

NNPA and Transformative Justice Coalition announce National GOTV Campaign targeting 10 million more black voters



Individuals riding in new and COVID-safe tour buses would hit swing states ahead of the November elections to register and mobilize GOTV for 10 million new black voters. (Pictured from left to right: Jackie H. Hampton, NNPA National Secretary and publisher of The Mississippi Link; Attorney Daryl Jones, Board Chair of the Transformative Justice Coalition; Attorney Barbara Arnwine, the founder and president of the Transformative Justice Coalition; Fran Farrer, NNPA Second Vice Chair and publisher of the County News; Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., NNPA president and CEO; Karen Carter Richards, NNPA Board Chair and president of the Houston Forward Times; Cheryl Smith, NNPA National Treasurer and publisher of the Texas Metro News; Janis Ware, NNPA Vice Chair and publisher of the Atlanta Voice.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Ahead of the all-important 2022 midterm elections, reports show that more than 55 million Americans remain unregistered to vote – and about 10 million are African Americans who are eligible to vote but who are unregistered.

Whether the reason is apathy, suppression, or something else, the National Newspaper Pub-

lishers Association (NNPA) and the Transformative Justice Coalition seek to get to the bottom of why, with so much at stake, voter registration and GOTV mobilization remain lacking notably among black Americans across the nation.

During the national convention marking the 195th-anniversary celebration of the Black Press of America in New Orleans, leaders of both orga-

nizations announced a get-out-to-vote campaign aimed at registering and mobilizing GOTV for 10 million more African Americans to vote in time for the 2022 midterms.

“The NNPA has talked about the vote, and there is no better time for us to show our power,” NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards stated during the announcement at the national convention in the Big Easy.

“Let us take the lead and not be on the tail-end so we can show the present-day power of the Black Press,” continued Richards, who publishes the *Houston Forward Times*.

“This is a great opportunity for us; we’ve got to make this happen.”

Attorney Barbara Arnwine, the founder, and president of

NNPA
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Flagship Library flagging



Eudora Welty Library front view. PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

Long considered the Flagship Library in the Jackson-Hinds County Library System, the Eudora Welty Library at 300 North State Street in Jackson, is flagging mightily. The library has been closed now for over 42 days, only opened on one day, June 7th for primary elections. Today, for the primary election runoffs, a trailer has been brought in with the help of Credell Calhoun, president of the Board of Supervisors.

So, what is the delay in repairs all about? Well, apparently that’s where the rub is. There are many slices in the library pie.

This quest began with an email to Jackson City Council President Virgi Lindsay, asking what is getting in the way of getting the water to stop coming through the ceilings, addressing mold issues and getting the air conditioning fixed?

Her office’s response was: “While the issues that exist with the libraries are (and have been) a real concern for Councilwoman Lindsay, she obviously has no authority to remedy the ongoing problems or to appoint additional members. The City of Jackson appointments are made by the mayor and the authority to improve the libraries lies with his office as well. The appropriate individuals to contact for more information are Mayor Lumumba, Chief of Staff Safiya Omari and/or CAO Mr. Louis Wright.” This writer forwarded her response to the Chief of Staff and Chief Administrative Officer.

Floyd Council indicates that state law prohibits him from using any of his funds for maintenance. His fund-

ing is exclusively to provide library services, not maintenance. He indicates that the City of Jackson is well aware of this, as they have provided maintenance at numerous libraries throughout the city, and as recently as May 2022, had performed maintenance at the Eudora Welty Library. However, now, everything is at all-stop.

Council, executive director of the Library System, is a native of Shelby, Mississippi. He is no stranger to Library Administration, having served as executive director of The Birmingham Public Library System from 2017-2020. Prior, he was the Central Library Administrator for the Atlanta Fulton Public Library System. In 2021 he served briefly as executive director of the Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale. His tenure as Jackson/Hinds Library System Executive Director began in March of this year.

In an interview with WLBT in April, he shared the following, “I think one thing to understand is that our governing library board has the responsibility for governing the library system, but the buildings either belong to the City of Jackson or they belong to a city within the county,” he added. “This means that the state law in the State of Mississippi prohibits library systems from owning the buildings and making substantial repairs to them. So the buildings have to be maintained by the owners for the benefit of the tax-paying citizens.”

Library people know what they are talking about. In fact, a PEW Research Study indicates that 78% of Americans have a favorable im-

Library
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Supreme Court officially overturns Roe v. Wade

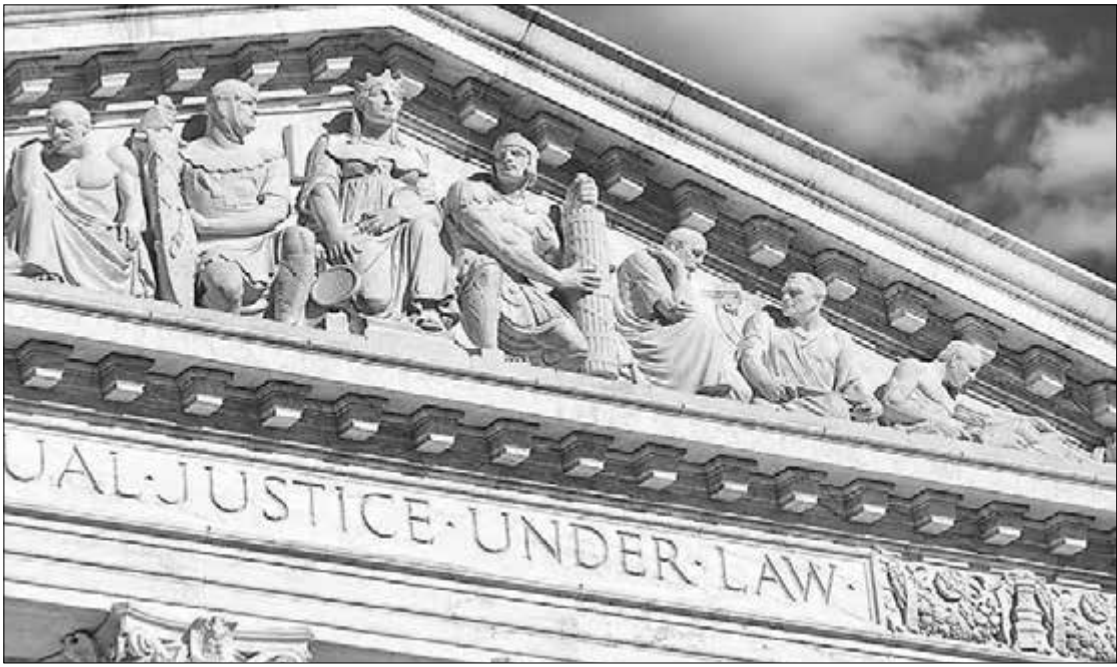
By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Americans no longer have a constitutional right to abortion after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Friday, June 24, to overturn the landmark Roe V. Wade, taking away reproductive rights that have been in place since 1973.

The decision mirrored a leaked draft opinion circulated earlier this month, which all the conservative justices on the high court approved.

Immediately following the initial leak of draft, and continuing over the weeks since, crowds have gathered outside the Supreme Court in Washington to protest.

“Stripping away a woman’s right to safe, legal abortion and to make our own healthcare decisions will have especially dire consequences for black women and women of color across our country,” said Jessica Knight



Henry, Deputy and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

“With Roe overturned, the stakes of this election have nev-

er been higher – black voters will stand with Senate Democrats against Sen. Mitch McConnell and Republicans’ agenda that would make abortion illegal and impose new, cruel and

punishing restrictions on women of color and their families,” Henry stated.

Florida Democratic Rep. Val

Roe V. Wade
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State's HBCUs "are seen" in successful financial campaign

By Daphne Monix Higgins
Contributing Writer

The goal was to raise \$100,000.00 in five months and to some the amount seemed aggressive, but the members of the Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. made what some thought to be impossible, a reality.

The chapter's "When They See Us: HBCUs Campaign" which lasted from January 12, through May 31, 2022, raised more than \$106,000 to award to the five (four-year) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) across the state of Mississippi. The institutions: Alcorn State, Jackson State, Mississippi Valley State, Rust College and Tougaloo College were all recently gifted approximately \$20,000; funds that will assist each school in helping their students succeed.

The campaign, which was spearheaded by the local organization's Social Action Committee, provided several informational sessions to help educate the public on the importance of HBCUs. Some of the awareness techniques included marketing materials that identified each school and the campaign, highlighting each institution for a month with fun facts, interviews with various news outlets, and a virtual forum with the student body presidents of the schools.

Along with exceeding its goal, the Jackson chapter president, Gwendolyn Handy, expressed that a few other things that were ac-



Gwendolyn Handy presents check to Alcorn: Marcus Ward, vice president for Institutional Advancement



Gwendolyn Handy presents check to JSU: Dr. Preselfannie McDaniels, dean, Division of Graduate Studies



Gwendolyn Handy presents check to Mississippi Valley State University: Jerryl Briggs, Ed.D., president



Handy presents check to Rust College: Ivy R. Taylor, Ed.D., president



Handy presents check to Tougaloo: Carmen Walters, Ph.D., president

complished with this campaign include: helping ensure the success of students' families, their communities, and the country; investing

in increasing diversity in the workforce; and fulfilling a commitment to improve economic mobility and invest in racial and social equity.

The chapter 's president, said, "A campaign of this magnitude gives students, especially first-generation college students, an

opportunity to be successful and to complete their education."

The Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter wants to continue the tra-

dition of giving back and helping those students who are financially burdened due to some type of disparity. This campaign truly reminds me of a Bible verse that I'd like to share with the community - Proverbs 11:25: "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, is a private, not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world. The sorority currently has 1,000 collegiate and alumnae chapters located in the United States, Canada, Japan (Tokyo and Okinawa), Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, West Africa and the Republic of Korea.

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Library

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Eudora Welty Library with boarded windows and closure signs. PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG

pression of information they receive at libraries, and also rank them at the top of the list of institutions that they trust.

Apart from the maintenance issues, Council emphasized the high level of resources that libraries provide. He makes a strong case that these resources, especially for students, provide a free opportunity for afterschool and summer learning, free computer access, and a host of other things. He mentioned recently hearing that up to 40% of Jackson Public Schools students are failing math and that it is part of Jackson-Hinds Library System service model to gear programming to assist in areas like this.

Rickey Jones, chairman of the Jackson-Hinds Library Board, said, “Our role is to make library services available and robust, and that capital improvements are the responsibility of the city – the building owner.” He also indicated that the city is updated regularly on on-going maintenance needs.

Stanley Arnold, the City of Jackson Public

Works Facilities manager, promises to get the needed work done, but cannot proceed without the funding connected to putting out the bids for the work.

The quest for information comes to an end with Tracy Carr, deputy director for Library Services at the Mississippi Library Commission. She confirmed that Mississippi Code §39-3-3 is the pertinent reference in determining who is responsible for infrastructure. The code states: “Where any public library or public library system is established under this article, either by the county board of supervisors or the governing body of a municipality, the cost of purchasing land, erecting buildings and equipping and maintaining such public library or public library system shall be paid for in whole out of the general funds of the county or municipality.”

Let’s hope that that City of Jackson administration does what is necessary to shift this flagship library from flagging to unflagging. We’re counting on you.



Trailer at Eudora Welty Library for primary runoff voters on June 28.

