June 9 - 15, 2022 Vol. 28, No. 34

#### Unity service to commemorate 125th anniversary of Holiness convocation



(L-R) Pastor Ronald Moore, youth pastor Porsche Moore, Bishop Daniel Littleton, Pastor C. J. Rhodes, Bishop Vernon Kennebrew, Bishop Louis Felton, Bishop Glake Hill and Pastor Vincent Russell PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

By Jackie Hampton Publisher

This past weekend, three denominations and a host of partners and friends gathered to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Holiness Convocation that was led by Bishop Charles Price Jones and Bishop Charles Harrison Mason that began the holiness movement and founded the Church of Christ Holiness USA (COCHUSA) and the Church of God in Christ. (COGIC).

Bishop Jones was the pastor of Mt. Helm Baptist Church in Jackson, MS when he desired a deeper, richer experience with the Lord. On June 6, 1897, he called together a revival that included a time of prayer, repentance and preaching that allowed the Holy Spirit to start a movement. The revival lasted for two weeks.

The Baptist Church, the Church of God in Christ, and the Church of Christ Holiness USA had a unity service to commemorate this

The celebration started Sunday, June 5 at 6 p.m. All three denominations came together at Mt. Helm Church located at 300 E. Church Street where Dr. C. J. Rhodes serves as pastor.

Rhodes told The Mississippi Link it was a phenomenal celebration. "I was really grateful for the attendance, the fellowship and the spirit of unity that was in the house. This was probably the first time in over 100 years that our 3 denomination groups have gotten together. I am humbled to know we were able to facilitate that reunion."

The service started with Rhodes extending a welcome. He later gave commemorative reflections.

Denomination salutations were given by Dr. Reginald Buckley, president of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of MS, Bishop Glake Hill, Senior Bishop, Vernon Kennebrew of the South Central Diocese of Christ Holiness USA and Bishop Daniel Littleton of the MS Southern First Jurisdiction, Church of God

The celebration continued on Monday, June 6, at 4:30 p.m., when the COCHUSA held a press conference, also held at Mt. Helm. Representative Zakiya Summers-Harlee presented a proclamation

> **Unity Service** Continued on pages 3

## Rev. Barber talks to the Black Press about the upcoming 'Moral March on Washington'

By Stacy M. Brown NNPA Newswire Correspondent

National Newspaper Publishers Association President & CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., and Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, president and senior lecturer at Repairers of the Breach and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, examined voting rights and suppression, gun violence and other concerns currently plaguing America, particularly people of color.

During a more than 35-minute discussion, broadcast live over the social media channels of the Black Press of America, the civil rights titans also discussed the upcoming Poor People's Campaign March on Washington and broke down the current state of Black America.

"This is not a battlefield we can retire from; we've got to

> Black Press Continued on pages 3



Low-wage workers, unions, and faith leaders are expected to join Dr. Barber and the Poor People's Campaign for an assembly and march on Saturday, June 18, in Washington, D.C



Juneteenth



#### **Hinds County Board** of Supervisors gives special recognition during board meeting



Mother Lilly B. Shelby Ransom receives special recognition from Supervisor David Archie PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG

By Chris Young Contributing Writer

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors met June 6 at 9 a.m. in their board room in the Chancery Court Building. The meeting agenda was six pages long and it was a full house.

After an opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes of the May 2, 2022 meeting were approved. Four minutes into the meeting District 2 Supervisor Archie raised an issue. "For the president of this board and the other board members, now are we going to try to work together when it comes to the American Rescue money as we talked about? We had a handshake in terms of what needs to be done in our districts."

It was not always easy to follow over the next 4-5 minutes, but it sounded as if Archie believes that Districts 2 and 1 are being slighted in some way. He promised, "When you come to this board meeting with a con game and want to play games, I'm gonna call you

Afterwards, the claims docket seemed to proceed without much fanfare.

Joseph Shelby asked to speak. "I rise to say thank you to my Hinds County family. As you know we lost a son suddenly a couple of weeks ago. My wife and I certainly do appreciate your outpouring of love and compassion, your letters of condolence and sympathy." He indicated that we couldn't have made it these last couple of weeks without you. Shelby is a special projects officer in District 4 Supervi-

sor Vern Gavin's staff. Special recognition was provided to Curtis Daniels Jr. of Clinton, MS. Daniels was born in 1941 and in 1969 became the first African-American police officer in Clinton's history. His masonry skills can be seen

at the Coliseum, Veteran's Memorial Stadium, UMMC, and several buildings on JSU and Ole Miss campuses. An accomplished horseman, he had the Horse of the Year, Bugga-Boy, in 1992, who defeated Chicago Jazz who was featured as the Horse of the Year. Despite efforts to break the record, because some people felt that a black man should not hold the record, the record still stands 30 years later, and the trophy is on display at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

Special recognition was also provided to Mother Lilly B. Shelby Ransom as an Outstanding Citizen of District 2. The oldest of 13 children, she and her husband Tommy had been married for 56 years when he passed in 2013. She worked on the family farm and picked fruits and vegetables, but she also chopped and picked cotton. She became the first musician at Bakers Grove Missionary Baptist Church at the age of twelve and served in that capacity for 67 years. She earned a bachelor degree in elementary education from Jackson State College and taught language arts in Hinds County schools for 30 years.

"It's a blessing from the Lord to be able to be with you." After turning to her daughter for confirmation, she indicated that she is 84, and she appreciates this recognition.

Choir director Pamela Moody led the Jim Hill High School Choir into the board room for a special recognition. They were a sight to behold, boys in black suits and girls in emerald-green dresses. In April of this year the choir participated in the National High School Choir Competition and received First Place Silver, and the mixed ensemble received the First Place Gold as well as

Continued on pages 3

Mississippi horseman still winning: four books score and 10

Page 4

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## **Drive-thru community baby shower works** to improve state's maternal mortality rate

Mississippi Link Newswire

Cars lined the parking lot at Word and Worship Church Saturday, June 4, 2022, as expectant and new parents awaited the start of a drive thru community baby shower. Sponsored by the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health (IAMH), each family received items such as diapers, books, bottles and onesies to welcome their new addition to the family. Pack and plays, baby bathtubs and other gifts were also distributed.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mississippi has the country's highest infant mortality rate, at 9.7 deaths per 1,000 live births. The maternal mortality rate is 20.8. Pregnant black people face disproportionate risks when giving birth.

According to Stacker.com, the infant mortality rate for black children in the U.S. is double the rate for white children. Maternal mortality rates show similarly grim patterns, with forty-four deaths per 100,000 live births among black people compared to 17.9 per 100,000 live births for white people. These statistics are the main catalyst for the drive thru community baby shower.

"This is the third event of this type we have hosted in 2022. This work is critical because our state has one of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the United States," said



Cars line up for give-aways at drive-thru baby shower in the parking lot of Word and Worship Church.

Dr. Sandra Melvin, CEO, In-

stitute for the Advancement of

Minority Health. "By providing

resources to these women, we

hope to help them gain access

To ensure moms did not go

without due to the coronavirus

pandemic, IAMH began host-

ing drive thru baby showers in

to the services they need."

2020.

"COVID-19 placed unusual hardships and limitations on people giving birth," said Asia McCoy, program manager, IAMH. "Because many families are still feeling the impact of the shutdown, slow supply chain and worker shortages, it is a little bit difficult for moms to get all the necessary items that they need. IAMH is com-

mitted to lessening that burden by giving out items baby care items, educational fact sheets and diapers." Ashley Tose' attended the

community baby shower. "I want to personally thank them for the baby gifts. Today's society presents constant challenges and struggles for minority families. Every little bit helps."

Family members received a variety of gifts including diapers and books. Ninety individuals registered of collaborative partnerships

for this baby shower. IAMH

will host additional events of

sippi through the development

this type throughout the year.

The Institute for the Adinterventions with a particular vancement of Minority Health focus on health equity. was established in 2019 to re-Follow IAMH on social meduce health disparities among dia via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Contact IAMH disadvantaged and underserved minority populations in Missisat iamh@advancingminority-

health.org or (769) 572-5263.

with community stakeholders

and the impleamentation of

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#### Hinds

Continued from page 1



Curtis Daniels Jr. (3rd from left) receives special recognition from the Board of Supervisors

Outstanding Choir Group Award. They treated everyone to a couple minutes of amazing vocals and received a thunderous ovation. Moody indicated, "We thank you for this recognition. We are so proud to represent the City of Jackson and Hinds County and we were the only African-American choir to participate in the national competition and we ended up winning the entire thing. We are glad to show that people from this county can do great things and these students are doing wonderful things throughout the community.

District 63 State Representative Stephanie Foster introduced others to speak about lack of broadband in parts of the county as well as road issues. Cynthia O'Bannon pleaded for someone to take responsibility. She indicated that they can't be disrespected anymore because they pay their taxes like everyone else and asked if a petition was needed to get action. Archie invited Joey Perkins, Emergency Management director, to speak on the broadband issue. Calhoun asked County Administrator Kenny Jones to provide an update on the issue, as well.

Archie indicated that he has spoken to Mr. Sims, the Public Works manager, as well as the Lt. Governor and still it appears that we need more help than Public Works seems to be able to offer to satisfy the needs of the citizens of Hinds County when it comes to roads and bridges and potholes.

