

Junetenth Expo to headline Bobby Rush, The Mississippi Mass Choir, motorcade parade and 100 marriages

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

A press conference breakfast was held Tuesday, May 9, to announce the line-up of Juneteenth Jackson Expo weekend events. It was held at 8:30 a.m. at New Horizon Church International's Café located at 170 Ellis Avenue.

As the nation celebrates the first official U.S. Federal holiday of Juneteenth, it is said that Mississippi's Capital City will lead the nation in the essence of Juneteenth with events planned for the entire week-end of June 17-19, 2022, which also includes Father's Day.

The celebration will include a Bobby Rush Street Motorcade Parade in recognition of the re-naming of I-20 Ellis Avenue to Bobby Rush Blvd. It will include a free concert by Rush, a performance by the Mississippi Mass Choir, a salute to dads for Father's Day, and Mississippi's largest wedding ceremony projecting 100 couples getting married on the grounds of New Horizon Church. These are just a few of the events for this memorable occasion.

Bishop Ronnie Crudup Sr., pastor of New Horizon Church, welcomed the press and stated that this being the first year Juneteenth is celebrated as a national holiday, he was honored that the events will take place on the grounds of New Horizon. Crudup noted that this will be the first of an annual celebration here in Jackson. He said, "It's a celebration of family, a celebra-



Bishop Crudup and Bobby Rush PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON Ricky Thigpen

tion of freedom and a celebration of economic development."

Crudup encouraged couples that want to get married without having to spend a lot of money to come be a part of the Jumping the Broom Ceremony. He said, "We are going to make the genius book of records," referring to the 100 couples being married.

The significance of jumping broom to black heritage and history originates in the West African country of Ghana where in certain cultures it symbolized sweeping away past wrongs or removing evil spirits.

The celebration is a partnership.

Ison Harris Jr., director of

Parks & Recreation for the City of Jackson, stated the city will be handling events downtown for the kids as well as a fireworks extravaganza. He said he is looking forward to partying all week-end long in celebration of Juneteenth.

Ricky Thigpen, president and CEO of Visit Jackson, said Visit Jackson was excited to be a part of the celebration. He said, "Collective ambition is a word we often use at Visit Jackson and this event is an example of what can happen when people pull together to make things happen."

Bobby Rush, the 2021 Grammy winner for traditional blues and a national and local favorite entertainer, attended the press

event and said he wanted to thank everyone in advance for what they are going to do. He said, "I am proud they finally gave us the holiday. Don't let Juneteenth be so much you forget about the vote." Rush encouraged everyone to come out and have fun.

Rush said he was honored to have a portion of Ellis Avenue named after him. He said, "My professional name is Bobby Rush but my birth name is Emmett Ellis, that's how I know God is in the plan."

Alious McBride, president of Mississippi Goodwill Festival Inc., attended the press

Expo Continued on pages 3

Mississippi Humanities Council celebrates 50th Anniversary with Jesmyn Ward in her journey



Jesmyn Ward

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

Well over a hundred people gathered at Galloway Church, 305 North Congress Street in Jackson, at 7 p.m. Thursday night to celebrate MHC's Golden Anniversary. The evening began with a welcome from Galloway senior pastor, Reverend Gary Stockett, comments from Stuart Rockoff, executive director of the Mississippi Humanities Council. He said, "We are in the midst of a year-long series of programs, putting on the theme Reflecting Mississippi. The idea is that we want to explore the diverse stories of our state and understand how narratives have or have not reflected who we are and where we've been."

He then went on to introduce the keynote speaker, Jesmyn Ward by saying "there is no contemporary writer or scholar who has thought more deeply or expressed in a more beautiful and profound way the contradictions of Mississippi."

Through her novels, non-fiction and essays, Ward has given voice to the characters and communities that have often been excluded or overlooked. In fact, she has helped reflect a more accurate and indeed a more complicated Mississippi.

Ward arrived at the podium to thundering and prolonged applause and a standing ovation. She was born in Berkeley,

California but has called DeLisle, Mississippi home since age 3. She earned her BA in English and MA in media studies and communication from Stanford University, and Master of fine arts from the University of Michigan. She is currently a professor of creative writing at Tulane University. She has authored six books to date, two winning National Book Awards, and Men We Reaped being named by New York Magazine as one of the Best Books of the Century.

For many years, Ward, who lost her husband to COVID in 2020, has been included in the roster of Mississippi's elite writers, alongside the likes of Eudora Welty, Richard Wright and William Faulkner. Her titles include: Salvage The Bones (2012), The Fire This Time (2016), Men We Reaped (2017), Sing Unburied Sing (2017), Where The Line Bleeds (2018), and Navigate Your Stars (2020).

For nearly forty minutes she shared her truth through her personal story. It was a detailed journey of her recognition of the "bad faith stories" (narratives) of others toward her, toward black people and toward poor people onward to the realization and deep acceptance of her own truthful and accurate narrative – a narrative of dignity and worth.

Anniversary Continued on pages 3



Stuart Rockoff, Exec. Director of Mississippi Humanities Council

State legislators representing Hinds County

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer



The current term for all twelve of our Representatives and all five of our Senators ends in 2024. It'll be here before you know it. Let's take a closer look at who is representing us, and what changes they are championing.

In the lower chamber, we have eleven Democrats, and one Republican; Speaker of the House Philip Gunn. Seven males and five females. Fifty percent are in their first term in office; Representatives Foster, Yates, Stamps, Summers, Brown and Crudup Jr. Two are in their second term; Representatives Bell and Gibbs. The remaining four have served 20, 22, 29, and 37 years in office; Representatives Gunn, Holloway, Sr., Banks and Clarke, respectively. Ten Representatives are black, two are white.

In the upper chamber, we have four Democrats, and one Republican; J. Walter Michel. 100%



State flag

COMMENTARY

are male. None are in their first term. One is in his second term, this time around – Senator Michel served 12 years in the Senate, then was out of office for a

term, and was then reelected and is now on his second term. Senator Norwood is on his third term. Senator Blount is on his fourth term. Senator Horhn has been in office 28 years. Senator Frazier has been in office 29 years, after

first serving in the lower chamber for 12 years. Three Senators are black, two are white.

Salaries for our part-time legislators are \$23,500 (\$10,000 base salary + \$1,500 per month when not in session) coupled with per diem when in session at a rate of \$151 per day; so an additional \$13,590 for a 90-day session. Then there is 58 cents per mile for travel.

In the session recently ended, Senators proposed a pay raise for legislators of \$6,000 for the first year of a new term, then \$4,500 for the remaining three years of the term. They were also adding in the \$1,500 per month for the full twelve months of the year, even when they are in session. The pay raise initially passed, but eventually died on the calendar – this time.

I can't possibly quantify the good deeds that these seventeen legislators do for Hinds County each year but there must

Hinds Continued on pages 3

Inside
Two Rivers Black-Tie Gala featuring Grammy-Winning artist Gladys Knight



Grief is Love



Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

For mothers: ForeveRoyalTee and The Royal Getaway give bonding like no other

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

Approximately thirty-three mothers and five men from the Greater Jackson area (Brandon, Flora, Jackson, Madison, Pearl, Ridgeland and Terry) flocked through the doors of The Stellar Venue on Pear Orchard Road Saturday, May 7 at 1:30 p.m. In deference to mothers, these guests were lured into a large room absorbed with soulful music, advertising billboards, a photographic bench surrounded by flowers and balloons – set for pondering, mixing and mingling.

Each round table was designed to seat a maximum of six guests. It was decorated with different sizes of colorful paint brushes, water in cups and jars to clean the brushes, a tray for paint and a canvas sketched with a picture to be painted. Assistants brought paint to each table and allowed the experienced and inexperienced artists to choose their colors and to place them in the trays.

The afternoon’s occasion catered to the theme, Moms and MOMosas Paint & Sip.

Amber Jones, owner of Foreve-RoyalTee and The Royal Getaway, is the originator of the celebration. She felt the need for “Moms to get together while sipping mimosas – a brunch style cocktail.”

“As a first-time mom, I desired to have more experiences with moms in the Jackson Area. I wanted to connect and [to] celebrate by combining two of the things I love: painting and mimosas. This is how Moms and MOMosas Paint & Sip



Amber Jones, organizer, Moms And Momosas Paint & Sip, at the stellar venue on Mother’s Day weekend.

was created,” said Jones.

Jones observed that painting was a mechanism of relaxation for attendants. She commented, “It naturally allowed everyone to let down their guards and have some fun with a nostalgic activity. Those who didn’t know each other previously were commenting on each other’s canvases and giving pointers on what could be different.”

Every painting was uniquely expressed. First-time painters as well as experienced painters used their own artistic creativity.

“From the color choices to making their pieces one of a kind, it was interesting to see the different takes and perspectives on the same canvas,” noted Jones.

Participants’ mingling experiences drew attention. In the beginning each worker was engaged

in intrapersonal communication, with little or no time to interact with others. Attention was devoted to the paintings. Time progression produced change once the food was eaten and the momosas were poured. Then everyone began to interact with each other.

Mothers who attended the Moms and MOMosas Paint and Sip celebration made comments. West Jackson resident Toni

Johnson remarked: “I had an amazing time painting, eating sweet treats and jamming to good music with other mothers in attendance.”

“It was lovely. I had never attended one before. If Amber does another one like it, I want to come,” said Dorothy Sudduth of Jackson.

Jones proclaimed that if she had the opportunity to do another



Intense and intimate moments among artistic guests.



Mother’s Day weekend guests holding their finished paintings at the Moms And Momosas Paint & Sip Event. PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

Moms and MOMosas Paint and Sip celebration, she would not hesitate to do so.

“The reactions have been so positive, and I’m so happy about it. Guests were leaving saying things like they couldn’t wait until the next one and how beautiful the décor was. Others have posted on social media how much fun they had just being a mom with other moms, and that really was my goal.”

Referencing what she had learned about the Greater Jackson community, Jones asserted that the event was a reminder that ‘we’re all in this together.’

“Simple human connection and conversation may be normal for some, but be a rare commodity for others like a grieving mother, a mom whose kids have left the nest or a tired first-time mom. We all need community. It provides strength and encouragement to keep going in this life that can be hard at times.”

ForeveRoyalTee is a lifestyle apparel company that celebrates and uplifts Christian beliefs unashamedly and represents culture unapologetically.