Roe V. Wade

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Demings said she’s furious and disappointed.

“I am ready to fight,” Demings declared in a statement. “We won’t go back. We must work relentlessly to preserve our right to choose and our right to privacy. We must protect Roe v. Wade in federal law.”

Demings asserted that America can’t go back to a time when women were treated as second-class citizens who don’t have control over their bodies.

“Freedom means the ability to live your life as you choose,” Demings insisted. “You have a fundamental, God-given right to your own life, your family, your religion, your circumstances, your privacy, your values, your health, your body. I’m going to fight for that freedom and so will millions of others. This isn’t over.”

Associate Justice Samuel Alito wrote the opinion for the 6-3 majority, in which each of the liberal judges offered their dissent.

Alito called Roe v. Wade “egregiously wrong from the start.”

“It’s reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging consequences,” Alito wrote.

Dissenting Justice Stephen Breyer disagreed.

“After today, young women will come of age with fewer rights than their mothers and grandmothers,” Breyer wrote. “The majority accomplishes that result without so much as considering how women have relied on the right to choose or what it means to take that right away.”

The court’s decision ends core protection for women to make their own health care decisions, Georgia Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock stated.

“It is a departure from our American ideals to recognize and protect basic rights,”

Warnock stated.

“This misguided decision is devastating for women and families in Georgia and nationwide. Across the country, states have already passed dangerous and uncompromising restrictions that put politicians in charge of health care, instead of women and doctors.”

Warnock’s staff called the congressman a “stalwart champion” of protecting women’s right to choose, including co-sponsoring the Women’s Health Protection Act, which would codify a woman’s right to reproductive health care.

Karen Carter Richards, NNPA’s Board Chair along with Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., the association’s president and CEO, issued the following joint statement:

“The latest Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade is a bad decision that will impact the civil rights of communities of color and particularly women. This is why elections have consequences. The NNPA will increase our efforts to turn out the black vote in 2022.

Marcela Howell, president, and CEO of In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Health Imperative and a conglomerate of other women’s rights groups, joined in a statement rebuking the high court’s decision.

“Overturning the historic Roe decision after 50 years of legal precedent impacts women and birthing people’s human and civil rights,” the statement said.

“The Supreme Court’s ruling declares open season on women and birthing people’s rights and lives,” she continued. “While we call on Congress and the Biden administration to take immediate action to uphold the Constitution, we will not depend on governing bodies to protect our rights.”

NNPA

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the Transformative Justice Coalition, and her board chair and fellow lawyer Daryl Jones, told a captivated panel that their organization had recorded 72 voter suppression tactics to prevent a large population from casting ballots.

Among them are strict voter laws in many Republican-led states, deceptive practices like robocalls; early voting cuts; and voter intimidation.

“Black voters did our share in 2020,” Arnwine remarked.

“Ninety-three percent of all eligible black voters registered in Georgia. Yet, in the 2021 Georgia Senate run-off, 93 percent of all registered black voters turned out. That’s why people don’t understand where the real power is.”

Along with NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., Richards, NNPA Executive Board members Janis Ware, Fran Farrer, Cheryl Smith and Jackie Hampton, Arnwine and Jones announced that the groups would utilize a multi-vehicle “votercade” to get out the vote.

They said individuals riding in new and COVID-safe tour buses would hit swing states ahead of the November elections to register and mobilize GOTV for 10 million new black voters.

Chavis said artists from Roc Nation, the company run by hip-hop magnate and business mogul Jay-Z, would accompany the votercade in some cities.

Music superstar Stephanie Mills also pledged to “get on the bus with the Black Press and the Transformative Justice Coalition.”

Chavis said he’s convinced other celebrities will also join the national GOTV campaign.

“The first form of voter suppression is self-suppression,” Dr. Chavis asserted.

“This last primary election showed that some of us were keeping ourselves from voting. There are 55 million unregistered Americans eligible to vote, and 10 million are African Americans,” Chavis continued.

“What if those 10 million were registered? We wouldn’t have worried about Donald Trump or the craziness of what the U.S. Supreme Court is doing now. Elections have consequences. The overturned Roe v. Wade, the overturned gun laws – are consequences of elections.”

With more than 235 African American-owned newspapers and media companies serving as members, the NNPA represents the Black Press of America.

The Transformative Justice Coalition’s mission includes the systematic change that achieves racial justice, gender, economic and social justice, and human rights through public education and engagement initiatives that attend equally to hearts and minds as well as the social systems and structure in which they exist.

Further, the coalition dedicates itself to informed civic engagement and equal voting rights for everyone.

They use a voting rights map of shame to inform the public of threats to America’s democracy, how to protect their voting rights, and steps to take to ensure the ability to cast a ballot and make sure it’s counted. The organization also seeks the restoration of voting rights for ex-felons.

“[Anti-voting rights organizations and individuals] have trained 10,000 people to be poll disruptors to go to only black polling sites,” Arnwine said.

“They’re not sending them to white polling sites, and if you watched the [Jan. 6] hearings, this is a concentrated effort to disempower black voters,” she stated.

According to Davis, more than 18 million people are eligible to vote but don’t know it.

“They are the felony disenfranchised. They are confused. It’s intentionally done in various states. For example, in some states, you never lose your right to vote, and in some states, you can run for office if you’re incarcerated,” he explained.

The votercade would help educate voters and explain what’s legal, among other things.

“We’re calling on all 235 NNPA members. That call and response from our brothers and sisters are vital. It’s movement time. It is time to Get-Out-The-Vote,” Dr. Chavis declared further.

“With the Transformative Justice Coalition, the NNPA will help move our people forward to get out this vote. In 2022, we will make the critical difference in the midterm elections in terms of increasing black voter participation throughout the country.”

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Lucille R. Williams celebrated her 105th birthday on Saturday, May 28, 2022 at Piccadilly's Restaurant, I-55 North, Jackson, MS. Her actual birthday was May 25. One of her favorite recitals is the poem “If” by Rudyard Kipling. Her favorite scripture is Philippians 4:13-“I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me.” She contributes her longevity to loving God, much prayer, treating all people with respect and eating healthy. She was happy to have celebrating with her several family members, friends and her pastor, Presiding Elder Reverend Dr. Floyd E. Chambers and Mrs. Hattie Chambers of Zion Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Canton.

Pictured are two of her five children Thaddeus Roberts, Sr. (left) and Larry Williams (right);



Ms. Edward Jean Blackmon (left) and Ms. Harris Ruth Brown (right) are two of her nieces and caregivers

Aaron Honeysucker, line dancing champion, a community presence

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

In different settings, audiences are moved by the sincere dedication that Aaron Honeysucker has for the love of his Jackson community. He founded his line dancing team, Community Health Initiative Obesity Fighters, and moves throughout Jackson – engaging others. The team consists of 4 or 5 instructors who get others who may not be able to afford to go, or who may not be able to be motivated to go, to a gym.

“Line dancing is my way of giving back to the community. I’m trying to reduce obesity in Mississippi since it is the fattest state,” charged Honeysucker.

Honeysucker had his first experience with line dancing in 1990. He’s been teaching the art form since 2004. The line dancing champion learned during the course of time that line dancing enables him to “live a better life” because it “helps keep me fit.”

Sharing his findings with others (despite age) allows them to reap benefits as well.

Honeysucker maintains that line dancing produces interaction with people, establishes new



Honeysucker (out front) rocks the class to Johnny Kemp’s song, “I Just Got Paid” at Anderson United Methodist Church. PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

friendships and promotes fitness while exercising.

There is an old saying, “Nothing beats failure but a try.” For

persons who might be skeptical about line dancing, Honeysucker offers this advice: “Get off your tail feather and give it a try.” He

justifies his statement by insisting from long years of experience that “the art of dancing is getting healthy and staying fit.”

While teaching, the dancer incorporates gospel, rhythm and blues, country, jazz and other music varieties. In his friendly, laid-back style, Honeysucker demonstrates all steps prior to playing the music.

Honeysucker and his team have a regular class schedule in the midst of practicing social distance and wearing masks. All classes are line dancing, except for walking. In addition, Honeysucker has other engagements. He is active at parties, reunions and special events.

Line dance instructors who volunteer their services speak favorably of the non-salaried Honeysucker.

Gleaned Veteran of Foreign Wars member, Sara Rivers, said, “Line dancing is a culture about having fun, being healthy and socializing with people. I started line dancing with Mr. Honeysucker in 2014 [when I met him at the VFW]. Upon his invitation to come to one of his line dancing classes, I attended – and felt since then that he has enhanced people to health awareness, healthy eating and exercising. Line dancing is one of those ways for me to do

that.”

Rivers said that she had back surgery and had to stop running. “Line dancing was that avenue I took. Though I have limitations, I have a camaraderie with individuals in the class. I only knew [how to do] the electric slide and the bus stop. I have now learned many line dances [because] I truly believe Mr. Honeysucker is ‘the line dance king.’ He gives us room to learn and grow.”

On another note, Sheila Cheeks reflected, “Mr. Honeysucker is a pillar in his community, businessman’s great friend. He believes in putting healthy food in the body. We all know he loves line dancing. It’s a joy to be in his presence.”

Other line dance instructors include Ebony Hicks, Maggie White, Stephanie Harris, Felecia Friday, Norma Demore and Regina McClendon.

Honeysucker, originally from Camden, Miss., graduated from Velma Jackson High School and retired from the United States Army.

You may contact him for times and dates of classes and more information at 601-506-2540.

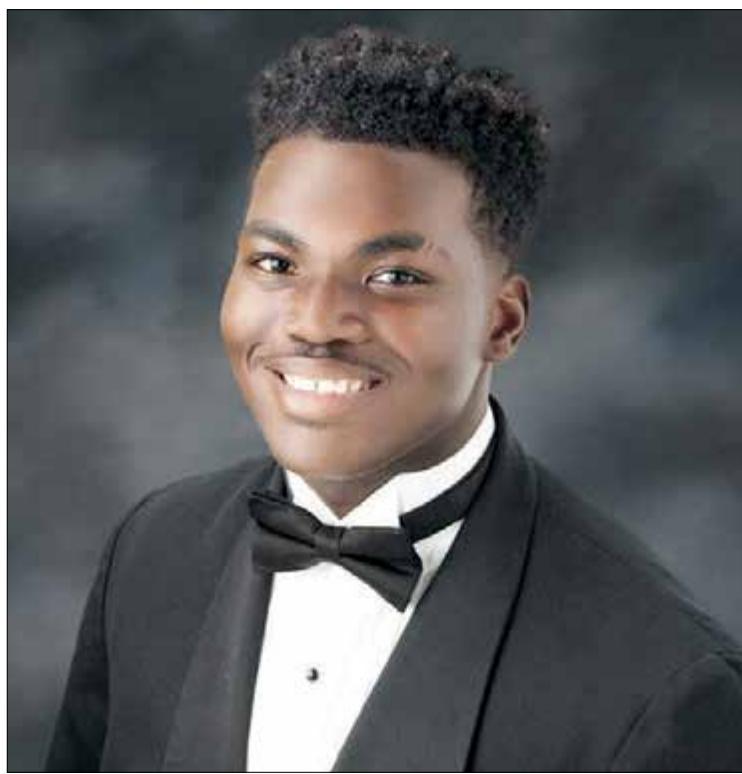
Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Please join us in congratulating 3
Hinds County School District seniors
who received scholarships
from Community Bank



Marzavier Willa – Raymond High School



John Hunt – Terry High School



Torrie Jones – Terry High School



MS House and Senate Minority Leaders issue statement in response to SCOTUS decision overturning Roe v. Wade and the ruling’s potential adverse effects on other privacy rights

Mississippi Link Newswire

The following statement is attributed to Mississippi House Minority Leader Robert L. Johnson III and Senate Minority Leader Derrick Simmons:

“Last Friday, the right wing of the Supreme Court of the United States did exactly what Republicans nominated them to do – delivered a radical decision that undermines 50 years of precedent by overturning Roe v. Wade. This ruling opens the floodgates for states to ban abortion and attack many other rights based on privacy.