Election Commissioners Yvonne Horton (District 4) and Kidada Brown (District 1) spoke about contract issues for overdue payment of workers and the timing of workers being paid. Horton stated that she knows the county has 45 days to respond to an invoice but wishes it did not have to be so long. She

also asked for copies of the travel policies. Jones attempted to address her concerns and after considerable back and forth between Jones and Archie, Calhoun attempted to move on to the next agenda item. Archie would not allow it and became very vocal, yelling even after being gaveled down by Calhoun. Archie appealed to the news media in attendance, claiming that Calhoun is a dictator and that Calhoun had made an inappropriate motion to move on when there is a matter on the floor for discussion.

Hinds County Tax Collector Eddie Fair spoke to the board about personal property taxes and indicated that the tax collector's duties are real taxes, personal taxes and tags, and that over the past year they have not collected the amount of personal taxes that they need, and that they need some help doing it, and that the amount is close to \$14 million. He indicated that he met with the sheriff the other day and he is not blaming anyone.

Fair recommended that Nathaniel Ross be allowed to collect the taxes who will do so without a charge, but that he does need a car. Jones indicated that unless the person is a county employee, he is not insurable. Calhoun encouraged Fair and Jones to discuss the matter further and report back.

Hinds County Tax Assessor Charles Stokes expressed concerns about transferring to an ADP payroll system for the county. He indicated there is a distinction between Hinds County staff and his office employees. Jones acknowledged the error and indicated that he would correct it within a couple of weeks. Stokes also indicated that the board should make policy changes preceding any procedural changes, and that it will be involved.



Jim Hill High School choir, directed by Pam Moody

#### **Black Press**

Continued from page 1

fight until it's our time to be over," Barber

Low-wage workers, unions and faith leaders are expected to join Barber and the Poor People's Campaign for an assembly and march Saturday, June 18, in Washington, D.C. Barber said the assembly would begin at 9:30 a.m. EST at Pennsylvania and Third

"We need everyone to challenge this," Barber declared. "Poor people and those impacted will be the ones on the stage, and this will happen in a location between Congress and the White House."

As the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival mobilizes for that massive gathering, Barber and others have called on President Joe Biden to meet with poor and low-wealth individuals, religious leaders and economists "to put a face on the 140 million Americans in this country who are poor or low-income while also calling for higher wages and union rights."

"There are five interlocking injustices we have yet to address in this nation fully," Barber asserted. "They include systemic racism, systemic poverty, where 60.9 percent of black people are poor and, or low-wealth; 53 percent of our people make less than a living wage of \$15 per hour, and 250,000 people die every year from poverty," he remarked.

Barber reported that, during the pandemic, poor people died at a rate of 2 to 5 times higher than others. "It's not connected to a lack of vaccinations, it's connected to a lack of services," Barber insisted.

"The pandemic didn't discriminate, but we did. The Black Press was the first to report this was airborne," he said.

Further, Barber said that ecological devastation, the denial of health care, and the war economy have contributed to poverty in America. "We are spending 54 cents on the dollar every day on the military," he stated.

"If we cut the military budget in half, we'd still have more money in our military than Iran, Iraq, China and North Korea combined. Also, we have the false moral narrative of religious nationalism and white su-

"We have said that on June 18, it's time for a declaration of all people. We won't be silent anymore. We're calling for a mass of poor people, low-wage workers assembly, and a moral march on Washington and the

"We're doing this to put a face on all these numbers, put forth an agenda, and build power and shift this moral narrative because poor people represent 32 percent of the electorate in this country and 45 percent in battleground states."

#### **Unity Service**

Continued from page 1



Audience - Sunday night

to the senior bishop commemorating the history and

Youth pastor Porsche R. Moore of Stronger Hope Church gave a lecture. She was introduced by her father, Pastor Ronald K. Moore of Stronger Hope. A song of response was given by Leah Curry-Williams.

Afterward, the delegation walked over to Christ Temple COCHUSA located at 845 N. Lamar Street in Jackson, affectionately called the Mother Church, to pray on the steps of the church and to culminate the two-day commemoration.

A commemorative message was given by Bishop J. Louis Felton, pastor, Mt. Airy COGIC of Philadelphia, PA.

Sponsors for the event included Mt. Helm Baptist Church, South Central Diocese, CHCHUSA, MS First Southern Jurisdiction, COGIC and MS Dept. of Archives & History.

Rhodes said for him it was an opportunity to not just commemorate but to celebrate that piece of history for Jackson. "So often when we think about the movement we think about Lexington, MS, Memphis or Los Angeles."



Rep. Zakia Summers-Harlee and Bishop Kennebrew

Rhodes said, "In a certain sense, had it not been for C. P. Jones and C. H. Mason 125 years ago having that revival at Mt. Helm in Jackson, there may not have been a Church of Christ Holiness. Jacksonians should not only see ourselves as the birthplace of music, but also the birthplace of one of the greatest black church movements that has come out of this



Rhodes, Kennebew, Hill, Campbell march from Mt. Helm to Christ Temple

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Jerry Young

President of the

National Baptist Convention, USA



## Mississippi horseman still winning: four score and 10

## Also celebrating 72 years of marriage

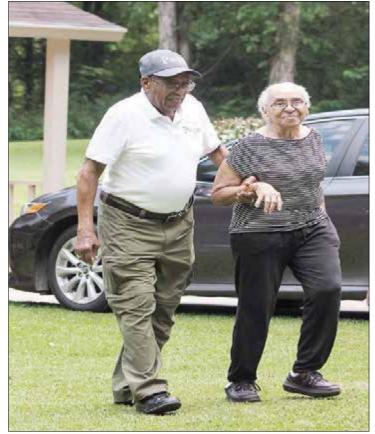
By Gail H. Marshall Brown, Ph.D. Contributing Writer

From driving an 18-wheeler to provide for his family for 30 years to driving a sulky in harness racing (in retirement) for decades, Mississippi native Johnnie Lee Maynor is still winning.

Maynor recently celebrated what his family termed, "90 years young." Also described as a family icon and legend, he celebrated this "significant" milestone with surprise visits from his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. He even received virtual visits from South Africa.

Not only did Maynor turn 90. but he and his wife Doris, a retired healthcare provider, also were still blissful from the blessing of celebrating 72 years of marriage in April.

His friend Howard Gentry of 30 years, told The Mississippi Link that he believes Maynor's longevity can be attributed to "good living." Gentry, a local Nashville politician and former athletic director at Tennessee State University, stated: "Every since I've known him, he has lived on a farm – country living



Johnnie Lee Maynor and wife Doris of 72 years

ways a healthy person. He trained his horses, he trained his dogs, he hunted and took care of his land, and so, he lived a good clean life.

away from the city. He was al- I am sure that has aided to his longevity. Also, he has an amazing wife. Of course, that can always make the difference."

Gentry said both he and

Maynor share a love for hunting and horses. "However, I only rode for pleasure," he said.

Many view the Maynors as a unique African-American couple. After long successful professional careers, they took up a hobby that parlayed into successful sporting enjoyment: owning horses and becoming involved in harness horse racing.

One of his horses, HJ's Missy, a \$2500 gift from one of his daughters, during the summer of 2000, would go on to become "North America's winningest juvenile in 2001," according to *Hoof Beats* magazine, February 2002. HJ's Missy "took 15 of 18 starts, with all but one of those wins coming with [the-then] 69-year-old Maynor in the sulky."

HJ's Missy was named after their dear friends, Harley and Jan Emerson, who helped the Maynors get established in Illinois to compete in high stakes racing. The Emersons were longtime horse breeders. The Maynors would spend their summer visiting them.

It was one of those visits that Johnnie Maynor saw and became fond of the horse that he would

later describe as "the best horse I ever had." The filly was highly sought after by other owners but Maynor would never sell her because she was a gift from their daughter.

Prior to the Illinois circuit, according to *Hoof Beats*, Maynor's "world of harness racing had been limited to the fair racing in Philadelphia, Miss. and Fayetteville, Tenn."

Gentry pointed out that although a number of African Americans are in the harness racing industry, they are mostly jockeys and trainers. However, Maynor was trainer and owner. "That was the difference," Gentry said. "When I would go to races..., I did not see a lot of people that looked like me. The only thing that was my complexion were the horses (he chuckled)."

Other top-named horses the Maynors owned were "Dues Is Wild," "Fast Track" and "Minor Boy."

During a recent interview he stated, "Although people thought "HJ's Missy" was my fastest horse, it was actually Dues Is Wild. In the mid to late 90's, he competed throughout the United

States breaking records also," Maynor said.

Today at age 90, the birthday boy, like his horses, is still a highspirited individual who loves to dance and shared some of his moves. In fact, during his birthday celebration, escorted by his wife, he danced into the party to the tune of Stevie Wonder's tune, "Happy Birthday."

He enjoys telling his history as a horseman and singing in the male chorus at his church.

Strong advocates of earning the best education possible, the Maynors are the proud parents of a large family of highly successful professional adult children and grandchildren.

Growing up, his children thought their father's involvement with horses was "just a hobby" but because what he did was actually a sport, they say they now realize their father was "really a professional athlete."

He learned on his own and from having mentors who did not look like him because there were none from his surrounding who had gone forth in the area harness horsemanship at that level.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MAYNOR FAMILY



Johnnie Lee Maynor



Maynor goes out daily to feed Nick and Holly, his retired Standardbred. They retired with him.



