

Uvalde tells Biden to ‘do something’; he pledges ‘we will’

By Zeke Miller and Elliot Spagat
Associated Press

President Joe Biden sought Sunday to comfort a city grieving the killings of 19 elementary school pupils and two teachers at the hands of a lone gunman. Faced with chants of “do some-

thing” as he departed a church service to meet privately with the families, Biden responded: “We will.”

The visit to Uvalde was Biden’s second trip in as many weeks to console a community mourning a staggering loss after a

shooting. He traveled to Buffalo, New York, May 17, to meet with victims’ families and condemn white supremacy after a shooter espousing the racist “replacement theory” killed 10 black people at a supermarket.

At Robb Elementary School,

Biden stopped at a memorial of 21 white crosses, one for each of those killed and the First Lady added a bouquet of white flowers to a pile in front of the school sign. They viewed individual altars erected in memory of each student, and the first lady touched

the children’s photos as the couple moved along the row.

Both shootings and their aftermath put a fresh spotlight on the nation’s entrenched divisions and its inability to forge consensus on actions to reduce gun violence.

“Evil came to that elementary

school classroom in Texas, to that grocery store in New York, to far too many places where innocents have died,” Biden said Saturday in a commencement address at the University of Delaware. “We

*Uvalde
Continued on pages 3*

Famed Dorothy Moore honored at Jackson State Univ. with new Mississippi Blues Trail Marker

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

An added attraction to the F. D. Hall Music Center at Jackson State University (1400 J. R. Lynch Street in Jackson) is a Mississippi Blues Trail Marker which was unveiled in deference to four-time Grammy nominee Dorothy Moore, Wednesday, May 25.

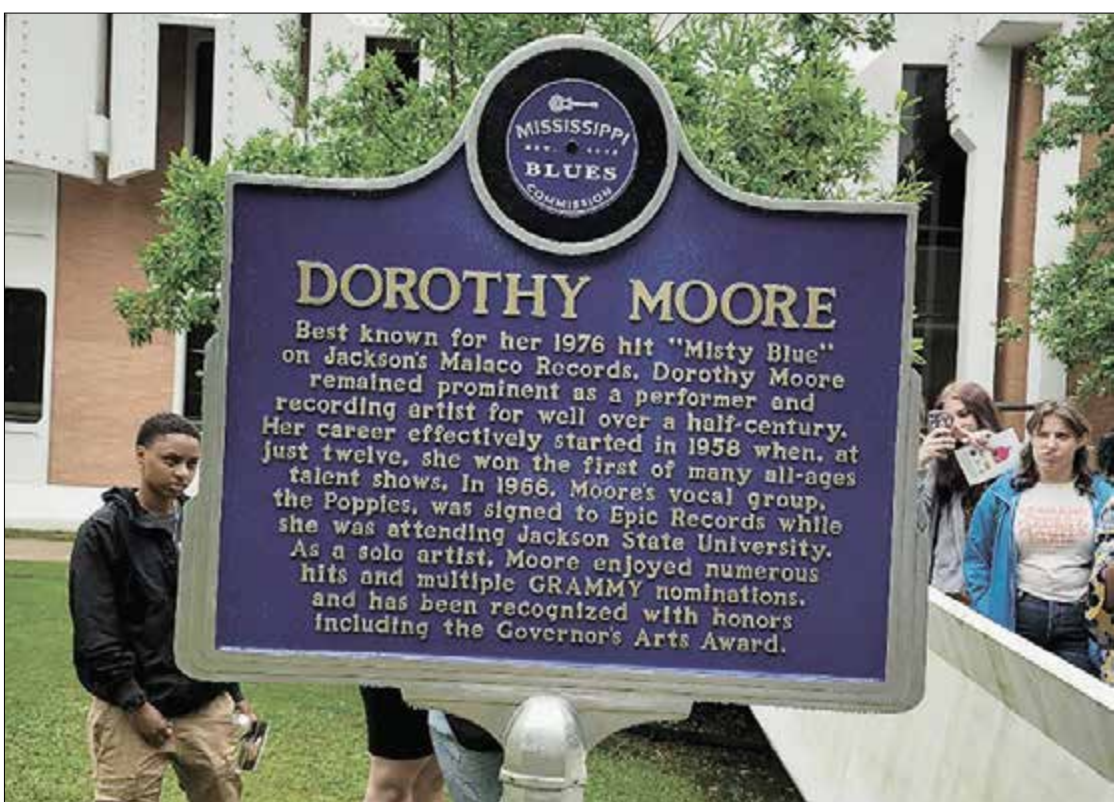
Moore’s honoring linked as far back to the days of her youth as a member of New Strangers’ Home Baptist Church in Jackson and extended to present day. Early-on the honoree loved to sing and continued to hone her skills with the progression of time.

Moore sang gospel as a member of the church choir. While in grammar school, she won talent show competitions at the Alamo Theatre. In 1966 she launched her musical career on the JSU campus as lead singer of The Poppies, composed of all females. In 1971 the renowned Jerry Puckett brought the singer to Malaco to join back-up singers Jewel Bass and Fern Kinney.

For more than half a century, Moore’s ranging musical abilities have brought her favor among humankind, not only in Jackson and throughout the nation, but around the globe. World travels include Europe, Japan, Canada and the Caribbean.

Ruth Brown, Candi Staton, CeCe Peniston, Martha Reeves, Billy Paul and Gregory Abbott are among fellow iconic artists with whom Moore has performed.

Moore, a blues, gospel and



Marker reflects background of Dorothy Moore

R&B singer, was flanked on the dais by a number of notable personalities who recognized her for her contributions in the world of music. Among them were Sen. John Horhn; Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba; Marty Gamblin, consultant for the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience; Jay Sieleman, past president and CEO – The Blues Foundation; Peggy Brown, agent for Dorothy Moore and director, Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame; Kamel King, Tourism Development Bureau manager – Mississippi Development Authority; and JSU Presi-

dent Thomas Hudson.

Horhn read and presented a special proclamation which noted the artist’s outstanding achievements.

Lumumba commented while using a syllogism that there was something about Mississippi soil “that produces outstanding talent.” He concluded that “Dorothy Moore is one of those talented persons.”

Sieleman recalled Moore’s upbringing on Monument Street in Jackson while living with her grandmother. He shared with listeners the honoree’s determina-

tion to sing, as she hopped over fences to “ride the bus.” (A section of Monument is renamed in Moore’s honor).

JSU Director of Margaret Walker Center, Robert Luckett, mentioned having known Moore many years and was pleased that the marker was being unveiled on the campus.

“Jackson State University is honored to serve as the location of the historic Mississippi Blues Trail Marker honoring the life of the legendary blues singer Doro-

Moore

Continued on pages 3

City Council not alone in needing correction

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer



We don’t know what we don’t know. Correction is a good thing.

God knows I am no pastor. That high calling and title is reserved for better men than me. I am a reader though, and read in 2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”

In reviewing many sources, there are a minimum of 2,000 people homeless in Jackson. Not couch hopping homeless – out on the street homeless. The City of Jackson has a Consolidated Plan and Actions Plans that attempt to address this and other problems, but the evidence is clear – it’s in need of correction.

Mississippi continues to have the highest prevalence of youth and adult substance abuse in the country. Jackson hospitals admit more people for substance use disorders than anywhere in the state.

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health Addictive Services has a vast array of community-based services available to help. They also publish an excellent resource directory. Over time though, it always needs adjustment, improvement – correction.

Last week State Fairgrounds Director Michael Lasseter

COMMENTARY

(and obviously State Agriculture Commissioner Andy Gipson; his boss), was going to let the Black Rodeo die this year. He told WLBT that “the promoter refused to provide security for requested gatherings on the south end of the grounds and tailgating on the north end.” He didn’t mention that increased fees for added security were mandated for the event, \$6,000 to 10,000 in increased fees by some accounts.

Enter State Senator John Horhn (D-26th). WLBT now reports that the Black Rodeo is back on for Saturday, July 16 at 7:30 p.m. He coordinated efforts to bring city, county and state law enforcement, Visit Jackson, and others together to provide security for the annual event.

Horhn said, “We are not going to let these bad actors ruin our city and ruin tourism in our city because tourism is a major part of Jackson’s economy.” Our city – did you see Senator Horhn’s words? Senator Horhn took ownership – he said, not on my watch! Real live results oriented leadership. He knew the situation needed correction, and he went out and found a way.

Then there is the Juneteenth fireworks, \$6,000 to \$9,000, being voted down by the Jackson City Council. Have mercy.

Council

Continued on pages 3

Sexual abuse in Southern Baptist Convention unmasked

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

Perhaps we don’t want to believe that sexual abuse at the hands of clergy takes place in the United States and other countries, but the evidence has been overwhelming. Beginning in the 1950’s there were rumors of abuse by Catholic priests. These reports gained some media attention in the 1980’s. In 2002 the *Boston Globe* exposed the abuse scandal that was felt around the globe.

Ed Litton of Redemption Church in Saraland, AL is the president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He recently told ABC News, “The rumors were always out there that these things were happening. There were several attempts made at

our convention meetings to bring this to light. But they were very successfully pushed down.”

At SBC’s Annual Meeting in Nashville June 15-16, 2021, things came to a head when action was demanded by the “messengers of the convention by an overwhelmingly affirmative vote,” as reported on the *sataskforce.net* website. The demand by the 15,000 delegates from 5,570 churches included turning over confidential records and communications dating back twenty years. Three months later, in September 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Sexual Abuse Task Force, commissioned by SBC President Ed Litton, retained Guidepost Solutions, an independent third-party, to conduct an assessment and

investigation of the SBC Executive Committee. A connection to Jackson is revealed later in this article.

The SBC was chartered in 1875 and includes over 47,000 churches with a total membership exceeding 14 million, the world’s largest Baptist denomination.