“As the administrative process and lawsuits move forward, abortion is legal in Mississippi. If you have an appointment, keep it. For information on the closest place to receive care, visit abortionfinder.org.

“The decision on when and whether to start or grow a family is both deeply personal and deeply informed by a person’s individual situation. We believe in the freedom of Mississippians, not the state, to make decisions about their families. We believe in the dignity of Mississippians controlling their bodies and their futures. We believe caring for each other and our community is required. We will not stop fighting for a world that reflects those values.



Senate Minority Leader Derrick Simmons

“While we fight for that future, we demand Republican leadership put their money where their mouth is. Republicans claim they are making Mississippi “the safest state for the unborn” yet their legislative track record shows the opposite. Mississippi Republicans have voting records that show they do not give a damn about human dignity, and they do not value the lives of women, children or babies, especially when they are black or poor. We simply need to see the failure to



MS House Minority Leader Robert Johnson

extend postpartum Medicaid to understand where they stand.

“While we mourn the impacts this ruling will have on human dignity, we are clear-eyed in preparing for the 2023 legislative session. We know the attacks will not stop with abortion. Birth control, LGBTQ+ equality and every right based on the right to privacy is now at risk. We will continue to stand firm with Mississippians against these threats to our humanity

AARP awards grants to 4 Mississippi organizations as part of its nationwide program to make communities more livable

Mississippi Link Newswire

AARP Mississippi announced Tuesday, June 29, four organizations throughout the state will receive 2022 Community Challenge grants – part of the largest group of grantees to date with \$3.4 million awarded among 260 organizations nationwide. Grantees will implement quick-action projects that help communities become more livable in the long-term by improving public places, transportation, housing, diversity, equity and inclusion, digital access and civic engagement, with an emphasis on the needs of adults age 50 and over.

“AARP Mississippi is committed to working with communities to improve residents’ quality of life through tangible changes,” said AARP Mississippi State Director Kimberly L. Campbell, Esq. “We are proud to collaborate with this year’s grantees as they make immediate improvements in their communities to jumpstart long-term change, especially for Mississippians 50 and over.”

Here in Mississippi, projects funded include:

Hattiesburg Landmark Preservation

The grant will help Hattiesburg Landmark Preservation improve a park/playground at Thames Elementary School, the only public park in midtown Hattiesburg. The project includes updating a basketball court, adding four age-friendly benches at a walking track and creating two murals.

Jackson Heart Foundation – Museum Trail

The grant will help the Jackson Heart Foundation continue to develop the Museum Trail, a multi-use trail spanning a total of 4.34 miles connecting the local community to parks, museums, a farmers’ market, a food hall and the Pearl River. The grant will assist in developing two multi-functional trailhead plazas that include a custom designed seating

area, public art and lighting.

Noxubee County Historical Society

The grant will assist the Noxubee County Historical Society in completing the renovation of the Macon Welcome Center in the downtown business district. The grant will help with computers, food prep equipment, audio video equipment and more.

Waynesboro-Wayne County Library

The grant will help the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library purchase 11 GrandPads, a tablet designed for older adults. The devices will then be used in computer classes and available to check out, just like books. A special staff member will provide tech support.

AARP Community Challenge grant projects will be funded in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. True to the program’s quick-action nature, projects must be completed by November 30, 2022.

This year, AARP is bolstering its investment of affordable and adaptable housing solutions in response to the national housing crisis. With additional funding support from Toyota Motor North America, the program is also increasing its support of projects that improve mobility innovation and transportation options.

The grant program is part of AARP’s nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for people of all ages. Since 2017, AARP Mississippi has awarded 11 grants through the program to nonprofit organizations and government entities across the state.

View the full list of grantees and their project descriptions at aarp.org/communitychallenge and learn more about AARP’s livable communities work at aarp.org/livable.

Dreaming in Mississippi

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer



Seems like there are two main types of dreaming, the sleeping kind and the daydreaming kind. Medical people now say that daydreaming is known to be a natural healthy resting state of the brain. Who knew? Not sure I experience the resting part though, here in good ole Mississippi.

The Pew Research Center claims that 91% of whites – European Americans – in Mississippi believe in God. 84% percent of these folks are Christians. 76% of them attend services with varying degrees of regularity. 70% pray daily. 68% have a feeling of peace/spiritual well-being at least weekly. 49% turn to religion as their source for guidance on right and wrong. 48% participate in the study of scripture regularly. 44% believe there are absolute standards of right and wrong, but 56% believe that right and wrong depends on the situation – it’s negotiable to them, so to speak.

Numerous sources claim that Mississippi is the most religious state in the country. One Christian directory lists 109,816 churches in the Magnolia State. And, of course, Christian churches have leaders – pastors, reverends, priests, etc. These Christian clergy claim to love Jesus with all their being, and typically indicate they have been called to the ministry. Many are scholars, experts in the Word.

Isn’t it something though, that despite our lofty levels of white Christianity in Mississippi, we are so highly racist? The National Equity Atlas ranks Mississippi #50 on their racial equity index. In 2019, their scale demonstrating prosperity gave white Mississippians a score of 38, and a score of 3 for blacks. Nothing new to report here.

But anyway, back to daydreaming. When I think of dreaming, I think of Dr.

COMMENTARY

Martin Luther King’s I Have a Dream speech. Then some of his quotes like: “A church that has lost its voice for justice is a church that has lost its relevance in the world,” and, “If one is truly devoted to the religion of Jesus, [that person] will seek to rid the earth of social evils. The gospel is social as well as personal.”

My daydream is that white Christian clergy in Mississippi wake up on Sunday morning having experienced a profound change in their heart while they slept. Yes, of course they still love Jesus. Of course they still see their core responsibility as shepherd’s of their flocks to be that of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But there is one majestic change. The caveat has been removed. The caveat that willfully ignores racist behavior; despite being in the house of the Lord, desiring and loving Jesus, and believing that eternal salvation lies in the hands of Jesus. The caveat that has allowed contradiction and hypocrisy to be acceptable.

These white clergy take to the pulpit with their newfound truth. They have been touched by the love and guidance of God. They know fully now that absent their clerical efforts to resist racism, they are complicit. They admit to their congregations how horribly wrong they have been to turn a blind eye to racism. They repent of their sin. They remind their flock that we are all God’s children and that any form of partiality is in direct contradiction of the Gospel. They stand figuratively naked before the assembled, owning their wrongness, and sharing they are tired of carrying the burden of their indifference toward people of color. A shepherd knows their flock and they impart their additional burden of knowing that they have suffered as well, and ask forgiveness for the sin of incomplete leadership, leadership that allowed exceptions for loving thy neighbor.

These white clergy press on. They implore the entire congregation to their knees. The pastor then leads them in prayer, a soul-wrenching plea for forgiveness and to cease this sin on this very day, and to never let it return again. Asking Jesus to fill their hearts with love and understanding of all people. Asking God to rid them of racial judgement. Asking to guide them in amends and reconciliation. Asking to be free of this hatred of a select group of God’s children. Asking to embrace African Americans as they do their own brothers and sisters.

And this newborn freedom and sense of fairness and justice migrate from the church to the home. Family gatherings reaffirm this newness, righteousness and equity. Individual daily prayers now include petitions for grace and forgiveness, and to be led in daily thinking about how to be helpful today to my fellow man and woman, especially those of color. And to meditate, however painful it might be, on what it must be like to be on the other side of that hatred for so long.

These white Christian Mississippians go forth, differently. Go forth with hearts full of love. They teach their children the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi – “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.”

Can you imagine the beautiful tremors? The reverberations would be felt across this country and the world over? Yes, it’s okay to dream, even in Mississippi.

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Slippin’ Through the Cracks – The Blues Journey of Bobby Rush

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Since last summer, New Stage Theatre has been involved with the development of a new musical play about the life of Bobby Rush. A very talented group of Mississippi actors, singers and musicians gathered to work on the new musical, SLIPPIN’ THROUGH THE CRACKS, THE BLUES JOURNEY OF BOBBY RUSH with songs by Bobby Rush and written by Stephen Helper and Bobby Rush. The piece was presented as a stage reading on Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26, to an invited audience at New Stage Theatre.

“SLIPPIN’ THROUGH THE CRACKS is a true story of the pride and promise of Mississippi and the American South. It is an American story of faith, joy, resilience and triumph,” said New Stage Theatre Artistic Director Francine Reynolds. “It is very exciting for us to be part of the development of this new musical about the life of Bobby Rush.”

The show dramatizes Bobby Rush’s journey: from juke joints to world tours, from sharecropper to blues superstar, even some false arrests as so often happens to black males as they sometime follow a path not traveled by many others.



Dramatic scene by cast

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON AND LYNN ORMAN



(L) Mark Henderson as father of Rush and Yohance Myles as young Rush



Cast surrounding Rush after the performance (seated)



Cast and others

Reynolds said, “Rush’s story is carried forward across eight American decades by his boisterous and moving songs, the hallmarks of the Blues.”

Helper was very pleased with the production. He spoke well of the entire cast. When asked specifically about Joy Amerson, who played the part of Bobby Rush’s mother, he responded, “Joy is a gem, a wonderful actress, she is a very hard worker and I love her.”

At the end of the play, after the cast took their bows, Bobby Rush ran upon the stage with his guitar playing while singing “Slippin’ Through the Cracks. The audience was apparently thrilled.

“I appreciate that the creators of the theatre piece wanted the workshop to take place in Mississippi and we were able to hire Mississippi artists. All of this was made possible by a generous donation. We hope to do a full production of the show in the future and that will take more generous investment,” said Reynolds.

After the play, Bobby Rush, while reminiscing with Dr. Tanya Moore about her grandfather, the late Charles Evers, paused for a moment to tell *The Mississippi Link* that he really wanted his life story to be told and was very pleased with the production. Rush said he was by no means surprised that the play was so well enjoyed by the audience. He said, “I know God can do anything.”

Rush said that his friend Stephen Helper wrote this play with and about him but it was not written so that people could feel sorry for him and the trials he had to endure.

Rush said, “I want people to know that if a country boy like me can make it through the cracks, then they can too.”



Carolyn Amerson and Rush



Rush and Dr. Tanya Moore



Joy (cast member) and Cleophus Amerson



Stephen Helper and Rush



Reception

A New Day Coalition for Equity for Black America will hold inaugural Summit in Jackson

Special to The Mississippi Link

A New Day Coalition for Equity for Black America (ANCEBA) and its National Leader, Pastor Hosea J Hines of Jackson, MS, will hold an inaugural Summit in Jackson, July 21-22, at the JSU E-Center from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day.