Maynor with horse



The birthday cake





Johnnie Lee Maynor loves to sing. Above, he is singing in the Male Chorus at his church.



Johnnie Lee Maynor and wife Doris



## **First Freedom Trailer marker** approved for Natchez

Historical marker to be posted

at the Dr. John Banks House, the former NAACP Headquarters

The Associated Press

The Dr. John Banks House, which once served as the headquarters for the Natchez NAACP, will be the first site of a Mississippi Freedom Trail marker in Natchez. Approval of the designation by the Mississippi Humanities Council and Visit Mississippi, means the city will now be listed on the state's Freedom Trail and the U.S. Civil Rights Trail.

News of the historic landmark recognition was announced recently by Dr. Stuart Rockoff, executive director of MHC. In an email dated May 23, 2022, he wrote: "I'm pleased to share the news that the Freedom Trail Scholars Committee has approved your application to place a marker at the Banks House in Natchez."

Plans are underway for a dedication and unveiling ceremony later this year.

Devin Heath, executive director of Visit Natchez, said Natchez's listing on the Freedom Trail highlights the important role the city played in the civil rights movement. "It is also an opportunity to honor and recognize those who paved the way for us," he said.

"Seeing Natchez approved for inclusion on the Mississippi Freedom Trail and the U.S. Civil Rights Trail is a dream come true," said Mayor Dan Gibson. "From day one of our administration, we have longed for this to happen. I am so grateful to Devin Heath and Dr. Roscoe Barnes III at



The Dr. John Banks House, located at 9 St. Catherine St., will be the site of a Mississippi Freedom Trail marker. The house once served as the NAACP Headquarters during the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Visit Natchez, and Mr. Robert Pernell, who first dropped this idea on my desk, and our amazing committee for making our dream a reality."

The Mississippi Freedom Trail is part of the U.S. Civil Rights Trail. It was created in 2011 to honor the people and places that played a major role in the civil rights movement. A total of 25 markers are now posted on the trail, which includes Cleveland, Ruleville, Greenwood, Holly Springs, Clarksdale and Jackson.

Efforts to have Natchez listed on the Freedom Trail were led by the Natchez Civil Rights Trail Committee. In addition to Heath and Gibson, the volunteer committee members include Roscoe Barnes III, cultural heritage tourism manager for Visit Natchez; Robert Pernell, chairman of the Natchez U.S. Colored Troops Monument Committee; Rev. Clifton Marvel Sr., pastor of Greater Macedonia Baptist Church; Carter Burns, executive director of Historic Natchez Foundation; Kathleen McClain Bond, superintendent of Natchez National Historical Park; Lance S. Harris, director of Grand Village of the Natchez Indians; Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis, president of the Natchez Adams County NAACP Branch; William Terrell, editor and publisher of The Bluff City Post; and James Ware, president of the Natchez Business and Civic League.

Support for the project, which is in Ward 4, also came from Alderwoman Felicia Bridgewater-Irving, and members of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church, which owns the property.

In addition to serving as the NAACP Headquarters, the Banks House was the home of NAACP President George Metcalfe. In 1964, during Freedom Summer when a thousand volunteers converged on the state to work with Black Mississippians to register voters and operate Freedom schools, members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) resided at the house.

In January 1965, "night riders" who committed acts of violence at night intent on inspiring terror fired shots through a window of the house. On Aug. 27, 1965, Metcalfe suffered serious injuries when his car was bombed at the Armstrong Tire & Rubber plant by the Ku Klux Klan.

The posting of the Freedom Trail marker in Natchez has a price tag of \$9,000. However, it is made possible through a partnership between Visit Mississippi and MHC. The two agencies are using federal funds through the U.S. Economic Development Administration to cover the cost of 20 Freedom Trail markers throughout the state.

"We couldn't be more excited to work with Visit Mississippi to preserve and promote Mississippi's vital civil rights history," said Rockoff in the May 2022 issue of the MHC newsletter.

"Our hope is these markers not only attract tourists but also strengthen our communities by helping all Mississippians appreciate our state's vital civil rights history," he

Name

### **WWII** veteran in Mississippi celebrates 100 years

By Cam Bonelli Laurel Leader-Call

Burly Register had much to celebrate on Memorial Day.

Family and friends gathered in Powers to recognize his military service and the fact that he marked 100 years old.

Register, born May 30, 1922, is a World War II veteran who served during the war's Battle of the Bulge in 1944. He grew up in Morton in Scott County. At age 20, he joined the Army as the nation was in the throes of the war. After basic training at Fort Mc-Clellan in Alabama, he went to Camp McElroy in Wisconsin and then to England.

"We went from England and crossed the English Channel to Le Havre, France, drove from there to Luxembourg, and that's where we joined combat," Register recalled. "That was the Battle of the Bulge."

Register had missed fighting in the D-Day invasion in June 1944, although he has friends who were deployed to storm the beaches at Normandy, France, the greatest military assault in history. Register did serve through the Battle of the Bulge, also known as Adolf Hitler's last great offensive against the allies.

There, Register was a truck driver that hauled communication equipment and telephone wire. He had to cross the Sauer River near Bastogne, a key site in the Battle of the Bulge, every few days for a couple of weeks, but the Germans would blow out the bridges, he said.

He recalled a time near the end of the war when he and one



other solder were driving when 12 German soldiers approached their vehicle. There

only two guns in the truck.

"With the 12 of them, there was no telling what kind of automatic guns they had - we wouldn't have had a chance," Register said. "There wasn't nothing to do but drive up there and stop."

Then he saw something that stunned him.

"(They) walked out in front of the truck, but they had their hands over their heads - they were surrendering – but I didn't know what they had under their coats," Register said. "There was nothing I could do but stop."

The Germans surrendered.

Register married his wife Ruby Williams Register while on furlough on Nov. 1, 1943. Less than two years later, he came home from the war just before it ended and was packed onto the ship, the Queen Mary, with more than 15,000 other soldiers headed

After the war, he moved to Laurel and had three children, Patricia Register on June 2, 1946, and twins Alvin and Alton Register on Feb. 8, 1949.

He went to diesel mechanic school to work on planes and eventually started working at Masonite, retiring from there.

The best part of his life, he said, was having a good marriage and a good family. Ruby Register died in 2017 after 73 years of marriage.

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## African Americans and other White House staffers call 'Blaxit' story fake news

By Stacy M. Brown NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Despite a recent report alleging an exodus of black staff members, the Biden-Harris Administration remains the most diverse in history. High-level African-American staffers refuted a Politico story about a so-called "Blaxit" at the White

The widely shared story claimed at least 21 black staffers have left the White House since late last year or are planning to leave soon. Politico said some who remain described a work environment with little support from their superiors and fewer chances for promotion. However, African-American officials told the Black Press that the report amounts to "fake news."

"Even though far more current and former staff told Politico about their positive experiences, Politico refused to communicate those findings to readers and instead devoted most of this article to comments that reinforce their narrative and present a disingenuous picture of the most diverse White House in history," said Erica Loewe, the White House Director of African American Media.

"Instead of including their on-the-record sentiments, Politico singled out black staff who left at a normal time for general turnover and then intentionally kept their own perspectives about their stories in the dark," Loewe asserted.

Trey Baker, the White House senior advisor for Public Engagement, also refuted the no-



African-American White House staffers

tion of a "Blaxit."

"Every day, this administration works to ensure that it meets the President's goals on day one: to approach every issue with an eye towards equity," Baker stated. "That includes both policy and personnel. I've seen firsthand the opportunities for growth and advancement at the White House. I know that there's not only an open line of communication with senior staff but also ongoing efforts to be solutions oriented."

mer communications director for Democratic California Congresswoman Maxine Waters and current White House senior regional communications director, called it an honor to work for the administration.

Rykia Dorsey-Craig, a for-

She praised the Biden-Harris Administration's record on diversity.

"Every day that I walk through those gates, I am aware of what an honor and privilege it is to serve in a White House that prioritizes equity and staff advancement," Dorsey-Craig responded. "I was promoted within my first year and now manage the Regional Comms Team, one of the most integral parts of our comms operation. My leadership and ideas are clearly welcomed and recognized by senior leadership, and I remain committed to this team and our work each day."

According to a Fact Sheet, the overall diversity of White House staff remains approximately the same as it was almost a year ago. As of May 27, 2022, approximately 44 percent of current White House political appointees identify as racially and ethnically diverse, surpassing the 39.3 percent share of the national population who are part of diverse communities, according to the 2019 U.S. Census data.

Of the White House's senior staff, approximately 57 percent are female, and 40 percent come from racially and ethnically diverse communities. Currently, approximately 14 percent of White House staff identify as black or African American, which aligns with the U.S. Census national population.

In addition, approximately 15 percent of black staff have

received promotions to more senior roles, which is greater than the rate for non-diverse staff.

Of the black staff members who have departed the White House since the start of the administration, approximately 36 percent have advanced to new roles at agencies within the federal government. Further, officials currently have a diverse slate of candidates for the vacant assistant to the president and director of the Office of Public Engagement role, including several black candidates.

A black woman will fill the deputy assistant to the president and deputy counsel position vacated by Danielle Conley, the White House stated. Administration officials also pointed out that Jamal Simmons filled the deputy assistant to the president and Office of the Vice President's Communications director role vacated by Ashley Etienne.

Kirsten Allen filled the spokesperson for the vice president post vacated by Symone Sanders.

