

# An AMEC bishop and a Baptist preacher ‘lock arms’ to celebrate Juneteenth

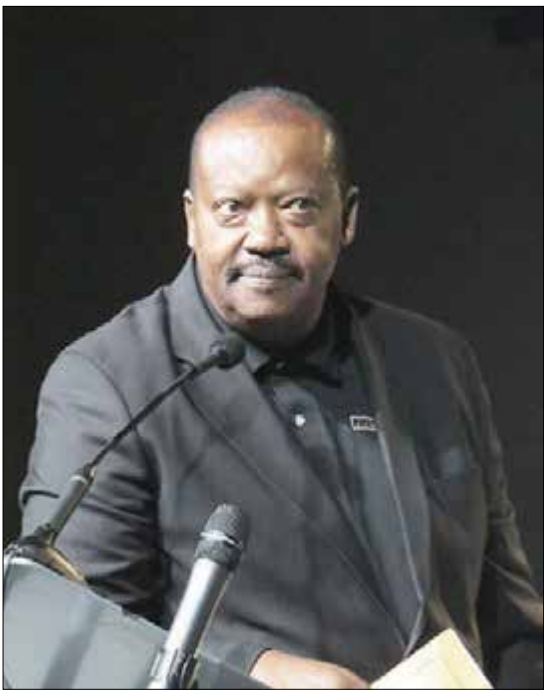
## More than 1000 turned out for the Saturday morning downtown Jackson event

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

While many may have slept in Saturday morning, June 18, more than 1,000 ecumenical leaders, congregation members and others gathered at 10 a.m. for the 8th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) Juneteenth celebration. Held in Hall B of the Jackson Convention Center followed by a luncheon, the event attracted 1,080 attendees. “We were well pleased,” a committee member shared. The theme was titled, “Free Indeed.”

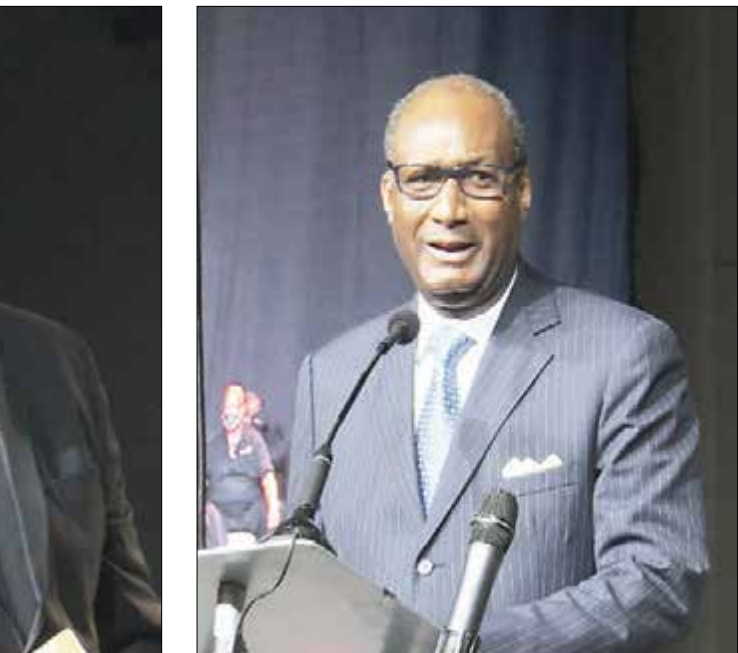
Saturday’s celebration was the vision of The Right Reverend Stafford Joe Nathan Wicker, bishop of the 8th Episcopal District since last July 2021. According to his biography, Wicker is an advocate for social justice, economic empowerment and professional development. His wife, Rev. Dr. Constance Belin Wicker, serves as Episcopal supervisor.

The celebration was unique in that a baptist preacher, Dr. Jerry Young, president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., was asked to serve as the guest preacher of an AMEC event. Young is pastor of New Hope



Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker, Presiding Prelate

Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss. As Wicker introduced Young, he said they first met a few months ago via Zoom. “In that conversation, as bishop of the 8th Episcopal District, and in his position, we agreed that we’d connect to develop a strong credit union, and second, to have a voter participation education and a voter registration effort in the life of the



Rev. Dr. Jerry Young, President of National Baptist Convention, USA delivers the message.

church that would help us all,” he said. He later met Young in person, and “found him to be one of the kindest, warmest gentlemen” he ever came in contact with. “In that meeting, we locked arms,” Wicker said. He shared that back in 1980, as a young college student at Wilberforce University, he witnessed a similar meeting

between the then president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, and the then 8th Episcopal District bishop. They, too, locked arms, he said.

[Today], “I find myself the bishop of the 8th Episcopal District, and Dr. Young’s presidency is in the same city. I see it as no better

*Juneteenth  
Continued on pages 3*

## Great turn-out at Medgar Evers Library Juneteenth celebration



Ann Sanders, branch manager of Medgar Evers Library has been organizing Juneteenth events for Jackson/ Hinds Library for many years. PHOTOS BY MALCOLM MACON

By Malcolm Macon  
Intern Writer

On June 17, 2022 in Jackson, Mississippi the Jackson/ Hinds Library System held its tenth annual Juneteenth Celebration. The event was hosted by the Medgar Evers Branch Library and organized by Branch Manager Anne Sanders. It was sponsored by the library system as well as community leaders.

The celebration took place under trees and canopies outside the library as well as inside the air conditioned building. Hundreds of children attending listened to stories read to them about African-American culture.

Floyd Council, executive director of the Jackson/ Hinds Library System, read to the children, as did Mississippi State Senator John Horhn. Handouts were passed around to the five hundred or so attendees, young and old, in order to distribute knowledge of the celebration of Juneteenth.

Attendees learned about Union General Gordon Granger arriving in Galveston, Texas with his troops where enslaved blacks would greet him and on June 19, 1865, General Orders Number 3 announced emancipation to one of the last large masses of enslaved folks to find out their enslavement was over.

Throughout the event there were numerous activities for the children to involve themselves in such as sit-down readings, puppet shows to demonstrate books, and multiple bouncy houses for the children to enjoy. Beverages and other refreshments were handed out to the children as they enjoyed the grilling cuisine from a local volunteer, Ronnie Kelly.

One of the very first Juneteenth organizers in the city local library is Anne Sanders. She has been building these events around the city

for years, before many had started to celebrate it globally. Her goal has always been to evolve the young minds of youth for their future, by allowing them to be exposed to the truths of their past.

Event speakers included Bo Brown, Mississippi House of Representatives, District 70; Vernon Hartley, Jackson City Councilman, Ward 5; Dekeither Stamps, Mississippi House of Representative District 66, Tyree Jones, Hinds County Sheriff, Ethel Mangum, executive assistant to City Councilman Kenneth Stokes, Ward 3 and Eddie James, Jackson Fire Chief.

James, who was also a sponsor of the event said, “Involvement of the children is a good look for a better tomorrow. As long as the children of the community are at this event today there is hope that the youth could continue to inspire and motivate those after them.”

Mississippi singer Lil Walter entertained the crowd with a live performance of blues and R & B classics.

Representative Brown stated, “Hats off to Ann Sanders and her staff who did a great job in putting this event together. It was fun for the children, plenty of food for the adults, great music in the shade and great speakers. I was just happy to be a part of this Juneteenth event at the Medgar Evers Library.”

James Hampton, branch manager of the Eudora Welty Library, assisted with the event. He said, “Juneteenth is an event that has been going on in the Jackson Hinds Libraries for about ten years and organized by branch manager Ann Sanders. Since I used to work at this library, every time she calls me, I come right away.”

Hampton continued, “It is such an important event culturally. We are so happy

*Library  
Continued on pages 3*

# Juneteenth Jackson Expo '22 draws crowds at New Horizon Church International

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

Juneteenth, the second day of independence, honors the end of slavery in the United States. President Joe Biden signed a bill last year that officially recognizes the occasion as a federal holiday.

The Richard Schwartz & Associates Jackson Expo presented by Atmos Energy featured a number of activities that took place on the church grounds and inside the walls of New Horizon Church International (1770 Ellis Avenue, Jackson, Miss.) in celebration of the holiday (Friday, June 17-Sunday, June 19). Crowds consisting of families, friends and curiosity-seekers came out, mingled, ate delicious food and enjoyed the festivities.

On Saturday afternoon Bishop Ronnie Crudup Sr., pastor of New Horizon Church International, officiated a Jumping the Broom ceremony for two couples who exchanged marital vows, held hands



Bishop Ronnie Crudup Sr. officiating “Jumping The Broom ceremony.” PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

and jumped over a broom to seal their union. Jumping the Broom ceremony has its origin in Ghana, West Africa.