The Royal Getaway is a travel boutique that prepares luxury group trips from start to finish and hosts group trips to some of the top destinations around the world.

The businesses granted gifts at random to Moms and MOMosas Paint and Sip guests.

Amber Jones can be contacted at 601 5405724 or dishea13@icloud.com.

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Tougaloo College held its annual Two Rivers Black-Tie Gala where Grammy-Winning artist Gladys Knight performed before a sold-out audience

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The Margaret Walker Center

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Margaret Walker Center will host an exhibition unveiling, wreath laying and reception in Ayer Hall at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 14, for the 52nd annual commemoration of the Gibbs-Green tragedy at Jackson State University. The public is invited to attend.

In the late hours of May 14 and into the early morning of May 15, 1970, Jackson City Police and Mississippi Highway Patrolmen marched on the Jackson State campus and fired nearly 500 rounds of ammunition in 28 seconds into Alexander Hall, a women's dormitory.

Phillip Lafayette Gibbs, a junior political science major, and James Earl Green, a senior at nearby Jim Hill High School, were killed. Twelve others were shot, and dozens were injured by flying debris, glass, and brick in the ensuing chaos.

No police officer was ever held accountable.

Shortly after the shootings, campus was closed, and graduation ceremonies for the Class of 1970 were cancelled.

This year's commemoration will include the unveiling of a special exhibition, A Decade of Action: Jackson State, Lynch Street, and the Civil Rights Movement, in Ayer Hall.


Founded as a seminary for freed people in Natchez in 1877, Jackson State became the heart of the John R. Lynch Street corridor, named in honor of a black man who had risen from slavery to become a U.S. congressman. Around the campus, a thriving African American business district and residential community emerged, and civil rights organizations opened their offices there, making the street a hub for the modern movement.

A Decade of Action explores the Civil Rights Movement on Lynch Street from 1961 to the brutal police shootings at Jackson State in 1970.

Support for A Decade of Action was provided by the State of Mississippi, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Senator Hillman Frazier.

The exhibit was designed by Symmetry, LLC.

52nd Annual Gibbs-Green Commemoration





A DECADE OF ACTION

Jackson State, Lynch Street & the Civil Rights Movement

11 AM, SATURDAY, MAY 14

Ayer Hall, JSU



Mississippi city struggles to find workers

The Associated Press

The City of Greenwood is in the midst of an “unprecedented” labor shortage, Mayor Carolyn McAdams said.

“We can’t get people to stay working,” she said. “We’ll hire somebody, and they’ll work for a few days and just walk off the job.”

The last year has been especially difficult. She said the public works, police and fire departments have been affected the most, The *Greenwood Commonwealth* reported.

Susan Bailey, director of public works, said she is looking for four laborers, one garbage truck driver and one trash truck driver. The five trash routes, which focus on picking up yard debris like tree limbs and bagged leaves, can take up to a week to finish because of the shortage, she said.

Regarding the police shortage, McAdams said the department has never experienced such a lack of available officers. The fire department is facing similar difficulties.

“We’re doing everything in our power to recruit,” she said. “We changed up our budget so that we can hire at a different level of pay and also be able to give pretty good raises yearly. It’s still not capturing these people enough to come back to work.”

She said operations at police and fire aren’t being affected, but current employees have had to extend themselves. Police Chief Terrence Craft has begun using higher-ranked officers for patrols, she said.

Fire Chief Marcus Banks said current staffing shortages haven’t yet affected operations because some people are working overtime and command staff are being used for on-the-ground work.

McAdams said the city is advertising for summer work programs, such as the urban youth program, which are six-week commitments open to applicants at least 16 years of age.

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Mysterious multi-million MeToo lawsuits against Snoop Dogg, Trey Songz and Chris Brown end

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Days before a much-publicized appearance at the Super Bowl halftime show, an anonymous woman filed a \$10 million lawsuit against well-known rap superstar Calvin Broadus, 50, better known as Snoop Dogg, on February 11, 2022.

The lawsuit was filed by a “Jane Doe” complainant who alleged that back in May of 2013, Snoop Dogg and Bishop Don “Magic” Juan, whose real name is Donald Campbell, 71, sexually assaulted her.

The Jane Doe accuser, the complaint described as a dancer, filed the lawsuit in a Los Angeles federal court February 9. Super Bowl fifty-six took place on February 13. Snoop Dogg performed a highly promoted never-seen-before routine with other rap and hip-hop superstars Mary J. Blige, Dre, Eminem and Kendrick Lamar.

On February 11, a spokesperson for Snoop Dogg described the allegations in the lawsuit as, “part of a self-enrichment shakedown scheme to extort Snoop Dogg right before he performs during this Sunday’s Super Bowl halftime show.”

“Her attempt to use the courts to advance this scheme is shameful too and does a disservice to real victims who deserve to be believed,” Snoop Dogg’s spokesperson added.

The accuser’s attorney, Matt Finkelberg, told media that the Jane Doe accuser, “refuses to



The lawsuit was filed by a “Jane Doe” complainant who alleged that back in May of 2013, Snoop Dogg and Bishop Don “Magic” Juan, whose real name is Donald Campbell, 71, sexually assaulted her. PHOTO: JØRUND FØRELAND PEDERSEN, CC BY-SA 3.0 <HTTPS://CREATIVECOMMONS.ORG/LICENSES/BY-SA/3.0>, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

be silenced and intimidated any longer.”

“Our client’s hope is to inspire other victims of sexual harassment, assault and battery to understand that they have rights, will be protected, and although they are victims, they will not have to be silenced forever,” Finkelberg said.

On April 8, the “Jane Doe” individual who filed the lawsuit withdrew it “in its entirety.” U.S. District Judge George H. Wu ordered the dismissal as requested.

But Snoop Dogg wasn’t the only major black male music

superstar to be sued for millions and accused of a major sex crime.

On February 16, a woman represented by Miami-based attorney Ariel Mitchell, but whose name is unknown, filed a \$20 million lawsuit against singer Trey Songz, 37, real name Tremaine Neverson. The civil lawsuit alleged a 2016 rape against the singer, who is worth \$12 million, at a party in West Hills, California.

Law.com reported February 15, that an attorney for Songz, filed a complaint against Mitchell claiming she was engaging

in a form of witness tampering. Mitchell denies the claim and said the complaint wasn’t true. But Songz attorney Jeff Neiman asked Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Gina Beovides to dismiss the complaint against Songz and pursue disciplinary action against Mitchell, including sanctions.

On April 9, police in Las Vegas stated, “The LVMPD has concluded the investigation into the sexual assault allegations against Tremaine Neverson and determined that no criminal charges will be filed from a sexual assault allega-

tion made against him November 2021.

On August 19, 2020, Songz’s twitter account read, “I usually stay quiet on this, but I feel that in many ways the movement to fight for the women who actually have suffered harassment and abuse on various levels, has been hijacked by those who find it convenient for themselves to come up as they seek to destroy someone’s life.”

On January 28, singer Chris Brown was sued for \$20 million by a woman claiming the superstar drugged and raped her on a yacht docked outside

Sean Combs’ home in Miami in late December 2020. The suit was filed by an anonymous “Jane Doe” dancer/model/actress in Los Angeles Superior Court on Jan. 27.

But on March 9, representatives for Chris Brown directed media to a story on RadarOnline that included screenshots of text messages allegedly sent by the unidentified Jane Doe suing Chris Brown for \$20 million and Chris Brown himself. The messages appeared to show a different version of events than what was represented in the lawsuit, including the accuser courting Brown with “lewd language and bare-naked selfies almost immediately after the alleged rape took place.”

After the text messages were revealed on Brown’s social media and amplified elsewhere, the accuser’s attorneys George Vrabeck of Vrabeck Adams & Co. Inc., and Ariel Mitchell withdrew from the case.

“Chris Brown had 9 months’ worth of text messages from that woman. He needs to file lawsuits on media outlets and so many other people,” wrote Toni Carter on Twitter March 9.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist and the host of the podcast BURKE-FILE. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

Candace Owens makes ‘unacceptable and dangerous’ visit to Patrisse Cullors’ home

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In a tearful Instagram Live post, Black Lives Matter founder Patrisse Cullors described feeling threatened after Candace Owens arrived with a news crew outside the leader’s home in Los Angeles May 7.

“She was demanding that I come outside,” said Cullors as she addressed many of her 367,000 Instagram followers who joined her. “It’s really unacceptable, dangerous,” Cullors stated.

Owens, a conservative known for her fan girl obsession with former President Donald Trump and other white conservatives and the rhetoric she often spews online and on television, has led the charge against the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Owens has seized on unsubstantiated reports by right-wing media that Cullors used

foundation money to purchase a \$6 million home in California and purchased other property.

However, foundation officials and Cullors have pointed out that the California home represents a space for black creators.

As for the other properties, Cullors has publicly stated that she purchased those from the proceeds of book sales and other personal earnings. Owens claimed she watched Cullors live. While claiming Cullors lied, Owens admitted to going to the home and ringing the doorbell.

“The truth shall set you free, or Candace Owens shall set you free, girl. Because I’m about to tell the truth,” Owens remarked in her own video.

Supporters of Cullors have stated that she indeed purchased a Los Angeles home for the foundation. However, the home Owens visited was

not the property owned by the foundation. It was Cullors’ private residence.

Supporters have argued that the purported \$6 million foundation home stands as an office and community workshop, like the one in Toronto that acts as a cultural center with offices for activists and no bedrooms.

Officials have stated that the primary purpose of purchasing the properties remains to build equity for the movement to continue.

“It’s been a hard few weeks,” Cullors remarked. “I really need to be safe. I need my family to be safe. I need my child to be safe.”

Cullors further described the threat to her security following Owens’ unannounced visit.

“It’s not safety. It’s not what I deserve, or any of us deserve,” she insisted. She urged her friends and followers to remain diligent and reserve judgment.

“When you see [stuff] in the media being talked about, be diligent because they are purposely building a wedge between black people,” Cullors asserted. “They know that when we are together, we are stronger. They’ve seen what we’ve done over the last decade, and they are literally trying to destroy us; destroy me; destroy the movement.”

