

Black Press journalist murdered in hateful attack; eulogized as ‘Queen Mother,’ ‘Community Mayor’

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

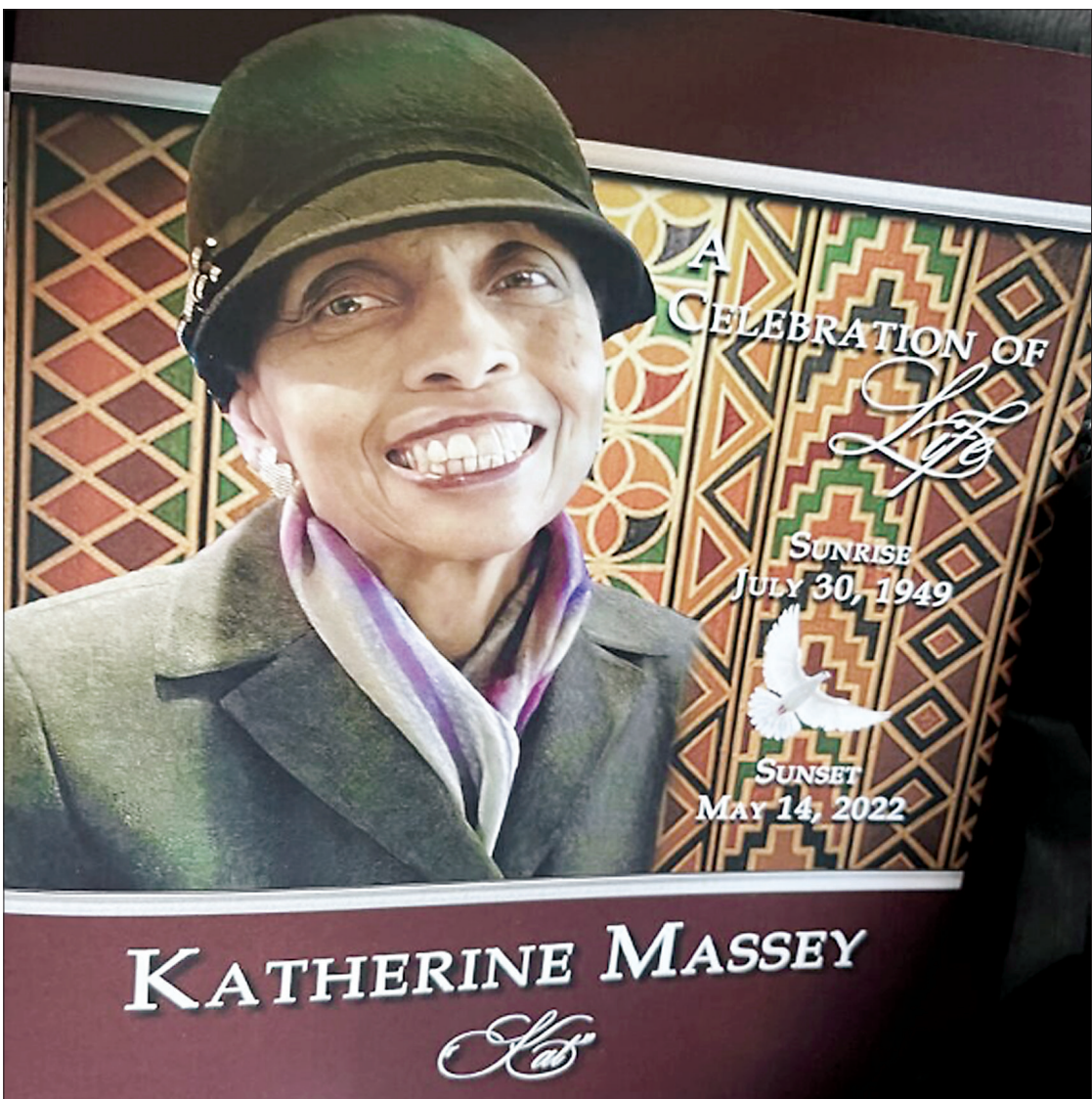
National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., helped to eulogize the *Challenger Community News* journalist Katherine Massey in Buffalo Monday, May 23, telling the gathering at Pilgrim Baptist Church that the 72-year-old fought for freedom, justice and equality.

Like the *Buffalo Criterion*, the *Challenger Community News* counts among the more than 230 African-American newspapers and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America. A trade association, the NNPA represents the Black Press of America.

“I am here to celebrate the life of a freedom fighting sister, a courageous black woman,” Chavis declared during a five-minute speech that earned multiple standing ovations from mourners and others, including Mayor Byron Brown.

“The question now is what are we going to do in our anger, in our pain? We should learn from Katherine Massey ... this African queen,” Chavis demanded. “It’s in our tradition that when one is taken from us to pay our respects. But the greatest way we can pay our respects to Katherine Massey is to keep her spirit alive, keep her journalism alive.”

The city’s first African-American and longest serving mayor, Brown called Massey a strong and proud black woman. “She was proficient in her history, proficient in her culture and a lover of all people,” Brown declared. “She



Katherine Massey counted among the 10 African Americans killed on May 14, when self-proclaimed white supremacist Payton Gendron donned body armor, entered the Tops Supermarket with an assault rifle, and opened fire.

was a constant presence in our community. A warm and welcoming spirit who had a beautiful and brilliant smile that could light up the atmosphere, cut through every conflict, and warm your heart.”

Brown said Massey attended every event meant to uplift and improve the city and its neighborhoods.

“She was called a Queen Mother of Cherry Street, but more than that, she was like a governor. She was the Queen Mother of this community,” Brown remarked.

“Katherine Massey was a leader who led with warmth and intelligence and the power of her pen,” he stated.

Massey counted among the

10 African Americans killed on May 14, when self-proclaimed white supremacist Payton Gendron donned body armor, entered the Tops Supermarket with an assault rifle, and opened fire. Three others were injured in the terror attack.

Authorities are holding Gen-

Massey
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Families mourn, worry in wake of elementary school shooting



This photo provided by Manny Renfro shows his grandson, Uziyah Garcia, while on spring break in San Angelo, Texas. The 8-year-old was among those killed in Tuesday’s shooting at Robb Elementary School on May24, in Uvalde, Texas. MANNY RENFRO VIA AP

By Jim Vertuno and Heather Hollingsworth
Associated Press

Distraught families gathered at a local civic center and turned to social media to mourn and to make desperate pleas for help finding missing children as the death toll in a gruesome school shooting at a Texas elementary school rose to at least 19 students. Authorities said the gunman also killed two adults.

By nightfall, names of those killed during Tuesday’s attack at Robb Elementary School in the town of Uvalde began to emerge. One man at the civic center walked away sobbing into his phone “she is gone.” On the backside of the building, a woman stood

by herself, alternately crying and yelling into her phone, shaking her fist and stamping her feet.

Manny Renfro said he got word Tuesday that his grandson, 8-year-old Uziyah Garcia, was among those killed.

“The sweetest little boy that I’ve ever known,” Renfro said. “I’m not just saying that because he was my grand-kid.”

Renfro said Uziyah last visited him in San Angelo during spring break.

“We started throwing the football together and I was teaching him pass patterns. Such a fast little boy and he could catch a ball so good,”

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Discussion with a white pastor in Jackson

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer



Since moving to Jackson, Mississippi fourteen months ago, I have had many more questions than answers. Then again, that is a big part of why I moved here. One question that nags at me regularly is centered in religion. How can a predominantly Christian region, squarely inside the Bible Belt, demonstrate such disdain for black people? It’s apparent nearly everywhere you turn. I love living in Jackson, but I don’t love racism; I have equal regard for all people, regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Reverend Cary Stockett, senior pastor at Galloway United Methodist Church, 305 North Congress Street, agreed to sit down with me for a discussion. He was gracious with his time, sincere, and very informative. Apparently, he too enjoyed our conversation, suggesting that

sometime in the future “we should sit down and eat groceries together.”

On Galloway’s website, under the name of the church, is a banner that reads – We are his Hands and Feet in Downtown Jackson and beyond. I really felt that sentiment as we made our way through nearly ninety minutes of questions, answers, acknowledgements and some difficult content.

In explaining his core beliefs about racial issues, he stated that he grew up near Crystal Springs, Mississippi in a home where use of the N-word would get you in more trouble than using profanity. It simply was not permitted. “In a place, in a state, where the N-word fell off people’s lips as easily as John 3:16, that made a mark on me.”

He confided that in his early 50’s things really changed for him, and he ended up having questions that he couldn’t answer, “And experiences with people that I just didn’t have a

file folder for.” He spoke about homosexuality, and that he had always been opposed to loosening of any of those prohibitions, but then he began to meet gay Christians who had a walk with Christ that could not be denied. He mentioned a woman at a church he used to pastor, and he knew her well, and knew she was lesbian, “but when I looked out there where she sat on Sunday mornings – she glowed.” That experience led to him changing his position.

Despite some people downtown complaining, Galloway feeds the homeless four mornings per week. “It’s a morning meal, but not really a breakfast. Its protein-loaded because we know that may be the only meal they get that day. On Tuesdays they feed at St. Andrews, so we feel like our sisters and brothers in the homeless community are covered on those days.”

Eventually in our discussion, I shared that what I struggle with most is the gross contradiction

of people who put themselves out there as Christians yet behave in ways that are diametrically opposed to the most basic principles of Christianity – and the overt and covert resistance to any form of advancement of people who are not European-Americans and especially black people, while clinging to the moniker of Christian.

When asked for his thoughts, he shared that we have a lot of unreconstructed confederates, and that in the Deep South people drank the Kool-Aid of lost cause mythology and the lies of why the Civil War was fought and don’t want to accept that it was all wrapped up in slavery. He added, “We are convinced, here in the Bible Belt, that because we are the most church-attending place, we are convinced that our Christianity is thee Christianity.”

A concept that seemed to fall out of our dialogue was that for

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Pastor Cary Stockett, Galloway United Methodist Church
PHOTO BY CHRIS YOUNG

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Inclusion Revolution

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO DIVERSITY
RACIAL INEQUITY IN THE WORKPLACE
DAVEY ARBER-SCHWARTZ

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‘Men Who Care About Jackson’ 2022 Conference

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

Restoration Community Church Pastor Joseph White sponsored the day-long event at the Garaywa Conference Center, 312 Garaywa Road in Clinton Saturday, May 21. The event opened with a welcome message from Minister Dennis Ayers, followed with prayer led by Minister Andrew Dinkins.

Pastor White, speaking about the troubles in Jackson and especially the crime, reminded the approximately sixty attendees of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

He made it clear that his heart will just not allow Jackson to implode. His stated goal for the conference was to provide an opportunity for us to listen to one another and collectively work with each other to bring out the best in terms of solutions in trying to make a difference.

Jackson Police Chief James Davis took the stage to resounding applause and delivered a talk focusing on crime and justice – the problem and the solution. He shared that he recently attended an FBI conference in Virginia and discovered that with no exceptions, every capitol city across America is dealing with the same issues as Jackson. Borrowing often from scripture, he indicated that there are too many men asleep.

He shared stories of interacting with Jackson youth, often times those who are involved in criminal activity, and having them sob on his shoulder once he told them they were better than what they



Pastor Joseph White, Restoration Community Church PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG



Judge Kenneth Lewis speaking to a group of listeners



Entrance to Confernece Center

were doing with their lives.

He asked people to imagine if pastors went out in the streets and owned their blocks. He believes that their congregations would follow them. He indicated that the root of the problem in Jackson is the people – who is getting through to the people? He asked attendees to go back to their neighborhoods and get involved and to pray.

He encouraged attendees to seek out young people and show their hearts. “Kids are looking for real, looking for love, that’s all they are looking for,” Davis said. He explained there are 3 C’s in the criminal justice system – cops, courts and corrections and that if any of these three are broken, we have a problem. If the criminal justice system is not working, there is going to be street justice.

Jessica Frazier, founder of MOMS (Mothers of Murdered Sons), indicated that she now has 152 women in her organization and they support each other. “Everybody can say they understand, but until you are in our situation you do not understand.”

She has started a 24-hour phone

line for women when they need to talk, and she has the help of a counselor who provides services pro bono. She wants to bring awareness to gun violence and puts pictures of the murdered sons on billboards. “They need to understand that when they murder the son they are murdering the mother, too.”

She currently has eight billboards throughout Mississippi. She indicated that 80% of the young men that are doing these crimes are repeat offenders, and that 90% of the faces you see on the billboards have absentee fathers.

She believes the billboards also keep police officers on their toes because they have to ride by them every day and see what is happening to people that look just like them.

She stressed accountability. “When you know your son has a big gun in the house, tell the police.”

Felicia Marshall, founder of Grant Me Justice, who lost her daughter Alexia to gun violence – the 14th murder in Jackson in 2017. She stated that the name

Grant Me Justice comes from Luke 18:1-8. She went on to raise her then 3-year old granddaughter.

“The main thing that Grant Me Justice does is to love on families that have lost their children to violence, and we do it in three ways: 1) we document their story, 2) we provide tangible resources for our families, and, 3) we have partnerships with RTS (Reformed Theological Seminary) here in Clinton for counseling, Redeemer Church on Northside Drive and Musee Bath (handmade bath balms) in Madison County.”