Saturday night Grady Champion from Canton rocked the crowd

with songs such as Down Home Blues and Make That Monkey Jump. Vickie Baker from Shreveport, Louisiana sang a song she wrote entitled Got to Ride it.

It was legendary blues musician

Bobby Rush, whose concerts are slated for a mature audience, who rocked the crowd with his style of blues, rap and funk.

*New Horizon  
Continued on pages 3*





# Bentonina Blues Festival marks golden anniversary

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

The Blue Front Café was hoping as The Bentonina Blues Festival celebrated its Golden Anniversary, June 16-18, in Bentonina, Mississippi. The festival is usually held the 3rd weekend in June each year, and was founded by Jimmy “Duck” Holmes in 1972. His parents, Carey and Mary Holmes opened the cinder block juke joint in 1948, and he took over in 1970.

This year’s line-up, spread over the three days, included Red Meat Rhetoric, Shaun Marsh, McKinnley Bluesman, RL Crosby, Little Willie Farmer, R L Boyce (Bonnie Renfro), Little MS Soul, RL SuperBad, Randy “19th Street Red” Cohen, Terry “Harmonica” Bean, Ghalia Volt, Bobby Rush, Meagan May, Gordon Licciardi, Groove Johnson, Libby Rae Watson/Musician, Jesse Cotton Stone and MZ Pleshette.

Jimmy “Duck” Holmes is never far from the center of the festivities, patrolling the area in a golf-cart during the festival; watchful and subdued, despite his notoriety. Holmes has recorded nine albums for several different labels. His most recent album, Cypress Grove by Easy Eye Sound in 2019, was nominated for a Grammy in the Best Traditional Blues Album category in 2020. The other nominees in that category were Frank Bey, The Robert Cray Band, Bobby Rush and Don Bryant. Bobby Rush won for his album, Rawer Than Raw.

When I met Mr. Holmes a little over one year ago, I was astounded by his humility. From growing up picking cotton and working the family farm, to taking ownership



Blue Front Café and stage for 2022 Bentonina Blues Festival. PHOTO BY CHRIS YOUNG



Blue Front Café and adjacent Cotton Gin Building, Bentonina, MS PHOTO BY CHRIS YOUNG



Jimmy “Duck” Holmes PHOTO COURTESY of WDIO.COM

of what many claim is the oldest continuously operating juke joint in the country, he seems to wear it all like a loose garment. After we had been chatting for an hour or so, with me soaking up his knowledge like a sponge, I asked about the success of Cypress Grove, and he wanted to know what I meant. I indicated that the album was on the best seller chart, and he replied, “Somebody told me the other day that it’s #3 on Amazon.” When I indicated how incredible that is, he replied, “That’s just a part of who I am.”

When I caught up with Mr. Holmes this time, I asked how he was doing, busy with last minute

details under a sweltering ninety-seven degree heat, he said, “I’m doing fine and I’m hot.” I asked when he looks back now over the fifty year legacy of the Bentonina Blues Festival, what he thinks of most, and he replied, “Well, fifty years, festival wise, it sneaks up on you. It seems like it just started a couple years ago. And after all those years of doing it, it really feels like it’s something I’ve got to do. I just want to keep it alive for as long as I can.”

He indicated that last night a shower came in and some wind. He said, “That wind had some of these tents blowing around like a kite, a wind kite.” He indicated



Henry Stuckey and Jake Owens, founders of the Bentonina School. This is a photo of two framed photos inside the Blue Front Café.

they briefly moved the festival inside the adjacent Cotton Gin Building. He is scheduled to play a few songs on each of the three days, saying, “Not a full set, just a few songs, the people seem to like it when I do.”

He indicated that Bobby Rush is coming, and that he set aside plans he had made, just to make it to this 50th anniversary festival.

While Mississippi is the Home of the Blues, there are different regions, and they produce different types of stylings. Thick-as-mud pride and bragging rights accompany the different sounds from the Delta, Bentonina and the Hill Country.

Terry “Harmonica” Bean was asked what it means to him to be able to be here at the 50th anniversary of the Bentonina Blues Festival, he replied, “Well to be here once again means a lot. Me and Jimmy “Duck” Holmes go way back, we used to travel together to shows, Spain, France, different places. We’re just trying to keep the Mississippi Blues going.” Bean is from Pontonoc, Mississippi and plays a harmonica that’ll make a grown man cry. He has released seven albums. He indicates that after R.L. Burnside’s death in 2005, he is the last of the core of northeast Mississippi Hill Country blues players. He learned Hill Country Blues at an early age from “Mississippi” Fed McDowell.

Others who played the genre were Junior Kimbrough, Robert Belfor, Calvin Jackson and Sid Hemphill.

“Hill Country players use a much heavier percussion along with African rhythms, whereas Delta blues players play more laid-back and open-tuning a lot of times, and with a slide and a harmonica, Bean explained.”

The Bentonina School is unique and Jimmy “Duck” Holmes

learned to play it on the front porch of Henry Stuckey, a neighbor a few houses down. Holmes is the last of the Bentonina Bluesmen. Stuckey, along with Jack Owens, and Skip James were the originators of Bentonina Blues, a complex combination of tunings, chord voicing, and a minor tonality that sets it far apart from other blues forms. Other artists learned the Bentonina School and they include Booker “Bukka” White, Albert Collins, Arthur “Big Boy” Crudup, and Henry Townsend. The music of these artists has been shared the world over, with the exception of Henry Stuckey, who was never recorded.

Blues guitarist Nick Wade slid into an unadvertised lead-off slot on day 2 of the festival. He hails from Louisa, Virginia. He is working on his debut album now, and has a real affinity for older blues music and a gritty voice that goes perfectly with his acoustic picking. He played Hill Country and Bentonina Blues and mixed in an old spiritual and some ragtime. After his set I asked him what it means to him to be here, and he indicated, “It means pretty much everything to me. Music is such a big part of my life; I shouldn’t say it means everything because I have a family like everyone else, but being here is as good as it gets. I’ve studied the masters and to come here and hear the real thing instead of off a record is mind-expanding for me.”

And so it goes at the Blue Front Café, with an exceptionally rare and humble man – world traveler, teacher, recording artist, juke joint owner, founder and keeper of the Bentonina Blues Festival – fifty years and counting.

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## Library

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Jackson/Hinds Library System Executive Director Floyd Council reads Juneteenth story to the children.

to put it on and I am happy to help spread information about Juneteenth, the struggles of the past and about enslaved people finding out they were free.”

Sanders who admitted it had been a very busy day at the library said, “It was a wonderful event and I am still amazed at the turnout. We love putting on these types of events and we are going to make it even greater next year.”

*See photos on back page.*

## New Horizon

Continued from page 1

“Thank you for coming. I’m so thankful to see some things happen to me where I live. I have 397 shows. Three years ago, I won my first Grammy. November 10th I’ll be 88 years old. I feel so good.”

Rush then belched the tunes: That’s Evil; I Ain’t Studdin’ Ya; I’m a Hoochie Coochie Man and Chicken Heads. While gyrating across the stage, the crowd occasionally rose while clapping and rocking to the beats.

In closing his act, the crowd-pleaser reflected: “There are three things that come out of Juneteenth: economic accountability and prosperity; Sunday School and Soul Food Sunday Dinner.”

Ellis Avenue from Interstate 20 to West Capitol Street will carry the name of Bobby Rush based upon a proposal by The Jackson City Council.

Locals highlighted Sunday evening’s worship.

Empire star, Miss Tiffany, with her ministry designed for hippies through language and dynamic performance, rendered her poetic performance which addressed alimony, child support and infidelity.

“I’m not supposed to be walking because I had an aneurism on my brain 10 years ago, [but] the redeemer will walk and talk with you,” testified gospel singer Paul Porter who pulled the audience into the songs: He’s Been Good to Me, Two Wings and If There’s No Tomorrow.

The New Horizon Church choir lifted their voices in praise. Other choirs, New Jerusalem Church and Anderson United Methodist Church also moved the crowd



Legendary Canton Spiritual singer – Paul Porter, giving his healing testimony in the midst of soul-stirring singing.



The Mississippi Mass Choir was conducted By long-time musician Jerry Smith

with songs they sang.

Bringing matters home was the featured Mississippi Mass Choir, a landmark for 34 years. During the night’s live recording, the choir moved the audience to their feet as they belched out: He’s Worthy to be Praised; We Worship Christ Our Lord and It’s Good to Know Jesus. The Mississippi Mass Choir has produced 12 albums. In October they will record their 13th album.

Several persons reacted to the weekend’s celebration.