Additionally, the Domestic Policy Council recently hired a black staffer to serve as special assistant to the president on his Racial Justice and Equity team. Alondra Nelson filled the director of Office of Science and Technology Policy post vacated by Eric Lander, while Karine Jean-Pierre took over as press secretary for Jen Psaki.

The Senate recently confirmed Shalanda Young as director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"The first year of the administration focused on building the infrastructure to support teams and their staff – ensuring they had what was required to successfully onboard and work at the White House to drive forward the President's agenda," a senior official stated.

"Over the past year, we have invested in building a diverse staff and supporting opportunities for growth and development." This month, Erin Wilson ascended to deputy chief of staff to the vice president and deputy assistant to the president, saying it's an honor and privilege to serve the administration on their senior team.

"Since the campaign and joining the White House Office of Political Strategy and Outreach, [Biden campaign manager] Jen O'Malley Dillon has offered her support in any way needed," Wilson remarked.

"I'm leaving to go to business school, which was always my intention," added Niyat Mulugheta, an advisor to the chief of staff, Ron Klain. Mulugheta counted among those Politico mentioned in their "Blaxit" story.

"Ron Klain has been extremely supportive throughout my time working for him. He wrote my letter of recommendation since I had to reapply. He gave me the opportunity to work on infrastructure implementation when I told him I was interested in implementation work," Mulugheta stated.

"All that is to say, I'm really happy with my experience and feel lucky to have been part of this incredible team."

## Mass shootings and gun laws: Canada does what America won't do

By Stacy M. Brown NNPA Newswire Contributor

As of May 18, 2022, individuals and businesses transferring or selling a non-restricted firearm in Canada need to confirm the recipient's identity and check the validity of their gun license with the Registrar of Firearms before completing the transfer, including by providing the recipient's license number and any other information requested. Canadian officials said the new rule would help prevent people who cannot have a fire-

Researchers, who label mass shootings as incidents where four or more people are injured or killed (not including the shooter), noted that there have already been more than 231 mass shootings this year in the United States.

arm from getting one.

With an average of more than one mass shooting per day, there hasn't been a week in 2022 without at least one inci-

While America's lawmakers grapple with deep ties to the National Rifle Association and a reluctance to do much about the gun violence crisis that most recently resulted in the deaths of small children in Uvalde, Texas, and senior citizens at a supermarket in Buffalo, Canada has provided the blueprint to stop mass shootings.

As of May 1, 2020, the government north of the border said it has prohibited over 1,500 models of assault-style firearms and specific components of some newly prohibited fire-



arms – including AR-15 and M4 weapons.

To help accomplish that, lawmakers provided a criminal code amnesty period that remains in effect until October 2023. The government designed the amnesty period to "protect individuals or businesses who, at the time the prohibition came into force, were in lawful possession of a newly prohibited firearm from criminal liability while they take steps to comply with the law."

Canada's Minister of Public Safety, the Honorable Marco Mendicino, announced new and more stringent rules governing the sale or transfer of non-restricted firearms.

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ent's identity and check the validity of their gun license with the Registrar of Firearms before completing the transfer, including by providing the recipient's license number and any other information requested.

Canadian officials said the new rule would help prevent people who cannot have a firearm from getting one.

Further, firearms businesses must retain sales and inventory records related to non-restricted firearms.

"This will make it easier for law enforcement to trace crime guns. In addition, the records will be held by businesses – not the government – and the police will need reasonable grounds to get access to them, often with judicial authorization," Mendising axid

cino said.
"We are taking action to keep

Canadians safe from gun violence. To that end, we are bringing common-sense regulations that strengthen public safety through validated ownership, transparent business records keeping, and license verification before purchasing a firearm," the public safety minister asserted.

"Today's regulations will help ensure that firearms do not end up in the wrong hands, assist police in tracing guns used in a crime, and are part of the broader strategy to keep communities safe."

Meanwhile, in America, the *New York Times* reported that mass shootings come against a worsening adolescent mental health crisis, one that predated the pandemic but intensified by Covid

Covid.
"Much of the despair among

teenagers and young adults has been inwardly directed, with soaring rates of self-harm and suicide," the newspaper report-

"In that sense, the perpetrators of mass shootings represent an extreme minority of young people, but one that nonetheless exemplifies broader trends of loneliness, hopelessness and the darker side of a culture saturated by social media and violent content."

In recounting mass shootings in America, the *Times* noted that, in addition to Buffalo and Uvalde, there was a mass shooting at a supermarket in Boulder, Colo., in March 2021 that the police said was carried out by a 21-year-old man.

There's also the massacre by a 21-year-old gunman targeting Hispanic shoppers at a Walmart in El Paso in August 2019 that resulted in 23 deaths.

Additionally, a 17-year-old student in Santa Fe, Texas, stood accused of shooting and killing eight students and two teachers in May 2018.

At Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., in February 2018, a 19-year-old former student killed 17 people.

Reportedly, only two of the 30 deadliest mass shootings recorded from 1949 to 2017 involved shooters younger than 21: The first was the massacre of 13 people by two teenagers at Columbine High School in 1999, and the second came when a 20-year-old killed 27 people, most of them children,

at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., in

"How much more carnage are we willing to accept?" President Joe Biden pleaded as he asked Congress to produce and

move new gun laws.

"Enough is enough," Biden declared. "Don't tell me raising the age won't make a difference."

The President said he wants Congress to restore bans on selling assault-style weapons with high-capacity magazines, or what Canada and its twoparty government system have

"Much of the gap in how these two countries handle contentious policy questions comes down to something that can feel invisible amid day-to-day politicking, but maybe just as important as the issues themselves: the structures of their political systems," journalist Max Fisher wrote for the *New York Times*.

Fisher noted that Canada operates under a parliamentary system. Its head of government, Justin Trudeau, is elevated to that job by the legislature, of which he is also a member, and which his party, in collaboration with another, controls.

"If Mr. Trudeau wants to pass a new law, he must merely ask his subordinates in his party and their allies to do it," Fisher wrote.

"There is no such thing as divided government and less cross-party horse-trading and legislative gridlock."

## June is Men's Health Month

By Jack Lucero Intern, Men's Health Network



June is Men's Health Month. which makes this the perfect time to highlight the massive public

health crisis that too many of us are not aware of: On average, men die five years younger than women, with African-American and Native American men having the shortest life expectancy and die at higher rates from 9 of the top 10 causes of death.

Men account for over 90% of workplace fatalities, are far less likely than women to have health insurance, and are half as likely to see a doctor for preventive care. All of this affects their ability to be involved fathers, supportive partners and engaged community members.

Notably, over 65,000 more men than women have died

from COVID-19. The global pandemic has, unfortunately, shown not only how devastating ignoring one's health can be, but that men's health is a global issue.

An innovative organization that focuses on maintaining a healthy body and mind for its mainly older members is the Men's Shed Association. The Men's Shed movement started in Australia and has spread to other countries around the globe, including the USA. David Helmers, executive officer of the Australian Men's Shed Association, says the movement hopes "to make a significant impact and lead as an example of effective preventative health measures in a practical, friendly

"Men's Shed Association has, "a strong demonstrated record on improving the health and wellbeing of men through facilitating community engagement and social supports."

Community and social support may have a positive influence on health. Individuals are responsible for their own health, but friends, family and loved ones have an important role in supporting the men in their lives to take action toward improved health.

Darrell Sabbs, a community health advocate in southwest Georgia, emphasized that, "Today we see men come in with more advanced diseases simply because they lost trust in and access to healthcare during the pandemic. What we are doing now is celebrating a return to normal of men and their families taking on a deeper concern for their health." He also noted, "Trusted voices had to be found, and they were found in our communities and churches."

professionals, private corporations, faith-based and community organizations, and government agencies, plan activities that focus on the health and well-being of boys, men and their families. These activities take the form of Wear Blue campaigns (www.WearBlue-ForMen.com), informational articles in corporate newsletters, lunch-n-learns, conferences, bulletin board displays, videos, community health fairs

and more. Many take advantage of the posters and logos available for download on the Men's Health Month (www.MensHealthMonth.org) web site. A national focus is Wear Blue Friday / Wear Blue Day (http:// www.WearBlueDay.com), celebrated yearly as the Friday before Father's Day, which is June 17 this year.

A key part of the continued During this time, healthcare momentum is the annual event

and social media campaign, including:

• #ShowUsYourBlue campaign: People all over the world take pictures of themselves and others wearing blue any day of the week to increase awareness for men's health and posting the photos on social media with the #ShowUsYourBlue hashtag

• June 17 is Wear Blue Friday/ Wear Blue Day, the #ShowUsYourBlue social media storm where individuals are encouraged to take selfies of themselves wearing blue during the day and post to social media using the hashtag

About the author: Jack Lucero is a rising second-year medical student at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences and a Health Policy Research Intern at Men's Health Network

Network Men's Health

MHN is an international nonprofit organization whose mission is to reach men, boys, and their families where they live, work, play, and pray with health awareness messages and tools, screening programs, educational materials, advocacy opportunities, and patient navigation.

Men's Health Network is the sponsor of Men's Health Month (June) and Wear Blue Day. MHN maintains the http://www. Testicular Cancer Awareness-Month.com (April) and http:// www.ProstateCancerAwarenessMonth.com (September) websites.

For information on MHN's programs and activities, visit them at MensHealthNetwork. org, on Twitter (@MensHlth-Network), and on Facebook (facebook.com/menshealthnetwork), or call 202-543-6461 ext.