“It’s not JPD’s fault. It’s not Chokwe’s fault. It’s happening on our watch and the saddest thing about it is there is a church on every corner and they have become comfortable. They say they have outreach, but then we expect them to come in. Out means out.”

Justice Court Judge Kenneth Lewis spoke about administering justice. He stated that being a judge is what he does but being a man of God is who he is. He asked people who voted to raise their hands, and state, “It is us who are not looking at the people

we elect to see what type of character they have. A lot of times they don’t have character, they are characters. They don’t have candidates, they are candidates. Their platforms didn’t make them a fool, they were fools before they got in there.” He indicated that he has seen all aspects of the system and went on to illuminate many examples of inefficiency. He stated that we need to stop pointing fingers and realize that it’s the whole process that is faulty.

Vince Gordon, founder of Prove ‘Em Wrong (PEW), is responsible for the signs posted around Jackson stating – If Black Lives Matter Then Why Are We Still Killing Each Other.

He grew up in South Central Los Angeles and his family moved to Jackson out of concern for his brother’s affiliation with gangs. He has worked with Young Life in inner-city Jackson for almost 25 years.

Through a connection with a member of a weekly prayer group, a telephone call was made to Lamar Advertising Company, and soon a billboard was provided to PEW. He strongly encour-

aged the involvement of any man in a child’s life – “back off and let him help that child.”

He offered that the church is messing up, and messing up on so many fronts. “This conference needs to be city-wide, needs to be in every school, every speaker that got up here needs to be together on a mobile collective and go into these schools.”

The Mississippi Link caught up with Pastor Joseph White at the lunch break and asked what his impressions are so far in the conference and if he is satisfied with the event. “I would have liked to have had a stronger attendance but the enthusiasm and insight and the spirit of appreciating the need for God is here and it’s strong and I’m extremely satisfied with that.”

Flowers were presented to the mothers’ organizations by the Men Who Care About Jackson committee. A full hot lunch was provided for the attendees.

Contact Minister Dennis Ayers at 601 951-1020 if you have any questions or want to get involved with Men Who Care About Jackson.

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Pastor

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many Bible Belt Christians, so long as you pray the prayer and ask Jesus into your heart, so you won’t go to hell, then you can do as you please, because that is what’s most important. A seeming belief system so strong it provides insulation from any wrongdoings such as hatred and oppression. And in some ways, even worse, ignores the gospel.

Against the backdrop of Christians behaving in an un-Christian manner toward their fellow man, I asked if there are ever days when he feels like change truly is possible. Reverend Stockett, who insisted I call him Cary, didn’t pause for a second before answering that he did.

A student of history, he believes a stronger black voting block will be a key to turning things around. “I feel like African Americans, especially here in the South, feel such a discouragement or else a disenfranchisement that they are not voting. Redistricting can neutralize a black vote, and God forgive us, I think that still goes on.”

Still, he believes that we are getting more black elected officials and they are being heard more. As an example, he mentioned the Senate vote on CRT in the last legislative session and the entire black delegation getting up and walking out, and that action was heard by many. He also mentioned the importance of bridge-groups, like the Mississippi Humanities Council, that can find ways to reach out to people with open minds. He summarized that “there are many disparate influences that I am hoping in, and plus my own prayers – God want’s this to be better than it is – that can’t happen without our active participation and participation with each other.”

This discussion was heartening for me. There are influential people in Jackson, like Cary Stockett, who do see things the way they really are and are trying to do something about it. I’d sit down and eat groceries with him on any day.

Lastly, I should mention that I reached out to five white pastors of prominent churches in Jackson. Despite emails and multiple telephone calls, Reverend Stockett was the only one who responded.

Robb

Continued from page 1

Renfro said. “There were certain plays that I would call that he would remember and he would do it exactly like we practiced.”

Fourth-grade teacher Eva Mireles, 44, was remembered as a loving mother and wife.

“She was adventurous. I would definitely say those wonderful things about her. She is definitely going to be very missed,” said 34-year-old relative Amber Ybarra, of San Antonio.

Ybarra prepared to give blood for the wounded and pondered how no one noticed trouble with the shooter in time to stop him.

“To me, it’s more about raising mental health awareness,” said Ybarra, a wellness coach who attended the elementary school where the shooting happened. “Someone could possibly have seen a dramatic change before something like this happened.”

Lisa Garza, 54, of Arlington, Texas, mourned the death of her cousin, Xavier Javier Lopez, who had been eagerly awaiting a summer of swimming.

“He was just a loving 10-year-old little boy, just enjoying life, not knowing that this tragedy was going to happen today,” she said. “He was

very bubbly, loved to dance with his brothers, his mom. This has just taken a toll on all of us.”

She also lamented what she described as lax gun laws.

“We should have more restrictions, especially if these kids are not in their right state of mind and all they want to do is just hurt people, especially innocent children going to the schools,” Garza said.

On social media, pictures of smiling children were posted, their families begging for information. Classes had been winding down for the year and each school day had a theme. Tuesday’s was Footloose and Fancy. Students were supposed to wear a nice outfit with fun or fancy shoes.

Adolfo Cruz, a 69-year-old air conditioning repairman, remained outside the school Tuesday night, waiting for word about his 10-year-old great-granddaughter, Eliajha Cruz Torres, whose whereabouts remained unknown to family.

Cruz drove to the scene after receiving a tearful and terrifying call from his daughter shortly after the first reports that an 18-year-old gunman had opened fire at the school. While he waited outside the school Tuesday night, his family was

at the hospital and civic center waiting for any potential word on her condition.

Cruz called the waiting the heaviest moment of his life.

“I hope she is alive,” Cruz said. “They are waiting for an update.”

Federico Torres waited for news about his 10-year-old son Rogelio. He told KHOU-TV that he was at work when he learned about the shooting and rushed to the school.

“They sent us to the hospital, to the civic center, to the hospital and here again, nothing, not even in San Antonio,” Torres said. “They don’t tell us anything, only a photo, wait, hope that everything is well.”

Torres said he was praying that “my son is found safe ... Please if you know anything, let us know.”

Hillcrest Memorial Funeral Home, which is located across the street from Robb Elementary School, said in a Facebook post on Tuesday evening that it would be assisting families of the shooting victims with no cost for funerals.

Hollingsworth reported from Mission, Kansas. Jamie S engle contributed from Dallas.

Massey

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dron without bail, and the 18-year-old faces 10 counts of murder and several other charges.

According to an online obituary, Massey was the daughter of Robert and Kate Massey.

She leaves behind a sister, Barbara Mapps, and brother, Warren Massey.

“A friend of mine, James Baldwin, used to tell me, ‘Ben, the pen in mightier than the sword,’” Chavis asserted. “Who is going to pick up Katherine Massey’s sword? Who is going to write the truth? We’ve come through a lot as a people. Not

only does Buffalo need a healing, but America needs a healing.”

Pilgrim Baptist Church Pastor Frank Bostic joined Chavis and Brown and each pledged to discuss the future of Buffalo at a private meeting.

“On behalf of Kat Massey, and all those precious lives we lost in this hateful attack, we will build better,” Brown asserted. “We will build stronger, and we will show the world that there is no place for evil like this. There is no place for hate like this. We owe it to the life and legacy of Kat Massey.”



NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., and Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, share a moment before the funeral of The Challenger Community News Journalist Katherine Massey/NNPA

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Baccalaureate service and graduation celebration at College Hill Baptist Church

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The College Hill Church family held its' baccalaureate service and graduation celebration Sunday, May 22 at 10 a.m. High school graduates, college/university graduates and golden year graduates from various schools were recognized and honored.

Music was provided by the Jim Hill High School Choir led by the Johnson & Johnson Duo, namely Thomas Johnson, saxophonist and his mother Marietta Johnson, pianist.

The graduates marched from the foyer into the sanctuary to the music of "Pomp and Circumstance." Some marched in wearing their graduation robes,

others wore just their graduation stoles, some their honor cords of achievements, while all marched in wearing great big smiles.

The opening scripture was read by high school graduate Chloe Nash, opening prayer by high school graduate Ashley Knight, and the offertory prayer was given by Treasure Fisher, graduate of Ole Miss.

Terrence Hill, principal at Green Elementary School, prior to recognizing the graduates for their achievements and sharing their future plans, congratulated them on their achievement and stated he knew getting to this point included hard work, long nights and early mornings. He said they may have thought they wouldn't make it so many times,

but they did.

Lanae Williams, on behalf of the high school graduates, thanked the church family, educators, friends, relatives and parents for seeing them through.

Scholarship awards in the name of the late Pastor Rev. R. E. Willis were presented to Chloe Nash, 1st place, Ashley Knight and Lanae Williams tied for 2nd place. Ke'von Harris, was the recipient of a book stipend.

College Hill pastor Rev. Chaucy L. Jordan Sr. congratulated all of his member graduates and spoke on the subject, "Uncharted Waters into New Territory."

College Hill had a total of 25 graduates, several of whom were not able to attend the service.

Those able to attend the service included High school graduates: Ke'Von Harris, Terry High School; Ashley Knight, Germantown High School; Chloe Nash, Terry High School; Jamari Tate, Terry High School and Lanae Williams, Clinton High School.

College/University graduates included Emily Amos, Jackson State University, Tara Amos, Jackson State University, Rosie Davis, Hinds Community College, Treasure Fisher, University of Mississippi, John P. Higgins II, Jackson State University, Nia Hodges, Jackson State University, Jasmine Peoples, Southern Arkansas University and Demosthenes "DJ" Jones, Alabama State University.

Also present were Golden

Diploma recipients Beverly Barnes, Audrey Green and Robert Green, each from the class of 1972, Jackson State University.

After the service, the graduates were given a reception in the College Hill Family Life Center.

Hinds Community College, Magna Cum Laude graduate Rosie Davis told *The Mississippi Link* she had been trying to go back to school since 1993. Having worked in the child care field at St. Dominic's Hospital for over 30 years, she is very proud of her associate degree in Early Childhood Educational Technology.

Her youngest son, Forrest, also graduated from Hinds but was not able to attend the service because he relocated to Florida

having been hired by Fed-Ex.

When asked, "What now?" she responded "I'm looking forward to a sunny retirement."

Davis is also looking forward to becoming a new grandmother in August. Her oldest son Brandon, who also lives in Florida, is expecting his first child.

When asked what advice she would give young high school graduates she said, "Please go to college right after high school so you won't miss out on things grown folks aren't able to participate in because life gets in their way."

Davis laughed and said she would also tell high school graduates to pursue a degree while they are young and the brain is still working well.

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON



Mississippi school district approves \$5,000 incentive for recruiting

The Associated Press

A Mississippi school district has approved a \$5,000 incentive to help recruit teachers.

Natchez-Adams School District will pay some teachers in areas of “critical need” a \$5,000 sign-on bonus to come work for them following a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees Tuesday.

The bonus is specific to English, mathematics and science teachers and will be issued “based on funding availability,” Deputy Superintendent Zandra McDonald Green said, *The Natchez Democrat* reported. It would be in addition to a historic teacher pay raise that legislators passed at the state level.

The district’s biggest area of need is math teachers in sixth through 12th grade, Superintendent Fred Butcher said.

With 16 vacancies for certified teachers, he added, “We’re in better shape than we were this time last year.”

However, the Mississippi Department of Education has said the district would lose its accreditation if no changes to its staffing were made, said Cassandra Tennessee, the district’s assistant supervisor of Human Resources.

One reason the district had been cited is the school accreditation guidelines were relaxed during the pandemic and teachers were moved around to accommodate classroom changes to keep students safe. Consequentially, some teachers are now teaching multiple classes outside of their areas of certification, Butcher said.

The district needs to correct those non-compliant deficiencies or they will be put on probation when the new school year starts in the fall, Tennessee said.

“In order to keep the district on the accreditation status that we are now in good standing, MDE is allowing districts an opportunity to clear these areas by submitting a corrective action plan to the office of teaching and reading by June 3,” she said

Challenges with certified teacher shortages are not new to the district because of the pandemic. The district faced similar problems with staffing in 2016, Butcher said.

“It’s very difficult to find certified teachers,” he said, adding another problem the district faces is teacher retention.

School administrators have helped many non-certified teachers until they become certified. However, when they do become certified, they move away to another school district, Butcher said. The bonus the board approved Tuesday is one method to address that problem.

In other matters, the board also unanimously extended Butcher’s contract for another year at the same salary of \$10,500 per month. Attorney Bruce Kuehnle said Butcher’s previous contract would have expired on July 1.

Gilbert Mason Jr., Mississippi doctor and civil rights historian dies, age 68

Mississippi Link Newswire

Gilbert Mason Jr., who grew up in the civil rights movement and became a physician and a black and civil rights historian, has died at age 68.

Mason died Wednesday and funeral arrangements were not yet complete, according to Infinity Funeral Home in Biloxi.

Mason was 5 years old in 1959, when he watched his father, Gilbert Mason Sr., lead Biloxi’s first wade-in to desegregate beaches, the *Sun Herald* reported. And his name was on the 1971 lawsuit that made Biloxi schools the state’s first to integrate.

Like his father, Mason became a physician who served poor people. His practice was in the New Orleans area but he returned to Biloxi when his father became ill.

The elder Mason died in 2006. The son spent his last years documenting civil rights and Black History and his father’s accomplishments, the newspaper reported.

Father and son both had photographic memories, said Clemon Jimerson Sr.