This non-profit organization was established to “harness” the collective experience, influences and power of the black clergy to improve the lives of black citizens. ANCEBA is comprised of five regions that span the United States, namely Region 1 (Midwest), Region 2 (Northeast), Region 3 (Southeast), Region 4 (Southwest), and Region 5. (West). Forty-six states and the District of Columbia are represented in the organization.



Hines

Pastor Hines says: “For many years, the black community has suffered disparities under various administrations in our country. Much of these disparities have emanated from neglect on a mass scale.”

The summit will focus on

solutions where many disparities exist. ANCEBA will have well known speakers such as Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and Robert Moore retired U. S. Marshall and former Police Chief of Jackson Police Department as well as others who are experts in each subject matter on the scheduled agenda.

Areas of discussion include:

- **Economic Development:** Negative flight of economic development opportunities to suburban cities has caused unemployment to spiral beyond normal measures. This has created residual issues relating to stable families and schools, etc.
- **Afordable Housing:** Afordable housing has become

scarce due to a lack of livable wages and affordability. Additionally, redlining, and other systemic discrimination have continued to play a large role in the lack of home ownership in black and brown communities.

- **Education Disparities:** According to a study by the Brookings Institute, education experiences for minority students have continued to be substantially separate and unequal. Two-thirds of minority students still attend schools that are predominantly minority with most of them located in central cities and funded well below those in neighboring suburban districts. For some reason the educational system has overlooked the true connection between home, school, and the house of wor-

ship.

- **Healthcare Disparities:** The National Institute of Health recently published information regarding healthcare in the black community. The study concluded that racial and ethnic minorities may face challenges in having access to medical care in the United States. When they receive it, their care may not be equivalent to that for other groups. Why this is so, however, is a complex issue involving not only possible differences in ability to pay, but the lack of access to adequate insurance programs like other communities.
- **Criminal Justice Reform:** As displayed around the country in the last few years, social justice is one of the most prevailing issues facing the black commu-

nity. Unethical, and oftentimes illegal, conduct by law enforcement officers has escalated beyond control around the country.

- **Voting Rights:** The reality of today’s political environment is that communities of color are politically displaced. The redistricting process in several states is being used to dilute the votes of black and brown citizens on a mass scale. Additionally, several Republican-controlled states are passing laws specifically designed to minimize the votes of people of color. This action is designed to elevate racial supremacy.

To register for the summit visit anceba.org. and for additional information, you may call Pastor Hosea Hines at 601-502-5196.

Water your brain

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

We all know when we're really dehydrated. We know because our mouth is parched, we may feel overheated and all you think about is getting a tall glass of water. But it is harder to tell when you're mildly dehydrated. The signs for mild dehydration are not as apparent. It is more common for people to be mildly dehydrated. Mild dehydration can hurt your brain.

The adult human brain is about 2% of your total body weight. The average human brain weighs about 3 pounds. 80% of your brain is water, 10% fat and 10% protein. Science shows that you only need to be 1% dehydrated to experience a 5% decrease in cognitive function. If you have a 2% decrease in brain hydration it can result in your having short term memory loss. With prolonged dehydration your brain cells will shrink in size and mass. This is a condition common with a lot of seniors who have been dehydrated for years. Water also gives the brain the electrical energy for you're your brain functions. Your brain cells need two times more energy than other cells in the body. Water provides energy more effectively than any other substance.

Dr. Kristy Dahl, a co-author of the report, examined the average number of days with a heat index above 105°F in counties where African Americans make up 25 percent or more of the population (which is about twice the national average) vs. those counties that are less than 25 percent African American. The historical data also showed that African Americans have been disproportionately affected by extreme heat.

We require more water than any other thing we ingest. We may survive for a few weeks without food, but we would only last a few days without water. Water makes up more than two thirds of your body weight.

Water also helps our brain cells communicate with each other. Water clears out toxins and waste that impairs brain function and carries nutrients to your brain. This won't happen if you are dehydrated.

Mental and physical symptoms of dehydration can include:

- Depression



- Afternoon fatigue
- Sleep issues
- Inability to focus
- Lack of mental clarity, sometimes referred to as "brain fog."
- Persistent bad breath
- Decreased urination
- Mood swings

It's not only important to pay attention to just your thirst, but also to some of those other more subtle symptoms, such as fatigue, headache, difficulty concentrating, remembering and learning. If you feel any of those symptoms you should ask yourself if you've had enough water.

Drinking water is important all year around but you need to be especially meticulous about drinking water when the weather is hot. Two thirds of your body is composed of water. This makes it the body's most vital nutrient. To maintain balance the average person needs about 2,500 ml. (about 10 cups) per day. Of this amount probably 60% will be obtained from drinking water or beverages, 30% from moist foods and the remaining 10% will be a by product of the metabolism of various nutrients.

Are Eight cups enough? The fact is, how much water you need to drink each day depends on a few factors, including your age, gender, activity level, humidity and even the weather. The Institute of Medicine, which sets Dietary Reference Intakes for all nutrients, says that in general, women need around 11 cups of water a day, while men need 15.6 cups a day.

Your daily fluid intake can come

from drinking water or other beverages such as juice and milk. Fruits and vegetables can also be counted because they are 80% water. You can't count your intake of coffee, tea or alcohol because they can act as a diuretic, which means you will lose water.

A few ways to get in more water:

1. Drink water before, during and after your workout.
2. Drink a glass of water before or after each meal.
3. If you drink alcohol, drink just as much water.
4. Drink sparkling water instead of soda.
5. Drink water throughout your day even if you are indoors and in the air conditioning.
6. Eat more fruits and vegetables.
7. If you drink coffee, drink just as much water.

You don't have to run a marathon to run low on body fluids. Mild dehydration can occur even when you're doing small tasks. This can include eating or even watching TV. If a person gets in about 2,500 ml. of water each day then 2,500 ml. of water must be eliminated to maintain water balance. Of this volume approximately 60% will be lost in urine, 6% in feces, and 6% in sweat. Another 28% will be lost by diffusion through the skin (which takes place all day long) and evaporation from the lungs.

The only way to avoid the negative consequences of dehydration on your cognitive functions is to stay hydrated. Drink water.

FDA advisers recommend updating COVID booster shots for fall

By Lauran Neergaard
and Matthew Perrone
Associated Press

At least some U.S. adults may get updated COVID-19 shots this fall, as government advisers voted Tuesday that it's time to tweak booster doses to better match the most recent virus variants.

Advisers to the Food and Drug Administration wrestled with how to modify doses now when there's no way to know how the rapidly mutating virus will evolve by fall – especially since people who get today's recommended boosters remain strongly protected against COVID-19's worst outcomes.

Ultimately the FDA panel voted 19-2 that COVID-19 boosters should contain some version of the super-contagious omicron variant, to be ready for an anticipated fall booster campaign.

"We are going to be behind the eight-ball if we wait longer," said one adviser, Dr. Mark Sawyer of the University of California, San Diego.

The FDA will have to decide the exact recipe, but expect a combination shot that adds protection against either omicron or some of its newer relatives to the original vaccine."

"None of us has a crystal ball" to know the next threatening variant, said FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks. But "we may at least bring the immune system closer to being able to respond to what's circulating" now rather than far older virus strains.

It's not clear who would be offered a tweaked booster – they might be urged only for older adults or those at high risk from the virus. But the FDA is expected to decide on the recipe change within days and then Pfizer and Moderna will have to seek authorization for the appropriately updated doses, time for health authorities to settle on a fall strategy.

Current COVID-19 vaccines have saved millions of lives globally. With a booster dose, those used in the U.S. retain strong protection against hospitalization and death but their ability to block infection dropped markedly when omicron appeared. And the omicron mutant that caused the winter surge has been replaced by its geneti-

cally distinct relatives. The two newest omicron cousins, called BA.4 and BA.5, together now make up half of U.S. cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pfizer and Moderna already were brewing boosters that add protection to the first omicron mutant. Their combination shots, what scientists call "bivalent" vaccines, substantially boosted levels of antibodies capable of fighting that variant, more than simply giving another dose of today's vaccine.

Both companies found the tweaked shots also offered some cross-protection against those worrisome BA.4 and BA.5 mutants, too, but not nearly as much.

Many scientists favor the combination approach because it preserves the original vaccines' proven benefits, which include some cross-protection against other mutants that have cropped up during the pandemic.

The question facing FDA is the correct recipe change. Both companies said they'd have plenty of omicron-targeted combo shots by October but Moderna said switching to target omicron's newest relatives might delay its version another month.

Further complicating the decision is that only half of vaccinated Americans have received that all-important first booster. And while the CDC says protection against hospitalization has slipped some for older adults, a second booster that's recommended for people 50 and older seems to restore it. But only a quarter of those eligible for the additional booster have gotten one.

Marks said that by tweaking the shots, "We're hoping we can convince people to go get that booster to strengthen their immune response and help prevent another wave."

The logistics will be challenging. Many Americans haven't had their first vaccinations yet, including young children who just became eligible – and it's not clear whether tweaked boosters eventually might lead to a change in the primary vaccine. But the FDA's advisers said it's important to go ahead and study updated vaccine recipes in children, too.

Child sexual abuse – a young lady's personal story

Special to the Mississippi Link

June is PSTD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder month.) Nearly 6 out of every 100 people (or 6% of the population) will have PTSD at some point in their lives. About 8 in 100 women (8%) and about 4 in 100 men (4%) will experience PTSD.

A 23-year old student's personal experience - Commentary

When I was a child I was abused by my father. Though it was more than one type of abuse, the worst and most traumatic was the sexual abuse. I have four siblings, an older sister, a younger sister, and two younger brothers. We were all abused and unfortunately our abuser is our biological father. There are many signs of abuse that may be noticed in a child if paid attention to.

People who are constantly around children such as teachers, babysitters, school counselors, and others should pay very close attention to these signs. Some of the signs that I had when I was in school were being

or showing nervousness around men, and very low self – esteem. For my older sister, it was the same but she was a bit more social than I was which helped her to make a few friends. It was when she would talk with her friends that made her teachers notice that she had too much knowledge about sexual content for her age and said things that showed signs of abuse. They were very subtle things that her young oblivious mind did not think twice about.

Her teacher reported what she noticed, but to the wrong person. They would speak to our parents about their concerns if she had been abused. Our father would pretend to be very concerned and say that he is going to do something about it. This made things worse for us. Our father would transfer us to another school district and use sexual abuse as our punishment. If we were good by his standards, he would buy us lots of gifts and not touch us for a short while, but if we were bad by his standards, he would take all the

food so we couldn't eat and misuse us for his sick pleasure.

For my sister, this happened twice before we were taken out of school completely and homeschooled; therefore, he worried less about us telling a counselor, teacher, or friend what was going on in our house. We were not taught anything while we were in home school so by the time we were able to attend school again we were very behind.

My older sister was taken out of school after her first semester of first grade and came back in fifth grade. I was taken out of school after my first semester of preschool and returned for third grade.

Because of the abuse when I was young, I thought all families did these things and it was normal, but I did not enjoy it at all and started to hate the sight of older men and never want a family of my own someday.