## External defibrillator, **CPR** can restart a heart

By Vince Faust Tips to Be Fit

CPR is just one of the tools to help someone that is suffering from a cardiac incident. An external defibrillator is a good tool to have to help save a life. These units have become more common across the United States. External defibrillators deliver an electrical shock to restore your heart's normal rhythm. Most shopping malls, grocery stories, airports, schools and offices have external defibrillator. Ask if you need one.

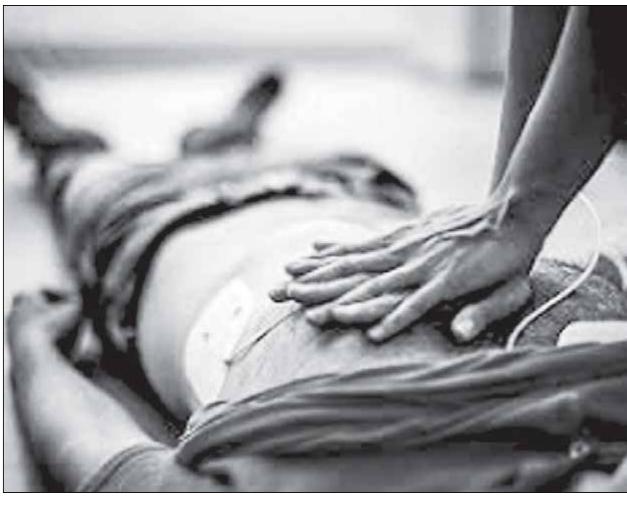
Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of death in the United States. SCA occurs when the heart suddenly stops pumping blood through the body owing to a glitch in the heart's electrical system. The heart enters an abnormal rhythm, known as ventricular fibrillation, in which the heart muscles twitch or quiver but do not beat. During SCA, the patient collapses without warning and is completely unresponsive, which is what makes it so frightening. Left untreated, SCA can cause irreversible brain damage and death within minutes.

Every year emergency medical responders treat over 400,000 Americans with sudden cardiac arrest. Less than 12% of those patients survive. Every minute a person with SCA has an abnormal heart rhythm, your chance of survival drop 7% to 10%. If you have one you should use it. Defibrillation is a time sensitive

What you can do: Be prepared. Call 911 immediately. When your heart stops, the lack of oxygen in the blood can cause brain damage in a few minutes. Death or permanent brain damage can occur in four to six minutes. Time is critical when you're helping an unconscious person who isn't breathing. Take immediate action. Start CPR. Ask if there is an external defibrillator. If the defibrillator doesn't work continue CPR.

Most external defibrillators will talk you through the instructions. It will tell you where to place the pads, how to connect pads to the machine when to stop CPR and when to shock the patient. The defibrillator will also tell you if you need to give the patient a second shock. If the patient's heart doesn't start beating start CPR again until the defibrillator tells you

to give another shock. Although an external defibrillator



will talk you through the instructions it is recommended you get trained in CPR, First Aid and the use of external defibrillators. This training is frequently offered by groups such as the American Red Cross and The American Heart Association. Please don't buy a card from companies that don't really do the correct training. Some don't do any training

If you have a heart condition and you are at risk for SCA you may want to have an external defibrillator

When performing CPR: Quickly check the unconscious person's breathing. If he or she isn't breathing normally, begin CPR. Push hard and fast on the person's chest at the rate of 100 to 120 compressions a minute. If you haven't been trained, just continue chest compressions. Allow the chest to rise completely between compressions. Keep doing this until a portable defibrillator is available or emergency personnel arrive.

Once you begin CPR, do not stop except in one of these situations:

· Obvious Death. When you witness cardiac arrest, starting CPR immediately gives the victim the highest chance of survival. · Cold To the Touch

- · Rigor Mortis.
- Livor Mortis (Lividity)
- Injuries Not Compatible With
- Advanced Help Arrives. • You see an obvious sign of life,
- such as breathing. An AED is available and ready
- Another trained responder or EMS personnel take over.
- You are too exhausted to con-
- The scene becomes unsafe.

It always comes up when someone helps someone in an emergency "Can I be sued if I give some help". According to The American Red Cross, most states have Good Samaritan laws. These laws give you legal protection when you provide emergency care to an ill or injured

Good Samaritan laws were developed to get people to help others in emergency situation. While Good Samaritan Laws don't mean you can't be sued, courts rarely give judgments against a person giving reasonable and prudent care to an injured person. If you're interested in knowing more about the "Good Samaritan" laws in your state you should contact a legal professional, your local Red Cross or your local

Examples of acting in a prudent and reasonable manner can include:

- Not moving a victim unless they are in life threatening situation.
- Getting permission from a con-
- scious victim before giving care.
- Getting professional help as soon
- Provide reasonable care until a

professional help arrives.

Getting trained and acquainted with the basics of CPR and learning how to perform CPR will help you save life of a loved one.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

Mask up! Mask right! Over your nose and under your chin when you

If you have a fitness question or concern you would like addressed write to "Tips to be Fit" P O Box 53443 Philadelphia PA 19105 or tipstobefit@gmail.com

#### **Health Department: Mississippi** medical marijuana months away

By Emily Wagster Pettus Associated Press

It could be the end of the year before medical marijuana is available in Mississippi because businesses need time to receive licenses and to grow, test and prepare to sell the products, state Health Department officials said Monday.

The department opened the licensing application process last week for patients and caregivers interested in using medical cannabis as allowed under a new state law; for medical practitioners who will certify patients for medical cannabis use; for facilities that will grow, process and test the products; and for businesses that will transport medical cannabis and dispose of

On July 1, the state Department of Revenue will start accepting applications for businesses that will dispense medical mar-

A wide majority of Mississippi voters approved a medical marijuana ballot initiative in November 2020, but the state Supreme Court invalidated the results of that election six months later by ruling the initiative was not properly on the ballot.

Earlier this year, Republican Gov. Tate Reeves signed a law to create a medical marijuana program similar to what voters approved. It allows use of the products by people with debilitating conditions including cancer, AIDS, sickle cell anemia and Alzheimer's disease.

Kris Jones Adcock, director of the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Program, said Monday that about 1,800 people registered for accounts when the Health Department started accepting licensing applications Wednesday. She said most were patients.

She said 15 businesses have completed an application, 12 people have applied for work permits and nine medical practitioners have applied for licenses. She also

said those numbers will increase. Jim Craig, the Health Department's senior deputy and director of health protection, said Monday that under regulations set by the department, medical marijuana businesses may have websites and logos to brand their businesses, but they may not do any other marketing or advertising.

"Absolutely nothing else is allowed,"

Craig said.

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## It's my blessing and I want it now

By Shewanda Riley Columnist



"It's my money...and I want it now.' I know I'm not the only one who has been tortured those catchy words that stay in my mind

hours after I see the JG Wentworth commercials on tv. I'm not sure how Wentworth does it, but he helps those who have structured settlements and annuities get access to their money. I never understand completely how you couldn't get access to your money. My thought was if it's your money, you should be able to get to it when you

A number of years ago, something happened that gave me a new appreciation for that commercial. I began

working for a business in 1997 and, parts of the benefits were an annuity investment account. Money was automatically deposited into that account for a few years until I quit the job. Once I quit, I was able to withdraw most of the money to pay off some bills. I thought that all of the money was out of the account, but a few hundred dollars remained. Since no more money was being deposited into it, I'd only really think about the account once a year when I'd get the annual statement with the updated balance.

However, a few times, I tried to take out the remaining money but was always told that because I was rehired by the same company, I'd have to wait until I quit again in order to access the money. It was so confusing to me that even though I was no longer even depositing money into that specific account I couldn't close it either.

Fast forward to the summer of 2011 when I learned that I could use that same money to pay for college classes. Interesting, I thought, maybe I'll use it when I go back to school, whenever that will be. By the end of 2011, I was back in school and needed money to pay for the tuition. And guess what I used to pay for it? That annuity that in the past I couldn't touch.

When I got the check in the mail that covered my tuition expenses, I was glad that I hadn't been able to use the money when I wanted to a few years earlier. In the early 2000s, I wasn't planning on returning to school ever, but God knew the plan he had for my life. The money that I was able to withdraw was just enough to cover the tuition

expenses for that semester.

I wanted it in the early 2000's, but God knew that I would need it in 2011. Isaiah 46: 10 says, "Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish." Sometimes the things we are asking God to bless us with are destined to be ours, but only at the right (His appointed) time. We just have to learn to patiently accept his timing and blessings for our lives.

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

## Love your enemies with a forgiving attitude

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



We read in Matthew 5:44 these words, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who

hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecuted you."

We might think for a moment, "Who are our enemies?" Many of us believe we have no enemies. However, an enemy might be someone we thought was a friend, a family member with a long-held grudge, or ever a brother or sister in Christ. An enemy can be someone we feel does not like us and has hurt or mistreated us. Whether we consider them enemies or not, there is no denying their hostility.

In the same verse, Jesus goes on to expand His list of hostiles: "Bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

As brethren growing to love one another, we have probably all been through this particular trial and test. The church is just like a big family, where people can be hurt or feel mistreated in one way or another. Conflicts, misunderstandings, and slights – real or imagined – occur in every group of human beings, Christian or not. It is exceedingly difficult to "love," "bless," "do good" and "pray" for a person who has hurt us deeply.