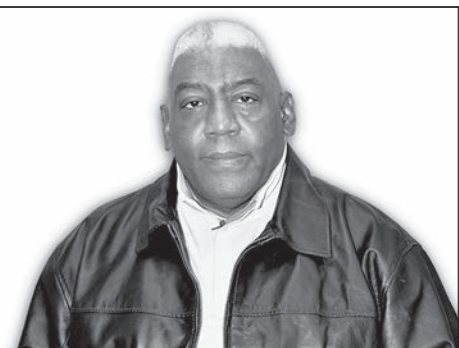
He said the younger Mason’s memories helped to document the history of scouting on the Mississippi Coast, the music history of Biloxi and other areas for the Mississippi Blues Trail, the integration of Coast schools and the preservation of Nichols Elementary, the historically black school in East Biloxi.

He also organized annual wade-in anniversary observances, said Allytra Perryman, former program director at East Biloxi Community Collaborative and now lead organizer for a nonprofit working to improve conditions for restaurant workers in Mississippi.

“He was a phenomenal historian who could recall details and knew exactly how to connect the dots,” she said, and what people were involved. “Recounting that history has just been priceless.”

Mason was involved in getting a wade-in mural painted on Main Street and a historical marker, which was dedicated in 2020, on the beach.

Biloxi did not integrate 26 miles (42 kilometers) of public beaches until 1968. Wade-ins in 1959 and 1960 included one during which a white mob attacked 125 nonviolent demonstrators and riots followed. Two black men died.



Mason

Black cowboys preserve strong heritage in northeastern MS

By Danny Mcarthur
Pontotoc, MS (AP)

Hours before the scheduled start time, people arrive in their vehicles to a Pontotoc plot for the second most revered Sunday tradition after church: the weekly horse show.

Horse neighs punctuate the festival-like atmosphere as riders saunter to the blue registration tent. It’s a jovial heat, where people set up chairs under tents and women hold umbrellas to block the sun. Loud music and the scent of food on the grill fill the air as fans find spots around the ring, sectioned by red dirt and yellow rope.

That day’s host is A Step Above Horse Riding Club, one of the several all-black riding clubs peppered throughout Northeast Mississippi. It’s horse business for them, but it’s really an opportunity to meet other people and have a good time, said Darnell Wright, who owns a stable in Verona.

“This is something we love to do. Most of us, we ride a horse before we ride anything else,” Wright said. “It keeps us connected.”

Black cowboys are deeply entrenched in Northeast Mississippi. From the beginning of April to the end of October, different clubs host their own horse shows across the region. Shows are typically held every Sunday, weather permitting. Horse shows, trail rides and banquets are how they create a space that is uniquely black and southern, forming a community that they hope exists far beyond them.

Many of today’s riders grew up around horses or going to horse shows in their youth.

Unshay Randle, 45, remembers his dad, William Randle, hosting horse shows right by their house. The best, however, are the trail rides. It’s where everyone comes to mingle and does good-natured ribbing.

Some use the trail rides to train, but for Randle, it’s simply a way to unwind. Randle is a Chickasaw County elected constable, sheriff’s deputy, veteran, part-time bricklayer and owner of Randle’s Body Repair.

“I do police work, so I’m always uptight,” he said. “I’ve got to do this, got to do that, but when I get on the trail ride, it’s like I can relax.”

Trail rides are held a couple times a year when the weather cools. There’s no telling who or what will show up to these events: horses, carriages, trucks, kids on go-karts and 4-wheelers, and tractors to pull hayrides.

Randle began riding when he was 8 or 9 years old, and he now competes in and hosts his own horse shows. Often, clubs can form from friends riding horses together. If there are enough of them, they might start their own club, or newcomers may join an established club.

Many smaller clubs came together under the umbrella of a larger group, Northeast Mississippi Riders, of which Randle is president. There’s a stipulation: to join, members have to ride with the club for two years on probation before the club will vote them in. That policy was put in place to separate the committed riders from the casual, Randle said.



Unshay Randle, Northeast Mississippi Riders Club president

A group of younger riders in their 20s formed Ghetto Cowboys, and gave Randle a shirt because they associate with him. On the corner of each is a cowboy hat and boots with wings, and the name “LL Cutter,” aka Willie C. Franklin. The club, where two of his sons are members, all got shirts in Franklin’s memory after his death last year.

In the last four or five years, the community has lost several really dynamic cowboys. The community feels each loss deeply.

“When you get through it, it’s just a big family,” Randle said. Most years, the group will host an awards banquet – basically a cowboy party celebrating doing shows and working all year. It’s a way to celebrate their community and their love of riding.

Throughout her childhood and into adulthood, Shantes Pegues has attended horse shows and helped with chores.

“I had to feed horses, clean stalls, help get horses ready to go to the show,” Pegues said. It was the same for her father, Alex Pegues, a founding member of A Step Above, a riding club of friends and deacons from various area churches. The group’s been together so long that they don’t remember the exact year it began, though they suspect it’s been about 15 years.

The group formed with a mission to raise money to help people in the community and create a space for people to come together. “That’s what we started it for,” he said. “To have something that we as black folks can go to.” Originally seen as a very masculine community, Shantes Pegues said her father initially “got a lot of slack” for letting a girl help in the barn when he began bringing her to shows. Not that it bothered him much. His philosophy was, if she loves horses, why not let her be involved.

In hindsight, it was the right call. These days, Shantes Pegues, now an adult with a bachelor’s degree in animal and dairy sciences from Mississippi State, competes against both women and men. And the group is still growing. Each show draws all ages, and the club always tries to cater to kids.

Steve Autry’s time riding in horse shows may be over, but his connection to the sport and community is not.

Last year, Autry transformed his land into a horse show ring by filling in ditches, cutting trees, setting up a DJ stand and adding a building. Organizers estimated at least 100 registered people attended an April 24 event, though the actual number is likely higher. Some shows have drawn upward of a thousand attendees. Autry mentioned adding lights and parking space on his list of planned improvements.

Autry’s been taking part in horse shows for 20 years. His father didn’t ride, so he took it upon himself to learn when he was 10 years old. He’d go to horse shows with his friends.

With walking horses, Autry lives by the motto that it takes the rider and the horse to perform well. With Smith, he’s seen Cash, his 13-year-old horse, perform in ways he hasn’t before.

“The rider makes the difference,” Autry said. “A good rider will beat you on a bad horse.” Jody Glover of West Point is training black youth to be the next generation of leaders.

“We need something for our culture,” Glover said. “They need someone to spend time with them, someone to tell them they love them and you’re doing good, you’re doing right.”

Attending horse shows in 2009 inspired him to start Jody’s Stables, based in Houston.

“I wanted to open my own stable, so I went and built me a little barn, and loaned my own horses,” Glover said. “Then kids just started coming around wanting to ride.”

Currently, he’s training 10 kids, ages 7 to 17, who ride most weekdays after school. Competing makes his students eager to learn and improve, Glover said.

A horse show is more than the prize money and the naming of the day’s winners. It’s kids rushing around and spectators laughing and cheering on a friend’s beer-aided dancing. It’s the man looking dapper in his plaid red button up, khaki pants, black cowboy hat and cowboy boots riding the same ring as the ones in T-shirts with shorts, and the horses re-entering their trailers, ready for home.

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Graphics.....Marcus Johnson

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Member:

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Buffalo shooting’s wounds need a strong salve, residents say

By Aaron Morrison
Associated Press

Shenaya Ann Washington and a close friend cleared a small patch of grass at the base of a utility pole on Riley Street. They dug a hole there and planted a red rose bush seedling. Next to it, they leaned 10 prayer candles against the pole.

Washington said she chose that spot to memorialize the victims of last weekend’s massacre at Tops Friendly Market because it is closest to the store entrance she had always used as a part-time worker for Instacart, the grocery delivery service.

Sometimes when she would exit the store, Aaron Salter Jr., the slain retired police officer who worked security at Tops, would help Washington back to her car with the grocery orders, she said.

The shooter, whose racist attack deeply wounded east Buffalo’s black community, has stolen much more than the neighborhood’s only grocery store and the sense of peace many residents felt in the cherished community gathering spot.

“He took away people who did for the community, just because of the color of their skin. It’s an eye opener. It’s a reality check,” Washington said.

During Sunday service, Pastor Russell Bell of the State Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, where shooting victim Heyward Patterson was a deacon, promised his congregation that they would hold a celebration of his life. Bell also encouraged his predominantly black flock to lean into their faith.

“We’re going to be winners if we endure to the end,” he said.

Just over a week ago, a white gunman in body armor killed 10 black shoppers and workers



Investigators stand outside during a moment of silence for the victims of the Buffalo supermarket shooting outside the Tops Friendly Market on Saturday, May 21, 2022, in Buffalo, N.Y. Long before an 18-year-old avowed white supremacist inflicted terror at a Buffalo supermarket, the city’s Black neighborhoods, like many others around the nation, had been dealing with wounds that are generations old. (AP Photo/Joshua Bessex,

at the supermarket that has been temporarily closed. Three others were injured in the attack, which federal authorities are investigating as a hate crime.

Long before that 18-year-old avowed white supremacist inflicted terror in this community, Buffalo’s black neighborhoods, like many others around the nation, had been dealing with wounds that are generations old. The attack has scraped off the scab hiding black trauma and neglect that sit just below the surface in what’s called the City of Good Neighbors, residents, business owners and faith leaders said.

Healing will require not only an immediate flood of charity, but also systemic solutions, economic investments and mental health counseling that are long lasting, they said.

“It’s been great to see the outpouring of support, I must say that,” said Jackie Stover-Stitts,

co-owner of Golden Cup Coffee, about a block from the Tops on Jefferson Avenue.

For the past few days, the atmosphere around her shop had been festival-like and, at times, a somber space of mourning. Organizations from across the nation, and even a few global charities, offered food and other essential goods to residents who relied on Tops to meet their basic needs.

“The only concern is that it’s not short lived,” Stover-Stitts said. “It would mean more if we could see, on Monday, that all those people with funds that came down to say how sorry they were could show it by investing in our area.”

Buffalo, with a population of 255,000 that is 47% white, 35% black, 12% Hispanic and 6% Asian, is one of the nation’s most racially segregated cities. The neighborhoods around the Tops market are predominantly

black and impoverished.

Earlier in the week, civil rights leader the Rev. Al Sharpton pointed to racial and socioeconomic inequality that made the Tops a target for the shooter, who officials say drove hundreds of miles to find black people to gun down.

“If there wasn’t but one supermarket in the black community, he wouldn’t have gone to Tops,” Sharpton said at a prayer vigil held in Buffalo for the victims’ families on Thursday.

“If you can figure out how to get millions of dollars for a stadium, can’t you figure out how to get a supermarket,” Sharpton added, referring to a new \$1.4 billion home turf planned for the Buffalo Bills that will be funded largely by taxpayers.

LaTryse Anderson of Buffalo SNUG, a gun violence prevention organization, canvassed the neighborhood around Tops with other volunteers to get a sense

of residents’ needs. Some told her they needed groceries, toiletries, replacement appliances and even a utility bill paid.

“I wish I had a magic wand,” she said. “There were so many needs out here, before this (shooting) happened.”

Without real investments in the areas that surround Tops, Anderson said, “I don’t think we’ll ever fully heal from this.”

Residents will definitely need the option of another supermarket, as some have vowed to never set foot in that Tops location again, she added. They are too traumatized.

Reshawna Chapple, a black therapist and associate professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Central Florida, said the shock and grief caused by the supermarket shooting are made worse when people are not tending to their mental health. Systemic racism is part of the reason why too few in the black community seek mental health counseling, either on a regular basis or in the wake of tragedy, she said.

“Every time something like this happens, it opens up the wounds all over again,” Chapple said. “We aren’t taught to acknowledge feelings that are negative. The ones who need help the most are definitely not going to ask for it.”

Mental health and grief counseling is why several community service organizations have been camped out around the supermarket for several days. With Tops fenced off, organizations such as Feed Buffalo, Ramp Global Missions and LIFE Camp Inc., lined the surrounding streets with food trucks, mobile food pantries and barbecue grills serving chicken, burgers and hot dogs.

A trio of massage therapists

offered neck and back treatments to victims’ families and other residents. A local Starbucks gave out free coffee to passersby.

An evangelist baptized people in a large galvanized stock tank on the corner of Riley Street and Jefferson Avenue. The local Muslim community offered prayers and chants of “We are with you” near the supermarket.

Gregory Jackson Jr., a Washington-based organizer with the Community Justice Action Fund, said he came to Buffalo to help coordinate relief efforts to victims’ families and residents, who were too traumatized to ask for what they need.

“A lot of folks have not even gotten close to going back to normal life yet,” he said. “You get local police, cameras and media, from all over the world. But the community is stuck to pick up the pieces without any bigger support.”

The supermarket shooting has also drawn support for the activists from around the nation. On Saturday, organizers with Black Lives Matter Grassroots, a national collective of chapters, held a vigil for Buffalo. Organizers from Boston, Detroit, Virginia Beach, Virginia and Minneapolis attended and vowed to be with Buffalo’s residents as they continued to heal from the racist attack.

“We cannot have a world that steals the lives of our grandmothers,” said Melina Abdullah, who directs the BLM group and founded its Los Angeles chapter. “We are duty bound to shut that down.”