She continued: “I just us to be stronger, more diligent, and more present. I want us to be more clear and accountable. I love ya’ll so much. Pray for my family, check on black organizers. This backlash is real and is impacting our personal and everyday life. I’m going to keep doing my work to be accountable and be in a right relationship with the people I love and those who love and trust me. I’ll continue to show up. Please take care of each other.”



Owens

An overview of NTM, a progressive lung disease

StatePoint

Did you know that everyone inhales nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) into their lungs as part of daily life? NTM is a group of over 200 types of bacteria. While most of these types of bacteria do not cause harm in humans, some do.

The most common type of NTM lung disease is MAC or mycobacterium avium complex. Naturally found in soil and water, for most people the organisms do no harm. However, in a small number of vulnerable individuals, NTM can infect airways and lung tissue, leading to disease. As of 2012, more than 86,000 people are likely living with NTM lung disease nationwide.

NTM lung disease is a progressive disease, so the sooner you speak to your doctor and receive a correct diagnosis, the sooner you can discuss treatment options with them.

To help individuals better understand the signs and symptoms of NTM lung disease and be empowered to get the help they need, the American Lung Association, supported by Insmed Incorporated through a collaborative sponsorship, is sharing these important facts about the condition:

What are NTM lung disease’s most common signs and symptoms? The symptoms of NTM lung disease are similar to other lung conditions. Common symptoms include chronic cough that may produce mucus, fatigue,



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) BONGKARNTHANYAKIJ /CISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES

weight loss, fever and night sweats.

Who’s at greatest risk? Although anyone can get NTM lung disease, some groups of people are at much higher risk, including those with lungs damaged from diseases such as bronchiectasis, COPD, cystic fibrosis, silicosis or a previous tuberculosis infection. Other high-risk groups include postmenopausal women and people over 65, as well individuals with a weakened immune system due to an

autoimmune disorder, or from taking immune suppressing medications.

How does NTM lung disease affect one’s health? The less progressive form of NTM lung disease, nodular bronchiectasis, causes inflammation, damage and scarring over time. As the disease progresses, the damaged airways lose their ability to clear mucus normally, which invites recurring respiratory infections. The more progressive form, cavitary disease, causes scarring, fi-

brosis and the formation of cavities or pits in the lung tissue, which can lead to respiratory failure. Some NTM organisms can cause disease in other parts of the body, including the lymph nodes, skin, soft tissue and bones.

When is it time to see a doctor? Consider asking your doctor about NTM lung disease if you’re living with a chronic lung disease and your symptoms are getting worse or not going away.

How is NTM lung disease diagnosed? Diagnosis typically involves three different assessments: A clinical exam, a chest X-ray or CT scan, and a lab culture. It’s important that diagnosis includes identification of which species of mycobacterium are causing the infection, since that will determine treatment options.

What are next steps after diagnosis? Treatment options vary depending on the type of NTM species involved, but typically include two or more courses of antibiotics for an extended period of time, as well as making healthy lifestyle changes. In some cases, surgery is an option. While NTM lung disease is treatable, it can be challenging to eliminate all of the bacteria so it doesn’t continue replicating.

Advocates encourage seeking a second opinion and following up with a pulmonologist or infectious disease specialist with specific experience treating NTM lung disease, particularly if symptoms persist after treatment.

“If you experience new or worsening symptoms, these may be clues about what’s happening in your body,” says Brian, a patient with a rare, genetic lung disease called Alpha-1 who was diagnosed with NTM lung disease after discussing with his doctor how his symptoms changed. “Don’t be afraid to advocate for yourself.”

More information can be found at Lung.org/NTM.

Closing the gap on lung cancer care

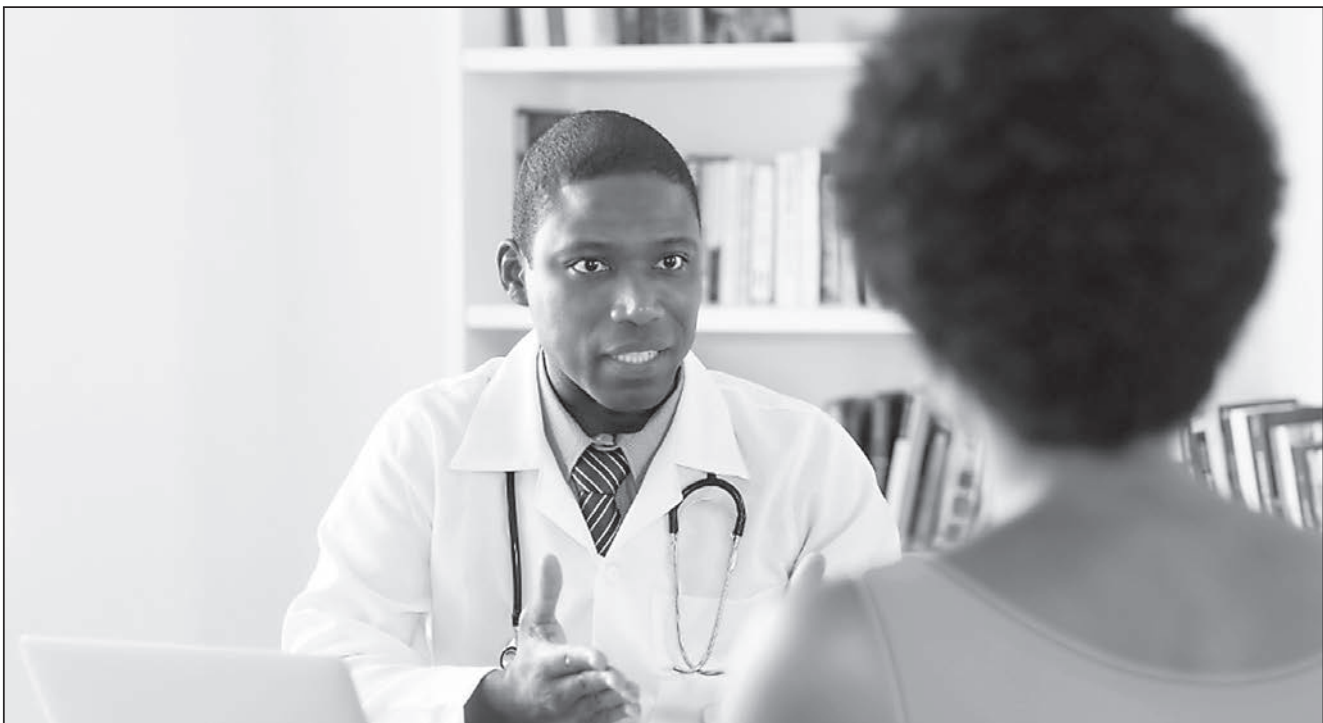
StatePoint

Lung cancer research is moving at a rapid pace, with researchers learning more about the disease and working hard to find treatments to help save and extend lives. At the same time, black Americans account for only 3.1% of participants in clinical trials for cancer drugs. Experts say that this needs to change.

“Clinical trials are not only the cornerstone of lung cancer research efforts, but are often the best treatment option available,” says Ozuru Ukoha, M.D., chair, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County.

“For these studies however, it’s important to enroll a diverse group of people so researchers can learn about how lung cancer treatments work in different people. Though black Americans have the highest mortality rate in lung cancer and stand to benefit the most from clinical trials, they are underrepresented.”

“Awareness, Trust and Action,” a new awareness campaign from the American Lung Association with support from AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb and Merck, aims to encourage black Americans to speak with their healthcare providers about clinical tri-



DMEPHOTOGRAPHY / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

als and their treatment options. As part of the campaign, the Lung Association is sharing a few fast facts:

- Diversity matters: It’s important to enroll a diverse group of people in clinical trials so that researchers can understand the effects of potential treatment methods on different patient popula-

tions. Unfortunately, many groups of people are underrepresented in clinical trials, including black Americans. This happens for many reasons, one of them being the long-standing history of racial bias in healthcare, which impacts access to care and trust in providers.

- Participation is safe: Clinical trials

are highly monitored research studies that can test many things, including how to prevent a disease, new ways to detect or diagnose a disease or new ways to treat a disease. Each participant in a clinical trial is treated with the highest level of care. Often times, the most appropriate treatment option

for a lung cancer patient is through a clinical trial.

- Disparities persist: Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer of both men and women in the United States, however, black Americans with lung cancer are less likely to be diagnosed at an early stage, less likely to receive surgical treatment, and less likely to receive any treatment at all compared to white Americans. Black patients deserve better care, including the opportunity to benefit from the cutting-edge therapies clinical trials may offer.

- Everyone receives treatment: When a clinical trial tests a new lung cancer treatment, patients are never given a placebo or “sugar pill.” Everyone in the study gets the best-known treatment available, but some people will also get a new treatment being studied.

“As lung cancer research continues to contribute to the declining cancer death rate we’ve seen in recent years, it is vital that we close gaps in care. Black Americans are underrepresented in clinical trials. This is unfortunate and deserves our immediate attention,” says Dr. Ukoha.

To learn more about lung cancer and clinical trials, visit Lung.org/trials-and-you.

Statistics defend Dept. of Health

Greenwood Commonwealth

When the NAACP and the Southern Poverty Law Center complained recently to federal authorities that Mississippi has not done enough to fight the COVID-19 pandemic’s oversized impact on minority communities, the state Department of Health was ready with a strong response.

The complaint claimed that Mississippi and various public and private organizations received more than \$15 billion in federal money for the CO-

COMMENTARY

VID-19 response, “yet the state has continued to provide a discriminatory program, resulting in disproportionate rates of sickness, hospitalization and death in black, indigenous and brown communities.”

Mississippi Today quoted Dr. Thomas Dobbs, the state health officer, who acknowledged racial disparities in COVID-19 cases at the beginning of the pandemic. But he said the state Department of Health worked

hard to fix that.

“Although the state encountered numerous challenges to advancing the equity mission – including early vaccine access, trust issues and technological barriers to vaccine appointments – a statewide coalition of agency, faith, medical and community leaders was able to deliver much-needed information, vaccines and PPE to minority populations across the state,” Dobbs said.

Another Mississippi-based website, Y’all Politics, cited information from the Department

of Health that indicates Dobbs is correct.

The numbers say 62% of black residents in Mississippi received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while only 54% of whites did. The gap was similar for residents who received a second dose: 56% of black residents and 49% of whites.