Tyrone Hickman II, a member of New Horizon, expressed his view of the Juneteenth Expo: “I am so glad that we can have things like this. As you know, Jackson is not a place you want to be [in the dark], but I’m glad we can enjoy good music and get together at this time. [I thank God and all who put it together.”

“This program has been the inspiration and the uplift I need while coming out of the dark days of the pandemic and the present state of gloom in this country. It reminded me that God is still keeping me,” said Cecil A. Blue.

Sponsors of the Juneteenth Expo included Mississippi Urban League; Make it Better Foundation; New Horizon Church International; Atmos Energy; WAPT; WOAD; Bancorp South; Amazon; Open Arms Health Energy; Hinds County Health Department; 95.7 Hallelujah FM – Memphis; Hinds County Board of Supervisors; I-Heart Ministries; Magnolia Health; City of Jackson, Miss.; Renaissance Bank; Trustmark Bank; Hope Credit Union and Mississippi Goodwill Festival.

## Juneteenth

Continued from page 1

choice than to have Rev. Dr. Jerry Young to be our preacher for this hour,” said Wicker.

A sermonic selection was sung by Sis. Lannie Spann McBride, executive director of Music for the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi. “Lannie Spann McBride is one of God’s great Women of God,” Wicker said. McBride sang the popular gospel tune, “The Blood.” Attendees sprang to their feet in praise as she sang.

“I am delighted to have friends in the AME church,” said Young. He acknowledged Bishop Wicker’s “legendary work” in Jackson.

His message was based on the biblical story in the Book of John, Chapter 5, about the man on a porch at the Pool of Bethesda, known as the healing pool. He said people cannot become comfortable staying on the porch falling victim to the pains of their past.

The Mississippi Delta native reflected on his plantation life in a three-room, shotgun house. They often gathered on the porch to talk and socialize. “But I can still hear my mother today telling us: it’s time to get off the porch and go back to work,” Young said.

He said the man at the pool began to make excuses to Jesus that he had no one to help him in the pool, not realizing he was talking



Lannie Spann McBride sings the sermonic selection

to the man who made the water.

Digressing, Young said he takes issue with African-Americans who make excuses for not voting, saying their votes does not count. “If the vote does not count, then why a certain man did not want to leave the White House?” Young asked, sparking applause and some laughter.

“We’ve all had bad experiences,” he said. Growing up on a plantation, he said he knows racism first-hand.

“You can’t get comfortable on the porch; Jesus said, ‘Rise up!’” Young stressed. “God is able!”

A number of individuals, including children, gave their lives to Christ or rededicated their lives to Christ following the sermon and during the invitation to Christian discipleship.



USA President Rev Dr. Jerry Young, and 8th Episcopal District Presiding Prelate Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker share a laugh as Young exits the stage. PHOTOS BY GAIL H.M. BROWN



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# Jackson Municipal Airport Authority, JPS and JSU celebrate the JET-A Class of 2022 with closing ceremony at JAN

*Special to The Mississippi Link*

The curriculum of the JET-A Class of 2022 included in-flight training sessions, flight simulators, advanced drone obstacle courses, navigating and mapping, various educational tours, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) principles and concepts.

A deeply collaborative effort with external partners, including nonprofit organizations and other public and private entities, provided students with extensive learning opportunities.

To wrap up the week, the academy concluded with its closing ceremony at Jackson Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN) to honor twenty-two students for successfully completing the rigorous JET-A “U 2 Can Fly” week of training and activities.

“JET-A is a monumental opportunity for Jackson’s youth,” stated John Means, JMAA COO/Acting CEO. “We are grateful to be able to continue this partnership with Jackson State University and Jackson Public Schools in order to introduce and engage

students with potential career opportunities in aviation and aerospace.”

This year’s guest speaker was Craig Irving, corporate sales manager for the Eastern Division based in Washington, D.C. for American Airlines. His message to the students stressed the importance of staying true to who they want to be and expanding their horizons to learn and push themselves to excellence.

“Aviation connects you to different cultures, different ways of thinking,” stated Irving. “That’s how you grow and always remember, that the world is much bigger than you can imagine. Decide who you want to be in life early.”

Murrah High School 2022 graduate Ravion Lightfoot is the perfect example of the type of future leaders this program is targeting. Lightfoot shared his accomplishments following his two years of participation in the JET-A program. He has been accepted into the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, Naval Academy and West Point.



The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (JMAA) partnered with Jackson Public Schools (JPS) and Jackson State University (JSU) for the third (3rd) annual JMAA Education and Training Academy, known as JET-A, “Fueling the Future of Aviation; Get Set to Jet!” The week-long Academy began Monday, June 13, at Hawkins Field Airport (HKS) in the heart of Jackson, Mississippi, with visits and activities held at JSU, the Civil Air Patrol and HKS. PHOTO COURTESY OF JMAA

Lightfoot announced that he will be attending the Air Force Academy this fall.

The JMAA is grateful for the

support of its external partners – 172d Airlift Wing, American Airlines, Civil Air Patrol, HKS Medevac Crew, Legacy Avia-

tion, Pafford Air One, PHI Air Medical, and the JMAA staff.

JMAA also thanks its sponsors – Atmos Energy, Airways

Consulting, LLC, Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership and HOPE, LLC for making this event and week a success.

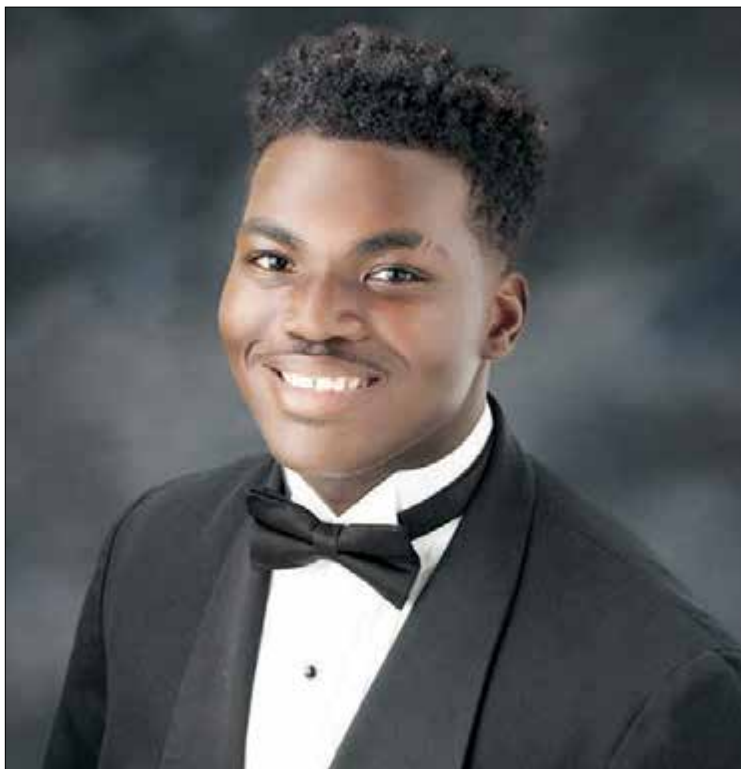
## Hinds County School District Weekly Update

### ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

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John Hunt – Terry High School



Torrie Jones – Terry High School





## Court doors closed to NAACP suit over black juror denials

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

A federal appeals court has found that the NAACP has no standing to sue a Mississippi prosecutor accused of routinely rejecting black jurors in criminal cases.

District Attorney Doug Evans has been in office since 1992, and his jury selection tactics have been scrutinized for years. His exclusion of black jurors in one high-profile murder case caused the Supreme Court to overturn the conviction of Curtis Flowers in June 2019, with Justice Brett Kavanaugh citing a “relentless, determined effort to rid the jury of black individuals.”

The Attala County branch of the NAACP and four black voters sued Evans months later, asking the courts to declare that the prosecutor’s jury selection practices violate the constitutional rights of prospective jurors such as themselves. They also requested an injunction to prevent Evans and his staff from making race-based jury strikes.

U.S. District Judge Debra Brown acknowledged the plaintiffs’ claims against Evans may have merit, but she dismissed their case in September 2020, saying an injunction would put the federal court in the improper role of conducting an “ongoing audit” of current and future state court proceedings. She also said those who suspect a prosecutor of race-based jury exclusions can make challenges in state courts.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed that decision in its ruling Thursday. The three-judge panel ruled 2-1 that the plaintiffs lacked standing to bring the lawsuit because they “have not demonstrated a ‘real and immediate threat’ or a ‘substantial risk’” that Evans could strike them from jury service because of their race.

The appeals panel noted that only one of the plaintiffs had ever been called for potential jury duty, and was dismissed after saying she could not support the death penalty in one of Flowers’ trials – a permissible reason to exclude someone from a jury.