Morrison writes about race and justice for the AP’s Race and Ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/aaronlmorrison>.

EPA Administrator, Michael S. Regan, focused on clean air and water for communities of color

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael S. Regan remains on a journey to justice.

He said President Joe Biden’s historic bipartisan infrastructure bill provides an opportunity to finally rid America of poisonous lead pipes and free communities of color of the toxins that have polluted their neighborhoods for centuries.

“I’m the first black man ever to lead this agency, the first to graduate from a historically black college (North Carolina A&T) leading this agency,” said Regan, who made a special appearance on the National Newspaper Publishers Association’s live daily morning news program, “Let It Be Known.”

The program can be viewed on youtube.com/blackpressusatv, facebook.com/BlackPressUSA, and on Twitter @BlackPressUSA.

During a recent discussion with NNPA President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., Regan declared that the Biden-Harris administration is “passionate about the environment and public health.”

The bipartisan infrastructure law invests \$3.5 billion in cleaning up superfund sites and addressing the nation’s legacy of



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan said that for every location he visits, he’s sure to invite the national media to accurately report what’s going on in communities across the nation.

pollution, he stated.

Regan said the law delivers more than \$50 billion to EPA to improve America’s drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

Further, it provides \$15 billion to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) for Lead Service Line Replacement, \$4 billion to the Drinking Water SRF for Emerging Contaminants, and \$5 billion to Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Grants to address emerging contaminants.

“There are still 6 to 10 million lead services lines in cities and towns across the country, many in communities of color and

low-income neighborhoods,” stated Regan, who also will appear later this year on PBS-TV’s “The Chavis Chronicles,” hosted by Dr. Chavis.

Because of the investments in the infrastructure law, millions of American families will no longer have to fear the harmful health effects caused by lead and other pollutants in their water, Regan asserted.

He recounted a visit to Lowndes County, Alabama, where he found disturbing facts about water in communities of color.

Regan said he witnessed homes with malfunctioning septic systems that discharged untreated sewage into backyards.

“Where little children play,” he added.

“There also was straight piping into lagoons and to have to see children walk around delicately so that they don’t sink or get bogged down into their own front yards. This is not the America that we all know it should be.”

He continued:

“This is unacceptable. Safe drinking water, safe sewer systems, you know, this is a basic right. These individuals deserve what every American deserves: clean water and a safe environment.”

On a visit to Wilkins Elemen-

tary School in Jackson, Mississippi, Regan recounted another difficult-to-stomach experience for young children of color.

City officials declared a city-wide mandate to boil water as Regan arrived because of the discovery of toxic chemicals.

Regan said he had scheduled time to speak with second and third graders and found porta-potties stationed outside the school.

“It looked like a worksite, and many of the kids had already been sent home because they couldn’t prepare food because of the water,” Regan remarked.

“This is on the heels of a pandemic. But the kids who remained behind were so excited because they got to see someone who looked like them in my position and someone who cared.”

Regan said in each location he visits, he’s sure to invite the national media to accurately report what’s going on in communities across the nation.

“The bipartisan infrastructure provides resources for our communities. There are matching grants and forgivable loans, which means more of our communities have an opportunity to compete for these grants,” he stated.

“We are also making \$50 million available for technical assistance to help our commu-

nities to become more competitive. I’ve written a letter to every governor in the country outlining the criteria by which we believe those resources should be spent.”

Regan continued:

“I’ve traveled and met with mayors because a lot of this action starts at the ground level.”

Regan said he developed a passion for public service as a young person.

His father graduated from North Carolina A&T and served in Vietnam, working as an agricultural extension agent and with the national guard.

For 40 years, Regan’s mother worked as a nurse.

“I grew up with the desire to contribute to society because of what I saw in my home,” he exclaimed.

Regan studied environmental science and earth science.

Notably, he said Biden’s proposed 2023 budget request for EPA provides \$11.9 billion to advance key priorities, including tackling the climate crisis, delivering environmental justice, protecting air quality, upgrading the nation’s aging water infrastructure, and rebuilding core functions at the Agency.

Regan said EPA continues to prioritize addressing climate change with the focus and resources the crisis demands.

“At EPA, we know both climate mitigation and adaptation are essential components of the strategy to reduce the threats and impact of climate change,” Regan said.

“We will invest in programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including an additional \$100 million for air quality grants to states and tribes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a local and regional scale.”

Regan further acknowledged that the communities hardest hit by pollution and climate change are most often communities of color, indigenous communities, rural communities and poor communities.

“For generations, many of these vulnerable communities have been overburdened with higher instances of polluted air, water and land,” Regan said.

“This inequity of environmental protection is not just an environmental justice issue but also a civil rights concern. Neither an individual’s skin color nor the wealth of their zip code should determine whether they have clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, or healthy environments in which their children can play.

“I am not afraid to enforce the laws on the books to make sure our children are breathing clean air.”

With inpatient psychiatric services in short supply, America’s teen mental health emergency deepens

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide rates among teenagers rose almost 60 percent from 2007 to 2018. The CDC and other federal agencies describe a crisis that includes surging mental health disorders among the country’s young.

For example, major depressive episodes in teenagers rose 47 percent during the 12-year period from 2007 to 2019.

A recently published report indicated that “across the country, hospital emergency departments have become boarding wards for teenagers who pose too great a risk to themselves or others to go home. They have nowhere else to go; even as the crisis has intensified, the medical system has failed to keep up, and options for inpatient and intensive outpatient psychiatric treatment have eroded sharply.”

The report noted that the number of residential treatment facilities for people under the age of 18 fell to 592 in 2020 from 848 in 2012, a 30 percent decline, according to the most recent federal government survey.

With inpatient psychiatric services reportedly in short supply, teenagers aren’t receiving the care they need.

“These young people are profoundly struggling,” said



Carter Barnhart, CEO of Charlie Health, which provides treatment programs for teens, young adults and families navigating mental health challenges. “Many of whom have been recently discharged from a hospital and need outpatient therapy more than once a week,” Barnhart stated.

Charlie Health partners with key community stakeholders like hospitals, insurance companies, schools and local therapists, to provide treatment for

clients who require more than weekly individual therapy sessions or who need support transitioning back into a home and school environment following hospital-based treatment.

Barnhart remains convinced that such partnerships are critical in the battle to save teenagers battling mental health challenges.

“The situation is dire,” Barnhart explained in an email. “We need a new approach to tackle the mental health crisis. We

need to leverage technology that expands access without sacrificing high-quality care. Our clinical program is designed to foster sustainable healing and serve youth and families in critical need across the country.”

Barnhart said Charlie Health has set out on a mission to reimagine how high-acuity care is delivered to teens and young adults – particularly those in rural populations. She said they are building the world’s first infinitely scalable, virtual-first

mental health practice.

In its 2021 declaration of a national emergency for children’s mental health, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) cited that “childhood mental health concerns and suicide have increased for at least a decade.”

To increase support for pediatricians and families, the AAP suggested several action steps, including increased use of telemedicine, accelerating the provision of some mental health services in primary care settings, and funding community-based systems that can connect families to treatment resources.

Veritas Collaborative and The Emily Program, along with others in the field of eating disorders, have utilized many of these tools to expand access to care and provide the appropriate level of support, said Dr. Anna Tanner, vice president for the Department of Child and Adolescent Medicine at Veritas Collaborative and The Emily Program.

“For teens and parents, it is important to know that this mental health crisis is real and that mental health concerns can get better with proper treatment and support,” Tanner stated. “There are no simple solutions when it comes to mental illness – patients with mental health concerns need professional support.”

Tanner noted that during COVID, many patients and families waited to ask for help. She stated that some mental health conditions, such as eating disorders, may cause severe and potentially irreversible medical complications.

“If you are struggling, or someone you know is struggling, reach out early on to local systems to learn about community resources,” Tanner emphasized.

“Primary care providers can often provide some support, especially in accessing local resources and possibly initiating medications. Many children’s organizations are stepping in to provide additional educational and resource support for primary care providers on these issues. Additionally, some patients and families may be able to access care through telemedicine even if local resources are limited.”

She concluded that ongoing advocacy for mental health parity remains a critical step in addressing these care shortfalls.

“Additionally, we must address our workforce challenges and increase the integration of mental health care into primary care settings,” Tanner remarked. “These two efforts will be significant in funding and education – to better meet the challenges ahead.”

Cancer deaths in black people drop; still higher than others

By Slindsey Tanner
AP Medical Writer

Cancer death rates have steadily declined among black people but remain higher than in other racial and ethnic groups, a U.S. government study released recently shows.

Cancer deaths have been dropping for all Americans for the past two decades because of lower smoking rates and advances in early detection and treatment.

The rates among black people fell 2% each year from 1999 to 2019, from 359 cancer deaths per 100,000 to 239 deaths per 100,000, according to the report published online in JAMA Oncology.

In 2019, the highest cancer death rates were in black men – 294 deaths per 100,000 – almost double the lowest rate in Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The rate for white men was 249 deaths per 100,000. For Hispanic men, it was 177 deaths per 100,000 and 255 deaths per 100,000 among Native American men.

An earlier report from the American Cancer Society found the racial gap was narrowing, mostly because of a bigger decline in cigarette smoking among black people.

In the new study, based on an analysis of death certificates, deaths from most cancers dropped in black men and women. The biggest declines were in lung cancer among black men

and stomach cancer in black women. Both are linked with declines in smoking, which contributes to many other cancers.

Liver cancer deaths increased among older men and women; and uterine cancer death rates increased among women aged 35 to 70. Both cancers are strongly linked with obesity.

The persistently higher death rate among black Americans remains a concern, and likely reflects social and economic disparities including poverty, less access to care and mistrust of doctors, said National Cancer Institute researcher Wayne Lawrence, who led the study.

“It’s showing that we can’t simply rely on medical care as a way to address and eliminate the disparities,” said Carla Williams, a Howard University expert in cancer-related health disparities, who had no role in the research.

Cancer prevention expert Dr. Otis Brawley of Johns Hopkins University noted that other data show black Americans get worse cancer care than white people. That’s in part because they’re more likely to be treated at hospitals with overworked doctors and fewer resources, and less likely to have a college degree, he said.

Evidence suggests that people with college degrees are more likely to exercise, not be obese, and to seek medical care when they notice changes that could signal cancer, Brawley said.

Colonoscopy - how often?

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Most people who have had a colonoscopy during which a high-risk potentially cancerous polyp was removed may not need another colonoscopy for three to five years according to the doctors I’ve talked to. These guidelines were established after years of follow up studies of visits of people that had polyps removed during a colonoscopy. This study was published online in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

In another study a German cancer Research Center did a study of 2,500 people who had a cancerous polyp removed and compared them with nearly 1,800 people without cancerous polyps. They found that a three-year screening was very helpful in identifying new cancerous polyps. These findings were true for men, women, young and old. If a new polyp is not found during a follow up you could go to a 5-year period.

People with a normal colonoscopy could receive one every ten years. If you are 50 and have never had a colonoscopy you should get a colonoscopy. If you’re between 76 and 85, talk to your doctor about how often you should be screened.

People with an inherited condition called familial adenomatous polyposis have an extremely high risk of colon cancer or if they have a close relatives that has had colon cancer should also have a colonoscopy every 1-2 years beginning at age 20-25.

The recurrence of a colon polyp was 13.8% within 1 year, and 60% within 3 years. Advanced polyps were 2.5% and 31% within 1 and 3 years.

Polyps are common in American adults and most colon pol-

yps are harmless. Some polyps could develop into colon cancer. Most colon cancers start as polyps but only 5-10% of all polyps will become cancerous.

Most polyps cause no symptoms. Most people won’t know they have polyps until they have a colonoscopy. Because of this, it’s important to keep up with colon cancer screening. The doctor performing your colonoscopy can’t tell if a colon polyp is precancerous or cancerous until it’s removed and examined under a microscope.

If you have a polyp that is cancerous, your doctor will also biopsy nearby lymph nodes to determine if the cancer has spread or metastasized to other areas of your body. Your doctor may recommend radiation, chemotherapy or other therapies.

Research shows that a stool DNA tests are effective at detecting colon cancer and polyps that could become cancerous. If you have a positive stool test you need a colonoscopy to examine the inside of your colon for polyps and cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society the following are the symptoms for colorectal cancer:

- A change in bowel habits, such as diarrhea, constipation, or narrowing of the stool, that lasts for more than a few days
 - A feeling that you need to have a bowel movement that’s not relieved by having one
 - Rectal bleeding with bright red blood
 - Blood in the stool, which might make the stool look dark brown or black
 - Cramping or abdominal (belly) pain
 - Weakness and fatigue
 - Unintended weight loss
- There are a number of life-

style changes you can make to reduce your risk of colorectal cancer. They include getting screened, good nutrition, exercise, sleep, not smoking, not drinking alcohol and reducing your stress level.

Get screened

Get screened starting at age 40. If you are at high risk talk to your doctor about getting screened even earlier. You can also get an annual fecal occult blood test (FOBT). This test can detect hidden blood in the stool, which can signal cancer. When ever a polyp is discovered you should get a colonoscopy every three years. Before scheduling a colonoscopy ask your doctor for their adenoma detection rate (ADR). Choose a doctor with an ADR of at least 20%. Remember that means that doctor will only find polyps in one in five people.