It is certainly fair to note that one reason the white vaccination percentages were low is that a significant number of people decided they weren’t getting the shots or wearing a

mask – period, end of story. But it’s no great stretch to suspect that some black residents made the same decision and simply weren’t as vocal about it.

Other data from the state Department of Health also supports Dobbs.

Through April 12, Mississippi reported 704,000 COVID-19 infections (almost 25% of the population). Of that number, 406,000 patients, or 58%, were white, while 249,000, or 35%, were black.

As for COVID-19 deaths,

there have been 12,170 in Mississippi. Of these, 7,159, or 59%, were white, and 4,550, or 37%, were black.


These numbers square closely to the 2000 census count for Mississippi, which said 56% of residents were white and 37% were black.

Other figures may bolster the civil rights groups’ complaint. But the most important numbers of infections and deaths say that in terms of race, neither the pandemic nor the state discriminated.

P R E S E R V E D

Worth the Weight

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist

 “I want to lose 46 pounds” is what I stated to my nutritionist on my first visit with her in July 2017. As she nodded her head and continued taking notes, I was a little fearful of the goal I had just set for myself. I explained to her that since I was getting closer to a new decade of life, I wanted to go into it looking and feeling my best. A big grin spread across her face as she then gave me a healthy eating plan with dozens of foods I’d never heard of. She then explained how the plan was not a restrictive diet but that I should consider it a change in my lifestyle of poor eating habits. After I looked over the list, I thought I might

not ever reach the weight goal that I had boldly proclaimed if all I could eat was quinoa, flaxseed crackers, and lentil pasta. One of the things she emphasized was that although my working out 3 days a week was good, since it had not led to any significant weight loss, there was probably something else going on. When she told me I probably had a leaky gut, I wasn’t sure if I should laugh or be insulted. She explained that for some people even if they have healthy eating habits and exercise, they still might not be able to lose weight if they have a leaky gut. Leaky gut or not, I bought my flaxseed crackers and started my journey. Throughout this journey, I had many days that I doubted I would meet the goal because I didn’t care about losing weight anymore; I just wanted a burger and fries. However, I stuck


with it and quickly started to see results. Within 2 weeks of starting the plan, I noticed that I’d lost a little weight, but the biggest change was going on internally. My blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol levels had all significantly dropped. I was sleeping better and stopped taking my allergy pills. 5 years later, I’m excited to share that despite my many complaints about how boring and difficult my new plant based eating plan was, through faithful persistence, I’ve been able to maintain my 50 pound weight loss I deliberately picked a goal that at first seemed impossible so that when it happened, I would have to declare it was because of the grace of God! The focus on taking care of the internal and not just focusing on what my body looked like from the outside

reminds me of Matthew 23:26 where Jesus emphasizes that transformation starts from the inside out: “Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.” Sometimes, I think we get it wrong being so focused on what things look like on the outside, for example having a form of godliness (quoting scriptures, going to church, or wearing a big cross necklace) but not really allowing the power of God to transform us on the inside. 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.

P A R T 3

A day of great wickedness

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

 How could Lot do the things he did? I am sure that when he started, he never thought that he would lose his wife, lose his self-respect, lose all his material gain, and end up dwelling in a cave. He had no thought of those things transpiring in his life. He had thoughts of settling down and taking it easy on the well-watered plains of Jordan. He envisioned a life of comfort instead of going from day to day, pitching his tent up and down that mountain all the time. When he started out, he had no thought of ending up in Sodom, of becoming a captive and having to be delivered from captivity, or of going back to Sodom and sitting at the gate of the city. He had no thought of having to be delivered out of Sodom and ending up in a cave or of losing his wife and his family, but that is where he wound up.

Dear one, that which pads the wallet is not always what is best for the soul. Are the days of Lot like today? They were exceedingly great sinners. Today many people are losing their self-respect and their souls. In our day, the sins of Sodom are running rampant. The clouds of judgment are gathering over this great world, and soon time will be no more. You may say,

“People have been saying that for years.” Some people might have said that in Noah’s day. “Hey, that old man has been out there preaching. Look at him! It has been a hundred years since he started preaching, but everything is still the same. Of all things, he is building a boat out here! Look how big that thing is! Noah has been saying the same thing for a hundred years.” Today, many people say, “That preacher gets up and say there is a Second Coming of Jesus Christ. People have been saying that for two thousand years.” Dear one, He is coming, and His coming is going to catch people in a lukewarm condition. It is going to catch many people fooling around with things that they should not be fooling around with in this time. In Noah’s day, when people saw that a flood was really coming, just as Noah had told the, they began to knock on the ark, saying: “Let us in! Let us in!” However, God had shut the door. Friend, God is going to wrap it all up before long Are you prepared? In Colossians 3:5, Paul said to mortify your members, but there are things that we need to put on. The days of Noah and Lot are as the days in which we are living right now. In Psalm 95:7b-8, “Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart.” Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton, VA 23669.



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COVID-19 is not over, do not drop your guard

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



Sometimes we come to conclusions too quickly. We want things so badly that we think

we can just make them to happen. Outlooks look good and they look promising. We immerse ourselves in all that is good and refuse to see the bad.

We are all guilty of rushing to judgements. That's just a part of life, I guess.

There are many instances where we use statistics to justify our reasoning. I have learned throughout the years that we can make statistics say anything you want them to say. If you say to people the same thing over time they will start to believe you.

This past election is a good example of using the same story line and people will believe you.

You see, there are fellow countrymen and countrywomen who believe that Mr. Biden's opponent won the

election. That wrong and overused statement continues to haunt our country. Our nation is severely divided because of it.

Since 2020, we have been in a health crisis. The Coronavirus has run rampant and roughshod over the United States of America. Our mindsets and our mental conditions have changed dramatically.

In many of our families, this illness took its toll. We could not escape it.

During pre-COVID-19, most of us were hopeful; post-COVID-19, too many of us are hopeless. Dinner tables have one less seat and living rooms have one less chair. The Coronavirus has caused this permanent disruption.

America has forever changed as we have lost thousands of our citizens. It is a colorless disease. It has hit all of us, no matter our skin color. Medications are with us now and new systems of safety have been implemented.

Before now, while I knew about the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), I can't

honestly say that I paid attention to all of their statistical information. Now, I pay close attention to their COVID-19 data.

According to the CDC, unvaccinated people are more likely to die from COVID-19. Does that scare you? I hope it does and makes you want to get vaccinated.

In a recent report in the *NY Times*, there are about 68,000 COVID-19 cases announced each day. Yet that only captures a portion of the total. That same report says that our country will be approaching 1 million deaths from COVID-19 in the coming weeks.

Dr. Anthony Fauci said, "The United States and the entire world is still experiencing a pandemic, but there are different phases of the pandemic."

He added, "And what we are in right now is somewhat of a transitional phase, out of the accelerated component into hopefully a more controlled component."

Cities and states are now loosening some of the restrictions. One of the big-

gest is that you don't have to constantly wear your mask.

Most of the people that I know still wear a mask wherever they go. I just think that kind of discretion is still needed. In large scale events, you still don't know who is vaccinated.

It is my opinion that we cannot drop our guard. Yes, we are better than we were, but normal, we are not. Will we ever be normal again? That is a good question and one that cannot be answered now.

According to the CDC, nearly 220 million people roughly 66% of the population are fully vaccinated. 100 million people have also received their first booster dose.

We are going in the right direction and that is good news.

Encourage your friends and family to be cautious and not to take chances with their health. Know who you are around. Our lives are at stake.

I value my life. Don't you value your life?

Cheap Labor

By Oscar H. Blayton
Pres. Black Chamber of Commerce



When I wonder why there is so much contention in America, I consistently run into impenetrable walls of illogic.

For example, we know that race is a social construct created to justify slave labor and global white supremacy in the post-medieval developing economies of the western hemispheric colonial societies. Yet racial classification remains a catalyst for social injustice, state sanctioned violence and economic inequity across the planet.

We live in a world where patriarchal bigotry seeks to deny women the right to choose how and when they propagate humankind, even though females have cared for our unborn, newborn and young for the entirety of the history of our species.

Logic dictates that a living wage is necessary for life, yet corporate interests characterize it as a social ill that will tear apart life as we know it and must be met with vigorous opposition at all costs.

These are just a few of the inconsistencies that we live with every day in the United States. And if we, as a society, believe that this type of reasoning is acceptable, in modern day America, then there are only two conclusions to be had. Either we are suffering from mental illness, or we have been misled into believing that these are not inconsistencies and are instead fact-based, rational consistencies that are beneficial to society.

Assuming that we are not all mad, the second premise begs the question, who benefits from these many instances of illogic that riddle our social order?

It certainly does not benefit the black and brown people who, while innocent and unarmed, are gunned down in city streets by murderous police who are a part of a heavily weaponized occupying force. Nor does it benefit a young woman with an unwanted pregnancy, who, for her own mental, physical or emotional health needs to terminate that pregnancy.

And it certainly does not benefit the single mother who must work two and three jobs in order to support her children who she barely gets to see because she is working all the time.

So, who does benefit from these huge roadblocks to social justice and improved quality of life for many Americans? Who benefits from the existence of a large, underprivileged and under-employed class of citizens desperate to find a way to a better life? Who benefits from a large number of women being unable to have agency over their own futures? Who benefits from low wages for workers?

All of these miserable conditions are social constructs engineered to benefit only one class of people in our society. And those are the people who have an inextinguishable craving for cheap labor.

We can understand this if we keep in mind that this country was founded on cheap labor as chattel slavery existed in every one of the original 13 states at some time in its history.

As slavery became impractical in the northeast and the northern Midwest, it moved westward across the South until the bloodbath of the Civil War brought it to an end. But even after chattel slavery was outlawed, new forms of cheap labor were engineered through the judicial and penal systems that arose from the Black codes.

Blacks fleeing the deadly racism of the South found themselves corralled in northern and western ghettos where jobs often were

scarce and the terror tactics of police departments were used to ward off any demands for justice that might fuel civil unrest. All this was done in order to amass wealth in the hands of a few.

Wealth was further accumulated to certain men by denying it to women. America is a nation where it was considered comical when men voiced the sentiment that they should keep women "barefoot and pregnant." And conventional wisdom has long affirmed the fact that there is often truth in a joke, and beyond this ugly truth, one would have to ask: Why is such a sentiment funny?

