utah, Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska were the only Republicans to cast ballots approving President Joe Biden’s nominee.

Though unquestionably supporting Jackson, D.C. Democratic Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton expressed a bittersweet reality. “This is historic,” Norton proclaimed.“[However], there’s still some emptiness for the District of Columbia. D.C., as with every other SCOTUS nominee in history, [had] no vote on confirmation even though D.C. and its residents are bound by the court’s rulings.”

Following four days of public testimony and a racially charged grilling of Jackson by Republicans that began on March 21, Senate Judiciary members deadlocked 11-11 on April 4 to move the nomination out of committee.

However, Jackson’s nomination moved forward based on Senate rules and a Democrat majority in the upper chamber.

On Thursday, members again engaged in a debate over confirmation, but Sen. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer cut arguments off before



Jackson

the final vote.

Ironically, Republicans changed the rules for Supreme Court nominees in 2017 to confirm Justice Neil Gorsuch, a pick of former President Donald Trump. That move allowed for a similar majority to vote to limit debate.“It will be a joyous day,” Schumer declared.

The White House said since Justice Stephen Breyer announced his retirement, President Biden had sought a candidate with “exceptional credentials, unimpeachable character and unwavering dedication to the rule of law.”

“And the president sought an individual who is committed to equal justice under the law and who understands the profound impact that the Supreme Court’s decisions have on the lives of the American people,” a senior official stated.

“That is why the president nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson,” the official insisted.

Born in Washington, D.C., Jackson grew up in Miami, Florida. According to the White House, during a 2017 lecture, Jackson traced her love of the law back to sitting next to her father in their apartment as he tackled his law school homework.

A speech and debate star, Jackson earned election as “mayor” of Palmetto Junior High and student body president of Miami Palmetto Senior High School. “But like many black women, Judge Jackson still faced naysayers,” senior White House officials wrote.

“When Judge Jackson told her

high school guidance counselor, she wanted to attend Harvard, the guidance counselor warned that Judge Jackson should not set her sights so high.”

Jackson graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University, then attended Harvard Law School, where she graduated cum laude and was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.

In 2021, Jackson earned confirmation on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. She also served on the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and President Barack Obama nominated Jackson as district court judge in 2012.

Jackson also served as vice-chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, clerked for Justice Breyer, and worked as a federal public defender. She’s the first former federal public defender to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

“Ketanji Brown Jackson is an outstanding jurist and person,” the Fraternal Order of Police wrote. “Brilliant, fair, and a true and real person. She will be an immense credit to the court and our country.”

Supreme Court lawyer Neal Katyal said by all accounts, Jackson possesses the qualities essential in a Supreme Court justice. Obama declared that Jackson “has a demonstrated record of excellence.”

“I believe, based upon her work as a trial judge when I served on the Court of Appeals, that she will adjudicate based on the facts and the law and not as a partisan,” Obama stated.



President Biden congratulating Judge Jackson AP PHOTO BY SUSAN WALSH



U.S. President Joe Biden and Associate Supreme Court Nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson watch as the U.S. Senate votes on her confirmation to the Supreme Court at the White House in Washington, D.C. on April 7, 2022. (PHOTO BY JOSHUA ROBERTS/SIPA USA)(SIPA VIA AP IMAGES)



The Black Caucus