In a dissent, Judge Gregg Costa wrote that the percentage of Americans who show up for jury duty is “staggeringly low,” but that the people who sued Evans represent a “refreshing departure” by being willing to serve.

“And these Americans seeking to perform their civic duty are just as likely – and actually more likely – to be called for jury duty in the near future than plaintiffs in other cases we have allowed prospective jurors to pursue,” Costa wrote.

The Associated Press left a phone message Friday for Evans at his office in Grenada, Mississippi, seeking his response. Evans, whose office covers seven counties in northern Mississippi, is one of six candidates running in a nonpartisan election in November for a state circuit judgeship.

Flowers was tried six times in the

1996 shooting deaths of four people at a furniture store in Winona, with four convictions and two mistrials. He has always maintained his innocence.

Flowers remained in prison for six months after the Supreme Court overturned his final conviction because he was still under indictment, and he was released in December 2019 after a judge set bond.

Mississippi dropped charges against Flowers in September 2020, months after Evans turned the case over to the state attorney general’s office.

The Supreme Court ruling that led to Flowers’ freedom came after American Public Media’s “In the Dark” investigated the case. The podcast recorded jailhouse informant Odell Hallmon in 2017 and 2018 recanting his testimony that Flowers had confessed to him. It also presented an analysis finding a long history of racial bias in jury selection by Evans.

Flowers filed his own lawsuit against Evans and three investigators in September 2021, seeking unspecified damages. Flowers’ suit is still pending. It says Evans and the investigators engaged in misconduct, including pressuring witnesses to fabricate claims against Flowers.

In March 2021, a judge ordered Mississippi to pay Flowers \$500,000 for wrongful imprisonment, the maximum under a state law that limits such payments to \$50,000 a year for 10 years.

## Mississippi school district on path back to local control

The Associated Press

A Mississippi school district under state governance is on the path back to local control.

The State Board of Education voted Thursday to begin the process to return the Tunica County School District to local officials. The vote triggers an 18-month process that begins with selecting applicants to serve on the local school board.

The district has been under state conservatorship since 2015 after audits revealed it had violated 25 of the 31 accreditation standards reviewed by the Mississippi Department of Education. Serious deficiencies were found in special education, federal programs, instructional programs, career technical education and district governance, state officials said. These findings prompted former Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant to declare a state of emergency, putting the district under the control of interim superintendent Dr. Margie Pulley.

“Dr. Pulley has done an outstanding job leading the administrators, teachers and staff of the Tunica County School District in service to students,” said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “Her student-centered,

data-driven focus and strong management transformed the district from a state of emergency to an academically strong, fiscally sound organization. Most importantly, her effective instructional leadership significantly improved student achievement.”

In a news release, state officials said Pulley brought all accreditation standards into compliance. Under her leadership, the district’s accountability grade improved to a C after a four-year track record of D and F grades, state officials said.

Pulley will continue to lead the district through Dec. 31, 2023.

Along with the Tunica County School District, there are currently four other school districts under state control: Noxubee County School District, Holmes County Consolidated School District, Humphreys County School District and Yazoo City School District.

State law gives the State Board of Education authority to return a state-run district to local control when the district has corrected all its deficiencies and has improved its academic performance.

The new TCSD board will begin serving as voting members January 1, 2024.

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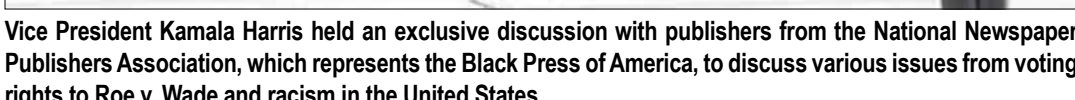
Publisher.....Jackie Hampton  
Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett  
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson  
Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson  
Tim Ward .....Sports Editor



After saying his fans would

Josephine McNeal is a member of the Public Relations Team for CMRignite, a strategic marketing agency in Milwaukee.

"One of the big issues affecting our country right now is affordable housing, and one of the accomplishments of our



“Foreign policy, the concept of the sovereignty of a nation and its territorial integrity, the right to not be invaded by force—and you see what’s

"When you look at the epidemic of hate, all that says is that we as leaders have to make sure that we use our platform," Harris said. "We have to speak the truth and speak with the spirit of trying to unify our communities."

“Great nations don’t ignore their most painful moments,”



of formerly enslaved men who bought the land. At times, it was the only public park avail-

In Fort Worth, celebrations included the Bill Pickett Invi-

family is from Texas and grew up knowing about Juneteenth. Kendall McCollun, 15-year-old Teen Miss Juneteenth Ari-

is particularly meaningful here in Brooklyn, where we have so many black folks who live here

whole lot."



# Queen Tiye’s kitchen

By Oscar H. Blayton  
*Pres. Black Chamber of Commerce*



“The kitchen don’t lie” was a saying I heard often during my childhood. In the 1950s in my part of Virginia, Saturday evenings saw a lot of African-American sisters finish washing the dinner dishes and place a hot comb on top of the stove and begin to “do hair,” getting ready for Sunday service. This weekly ritual gave rise to the term “the kitchen” when referring to those hairs at the nape of the neck that were too short to straighten with a hot comb. This label also was used in the practice of gauging the natural texture of a black woman’s hair by looking at her “kitchen.” The tendency of African Americans to straighten their hair was not only a trace contaminant from the overall racist culture of America, but also a symptom of intra-racism within the black community. Whether it was an act of assimilation or submission, straightening black folks’ hair in 1950s America was undeniably an attempt to make it look more like white folks’ hair. Centuries of indoctrination had ingrained into the minds of white and black Americans that any aspect of Africanness was negative. Skin color, hair texture and phenotypes of noses and lips of the sons and daughters of Africa were coded into the American psyche as evidence of inferiority. But this dogma is based upon lies formulated with a mixture of European xenophobia, ignorance and a need to place a veneer of civilization over the barbaric practice of chattel slavery. It was not until the 1960s that black folks began to fully embrace who we are as an African people. This awareness began

to manifest itself in the black-sounding names of the newborn, the arrival of the dashiki as a fashion statement and the Afro hairstyle in all its kinky glory. It was with difficulty, however, that Americans of all races were able to see through the veil of prejudice created over the span of generations. Some black folks never were able to completely free themselves from the socialized burden of self-denigration. My own mother, who was extremely proud of the assertiveness of the Black Panthers, viewed their appearance as a shortcoming and wished “they would do something about their hair.” Through hundreds of years of social engineering, white supremacy has convinced western civilization that there is merit to whiteness. As people today continue to struggle with white supremacy, there needs to be a realization that the mindset that underpins it is the belief that physical appearance is indicative of a person’s ability and value as a human. One clear example of this type of social engineering is the way Ancient Egyptians are presented, both by many Europeans and by some Egyptians themselves. Two decades ago, I visited the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities in Cairo with a study group led by the late Dr. Asa G. Hilliard III, a professor of educational psychology. Prior to our museum tour, Professor Hilliard, who was also a respected authority on Eurocentric perspectives on the study of Ancient Egypt, suggested that we view the mummy of Queen Tiye while there. Queen Tiye lived more than 3,000 years ago and was the mother of the famous pharaoh Akhenaten and the grandmother of the even more famous pharaoh Tutankhamun. But the point that Dr. Hilliard wanted to make was

that Queen Tiye was undeniably African. “Look at her kitchen,” he instructed us. “The kitchen doesn’t lie.” As one writer has put it, “Hair that takes root and grows in our kitchens is the nappiest, curliest, kinkiest and the most resistant to change. “... The kitchen was permanent, irredeemable, invincible kink. Unassimilably African. No matter what you did, no matter how hard you tried, nothing could de-kink a person’s kitchen.” Following Professor Hilliard’s advice, we all made our way to Queen Tiye’s mummy as we roamed the museum. And to the surprise of none, at the nape of her neck were tight, “invincible” kinks of hair. Unfortunately, this truth about the Africanness of Queen Tiye does not fit the narrative of world history that white supremacy wants to advance. The preferred narrative of white supremacists was evidenced by the way many artifacts were displayed in the museum. Representations of individuals with the lightest skin were placed in the high-traffic areas, even if they were merely servants or scribes. On the other hand, representations of black pharaohs, regardless of how important and powerful they were, were located far from the most popular and most visited areas of the museum. Members of our group questioned the guides about the arrangement that centered servants with light skin while black pharaohs were almost hidden away. Their answer was telling. The guides informed us that most visitors to the museum were Europeans and they were interested in seeing people who looked like them. It was feared that prominently displaying dark people of power in Ancient Egypt would discourage Europeans from vis-

iting. And fewer European visitors meant less revenue for the museum, they said. In April 2021, Egypt moved 22 mummies, including that of Queen Tiye, from the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities to the new National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. These mummies were paraded in specially built vehicles through the streets of Cairo in a grand procession with great fanfare enroute to their new home. One of the most odd and interesting aspects of this parade was the attention given to and written about Queen Tiye’s hair. But instead of describing the Africanness of her hair that I had witnessed, more than one writer described it quite differently. *Egypt Today* magazine even described it as “her luscious curly locks.” White supremacy is a toxic virus that has been spread globally and maintained by a network of untruths about the rest of humanity. There are as many instances of the propagation of these untruths as there are moments in history. The appropriation of the achievements of other cultures and the erasure of their attainments has led to the intentional obscuring of historical facts in order to rewrite history to support the notion of white supremacy. White supremacists do not want the world to know that black people ruled in royal palaces and made great contributions to the advancements of civilization. But we must always push back hard against these attempts to denigrate people of the African Diaspora because “The Kitchen Don’t Lie.” *Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia. His earlier commentaries may be found at <https://oblayton1.medium.com/>*