My father's sexual abuse happened less as my older sister and I got to preteen years. It might have been because my older sister and I were approaching

the age to be able to get pregnant. Two of my younger siblings were born while we were in home school. My youngest brother was born when I was 13. My youngest brother showed the most signs of his behavior and things he would say such as, "Daddy is my boyfriend." And he would act out with sexual behavior around other boys.

My younger sister was the one who had the courage to truly speak out about the horrors in our house. I truly planned to kill my parents to free my siblings because I was manipulated to believe that no one will help us because of years of being groomed to think that. Thankfully for my younger sister, we were all removed immediately and placed in the care of my mom's youngest sister, and I did not have to spend the rest of my life in jail. I was 17 when I finally left my parents' house, and that is when I met many other foster children who have been through similar experiences that I have.

A few of them were able to re-

cently tell me some of the struggles they go through today after being a victim of child abuse and some of the signs they had when they were children.

Jade, a former foster youth, mentioned that because she was neglected and physically abused, she suffers from PTSD. She still has nightmares and struggles with relationships because of the abuse she experienced as a child. "Some of the signs, though I hid them, I would have bruises under my clothes and eat as much as I could at lunch because I knew I would not be able to eat at home." This can be a sign of neglect as well as always having worn out or dirty clothes.

Another former foster youth Alex, mentioned, "I was molested by my grandfather and my mom was a drug addict. By the time I was eight I was addicted to porn and became very promiscuous by the time I was 12. Because of the alcohol always around and my mom either passed out from the drugs and alcohol or gone, I started to

drink too."

Now Alex still struggles with alcoholism because of the habits he made then. Though he was able to stop drinking for a moment after being placed in different homes, when he was out of custody he began drinking again because of his depression.

Though it is a sad reality, children are abused in various ways all over the world every day. There is no way to stop every abuser before they abuse a child but a child can be saved by being removed from that environment by noticing the signs and reporting it to the authorities.

Today my siblings and I have thankfully not seen our mother and father in almost six years and seek counseling for our childhood experiences. I have PTSD and depression, which have affected my relationships, my self-esteem, and many other things. I have recently started taking medication for my diagnosis.

There is much more to the story, but for now, this is my personal experience.

P R E S E R V E D

Christians, immorality goes beyond abortion

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



It's been less than a week since one of the most divisive Supreme Court rulings in recent years was announced. Many Christians and evangelicals gleefully celebrated how overturning Roe v. Wade, the 50-year-old legal precedent that made abortion legal in the United States, confirmed the shifting of the Supreme Court to an ultraconservative majority. Many posted on social media and taught from pulpits that it is a sign from God and an answer to decades of prayer. Others expressed equally strong disappointment that women across the United States have lost the fundamental right to make decisions about their own reproductive health. The kind of responses I'm seeing from evangelical Christians reminds me of one

of the most disturbing things I read during the Brett Kavanaugh confirmation battle in 2018. It was an explanation by a pastor I followed on Facebook. The pastor callously declared that though she was a survivor of sexual assault, she did not believe Dr. Christine Blasey Ford. She continued that the claims were "a subversive attempt by liberal activists to stop a man of integrity because they have no morals, no integrity because they have no moral compass." Her words are a perfect example of evangelical Christians shamefully showing how some can't recognize or much less show God's grace to others or recognize the sin of other injustices. The moral compass doesn't stop at the abortion clinic. The moral compass should extend to people who are hurting like those who are survivors of sexual abuse or those experiencing discrimination and injustice. James 1:27 cautions about this kind of hypocritical behavior: "Anyone who sets himself up as "religious" by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world. (MSG)

It seems to me that those "Christians," like this pastor who doubted Dr. Ford's claims of abuse, ignore the words of Matthew 7:1-2 which caution against judging others: "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way, you judge others, you will be judged..." Rather than judging her and other victims of such heinous crimes, more effort should be spent praying and sharing God's love with them. Sadly, nearly two years after the end of the chaotic Trump presidency, the United States continues to experience great racial, ethnic, religious and economic

divisions. Even if your motivation to support Trump was because of issues like abortion, there is no scripture to justify continuing to ignore equally important issues of racial, social and economic justice. God will hold accountable those Christians who turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to other injustices and did not embrace the truth of Matthew 12:33 which reminds us that to "...love your neighbor ... is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." In other words, no religious practice/belief or political affiliation should be more important than showing Godly love and kindness to others. Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email preserved-bypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.


Have you touched Jesus?

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



There are many church joiners, but they have never touched Jesus. Friend, to see inside Heaven, we must have virtue, or power from Jesus. Jesus said in John 15:4, "Abide in Me, and I in you." God is not asking for people to "act" religious. The world is full of people who merely act religious. He is asking for people to testify of what His power is doing for them. Child of God, we ought to tell others what God has done and is doing for us. The reason many people cannot do that is, they have not really touched Jesus. I want us to consider what happened on the road to Damascus, where the greatest preacher, next to Jesus Christ, got converted. Paul had a one-on-one encounter with Jesus Christ. He was born into the church out of season. In other words, the church was not praying for him. However, it was praying against him, but that did not stop a change from taking place. I repeat when one touches Jesus, for whatever reason, a change always takes place. The sinner will quit sinning. He will quit doing anything that is wrong. However, he does not just quit things, but he starts doing that which is right. He will love to go to the house of God. No one will have to tell him to carry his

Bible to church, to look the way a Christian should look, or to get into the revival services. No, he has touched Jesus and wants everything that Jesus has for him. He had been feasting at the wrong supper for so long, but after touching Jesus Christ, he does not want to miss one meal, spiritually speaking. The wrongdoing ceased, and he desires to do right. Oh, he will make mistakes. If it should be a mistake that affects someone else, he will make it right immediately, because he wants to do what is right. When we touch Jesus, we will know by how we are getting along spiritually. We may say, "Well, I am still struggling." No, when we touch Jesus Christ, a change takes place, a change that is evident. Even the dog that we used to boot all the time will notice a change. If we genuinely want the power of God in our lives, we can have it. We might have a tendency to be satisfied with a sloppy experience. We can become so used to asking God to forgive us that and that is all we ever get done. The next thing we know, we will have lost that vital contact, or virtue. Remember, the word virtue means "power," and in some instances, it also means "strength." Friend, we can have this power if we want it. We must not let anything hinder us. Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton, VA 23669.



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Be careful of how we misrepresent Jesus

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



I remember in my twenties having a conversation with my dad, (a well-known Christian spiritual leader in New Orleans) about abortion. I said, “Daddy, what do you think about abortion?” He said, “I personally would not choose to abort a child; but it is not a governmental matter, it’s a woman’s decision. It is no different than legislating away a black person as less than human or to live enslaved.”

My daddy passed away almost thirty years ago, and in one night and a wake up, the core issues remain. In all my life experiences and lessons, I am often sobered by our capacities as humans to disguise fear, prejudice, beliefs, bias, arrogance and superiority under the law and religion.

Life is not black and white. It wasn’t black or white when Jesus walked the earth, nor is it now. Perhaps we do well to be reminded that Christianity is more than a concept or even a singular moral choice. It spans beyond church

buildings and reciting scriptures, position, deep personal beliefs and/or values. In fact, when we take a closer look at the scriptures we are assured of the sovereignty of Jesus’ sight and perception to what is hidden in us and our hearts. (Proverbs 21:2-3)

Certainly the issue of Roe v Wade provokes strong beliefs on all sides; from a spiritual perspective we must proceed cautiously in elevating the law when it suppresses/oppresses humanity, or as a cover to assert personal will. Scripture out of context can push dangerously close to misrepresenting Jesus.

The commandments remind us to not have other gods before God himself, to not make other idols, or use the Lord’s name in vain, to keep the Sabbath day holy, honor our parents, to not murder, commit adultery, steal, lie on our neighbors, or covet, yet theologically these human falters and weaknesses may interrupt blessings but are not criteria for entering heaven. Each one of us will be stopped at the gates to account not merely for what we do/say that is public but also what is private. One may stand self-righteously pure on the public side

and soberly impure in private. God cares most about what’s private – hidden places within us. I’ve said it before, and I will say it again; God is laser-focused on character not on persona.

In John 7-8, the woman who was caught in the act of adultery (which to be clear adultery with men who also were adulterers with her) was brought to Jesus in public by the Pharisees to be stoned. Thou shall not commit adultery is a commandment, right? However, let’s look closely to how Jesus responded. When they brought the woman forward, Jesus in his sovereignty saw deeper than what was visible. He focused on the intentions of the accusers. Specifically, this is how it went: “...the teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept

questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again, he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” (John 7:53-8:11, NIV)

I share this scripture to bring us closer to the tangible character and of christlikeness. The pharisees had power, authority and clarity about the scriptures and law, yet lacked an ability to see their own hypocrisy. Christ saw their hearts with an impurity far exceeding the adulteress woman.

Policies are visible but the intention underneath them are hidden in the heart. Consider today, God lasers in on our secret thoughts and for that reason only He has the final word.

DeborahMJackson.com, Instagram/Facebook @deborahmari-ajackson @thehearttosoul

Black women will suffer the harshest consequences after the overturn of Roe

By Glynda Carr
President/CEO Higher Heights for America



The Supreme Court just dealt a devastating blow to reproductive rights. With its decision in Dobbs v. Jackson, five Republican-appointed Justices on the U.S. Supreme Court swept away half a century of progress and eviscerated women’s rights and equality. After last month’s leaked opinion, we knew this moment could come, but that doesn’t make today’s news any easier to digest.

For black women in this country, today’s decision is especially devastating. Thirteen percent of American women are black, but 38% of people receiving abortion care are black. Abortion is necessary healthcare – and a lack of access can quite literally mean life or death for many black women. This is especially true for black women who have lower-incomes, live in rural areas, and do not have access to health care because of systemic racism and discrimination.

According to CDC data, black women are nearly three times more likely to die during childbirth than white women and are more likely to face maternal health issues. With new abortion restrictions and bans, these health outcomes are expected to get even worse: a 2021 Duke University study investigated the potential death toll following a total abortion ban and found a 33 percent increase in black women who died due to pregnancy-related complications.

The states that are already moving to ban abortion are among those with the largest black populations in the country. Consider Mississippi, the state with the highest percentage of black residents in the nation, and one of the 13 states with a “trigger law” that ensured today’s decision would result in a near-immediate ban on abortion access. Three other states with the highest proportion of black residents – Tennessee, Louisiana and Arkansas – have these trigger laws in place, and many other states, especially in the South, are moving to severely restrict or outright ban abortion.

The impact of new abortion bans and restrictions will be felt most acutely by poor and working-class black women; black women are significantly more likely to live in poverty compared to white women. For these women, the overturning of Roe won’t mean that abortions will end; it will mean that access to critical, potentially life-saving healthcare will move hundreds of miles out of reach. It will mean time off work (likely unpaid) and travel and childcare costs – expenses that may not be possible for women living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to simply put meals on the table.

At a time like this, when daughters suddenly have fewer rights than their mothers and grandmothers, it is challenging to imagine a way forward. But the answer is to do everything we can to restore our rights and ensure every woman has access to the healthcare they need and deserve, a right afforded to them under our nation’s Constitution. To do that, we need to elect and elevate more black women.

Black women have been at the forefront of the fight to protect and expand reproductive rights – from members of Congress like Reps. Cori Bush, Ayanna Pressley and Lauren Underwood, to our first black woman Vice President Kamala Harris, to soon-to-be-seated Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

We must elect Stacey Abrams to lead the state of Georgia – one of the states that is now positioned to severely restrict, or overturn the right to access abortion care under the leadership of their current Governor, Brian Kemp.