Based on information on Guidepost Solutions website, they were charged with investigating:

- Allegations of abuse by Executive Committee members
- Mishandling of abuse allegations by Executive Committee members between January 1, 2000, to June 14, 2021
- Allegations of mistreatment of sexual abuse victims by Executive Committee members

from January 1, 2000, to June 14, 2021

- Patterns of intimidation of sexual abuse victims or advocates from January 1, 2000, to June 14, 2021

- Resistance to sexual abuse reform initiatives from January 1, 2000, to June 14, 2021

Additionally, they were to perform an audit of the procedures and actions of the Credentials Committee after its formation in mid-June 2019, using best standards and practices designed to ensure accountability, transparency, and care for the wellbeing of survivors of sexual abuse. They also published an email address for anyone who had relevant information in furtherance of the investigation.

The 300-page report of the in-

vestigation by Guidepost Solutions was released on a Sunday, May 22, 2022, and its Executive Summary begins, as follows:

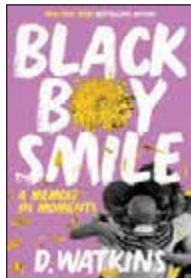
“For almost two decades, survivors of abuse and other concerned Southern Baptists have been contacting the Southern Baptist Convention (“SBC”) Executive Committee (“EC”) to report child molesters and other abusers who were in the pulpit or employed as church staff. They made phone calls, mailed letters, sent emails, appeared at SBC and EC meetings, held rallies, and contacted the press...only to be met, time and time again, with resistance, stonewalling, and even outright hostility from some within the EC.

Our investigation revealed that, for many years, a few senior

EC leaders, along with outside counsel, largely controlled the EC’s response to these reports of abuse. They closely guarded information about abuse allegations and lawsuits, which were not shared with EC Trustees, and were singularly focused on avoiding liability for the SBC to the exclusion of other considerations. In service of this goal, survivors and others who reported abuse were ignored, disbelieved, or met with the constant refrain that the SBC could take no action due to its polity regarding church autonomy – even if it meant that convicted molesters continued in ministry with no notice or warning to their current church or congregation.”

Abuse

Continued on pages 3



Beloved Terry resident celebrates 110th birthday



110 year-old Eula Polk being driven from home by great nephew T. C. Holly. PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON



110th Happy Birthday sign for Eula Viola Polk PHOTO BY DENNIS GRANT

By Dennis M. Grant
Contributing Writer

“Amazing” ... “a blessing” ... “truly a day of praise and thanksgiving!”

These were the words and sentiments of family and friends who gathered Sunday, May 29, to celebrate the 110th birthday of Mrs. Eula Viola Polk, affectionately known as “Aunt V.”

While her actual birthday was Tuesday, May 24, plans to celebrate the previous weekend were postponed due to inclement weather. However, because God was in control of the entire event, the timing was just right as it gave others from near and far more time to join the festivities.

Relatives came from Alabama, Florida and South Carolina to celebrate the birthday occasion with other family and

friends living in Mississippi.

Mrs. Polk’s nephew, Vernon Brown, was one of them. He stated Aunt Eula was one of nine girls born to Richard Lee Brown and Frankie Mae Owens Brown. He said lessons he learned from Aunt Eula were “Keep God first, never forget where you came from and treat people right, because if you treat people right you will gain a lot of respect.”

Decked out in a pretty peach-colored top, gray slacks, and her signature white tam, Mrs. Polk was all smiles as her great nephew, T. C. Holly, chauffeured her to the roadside where a drive-by parade would soon begin.

As the parade started the Corvette Club of Jackson led the way with about 30 cars honking horns and flashing their lights as onlookers waved

with enthusiasm. Aunt Eula periodically was waving as well.

In addition to family and friends, State Representative Gregory Holloway also participated in the parade, as did Hinds County Sheriff Tyree Jones. Sheriff Jones stated that it was a privilege to be able to celebrate someone who had been blessed to reach the age of 110 and there was no way he was going to miss it.

The sheriff even joined Aunt Eula on her cart. He told her, “It’s a blessing to be with you. 110 years is definitely a blessing.” The sheriff thanked her for all the contributions she has made to her community and to the surrounding area. In a soft voice Polk whispered, “Thank you for being here.”

The sheriff allowed deputies from his department to serve as escorts and to ensure safety

along the parade route.

Another parade participant, Sam Cline, the great, great nephew of Aunt V, sported a tall birthday cake on the top of his vehicle.

Across the street from Mrs. Polk’s home, longtime neighbor and friend Joseph Kendrick celebrated the occasion by providing several large “junk pots,” a combination of various cooked meats, other food items and cold drinks for everyone in attendance to enjoy.

Of course Aunt V’s birthday would not be complete without two of her favorites, chicken wings and a special birthday cake baked by her great nephew Kenneth Funchess.

When asked by Jackie Hampton, publisher of *The Mississippi Link* newspaper, what was her age, she proudly answered “110.” When asked her secret

to longevity she responded, “A good life, eating right and hard work.” Her message to young people was don’t try to beat anyone out of nothing.

When asked about her great nephew, T.C., who was driving her cart she pointed to him and said, “That’s a good man.”

The Mississippi Link asked Mae Grant, niece of Eula Pole, what she most admired by her great-aunt. She responded, “What I most admire about Aunt V is her resilience to navigate the challenges that comes with longevity; death of family and friends as well as her fragile health.”

Last year the family celebrated her 109th birthday with a party as well.

Grant said, “One thing I can share about Aunt V since a year ago is how her faith in God has been unwavering. She fre-

quently testifies of His goodness as she prays and sings hymns of peace.”

We are not sure where Mrs. Polk ranks on the list as being one of the oldest, if not the oldest person in the state, nation or world, but one thing is for sure, she ranks number one among family and friends who love her dearly and respect her to the highest.

She is the epitome of a faithful Christian woman who still gets ready each Sunday to participate in worship either virtually or in-person at Little Bethel CME Church in Terry, MS. This, no doubt, is the key to her longevity, her faith in God and her love of family.

Contributing writer Dennis M. Grant, through marriage, is the great-nephew of 110 year-old Eula Viola Brown-Polk.

See photos on page 4.

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PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON AND DENNIS M. GRANT



Mississippi Government Agency Directory

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Governing for all of Mississippi is a popular refrain for Governor Tate Reeves. He has been governor since January 14, 2020, before that he was the lt. governor, and before that the state treasurer.

The front page of his website states: “Standing before all of Mississippi, I promised that this administration would be an administration for all Mississippi. That I would defend the loving culture that underpins our quality of life and work to grow an economy that lifts all of our families. I am determined to honor that promise.”

Similarly, Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann’s website states he is “committed to serving the public with open and fair government. He advocates for increasing state government transparency, growing small businesses, shoring up Mississippi’s roads and bridges, providing better access to health-care, and ensuring every child receives a high-quality education. As the president of the 52-member State Senate, he remains committed to making Mississippi an even better place for our children and grandchildren.” His term as lt. governor began in January 2020, and before that he served at secretary of state for twelve years.

According to a *Mississippi Today* article by Adam Ganucheau on June 28, 2021, Speaker of the House Philip Gunn, was the first prominent Republican to call for changing the state flag. In 2015 he said, “As a Christian, I believe our state’s flag has become a point of offense that needs to be removed. We need to begin having conversations about changing Mississippi’s flag.”

He told *Mississippi Today*

European American Males	European American Females	African American Females	African American Males
85	30	5	3
69.1%	24.3%	4.0%	2.4%
93.4%		6.4%	

“My conviction was borne out of my religion, out of my understanding of scripture. I believe the number one charge of anyone who professes to be a Christian is to love God first and love your neighbor second. We are also charged to be witnesses for the gospel to share our faith and to encourage others to follow God. And so as I began to think about that and the flag, it just seemed to me that the continued use of the Confederate emblem was an obstacle we had to overcome.” He also added, it would be very difficult for me to go into an African-American neighborhood, say, with a Confederate battle emblem on my T-shirt and say, ‘Let me tell you about how I love you and Jesus loves you. To me, that would immediately raise suspicion because of how that image has been used to represent the hatred that some had in their hearts.’” His term as Speaker of the House began in 2012, and he has been a member of the House of Representatives (District 56) since 2004.

It sure sounds like these three men, in our highest positions of leadership and influence, care about all Mississippians, openness, fairness, transparency and loving your neighbor. Who could ask for more?

Come to find out, words and reality do not always match up. If by chance, you needed a reminder of the actual level of fairness, diversity and inclusion in Mississippi – The Hospitality State – one sure way would be to

figure out who is in charge. After seeing so many state office buildings in Jackson that house state agencies, I decided to dig deeper, and found the Agency Directory on the Mississippi government webpage – <https://www.ms.gov/agency-directory>.

It currently lists 139 agencies. Some are very small, and there is also a lot of redundancy, and some agencies listed don’t even seem to have a website. One hundred thirty-nine agencies were quickly whittled down to 123 that were able to be researched.

The percentage of agency heads are identified in the chart above by race.

Mississippi has the highest percentage of African Americans per capita in the United States, hovering near 40%. The European American power structure in Mississippi is unyielding; unwilling to embrace diversity and equity.

So much for governing for all Mississippians. So much for fairness, equality, openness, transparency and loving thy neighbor. This is just one depiction of the oppression and discrimination alive and thriving in the Hospitality State.

On May 19, a public records request was mailed and hand-delivered to the Governor’s Office. The request seeks a listing of all appointments made by Governor Reeves to include the appointment positions, appointees name, gender and race.

Mississippi woman hopes father’s legacy will help inspire

By Lici Beveridge
Hattiesburg American

Some may have heard his name or seen it on buildings and displays throughout Hattiesburg. Some may have seen his face on the mural at Veterans Memorial Park, but many don’t know the man behind the name Jesse L. Brown.