It goes against our human nature to behave positively toward someone we feel deserves shame, censure and punishment. Putting

this principle into practice is a high hurdle for any Christian to clear.

Yet, as Christians, we know that forgiveness is one of the keys that Jesus taught for healing. Not only is it a teaching, but it is also a command. Christ admonishes us to keep this charge in His model prayer in Matthew 6:12: "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." Alternatively, it could be said, "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned

against us" (See Luke 11:4). Jesus comments further on this in Matthew 6:14-15 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

In Matthew 18:21-22, we find another example: "Then Peter came to Him and said, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?' Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." In other words, we must always be willing to forgive a brother.

This truly goes against our human nature, and it definitely takes thought and genuine concern to pray for blessings and good to come to one's enemy. Praying for soundness and fairness in thinking and working to make sure we do no harm to that individual are difficult, yet in preparing us for our future responsibilities, this is what God wants from us.

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



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Chauncy L. Jordan

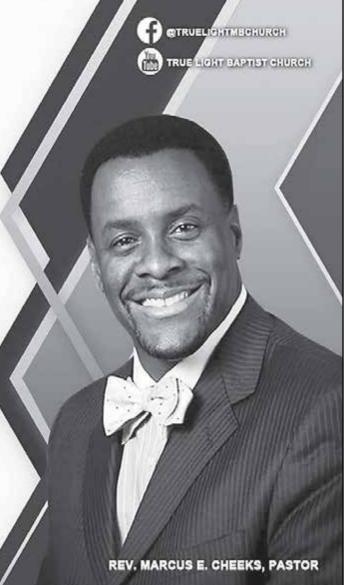




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WORSHIP SERVICE | SUNDAY 10:30 AM

BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM



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## Soul-stirring movement: Relationship over religion

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



Religion cannot expand the love of Christ, only relationship can do that. Even before the pandemic there was a simmer es-

calating to a boil in the Christian church. In 2019 as part of my seminary internship, I spent over a year in a small New Orleans Methodist church working closely with pastors and community. I learned valuable lessons not only about others but myself.

When it came to church experiences, I found people in and outside church communities secretly living dissatisfied, fearful and unfulfilled as they navigated the routines of their daily lives. I confronted how much my soul needed deeper connection and sincere relationship.

I grew up with a devout Catholic mom, a dedicated missionary Baptist daddy, (both deceased) and decades participating and leading in non-denominational churches from Atlanta to Charlotte, North Carolina. With such diverse exposure to Christian spiritual traditions, doctrines, generational focuses, worship experiences and leadership values, the distinguishing characteristic for any church anchoring me was sincere connection and relation-

ship. Life truly comes full circle and I believe if we look closely enough into the hearts of people, the soul-stirring needs of people are shifting again.

Through COVID-19 which shocked us with grief, isolation and uncertainty, alongside the brazen open reminders of racial systemic injustice and abuse, the deep cries from generation to generation began openly emerging. From Generation X to Z within the context of spiritual fulfillment things began to change visibly. Ministering to Millennials, Baby-Busters, Baby Boomers, Xer's I saw faces smiling, bodies in church, mouths singing/praising, relationships posting, but hidden places grief-stricken, lonely, confused and discouraged. The real yearning and cry of God's people no matter the age – was clarity, connection, change and commu-

As my own life shifted, I found myself feeling at home in a church holding hands with the homeless, wrapping my arms around the sick, lonely and traumatized. Although I ministered to many, the many simultaneously ministered to me. I stood close to shame and guilt many carried for decades, some it seemed a lifetime. No matter the age or circumstances we each carried in us the painful parts of the human experience. We were bound and connected to one another – seen, heard and

comforted in wounded places. The paralysis of fear and uncertainty, loss and sorrow, calamity and isolation escaped no one.

The defining difference in this small community church that fed the homeless every Sunday from their little gun-shot hallway kitchen, and broke bread from a home-made loaf on communion Sunday was intimacy - an intimacy of sincere care, and connection to one another. During this time, I had been receiving calls across the country from people seeking counsel; I listened as they expressed a sense of conflict and concern. Whether young black congregants opening up about feeling used by white pastors, white/black congregants feeling abandoned in times of need, or disappointed elders feeling unseen, unappreciated, or undeveloped spiritually – the resounding cymbal clanging was unfulfillment, disconnection and discontentment.

For some, church offered community on the outside, yet it wasn't bringing enduring peace and emotional prosperity on the inside.

Listen, life as we knew it, including life within the context of what church used to be is over. Whether accepted or not in church leadership or vision statements, hearts are changing and gaps being left as open wounds. We are living in a deep evolving shift into not only an awareness for mental

health, but its interconnected relationship with the condition of our souls

My evidence and experiences bear witness with Dallas Willard that Christians and searching non-Christians are looking for pathways into a deep thinking, heart transforming, intelligent and powerful Christlikeness that influences their entire existence emotionally, mentally, physiologically, relationally and spiritually. I find persons are seeking spiritual clarity, life-application, practices, and purpose; we are trying to understand how these things that happened to me then, affect this thing I'm going through right now.

From Millennials to Baby-Boomers, Busters and X'ers people are yearning for connection, and to experience the intimate relationship of a community. A deep desire and longing exists for church community to demonstrate and guide people into healthy richer experiences of abundant life. Regardless of denominations, there is a searching for enduring, stabilizing, equipped spaces conscientious about the health of our souls. It may not be easy to accomplish; it may even seem like some things are being torn down. Remember though, in God's eyes often the only way up is down.

Learn more about Dr. Jackson

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# Racist 'Replacement' rhetoric is deadly and Republicans must stop using it

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



The young man who murdered 10 people in Buffalo, New York May 14, was out to kill black people. He chose a grocery store because he wanted to leave the local black community in fear of going about their daily lives. These evil actions were motivated by a racist

ideology known as the Great Replacement Theory.

That should cause some serious reflection among Republicans who are trying to build power with their own versions of racist "replacement" rhetoric. Replacement rhetoric is meant to tap into a very old fear: that the survival and dominance of white Americans is threatened by others – whether by the freedom and empowerment of black people or immigration by people of color.

Frederick Douglass, one of the great Americans of all time, denounced that ideology shortly after the end of the Civil War. Douglass was born into slavery. He became a great anti-slavery speaker and organizer. He gave a series of important anti-slavery speeches in Buffalo, near where he lived in Rochester, and where a statue of him in his home town has been repeatedly vandalized. In 1869, this black Republican gave a speech called "Our Composite Nation."

He promoted a vision of a country that welcomed and was strengthened by diversity. And he denounced fears that were being stirred up against Chinese immigrants. He said that the idea that "the Caucasian race may not be able to hold their own" against immigrants "does not seem entitled to much respect." Truth.

Replacement ideology is still not worthy of respect. It is toxic. And it promotes violence. The man arrested for the killings in Buffalo reportedly claimed that he picked up his anti-Semitic and racist beliefs from some of the unsavory corners of the internet. He decided to kill black people in Buffalo. Others who were twisted by the same racist ideas chose to kill Latinos in El Paso, Jews in Pittsburgh, Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand. Unfortunately, millions of Americans are hearing variations of the replacement rhetoric from irresponsible politicians and cable TV personalities.

They falsely claim that Democrats want "open borders" so they can replace American voters with what Tucker Carlson called "more obedient voters from the Third World." Carlson has used that kind of rhetoric more than 400 times on his highly rated show. And this year at least half a dozen Republican senate candidates have been running on the idea. It seems that the Republican Party, the party of Abraham Lincoln, is acting more like the old Democratic Party did after

It is becoming a party defined by its willingness to use the ideology of violent white supremacists to try to stir up voters and win elections. This is playing with fire. And if it continues, we will all get burned, again and again. There is a more honorable path for

the Republican Party.

I believe national Republicans should go to Buffalo. They should reflect on the killings that were motivated by racist ideas. They should reflect on the legacy of Frederick Douglass. And they should consider the life of a more recent Republican, the late Jack Kemp. Kemp had been a quarterback for the Buffalo Bills. Then he became a Republican congressman representing western New York. And he ran for president as both a Republican and a card-carrying member of the NAACP. "I can't help but care about the rights of the people I used to shower with," Kemp said.

We urgently need more of our national leaders to embrace Douglass' broad vision of a strong and diverse America, and Jack Kemp's recognition of our shared humanity. And we need more people, both politicians and regular folks, to have the courage to consistently call out bigotry when we hear it and to hold accountable those who spread it.

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

# Our nation has a problem with guns that needs to be fixed

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



Darkness and despair have us trapped and we have lost our way. Good, once the standard, has turned into bad.

We are making bad decisions and they have resulted in bad outcomes.

Our once proud America is being looked at with critical eyes. Those living in other countries are wondering what is happening in the United States of America. Cities across this great land of ours are besieged by crime and punishment. Each day has become a day of death for many of our brothers and sisters, both black and white.

We leave our homes with good intentions, yet we may not return to them. I am learning quickly that while we plan our day, those plans may not be enough to keep us alive. We are in a tangled web of chaos and confusion. We are enemies to ourselves.

The blame for our current situ-

ation begins with us. Do we want to get better?

I think we do. The conversations suggest that we do want to get better. We want a new normal and not new shootings and killings. The shootings, whether they were in Buffalo, Uvalde, Tulsa, near Ames and Philadelphia all have the same result.