And finally, we need to not only encourage, but throw our unwavering support behind more black women from all across the country to run for office – women who personally understand the deep impact that a lack of healthcare and abortion restrictions have on communities that have lacked fair representation for far too long.

Today and every day, I stand with my partners and allies ready to continue the critical fight for access to affordable, safe, legal abortions for all women, no matter where they live, how they identify, or how much money they have. We will not back down.

Glynda Carr is president and CEO of Higher Heights for America, the only national organization providing black women with a political home exclusively dedicated to harnessing their power to expand black women’s elected representation and voting participation and advance progressive policies. The views expressed in this article are the writer’s own.

Will the January 6th hearings result in men and women going to prison?

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



Will the January 6th hearings change the minds of some people about what happened on January 6th? My answer to that question would be yes. If I had to hazard a guess about people going to jail, I would probably say no.

They will jump off the bandwagon of wrong and jump to the bandwagon of right.

The in-your-face truth has a strange effect on people. These hearings now in their third week have made an indelible impression on a lot of us.

The culprits and cronies are even more guilty than we originally thought they were. Their denial of the facts is both laughable and pathetic.

As the January 6th hearings have unfolded, the former president of the United States did put pressure on government officials at all levels.

Acting Attorney General, Jeffrey Rosen at the time testified

that the former president wanted the Justice Department to be a part of this dishonest scheme.

The former president said, “Just say the election was corrupt and leave the rest to me and the GOP congressmen.”

Who was corrupt in this matter? We know the answer to that question.

We have heard from many in the Republican Party that nothing illegal or illicit happened. Their constant refrain is why are these hearings taking place? What is the big deal?

How does any reasonable person who watched this attack say that nothing transpired? Of course, the key words in the last statement are “reasonable person.”

Many outside of the political arena have also voiced their opinion on what happened.

The latest is Jack Del Rio, a professional football coach with the Washington Commanders who recently said that the January 6th insurrection was not a “major deal.” He was fined \$100,000. His fine will be donated to the U.S. Capitol Police

Memorial Fund.

The hypocrisy of some Republicans is both dastardly and dubious. They say no problem, but they know there is a problem. If everything is peachy-keen, then why did some of them run to Mr. T and ask for pardons.

According to reports, Republican Representatives Matt Gaetz of Florida, Mo Brooks of Alabama, Louie Gohmert of Texas, Andy Biggs of Arizona and Scott Perry of Pennsylvania asked for pardons. Marjorie Taylor-Greene of Georgia is also included in this report.

Republican Representative Adam Kinzinger of Illinois who is a member of the committee said, “The president must not use his political influence to use the Department of Justice to his advantage.” To some and not to all, he did try to use his political influence. He failed. Joe Biden is the president of the United States of America.

The former president’s vile and incendiary comments on January 6th however led to charges and jail time for many participants.

Some could make a valid argument that he is responsible for their actions and subsequent consequences.

According to *Time Magazine*, more than 840 people have been arrested with more to come. One-hundred-eighty-five individuals have received sentences with more awaiting trials.

Those awaiting arrests and trials are anxious and nervous. In other words, “sweating bricks.” Every knock on the door could mean their January 6th reckoning.

If I was one of them, I wouldn’t make any long-range plans. If you did the crime, then you must do the time.

As the January 6th hearings continue, more people will testify, and more evidence will come out. If you are a doubter, then just keep watching!

What will be the ramifications of the January 6th hearings? Right now, we don’t know.

However, remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he said, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

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 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. Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted 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
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1025

6/23/2022, 6/30/2022

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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 CIITY OF JACKSON WEBSITE, WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV

Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Bids are also available at 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

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6/23/2022, 6/30/2022

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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 for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSD website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

6/23/2022, 6/30/2022

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Jackson Redevelopment Authority
Jackson, Mississippi
Proposals For Contractor Services For Various J.R.A. Properties -
Issued July 2022

INVITATION FOR BID

Sealed Bids will be received by the Jackson Redevelopment Authority (JRA) to prov de the hourly rate that will be b arged per pere n when a partio lar handyman type job is assigned. Bids will be received by JRA at the Porter Building, 218 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, 3rd Floor until 3:00pm on Friday 29 July 2022, and thereby publicly opened and read.

Scope: At any time during the contract period when JRA shall request that the Contractor provide JRA with a proposal, the contractor shall provide details, fees, materials, equipment rentals, plus labor costs (based on hourly rate in bid), for the work to be performed. The listed costs shall be subject to approval by JRA before a Notice To Proceed is issued.

The majority, if not all, of these services will occur in the Downtown Jackson and Farish Street commercial areas, at JRA owned properties.

Separate sealed bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis, as indicated on the Bid Form.

Bidding Documents are available at the JRA offices at 218 S. President Street, 3rd Floor, Jackson, MS 39201, Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm. Contact Mary Ealey at (601) 960.1815 or mealey@jacksonms.gov.

JRA will hold a non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference at 3:00pm on Thursday 21 July 2022, in its 1st Floor Conference Room, located at 218 S. President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All visitors are urged to wear a face-covering to ensure protection against transmission of COVID-19 and practice social distancing at all times inside the building. The Owner will transmit to all prospective Bidders of record such Addenda as the Owner considers necessary in response to questions arising at the conference. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effect ie .

6/30/2022, 7/7/2022

LEGAL

Jackson Redevelopment Authority
Jackson, Mississippi
Proposals For Lawncare Services For Various J.R.A. Properties - Issued
July 2022

INVITATION FOR BID

Sealed Bids for services related to lawncare services for various properties throughout the City of Jackson, Mississippi for a period of two (2) years, will be received by the Jackson Redevelopment Authority (JRA) at the Porter Building, 218 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, 3rd Floor until 2:00pm on Friday 29 July 2022, and thereby publicly opened and read. Services could total more than \$50,000, therefore requiring a Certificate of Responsibility Number. Bidders should anticipate that not all properties may be cut every month.

Separate sealed bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis, as indicated on the Bid Form.

Bidding Documents are available at the JRA offices at 218 S. President Street, 3rd Floor, Jackson, MS 39201, Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm. Contact Mary Ealey at (601) 960.1815 or mealey@jacksonms.gov.

JRA will hold a non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference at 2:00pm on Thursday 21 July 2022, in its 1st Floor Conference Room, located at 218 S. President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All visitors are urged to wear a face-covering to ensure protection against transmission of COVID-19 and practice social distancing at all times inside the building. The Owner will transmit to all prospective Bidders of record such Addenda as the Owner considers necessary in response to questions arising at the conference. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective.

6/30/2022 7/7/2022

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JOB VACANCY
MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC BROADCASTING
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

TITLE OF POSITION: Executive Producer (Public Broadcasting Specialist II)
DEPARTMENT: News & Public Affairs
ANNUAL ENTRY SALARY: Competitive

JOB DUTIES INCLUDE:
Mississippi Public Broadcasting is looking for a seasoned producer to join our award-winning news team as Executive Producer of our weekday radio news and public affairs program Mississippi Edition. The program provides an in-depth focus and discussion on local and statewide issues. This position is expected to generate program ideas, book guests for interviews, and conduct background research to produce unique, distinctive, and outstanding content. The ideal candidate should be a self-starter with excellent writing and organizational skills and capable of working across multiple media platforms.

This is a full-time position that's eligible for full benefits including excellent medical, dental and vision, ten paid holidays and a 401(a)-retirement plan.

Mississippi Public Broadcasting is one of three partner stations of The Gulf States Newsroom. This exciting, new collaborative reporting project works to plan o e rage, b are res ure s and inc eas reporting power in the gulf region.

We are an eight-station statewide television and radio network. The news team has been honored with four National Edward R. Murrow awards and several regional awards for excellence in broadcast journalism.

This position is classified as State Service, Exempt. EOE M-F Responsibilities and Qualifications:
• Demonstrates sound news judgement and the ability to produce compelling public radio style content • Book guests and generate creative segment/ program ideas for a statewide audience
• Writes and edits copy for web and social media and engages with audiences through social media
• Attend news planning meetings and actively generate compelling story ideas
• Other duties may include producing coverage of special news events, conducting interviews and the ability to operate broadcast audio equipment

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Typically requires a bachelor's degree and 1-4 years of experience.
HOW TO APPLY:
• See Web Site for complete description (www.mpbonline.org) • Applicants may email resumes to careers@mpbonline.org
• Applicants may submit State of Mississippi application to Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Attn: Personnel, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211
Closing Date: Open Until Filled
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION 3825 RIDGEWOOD ROAD, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39211

6/30/2022

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
BY THE
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
FOR
CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
REHABILITATE TAXIWAY A, PHASE 2 AND REHABILITATE TAXIWAY B, PHASE 1
AT THE
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
JMAA PROJECT NO. 021-22

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking bids for construction and related services in connection with the REHABILITATE TAXIWAY ALPHA PHASE 2 AND REHABILITATE TAXIWAY BRAVO PHASE 1 at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

Sealed bids to perform the Work will be accepted by JMAA until 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Friday, July 29, 2022 (the "Bid Deadline"). Bids shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

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

JMAA will publicly open and read all bids on Friday, July 29, 2022 at 4:05 p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

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

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: REHABILITATE Taxiway Alpha Phase 2 AND REHABILITATE Taxiway Bravo Phase 1 at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, Project No.021-22." If the submission is submitted via email, then the identification information must be provided in the email subject line. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, then the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

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

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

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

Interested parties may register and order plans and specifications from the Jackson Blueprint Online Plan Room website (<http://planroom.jaxblue.com>). A valid email address is required for registration. There is no charge for registration or to view the documents online. Documents may be downloaded from this website for a non-refundable fee of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) plus applicable sales tax.

Plans and specifications may also be purchased through the website (<http://planroom.jaxblue.com>). A printed bid set is \$75.00 plus \$20.00 shipping and applicable sales tax. Bid documents may be picked up or shipped to the party making the request. Documents will not be distributed or mailed, however, until payment is received. For questions regarding website registration and online orders, contact Jackson Blueprint & Supply at (601) 353-5803.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on Friday, July 8, 2022 at 10:00am (CST) in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

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

JMAA has established a Disadvantage Business Enterprises participation goal of 24.00% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: JUNE 29, 2022
John Means, Acting Chief Executive Officer

6/30/2022, 7/7/2022

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- Unlimited miles
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Crossword Puzzle

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

ACROSS

1. Branch of learning
5. Adventure story
9. Leg extension
10. Group of notes
11. Prego’s competition
12. Eagle’s nest
13. Seer
15. Cooking measurement
16. Mary ____
18. Garland
21. Miner’s goal
22. Bends
26. Overly fat
28. Hold it there
29. Dwelt
30. Big cat
31. Brood
32. Harness

DOWN

1. Hairstyle
2. Holler
3. Roman cloaks
4. Plaster
5. That girl
6. Main artery
7. Cereal
8. Dexterous
10. Roman emperor
14. Cut open
17. Not quickly
18. Chills
19. Circle
20. Put through a hole
23. American state
24. Odd fellow
25. Reasonable
27. Quilt

© Feature Exchange

Crossword Solution

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

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PICK UP
THE MISSISSIPPI LINK
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON

BULLY’S RESTAURANT
3118 Livingston Road
CASH & CARRY
Capitol Street and Monument Street
CITY HALL
219 S President St
GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX
2659 Livingston Road
DOLLAR GENERAL
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
J & A FUEL STORES
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
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

CANTON

A & I
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY’S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
FRYER LANE GROCERY
Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
JOE’S SANDWICH & GROCERY
507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
LACY’S INSURANCE
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM

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

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

CLINTON

DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY

SERVICE STATION
at Exit 78
CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND

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WELCOME CENTER
505 E. Main Street
SUNFLOWER GROCERY
122 Old Port Gibson Street,
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Week of June 26, 2022

Essay winners and storytellers shine at community and family memories of Mississippi Granny Midwives' event

Special to The Mississippi Link

Scott Ford House Inc. and supporters poured into Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center Saturday, June 18, 2022 for a 10:30 a.m. celebration. They came from The Delta Region, The Jackson Prairie Region and surrounding areas of Mississippi. These gatherers addressed the original theme of several years – Reclaiming Our Legacy and Shifting the Narrative of the Mississippi Granny Midwives: A Storytelling Project.