A Hattiesburg native, Brown was the country’s first black naval aviator. He worked hard to educate himself and worked his way through college so he could qualify for the Aviation Academy. He flew 20 missions in the Korean War before his plane was shot down Dec. 4, 1950, near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. He was just 24 years old.

To recognize his bravery and sacrifice, Brown was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Purple Heart and other military honors. Earlier this month, Brown received another honor when a hangar at Naval Air Station Meridian was named for the ensign who died for his country.

Among the attendees at the May 13 dedication ceremony was Brown’s daughter, Pamela Brown Knight, who was a toddler when her father was killed.

“My family and I are so proud to carry on the legacy of Jesse Brown,” Knight said. “With the help of (those who attended the dedication), we are able to continue to inspire others for generations to come.”

Retired Capt. Donnie Cochran, the first black commanding officer of the Blue Angels, spoke about Brown legacy and



Brown

that of his friend and wingman, Lt. Thomas Hudner Jr., who intentionally crashed his plane near Brown’s in an attempt to rescue him.

“It is a story about honor, courage and commitment, and, I might add, sacrifice,” Cochran said.

Hudner, who was white, tried to free Brown, who was trapped in the plane. He stayed with Brown until he was forced to leave by approaching nightfall and subzero temperatures.

Neither Brown’s body nor his airplane was ever recovered, despite attempts by Hudner to bring his friend home. Hudner died in 2017.

Brown graduated near the top

of his class at Eureka School, an all-black school in a time when segregation was still strong in the South. The school recently was converted into a museum that focuses on Hattiesburg’s black history and heritage.

He went on to attend Ohio State University before joining the Navy and earning his pilot’s wings.

A book documenting the friendship between Brown and Hudner was released in 2017. “Devotion: An Epic Story of Heroism, Friendship and Sacrifice” was written by Adam Makos.

Filming began in 2021 on a major motion picture based on the book.

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Member:



‘It’s easier to get a gun than baby formula;’ athletes, celebs boil over latest mass shooting

By **Stacy M. Brown**
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Nineteen children lost their lives at what was supposed to be one of the safest places in the world: school.

The May 24 massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, marked the second-deadliest shooting incident on a K-12 campus in America since 2012 when 26 students and teachers were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut.

The latest breach of America’s once safe and sacred institutions, where two teachers were also killed, has numerous politicians from both sides of the aisle sending their “heartfelt” condolences to victims’ families.

But it has struck a nerve with entertainers, athletes and concerned citizens, all of whom expressed grief and outrage on social media and in interviews.

“It’s been enough. We’ve been at ‘enough’ for centuries,” actress Gabrielle Union tweeted following the May 24 massacre.

“It’s sad the world that we live in,” Golden State Warriors guard Damion Lee told reporters after Game 4 of the NBA’s Western Conference Finals. “Guns shouldn’t be as easily accessible,” Lee continued. “Like, it’s easier to get a gun than baby formula right now. That’s unbelievable in this country that we live in.”

An angry Warriors head coach Steve Kerr railed at reporters that “basketball questions don’t matter.”

“The 50 senators who re-



Scene outside Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, May 24

fuse to vote on HR-8 [matter],” Kerr said, referring to a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that would strengthen background checks for those seeking to purchase a weapon.

“They won’t vote on it because they want to hold onto their own power. Fifty senators in Washington are going to hold us hostage. It’s pathetic,” Kerr demurred.

Ten-year-old Xavier Lopez counted among the dead. His mother told the *Washington Post* that Xavier “was funny, never serious.” “That smile, I will never forget. It would always cheer anyone up,” Felicha Martinez said. She said her son, an honor student, couldn’t wait to go to middle school.

On Facebook, Angel Garza, whose 10-year-old daughter Amerie Jo Garza lost her life in the massacre, frantically asked for help locating his daughter before the grim reality hit. “I don’t ask for much or hardly even post on here, but please, it’s been 7 hours, and I still haven’t heard anything on my love,” Garza posted. “Please help me find my daughter.”

Later, after confirming that Amerie Jo had died, Garza thanked everyone for their assistance in trying to locate her.

“My little love is now flying high with the angels above,” Garza wrote. “Please don’t take a second for granted. Hug your family. Tell them you love them. I love you, Ame-

rie Jo. Watch over your baby brother for me.”

Lydia Martinez Delgado told a local television station that her niece, fourth-grade teacher Eva Mireles, was among the dead. “I’m furious that these shootings continue, these children are innocent, and rifles should not be easily available to all. This is ... my hometown, a small community of less than 20,000,” Delgado told KSAT-TV. “I never imagined this would happen to, especially to loved ones. All we can do is pray hard for our country, state, schools, and especially the families of all.”

Authorities identified the shooter as Salvador Ramos, who allegedly shot his grand-

mother before the attack at the school. Officials said police shot and killed Ramos, 18, at the scene.

Despite the bloodshed caused by Russia’s invasion of his country, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky expressed his sorry over the Texas massacre.

“I would like to express my condolences to all of the relatives and family members of the children who were killed in an awful shooting in Texas,” Zelensky said in a video message.

Uvalde-born actor Matthew McConaughey called gun violence an epidemic.

“Once again, we have tragically proven that we are fail-

ing to be responsible for the rights our freedoms grant us,” the actor said. “The true call to action now is for every American to take a longer and deeper look in the mirror and ask ourselves, ‘What is it that we truly value? How do we repair the problem? What small sacrifices can we individually take today to preserve a healthier and safer nation, state and neighborhood tomorrow?’ We cannot exhale once again, make excuses, and accept these tragic realities as the status quo,” McConaughey stated.

Later, the actor said Americans need to rearrange their values on social media.

“Find common ground above this devastating American reality that has tragically become our children’s issue,” he wrote on Instagram.

“This is an epidemic we can control, and whichever side of the aisle we may stand on, we all know we can do better. We must do better. Action must be taken so that no parent has to experience what the parents in Uvalde and the others before them have endured. To those who dropped their loved ones off at school not knowing that today was goodbye, no words can comprehend or heal your loss, but if prayers can provide comfort, we will keep them coming.”

Publicist and media brand strategist Nikki Curry added on Twitter that “the question still remains: What are we doing?” “Why does this keep happening? My heart aches for these families,” Curry wrote. “Make it stop. Please.”

President Biden prepares to issue executive order on police reform

By **Stacy M. Brown**
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Following the murder conviction of former Minneapolis officer Derek Chauvin, three other cops were found guilty in federal court of violating Floyd’s civil rights. Then officer Thomas Lane recently agreed to a plea deal to avoid state prosecution and serve two years in federal prison. The other two officers involved, J. Alexander Kueng and Tou Thao, face a state trial this summer.

On the first anniversary of the police murder of George Floyd, President Joe Biden invited the slain black man’s family to the White House.

At the time, Biden expressed optimism that the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act would become law.

That didn’t happen.

On the second anniversary of Floyd’s death, Biden plans to issue an executive order

on police reform, which administration officials said would establish new rules for the use of force by federal law enforcement officers.

“It’s an effort to be responsive,” administration officials stated. The order likely would mimic California’s police reform law which requires that new police officers in the Golden State be at least 21-year-old.

The law also allows for the discipline of officers who fail to intervene when another law enforcement member uses excessive force.

Further, the statute place firm limits on when officers are allowed to use deadly force, noting that such actions only are permitted when necessary to defend human life.

Previously, officers could use deadly force if they deemed it “reasonable.”

Following the murder conviction of former Minne-

apolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, three other cops were found guilty in federal court of violating Floyd’s civil rights.

Prosecutors said the trio stood by while Chauvin pressed his knee into the unarmed 46-year-old’s neck for more than nine minutes.

The other two officers involved, J. Alexander Kueng and Tou Thao, face a state trial this summer.

“I am pleased Thomas Lane has accepted responsibility for his role in Floyd’s death,” Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison stated.

“His acknowledgment that he did something wrong is an important step toward healing the wounds of the Floyd family, our community and the nation. While accountability is not justice, this is a significant moment in this case and a necessary resolution on our continued journey to justice.”



On the second anniversary of Floyd’s death, President Joe Biden plans to issue an executive order on police reform, which administration officials say will establish new rules for the use of force by federal law enforcement officers

Turning up the volume on the caregiving crisis

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



Even after twenty years working alongside surgeons and clinicians across every specialty and family scenario I can think of, there were two things I knew nothing about – caregiving and Alzheimer’s. When my father died suddenly of a heart attack at 62, it shook me and my mother to the core. An only child raised in New Orleans, Louisiana and close to both my parents, I never imagined my future without them, and had certainly not processed a life caring for my mom.

One thing life can teach us is how quickly the path we had in mind can change. In this article, I hope to elevate education and raise awareness about caregiving, share its reverberating impact, and heighten the pitch to elevate support locally, regionally and nationally.

The National Caregiver Alliance (NCA) defines a caregiver as someone who provides direct care (as for children, elderly or chronically ill). Caregivers can be formal or informal. Formal caregivers are those paid to provide care. (i.e., nurses, therapists, companion sitters, etc.) Informal caregivers are those not paid to provide care (family, friends, etc.).

The NCA and AARP reported in 2021 about 43 million caregiv-

ers provided unpaid care to an adult or child, 34 million cared for an adult over 50, and 40 million provide care to an adult eighteen or over with a disability or illness. [Coughlin, J. (2010). About 16 million adult family caregivers cared for someone with Alzheimer’s disease or another form of Dementia.]

If someone would have told my forty-two-year-old self that a few short years later I’d become part of this story, I would have told them they were crazy. Unfortunately, caregiving tends to simmer under the radar, until we ourselves or someone we know becomes hinged to the journey.

For most the caregiving role is not planned and presents through an unexpected traumatic life turn

of events. This is exactly what happened for me.