Political theorists have, for years, pointed out that male dominance is a social construct of western culture that allowed men to seize control of wealth from women. This is evidenced most dramatically by the fact that the 100 Years War was ignited by the dispute over whether a woman could claim a right of inheritance to the French crown.

Viewing wealth through a lens of zero-sum gain, denying wealth to women afforded greater access to wealth for men. Gender based disparities in paychecks is further evidence of this. Female labor is deemed cheaper than male labor.

A certain few Americans amass wealth in America by denying a living wage to workers while knowing a living wage is crucial to maintaining a descent quality of life. Their opposition is not fueled by a scarcity of wealth, but an unwillingness to share that wealth with the laborers who create it.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, in 2019, chief executives of big companies now make, on average, 320 times as much as their typical worker. By this measure, if a typical worker earns \$20,000 annually, barely a living wage, her CEO pulls in \$6,400,000.

So, what is all the fuss about? It's about cheap labor. The wealthy, like the CEO banking away \$6,400,000 a year, want ample supply of cheap labor to ensure their luxurious lifestyles.

Yes, it's also about racism, sexism and socio-economic bias. But all these things point in one direction – there are those among the wealthy in this country who want to buy our labor as cheaply as possible so that they can have as much as possible. And they do this by keeping their cheap laborers believing we are enemies of one another.

This strategy of the wealthy can be easily exposed by their eagerness to expand trade agreements that provide American corporations access to massive amounts of cheap labor abroad. This way, a company can pay poverty wages to a poor child in Asia to make sneakers to be sold at exorbitant prices to poor children in an American ghetto who work at below minimum wage in order to buy them. And the profit goes to the CEO stashing away \$6,400,000 a year.

One goal of many American corporations is to buy our labor as cheaply as possible. And when we, the victims of this scheme, understand this and begin working for the benefit of each other, we will be working for the benefit of ourselves as well.

Men and women of all racial, ethnic and cultural stripes must come together and work together for the good of women, ethnic minorities and all the underpaid in this country, and stop being misled into opposing one another.

And until that happens, we will never be able to break through those walls of illogic.

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

Roe v. Wade, voter suppression and “we” the voters

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



The current uproar over the leaked draft of the U.S. Supreme Court's anticipated decision on abortion rights is another example of the Republican Right Wing effort to eliminate democracy under the cover of the very Constitution which provides all our democratically protected rights.

We have seen the attack on voting rights by the actions of the Republicans in the U.S. Senate who refused to support not only the Voting Rights Act but also the John Lewis Act and the legislation coming out of the George Floyd murder.

These are the same Republicans who we now know plotted to overthrow the U.S. Government on January 6, 2021, with their efforts to

stop the certification of President Joseph Biden as President of the United States. These are the same Senators who prevented former President Obama from making a United States Supreme Court nomination while these same Republican Senators rushed through two conservative nominations who are now a part of the long-awaited overthrow of Roe v. Wade.

What we do know is that primary season is upon us and that we all have a chance to make some choices and changes if we look closely at who is running for what offices around this country and in our own backyard.

“We” the people, must not lose control of the U.S. House of Representatives, nor the U.S. Senate. The Senate hangs on “one” vote tied at 50/50 because of the two Independents that vote with the Democrats.

We now know that what we saw with voter suppression laws in over 22 states

was just the beginning. Roe v. Wade is the second step in the attack on civil rights following voter suppression.

Next, we are seeing references to changing such Constitutional rights as the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection and Due Process guarantees, as well as provisions of the Civil Rights Act.

We should not get overwhelmed with the magnitude of the attacks but rather understand and remember that our votes represent the solutions to preserving our rights.

Congress, using the legislative process, has the ability to reverse and codify, if necessary, any decisions that the United States Supreme Court makes. This is the strength of our separation of powers under the Constitution. But that can only happen if we have the votes in the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

If we return to the idea of killing the “Filibuster Rule”

in the Senate, making it no longer necessary to have 60 votes instead of 50 plus one, with the vice president as the tiebreaker, then we could get about the business of governance.

President Biden did not fight hard enough to break the Filibuster and he knows better than most having spent 38 years in the U.S. Senate.

The Democrats in the Senate cannot be so afraid of losing control of the Senate in the next election, that they allow McConnell, the Senate Minority Leader, to continue to control the Senate because he controls the Filibuster.

“We” the people, must follow the example of the people of the State of Georgia and realize that “All Black Votes Matter” and must be voted and counted if we are to survive the lynching and extermination that a few have planned for so many of us.

Where do you stand?

Saggy pants and campaign finance

The Associated Press

There are some laws and ordinances that are never enforced.

For example, in Oxford there is a local ordinance that says you cannot cheer at an Ole Miss football game unless there is a reason to. In Winona, it is still illegal to honk a car horn because it may spook a horse. There is also a state law that prohibits atheists from holding elected offices. In Mississippi, cattle rustling is punishable by hanging.

Closer to home, the Columbus city council passed an ordinance in 2002 to make wearing saggy pants an offense punishable by a fine up to \$250.

Campaign finance laws in Mississippi are sadly other good examples of unenforced laws.

In this year's session, the Mississippi legislature overwhelmingly approved a bill that would transfer responsibility for assessing and collecting fines for violations of the state's campaign finance law to the Secretary of State's office. In 2017, the legislature transferred that authority to the Mississippi Ethics Commission.

In making the argument for returning that authority to the Secretary of State's office, legislators noted that since 2017, candidates found to have violated campaign finance law have failed to pay

EDITORIAL

more than \$100,000 in fines. Returning that role to the Secretary of State's office seems entirely logical, since that office is in charge of state elections.

The legislation not only had the support of Secretary of State Michael Watson, but Ethics Commissioner Tom Hood. The measure passed the Senate, 51-0 and the House by a 117-2 vote.

Yet despite that support, Gov. Tate Reeves vetoed the bill. In a brief statement, Reeves said only that he was opposed to giving the authority to collect fines to an office run by an elected official. The Ethics commission is an appointed body. Reeves apparently believes an elected official might be compromised in enforcing campaign finance laws.

It should be noted that the failure to properly enforce campaign finances is not a recent development. Even when that authority rested with the Secretary of State's office _ prior to 2017 _ there appeared to be little serious enforcement. In 2015, then State Auditor Stacey Pickering was accused of using campaign donations to purchase an RV, buy his daughter a car and replace the garage door on his home. The FBI investigated

those claims, but Pickering was never charged, mainly because the state's campaign finance laws did not explicitly prohibit using campaign funds for personal expenses, a practice that was eventually banned in 2018 _ with a caveat. To this day, campaign donations raised prior to 2018 can still be used for personal expenses.

The issues surrounding campaign finance laws go beyond that, however. Candidates at both the local and state level routinely turn in incomplete reports or fail to meet reporting deadlines. The campaign finance reports for those running for statewide office can be found on the Secretary of State's website, but the only way to review local candidates' finance reports is to go to the circuit clerk's office. A bill to require those reports to be published online died in committee in 2017, which has typically been the fate of most campaign reform bills.

As a result of these unenforced laws, filing complete campaign finance reports in a timely fashion is a matter of choice.

For a candidate, skirting campaign finance laws continues to be no more dangerous than honking a car horn in Winona.

Jackson/Hinds Library System's 2022 Summer Reading Program



The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson/Hinds Library System's annual Summer Reading Program is back with in-person programs. If you're looking for exciting activities and programs that can help your preschooler, child or teen keep reading and learning this summer, the 2022 Summer Reading Program is only a click away. Adults are welcome to sign up and participate as well.

The library system has planned a variety of free events on the oceanography-inspired theme Oceans of Possibilities for local area preschoolers, children, teens and adults throughout Hinds County.

The program is from June 6 to July 15, 2022, and online registration is available via the Beanstack platform at jhllibrary.beanstack.org and the Beanstack app. With Beanstack, registrants can earn digital badges such as a reading badge for every 100 minutes they read, an activity badge, and a book review badge.

The library branches will provide free gifts for registrants such as bookmarks, pencils and other

treats, take-and-make craft kits, and paper registration forms and reading logs for those who may need them.

Also enjoy the vibrant displays and other surprises at each location. Those who earn 10 reading badges will earn a digital certificate and be entered into a random drawing for prizes. Prizes will also be given to the top reader overall by age category.

All registrants will enjoy End of Summer Reading celebrations (dates TBA) at each library branch after the program ends. These parties will include goody bags and refreshments.

JHLS also has an exciting lineup of presenters for this year's programs such as Corey Wright of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Freedom Ranch Outreach Education, Professor Universe and Bayou Town, as well as signature programs from the library branches such as animal story times and tips on animal care.

For more information and updates on the 2022 Summer Reading Program, visit jhllibrary.org/srp2022.

HBCU journalism students: Electrify your future by applying for a NNPA \$10K scholarship and a \$5K stipend

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Senior Nat'l. Correspondent

Aspiring content creators, journalists and communications experts can find themselves at the forefront of change by covering the exciting and continued transformation from gas to electric vehicles during the Chevrolet and National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) expanded 2022 Discover The Unexpected (DTU) Fellowship program.

The program offers students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) internships to explore various roles in journalism while developing their skills as change agents in their communities.

Now in its sixth year, the program will award selected students with 10-week internships starting June 7 and continuing through August 14, 2022.

Each fellow will receive a \$10,000 scholarship, a \$5,000 stipend, and access to a new 2022 Chevrolet Bolt EV.

They'll also enjoy "a journalism fellowship of a lifetime."

The NNPA, the trade association of the more than 230 African-American-owned newspapers and media companies in the United States, will host six students with prestigious news organizations across the broadcast, film and journalism disciplines.

Selected students will focus on digital and social media content creation.

At the same time, Chevrolet will award five additional students with the opportunity to work within the brand's business at General Motors corporate facilities.

"We are very excited about the launch of DTU," said NNPA Chair and Houston



Apply for a chance to receive scholarships, stipends and use of a chevrolet Bolt.

Forward Times publisher Karen Carter Richards.

"Chevrolet and the NNPA's Discover the Unexpected program provides the opportunity for HBCU students to strengthen their journalistic skills while working with the Black Press. This opportunity also allows the Black Press to learn from these bright minds in this ever-changing digital world. We are grateful for Chevrolet's continued investment in our community," Richards stated.

Chevrolet officials called DTU a "cornerstone of Chevrolet's ongoing commitment to promote diverse voices and perspectives."