Executive Director of Scott Ford House Inc, Alferdeen Harrison (Ph.D.), gave a video presentation, “Searching for a People’s Culture – A Photo Story of the African American experience.

Elementary, middle school and high school students entered into an essay contest last year that was sponsored by The W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Under the jurisdiction of adult storytellers who were interviewed by oral historian, Janice K. Neal-Vincent, Ph.D., the students wrote essays based upon guidelines that were drawn up by three national adjudicators – Dr. Delores Hopkins, Mattie Stevens and Neal-Vincent.

Neal-Vincent conducted 23 interviews in four regions, (1) The Black Belt Near Tupelo, (2) The Delta Near Greenville, Greenwood, Clarksdale and Yazoo City, (3) The Jackson Prairie Near Jackson and (4) The Loess Hills Near Natchez and Vicksburg.

The students learned names and contributions of Mississippi granny midwives of long ago via stories told to them by their relatives or neighbors who were interviewed in their homes, churches, job sites and parks. Thirty-five questions were used for this explorative, interpretive study.

Interviewees responded to questions pertaining to systemic racism among medical personnel, clinics and/or hospitals; midwives’ certifications; midwives’ compensations; number of babies “caught” by midwives; midwives’ interactions with community children they “caught;” and the role of males during the birthing process. Interviews were then transcribed.

Mississippi Granny Midwife Scholarship Essay Winners from The Delta Region and The Jackson Prairie Region read their es-



Alferdeen Harrison, Rev. Marian Taly, Janice Neal- Vincent, Hymethia Thompson, Delores Hopkins, James Smith



FR- Aaliyah McCarthy, Trason Cooper, BR Sumiyyah Parker, Madison Cox, Ashton Smith, Gabrielle Smith



Gwen Harmon delivers the occasion



Judah School of Performing Arts performs version of Alvin Ailey's Wade In the Water



Patricia Levy, (last baby birthed by Midwife Bertha H. Matthews, accomodated by Rev. Taley receives story teller award from Neal-Vincent.

says. The essay topic was What I Found after Climbing Backwards up my Family’s Historical Ladder to the Family Granny Midwife. Note the following excerpts:

“Mrs. Bertha Henderson Matthews was an excellent midwife [who] delivered a stillborn fetus that had been deceased in my great-grandmother’s womb for two weeks...She was so good at what she did that the white doctors [became] jealous and wanted to get rid of her.” (Sumiyyah Parker)

“My Great Grandma Bertha was known for her craft of being a granny midwife. She worked in an environment with all the white doctors which didn’t faze her at all because she knew... how to deal with racism. She didn’t have access to hospital privileges, so she did all her deliveries at her house or at the house of the patient, whichever was preferred by the patient.”

(Ronnie Allen Evans, Jr.). “[I learned from Granny] that Mrs. Matthews told her that the lady down the street gave her grandson a stick with a nail in it and told him to ‘go in the house and kill that lady and her baby.’ When he tried to kill my Grandma and her baby, Mrs. Matthews stopped him, and the nail went through her left hand...She was paralyzed for life.” (Aaliyah Shanice McCarty)

“Although granny midwives did not have the same rights as whites, they were still leaders in their communities and churches because they gave families a natural way to bring babies into the world.” (Trason Cooper)

“From catching babies to providing sanitation, education and discipline, [Mrs. Bertha Parker] was a crucial part of our community’s history, as well as many others.” (Madison Cox)

“Granny midwives were needed in rural areas since doctors

would not come to assist with childbirth. Without them, there would not have been anyone certified or skilled to help with “catching” babies.” (Gabrielle F. Smith)

“The granny midwives were not only available as nurses, but as loved members of the family...My grandmother recalled that they were almost like ‘second aunts’...They would provide medicine that families didn’t have, along with other things.” (Ashton Smith)

Oral historian awards were presented to interviewees who brought forth essay participants. From The Delta Region - Patrice Levy (Storyteller Award); Bessie Gardner (Artifacts Award); Jessie M. Taylor (Bertha Henderson Matthews Award). From The Jackson Prairie Region – Hymethia Thompson, Ph. D. (Storyteller Award); and Alma McPherson Fisher (Storyteller Award).

Essay winners from The Delta Region were: Sumiyyah Parker – first place (\$500), 12th grade – Gentry High School (Indianola); Trason Cooper – first place (\$500), 5th grade – Carver Elementary School (Indianola); Ronnie Allen Evans, Jr. – third place (\$150), 8th grade – St. Joseph Middle School (Greenville) and Aaliyah Shanice McCarthy – second place (\$250), 5th grade – Carver Elementary School (Indianola).

Essay winners from The Jackson Prairie Region were: Ashton Smith – first place (\$500), Madison Central High School (Madison) graduate; Gabrielle Smith – first place (\$500), 7th grade – Madison Middle School (Madison) and Madison Cox – second place (\$250), 10th grade – St. Andrews Episcopal School (Ridgeland).

Several persons reacted to the celebration. Autry Richmond expressed that the children’s es-

says “should be published” to enlighten others about African American Mississippi granny midwives.

Patrice Levy reflected, “I am still in awe about how all of this is unfolding before my eyes. Wow. We are going down in history. I am super excited and can hardly wait to spread the good news.”

Entertainment was provided by Leah A. Curry, psalmist from the Mississippi Mass Choir and Judah School of Performing Arts, (731 S Pear Orchard Rd., Ridgeland), founded and directed by Monica Jones.

The program was sponsored by The W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Ribbon cutting and opening of the Mississippi Granny Midwives’ Exhibit with the support of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation is slated for August 26-27, 2022.

To make monetary donations to Scott Ford House Inc, contact Harrison at 601-953-4060.

Hinds CC partners for logging training, research

Special to The Mississippi Link

The Logging Equipment Operator Academy at Hinds Community College recently partnered with Northern Arizona University to provide short-term training opportunities and research for stakeholders involved in the forestry industry.

Two groups participated in two separate training sessions using the John Deere simulator and skidder loaned to Hinds by Stribling Equipment.

“I was happy to have the opportunity to work with NAU and hope to partner with them in the future, said Wayne Withers, Hinds Logging Equipment Operator instructor. “This collaboration has giving me new ideas for future classes.”

The program is a collaboration between Withers, David Livingston, executive director of the Mississippi Loggers Association, along with Northern Arizona University’s Dr. Han-Sup Han, professor and director of Forest Operations and Biomass Utilization at Northern Arizona University, and graduate research assistant Erin Burk.



Participating in recently logging equipment training at Hinds Community College were, from left, Adam Moore, Erin Burk, Tony Petrauski, LaQuinton Wall, Dennis Daniels and instructor Wayne Withers. The training was held near the Raymond Campus.

“The training was helpful for learning the capabilities of the equipment for management and to meet silviculture prescriptions,” said Adam Moore, Forester at USDA Forest Service. “I have a better idea of the challenges the operator has when implementing the prescription within our timber sales contracts. I really enjoyed

the instruction and operating hours on the skidder.”

Tony Petrauki, Forestry Tech on the Forest Service’s Strike Team, also participated in the training. “This was a very unique training opportunity, and I’m thrilled to get behind the joysticks of some forestry equipment,” he said. “Since I lay

out harvest units, this training has been a great learning experience to get in the seat of some logging equipment and see from the perspective of a logger.”

Dr. Han is applying for a grant from the Economic Development Administration to start a Forest Operations Training Program at Northern Arizona University to train new equipment operators, log truck drivers and diesel mechanics, along with doing new research in forest operations. NAU is working to address the lack of logging workforce in the Southwest United States.

Burk has been hired to do research that will help in developing this program in Arizona. She has chosen to do a study on the effectiveness of training new operators on simulators as compared to training them on the real machine. This study will provide insight into how effective these new simulators are in helping forestry operators to learn the skills they will need on the job, while allowing NAU to gain experience developing a curriculum for the logging equipment operator track.

“Han and I really enjoyed working with Wayne Withers and David Livingston in Raymond,” Burk said. “They showed us active logging operations and gave us the opportunity to see some new equipment that has inspired new ideas for research and implementation of operations in Arizona. We learned a lot from them about the Logging Equipment Operator program at Hinds. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with them in efforts to expand the logging workforce across the country.”

Hinds Community College’s Logging Equipment Operator Academy is funded by a \$1.3 million Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) grant by the U.S. Department of Labor and Delta Regional Authority.

With six campuses in central Mississippi, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills.



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Academic Scholarship Awards Warren & Ericka Martin Foundation

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Warren & Ericka Martin Foundation provides academic scholarship awards to outstanding graduating high school seniors. We are pleased to announce the Academic Scholarship Award recipients for the 2021-2022 school year.

Young Women of Excellence Academic Scholarship Award

Kaylyn Banks
Kaylyn Banks is the daughter of Councilman Aaron Banks and Latona Banks. She graduated from Forest Hill High School with a 4.2 grade point average. Her honors and awards include membership in the National Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta National Honor Society. She was also a member of the Student Government Association and received the Star Student Award from the Mississippi Economic Council. She is actively involved in the community and has volunteered



Kaylyn Banks

to work in her church nursery and is a Little League Cheer coach. Banks plans to attend Jackson State University and major in biology/pre-pharmacy. After completing her undergraduate studies, she plans to attend medical school and pursue a career as a pediatrician. She has always had a



Thomas Webber

strong desire to help children and save lives.

Young Men of Integrity Academic Scholarship Award

Thomas Webber
Thomas Webber is the son of Michael Webber and Attorney Tanya Webber. He graduated from Ridgeland High



Caleab Pickens

School with a 3.7 grade point average. He is a member of the National Honor Society and was selected to participate in the Summer Youth Institute at Millsaps College. He was also a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and Cross Country Team. He is actively involved in the

community and is a member of Greater Mt. Calvary M.B. Church in Jackson, MS where he serves on the Junior Usher Board. He is also a member of the youth choir and is a consultant for the Media Team. Webber plans to attend Mississippi State University in the fall and major in software engineering.

He would like to pursue a career in technology because he believes that it is the present and future of our world.