I had no earthly idea of the impact caregiving would have on my life – spiritually, emotionally, mentally, relationally and economically. From 2010, to the death of my mother in 2021, and now seven months later, the imprint continues. My caregiving role may have ended but restarting life without my mom after caring for her, pushed me into a brand-new reality. Studies show even when a loved one dies, the caregiver’s entire perspective and pathway forward must be reimaged and supported. I am not alone; caregivers all over this country share similar stories.

As Mental Health Awareness Month ends, we must know and

understand how caregiving is not only one person’s journey but the community and country. Caregiver Alliance supports how caregivers may experience increased risk of emotional distress from isolation, anxiety, grief and exhaustion, as well as increasing risk factors in physical and spiritual wellbeing.

One takeaway is to understand how expansive the caregiving crisis reality is becoming. To bring it down to the quality of our daily living, the Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA) highlights as the U.S. population ages with baby boomers turning 65 at a rate of approximately 10,000 people a day, we will be in a deficit of formal caregiving support for families.

This matters because it will

exacerbate the existing physical, emotional mental strain on informal caregivers like me and you caring for loved ones at home. Hiring caregiver support will become almost impossible in 8-10 years. This was an intensifying difficulty I had already begun seeing as my mother progressed in her illness in 2019-2021.

It is crucial that we continue to raise awareness and cultivate caregiver-focused systems of support. By educating, expanding respite alternatives, mental health services, caregiver advocacy, as well as spiritual and emotional care support within communities, across faith organizations, local government, and healthcare we can begin to set a more hopeful course forward.

A good relationship will make you healthier

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

When you’re trying to ensure good health you should not overlook having a good relationship. We all need others. If you have a good marriage that is a plus. While a good relationship can affect your health in a positive way, the opposite is also true for a bad relationship.

A 2007 study from the University College in London asked over 9,000 men and women about their closest relationships. Participants that described the most negative interactions in their relationship were 34% more likely to develop heart disease. Another project at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago discovered that lonely people were more likely to develop Alzheimer’s disease.

Your doctor can’t prescribe a good relationship. We all have varying opinions taste and desires. Disagreements are always part of dealing with other people. You have to work at developing a good relationship.

Accept differences. Don’t try to change others. You should recognize and accept people for who they are. Just like you they are full of strong points, weakness, loveable qualities and some that aren’t so loveable. You have to remember we are all human. If you can’t live with their differences the relationship is not for you.

Think positive. You can view another’s behavior as a deal breaker or as cute quirks. Your mate will leave dishes in the sink when they could have washed them knowing you just cleaned the kitchen. You can start World War 3 or you can smile at their consistency. They probably left dishes in the sink when you started the relationship. Talk about what you want done in the kitchen before they leave another dirty dish in your clean sink.

Appreciate. No matter how many years you’ve been together remember to say the words “Thank You.” There are a lot of things we’re supposed to do but a ‘thank you’ even for small things feels good. Gratitude is a very positive feeling.



Be understanding. You should recognize and respect that your style of handling conflict is different from others.

Money can’t buy you love. More money is not the key to a good relationship. There will always be someone with more money. You may not be able to lavish your mate with the gifts, as your parents or neighbor are capable of doing. Talk about money before you start a relationship. Find out where your mate’s head is.

Accept your age and your mate’s age. We all get old. As life happens we have to adapt to the changes that life throws at us. If you can’t run any longer just walk.

Touch. Kiss. Hold hands. Married couples that touched each other affectionately for at least 30 minutes, three times a week had 34% lower levels of stress. Researchers found that being affectionate releases the hormone oxytocin. This hormone can protect you from stress related illnesses. Couples that kiss set off lots of chemical reactions.

These chemicals reduce your levels of the stress hormone cortisol. Holding hands also reduces the hormone cortisol.

Sleep together. In a study couples were tracked for seven days. When the women had poor sleep they had more negative feelings toward their mate. You need at least 8 hours of sleep every night. Those 8 hours could improve your marriage.

Have sex. Plan to have sex. It won’t happen if you don’t plan it in your daily routine. Even if it doesn’t lead to sex, it will create a psychological closeness that will encourage physical intimacy.

Find the right partner. You want someone that you don’t have to change. Participate in activities that will expose you to potential partners that like the same things you like. Religion is a deal breaker. Know your future partner’s religion.

Learn to forgive. You must make a conscious decision to forgive your mate, and give up any vengeful behaviors on your part. The negativity

and anger you hang onto won’t help you or your relationship. Remember forgiveness is choosing to accept what happened as it happened rather than what could or should have happened.

Compromise. Healthy compromising will keep couples focused on solving their differences in a healthy way. The goal is to use teamwork. An uncompromising relationship can quickly turn into feelings of dissatisfaction. It can also lead to disillusionment. When you were single you were used to making decisions for yourself. A committed relationship requires you to consider the happiness of your mate also.

Many factors contribute to a good relationship. You should learn and understand these words love, compromise, commitment, trust, time, attention, good communication, listening, partnership, tolerance, patience, openness, honesty, respect, cooperation, sharing, consideration, generosity and constructive. You should also make them a part of you.

Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health receives grant to transform health systems

By Sandra Melvin, Dr.Ph. M.P.H.
Special to The Mississippi Link

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health (IMAH) is one of ten recipients of a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The grants will support community-led research projects that seek to elevate community voices and make the priorities of communities the primary goal of local health system transformation efforts. These grants were awarded as a part of a new RWJF program, Community Research for Health Equity, managed by AcademyHealth.

The funded studies will address local health care system issues of importance to communities of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals and other historically marginalized populations. AcademyHealth is currently working with the grantees as they conduct their studies and disseminate their findings.

Through funding from RWJF, IAMH will implement an Examination of the Effect of Implicit Bias and Perceived Discrimination on the Provision of Health Care among African-American Women ages 18-44 in Mississippi.

The project team will use a mixed-methods approach and apply two models in their analyses: the National Institute for Minority Health and Research Framework and ETR Health Equity Framework. Data will be collected from African-American women and healthcare providers using surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews.

Sandra Melvin, Dr.Ph. M.P.H., Chief Executive Office, Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health is the principal investigator for the study.

“The primary goal of this project is to utilize the data obtained to develop a community-centered, evidence-based approach to improving access to health care for African-American women in Mississippi.”

P R E S E R V E D

A healing prayer for our nation

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



When I wrote my column last week about the Buffalo shooting, I had no idea that there would be another even more horrific mass shooting that would take place less than two weeks later. Even though one took place in a grocery store and the other took place in an elementary school in south Texas, they share sad similarities.

I'm not referring to the ages of the shooters (18 years old) or the fact that they both used AR-15 rifles. What strikes me about both is the reaction to both.

Even though there have been many reports about what happened in both instances, in addition to the lingering sadness that I men-

tioned last week, there is also a lingering helplessness.

Despite the best efforts to keep folks safe, there are many unanswered questions that remain. One of the most significant and that cannot be answered fully is "Why?" And more specifically, why did God allow this happen? I don't know if anyone has an answer to that one or will ever have an answer to that one.

One thing I do know is that we take all of these unanswered questions to God. I'd like to offer a brief prayer of comfort and peace as we try to make sense of senseless acts of violence and murder.

"Heavenly Father, I ask you to bring comfort and peace to your people now. For those directly impacted by the shootings in Buffalo, New York and Uvalde, Texas, we ask for an extra measure of your grace for the grieving families and friends. It

says in Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." We pray that you will allow grace and mercy to guard the hearts and minds of those who are dealing with the aftermath of the shock and horror of the sudden deaths of their loved ones. May they feel the comfort of your presence especially when they need it the most.

For our nation God we pray that you would have mercy on us. We need your mercy now more than ever before. We need your mercy to protect us from dangers seen and unseen; from those who plan to harm us and our loved ones. Remind us of the truth in 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will

I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land." Show us how to turn from our wicked ways and position ourselves so that we are no longer arrogant or proud. Allow our stubborn knees to bend so that we can once again hear from you. We need our nation and the world to heal from the violence, anger, rage, hate and murder that seem to have overtaken us. Let love and compassion for our fellow humans prevail over evil. Let us see the manifestation of the power of your transformative love. Amen and Amen!

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

Perfecting holiness in the fear of God

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



In Jeremiah 24:7 God, speaking through the Prophet Jeremiah, said, "And I will give them an heart to know Me, that I am the Lord: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto Me with their whole heart." God identifies His people.

To be the Church of God, we must be a separate people. John wrote in 1 John 2:15, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." In 2 Corinthians 6:17 the Apostle Paul said, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean things; and I will receive you." Then he said in 2 Corinthians 7:1, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

We may not always see everything exactly alike, but we must have the right spirit. We must be washed and made clean and set apart for Him.

God does a work within the heart with old-time salvation, and thank God when we get that salvation, we will have His spirit. His spirit will work in bringing us to perfection through sanctification and will set us apart completely.

The Holy Spirit must collaborate with us in leading and guiding us into all truth. To be the Church of God, there is only one spirit, one Lord, one faith and

one baptism. We must be able to work with that one spirit. The spirit must have something to work with from us.

I thank God for a people who have the right spirit. There is no way that we can go to heaven with a wrong spirit. Some people do not have the right spirit. We can have strength to endure things in the right spirit.


We cannot have real unity with a spirit of division; that spirit of unity is not there when we have a divisive spirit. I cannot be against a brother, and he be against me and both of us have the right spirit. I am glad for the Spirit of God that enables us to have the right spirit.

David said in Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." This means that he had the wrong spirit. Unforgiveness and bitterness are bad spirits. Also, faultfinding is a contrite spirit; it is a pharisaical spirit (hypocritically self-righteous and reproachful). We do not have to run around with an old-picky spirit. We should want to see the good in individuals.

God wants us to come out of confusion. This is the reason, He said to come out of Babylon. To be the church, we must walk in the light as God reveals it to us.