The auto maker said it's happy to continue its partnership with the NNPA.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., NNPA president and CEO, concluded, "We salute General Motors, and in particular Chevrolet, for continuing to offer these transformative fellowships. Discover

the Unexpected (DTU) Fellowships are the most rewarding and academically enriching experiences for Generation Z journalists and the Black Press of America."

Fellows must be between 18 and 22 to enter – except in Alabama, where the minimum age is 19.

To enter, applicants must complete the application process by 11:59 p.m. PST Monday, May 16, 2022, by uploading the specific information to the fellowship website at <https://www.nnpa.org/chevydtu/> via hotlinks or in PDF format.

Officials will contact the selected 2022 Discover the Unexpected Fellows via email on or about May 21, 2022. They must respond that they accept the Fellowship within seven days, or an alternate Fellow will be selected.

Learn more about the Chevrolet NNPA Discover the Unexpected Fellowship: <https://www.nnpa.org/chevydtu/>.



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Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), May 25, 2022 at which time and place they will be publicly opened. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing bjones@jackson.k12.ms.us or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

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

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RFP 2022- 13 Covid Tracking and Tracing Software Program

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), June 01, 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 JPSD website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

5/12/2022, 5/19/2022

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Jackson, MS will conduct Public Hearings regarding the development of its Home Investment Partnership Program – American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Allocation plan for submittal in the 2021 Annual Action Plan. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that the City provides for and encourages citizen participation in the development of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

The Public Hearings will explain the purpose of HOME-ARP; discuss eligible activities; the qualifying population and receive input from the public. The Public Hearings will be held on the following dates and times via ZOOM:

Initial Public Hearing April 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/97900748743?pwd=VlIiWTZ0QlFkZ2ZUWm9kY1NEc2hMdz09
Meeting ID: 979 0074 8743
Passcode: 415823
Dial by your location - +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 979 0074 8743
Passcode: 415823

Final Public Hearing May 31, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/92693855223?pwd=b2VZK3h2ekh1MG1ROGRDThloWk1sQT09
Meeting ID: 926 9385 5223
Passcode: 658433
Dial by your location - +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 926 9385 5223
Passcode: 658433

The draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan will be available for review at the final public hearing and on the City's website at www.jacksonms.gov on May 31, 2022. The City will be accepting public comments on the draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan until no later than 5:00 p.m., on Wednesday June 15, 2022. Residents with disabilities are encouraged to notify the City at least five (5) days before the public hearing of any needed accommodations. For more details contact the Office of Development Assistance Division at 601-960-2155.

3/17/2022, 5/12/2022

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING DMG REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS 319 MEADOWBROOK, LLC A REZONING FROM R-1 (SINGLE-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT AND C-3 (GENERAL) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO CMU-1 (COMMUNITY) MIXED-USE DISTRICT, PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED TO ALLOW FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PROPERTY AS HIGH-END LOFTS FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON 315-335 MEADOWBROOK RD. (PARCEL 430-310), CASE NO. 4172.

WHEREAS, DMG Real Estate Holdings 319 Meadowbrook, LLC has filed a petition to rezone property located on 315-335 Meadowbrook Rd. (Parcel 430-310), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District and C-3 (General) Commercial District to CMU-1 (Community) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the redevelopment of property as high end lofts; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has recommended the approval of the rezoning of the property located on 315- 335 Meadowbrook Rd. (Parcel 430-310) from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District and C-3 (General) Commercial District to CMU-1 (Community) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the redevelopment of property as high end lofts; 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, April 18, 2022 to consider said change, based upon the record of the case as developed before the City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on March 3, 2022 and March 17, 2022 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on March 23, 2022, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board had recommended the rezoning of the property located on 315- 335 Meadowbrook Rd. (Parcel 430-310) from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District and C-3 (General) Commercial District to CMU-1 (Community) Mixed-Use District; and

WHEREAS, the 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 property and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with said application since any previous City Council action; and

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 particular described as follows:

A certain piece or parcel of land situated in Section 23, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, City of Jackson Hinds County, Mississippi, being Lot A-2 in Meadowbrook Resubdivision, and being part of Lots 4-23, including that portion designated as Seminole Avenue, in the Stokes Subdivision and Lots 1, 6 and part of Lot 7 of the Seminole Gardens Resurvey, said property being more particularly described as follows:

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP
RFP 2022- 12 Data Dashboard

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), May 27, 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 JPSD website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

5/12/2022, 5/19/2022

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. Tuesday, June 07, 2022, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 400 E. Silas Brown Street in City Hall for the following:

18086-060722	Twenty-four Month Supply of Soda Ash
19090-060722	Twenty-four Month Supply of Citric Acid (Liquid Form)
88508-060722	Twenty-Four Month Supply of Carbon Dioxide
88536-060722	Twenty-four -Month Supply of Polymer
88538-060722	Twenty-four Month Supply of Liquid Chlorine
88544-060722	Twenty-four Month Supply of Alum
88570-060722	Twenty-four Month Supply of Aluminum Chloral Hydrate (ACH)
88575-060722	Twenty-four Month Supply of Fluorosilicic Acid
88579-060722	Twenty-four Month Supply of Potassium Permanganate
88584-060722	Twenty-four Month Supply of Sodium Chlorite
88596-060722	Twenty-four Month Supply of Anhydrous Ammonia
88597-060722	Twenty-four Month Supply of Hydrated Lime

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE CITY OF JACKSON WEBSITE, https://www.jacksonms.gov and Central Bidding 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 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 affect will be included on the proposal form. 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

5/12/2022, 5/19/2022

LEGAL

Commencing at a ½" iron rod set at the intersection of the Northerly right of way line of Choctaw Road and the Easterly right of way line of North State Street; thence North 06 degrees 27 minutes 00 seconds East along said Easterly right of way line a distance of 310.60 feet to a ½ " iron rod set on the Southerly right of way line of Meadowbrook Road, as it now exists; thence South 89 degrees 50 minutes 01 seconds East along the said Southerly right of way line a distance of 197.00 feet to a mag nail set on said right of way line for a POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continuing South 89°05'01 " East along said right of way line a distance of 724.11 feet to a ½ " iron rod set; thence South 00°09'19" West a distance of 245.07 feet to a point; thence South 02°03'52" East a distance of 60.92 feet to a point on the Northerly right of way line of Choctaw Road; thence West along said right of way line a distance of 2.36 feet to a ½ " iron rod found; thence continuing West along said right of way line a distance of 724.17 feet to a ½" iron rod set; thence North 00 degrees

09 minutes 59 seconds East a distance of 308.06 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; containing an area of approximately 5.105 acres more or less.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the property located at 315- 335 Meadowbrook Rd. (Parcel 430-310) from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District and C-3 (General) Commercial District to CMU-1 (Community) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the redevelopment of property as high end lofts. 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 President Lindsay moved adoption; **Council Member Banks** seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley and Lindsay.
Nays – None.
Absent – Lee and 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 April 18, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6V, Pgs. 52-53".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 11th day of May, 2022.



Angela Harris
Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

5/12/2022

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

BY THE

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
(JAN) FAA PART 77 AIRSPACE PROTECTION TREE CUT

AT THE

JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

JMAA PROJECT NO. 010-22

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking electronic bids for services in connection with the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN) FAA Part 77 Airspace Protection Tree Cut (the "Work").

Sealed bids to perform the Work will be accepted by JMAA until 4:00p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 (the "Bid Deadline"). Bids shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

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

JMAA will publicly open and read all bids on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 4:05p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

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

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN) FAA Part 77 Airspace Protection Tree Cut at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, Project No.010-22." If the submission is submitted via email, then the identification information must be provided in the email subject line. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, then the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

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

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

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

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 10:00am (CST) using the following login information:

https://jmaa.zoom.us/s/95968020095

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095
Passcode: 520966

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

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

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: May 04, 2022
Paul A. Brown, Chief Executive

5/12/2022

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP
RFP 2022-11 Decodable Readers

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), May 19, 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 JPSD website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs/RFPs proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

5/5/2022, 5/12/2022

LEGAL

Advertisement for Reverse Auction Bid
Bid 3204 Custodial Equipment

Reverse Auction bidding for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), May 20, 2022, at which time Reverse Auction bidding begins electronically. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date Reverse Auction bid opening ends.

Unpriced Specification responses must be submitted for this bid event. Specifications are due no later than (May 13, 2022 @5:00 p.m.) local time to be given the opportunity to participate in the auction. Vendors submitting acceptable specification responses will be invited to participate in the live electronic reverse auction at www.centralbidding.com on May 20, 2022 beginning at 10:00 a.m. local time. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to participate in the reverse auction. For any questions concerning the reverse auction process or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

5/5/2022, 5/12/2022



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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: Quote 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
																Y								K	

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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GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX
2659 Livingston Road
DOLLAR GENERAL
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
J & A FUEL STORES
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
MCDADÉ'S MARKET
Northside Drive
MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive

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Fortification and I-55
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
REVELL ACE HARDWARE
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
WALGREENS
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON

A & I
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
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BULLY'S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
FRYER LANE GROCERY
Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY
507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
LACY'S INSURANCE
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM

DOLLAR GENERAL
125 Swinging Bridge Dr.
HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE
5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON

DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY

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CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND

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RAYMOND CITY HALL
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Week of May 8, 2022



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JPS salutes the first graduating class of JTECHS

Jackson Public Schools Newswire

JPS is proud to announce the graduation of 22 remarkable scholars in our first inaugural class from JPS-Tougaloo Early College High School. This past Sunday, May 1, 2022, 20 of these outstanding scholars earned an associate of arts degree from Tougaloo College while still enrolled in high school. Additionally, the other two scholars earned years of transferrable college credits.

“We are very proud of these young men and women because they completed both high school and two years of college all within four years,”

said Assistant Superintendent of High Schools Laketia Marshall-Thomas.

“As the superintendent of Jackson Public Schools, I am proud of these scholars,” said Dr. Errick L. Greene. “The JPS/Tougaloo partnership has created an opportunity for JPS scholars to continue their education and earn four-year degrees.”

What’s even more impressive is that these scholars graduated with an AA degree with academic distinctions ranging from honors to magnum cum laude. These trailblazers earned over \$8 million in scholarships.