# Mass shootings have taken America to a new low in its democracy

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



Shootings of any kind are bad. They shame us, they embarrass us and they injure us. Oftentimes, they kill us. Guns have the consequences of life and death. During these days and times, they are causing too many deaths. It seems almost daily someone is being killed because by gun violence. Our society is suffering mightily because of it. Families once whole are now being torn apart because of this cycle of doom and gloom. Using guns and not thoughtful ways of talking has become how we settle disagreements. Plainly stated, we shoot each other instead of talk to each other. We are spiraling down each day. Is this the way of the future? Critics of gun control are still waging a battle against reasonable proposals and solutions. They point to mental health as to why gun violence is out of

control. Their position is to point to every mass shooting and say mental illness is the cause. Many of us in the public square disagree with this line of thinking. Did Dylann Roof suffer from mental illness when he shot those nine black people in Charleston South Carolina? Let us remember they were attending a church service. Did Payton S. Gendron have some type of mental strife when he killed ten black people in Buffalo New York? They were shopping at a grocery store. What about hate as a reason for these shootings? According to reports, 19.86% of adults in America are experiencing some type of mental illness. This means approximately 50 million people have mental health challenges. I, along with many others, believe it is irresponsible to say that every time a person gets injured or killed that the shooter has a mental illness. It is wrong to use mental illness as the only reason for these shootings. When black men are killed

by law enforcement officers, are we to assume that they have a mental health problem? I don’t make that assumption. What assumption do you make? Despite this rash of senseless shootings and killings, there may be hope and help on the horizon. Recently, a bipartisan group of 10 Democratic senators and 10 Republican senators brokered an agreement on school safety and gun measures. Reports say that the proposal will be strong enough to counter-act the filibuster. It will need 60 votes to do so. Chris Murphy, Democratic senator from Connecticut said on Twitter, “We have a deal. Today a bipartisan group of 20 senators (10 D and 10 R) is announcing a breakthrough agreement on gun violence – the first in 30 years – that will save lives.” There are some major components to this proposed piece of legislation. For example, there will be additional vetting for people who want to buy guns and there will be monies available for school-

based mental health programs. This regulation will stem the tide of those who want to purchase guns as before there were little to minimal background checks. It is my opinion that this budding piece of legislation will put a stop to the overreach of the NRA (National Rifle Association). Some say they are the nation’s most powerful lobbying group. Gun advocacy and safety groups are pushing for this legislation to be enacted. For many of them this has been a long time coming. The student-led movement, March for Our Lives and one of the co-founders, David Hogg said, “In a less broken society, we would be able to require background checks every single time someone wants to buy a gun, and we would ban assault rifles outright. But even if one life is saved or one attempted mass shooting is prevented because of these regulations, we believe that it is worth fighting for.” I do, too.

# There is a plan for transforming public safety and policing in the U.S.

By Ben Jealous  
*People For the American Way*



Communities all across the country are facing public safety crises. Crime is rising in ways that leave many people feeling unsafe. At the same time, police violence and killings of unarmed civilians demonstrate that pouring more money into more-of-the-same policing is not the answer. Here’s some good news. There is a new road map for public officials who are eager for solutions. And there is a growing network of mayors and other officials who are ready to do what it takes. “All Safe: Transforming Public Safety” is a game plan for transformative change. This massive policy blueprint just published by People For the American Way is grounded in real-world data and the expertise of local elected officials, law enforcement experts, clergy, and other community activists. There are two truths about authoritarian policing. They do not contradict each other. In fact, they point us toward the possibility of building coalitions that are broad enough to make change happen. One truth is that black Americans, Native Americans, and other people of color pay a disproportionate price. Black Americans are more than twice as likely as white people to be shot and killed by police officers. Racial profiling is experienced by communities of color throughout the United States. A second truth is that people of color are not the only victims of authoritarian policing. As with so many other issues, black and brown communities are the canaries in a much larger American coal mine. White people make up the second largest group in our prisons, disproportionately low-income White men, and they make up a majority of people killed by police each year. Four years before George Floyd died under the knee of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, a white man named Tony Timpa called Dallas police to ask for help during a mental health crisis. He was handcuffed and zip-tied and killed by an officer who pressed his knee into Timpa’s back for 14 minutes while Timpa cried, “You’re gonna kill me!” Every community is put at risk by systems that resist accountability for those who abuse their power. Every community is put at risk by a police culture that promotes and tolerates an aggressive “warrior” mentality among law enforcement officers. Those problems are compounded by communities’ over-reliance on police. Over the decades, we have added additional burdens to police officers that distract them from their primary purpose. That leaves all of us underserved and less safe. Transforming public safety requires policy change in four major areas: restructuring public safety systems to ensure communities’ underlying safety and social needs are met; holding unfit officers responsible and accountable for their actions; removing unfit officers, particularly those with a demonstrated history of violence, aggression, or other misconduct from police departments; and recruiting well-trained public safety personnel committed to serving and protecting their communities. One transformative public safety plan is currently moving forward in Ithaca, New York. It will replace the current police department with a new public safety department that will include armed officers and unarmed crisis intervention specialists. It would allow police officers to be more focused and effective while minimizing the chances that police-civilian interactions will spiral unnecessarily into violence. The “All Safe” roadmap for transforming public safety demolishes the false narrative often promoted by police unions and their political allies to resist change and accountability. They claim that public safety reform is incompatible with effective crime fighting. In reality, the opposite is true. The system of authoritarian policing that we have inherited from our past is not aligned with our national ideals of equality and justice for all. It is a threat to our people, our communities, and even our democracy. And it is not working to keep us safe. Making America safer and more just requires a commitment to address root causes of criminal activity and violence, including unjust laws, discriminatory enforcement, and insufficient effective investments in individual and community wellbeing. And it requires a lasting transformation in the U.S. public safety system, including mechanisms to hold officers accountable for excessive use of force. We know what kind of change is necessary. Let’s make it happen. *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.*



# We're GRATEFUL!!

## Choose to Grow—A-TEAAM and ESTEEM Educational and Mentoring Programs

### Saluting our Ambassadors, GEMS, Mentors, Teachers and Partner Organizations

A decade of service 'preparing our youth for the world and preparing the world to receive them.'



Dr. Karla McCullough, Matt McCullough and Dr. Juanita Sims Doty

Since 2012, The Juanita Sims Doty Foundation (JSDF) has served more than 1200 middle school males through our mentorship, character development and leadership development program, the A-TEAAM (Ambassadors of the Evers Academy for African-American Males). In 2018, the JSDF answered the long-awaited call to support girls by establishing ESTEEM (Educating Scholars through Tutoring, Empowerment, Engagement and Mentorship). The A-TEAAM male participants are referred to as Ambassadors and our ESTEEM females are called GEMS! We have 20 A-TEAAM/ESTEEM Program Sites in six states throughout country. In 2021, our Inaugural Choose to Grow program began which includes the A-TEAAM and ESTEEM Mentoring programs with an expanded educational component. We salute our amazing Project Director, Dr. Karla McCullough for her VISION and OUTSTANDING leadership of our Choose to Grow program.

In 2018, under the dynamic leadership of our Executive Director, Dr. McCullough, we also expanded our research and

advocacy work using the lens of Dehumanization. We aim to disrupt the Dehumanization Cycle and empower communities so that children of color can thrive, thus leading our work toward 'preparing the world to receive our youth'.



Dr. Karla McCullough

Mr. Will Jemison, our JSDF Board Chairman, has been the compassionate but firm and a decisive and supportive leader that we needed. The entire Board and Advisory Board have been great leaders!!