Do we know why some people do not have the strength to be Church of God? They are not willing to walk in the light as they see it. Why? They love darkness more than they do light. Many people will not accept the Bible standard because they love darkness rather than light.

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




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Gun Safety and Public Safety: We should not tolerate continued inaction

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



The mass killings at the elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, 10 days after the white supremacist killings in Buffalo, New York, are further evidence of how deeply our society is broken, and how urgently we need to figure out how to begin fixing it.

The slaughter of so many young children and two of their teachers is shocking at a human level. It is absolutely gutting to me as a parent of school-aged children. Millions of us send our kids off to school every day, trying to set aside the knowledge gnawing at our insides that our school and our kids could be next.

It should be unimaginable, and in most countries it is. But it is not unimaginable in our country. It is so not unimaginable that we subject our young children to the trauma of live shooter drills. We make teachers responsible for preparing students to deal with what too many of our policymakers have decided is not worth trying to prevent.

A decade ago, after the slaughter

of elementary school students and educators at Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut, most Republican senators used filibuster rules to block passage of a bill to require background checks for all gun purchases. That is about the least we could do to try to limit gun violence. It is supported by huge majorities of Americans, including most gun owners.

We see similarly misplaced priorities at the state level. According to news reports, the killings in Uvalde were the fifth major mass shooting in the state during Gov. Greg Abbott's tenure. After previous mass killings, Texas Republicans have weakened gun regulations. In 2015, Abbott urged Texans to buy more guns, tweeting that he was "embarrassed" that the state was falling behind California in gun purchases. Just last year, Abbott signed legislation to loosen gun restrictions, making it possible for Texans to carry handguns without any license or training.

This is a virtual invitation to increased gun violence.

These recent shootings come at a time when violence is increasingly being normalized and justified by irresponsible leaders.

This column was written one

day after the murders in Uvalde, on the two-year anniversary of the police killing of George Floyd, a reminder that black Americans are all too familiar with the threat that "routine" interactions with police can turn deadly.

In response to widespread protests against Floyd's killing, extremists mobilized armed mobs with false fearmongering claims that "antifa" and Black Lives Matter activists were planning to ransack suburbs and small towns. Far right-wing activists also insist that the Second Amendment allows private ownership of even the most powerful military weapons, so that they can be turned against a "tyrannical" government.

We are also just days away from congressional hearings on the violent Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. We will hear about extremists in the so-called Stop the Steal movement who threatened civil war if Trump did not stay in power. In spite of Republican efforts to sabotage the investigation, we will learn more about the crimes that led to that day's deadly violence.

And the violent rhetoric goes on: Trump himself recently used his own social media platform to am-

plify a self-identified MAGA activist's prediction of – or call for – civil war. That is utterly irresponsible.

Scholars have identified the kind of polarization taking place in our country, and the kind of diminished commitment to democracy we have seen among Trump Republicans, as predictors of a country's vulnerability to civil war.

For families who lost loved ones in Buffalo and Uvalde, and for the many communities that have been scarred by mass murder, it may feel like that war has already arrived. That suffering would be multiplied beyond measure if the extremists calling for civil war in our country get their wish.

We should not tolerate the slightest encouragement for that kind of catastrophe from political leaders, including the former commander in chief. And we should not tolerate continued inaction on the violence that stalks our streets and schools.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. A New York Times best-selling author, his next book "Never Forget Our People Were Always Free" will be published by Harper Collins in December 2022.

Together we can make a difference

By Cheryl Smith
*Publisher of I Messenger Media
Texas Metro News*



Just as we must accept that with life there will be death, we must realize just as there is joy, there will be pain!

As I sat in a crowded room I listened intently to men and women who were really frustrated and fed up.

I didn't even attempt to understand what they were saying because there was a serious language barrier, but that didn't stop me from having the most unsettling feeling in the pit of my stomach.

Speaker after speaker addressed Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia and City Council member Omar Narvaez, sharing their thoughts about how the Korean American community was concerned, fearful and upset and they wanted assurances that their businesses and homes would be protected.

At the Dallas Police Department/Korean American Safety Town Hall Meeting Monday night, you didn't have to speak the language to know the feelings that were dominating the room.

These citizens gathered in the wake of three racially motivated shootings at Korean-owned and operated businesses and they wanted answers.

Admittedly, the meeting was a bit much for me that evening as I had been listening to Roland Martin Unfiltered on the Black Star Network earlier in the evening and the candid discussion and viewing of tapes of a racist gunman who opened fire in a Buffalo, N.Y. supermarket, killing 11-10 of whom were black.

What was equally disturbing was video of the gunman turning his assault rifle on a white person before apologizing and moving on to another black target.

This continued violence with mass shootings occurring from Sacramento to New York with some racially motivated and others just the act of mindless, lost souls, weighs heavily on so many.

Hasn't it been enough that in this country alone we have lost over a million to COVID 19-related illnesses and still today, despite a relaxing of measures, the deaths continue to be reported on a daily basis?

For many, the past two years have been overwhelming and according to the Mayo Clinic, "during the COVID-19 pandemic, you may experience stress, anxiety, fear, sadness and loneliness. And mental health disorders, including anxiety and depression, can worsen."

They also offer self-care strategies like taking care of your body; getting enough sleep, avoiding tobacco, alcohol and drugs; limiting screen time; and relaxing; to cope.

All the issues we're dealing with today make coping harder and more stressful.

It seems like my entire life there has been a war of some kind, even if it is only in my head. We constantly have something or someone attacking our very existence.

The town hall meeting didn't produce anything new.

Theirs was a story I have heard so many times before. The faces and the ethnicities change but the pain and grief is still the same.

Which brings me to my truth: For some reason, I honestly don't believe we were put on this earth to live and die in isolation. Our time on this earth was meant to spend with others; to experience the joys of the world, and the pains – but not alone.

So, as we experience life, it is imperative that we don't do it in a vacuum, that we become engaged and involved; that we live each day to its fullest. We can begin by caring about others because if we don't, when we look up during our triumphs and challenges we might find ourselves alone.

If you've been all about yourself, change now. From this day forward, get up and get out and get involved and be there for others, so that no one is alone.

Leaders, do you really care that American citizens are hurting right now?

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



Pain and suffering have become unwelcomed companions to we the citizens in this country. Our beloved nation is tormented and tortured. The shootings in America have overwhelmed us. The disregard for human life and the murders have torn us apart physically and emotionally. Crying our tears has left us drained and distraught.

Is there no let up? Is there no relief that we can get?

Shootings and killings are now becoming commonplace. They are happening so frequently that we have become almost numb to them. Breaking news about these acts of violence have become everyday news. We are horrified and terrified about them when they happen.

We think that the terror in them will prevent the next one from occurring. Unfortunately, that is what we use to think. Now, we

are just waiting, and sadly anticipating the next one to happen.

We are slowly becoming a country of guns and killings. America, can we do better? Is the slope too steep for us to climb to get us back on track?

Have our morals and sensibilities left us? Has rational thinking gone on a permanent hiatus? When will we get sick enough and disgusted enough to demand a change? Will we keep this passive attitude until it affects our house?

Instead of always thinking about bearing arms, we should be up in arms about these acts of immorality.

On Tuesday, May 24, children left their homes in Uvalde, Texas going to school. The teachers greeted their students and their day started. This date would be a fateful and deadly day at Robb Elementary School. It would be the last day on earth for 19 children and 2 teachers.

They were shot and killed by a lone gunman with an automatic weapon.

The shooter, Salvador Ramos,

recently turned 18 years old. That is the legal age for purchasing guns in the state of Texas. According to reports Ramos bought two AR platform rifles and 375 rounds of 5.56 caliber ammunition.

This purchase by him is incomprehensible to me. Does the seller simply let this guy go ahead and make the purchase without contacting the authorities? Is the sale so important to the seller? Is there no thinking involved as to why a young man would need this type of firepower?

The police in Uvalde, Texas shot the killer. He is dead so we will never know any details about why he did it.

As reports come out, citizens at the scene have questioned the slow response by the police to act. There was a reluctance to move in the direction of the shooter. Opinions and reasons vary as to why it took law enforcement so long to confront Ramos.

Uvalde School District police chief, Pedro Arredondo, made the decision not to enter the area where the shooter was.

Col. Steven McGraw, Texas Department of Public Safety said that the official made the wrong decision. He didn't mention Arredondo's name during the press conference held Friday.

Governor Greg Abbott of Texas is rightfully upset about matters related to this case and about the school district's police chief.

He said, "As far as his employment status is concerned, that's something that is beyond my control, and I have no knowledge about."

Guns in America are too accessible. That is a fact. People are buying them with minimum background checks. That is a fact. Weapons used for mass killings are readily available. That is a fact.

Those in power, especially in the United States Senate must enact stronger gun laws. Until they act, these killings won't stop.

Listen to America and pass stronger gun legislation. We are in a stupor of grief and sadness. It doesn't have to be this way.

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Advertisement for RFPS
RFP 2022-16 Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) for Finance and Human Resources
RFP 2022-17 Student Information System (SIS)

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFPs will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), June 09, 2022 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs are opened.

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

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

5/26/2022, 6/2/2022

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To: All Private Commercial Property Owners located in the LeFleur East Business Improvement District (BID)

Date: June 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Jackson City Hall, Council Chambers, 219 S. President Street

Purpose: The public hearing will be held to discuss the creation of a LeFleur East Business Improvement District, it's proposed plan and receive comment about the process for accepting or rejecting the plan. This hearing is pursuant to Mississippi Code, Section 21-43-117.

The BID contains all of the non-residentially zoned and commercially taxable properties within the portion of the City of Jackson bounded starting at the Pearl River and Lakeland Drive and extending westward towards Interstate 55, the commercial properties north and south of Lakeland Drive until Interstate 55 (Lakeland corridor). From I-55 and Lakeland Drive extending northward, the commercial properties east and west, generally one parcel removed from I-55 until Canton Mart Rd. (I-55 corridor). Also included are the commercial properties along Old Canton Rd and extending westward to I-55 between Meadowbrook Rd and Canton Mart Rd. For actual parcel listing, see map filed with the Jackson City Clerk.