Inaugural graduating class of JPS-Tougaloo Early College High School

Through it all, mother of four graduates from JSU following tragic death of 6-year-old son

JSU Newswire

Kyoukious Washington received her bachelor’s degree in social work from Jackson State University this morning, April 30. It is a beautiful moment that could have easily not been.

In February, Washington’s 6-year-old son, Oterious Marks, was tragically killed in a drive-by shooting while playing in a public park in McComb. “I’m upset. I’m hurt. I’m distraught. I’m losing my mind,” Washington told the *Clarion Ledger* soon after the incident. “I’m sad, extremely sad. My heart is broken. ... My baby is dead.”

Mark’s sudden death momentarily propelled Washington into a place of despair and discouragement. The devastating news also shook her classmates, faculty and staff. The JSU Latasha Norman Center for Counseling Services provided grief counselors who spoke to the School of Social Work’s graduating class to help students assess their feelings.

Being a grieving single mother of four, pursuing a degree was challenging for Washington, but she told herself, “God said, it’s your time now. I didn’t give up on you.”

Washington’s professors further acknowledge the perseverance and courage she displayed, despite her suffering. “She was very serious about learning and her academics even before her son’s death. Her tenacity and persistence to graduate, after the tragedy, is the epitome of strength,” said Trenia Allen, Ed.D., LCSW.



Washington

Jaqueline Loggins, DSW, LSCW, described Washington as an intelligent, outspoken, confident and unwavering student, who was determined to succeed in her studies, refusing to be deterred by the heinous act of gun violence visited upon her family.

“Her personal strength during this difficult time in her life was as impressive as her intellectual accomplishments. She earned A’s in her last two social work courses while completing a 340-hour internship, boasting a 3.5 GPA. And, I place emphasis on the word earned,” said Loggins.

While pursuing her studies, Washington joined the JSU Student Social Work Association, where she participated in fundraisers for the Jackson area community. She is also a member of the Tau Sigma National Honor Society, an organization for transfer students with high-performing achievements. Washington said she is more confident about her future after attending the HBCU.

“Jackson State University means a lot to me because it

allowed me to continue my educational journey and prepare me for a rewarding career ahead,” she said. “I’m a better leader because of my experience at this HBCU. The people I encountered helped me understand what it means to be of service and intrigued my desire to be a strong, self-serving social worker.”

The aspiring clinical social worker praised the relationships she established at Jackson State for keeping her motivated throughout her undergraduate studies.

“I want to thank my family and close friends for being supportive and encouraging throughout my journey,” said Washington. “A big thank you goes to my JSU social work student family. We learned, laughed and cried together.”

After graduation, Washington plans to further her education at Tulane University. She has been accepted into their advanced standing master of social work program.

The McComb native shares that her ultimate goal is to honor her late son by establishing a mental health practice in her hometown specializing in trauma.

“Because of what JSU has done for me, I plan to give back to my alma mater and help someone else the same way I have been helped. I plan to also have a scholarship in my son’s name to honor his life and to help fund [the education of] future leaders so that they can carry on the JSU legacy.”

Jackson Public Schools and the African Diaspora Consortium explore the impact of multigenerational living and chronic health conditions highlighted by COVID-19 on students’ emotional/mental health and academic outcomes

Mississippi Link Newswire

Dr. Errick Greene, superintendent of the Jackson Public Schools, in partnership with the African Diaspora Consortium, an organization committed to cutting edge research around education and health, plans to launch an exploration about the experiences of JPS middle and high school students living in multigenerational households.

The research will explore the effects of COVID-19 and chronic illnesses on students’ physical and mental well-being as well as their academic performance and outcomes. The exploration plans to provide agency to middle school and secondary students in Jackson public schools, hearing their voices and narratives.

Studies suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic increased depression and diminished school performance in students due to its impact on their emotional/mental health and many families, regardless of racial/ethnic identity. This extensive evidence supports that it is important and necessary to hear the lived experiences of students living in multigenerational homes during the pandemic.

“This unprecedented pan-



Greene

dem, disparities related to chronic diseases and the growing numbers of students living in multigenerational households provide a unique opportunity to conduct an exploratory study on this important, yet little studied, intersection of healthcare challenges, students’ living conditions, and educational outcomes on middle school and secondary students,” said Dr. Kassie Freeman, president, and CEO of ADC. “The African Diaspora Consortium is pleased to embark upon this intellectual

journey to provide discovery, insight, and improvements for our youth. It is awe-inspiring and an honor for ADC, an organization committed to students’ accomplishments at all levels, to work with Dr. Greene and JPS.”

Serving as superintendent of JPS since 2018, Greene, a keen innovator, states, “Students’ living conditions have been shown to offer both resilience and barriers to their mental and physical health and well-being, and ultimately their academic performance and outcomes. The voices of middle and high school scholars will help shape the next steps and their suggestions will become part of a bold, strategic plan that can change both the trajectory of their lives and education administration.”

Researchers will begin data collection in June 2022, with an early findings report set for July 2022 and the release of findings by early August 2022.



BOOK REVIEW:

THE NEW BLACK WEST

BY GABRIELA HASBUN. FOREWORD BY JEFF DOUVEL,
REGIONAL COORDINATOR, BILL PICKETT INVITATIONAL RODEO
C.2022, CHRONICLE BOOKS
\$40.00 • 128 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Things sure look different from five feet up.

The first time, you might feel nervous to be there; the animal you’re astride doesn’t know you and you don’t know what it’ll do. But before long, you feel like you’re in a rocking chair. You can almost see for miles and you begin to understand power. And in the new book “The New Black West” by Gabriela Hasbun, you see peek history between the ears of a horse.

A hundred sixty years ago,

“more than eight thousand black cowboys rode in the western cattle drives.” They did everything that every other ranch hand and cowboy did back then but “their stories have largely been untold...”

In 1984, a promoter named Lu Vason realized one day that the “granddaddy of them all,” the Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo, was lacking black cowpokes. Upon returning to his home in Denver, Vason began researching and raising funds to start the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo, named after the “legendary” Bill

Pickett, who cowboyed at the turn of the last century and was the first black cowboy inducted into the Rodeo Hall of Fame.

To this day, the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo, now held on the second weekend in July in Oakland, California, is the only touring black rodeo in America.

But it’s not all ropin’ and ridin.’

Says Hasbun, the deep tradition of riding horses and roping calves is also passed on to youth in trouble, through participating stables and organizations.

The rodeo is a chance to

show off horse, saddle, boots, and bling, since you want to be “dressed to impress” if you’re in the parade. It’s a great excuse to spend a day with horses, and to share that love with rodeo watchers who want to learn, too. The rodeo is a challenge and a way to honor those who’ve accepted that challenge in the past. It’s a way to “change the headlines.”

And the rodeo is family.

For many readers, “The New Black West” may be like no other book you’ve had.

There is not, first of all, much

to actually read here. Author and photographer Gabriela Hasbun instead offers a nice “Artist’s Statement” in which she explains African-American cowboys in history and the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo’s beginnings, and she writes short captions for the photos in this book, but that’s about all there is to read.


In that sense, Hasbun lets the illustrations speak for themselves.

Browse through this book and meet men and women who are grateful for the horse that turned


their lives around. Look at the gorgeous parade-worthy clothing, the custom-made (designer) saddles, and the (literal) snake-skin boots. Then don’t be at all surprised if you find yourself looking for tickets, so you can see those things up-front and in person this summer.

This is a book you’ll page through again and again, and never get tired of doing so. It’s one you can share with the kids and maybe inspire them.

“The New Black West” is something that’s delightfully different.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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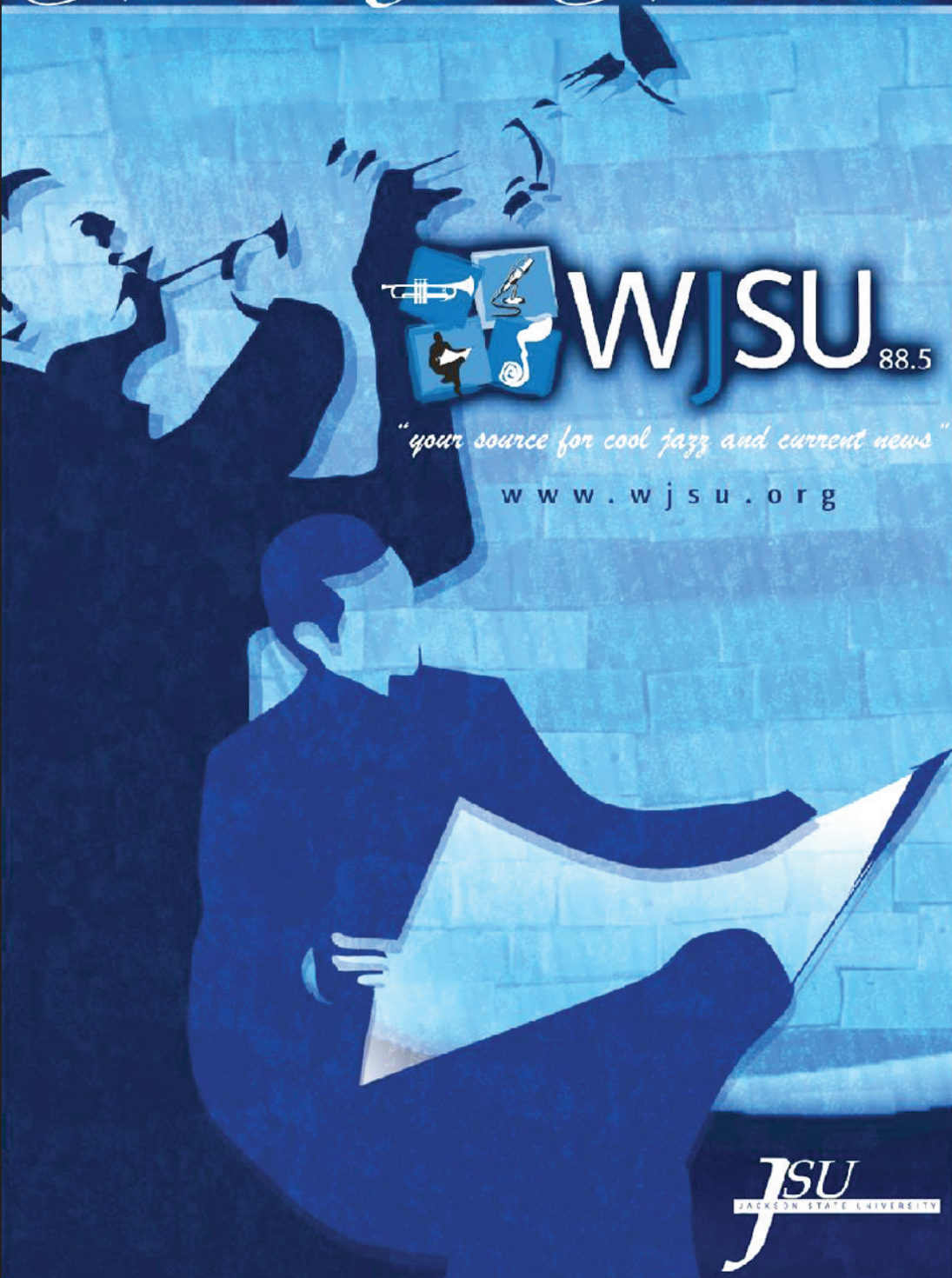
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With abortion in jeopardy, minority women have most to lose

By Emily Wagster Pettus
and Leah Willingham
Contributing Writer

If you are black or Hispanic in a conservative state that already limits access to abortions, you are far more likely than a white woman to have one.