On behalf of the JSDF Board of Directors and staff, partners and supporters, we extend our sincere thanks to all who have been an integral part of our 2021-2022 Inaugural Choose to Grow Program and those who have supported us over the last 10 years implementing our mentoring initiative. We are continuously grateful to Mrs. Myrlie Evers, Reena Evers-Everette and the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute for being our long-time partner. Yes, the "E" in A-TEAAM is for EVERS!!

Since the pandemic began in 2020, our coordinators have been tremendous, our mentors have continued serving, uninterrupted; the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration supported us so that we could continue serving our youth; and during the 2021-2022 year, the Mississippi Department of Human Services provided us an opportunity to expand our services in

Mississippi to offer educational support through Choose to Grow. These services were provided in partnership with the Cleveland Empowerment Foundation and the Lighthouse Blackgirl Project. We are grateful to the following mentoring organizations across the country for their long-term partnership and their continued support of our youth:

#### International Community Ambassadors Network

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
Beta Delta Omega Chapter

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
Rho Lambda Omega Chapter

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
Upsilon Upsilon Omega Chapter

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Jackson Alumnae Chapter

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.  
Rho Xi Lambda Chapter

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.  
Jackson Alumni Chapter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
Beta Alpha Chapter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.  
Mu Sigma Chapter

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.  
Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter

The Links, Incorporated, Jackson (MS)  
Chapter

The Links, Incorporated, Le-Fleurs Bluff  
Chapter

100 Black Men of Jackson

100 Black Men of Canton

Forward Lookers Federated Club

Jack and Jill of America, Inc.  
Jackson (MS) Chapter

National Council of Negro Women,  
Jackson Section

The Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of  
Mississippi, District IV

Meridian Freedom Project

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (National  
Organization)

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
Omega Mu Mu Chapter

The Cleveland Empowerment Foundation

A Thirst for Learning, Portland, OR



Choose to Grow A-TEAAM/ESTEEM  
Mentors of the Year



Choose to Grow A-TEAAM/ESTEEM  
Coordinators



Ambassadors and GEMS with Dr. Karla McCullough, Co-Hosts, Former Ambassador Kamari Brooks and Ephraim Hill, and Mr. Will Jemison



Ambassadors and GEMS of the Year with Co-Hosts, Former Ambassador Kamari Brooks and Ephraim Hill, Dr. Juanita Sims Doty and Dr. Karla McCullough,



A-TEAAM Portland, OR with Co-Hosts, Former Ambassador Kamari Brooks and Ephraim Hill, Dr. Juanita Sims Doty and Dr. Karla McCullough,



Organization Presidents and Representatives



International Community Ambassadors Network (IICAN)  
Members

On June 11, 2022, we were delighted to host our first 'in-person' National Choose to Grow Awards and Recognition Celebration Program at the Sheraton Flowood. In addition to saluting our Ambassadors, GEMS, Coordinators, Mentors, Teachers and Parents, we were thrilled to unveil the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of IICAN Imagine: Voices of Young Authors-Resilient During the Pandemic. Thank you to the Phil Hardin Foundation for funding our hard bound publication. Thank you Ambassadors and GEMS for writing your wonderful essays and resiliency. We appreciate our Graphic Designer for all 5 editions of our publications, Tonya Parker; Cover Designer, Jay "Raz" Roberts and Illustrator, Trisainna Webber. Thanks is extended to Jay Johnson and Anita Young our wonderful photographers!!

We celebrated our Ambassadors and GEMS of the Year, our Mentors of the Year and Dr. Sandra Carr Melvin, our 2022 Yvonne T. Maddox HEAAL Honoree.



Dr. Juanita Sims Doty, HEAAL Award recipient, Dr. Sandra Carr Melvin, and Dr. Karla McCullough

During the Awards and Recognition program we were thrilled to have two of our former Ambassadors as our Co-Hosts: Former Ambassador Kamari Brooks, Film

writer and Star and Former Ambassador Ephraim Hill, High School Graduate headed to college on an Academic and Football Scholarship—WE ARE SUPER PROUD OF THEM!!!

We thank Dr. Candice Jackson, Director of the JXN Film Festival who worked with Ambassador Kamari Brooks (and other students at Canton High School) to write and produce his short film, "The Money Grab". Dr. Jackson made it possible for us to view this AMAZING short film during our Awards Celebration!!

Please help us thank and salute all of our mentors, partner organizations and community leaders who practice SERVICE and GENEROSITY every day! Please help us honor and applaud all those in the following photos!!

Thank you for helping us to prepare our youth for the world and prepare the world to receive them.



(Above) Co-Host Ephraim Hill, Dr. Juanita Sims Doty, Co-Host Former Ambassador Kamari Brooks and Dr. Karla McCullough

(Below) The parents of the Co-Hosts are pictured.



Book Unveiling—5<sup>th</sup> Edition of IICAN Imagine: Voices of Young Authors-Resilient During the Pandemic

## WE ARE SINCERELY GRATEFUL!!!



# Thank you to our Funding and Collaborating Partners



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated  
Beta Alpha Chapter



**Jackson Public Schools**  
**Canton Public Schools**

**Dr. Yvonne T. Maddox**  
**Mr. LaRue Owen**

**St. Andrew's Episcopal School**

## Program Highlights



Learn about the Juanita Sims Doty Foundation at  
[www.jsdfoundation.com](http://www.jsdfoundation.com)  
601-882-9127

Photo Credit: Mr. Jay Johnson





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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, July 12, 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:

96153-071222 24-Month Sale of Recycle Refrigerators, Other White Goods, Air Conditioners, Gas Tanks and Various Scrap Metals

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV

"Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any question relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814."

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

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1851. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, and Jackson, Mississippi.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all Bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any Bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best company submitting 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  
[moliver@city.jackson.ms.us](mailto:moliver@city.jackson.ms.us)  
Purchasing Division  
(601) 960-1025

6/23/2022, 6/30/2022

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS AND NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, MS, at 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time, Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

Alta Woods Playground Renovation – Will O Wisp Way, Jackson, MS 39204  
Viriden Addition Playground Renovation, 3159 Edwards Ave, Jackson, MS 39213

Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished and sealed and deposited with City Clerk prior to the hour and date above designated. A copy of the construction documents (plans and/or specifications) for the construction being sought has been filed with the City Clerk of Jackson, MS. Official bid Documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic bids and/or reverse bids can be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814. Questions regarding plan clarifications or requests for information should be directed to the landscape architect as follows:

WAS Design, Inc.  
1510 North State Street, #300  
Jackson, MS 39202  
P: 601-790-0781

A copy of the Bid Documents (including plans and specifications for the Work) are being made available via digital and original paper copy. Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents from the Jackson Blueprint Online Plan Room website <http://planroom.jakblue.com>. There is no charge for registration or to view the bid documents online. Bid documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. A printed bid set is approximately \$41.25 plus shipping and applicable sales tax and an electronic downloadable set is \$20.00 plus applicable sales tax. For questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Jackson Blueprint & Supply at (601)353-5803.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex in consideration for an award.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact of the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program, as attached, are available at 200 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and or conduct business in the City, to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities in respect to any bid submitted or to accept any proposal which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.

A PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD

The Pre-Bid Conference will be at 3:00 pm., Tuesday, June 28, 2022, Department of Parks & Recreation, 1000 Metrocenter Drive, Suite 104, Jackson, MS 39209. All Contractors who intend to submit "BIDS" are encouraged to attend.

Isilon B. Harris, Jr  
Director, Parks & Recreation  
Valerie Tucker  
Interim Deputy Director  
Housing & Community Development

6/16/2022, 6/23/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5th, 2022, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 132-40, located on Robinson Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$500.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail [vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us](mailto:vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us).

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201). The outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, July 5th, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Preferential preference will be granted to all equivalent high bidders that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee. If multiple equivalent high bidders submitted applications, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus Property Committee, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

If multiple equivalent high bidders consist of, one equivalent high bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee and the other equivalent high bidder(s) that did not submit an application to the Surplus Property Committee, preferential preference will be granted to the bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee.

City reserves the right to reject any and all bids

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

6/9/2022, 6/16/2022, 6/23/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5th, 2022, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 77-22, located at 516 N. Mill Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$5,000.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail [vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us](mailto:vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us).

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201). The outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, July 5th, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Preferential preference will be granted to all equivalent high bidders that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee. If multiple equivalent high bidders submitted applications, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus Property Committee, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

If multiple equivalent high bidders consist of, one equivalent high bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee and the other equivalent high bidder(s) that did not submit an application to the Surplus Property Committee, preferential preference will be granted to the bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee.