On April 13, 2022, a petition signed by over 20% of the BID property owners was delivered to the City of Jackson.

This public hearing is the next step in the process. Following the public hearing, an election date will be set within sixty (60) days.

6/2/2022, 6/9/2022

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Advertisement for Bid
Bid 3209 Classroom Audio Enhancement

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), June 13, 2022 at which time and place they will be publicly opened. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

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

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

5/26/2022, 6/2/2022

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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 precondition 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

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding Advertisement for Re-Bid 3210 Newell Field Renovations

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning this project will be held at 800 Riverside Dr, Jackson, MS 39202 on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpstdm-projects.com. A \$500.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Preston Mckay at M3A Architecture, 4880 Mc-Willie Circle, Jackson, MS 39206, Phone: 601-981-1227, or Email: pmckay@m3aarch.com.

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

6/2/2022, 6/9/2022

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP
RFP 2022-18 A Core Phonics Program for K-2 and 3-8

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), June 14, 2022 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs are opened.

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

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

5/26/2022, 6/2/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE REQUESTING THE SUBMISSION OF STATEMENTS OF INTERESTS BY VENDORS INTERESTED IN PERFORMING WORK TO REMEDY PROPERTY CONDITIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF JACKSON CONSTITUTING A MENACE TO PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY AND WELFARE

The City of Jackson is requesting the submission of statements of interests from persons, firms, corporations, joint ventures, partnerships, or other entities interested in performing work to remedy conditions on property which have been adjudicated a menace to public health, safety, and welfare. The work is anticipated to be performed during the years 2022-2023 and may consist of the cutting of grass and weeds, removal of rubbish and debris, draining of cesspools, and the removal of dilapidated structures and buildings. Other work which remedies conditions constituting a menace to public health, safety, and welfare may also be performed.

All statements of interests must be submitted on the City of Jackson's prescribed form and must be submitted in a sealed envelope along with the required proof of liability insurance coverage to the City of Jackson's municipal clerk on or before June 21, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. Only persons, firms, corporations, joint ventures, partnerships, and entities submitting the required statement of interest will be eligible to participate in procurement for the years 2022-2023.

The prescribed Statement of Interest Form will be available for pickup and completion in the Office of the City Clerk beginning on June 6, 2022.

Mailing Address:
City Clerk
Post Office Box 17
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

6/2/2022, 6/9/2022

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN RE THE DISSOLUTION OF THE
TESTAMENTARY TRUST CREATED
BY THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
OF VIOLA E. LAKE, DECEASED

CAUSE# _____

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO ANY AND ALL PERSONS HAVING AN INTEREST
IN "THAT BLOCK OF LAND DESCRIBED AS BOUNDED
BY CAPITOL STREET, ROSE STREET, GRAND AVENUE
AND ARMANDALE STREET CONTAINING 5 ACRES MORE OR LESS
AND being described in an instrument of conveyance from Robert Lake, Executor of
the Estate of Viola Lake to the City of Jackson recorded in
Book 800 at Pages 555-558 of the Hinds County Chancery Court land records

The City of Jackson has filed a Petition to Dissolve the Testamentary Trust and for Other
Relief in the Hinds County Chancery Court, which seeks to dissolve the testamentary trust
created by the Last Will and Testament of Viola Lake. The Petition also requests that the Court declare the restraint on alienation of the property void and authorize the sell and disposal of
the property.

You may object to the petition or assert any claim or interest within thirty (30) days of the first publication of this Summons by Publication. If an objection is filed or a claim or interest asserted, it should be filed with the clerk of the Hinds County Chancery Court, and a copy of same should be mailed to counsel representing the City of Jackson at Post Office Box 2779, Jackson MS 39207-2779.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this Court on this the 11th day of March 2022.

Eddie Jean Carr, Chancery Clerk

By _____, DC

5/19/2022, 5/26/2022 6/2/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4177

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Whitney Place, LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from UV Urban Village (Mixed Use) and R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential to UTC - Urban Town Center (Mixed Use) to allow for potential higher density residential and/or mixed use development and a Use Permit for accessory parking on properties located at 510, 518 & 524 Mitchell Ave. and 3012, 3016, 3024, 3032, 3038 & 3046 Oxford Ave. (Parcels: 51-142-1, 51-142, 51-141, 51-143-1, 51-143-2, 51-143-3, 51-143-4, 51-143-5 & 51-144). in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

510 Mitchell Ave. (51-142-1)

Lot 7, Block G of Asylum Heights Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book /Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 30 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being part of the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 7147 at Page 724.

518 Mitchell Ave. (51-142)

Lot 6, Block G, Asylum Heights Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book /Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 30 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

524 Mitchell Ave. (51-141)

Lot 4, Block "G" of Asylum Heights Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book /Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 30 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

and,

Lot 5, Block "G" of Asylum Heights Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book /Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 30 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

3012 Oxford Ave. (51-143-1)

Lot 9, Block "G" of Asylum Heights Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book /Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 30 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being part of the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 7147 at Page 0727.

3016 Oxford Ave. (51-143-2)

Lots 10 and 13, Block "G" of Asylum Heights Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book /Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 30 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being part of the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 7150 at Page 2193.

3024 Oxford Ave. (51-143-3)

Lot 11, Block "G" of Asylum Heights Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book /Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 30 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being the same property described in warranty deed recorded in Book 5525 at Page 703.

3032 Oxford Ave. (51-143-4)

Lot 12, Block "G" of Asylum Heights Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book /Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 30 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being part of the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 7150 at Page 2193.

3038 Oxford Ave. (51-143-5)

Lots 10 and 13, Block "G" of Asylum Heights Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book /Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 30 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being part of the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 7150 at Page 2193.

3046 Oxford Ave. (51-144)

Lot Fourteen (14), Block "G" of Asylum Heights Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of the Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to which map or plat is hereby made.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO JUNE 15, 2022.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of May 2022.

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

6/2/2022, 6/16/2022



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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

		1	8	4				5
2		4				6		
	5	8					3	
4			6	5				
				9				
	3							7
	8		2		6	5		3
		5	3	8		2		
7								

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Sudoku Solution

3	6	1	8	4	7	9	2	5
2	7	4	9	3	5	6	1	8
9	5	8	1	6	2	7	3	4
4	9	7	6	5	1	3	8	2
8	1	2	7	9	3	4	5	6
5	3	6	4	2	8	1	9	7
1	8	9	2	7	6	5	4	3
6	4	5	3	8	9	2	7	1
7	2	3	5	1	4	8	6	9

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LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSAL FOR JAN CONCESSION BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY PROJECT NO. 016-22

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking electronic proposals ("Proposal") for development and operation of three (3) Food & Beverage Concessions locations at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN).

Sealed Proposals to perform the services will be accepted at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 (the "Proposal Deadline"). Proposal shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Email: bids@jmaa.com

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

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) Attention: Marvin Buckhalter, Director of Procurement; (ii) the wording: "JAN Concession, Project No. 016-22." If the submission is submitted via email, the identification information must be provided in the email subject line. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

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

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

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

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

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 10:00am (CST) using the following login information:

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

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095
Passcode: 520966

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

JMAA has established an ACDBE participation goal of 26% for this RFP, twenty (20) points are potentially available to Respondents submitting an acceptable minority participation proposal for the Services.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Date: June 1, 2022

John A. Means, Interim Chief Executive Officer

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Jackson, Mississippi is considering Amendment Number 1 to its 2018 One-Year Action Plan and Amendment Number 4 to the 2019 One-Year Action Plan of the Consolidated Plan by:



1. Decreasing funding in the amount of \$500,000 from a City-wide Infrastructure project in the 2019 Action Plan. This change will completely defund the City-wide Infrastructure project.
2. Decreasing funding in the amount of \$100,000 from a Demolition project in the 2018 Action Plan. This change will completely defund the Demolition project.
3. Increasing funding for the Fire Department Equipment and Rehabilitation Project already identified in the 2019 Action Plan in the amount of \$624,433.18.

These amendments are necessary to ensure that funding is expended in a timely manner and to provide funding for essential equipment to ensure that appropriate fire response is provided in low- and moderate-income areas in the City of Jackson.


If anyone would like to ask questions or make comments on these proposed amendments, they should email them to OHCD@jacksonms.gov. The City is required to provide a 30-day comment period on all proposed amendments to our one-year action plans, therefore, the comment period will begin on Thursday June 2, 2022 and comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., Saturday July 2, 2022.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, unless there are objections from the general public, this Amendment will be considered adopted, however, if there are any objections from the public, these objections will be presented to the City Council for consideration prior to the adoption of the Amendment.

6/2/2022



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Employment

The Greenwood Convention and Visitors Bureau is requesting proposals from organizations with expertise in recruitment, and assistance with placement of an executive director vacancy. Prospective firms should have a minimum of five years experience of working with organizations in filling administrative and executive positions. Proposals should be no more than five pages in length and contain the following (1) Organizational Background (2) Approach to Search and Recruitment (3) Approach to Assistance with Candidate Selection and (4) Three Client References. Cutoff date is June 10, 2022. Please send to CVBGreenwood@gmail.com or mail to Greenwood Convention and Visitors Bureau P.O. Box 739 Greenwood, MS 38935. c/o Andrew McQueen, Board Chair

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Week of May 29, 2022

News you can use: MS-CNPP is on the move to help your small business grow

Special to The Mississippi Link

The nation celebrated National Small Business Week, May 1-7. Many organizations observed the vital importance of small businesses throughout the month.