People are dead and families are broken into pieces. This current path is going down a deadend street. We need stricter gun laws immediately. The time to act is now. It is the doing of the talking which is an expression that I coined many years ago.

The laws that we have on the books need to be amended and changed. How can a newly minted 18-year young man go into a store and buy assault weapons with literally no questions asked? That is what happened in Uvalde, Texas when Salvador Ramos purchased guns and ammunition.

Guns now play a major role in how we live our lives. For example, we are more conscious than ever before about being in crowds. In some communities, going to get gas or to the grocery store become challenging. We go but we are afraid.

In the not-too-distant past, we gave no thought to attending church or going to graduations. Going to our favorite store was a no-brainer. Now these places have shootings and killings.

We have convened and reconvened to discuss gun violence yet not much has changed. Arguably, there are more deaths by guns now. Sadly, we are living this frightening and fragile reality.

While discussions are good, changing laws is better. That, in my opinion, must be the steps we take in order to curb gun violence. Laws must change and we the people must be the driving force behind this movement.

Some critics have said that the House and the Senate are on different pages when it comes to gun control. I agree with the critics.

For example, the House would close what is called the "Charleston loophole." It would increase the amount of time from 3 business days to 10 business days

"that a federal firearms licensee must wait to receive a completed background check prior to transferring a firearm to a licensed person." This statement comes

from the legislation.

It is HR 1446, and it is backed by Democratic representative, James Clyburn of South Carolina. This bill stems from the tragedy that killed 9 people at a black church in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015.

The senate will now take up the matter in their legislative session. We will see what happens

President Biden on last week in an address to the nation said, "If we can't ban assault weapons then we should raise the age to purchase them from 18 to 21." He added, "Over the past two decades, more school-aged children have died from guns than on-duty police officers and active-duty military combined."

According to the *Washington Post* newspaper, there have been over 200 mass shootings in America this year. That number should scare all of us.

GET YOUR CURRENT NEWS AND WATCH AP VIDEOS ONLINE AT:

www.mississibbilink.com

#### **LEGAL**

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

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

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

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

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

6/2/2022, 6/9/2022

#### **LEGAL**

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

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

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

Email: bids@imaa.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095 Passcode: 520966

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

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

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Date: June 1, 2022

John A. Means, Interim Chief Executive Officer

6/2/2022 6/9/2022

#### **LEGAL**

#### Electronic Bidding Advertisement for Re-Bid 3210 Newell Field Renovations

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

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

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

#### **LEGAL**

#### NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

CITY OF JACKSON

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

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

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

If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus

Property Committee, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO)

between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equiva-

lent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified. If multiple equivalent high bidders consist of, one equivalent high bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee and the other

equivalent high bidder(s) that did not submit an application to the Surplus Property Committee, preferential preference will be granted to the bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee.

City reserves the right to reject any and all bids

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

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

#### **LEGAL**

#### NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

CITY OF JACKSON

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

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

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

Preferential preference will be granted to all equivalent high bidders that sub-

between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified. If multiple equivalent high bidders consist of, one equivalent high bidder that

Property Committee, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO)

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

City reserves the right to reject any and all bids

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

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

#### **LEGAL**

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The City of Jackson, MS will conduct Public Hearings and an Application Workshop regarding the development of its 2022 One-Year Action Plan of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The Annual Action Planning process requires broad public participation by citizens and entities which are interested in, or are providing assistance in, the areas of housing, services for the homeless, public services and other community development activities.

The City of Jackson's 2022 Community Planning and Development Program Allocations are as follow: \$1,479,031.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; \$944,901.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds; \$152,316.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds; and \$1,476,169.00 in Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds for a total of

The Public Hearings will explain the purpose of the City's Annual Action Plan; discuss the City's goals and accomplishments with HUD funds; and consult with the public by accepting public comments regarding proposed activities for the programs. The Public Hearings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates at the specified locations:

Grove Park Community Center, 4126 Parkway Ave., 39213 Tabernacle Ministries, 2025 N. Siwell Rd., 39212 Warren Hood Building, 200 S. President St., 39201 (Final Public Hearing)

May 10, 2022 May 11, 2022 June 15, 2022

Application/Proposal Workshop- For non-profit organizations interested in applying for HUD funding, workshops will be held on Friday, May 20, 2022 at City of Jackson, 200 South President Street, Andrew Jackson Conference Room. Jackson, MS 39201. Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced. The Workshop will be conducted as follow:

CDBG applicant workshop will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

ESG and HOPWA Applicant workshop will be from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

HOME Workshop will be from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Deadline- Application/Proposal packages for 2022 CDBG, ESG, HOPWA, and HOME will only be accepted electronically via email. Electronic submission instructions will be included in the application instructions. Applications will be available for download on May 20, 2022 by visiting https://www.jacksonms.gov/ housing-community-development/. The deadline to submit all applications electronically is by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24, 2022.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, no application/proposal packages will be accepted at our office or by mail.

The draft Annual Action Plan will be available for review at the final public hearing and on the City's website at www.jacksonms.gov on June 15, 2022. The Public Comment period will begin on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 and end at 5:00 p.m., on Friday, July 15, 2022.

Residents with disabilities are encouraged to notify the City at least five (5) days prior to the public hearing of any needed accommodations.

For more details contact the Office of Development Assistance Division at 601-

6/9/2022

#### **LEGAL**

#### LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS **FIRE STATION RENOVATIONS**

The City of Jackson intends to employ an Architectural/Engineering (A/E) consulting firm for Renovations at the five Fire Stations, Jackson, MS. Renovations to include interior renovations and roof replacement work. Statement of Qualifications will be accepted by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 p.m., Tuesday July 5, 2022. The proposed contract will include complete Architectual/ Engineering services required for this renovation and replacement work.

Official bid Documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted at www. centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Architectural/Engineering (A/E) firms interested in providing these services may so indicate by furnishing the City of Jackson seven (7) copies of a Statement of Qualification, which should consist of the following:

- 1. A cover letter specifying the complete project name, FIRE STATION RENOVA-TIONS, the name of the project manager, and the location and address of the office to be assigned the majority of the work.
- 2. A resume for each principal member, the project manager, and employee(s) of the firm anticipated to be assigned to the project including consulting engineers. Also, provide an organizational chart and list each person's experience and qualifications, including proof that the Project Manager is licensed as a Mississippi Professional Architect/Engineer and that the firm has met state licensure and certification requirements. Include a business recovery plan in the event of a disaster.
- 3. Knowledge of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) procurement processes, Section 3 requirements, certified payroll, Davis-Bacon Act; and other reporting requirements of CDBG funded projects.

4. A description of similar type work completed during the past five (5) years which

qualifies the consultant for this work; the cost and schedule completion (or actual completion) of this work with project owners reference contact information. 5. In addition to the information requested above complete Part II of the Standard

Form (SF) 330, Architect-Engineer Qualifications. This Form can be obtained at

The City will evaluate the Statements of Qualification based on the following fac-

(http://www.gsa.gov/portal/forms/download/116486).

tors listed in their relative order of importance:

1. Experience of the firm in performing specific services and experience in preparing architectural/engineering design and construction projects funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

- 2. Qualifications and experience of staff and consultants to be assigned to the project based on requested scope of services. 3. Size of the firm's professional and technical staff with respect to the services
- 4. Resume of the firm's current and completed projects of a similar nature.
- Local presence of the firm within the Jackson Metro Area.
- 6. Equal Business Opportunity participation plan submitted with the Statement of
- The City reserves the right to select one (1) consultant or select a short list of

consultants from whom more information will be required. The City reserves the right to reject any and all Statements of Qualification, discontinue Contract execution, and/or request additional information with any party at any time prior to final Contract execution. For any Statement of Qualification questions, contact Lloyd Keller, Jr. at 601-960-1657, lkeller@city.jackson.ms.us. The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business

opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each proposer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan with the proposal submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a proposer from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the City of Jackson's Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the program are available at the following location: 200 South President Street, Room 223, Jackson, Mississippi; or can be accessed on City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity webpage.

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

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

Robert Lee Acting City Engineer

Valerie Tucker Deputy Director Housing & Community Development

6/9/2022, 6/16/2022

6/2/2022, 6/9/2022

#### LEGAL

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6/2/2022, 6/9/2022

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## THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

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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

E000 Modeor Evere I

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

7/13 Ruhy Street - Canton M

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

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOME CENTER

505 E. Main Street

OUNE OWER CROSS

SUNFLOWER GROCERY

122 Old Port Gibson Street,

Raymond, MS

LOVE FOOD MART

120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS

RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS

RAYMOND CITY HALL

110 Courtyard Square, Raymond

RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

#### UTICA

HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP

Mississippi Hwy 18

PITT STOP

101 Hwy 18 & 27

BOLTON LIBRARY

**BOLTON CITY HALL** 

#### MCVN

Aississinni Classified Advertising Network

Mississippi Classified Advertising Network

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#### Employment

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

#### Farm Equipment

38935. c/o Andrew McQueen, Board

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battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-844-355-7099.

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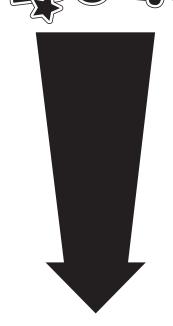
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#### **JUNE 9 - 15, 2022**

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## One Person One Vote

By Chris Young Contributing Writer

The framers saw voting as a fundamental component of democracy. States, however, have usually determined the requirements for voting. Sometimes states have been bad actors though, hence intervention by the federal government; aimed at creating more equality and more equity.