Nutrition

The average diet should consist of 15% fat, 20% protein and 65% complex carbohydrates. Saturated fats should make up less than 10% of your total fat intake. The body needs carbohydrates, fats, protein, vitamins, minerals, fiber and water to be healthy. Make sure you consume between 12 to 15 calories per pound of body weight daily.

Exercise

You need at least 30 minutes of exercise everyday. A complete workout should include exercises for each body part. Start with 2 or 3 different exercises for each body part. Gradually work up to 8-12 repetitions for each exercise. Do each exercise 1-3 times to start. If you can do more than 12 repetitions for a set the weight is too light. If you can’t do at least 8 repetitions for a set the weight is too heavy. Don’t forget the cardio conditioning.

Stress

Stress can increase the risk for coronary heart disease, hypertension, eating disorders, ulcers, diabetes, asthma, migraine headaches, sleep disorders, depression, chronic fatigue and colorectal cancer. There are books and pamphlets, which explain how to practice techniques of dealing with stress. These include breathing techniques for relaxation, meditation, progressive muscle relaxation and autogenic training, which is a form of self-suggestion.

Sleep

We all need at least 8 hours or more of sleep daily. Sleep helps to give your body a better advantage to fight off illness even cancer. To find out what you need keep a diary of your sleeping habits. Record the time you go to bed, the time you wake-up, the total hours you sleep, your mental and physical state during the day; any naps and what you ate or drank before bed. After a few weeks review your diary. You should be able to get a good idea of what helps or hinders you from getting the sleep you need.

Smoking and drinking

Smoking and drinking are two of the cultural habits that make for a very dangerous mix. Ninety five percent of people who consume alcohol, smoke cigarettes, which is three times higher than the general population. Colorectal cancer is 41% more common among women who consume three or more drinks daily than among non-drinkers. Colorectal cancer is 33% to 51% more common among women that smoked more than 20 years. Smoking and drinking contributes to the development of a number of cancers including colorectal cancer. To reduce your risk don’t smoke or live in a smoke environment.

P R E S E R V E D

The sadness lingers

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“10 killed in shooting at Buffalo grocery store.” When I read this headline on social media last week, I thought, “here we go again with another mass shooting.” However, when it became clear that this was not a random shooting but a targeted racist domestic terrorist attack, it grieved me.

The sad part is that the Buffalo shooting is added to a growing list of racist gun attacks.

Remember the shooting at the synagogue in Pittsburgh from a few years ago or the shooting at Mother Emmanuel Church in South Carolina?

Watching the news coverage this past week made me think about the column I wrote in June 2015 immediately after the shootings at Emmanuel AME Church and the church in

Southerland Springs, Texas. In both of those columns, I wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

However, it just doesn’t feel like it’s enough to write once again about the power of forgiveness after another mass shooting. Things seem different now.

The Buffalo shootings took place in a tense time when some are trying to actively undo education that accurately teaches about the horrifying racist history of our nation. The Pittsburgh shootings took place less than 3 days after two African-American grandparents were murdered by a white man in a grocery store in Kentucky.

It seems like instead of saying “Forgive,” we as Christians should be saying “Fight!” in response to the racist language found online and coming from some of our elected officials that seem to encourage this violence.

But how do we fight? Vote in elections? Yes! Pray for our nation and for God to heal our

country’s deep wounds of racism? Absolutely. But I wonder if that will be enough?

It makes me wonder if they agree with the controversial statement regarding racial and social justice created by pastor John MacArthur that adamantly proclaimed “...we emphatically deny that lectures on social issues (or activism aimed at reshaping the wider culture) are as vital to the life and health of the church as the preaching of the gospel ... Historically, such things tend to become distractions that inevitably lead to departures from the gospel.”

Perhaps we should all meditate on the truth in Jeremiah 22:3 “Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.”

Once again seeing a community traumatized by senseless gun violence makes me think

about the eerie silence from high profile evangelicals about the recent spike in violent racist crimes. The same conservative Christians who a few weeks ago so boldly proclaimed that we should pray for and protect unborn children, have been slow to publicly condemn the racist violence.

My question is why are they silent after a week where it is clear that there is a dangerous increase in racist violence in our country? Why are they not condemning these horrible acts and the dangerously deceitful rhetoric that obviously led to them?

The silence is deafening... and speaks volumes in and of itself.

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 preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

Serve God with all your heart

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



Living for God is the best way to live. God’s way of living will produce the most joy, the most happiness, and the most blessings in our lives. My friend, if we will turn our lives over to God and forsake sin and serve Him with all our heart, we can be a partaker of this wonderful inheritance and be on fire for the Lord. We must get on fire for God and allow Him to give us a place to labor and a job to do in the church. We need to put everything else behind us so that we may enter in.

We can have good thoughts and good intentions while we are reading the Word of God. The Bible lets us know that for those who have known the way of righteousness and then turned back, it is terrible. They end up in a worse condition than they were before, like a sow that goes and return to her wallowing in the mire after she has been washed and cleaned up. The Bible also compares that to a dog returning to its own vomit. What a sickening, terrible condition, but that is what God’s Word says.

If we are introduced to righteousness and begin to walk in this way, and then go right back into the same old sinful ways, we will

end up in a worse condition, friend. Do we want our lives to end up in a worse condition? If not, we must not walk away from God when we know what we ought to do. We must resist the devil. We have the power. Naboth had the power. Had Naboth wanted to, he could have sold his vineyard, but he knew it was against God’s commandment.

Naboth stood firm, and he would not trade his vineyard. He took a stand and said, in essence, “God forbids it, so I cannot do it.” Child of God, we need to be as determined to do what is right as Naboth. We must live our lives the way God would have us to live.


“The just shall live by faith, and whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” That means everything we are doing, from the way we are living at home, on the job, and wherever we go, we must live by faith and make sure that what we are doing is pleasing in the sight of God. The moment we begin to feel, “Oh, this isn’t pleasing in the sight of God,” then we will start doing something about it. We will not override God’s will.

If we are going to be justified, then we must live by faith and live in such a way that we are pleasing to God in everything we get involved in.

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

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Grief Matters: Lifting it up vs leaving it behind

By Deborah M. Jackson, MDiv
Founder, Executive Director
Heart to Soul Ministries, Inc.



As a ministry leader, and Soul Health™ expert, grief and loss are defining issue at the root of our emotional well-being and spiritual health. This reality confronts me in and out of communities of faith.

Through the death of my mother and father, and my spiritual training I have seen and experienced the gaps and shortcomings within our society about grief. Grief is not only complex and uniquely personal but can hold some of the most theologically challenging views for persons to navigate through.

Being a Christian, however, will not change the fact that grieving the death of a loved-one is one of the single most crucial parts of the human experience.

From a Christian spiritual perspective, it is important that when we look at the life of Jesus, we remember that He did not hide His emotions, or diminish and rebuke others for theirs. Jesus offers a model for how we must express our emotions.

As I process and reflect on each grief journey I have personally experienced, the death

of my dad Herbert and the most recent death of my mom Mercedes, I see the movement of God so uniquely. Not only was the death of each of my parents different, but how God used each journey in my life has also been different. Grief is a unique experience to each person; one where we get to meet the Lord in a new and more meaningful way. I do not just say this as empty words but from a rich place of experience.

Recently, I was listening to a podcast on grief from a Christian counseling organization. I appreciated the reference given to a complete departure from the idea of “moving past grief, and/or getting over the death of a loved one.” The death of a loved one is not something a person gets over, rather, it’s a new reality one must adjust to.

The bible speaks so clearly to us about the redeeming nature of suffering and suffering specific to grief offers redeeming characteristics. Meaning, through what Jesus Christ himself suffered each experience became part of His Father’s redemptive work in Him. Likewise, so will our sufferings become part of the redeeming work God uses in our transformation as well.

Not all suffering is the same. Some suffering comes through consequence of disobedience in our lives. Some suffering comes

as a ripple effect from the behavior of another. Some suffering comes as part of our fallen human condition. Some suffering is a result of direct, indirect and/or systemic oppression. Experiencing the death of a loved one is part of the natural order of living. The common thread God weaves through all our suffering experiences is how that suffering can be used in our lives and for our own formation (i.e., transformation/change).

Suffering that accompanies death of a loved one has a few unique characteristics. First, each one of us, if we live long enough will experience the death of someone we love. Grief suffering breaks down all barriers – color, background, economic status, gender, etc. Second, suffering the death of a loved one brings us into closer proximity to our own mortality. Third, which is where I want to anchor today is that grief suffering brings an ache that will not relent. It is harsh, pushy, interrupting, cruel and expansively painful affecting our emotions, mind, body and spirit. Grief suffering cannot be compartmentalized to relieve the pain when it’s your grief.

Finally, there is a saying griever’s may hear from time to time “it will get better with time.” The truth is I do not believe the idea of it getting better

encapsulates the Lord’s view. In my experience the idea of my grief from losing my mother getting better feels antithetical to what my soul needs.

My fellow bereaved may agree that often the grief connects us to the level of love felt. The idea of it getting better somehow conflicts with the level of closeness I had and the desire to maintain that closeness.

What if the right way to view grief is to say that my grief matters. For the Lord blessed me with the gift of this person and relationship and my suffering this loss is not unseen or distant from God. What I suffer from losing my mom, dad, brother, child, grandmother, best friend will become part of the account of my redeeming story of all my sufferings and sorrows.

What erupts from my soul in worship from how the Lord comforts, shows up for me, guides, and brings me through it becomes a part of the redeeming work God accomplishes in me through the suffering and loss. My grief and sorrow become part of God’s work in my life, not separate from God’s work in my life. Therefore, my grief matters; we don’t need to leave it behind but allow it to bloom and burst forth for its redeeming and transforming value in heaven.

Speaking of theories...

By Oscar H. Blayton
Pres. Black Chamber of Commerce



Marcel Verdier’s 1840s painting, “Punishment of the Four Stakes/Pegs in the Colonies,” depicts an enslaved black man, staked naked and spread-eagle face down on the ground as he is whipped by another enslaved man, while a white planter, joined by his wife and infant child casually look on.

This painting speaks to the power of the white man and the helplessness of the black man. This painting initially was created for an exhibition in Paris, France, in the mid-1800s. But the exhibition jury rejected it because it was thought that its harsh theme would offend the colonial ambassadors in Paris at the time. It now hangs in a museum in Texas.

While the rabid right wing of this country is foaming at the mouth over what they are misidentifying as critical race theory, claiming that it will make little white children ashamed of their heritage, they are blissfully ignorant of the fact that their dirty drawers are showing from the backsides of their britches.

Tatters of their hateful bigotry flap in the breeze for everyone to see as they strut down history’s highway, pretending to be assured of their own superiority while fearful of being exposed for their inadequacies.

The display of these dirty undies is made more obvious by visual culture theory.

Visual culture theory is an intellectual framework that helps us to understand that in a visual culture such as ours, artifacts and pictures are made to be seen in a certain way.

There is not room in this commentary to delve into art history, aesthetics, the psychology of perception, the philosophy of reference and vision science, or visual-cultural studies in history, sociology and anthropology. Instead, I offer the shorthand term, phenomenological symbolization, as an all-encompassing process.

When my ancestor, trekking across the African savannah, spotted a lion in the distance, he gave it a wide berth because he did not get close enough to see that the lion was in the last stages of dying from old age. The lion, as a phenomenon, symbolized “danger,” and recognizing that symbol was necessary for my ancestor’s survival. But as in this example, symbols are sometimes misread.

In our lives, there are many symbols that represent various phenomenon, from the simple to the complex. A cross, a Star of David or a crescent may symbolize an entire series of beliefs and understandings that are so firmly held that societies have gone to war based upon those beliefs and understandings.

The same can be said of flags when national communities place great meaning in pieces of cloth arranged in various patterns of color and design. But it is not uncommon for these religious icons or national flags to be misread in terms of what they represent. And

therein lies the danger that can be avoided by understanding visual culture theory.

Visual cultures create visual vocabularies. And just as an articulated word can bring a visualized phenomenon to mind, so too can a picture or an artifact articulate an abstract thought, such as danger or hatred. And as certain words can be a part of a racist verbal vocabulary, so too can a picture or artifact be a part of a racist visual vocabulary.

While early Americans used certain racist words, phrases and images to justify slavery, French, British and other European expansionists were using images to rationalize European nationalism and colonialism. Visual culture is not unique to America; it is a worldwide phenomenon.

After centuries of this cultural legacy, we are left with today’s visual vocabulary of race and difference. We live in a toxic environment where a certain skin color is made into a negative symbol. Aunt Jemima may have been liberated from the boxes of pancake mix and bottles of syrup, but the old racist images are too numerous and too widespread to deny that they existed on supermarket shelves for decades. This country is cluttered with Americana artifacts that demean Africans Americans and other people of color and speak to the racist nature of this nation.

Racial bigots articulate their hatred with words and deeds, but as visual culture theory shows, they also speak with their art and artifacts. The absurd denials of racial animus on the part of certain politicians are made that much more ridiculous by their clinging to the old icons of their believed racial superiority.

Junius B. Stearns’ portrait of Washington on his plantation with his enslaved fieldhands in the background speaks to white supremacy and racial superiority as much as Verdier’s horrific scene of punishment.