And if the U.S. Supreme Court allows states to further restrict or even ban abortions, minority women will bear the brunt of it, according to statistics analyzed by The Associated Press.

The potential impact on minority women became all the more clear on Monday with the leak of a draft Supreme Court opinion suggesting the court's conservative majority is poised to overturn the landmark 1973 decision legalizing abortion. The draft decision is not yet final but it sent shockwaves through the country.

Overturning the Roe v. Wade decision would give states authority to decide abortion's legality. Roughly half, largely in the South and Midwest, are likely to quickly ban abortion.

When it comes to the effect on minority women, the numbers are unambiguous. In Mississippi, people of color comprise 44% of the population but 81% of women receiving abortions, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, which tracks health statistics.

In Texas, they're 59% of the population and 74% of those receiving abortions. The numbers in Alabama are 35% and 69%. In Louisiana, minorities represent 42% of the population, according to the state Health Department, and about 72% of those receiving abortions.

"Abortion restrictions are racist," said Cathy Torres, an organizing manager with Frontera Fund, a Texas organization that helps women pay for abortions. "They directly impact people of color, black, brown, indigenous people ... people who are trying to make ends meet."

Why the great disparities? Lau-



Shannon Brewer, Jackson Women's Health Organization director, sits in her office at the Jackson, Miss., clinic on May 19, 2021. She believes politicians advocating to end abortion are also trying to eliminate resources for single mothers. As a black woman and a mother of six, she said she understands the experiences of women seeking abortion.

AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS, FILE, FILE

rie Bertram Roberts, executive director of the Alabama-based Yellowhammer Fund, which provides financial support for women seeking abortion, said women of color in states with restrictive abortion laws often have limited access to health care and a lack of choices for effective birth control. Schools often have ineffective or inadequate sex education.

If abortions are outlawed, those same women – often poor – will likely have the hardest time traveling to distant parts of the country to terminate pregnancies or raising children they might struggle to afford, said Roberts, who is black and once volunteered at Mississippi's only abortion clinic.

"We're talking about folks who are already marginalized," Roberts said.

Amanda Furdge, who is black, was one of those women. She was a single, unemployed college student already raising one baby in 2014 when she found out she was pregnant with another. She said she didn't know how she could afford another child.

She'd had two abortions in Chicago. Getting access to an abortion provider there was no problem, Furdge said. But now she was in Mississippi, having moved home to escape an abusive relationship. Misled by advertis-

ing, she first went to a crisis pregnancy center that tried to talk her out of an abortion. By the time she found the abortion clinic, she was too far along to have the procedure.

She's not surprised by the latest news on the Supreme Court's likely decision. Most people who aren't affected don't consider the stakes.

"People are going to have to vote," said Furdge, 34, who is happily raising her now 7-year-old son but continues to advocate for women having the right to choose. "People are going to have to put the people in place to make the decisions that align with their values. When they don't, things like this happen."

Torres said historically, anti-abortion laws have been crafted in ways that hurt low-income women. She pointed to the Hyde Amendment, a 1980 law that prevents the use of federal funds to pay for abortions except in rare cases.

She also cited the 2021 Texas law that bans abortion after around six weeks of pregnancy. Where she lives, near the U.S.-Mexico border in the Rio Grande Valley, women are forced to travel to obtain abortions and must pass in-state border patrol checkpoints where they have to disclose their

citizenship status, she said.

Regardless of what legislators say, Torres insisted, the intent is to target women of color, to control their bodies: "They know who these restrictions are going to affect. They know that, but they don't care."

But Andy Gipson, a former member of the Mississippi Legislature who is now the state's agriculture and commerce commissioner, said race had nothing to do with passage of Mississippi's law against abortion after the 15th week. That law is the one now before the Supreme Court in a direct challenge to Roe v. Wade.

Gipson, a Baptist minister who is white, said he believes all people are created in the image of God and have an "innate value" that starts at conception. Mississippi legislators were trying to protect women and babies by putting limits on abortion, he said.

"I absolutely disagree with the concept that it's racist or about anything other than saving babies' lives," said Gipson, a Republican. "It's about saving lives of the unborn and the lives and health of the mother, regardless of what color they are."

To those who say that forcing women to have babies will subject them to hardships, Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch, a white Republican, said it is "easier for working mothers to balance professional success and family life" than it was 49 years ago when Roe was decided.

Fitch, who is divorced, often points to her own experience of working outside the home while raising three children. But Fitch grew up in an affluent family and has worked in the legal profession – both factors that can give working women the means and the flexibility to get help raising children.

That's not the case for many minority women in Mississippi or elsewhere. Advocates say in many places where abortion services are being curtailed, there's little support for women who carry a baby to term.

Mississippi is one of the poorest states, and people in low-wage jobs often don't receive health insurance. Women can enroll in Medicaid during pregnancy, but that coverage disappears soon after they give birth.

Mississippi has the highest infant mortality rate in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Black infants were about twice as likely as white infants to die during the first year of life in Mississippi, according to the March of Dimes.

Across the country, U.S. Census Bureau information analyzed by The Associated Press shows fewer black and Hispanic women have health insurance, especially in states with tight abortion restrictions. For example, in Texas, Mississippi and Georgia, at least 16% of black women and 36% of Latinas were uninsured in 2019, some of the highest such rates in the country.

Problems are compounded in states without effective education programs about reproduction. Mississippi law says sex education in public schools must emphasize abstinence to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Discussion of abortion is forbidden, and instructors may not demonstrate how to use condoms or other contraception.

The Mississippi director for Planned Parenthood Southeast, Tyler Harden, is a 26-year-old black woman who had an abortion about five years ago, an experience that drove her to a career supporting pregnant women and preserving abortion rights.

She said when she was attending public school in rural Mississippi, she didn't learn about birth control. Instead, a teacher stuck clear tape on students' arms. The girls were told to put it on another classmate's arm, and another, and watch how it lost the ability to form a bond.

"They'd tell you, 'If you have sex, this is who you are now: You're just like this piece of tape – all used up and washed up and nobody would want it,'" Harden said.

When she became pregnant at 21, she knew she wanted an abortion. Her mother was battling cancer and Harden was in her last semester of college without a job or a place to live after graduation.

She said she was made to feel fear and shame, just as she had during sex ed classes. When she went to the clinic, she said protesters told her she was "killing the most precious gift" from God and that she was "killing

a black baby, playing into what white supremacists want."

Harden's experience is not uncommon. The anti-abortion movement has often portrayed the abortion fight in racial terms.

Outside the only abortion clinic operating in Mississippi, protesters hand out brochures that refer to abortion as black "genocide" and say the late Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood and a proponent of eugenics, "desired to eradicate minorities." The brochures compare Sanger to Adolf Hitler and proclaim: "Black lives did not matter to Margaret Sanger!"

The Mississippi clinic is not affiliated with Planned Parenthood, and Planned Parenthood itself denounces Sanger's belief in eugenics.

White people are not alone in making this argument. Alveda King, an evangelist who is a niece of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., is among the black opponents of abortion who, for years, have been portraying abortion as a way to wipe out people of their race.

Tanya Britton, a former president of Pro-Life Mississippi, often drives three hours from her home in the northern part of the state to pray outside the abortion clinic in Jackson. Britton is black, and she said it's a tragedy that the number of black babies aborted since Roe would equal the population of several large cities. She also said people are too casual about terminating pregnancies.

"You just can't take the life of someone because this is not convenient – 'I want to finish my education,'" Britton said. "You wouldn't kill your 2-year-old because you were in graduate school."

But state Rep. Zakiya Summers of Jackson, who is black and a mother, suggested there's nothing casual about what poor women are doing. Receiving little support in Mississippi – for example, the Legislature killed a proposal to expand postpartum Medicaid coverage in 2021 – they are sometimes forced to make hard decisions.

"Women are just out here trying to survive, you know?" she said. "And Mississippi doesn't make it any easier."

HEAD START

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

To Qualify:

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

"Families of children with disabilities are encouraged to apply regardless of income."

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- 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)**
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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE



Stakeholders break into groups to discuss and determine needs and next steps in fostering a better school/industry connection through Career Academies.

Academy

Advisory

The Hinds County School District and Mississippi Department of Education’s Career Academy Team held an Academy Advisory meeting on April 26 at the Raymond High School Performing Arts Center. Each school in the district nominated parents, teachers and counselors to serve as representatives for this meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather stakeholder feedback in terms of developing a stronger connection between each of the feeder schools, the high school career academies and the various industries in the area.

The school representatives were there to hear input from the parents who were from a wide variety of fields and industries on what skills are needed to be successful upon graduation.



Megan Arender with MDE discusses with the stakeholders the benefits of an Academy System.



Josh Stanford with MDE, Matthew Scott, principal of Terry High School and Dr. Will Smith, principal of Utica Elementary/Middle School, share ideas of what they can do at their schools to help prepare students for life after high school.



David Cress of MDE explains how the Academy System will benefit the community.



Mandy Hackman and David Cress, both with MDE, facilitate a discussion between a group of stakeholders.