In addition to its weekly small business trainings, the Community Students Learning Center's (CSLC) Mississippi – Community Navigation Pilot Program (CNPP)'s Mississippi Opportunities for a Vital Economy (MOVE) project continued the celebration Tuesday, May 31, with a Virtual Small Business Outreach. It used the national theme: "Building a Better America Through Entrepreneurship."

"We are not culminating the observance, we are continuing to show our gratitude to small businesses, and we want to let you on the call know that we are here to help," said Antwan Clark, MS-CNPP MOVE project director.

Clark welcomed the attendees and the featured presenter, Rickey Jones, director of Jackson State University Small Business Development Center. He also gave an overview of the CNPP which is funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) under the Biden/Harris Administration.

"Our CNPP goal is to pro-



vide small business owners and potential business owners with the resources needed to start, sustain, and expand their businesses," Clark said.

That goal is in line with what President Biden stated in his proclamation of National Small Business Week.

Note this excerpt from the President Biden's Proclamation: "... Even with the creativity and resilience of small business owners and workers, COVID-19 took an incalculable toll on so many lives and livelihoods. That is why I made it a

top priority to provide substantial, immediate relief to our Nation's small businesses, giving them the tools, resources, and support they needed to reopen, rehire, and rebuild."

During the seminar, Jones, a certified business counselor, presented a "deep dive" of the free services the JSU Small Business Development Center provides. He said he was pleased to collaborate with CSLC's efforts in navigating businesses to the resources they need.

"The opportunity to serve as

presenter was tremendous," said Jones. "Today's small business owners have many obstacles to navigate: high inflation, worker shortages, changing technology, etc. The program provided a platform for outlining resources available to assist small businesses in developing their business plan, financial projections, marketing strategies, etc. Many thanks to the CNPP"

The CSLC, which is a CNPP hub, and its spokes (partners) are the 'boots on the ground' that will connect Mississippi small businesses to critical re-

sources including: financial assistance and access to capital; contracting and procurement; marketing, operations, business development and exporting; and industry-specific training.

MS-CNPP spokes include the following entities: North Central Planning and Development District (NCPDD); WEM Consulting Group, LLC; Knowledge Info, LLC; Carson Consulting, LLC; Fresh Start Enterprise LLC; BOLO Works, LLC; Ad Astra Consulting LLC; TIER Institute, LLC; and others.



Antwan Clark



Ricky Jones

According to the President's Proclamation, "Today, more than 32 million small businesses employ almost half of America's workforce and represent the heart and soul of countless communities."

If you need to take advantage of the MS-CNPP, contact Executive Director Beulah Greer or Project Director Antwan Clark at (662) 834-0905 or email them at beulahgreer@bellsouth.net or antwanclark@bellsouth.net. Use subject: Need MS-CNPP Assistance.

Judge dismisses lawsuit over citizenship check for voting

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

A federal judge Tuesday dismissed a lawsuit accusing Mississippi of using a discriminatory proof-of-citizenship requirement for some new voters under a law dating back to the Jim Crow era.

The dismissal came weeks after the state repealed a 1924 law that required naturalized citizens, but not people born in the U.S., to provide proof of citizenship when registering to vote.

A new law enacted in its place has also drawn opposition but is being grudgingly accepted by voting rights groups who say it ultimately should protect naturalized citizens from being incorrectly marked as noncitizens when they register to vote.

The Secretary of State had been running names of potential new voters through a state Department of Public Safety database of people with Mississippi driver's licenses and identification cards. Voting rights advocates said this practice disproportionately hurt people of color by flagging them as possible noncitizens.



Rob McDuff, Attorney for the MS Center for Justice

The new law says that if the public safety database raises questions about citizenship, the potential new voter's name must be run through a federal immigration database. Groups that advocate for voting rights and immigrants' rights said the federal database provides a safeguard to protect naturalized citizens from being incorrectly marked as noncitizens when

they register to vote.

"We would prefer that there be no database matching," Rob McDuff, an attorney for the Mississippi Center for Justice said in a news release Tuesday. "There is no problem in Mississippi with non-citizens trying to vote. But given that the Secretary of State created such a database matching program, (the new law) makes the

situation better and decreases the number of erroneous non-matches."

Two groups, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the Mississippi Center for Justice, sued the state in 2019 on behalf of the Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance and the League of Women Voters of Mississippi.

"No state in the United States other than Mississippi subjects naturalized citizens to a higher proof-of-citizenship requirement for voter registration than U.S.-born citizens," the lawsuit said.

On Tuesday, the plaintiffs and the defendants, including the secretary of state's office, both asked U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves to dismiss the suit. He quickly granted the request.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves signed House Bill 1510 on April 14, and it became law immediately. He said it "ensures that only American citizens are able to vote in Mississippi."

"There will be those on the left who will claim that we are making it harder for American citizens to vote," the governor said in a video posted to so-

cial media. "Those claims are false."

Ezra Rosenberg of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law said in the news release Tuesday that naturalized citizens should not be targeted for unequal treatment.

"Their patriotism deserves to be honored, not punished," Rosenberg said. "The addition of this new safeguard will help prevent naturalized citizens from being erroneously blocked from registering to vote through no fault of their own."

The final version of House Bill 1510 passed the Mississippi House 114-5 with broad bipartisan support. It passed the Senate 38-13, with most Democrats opposed.

In signing the law, Tate Reeves criticized New York City, which enacted a local law in January to let noncitizens vote in its municipal elections but not state or federal elections. He said, "radical activists" pushed to open the ballot box to about 800,000 noncitizens there. New York has the largest population of any U.S. city, about 8.8 million.

More than a dozen communi-

ties across the U.S. allow non-citizens to vote in local elections, including 11 towns in Maryland and two in Vermont."

"We're not going to allow liberals, whether they're in New York or Washington, D.C., to tell us how to run our local elections," the governor said.

The new Mississippi law says that if the state and federal databases both raise questions about a person's citizenship status, the circuit clerk must give notice. The person would have 30 days to prove citizenship with a birth certificate, a U.S. passport or naturalization documents.

The law says if the person fails to prove citizenship within 30 days, their name will be marked "pending" in the Statewide Elections Management System until the next federal general election. That person could cast a provisional ballot during that federal election but would have to prove citizenship within five days for the vote to count. If the person does not vote in that federal election, their name would be marked "rejected" in the Statewide Elections Management System.



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JSU unveils new sports facility honoring the historic legacy of W.C. and Vivian Gorden



President Hudson emphasizing the importance of the occasion and honoring the legacy of coach Gorden.



Vivian Gorden receives dedication in honor of her late husband, W.C. Gorden and extend sincere gratitude towards Jackson State family.



The unveiling of the newly built lecture theater dedicated to W.C. and Vivian Gorden. CHARLES A. SMITH/UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

By Kyle Kidd
The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson State University (JSU) President Thomas K. Hudson, J.D. and Interim VP for Institutional Advancement Gwendolyn Caples gathered with family, friends, and long-time JSU supporters, to assist in unveiling the newly designed athletic lecture theater dedicated to the historic legacy of JSU head coach W.C. Gorden and his wife, Vivian Gorden.

The naming dedication of the theater serves as a prime example of the rich legacy and foundation JSU has cultivated through honoring traditions and utilizing the past victories to inform the future endeavors of the institution.

"Naming opportunities allows Jackson State to publicly recognize its major benefactors in order to increase fundraising efforts and foster long last-

ing relationships to continue the legacy of challenging minds and changing lives," said Constance Lawson, executive director of Major & Planned Gifts, Division of Institutional Advancement.

During Gorden's tenure over 15 seasons at JSU, he led the Tigers to eight SWAC championships and nine FCS playoff appearances. In 2019, ESPN named Gorden among the 150 greatest coaches in college football history. While the accomplishments of Gorden speaks volumes to his exemplary leadership and vision for JSU, all in attendance agreed that his greatest support was found in his loving wife of 62 years, Vivian.

Hudson extended deep gratitude to the generosity and kindness of the Gorden family to the entire JSU community who benefited greatly from both academic and athletic excellence established by coach Gorden's

investment.

"You cannot be a Jacksonian and a JSU fan and not know who W.C. Gorden is. That legacy continues today. We see it in that beautiful red block logo and we see it in academic excellence that continues now in our current student athletes," said Hudson. "Thank you for your investment in Jackson State, for your trust in us and in our students."

Overwhelmed with gratitude and astonishment, Mrs. Gorden, a longtime donor and JSU alumna, reflected on her road to discovering JSU and embarking upon an unforgettable journey with her life partner whom she affectionately called her best friend.

"Never in my wildest imagination did I think I would be standing here today from 1953. When I stepped on this campus... everything has changed and naturally I have changed," said Mrs.

Gorden. "I would like to thank you for honoring us today. I just wish my husband could be here in person, but Lord knows he's here."

During the time of his transition into collegiate coaching, Gorden also found himself entering into a new season personally, now having an expanding family to also nurture and support. Mrs. Gorden, who also served as a longtime Jackson Public School educator, attributed the success of their personal and professional endeavors to community, resiliency and a deep devotion to one another.

"During that time, I did not know what was involved in marrying a coach...but it has been a glorious journey. Nothing is ever sweet all the time; you will have highs and lows but we made it through and persevered. This is where I am today," said Mrs. Gorden.

Obama Magnet Scholar is State Winner of Doodle for Google National Art Contest



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Third grade Obama Magnet scholar Tramaine Davis, affectionately known at TJ, is the 2022 Doodle for Google National Art Contest winner for the state of Mississippi. The school held a surprise ceremony May 25 to announce TJ as the winner for his Doodle titled Dreaming About My Favorite Things. His family, fellow classmates, and a Google representative were all in attendance to celebrate his artistic achievement.

Doodle for Google is an annual art contest open to students in grades K-12. Students are invited to create their own Google Doodle for the chance to have it featured on Google.com, as well as win scholarships and tech packages for their schools.

Doodles are meant to surprise and delight people when they visit Google.com. Past doodles have celebrated some of the most brilliant, talented and passionate people throughout history.