But Stearns’ portrait of Washington is more culturally damning than Verdier’s work because while Verdier condemns slavery in his painting, Stearns applauds it in his. Stearns created five paintings portraying Washington as a statesman, soldier, farmer, with Martha during their wedding ceremony and, finally, on his deathbed, with his faithful enslaved valet, William Lee, in the background.

The racist culture in America, both past and present, is too deeply chiseled into the bedrock of this nation to be erased, hidden or otherwise obscured. We must point it out when we see it in words and deeds. And we must also point it out when we see it in our visual culture.

We cannot let white supremacists continue to portray us as anything other than who we are. And we cannot let them portray themselves as anything other than what they are.

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/>

Racism rears its ugly head in the Buffalo shootings

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



Racism is a longstanding social illness in the United States of America. Seemingly, there is no cure for it. It has

been with us for as long as I can remember. The result of it has created heartache and heartbreak.

Lives have been lost and it has left the stain of disgrace on this country. Accomplishments, it could be argued, are sometimes overshadowed by our blatant disregard for some members of our beloved community.

I know for sure that racism will be around for as long as I live. It has been a part of my life experiences. Unfortunately, and I say this with no pride, I have witnessed racism up close and personal. I have been around long enough to watch the many levels of racism that exist in this country.

For example, we have had educational racism. Segregat-

ed schools were the norm until the case, Brown versus the Board of Education of Topeka ended it. Did that stop us from getting an education? The answer is a resounding no!

Black colleges, now called Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were founded in order that higher education was afforded to African Americans.

At this moment, HBCUs are the hottest and most talked about educational venue in the land. Everybody wants to attend an HBCU. I am a graduate of an HBCU (Johnson C. Smith University) and I know the power and influence they have.

The right to vote has always been problematic for African Americans. It is a fundamental right for all Americans according to the founding fathers. The problem is that the “racist fathers” don’t see it that way. Will that stop us? The answer is another resounding no. African Americans are now voting in record numbers and that trend will continue.

There are states in this union

that are creating trumped-up rules to keep us from exercising our privilege at the polls.

Now, some in this country have taken racism below ground zero. There are people in our states who hate black people and want to kill us. That is a powerful statement, yet it is factual and true.

Interestingly, there are citizens who believe the opposite. I suspect their experiences are different and they live in an almost contactless America. If you are one of those people, pay close attention now.

Racial tragedy struck Buffalo, New York on May 14. Hate came up from the ground and reared its inhumane and immoral head. Ten black people were murdered by a white man who hated black people. It’s that simple and that sad.

Payton S. Gendron, 18 years old was the shooter. He also injured 3 people as well during this shooting spree.

The victims were assaulted at a Tops Friendly Markets store and the victims ranged in ages from 20-86. This crime of hate is unthinkable

and was done with malicious intent.

The killer was not a Buffalo resident. He drove approximately 200 miles from Conklin, NY to commit this heinous crime.

Gendron had already scouted out the place for his crime. He knew that many African Americans shopped at that location. That is sick beyond words.

According to reports, Police Commissioner Joseph Gramaglia said, “We found some things that show he was here in early March, and then again, we know he was here on Friday, basically doing reconnaissance on the area.”

He added, “He was in the store both on Friday and Saturday.” These statements were made by him to CNN’s Erin Burnett.

Gendron surrendered to police after this life-altering atrocity.

Who is planning the next mass killing of black people? While sad and scary to consider it, you and I know that someone is.

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www.mississippilink.com

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING REDEEMER CHURCH A REZONING OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 640 E. NORTHSIDE DR. (PARCEL 431-8) FROM R-1 (SINGLE-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO SUD - SPECIAL USE DISTRICT AND AN ORDER GRANTING A USE PERMIT FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 616 WELLINGTON DR. (PARCEL 431-20), 630 WELLINGTON DR. (PARCEL 431-18), 644 WELLINGTON DR. (PARCEL 431-16) & 4638 LONDONDERRY DR. (PARCEL 432-327) TO ALLOW FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE CHURCH'S INSTITUTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, Redeemer Church has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 616 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-20), 630 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-18), 644 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-16), 640 E. Northside Dr. (Parcel 431-8) & 4638 Londonderry Dr. (Parcel 432-327), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to SUD - Special Use District to allow for the expansion of the church and school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the property located at 640 E. Northside Dr. (Parcel 431-8) from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to SUD - Special Use District and a Use Permit for the properties located at 616 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-20), 630 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-18), 644 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-16) & 4638 Londonderry Dr. (Parcel 432-327) to allow for the expansion of the church's institutional and educational activities; 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 Jackson City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, March 21, 2022 to consider said change, based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on February 3, 2022 and February 17, 2022 and that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on February 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 has offered the recommendation to rezone the property located at 640 E. Northside Dr. (Parcel 431-8) from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to SUD - Special Use District and a Use Permit for the properties located at 616 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-20), 630 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-18), 644 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-16) & 4638 Londonderry Dr. (Parcel 432-327); and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that such changes would be in keeping with sound land use practice and to the best interest of the City and that there has been a substantial change in the land use character of the surrounding area that justifies rezoning and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the request in said application since any previous Jackson City Council action for the property at 640 E. Northside Dr. (Parcel 431-8) ; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council, after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that proposed use would be compatible with the character of development in the vicinity relative to density, bulk and intensity of structures, parking, and other uses and would not be detrimental to the continued use, value, or development of properties in the vicinity and that a Use Permit be granted to allow for the expansion of the church's institutional and educational activities within the existing R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District of the City of Jackson for the properties at 616 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-20), 630 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-18), 644 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-16) & 4638 Londonderry Dr. (Parcel 432-327).

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:

Parcel 431-20

Lot 12, and the West 35 feet of Lot II, Block B, East Broadmoor Subdivision, Part I, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 7 at Page 45, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 431-18

Lot 10, and East 1/2 of Lot 11, Block B, East Broadmoor Subdivision, Part I, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 7 at Page 45, Reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 431-16

Lot 8 of Block B, East Broadmoor, a Subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book/Cabinet 7 at Page/Slide/Slot 45 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and part of this description.

Parcel 431-8

All land owned by Grantor and bounded on the South by Northside Drive, on the East by Cedarhurst Drive, on the North by Wellington Road, and on the West by Londonderry Drive, whether correctly described herein or not, but more particularly described herein as follows:

Parcel 1: Lot 4, of Block Y of Broadmoor Subdivision Part 3, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 6 at Page 34, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 2: A certain parcel of land being situated in Section 14, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, in the City of Jackson, Hinds County Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the West line of Cedarhurst Drive with the South line of Wellington Road as both streets are now laid out and improved, and from said point of beginning run Westerly along the South line of Wellington Road for 434.3 feet to the East line of Lot 2, Block Y, Broadmoor Part 3: run thence Southerly along the East line of Lots 2 and 4, Block Y, Broadmoor Subdivision, Part 3 for 235.15 feet to the North line of Northside Drive; run thence to the left through an angle of 90 degrees 19 minutes and run Easterly along the North line of Northside Drive for 426.24 feet; run thence to the left through an angle of 26 degrees 33 minutes 54 seconds and run Northeasterly for 8.94 feet to the West line of Cedarhurst Drive; run thence Northerly along the West line of Cedarhurst Drive for 230.30 feet to the point of beginning.

Parcel 3: Lot 3, of Block Y of Broadmoor Subdivision, Part 3, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hind County at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Nook 6 at Page 34, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as part of this description.

Parcel 4: Lot I, of Block Y of Broadmoor Subdivision, Part 3, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hind County at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Nook 6 at Page 34, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as part of this description.

Parcel 5: Lot 2, of Block Y of Broadmoor Subdivision, Part 3, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hind County at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Nook 6 at Page 34, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as part of this description.

Parcel 432-327

Lot 8 of Block B, East Broadmoor, a Subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book/Cabinet 7 at Page/Slide/Slot 45 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and part of this description.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the property located at 640 E. Northside Dr. (Parcel 431-8) from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to SUD - Special Use District and a Use Permit for the properties located at 616 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-20), 630 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-18), 644 Wellington Dr. (Parcel 431-16) & 4638 Londonderry Dr. (Parcel 432-327) to allow for the expansion of the church and school facilities. However, that before for any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

Council Member Banks moved adoption; Council President Lindsay seconded.


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

ATTEST:

Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Zoning Council Meeting March 21, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book *6U, Pages 554-557*.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 12th day of May, 2022.


Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

5/26/2022

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 14, 2022 at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

75078-061422 Twenty-Four Month Supply of Clay Gravel and Wash Gravel

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, 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, 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

5/26/2022, 6/2/2022

ORDINANCE GRANTING AMAZING INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST A REZONING FROM R-1 (SINGLE-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO NMU-1 (NEIGHBORHOOD) MIXED-USE DISTRICT, PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED TO ALLOW FOR A DIVERSITY OF OUTREACH SERVICES AND MINISTRIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2603 W. CAPITAL ST. (PARCEL 124-108), CASE NO. 4162.

WHEREAS, Amazing Institutional Church of God in Christ has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 2603 W. Capital St. (Parcel 124-108), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a diversity of outreach services and ministries; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the property from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a diversity of outreach services and ministries; 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 Jackson City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, March 21, 2022 to consider said change, based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on February 3, 2022 and February 17, 2022 and that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on February 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 has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described property from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented; and

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

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

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

Tract 1

A tract of land consisting of 2.683 acres being all of Lots 1, 2, and 3, and part of Lots 4, 5, 6, 7 and 14 Eureka survey according to the map or plat on file and of record in Plat Book 1 at Page 3, in the Chancery Clerks office, First Judicial District, Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, being more particularly described as follows, to wit:

BEGINNING at the Southeast corner of said Lot 1 Eureka Survey, said point being the intersection of the North right-of-way line of Jayne Avenue with the West right-of-way line of Eureka Street, thence run Northerly along the West right-of-way line of Eureka Street, for a distance of 317.29 feet; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 83 degrees 15 minutes 54 seconds and run Westerly for a distance of 100.53 feet; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 271 degrees 37 minutes 03 seconds and run Northerly for a distance of 90.75 feet to a fence corner; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 269 degrees 00 minutes 49 seconds and run Easterly, along an existing fence and extensions thereof, for a distance of 99.12 feet to a point on the aforementioned West right-of-way line of Eureka Street; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 90 degrees 06 minutes 14 seconds and run Northerly, along said West right-of-way line for a distance of 140.23 feet to the intersection of said West right-of-way line with the Southern right-of-way line of Capitol Street; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 126 degrees 18 minutes 16 seconds and run Northwesterly, along the Southern right-of-way line of Capitol Street, for a distance of 154.99 feet; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 89 degrees 21 minutes 23 seconds and run Southwesterly for a distance of 160.01 feet; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 270 degrees 38 minutes 37 seconds and run Northwesterly for a distance of 60.00 feet to a point on the Eastern right-of-way line of Claiborne Street; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 89 degrees 21 minutes 23 seconds and run Southwesterly, along the Eastern right-of-way line of said Claiborne Street, for a distance of 87.11 feet to the point of curvature of a curve to the left having a delta angle of 63 degrees 21 minutes 07 seconds and a radius of 138.19 feet; thence run Southerly along said Eastern right-of-way line of Claiborne Street and the arc of said curve to the left for a distance of 152.79 feet (chord angle 147 degrees 26 minutes 33 seconds - 145.13 feet); thence turn an angle right, off the chord, of 76 degrees 51 minutes 15 seconds and run Easterly for a distance of 3.58 feet; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 152 degrees 07 minutes 43 seconds and run Northeasterly, for a distance of 45.16 feet; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 215 degrees 31 minutes 58 seconds and run Easterly for distance of 103.29 feet; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 173 degrees 58 minutes 59 seconds and run Easterly for a distance of 23.08 feet to a point on the West line of the aforementioned Lot 5 Eureka Survey; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 278 degrees 23 minutes 55 seconds and run Southerly along the West line of the aforementioned Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 Eureka Survey, for a distance of 371.28 feet to the Southwest corner of said Lot 1 Eureka Survey and a point on the North right-of-way line of Jayne Avenue; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 87 degrees 40 minutes 25 seconds and run Easterly, along the North line of Jayne Avenue, for a distance of 160.13 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Tract 2

A tract of land consisting of 0.432 acres being part of Lot 2 and Part of Lot 1 Bridges West End Survey according to the map or plat on file and of record in Plat Book 1 at Page 16 in the Chancery Clerks office, First Judicial District, Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, being more particularly described as follows, to wit:

LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
ESTABLISHING THE HONORARY NAMING OF NASHVILLE STREET FROM
EMINENCE ROW TO MAYES STREET TO MR. WILLIE WRIGHT, SR. DRIVE.

WHEREAS, Mr. Willie Wright, Sr. was a very well-known and highly respected leader of Jackson, Mississippi and the Virden Addition community; and

WHEREAS, he left Yazoo City, Mississippi at the age of 18, settling in Jackson, Mississippi where he led his family, modeling unparalleled strength for family and community through his involvement in Masonry, president of PTA at various schools, I.S. Sanders YMCA and the NAACP; at Cade Chapel Baptist Church he took the reins as Deacon, Finance Chairman, and Superintendent for over thirty years; for many youth, he exhibited the "father" image; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Jackson that this distinguished citizen, Man of God, and community leader be honored with this street designation in his honor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 1. That Nashville Street, from Eminence Row to Mayes Street be honorarily named to Mr. Willie Wright, Sr. Drive.