Attorney Precious Martin Sr. Memorial Service Scholarship Award

Caleab Pickens
Caleab Pickens is the son of the late Valencia Bailey and is being raised by his maternal aunt LaTricia Bailey-Patterson. He graduated from Terry High School with a 3.4 grade point average. He is actively involved in his community and has dedicated many hours toward worthy charitable causes. He plans to attend Jackson State University and major in political science/pre-law. His long-term goal is to attend law school and become an attorney.

The Martin Foundation is the charitable arm of the law firm of Attorney Warren Martin Jr.

For more information, visit our website www.martinfoundationms.org

Girls STEM Academy Summer Program will include robotics, designing automated vehicles

Jackson State University

The Girls STEM Academy Summer Program will be held July 6-29 in the John A. Peoples Science Building at Jackson State University. It will introduce teenagers to science, technology, engineering and mathematics and include short courses on robotics as well as programming and designing automated vehicles.

The academy is managed by the College of Science, Engineering and Technology. Although registration is now closed, participation is free to girls in Grades 9-12 who have a general interest in science and have maintained a GPA of 2.5-3.0. The goal of the program is to increase their knowledge and skills and inspire their interest in research and innovation.

Participating students are from the following secondary institutions: Brandon High School, Clinton High School, Jim Hill High School, Madison Central High School, Northwest Rankin High School, Provine High School, Ridgeland High School, St. Joseph High School and Terry

High School.

Dr. Martha N. Tchounwou, director of Student Support Services, said this is the fourth year of the Girls STEM Academy Summer Program. She hails the program for its ability to motivate teenage girls to embrace and pursue careers in STEM fields.

Tchounwou said, "Each year we aim to find ways to ignite interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and to engage program participants in experiential learning. The success of the program speaks for itself because most of our former students have enrolled in various colleges and universities, where they are taking rigorous STEM courses. Their academic experiences will enable them to acquire the necessary skills to compete for future jobs in wide open fields."

She added, "We've emphasized to them that there is such a tremendous need for young, talented, diverse leaders in STEM. Our academy answers that call by helping to introduce them to future careers that are lucra-

tive and rewarding because their ideas could foster global innovation."

The girls will take short courses in the following areas:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Math
- Laboratory safety
- Networking and integration skills
- Robotics and basic programming
- ACT preparation
- Career sorting
- Girls Time
- Public speaking.

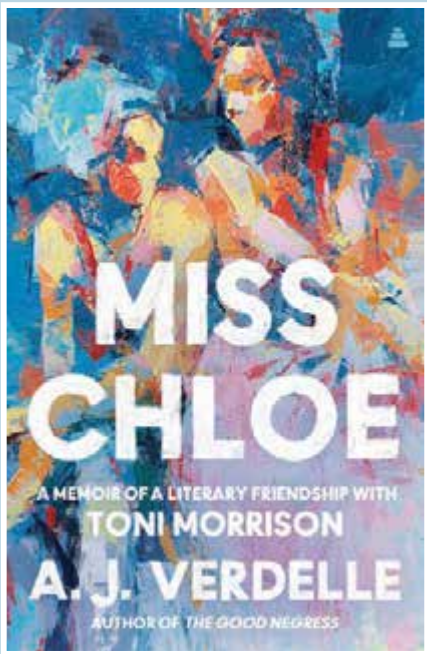
Throughout the summer, invited guest speakers will address STEM careers and teach the teenagers how to responsibly use and maximize social media, along with other topics.

Participating students will supply their own lunches; however, meals will be provided to those who may need them.

For more information, contact Tchounwou at 601 979-1604 or her assistant, Muna Abdelrahim, program data coordinator analyst at 601 979-0783.



The Girls STEM Academy Summer Program introduces teenagers to science, technology, engineering and mathematics and includes short courses on robotics as well as programming and designing automated vehicles. PHOTO BY WILLIAM KELLY/JSU



BOOK REVIEW:

MISS CHLOE:
A MEMOIR OF A LITERARY
FRIENDSHIP WITH TONI MORRISON

BY A.J. VERDELLE
C.2022, AMISTAD
\$27.99 • 360 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

One hundred sixty-three. That’s how many friends you have on social media and you know most of them, one way or another. There are colleagues on your list, and cousins, friends, and a guy you don’t really remember meeting. You connected to them all somehow and you count them as friends or more. As in the new memoir, “Miss Chloe” by A.J. Verdelles, keeping in touch with them is always worth it.

When her first novel was in its

final stages before release, A.J. Verdelles sent out a few precious copies to trusted sources, and one of them made its way to a place she didn’t expect: author Toni Morrison got it, and publicly said she liked the book.

For Verdelles, this was one of those pinnacle-of-life moments. She grew up reading Morrison’s work – sometimes at an age that was “too early” – and to know that her idol read her book was more than Verdelles could dream of.

Even better was that this chance encounter with a book

turned into a friendship.

The great author encouraged Verdelles in her writing career and they shared a deep love of language, often laughing over wordplay. Morrison had worked in a library when she was young; Verdelles had worked in a library, and she was a teacher at Princeton. Morrison helped Verdelles to understand how best to mentor her students at Princeton; this, too, and their love of books, allowed the two women to bond.

Over the years, they shared lunches, dinners and “events in her honor.” They spoke “freely”

about “Black people and Black women and Black history and the ways we plotted and planned and managed to press forward.”

And yet, their relationship wasn’t without its problems. There were “two and a half spats,” says Verdelles, perhaps because Morrison could be cold, unkind, overly-opinionated, de-sirous and demanding.

“You had to know Morrison’s work as a whole to be her friend,” Verdelles said. “She would squint at you, and dismiss you, if you came lame. She was exacting. She had high stan-

dards. She did not suffer fools.”

Based on the affectionate name that author A.J. Verdelles called Toni Morrison due to Morrison’s birth name, “Miss Chloe” is a fan’s book, pure and simple. It’s beautifully-written, a love letter to a friendship and to books and reading, and it’s a wonderful peek into the lives of two writers – one, up-and-coming; one, sadly, gone.

And yet, reading it is not without struggles.

The three facets that make this book good also make it hard to stay with. Verdelles’s words are

impactful and graceful, but her narrative tends to wander awhile before pivoting back to any individual point, which can be jarring.

As for the friendship, Verdelles’s a little too eager to laud hers with Morrison, even when Morrison was mean to her.

Overall, “Miss Chloe” is for Morrison fans, mostly, and it will likely appeal to some writers, particularly those who pen black women’s fiction.

For anyone who’s not much into these things, this is a book to de-friend.

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Friends and family of Attorney Constance Slaughter-Harvey receive summons to appear at the Westin Hotel for birthday and retirement reception

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Constance Harvey Burwell, daughter of The Honorable Slaughter-Harvey, Esq. as well as her husband James Arthur and son Tre' Burwell, issued summons for friends and family to attend a reception in honor of Slaughter-Harvey's 76th birthday and retirement as Scott

County Youth Court prosecutor. The reception was held on June 18th in the Natchez Room at the Westin Hotel, 407 Congress Street in Jackson.

Upon entering the reception, most eyes were immediately drawn to an area where hundreds of balloons encompassed an area in the room along with 76 beautiful yellow roses.

Guests lined up to be photographed with the honoree in this setting which was described by many as 'simply beautiful.'

In a nearby corner, James Daigle, from Lake Charles, LA, provided music to include special tributes to the honoree.

Prior to the Jackson reception, a Sweet 76 Birthday and Retirement Party was held in Forest

where the honoree enjoyed her celebration while dancing with no thoughts of slowing down due to age. This celebration was held at the Forest Services Center. Security was provided by retired MS State Troopers R. O. Williams, and Shirlene Anderson who represented the National Organization of Retired State Troopers 2009.



The Honorable Constance Slaughter-Harvey, Esq.

PHOTOS BY CONSTANCE H. BURWELL AND TRE' BURWELL



What will the City do without Jay Johnson?

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Family and Friends honored Jay DeVille Johnson for his 34-½ years of service to the City of Jackson and the Jackson Police Department. Thalia Mara Hall's main lobby was transformed into a beautiful setting on June 23, 2022 for a reception to honor Johnson for his many years of service.

The Mistress of Ceremonies was Dr. Juanita Sims Doty. She said to the crowd of more than 200 attendees, "I have one question to ask the City of Jackson, how are you going to function without Jay DeVille Johnson?" She continued, "Well, that's a question for another day because this evening it is going to be 'ALL ABOUT JAY'."

And "All about Jay" it was. The program began with an invocation by Jay's former pastor, Rev. Hosea Hines and greetings from Dr. Safiya Omari who represented Mayor Antar Lumumba.

There were many amazing tributes to the honoree: Former Mayor Kane Ditto was out of town, but sent a special letter. Former Mayor Harvey Johnson, Jr. and Former Mayor Tony Yarbber also provided special tributes to the Honoree that took us all down memory lane.

Others on the program included: Hinds County Sheriff Tyree Jones, Deputy Chief Tiny Harris and Assistant Chief Joseph Wade, Jackson Police De-



Dr. Juanita Doty asked, what will the city do?

partment. Patricia 'PA' Jackson, former co-worker; Thomas Johnson, brother of honoree; John Hardy, friend of Honoree; and Pamela D.C. Junior, lifelong friend.

The Honorable Debra Gibbs presented a resolution from the State Legislature and Roosevelt Hawkins presented a resolution on behalf of Congressman Ben-

After the introduction by the honoree's wife, Shirley Bee Johnson, Jay DeVille Johnson recounted some emotional remarks regarding his time at the City and serving with six mayors and 12 administrations.

Jay's service to the City will be hard to replace. What will the City do without Jay?

Following Jay's message, closing remarks and a prayer



Jay Johnson and The Honorable Debra Gibbs

were given by Evangelist Vanessa Curry-Jones, cousin of the honoree, after which the guests were able to take photos with the honoree and enjoy the delicious food and music.

It was a very special celebration according to several attendees.

Pamela Junior shared her reaction with *The Mississippi Link*. "Jay is one of my closest

friends. I am so happy retirement is not a vision for him, but an accomplishment. He is truly an amazing son of West Jackson that has made the collective of West Jackson very proud. Junior continued, "Now the moment begins when we sit back and watch the next chapter of his life unfold."

Always having the privilege of the last word, Jay's wife

Shirley told *The Link*, "We all know nothing is perfect but it was so almost perfect it scared me. The only issue I had was some of the people had to stand up." In other words, there was standing room only.

She went on to say, "I had prayed about it and asked God, to let it be representative of the man my husband is." Johnson described her husband as loving, kind, generous, gentle, humble, caring, selfless, and most important, a man of God. She said – with a gentle laugh, "Even though he sometimes gets on my nerves, he is a wonderful man and everybody that knows him, loves him. She said emphatically, "To know him is to love him."

She recalled how Jay embraced her three children when they first met and married. "He loved and cared about them without them having to call him 'daddy' and they loved him back. The retirement event represented the man that he is."

Dr. Doty acknowledged all that made the event a success:

- Staff at the Thalia Mara Hall
- Hostesses, Stephanie Chatman, Kimberly Brown and their Hostess team
- Decoration Balloon Display, Mariam Balloon Design, Mariam Makeba
- Food - Elroy Windin, Shake and Mix Catering Service
- Music, Dr. Jessie Primer, III
- Photographer, Anita Young
- Videographer, Tracy James
- Bartender, Mac Epps.

PHOTOS BY ANITA YOUNG