The Doodle for Google contest offers K-12 students an opportunity to display their own doodle creativity on Google.com and win some awesome prizes while doing it.

Fifty-four state and territory winners, such as TJ, will have their doodles featured on the Doodle for Google gallery and will receive Google hardware, a congratulatory message from Google, and fun Google swag.

To help their favorites succeed, everyone across the USA can vote for their favorite doodle from the 54 State and Territory Winners. Voting will be open from May 26 to June 3 on at: <http://doodleforgoogle.com/>

The public vote will determine the five national finalists (one in each grade group). Google will announce these five national finalists in June, one of which will have their doodle featured on the Google homepage for a day. The National Winner will take home a \$0,000 college scholarship, and their school will receive a \$0,000 tech package for the establishment or improvement of a computer lab or technology program.

The judges for this year's Doodle for Google contest are the 2021 National Teacher of the Year Juliana Urtubey; director, model, and mental health activist Elyse Fox and artist, entrepreneur and philanthropist Selena Gomez.

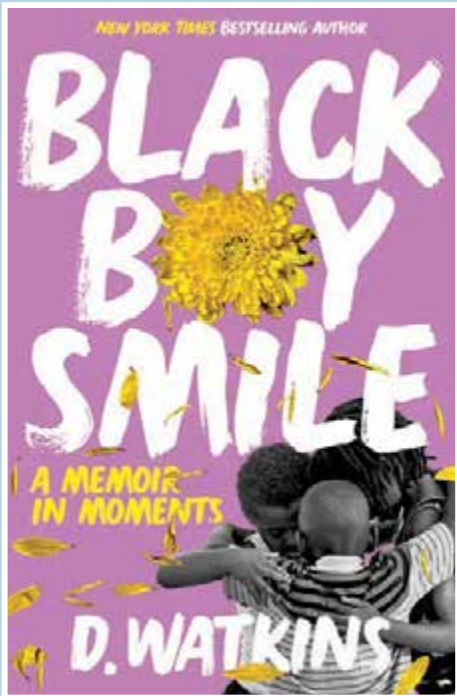


JPS announces its 2022 free Summer Feeding Program



The JPS Child Nutrition Department will be offering its free Summer Food Service Program from June 6 to July 22. Serving times for breakfast will be 8:00 a.m.- 8:45 a.m. and the serving times for lunch will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday at the locations listed below. Meals are free and must be consumed on-site. Children must be 18 years old or younger to participate.

- Blackburn Middle School, 1311 West Pearl Street
- Boyd Elementary School, 4521 Broadmeadow Drive
- Callaway High School, 601-Beasley Road
- Clausell Elementary School, 330 Harley Street
- Forest Hill High School, 2607 Raymond Road
- Isable Elementary School, 1716 Isable Street
- John Hopkins Elementary School, 170 John Hopkins Street
- Johnson Elementary School, 1339 Oak Park
- Kirksey Middle School, 5677 Highland Drive
- Lanier High School, 833 West Maple Street
- Peeples Middle School, 2940 Belvedere Drive
- Shirley Elementary School, 330 Judy Street
- Timberlawn Elementary School, 1980 North Siwell Road



BOOK REVIEW: BLACK BOY SMILE: A MEMOIR IN MOMENTS

BY D. WATKINS
C.2022, LEGACY LIT
\$27.00 • 240 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Honesty is the best policy. That’s what they say, anyhow. The truth will set you free, that’s another one. But then there are those little lies that get you by, social ones to avoid hurt, the-check-is-in-the-mail whoppers that avoid trouble, and you start to wonder about this policy thing. Sometimes, as in the new book “Black Boy Smile” by D. Watkins, lying is surviving.

It might not’ve been the first

time D. Watkins lied, but the lie he told when he was about to start school was the first one he remembers: he stood up for a friend whose Game Boy was stolen. When adults asked how D. got hurt, he didn’t tell them that a bigger boy beat him up. Instead, he said he “fell down playing basketball.”

He didn’t want to go away to summer camp when he was 9. He didn’t want to leave his friends in his east Baltimore neighborhood, but his mother lied and said his cousins

were going. At camp, he lied to get into the cabin where he thought his cousins would be, and he lied about being experienced with girls. When he left, he was overjoyed to escape, but not before lying about returning the following year.

He lied for his father, when they couldn’t get a “hack” to take them home on a rainy night. He denied that his father was a junkie, knowing that his dad was shooting up. He said he was “straight” (meaning all good) when his cousin

was murdered, but he was devastated inside. He omitted the fact that he was dealing drugs when he spoke with his dad later. He lied to women, he fibbed to friends, he lied to his mother, to a nurse, and to himself.

And then someone left him a book that changed his life. He discovered things about himself that pointed him in a direction he wanted to go. He met a woman who loved him and taught him to love. And though he didn’t totally give

up sins of omission, he learned the unpolished truth about telling mistruths.

The title of this book should give you one big clue about its content. That last word, it’s true: “Black Boy Smile” will make you smile, too.

Reading this memoir is like going through a pile of pictures with author D. Watkins. Here’s a snapshot, taken when he was small. Here’s a bunch, taken his summer at camp and boy, that was wild. Here he is as a teen, a friend, a drug dealer.

Early tales invite readers to laugh at the typical-kid-ness of it all; later ones make us shake our heads at what might’ve happened and the lies that kept it all going. Each is told in a relaxed manner that lets readers know that not all lies lead to bad things.

Without being a spoiler, that’s something you can count on. Don’t peek ahead, but “Black Boy Smile” has the sweet kind of ending you want in a memoir, and that’s the honest truth.

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Meredith Coleman McGee signs 9th book – Every Inch Love Will – a hit at Barnes & Noble

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

These days, noted author, Meredith Coleman McGee, is traveling to sites and signing her 9th book, *Every Inch Love Will*. Several weeks ago, she was at Book Gallery in Greenville from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. On Saturday, May 28, she was at Barnes & Noble in Ridgeland from 12 noon to 5:15 p.m. On both occasions the author reaped smashing book sales.

Every Inch Love Will is a memoir in honor of McGee's husband, William Earl McGee Jr. The couple was married 21 years and 9 months. The author reflected on the origin of the memoir, "Our love affair lasted 23 years. Several months after losing the love of my life, I decided to write his memoir as an act of love. The day after Will passed, June 3, 2021, I posted a long Facebook expression of my pain and loss. My thought process for writing the manuscript started with that post. With his spirit dwelling in me, I wrote 40,000 words in four weeks."

McGee's targeted audience is any reader, male, female, young or old, in the world who can appreciate true love.

Patrons flocked to McGee's table and listened to her underlying message of *Every Inch Love Will*. "Through the ups and downs and the good and bad, we honored our marriage vows and were faithful to each other and our union. William Earl McGee Jr. loved every inch of his wife. Meredith Coleman McGee loved every inch of her husband and soulmate."

When asked what advice she would give to persons contemplating marriage, McGee responded: "I think couples should seek counseling and take a look at their shared values, their differences and their finances...With everything there should be balance. Couples need an emergency fund. I advise couples to live



McGee dialogs about her latest book, *Every Inch Love WILL*



McGee and 4th grader Iyanu B. Carson, a Casey Elementary student

within their means. My uncle advised me to drive a Toyota before driving a Cadillac."

Conversations emerged as the young and old alike were amazed by the words flowing from McGee's mouth. Teens were requesting that their parents purchase the book. Adults expressed to McGee the need for them to get her book and her autograph. Others requested a picture with McGee.

A few sceptics gradually approached the table and struck up conversations. Some returned momentarily to get a copy of *Every Inch Love Will*.

Among reactions about *Every Inch Love Will* from those who attended the Barnes & Noble book signing are the following.

"Although I am young and considered a very young reader, I can say that I have already read a few memoirs. Nothing compares to this one though. Miss Meredith has done an amazing job in telling the story. The book is easy to read and very interesting. I learned about places right here in my own backyard of Jackson, Miss. I learned about many organizations designed to help African Americans not only here, but in other states as

well. Miss Meredith and her husband were definitely a match made in heaven."

Iyanu B. Carson (age 9, 4th grade, Casey Elementary School)

"[The book depicts what I first saw in Will and Meredith]. They were a lovely couple. They were holding hands and hugging. I thought, 'Wow! They're like two lovebirds, always smiling at each other. I'd say that they were soulmates. They were a couple that radiated good karma, and [they were] a pleasure to be around,'" said Lois M. Quichocho (adult)

McGee had onsite 9 of her books, but the *Every Inch Love Will* book soared highest in sales at Barnes & Noble.

Following is a complete list of the author's books: *Midnight Moon*; *Every Inch Love Will*; *Odyssey*; *Nashida*; *Visits Old Capitol Museum*; *James Meredith: Warrior and the America that Created him*; *Nashida: Visits the Smith Robertson Museum*; *Nashida: Visits the Mississippi State Capitol*; *Married to Sin*; *My Picture Dictionary* and *My First Book Series*.

Meredith Coleman McGee can be reached @ www.meredithetc.com, 601-372-0229 or 1052 Maria Court, Jackson, MS 39204.



Children with books purchased from Barnes & Noble.



Mcgee and patrons in the bookstore

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

Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified EP 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)"

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- * Mental Health
- * Disability
- * Literacy
- * Leadership Development
- * Limited Transportation

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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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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

On May 17, 2022, Hinds County School District hosted an ELL (English Language Learner) Parent Night at Raymond High School. The attendance was great. We also had two graduates from the Hinds County School District who benefit from this cause.



Gary Road Intermediate had a Field Day filled with fun activities for all classes.



The Belmont Baptist Church invited the coaching staff and the Raymond High School basketball team to worship service and gave them a check for \$7,192.00 to purchase their championship rings. The Basketball Booster Club donated \$1,000 toward the cause and Belmont membership provided the rest.