Section 2. That the City Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this Ordinance to the Director of the Mississippi State Highway Department.

Section 3. That the City engineer is hereby authorized and directed to make appropriate revision to the official map of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, to reflect the official renaming of said street.

Section 4. That the City Clerk shall notify the United States Postal Service, Public Safety Communication Division, and other appropriate City departments, and all other necessary parties of the official renaming of said street.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Vice President Lee seconded.
Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee, Lindsay and Stokes.
Nays – None.
Absent – None.

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 Regular Council Meeting March 29, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book *6U, Pages 584-585."

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 20th day of May, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

5/26/2022

LEGAL

BEGINNING at a point on the North line of said Lot 2, said point being 2.50 feet West of the Northeast corner of said Lot 2, thence run Westerly along the North line of said Lot 2, and the Southern right-of-way line of Jayne Avenue, for a distance of 157.50 feet to the Northwest corner of said Lot 2; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 92 degrees 22 minutes 06 seconds and run Southerly along the West line of said Lot 1 and 2 for a distance of 117.20 feet; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 89 degrees 21 minutes 02 seconds and run Easterly for a distance of 157.46 feet to a point on the Western right-of-way line of Eureka Street; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 90 degrees 36 minutes 26 seconds and run Northerly along said Western right-of-way line for a distance of 121.92 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Tract 3

A tract of land consisting of 3.788 acres being all of Lots 1 through 10, Block C, Virden Heights according to the map or plat on file and of record in Plat Book 1 at Page 5, in the Chancery Clerks office, First Judicial District, Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, part of the closed alleyways in said Block C and a parcel of land lying and being situated in the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of Section 32, Township 6 North, Range 1 East being more particularly described as follows, to wit:

BEGINNING at the Southeast corner of said Lot 10 thence run Northerly along the West right-of-way line of Delaware Avenue and the East line of said Lots 10, 9, 6, 5, 2, and 1 for a distance of 433.42 feet to the intersection of said West right-of-way line with the Southern right-of-way line of Capitol Street; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 114 degrees 35 minutes 20 seconds and run Northwesterly along said Southern right-of-way line, for a distance of 96.34 feet to the point of curvature of a curve to the right having a delta angle of 04 degrees 54 minutes 45 seconds and a radius of 1511.25 feet; thence run Northwesterly along said Southern right-of-way line and curve to the right for a distance of 129.57 feet (chord angle 186 degrees 56 minutes 19 seconds for a distance of 129.53 feet); thence turn an interior angle right, off the chord, of 184 degrees 45 minutes 17 seconds and run Northwesterly along said Southern right-of-way line, for a distance of 153.65 feet; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 68 degrees 30 minutes 38 seconds and run Southwesterly for a distance of 19.06 feet to the Eastern right-of-way line of Eureka Street; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 122 degrees 13 minutes 42 seconds and run Southerly along said Eastern right-of-way line and the West line of the aforementioned Lots 1, 3, 4, 7, and 8, for a distance of 542.01 feet to the Southwest corner of said Lot 8; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds and run Easterly for a distance of 169.00 feet; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 270 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds and run Southerly for a distance of 80.00 feet; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds and run Easterly for a distance of 169.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Tract 4

A tract of land consisting of 0.895 acres being all of lots 2, 3, and 4 Block B Virden Heights according to the map or plat on file and of record in Plat Book 1 at Page 5, in the Chancery Clerks office, First Judicial District, Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, and including the West ½ of the closed 10-ft. alleyway lying east of and adjacent to said lots being more particularly described as follows, to wit:

BEGINNING at the Southwest Corner of said Lot 4, thence run Easterly along the Southern line of said Lot 4, and an extension thereof for a distance of 169.00 feet; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds and run Northerly for a distance of 209.89 feet to a point on the Southern right-of-way line of Capitol Street; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 103 degrees 44 minutes 47 seconds and run Northwesterly, along said Southern right-of-way line, for a distance of 173.98 feet to the intersection of said Southern right-of-way line with the Eastern right-of-way line of Delaware Avenue; thence turn right thru an interior angle of 76 degrees 15 minutes 13 seconds and run Southerly, along said Eastern right-of-way line, for a distance of 251.23 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the property located at 2603 W. Capital St. (Parcel 124-108) from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a diversity of outreach services and ministries. However, that before for any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

Council Member Banks moved adoption; Council Member Grizzell seconded.


Yeas – Banks, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee and Lindsay.
Nays – None.
Absent – Foote 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 March 21, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book *6U, Pages 551-554*.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 12th day of May, 2022.


Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

5/26/2022

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Cryptogram

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Hint: Quote by Ted Kennedy

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

T E H W D B Z R X E Z D U Z F T H W D S G M U D
E F V M R D U H W D W Z T D U H K Q Q Q K J D U
G F V H W D V R D G N U

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

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

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Northside Drive

MCDADE'S MARKET #2

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Terry Rd (South Jackson)

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A & I

716 Roby Street - Canton, MS

B & B

702 West North Street - Canton, MS

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BULLY'S STORE

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COMMUNITY MART

743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS

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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

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CITY HALL

Terry Road

CLINTON

DOLLAR GENERAL

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TERRY

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RAYMOND

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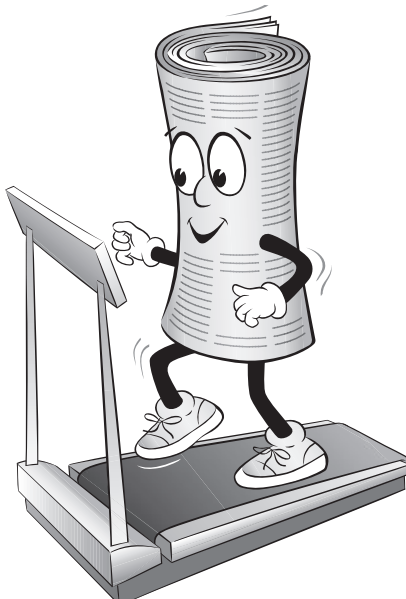
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Holmes County Central High School Class of 2022: Scholars of 'Resiliency'

Send-off advice: 'Don't abort your source of strength' and 'Don't eat the marshmallow'

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

The Durant Missionary Baptist Church (DMBC) of Durant, Miss. recently held its 34th-year County Wide Baccalaureate Services to encourage and pray for the graduates of Holmes County Central High School Class of 2022

"This class has had a challenging last two years," said pastor and speaker Dr. Nathaniel Christian, referencing their matriculation through the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In retrospect, COVID-19 hit while this class and others were on Spring Break in mid-March 2020. School closures took place statewide. Gov. Tate Reeves issued a "Shelter in Place" Executive Order, effective April 3. He later replaced it with a "Safer at Home" on May 22, 2020, to which Holmes County was added as the eighth hotspot for COVID-19.

School administrators, students, and parents pivoted and tried to adapt to a virtual learning platform in a rural county where Internet connectivity was already an issue. School buses would still run, but to deliver district-prepared nutritional meals to the students at home. HCCSD is a 100% Free and Reduced Lunch district

More than a year later on Aug. 5, 2021, the Class of 2022 and other students witnessed the State take-over of its school district, approved and proclaimed by Governor Reeves after a recommendation on Aug. 3, 2021, from the State Board of Education.

Despite the challenges, Pastor Christian said, "The class is a blessing in itself. I think that we all should just stand and give God a hand. As the song says, 'many didn't make it but I'm so glad that I am one of the ones who did.'" He urged: "Don't abort your source of strength," using Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

"Things are changing rapidly... You are on the cutting edge of change; you have to be focused; hold on to the source of your strength, and don't hide your bibles," he advised.

The church was filled with parents, educators, out-of-town-ers and other well-wishers in support of the graduates.

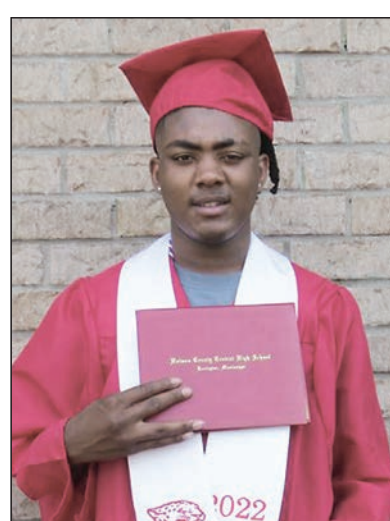
Native Mississippian Prophetess Gwendolyn P. Davis of Dayton, Ohio was in town to support her niece, Curaya Washington. "I was present for her pre-kindergarten graduation when her great grandparents were still here, now, wow, I am present at her high school graduation. That



Alcorn alum Jimmie Simpson (center) presents two \$1k scholarships to Caraya Washington (L) and Artavion Young (R)



Derrick D. Smith received the CSLC Merdis A. Anderson Memorial Scholarship



Graduate Reginald Thomas received a CSLC book stipend



Graduates stand attentively during a segment of Baccalaureate Service PHOTOS BY GAIL H.M. BROWN



HCCHS graduate Breana Washington, No. 4 in class



Principal Antwayne Patrick recognizes graduating 5A champions



Superintendent Wilson gives Word of Encouragements.



Willie Dale presents PhiBetaSigma Scholarship to Lillian Lewis.



Tyrekus Mayze received the CSLC Lula M. Friar Memorial Scholarship.



Valedictorian Lillian Lewis shares Class Motto



Ricky Fletcher, 5A champ



Corbin Campbell, 5A champ



Malik Crigler, 5A champ

means a lot," said Davis who said her niece has had a "grand senior year."

Parent Antwan Clark commented, "My wife and I were overjoyed when we heard that

Breanna was No. 4 in her class. We know that she is very smart, and it's great to see that her hard work and dedication have paid off," he said.

During the service, students

received awards and scholarships in addition to ones many received during a prior Class Day event.

"My classmates, our potential is boundless," said Lillian Lewis,

class valedictorian, and a recipient of several scholarships and awards.

The salutatorian is Zanashia Hawkins. Ajah Webster is No. 3 in class.

Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Wilson was invited by the church to offer words of encouragement.

"Graduates, at this time, I will offer you a few words of wisdom, and my words will be captured under the theme: Don't eat the marshmallow!" Wilson began. "First, I need you to turn to your classmate on your left and say, 'Don't eat the marshmallow.'" Now turn to your classmate on your right and say, "I said, 'Don't eat the marshmallow. Now, what does all that mean?"

Wilson explained:

"In the 1960s, a researcher conducted a study with 4-and-5-year-old children. He brought each into a room, and on a table in front of them, he placed a marshmallow. He told each, 'You may have one marshmallow now or if you can wait 20 minutes while I run an errand, when I come back, you may have two marshmallows.'

"Some kids jumped up and ate the marshmallow as soon as the researcher left the room. Others wiggled, bounced and scooted in their chairs and tried to hold out, but eventually, within five minutes, they too gobbled down the marshmallow. And finally, a few of the children did wait and received a double reward. This popular study became known as The Marshmallow Experiment."

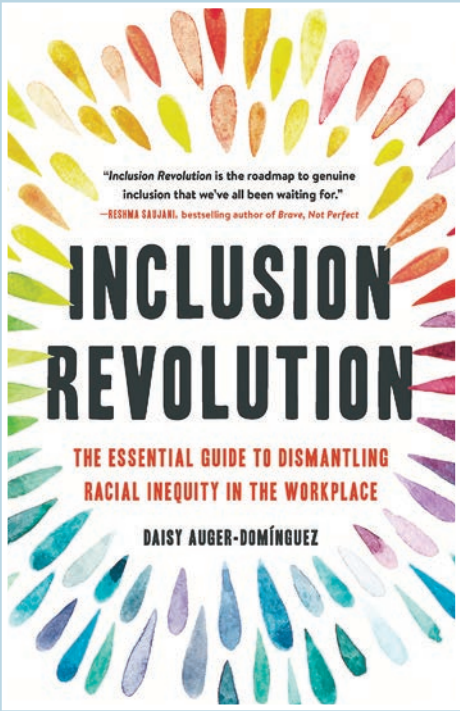
"The researcher tracked the children's progress and later found that those who were willing to delay gratification and waited for the second marshmallow ended up having higher SAT scores, were more self-motivated, more disciplined and less easily frustrated than the students who ate the first one."

"Surprisingly, later in life the researcher tracked some of the children for more than 40 years, and over and over, the children who patiently waited for the second marshmallow succeeded in whatever capacity they were measuring."

After sharing the Marshmallow Experiment, Wilson concluded: "If you want to be great, it's not going to happen overnight. My admonishment to you in whatever you do in life, is to work hard at it, don't take the easy road. Remember, the bible says, 'The race is not given to the swift, nor the battle to the strong but they who endure to the end. Congratulations, young people for a job well done.'"

"The resilient 194-member Class of 2022 racked up more than \$450K in scholarships," said HCCHS Principal Antwayn Patrick.