City reserves the right to reject any and all bids

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

6/9/2022, 6/16/2022, 6/23/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, July 05, 2022, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 400 F. Sills Brown Street in City Hall for the following:

18095-070522 Twelve-Month Supply of Soda Ash  
19090-070522 Twelve-Month Supply of Citric Acid (Liquid Form)  
88098-070522 Twelve-Month Supply of Carbon Dioxide  
88536-070522 Twelve-Month Supply of Polymer  
00539-070522 Twelve-Month Supply of Liquid Chlorine  
88544-070522 Twelve-Month Supply of Alum  
85370-070522 Twelve-Month Supply of Aluminum Chloride Hydrate (ACH)  
88575-070522 Twelve-Month Supply of Fluoroplastic Acid  
88579-070522 Twelve-Month Supply of Potassium Permanganate  
88584-070522 Twelve-Month Supply of Sodium Chloride  
88590-070522 Twelve-Month Supply of Anhydrous Ammonia  
88597-070522 Twelve-Month Supply of Hydrated Lime

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE CITY OF JACKSON WEBSITE, <https://www.jacksonms.gov> and Central Bidding [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com).

"Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any question relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814."

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

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1851. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, and Jackson, Mississippi.

Monica Oliver, Acting Purchasing Manager  
[moliver@city.jackson.ms.us](mailto:moliver@city.jackson.ms.us)  
Purchasing Division  
(601) 960-1025

6/16/2022, 6/23/2022

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP  
RFP 2022-20 A Solution for a Student ID System

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), July 13, 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](http://www.centralbidding.com) for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSP website at [www.jackson.k12.ms.us](http://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.

6/23/2022, 6/30/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

City of Jackson

Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed RFPs 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 RFP must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, July 12, 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:

RFP#05512-071222- Dash Cam for Patrol Car

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE CITY OF JACKSON WEBSITE, WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV

Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com), bids are also available at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com) or for assist call 225-810-4814.

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

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The City reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any RFP submitted. RFP awards will be made to the lowest and best company submitting 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 RFP 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 RFP review.

Monica Oliver, Acting Purchasing Manager

[Moliver@city.jackson.ms.us](mailto:Moliver@city.jackson.ms.us)

Purchasing Division

6/23/2022, 6/30/2022

## Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
					10			
9					12			
11								
13				14			15	
			16			17		
18	19	20						
21			22			23	24	25
26			27			28		
29						30		
31						32		

**ACROSS**  
1. Chimney dirt  
5. To incite  
9. Slave  
10. Splash  
11. Organization concerned with civil liberties (abbr.)  
12. Island nation  
13. Parallelograms  
15. Part of a min.  
16. Wild  
18. Conductor  
21. Infant  
22. Asian nation  
26. Rugged  
28. Unsummed  
29. Not those  
30. Mixed metals  
31. Bunny  
32. Cowet

**DOWN**  
1. Box  
2. That hurts!  
3. Capital of Norway  
4. Fingers  
5. Wing  
6. Capital of Idaho  
7. Organic compound  
8. Nutrition  
10. Bakes unshelled eggs  
14. Happen to  
17. Dealer  
18. Memento  
19. Hawaiian "hello"  
20. Flat  
23. Manner  
24. Adam's garden  
25. Fur line that  
27. Compass point

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## Crossword Solution

S	O	O	T			A	B	E	T	
P	U	S	H			S	L	O	S	H
A	C	L	U			H	A	I	T	I
R	H	O	M	B	I			S	E	C
				B	E	R	S	E	R	K
M	A	E	S	T	R	O				
I	L	L			I	S	R	A	E	L
R	O	V	E	D			R	U	D	E
T	H	E	S	E			O	R	E	S
H	A	R	E				W	A	N	T

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PICK UP

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

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

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**BOUTIQUE STORE**  
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS  
**BULLY'S STORE**  
Church Street - Canton, MS  
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Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS  
**HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN**  
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS  
**JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY**  
507 Church Street - Canton, MS  
**K & K ONE STOP**  
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS  
**LACY'S INSURANCE**  
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS  
**SOUL SET BARBER SHOP**  
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS  
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22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

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**HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE**  
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

**VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE**  
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110 Courtyard Square, Raymond  
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**Week of June 12, 2022**



P R E S E R V E D

# Is your perception my reality?

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



The media frenzy that surrounded the offensive comments that led to the firing of radio broadcasting icon

Don Imus in 2007 brought many questions that have lingered unanswered for years to the forefront. One of the more important ones was what, if anything, should be done about the vulgar lyrics of rap and hip-hop music? Who should take the blame for the popular songs that seem to make it a point to degrade women and promote violence? 15 years later, these questions remain as shown with the divided responses to Megan Thee Stallion and her recent comments about her volatile relationship with Tory Lanez.

One question that didn't get

as much notice but was equally as important was the response of the Rutgers Women's Basketball Team. The question? Is your perception my reality? Maybe more specifically: am I going to let your perception become my reality?

When you are staring at the perception of others in your face and it has the potential to change your reality, the question may be simple, but the answer is more complicated.

Until the young ladies spoke during their press conference, most of the public had no idea who Imus was talking about. There was a glimpse of their response to the question during their news conference in which they eloquently articulated their feelings concerning the insult. Their answer to this question was no.

For some, it was easier to look at the one concerning Rutgers and minimize it by saying that people are always going to

talk about you. Some even go so far as to say that they talked about Jesus and pointedly ask are you better than him where people can't talk about you. It's kind of like the schoolyard rhyme of "sticks and stones my break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

Even though I have said those words as a protection from the cruel insults that are sometimes hurled my way, the truth is words do hurt. But I think that part of that hurt comes from the struggle to not allow those words to become your reality.

Proverbs 2:12 reminds us that "Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse." Perverse words can distort our realities. Perception is nothing more than a mental image of something. When that mental image becomes illustrated through words, it becomes real, in a sense, but

it doesn't necessarily become my reality. What's reality is how you respond to the words.

I'll admit that in recent months, I have had my own challenges with others' perceptions and my reality. Do I return insult and innuendo with insult and innuendo? Or do I "pray" hoping for God to "get them" for their harsh words. Or do I simply give the burden to God...and receive the grace to forgive the harsh words in return? I'm learning that my reality is more how I choose to respond to those words...not the words themselves.

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

# Spiritual people are needed

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



Spiritual people are not individuals who are lifted up in themselves or who are proud and arrogant. Spiritual people are those

who can come to the rescue of brothers and sisters when they are weak spiritually from being attacked by the enemy of souls, or from being under temptation.

We read in Galatians 6:1 these words, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

There is an especially important job for spiritual people to do involving the salvation of souls, the restoration of people who might have given themselves over to a fault or who might have been overtaken in some other way. Spiritual people are called upon by God to bring help and assistance. Spiritual people will go to pray; they have a prayer closet. They take heed to the words of the Thessalonian writer when he said in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing." When you find someone doing that, you are most likely looking at a spiritual individual.

It involves a great work, James 5:19-20 says: "Brethren, if any

of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and shall hide a multitude of sins." I want to be like this part of the work of a spiritual person. I want to be an individual who can be defined, according to God's Word, as spiritual.

We read in 1 Corinthians 2:12-16, these words, "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

We can say that Jesus was a spiritual individual; that should be without controversy.

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

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## Lanier High School honors students and parents

*Special to the Mississippi Link*

Alumnus of Lanier High School celebrated their 5th All-Class reunion banquet Friday, June 12, 2022.

Alvin Thomas, president of the Lanier High School National Alumni Association stated, "We had the distinct privilege to recognize students that received scholarships from the association this year. Students competed for scholarships during the annual contest period and were named recently during Class Day Ceremonies."

The awardees were recognized again during the reunion banquet and their parents were recognized as well.



Scholarship recipients (l-r) Markita Shell, Tatiana Myers Arterberry, McKensie Edwards, Damaurian Edwards, Jakyla Mitchell and Jamea Smith



Alvin Thomas



Parents of the awardees received certificates for their successful parenting skills. Thomas thanked the Lanier High School parents for their dedication to the success of their students.



Students, alumni and parents attending the banquet.

## Four USM students serving internships in Washington, D.C. this summer

**By Van Arnold**  
*USM*

Four University of Southern Mississippi (USM) students have been selected to participate in The Washington Center's (WTC) prestigious Academic Internship Program this summer.

The students are:

- Alyson Gonzalez is a junior sociology major from

Virginia Beach, Va. Gonzalez is interning at Kidsave, which helps older foster kids and orphans find permanent homes.