He also recognized three members of the men's 5-A Basketball Champion Jaguars who were among the graduates



BOOK REVIEW:

INCLUSION REVOLUTION:
THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO DISMANTLING
RACIAL INEQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

BY DAISY AUGER-DOMÍNGUEZ

C.2022, SEAL PRESS

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Everybody in. The meeting’s about to start, the train is leaving soon, the car is idling, so pack it up and let’s go. We’re not leaving anyone behind and nobody can complain about being out of the loop if we’re together, so everybody in. With “Inclusion Revolution” by Daisy Auger-Domínguez, we can be sure that no one’s missed. The best there is. Now that the world seems to be getting a little closer to normal, that’s what you want for your business: the best

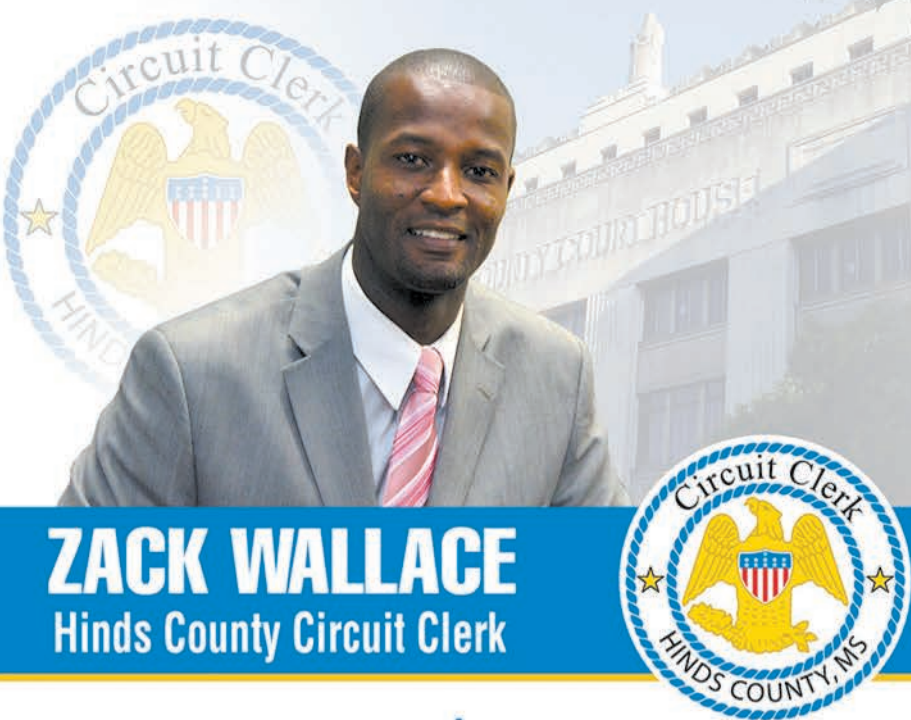
employees for the positions you have open. And now, says Auger-Domínguez, is the best time to add inclusivity to your hiring practices. To start the “Inclusion Revolution,” she says, “commit to... understanding who you are and what... barriers” your business has when it comes to BIPOC employees. Don’t allow yourself to say it’s “always been done” this way or that because even if it has, things can change. Be sure to discuss your ideas with everybody on your team, and ask for careful referrals. Au-

ger-Domínguez says that going the “friends and family” route may have worked before but studies show that recommendations from those categories often result in new hires that are the same as current employees in race, gender and identity. Use your privilege for change, but remember that “Privilege is a transient concept.” Be bold with your goals and willing to acknowledge that progress is good but there’s always room to do better. Know the legalities of inclusive interviewing and hiring, and make sure all managers

are aware, too. Try to ignore resumes or, at the very least, cover the names on them before you look them over; likewise, know how to use the right language when recruiting. Change the way you interview by asking “better... questions.” Strive to focus on “culture add” rather than “culture fit.” Use a good balance of mentorship and sponsorship to help employees get accommodated. Expect that you’ll get uncomfortable now and then. And finally, check yourself constantly: what if you’re the

problem? Chances are that if you’re a manager or businessowner, yours is not strictly an 8-to-5 job; you probably put in a considerably longer day. And if you plan on tackling “Inclusion Revolution” by yourself, you can count on some very late nights for awhile, too. Indeed, there’s a lot to unpack inside this book – almost a full-time job’s worth of information to know, understand and implement to do this thing right. The reward, as author Daisy Auger-Domínguez suggests, lies in a newly-diverse group of employ-

ees with a wider breadth of experiences to enhance your product. And yet, judging by this advice-packed book, this won’t be easy; some businesses may even find that implementing this book could be a serious challenge. In that case, readers may get the feeling that Auger-Domínguez has merely scratched the surface of what there is to do. Still, you have to start somewhere and this book is a good beginning. “Inclusion Revolution” may be overflowing, but it’s what you want when you’re all in.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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

Jury Duty Recording:
First Judicial District
(601) 969-0052

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 999
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: (601) 857-8038
Fax: (601) 857-0535

Jury Duty Recording:
Second Judicial District
(601) 857-8869

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
(Except on legal holiday)

Services of the Clerk:

- Civil/Criminal Filings of Circuit and County Court
- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

VOTER INFORMATION
Verify/Update your Registration Today


- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
 - Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
 - Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

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Mrs. Lela Pitchford Fields

November 12, 1921 - May 20, 2022



Fields

Lela Pitchford Fields was born November 12, 1921, in Terry, Mississippi. Her parents were John Hollis and Edith Mack. She accepted Christ at an early age at Terry Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Terry, Mississippi. Fields, affectionately known as "Mama" and "Grandma," departed this life May 20, 2022.

She was the second child born to her parents. Her sister Willie Ruth Hollis-Crumps preceded her in death.

Fields received her education at Terry Elementary School in Terry, Mississippi. She spent her life praising, worshiping as well as being a faithful servant to Christ. She would fall asleep praising Him and encouraging her sitters to join in with her.

Fields was considered the matriarch of the family, leading with firmness, grace, faith, generosity, compassion and wisdom. Through the years she has been a caretaker for many of her family members. She was known to honestly speak her mind. She re-

mained strong mentally even though she was 100 years, 8 months and 6 days old.

She was a particularly neat, self-sufficient and a caring woman to the end of her life. She always wanted to be independent. She was an amazing woman.

Lela Mae united in holy matrimony twice. She married Albert Winster (Winston) Pitchford, who preceded her in death. During her second marriage, she joined in holy matrimony with her elementary school sweetheart, Charlie Frank Fields, who also preceded her death.

Lela Mae lived in Jackson, Mississippi for a number of years, working as a custodian at Jackson State University for 16 years. She became a role model to many of the young people who were attending classes at the gymnasium on Dalton Street. She took pride in her work and she was adored by bosses, Dr. Hill Williams, Dr. Melvin Evans, coach Gordon and Dr. Walter Reeves.

Fields leaves to cherish family members: Joe Pitchford (Ruth), Myrtle Russell (Joseph), Bobbie Teat (Jesse) of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Edith McKennis (Randy), Betty Pitchford; Grandchildren: Adlene French of Mobile, Ala, Lisa Collins (deceased), Anthony Jackson (Graciela) of McKinney, Texas, Shondra King (Edward) of Memphis, Tennessee, Jamian Jackson (Elaina) of Pflugerville, Texas and a Joe Pitchford, Jr of Kansas City, Mo, Derike (Lisa) of Kansas City, Lela L. Gaines, of Kansas City, Yolanda Pitchford, Randi Welsh (Jamhal) Slidell, LA, Jeremy Pitchford, Lakiesha T. Willis, and Jacquelyn Thomas.

She also has 26 great grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren, a host of nieces and nephews, relatives and friends and special son Melvin Allen.

Kermit's Life Story

June 28, 1950 – May 8, 2022



Smith

Kermit Howard Smith, affectionately known as "KT" and "KT Frog" was born June 28, 1950 to the union of Elma Maxine Smith and the late James Albert Smith Sr. One of seven children, KT was the oldest brother who marched to the beat of his own drum. He was a beloved son, respected husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, dedicated worker and servant to the Lord.

Kermit's early educational years were spent between O. M. McNair, Goodman and J. J. McClain Elementary and Middle Schools. He attended Tchula Junior High and graduated from Tchula Attendance Center (S. V. Marshall HS) in 1967. During his tenure at TAC, Kermit was a member of the varsity football team. Following high school, he attended and graduated from Jackson State College (Jackson State University) with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in Spanish.

While at JSU, he met the love of his life, Velma Jeanette Everett. On December 24, 1972, they were united in holy matrimony. To this union a son, Kermit Dionysius "Dino" Smith.

Upon graduation from Jackson State, Kermit entered the US Navy and became an air traffic

controller with a rating of a C3H. His duty stations included Naval Station in Newport, RI; Naval Air Station Moffett Field in California; and Naval Air Station in Brunswick, GA. He ended his tour of duty aboard the USS Ranger CV61 and received an honorable discharge in 1976. He often shared many stories of his adventurous times and travels while in the Navy.

Kermit was never one to sit idle. He held many positions throughout his lifetime. He was a case worker at the Holmes County Welfare Department, a bus driver for Madison County schools, a correction officer at the Mississippi Department of Corrections, an air traffic controller in Oklahoma, and worked with the Army Corps of Engineers.

His most rewarding career allowed him to continue the family legacy in education. Kermit was a 5th-grade education on his maternal side. For over 20 years, he taught history, Spanish, and technology at S. V. Marshall HS and J. J. McClain High School. Upon retiring, Kermit took a job with Clinton Tours of Ridgeland, MS. It allowed him to travel and see the country. This brought joy to him in his senior years.

Kermit was devoted to his family. He enjoyed crossword puzzles, playing cards, especially "bid whist," reading, dancing and was the life of family gatherings. He was an excellent cook, the best grillmaster in the family. Everyone looked forward to his joke telling at family and class reunions. He was a spiritual man, involved in the choir and other church activities. In addition, he was a member of the American Legion Post 20.

Our beloved Kermit departed this life to receive his heavenly reward Sunday, May 8, 2022.

He joins in eternal rest his loving wife of 50 years, Velma; father, James Albert Smith, Sr.; brother James Albert Smith, Jr. and his paternal and maternal grandparents.

Kermit will be fondly remembered by his son, Kermit "Dino" Smith, grandchildren, Khloe and Kaleb Smith; mother, Elma Maxine Smith, Durant, MS; siblings, Dr. Langston D. Smith, I (Sandra), Silver Spring, MD; Carolyn Smith Massey (Stanley), Cranbury, NJ; Don A. Smith, Durant, MS; Cheryl Smith Brown (Ruffus), Jackson, MS; Corliss Smith, Cranbury, NJ; Sisters-in-law, Lola Smith, Marrero, LA; Margaret Everett, Moorhead, MS; Brothers-in-law, Floyd Everette, Jr., Augusta, GA and Willie Everett, Moorhead, MS; Goddaughter, Jada Brown, Syracuse, N.Y.; special niece, Yalander Everett, Greenwood, MS; an aunt, Laura Barnes, Chicago, IL; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

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

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

To Qualify:

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

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

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

Head Start Offers the Following Services:

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

...ALL AT NO COST TO PARENTS!

To Apply, You Must Present the Following:

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

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

PRIORITY DEADLINE: MAY 27, 2022

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Saturday

06 | 25 | 2022

4:00PM

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Jackson Ms 39213

RSVP: 404 915 8626

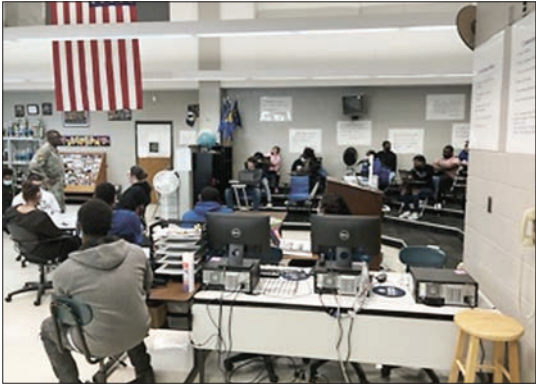
PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Holy Temple M.B. Church of West Jackson recently honored its high school graduates and students being promoted to the next level during its Annual Baccalaureate Service Sunday, May 22. The speaker, AKA and JSU student Briana Banks, advised the graduates, based on her own experiences, not to procrastinate, know that there are consequences for your actions, don't yield to temptation, keep a strong relationship with God and be yourself. Holy Temple is pastored by Rev. Dr. Audrey Lynne Hall (rear). (From left) Wingfield honor graduate DeKiyah Tompkins, Education/ Scholarship Ministry Co-Chair Deaconess Rose McGee, Florence High honor graduate Khaliyah Love, Reimagine Prep Middle School graduate Logan Scott, Power APAC Elementary honor graduate Kasey Pinkston, guest speaker Banks, and Madison Ave. Upper Elementary honor graduate AaMia McGee. PHOTO BY GAIL H.M. BROWN, PH.D.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update
ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

On 21 April '22, Lieutenant Colonel Sedrick Johnson visited the RHS, MS-952 AFJROTC cadets. Lt Col Johnson is the day to day touch stone and point of contact for the 172ND Airlift Wing medical clinic and other programs associated with the medical profession. He discussed his prior enlisted experience and career in the United States Army and Army National Guard. He also shared his up bringing in the Mississippi Delta, his matriculation through Jackson State University, and the medical career opportunities that are available in the military. He was very personable with the cadets and the cadets were very receptive to his message.



Raymond High School AFJROTC Corps commander, Cadet Colonel Jesse Rae was recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9832 as the Raymond High School Outstanding Cadet. He was recognized along with other outstanding cadets from Jackson Public Schools and other area JROTC programs.