- Adia Reed is a senior criminal justice major from Pelahatchie, Miss. Reed is interning with the National Black Justice Coalition, which serves black members of the

LGBTQ+ community

- Aaronda Owens is a senior criminal justice major from Mobile, Ala. Owens is interning for Same Day Process, which is a family-owned process server

- Kristopher Walton is a senior political science major originally from Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., who now resides

in Purvis, Miss. Walton is interning with Sunwater Institute, which is a nonprofit, interdisciplinary think tank committed to open dialogue.

The WTC's Academic Internship Program is composed of three components – internship, academic course and career readiness programming – each designed to help students

translate their academic and professional interests into careers they love.

USM has partnered with WTC since 2010. At least 35 students have launched their careers through this partnership.

"The Washington Center puts tremendous effort into recruiting and working with our

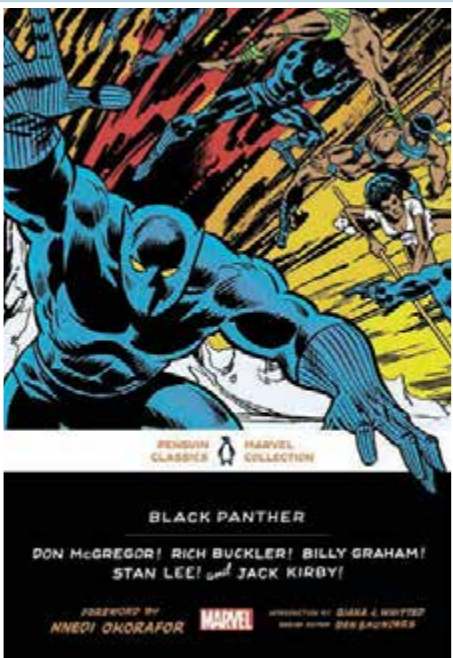
students each year," states Dr. David Skelton, the assistant director for Nationally Competitive Programs.

"They provide connections and opportunities students could not get elsewhere and are passionate in matching students with internships that are the right fit for them."

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BOOK REVIEW:

BLACK PANTHER

BY DON MCGREGOR, RICH BUCKLER,  
BILLY GRAHAM, STAN LEE, AND JACK KIRBY  
C.2022, PENGUIN CLASSICS MARVEL COLLECTION  
\$28.00 • 377 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

After school and Saturday mornings were devoted to fighting crime.

There you were, seven, eight, nine years old, hard-bodied, brave and fireproof – at least, in your mind. Along with your ancestors and others with superpowers, you were invincible. And in “Black Panther” by Don McGregor, Rich Buckler, Billy Graham, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, you’ll see that it all started with a “dark line.”

In the years between the mid-

dle of the Depression and the middle of World War II, over “seven hundred super-powered do-gooders debuted” in comic books, nation-wide. After the war was over, comic books continued to be popular but the super-hero genre faded to just a small group their publisher called the Justice League of America.

This spurred rival publisher Marvin Goodman to “sit up and take notice.” He decided that his comic book company needed its own superhero team and he partnered with several talents to create the Marvel Universe. In

the early 1960s, Marvel Comics’ Fantastic Four were joined by several other superheroes “in the same story-world,” each with a unique talent; in 1966, the Black Panther became one of them.

The character appeared at exactly the right time. Say the authors, the origins of the Black Panther reflected what was going on in the U.S. socially, politically and in Civil Rights.

The introduction of the Black Panther arrived between Jim Crow and the founding of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense. America, say the authors,

“was confronting the deep historical consequences” of what it had done to its black citizens and T’Challa was his own man. He didn’t need white superheroes to save the day for him.

There were a few ragged edges to the character – at first, there were “hints” that the Black Panther might spin into a comic book villain – but readers of the early story ultimately rested easier. The Fantastic Four and the Black Panther were always in good hands, both in Wakanda and elsewhere...

Imagine, says Nnedi Okorafor

in her foreword, being a small child of immigrants from Nigeria, trying to visit a comic book store back when older white males were its usual customers. She fled the store then, empty-handed, and returned to comic books when she was an adult and found a character that looked like her. The earliest incarnation of that character and his comic book story are found inside “Black Panther.”

Fans can rejoice: the latter takes up the bulk of this book, chronologically and in full-color, just like the original comic books

offered. But patience: before you get there, read the overview of comics in general, Marvel Comics, specifically; Okorafor’s foreword; and a volume introduction to this character. Turn to the back for an essay on the Black Panther, and plot synopses with creator’s notes. It’s the whole deal.

The bonus, for fans of both movie and comic book, is that you can read this paperback release of the hardcover book without worry. Show hard love to this version of “Black Panther” and share it, knowing you’re someone else’s hero

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## Renewed celebrations bring new beginnings to church and community

By Daphne Monix Higgins  
Contributing Writer

Praising the Lord in the sanctuary for eight consecutive days is nothing new but, it is definitely something special and that is exactly what the members of the College Hill M. B. Church of Jackson, recently experienced. The congregation held its eight-day fellowship June 12-19, 2022, beginning with regular Sunday worship, followed by four days of Vacation Bible School (VBS), a Friday evening Juneteenth observance, a Saturday afternoon Men's Day picnic, and the annual Men's Day Program as the culminating event.

Research shows the number eight symbolizes new beginnings, rebirth and resurrection. It is linked to a brighter future, new horizons, and a new life in general.

College Hill's celebrations began with the children (the future)

of the church leading the congregation during the song ministry.

The four-day VBS, hosted by the Sunday School Department, was themed, "Trusting God through Life's Ups and Downs." Each night provided a unique and fun-filled opportunity for all attendees to creatively study and share God's word.

Friday night's Juneteenth celebration, was an educational and entertaining presentation that provided history, music, dance, renditions of poems by several church members, a video depicting the advancements of former slaves and sharecroppers following the Civil War and dinner. It was sponsored by the Evangelism Ministry, chaired by Deacon Jacob McEwen. Edna Caston served as emcee.

Rev. Andrew Lewis, pianist and Thomas Johnson, saxophonist played "Lift Every Voice and Sing" while the audience stood in

respect for The Negro National Anthem.

After Roceda Hill gave a history of Juneteenth, the praise dancers of College Hill performed to the music "Break Every Chain."

Mary Joyce Sanders, one of the presenters, read Langston Hughes' poem, "Mother to Son" and then recited her original piece noting that the fore-read poem was a message that was not exclusive to mothers and sons, but to all children for generations past and present.

Noel Bogan, Shirley Davis and Malena Dow shared excerpts from a skit entitled "In White America" by Martin B. Duberman.

Prior to reciting the poem, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," Jackie Hampton gave a brief history behind why Langston Hughes wrote this particular poem while seeing The Mississippi River out of the window as he was on a train ride

from St. Louis, heading to see his father in Mexico.

Saturday's picnic served as the precursor to the annual Men's Day celebration. The picnic and program, both hosted by the Laymen's Ministry, have not been held since 2019 because of COVID-19 safety precautions. This year's events exemplified the theme, "God's Unchanging Word in Changing Times."

The Men's Day program guide, Terrance McEwen, opened the program saluting fathers. He referenced Georgia Tech's strength coach who recently asked members of the school's football team, "Are you willing to sprint when the distance is unknown?" McEwen characterized dads as sprinters because of their abilities to get to their children in times of crises and/or celebrations while always offering guidance and protection.

The Men's Day speaker was Dr. Byron Orey, professor of Po-

litical Science at Jackson State University. Orey said that he often brings humor to his presentations, but the Men's Day speech would have a different tone. He acknowledged the theme for the day and added, this period is about "Reflection, Protection, and Connections – Saving Our Youth." He emphasized loving our neighbors, looking to the church as a place of refuge, and making the development of strong children a priority because it is easier than repairing broken men. Orey ended by reciting the poem, "Only Just a Minute" by Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, reminding the congregation that one minute can determine the rest of a person's life. Therefore, chose your time wisely.

Following Orey's delivery, the pastor of College Hill, Rev. Chauncy Jordan, invited all of the male members present to come to the front of the church. As they

gathered in the choir loft, fathers, husbands, sons and guardians were celebrated by those who remained in the pews. The pastor thanked all of them for the roles they play in the church and for those that they can assume in the near future.

The program ended eight consecutive days of fellowship in College Hill's sanctuary while renewing the energy of service among its membership. Further research indicated that the number eight is a sign of victory bringing the consensus that although some may have faced some hardships or delays in attending each day, the overall result was a perfect sacrifice for anyone who could attend at any time during the days of fellowship.

Jonora Coleman, a longtime member of the church, spoke for several members when she said, "This has really been a wonderful eight days."

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON AND COLLEGE HILL





# Juneteenth celebration inside and outside on the grounds at Medgar Evers Library

4215 Medgar Evers Blvd. • Jackson, MS • June 17, 2022

PHOTOS BY MALCOM MACON