At our beginnings, only white male property owners could vote. The Emancipation Proclamation (1862) led to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution (1865) - abolishing slavery. While the 13th Amendment sought equality for black people, the Confederate States continued a system of Black Codes designed to keep them dependent upon their former

The Magnolia State didn't officially ratify the 13th Amendment for 148 years; in 2013. Former Mississippi Secretary of State from 1984-1996, Dick Molpus, told the Clarion Ledger it was a "filing error." Fox News referred to it as "fixing an oversight, a procedural glitch." Delbert Hosemann was Secretary of State when Mississippi officially ratified the 13th Amendment.

State Senator Hillman Frazier alerted the Legislature in 1995 that Mississippi had not ratified the amendment, yet they still sat on it for another 18 years. Mississippi was, and remains, the poster child of resistance to any form of black advancement.

The Reconstruction Act of 1867 sought to enfranchise black male voters in the south. The 14th Amendment (1868),

Census	<b>Total Count</b>	Black	Black	White	White	Other	Other
			%		%	Races	Races %
1960	179,323,175	1,884,861	10.5	158,880,333	88.6	1,613,908	0.9
1980	226,505,000	26,501,085	11.7	188,225,655	83.1	11,778,260	5.2
2000*	281,421,906	34,614,894	12.3	211,347,851	75.1	28,423,612	10.1
2020**	331,449,281	41,099,710	12.4	191,577,684	57.8	98,771,885	29.8

- Included the first ever option to identify by more than one race
- \*\* required two separate questions; are you of Hispanic or Latino origin, and what is your race

#### **COMMENTARY**

reversed Dred-Scott and stated that any person born in the United States is a citizen. It further specified that every resident of a state should be counted as a full person for the purposes of congressional representation. The 15th Amendment (1870) outlawed discrimination in voting rights on the basis of race, color or previous condition of servitude. However, when Reconstruction ended in 1877, black voters in the south were disenfranchised again through enactment of poll taxes, literacy tests and other discriminatory practices. What was promised by the 15th Amendment was not realized for the next 95 years, until the Civil Rights Movement forced the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution came in 1920 because gender had not been included on the list of categories that could not be used to deny voting rights in the 15th Amendment. Despite the passing of the 19th Amendment, affirming a woman's right to vote, many women of color had their rights suppressed until The Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Voting Rights Act was passed by the U.S. Senate in a 77-19 vote on May 26, 1965. The U.S. House passed the bill in a 333-85 vote on July 9, 1965. Technically anyway, at this point, the discriminatory practices ended. Or did they?

So much effort is continuously needed to achieve equality in "the land of the free, the home of the brave." In God We Trust is on all of our currency and coins, yet all kinds of people and their elected officials are not acting very godly, as they attempt to control their own citizens' right to vote. Their goal is not One Person One Vote. Their goal is power and almost without exception they are white – European Americans.

About a year ago, CNN reported that "Republicans in 43 states have introduced 253 bills aimed at restricting access to the ballot. This could impact tens of millions of citizens, effectively disenfranchising working class, poor and minority voters. The laws largely focus on tightening voter ID requirements, purging voter rolls and restricting absentee and mail-in ballots.'

The vast majority of these Republican state lawmakers are white. "Just under 10 percent of the nearly 7,500 legislators serving in America's state houses are black, and only 13 are Republicans," according to the website www.governing. com, in January 2021. Governing is a media and research company focused exclusively on state and local government.

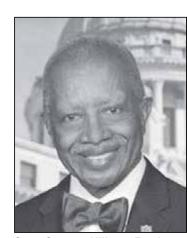
In August 2021, the Brennan Center for Justice reported on voting turnout from the 2020 general election, "70.9 percent of white voters cast ballots as compared with only 58.4 percent of nonwhite voters - a disparity that will worsen with new restrictive voting laws." Despite the pandemic, voter turnout for the general election was the highest seen in the last century. Nationwide, 62.9% of black voters cast ballots. That sounds great and represents success, "however, they must not be mistaken for signs that racial discrimination in voting is no longer an enormous problem, one that continues to advantage white voters to a degree that must be remedied."

Here in Mississippi, the epicenter of oppression and discrimination in America, we were the only state in the nation that did not relax early voting options during the pandemic. All four states around us did so, but not Mississippi. What does it really say about our white Republican leadership who know full and well that 40% of the state's population is at higher risk for COVID, yet deny any accommodations?

The Democracy Initiative, a coalition of 75 groups advocating for voter access, stated, "In Mississippi, an excuse (other than risk of COVID-19) is required to cast an absentee ballot or to vote early, and not all voters qualify."

Yvonne Horton, Hinds County District 4 elections commissioner, informed me that there are many categories that a voter could use on their absentee ballot application and typically no further questions are asked. She indicated that if a health issue is noted, it will be accepted because any further questions would be in violation of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

State Senator Hillman Frazier, with over 42 years House and Senate service, is always generous with his time. When I asked for his thoughts on Mississippi being the only state that did not relax early voting op-



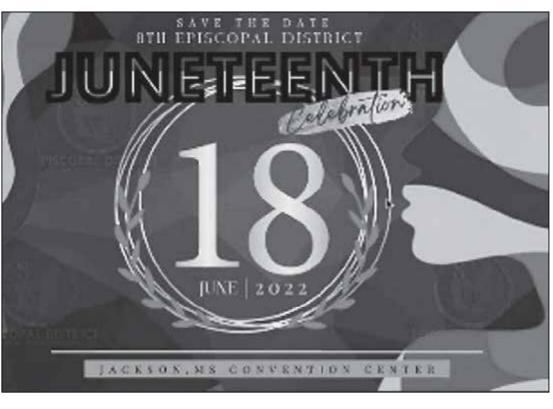
State Senator Hillman Frazier, Dist. 27, has over 42 years of House and Senate service.

tions during the pandemic and general election, he laid it out very simply. He indicated that not relaxing early voting and not mandating masks at polling stations put Mississippians at risk, especially African Americans whose risk for COVID is higher and well documented. I asked if he considered it intimidation, and he indicated that he did not think that, but he did consider it inhumane.

We went on to speak about the long and tortured history African Americans have had just trying to vote in this country. He was pleased with the high turnout of the 18-25-yearold voting bloc in Mississippi and around the country. "We need them, and we need their excitement about voting."

When you review the Census data above, you will understand why so many white people in this country have been going hog-wild to suppress minority votes. Truth is, you already know - they view America as their country. The thought of what the 2030 Census will reflect is terrifying to them.

## JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION hosted by Community Development Corporation and the 8th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Church



The worship service is free and open to the public; luncheon tickets are \$50 for adults and \$25 for children 12 years and under.

to celebrate and honor our ancestors' journey to freedom through worship and fellowship. The event will also educate the public of the history of Juneteenth.

The theme of the event is

The keynote speaker for the

end Doctor Jerry Young, president of the National Baptist Convention and pastor of New Hope Baptist Church of Jackson, Mississippi.

The Right Reverend Stafford J. N. Wicke

Episcopal District AME Church

residing Prelate

According to Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker, the presiding prelate of the Eighth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, "We're

expecting approximately 1,000 persons at the worship service and 600 persons at the luncheon. We're excited to educate the public on the true meaning of Juneteenth and celebrate and honor our ancestors. Not only will we be celebrating in Jackson but also celebrating across the Eighth Episcopal District,

JACKSON CONVENTION COMPLEX

which comprises Louisiana and Mississippi." We believe the Eighth Epis-

Reverend Dr. Jerry Yo

President of the National Baptist Convention

Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church

copal District AME Church Juneteenth celebration will have a positive impact on the community.

For additional information contact Cynthia Holman at (318) 564-9427.

#### The Mississippi Link Newswire

On June 18, 2022, SUCCEED Community Development Corporation will partner with the 8th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to host a Juneteenth celebration. The celebration event will be held at the Jackson Convention Complex in downtown Jackson, Mississippi. The celebration begins at 10 a.m. with a worship service followed promptly by a plated luncheon.

"Free Indeed."

The purpose of this event is Juneteenth event is the Rever-

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THE MISSISSIPPI LINK • 13



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# JPS holds 2022 graduating ceremonies at the Mississippi Coliseum

Graduation ceremonies for Jackson Public Schools were held Tuesday, May 31, 2022 and Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at the Mississippi Coliseum located at 1207 Mississippi Street.

The graduation ceremonies for all the schools were live-streamed on the Jackson Public School YouTube channel.

Students at Callaway High School, Forest Hill High School and Wingfield High School graduated on June 1, 2022.

Superintendent Errick Greene addressed each graduating class.



Callaway High School graduates



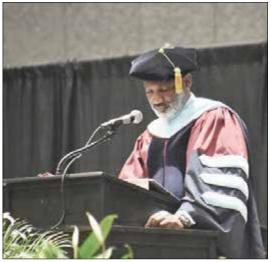
Callaway students prepare to receive diplomas while family and friends look on



Forest Hill graduates PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY



Group of Wingfield High School graduates



JPS Superintendent Dr. Errick Green



Proud graduates of Forest Hill High School

## Jackson State University launches new Tiger Ready scholarship for first-time freshmen



Jackson State University
This fall Jackson St

This fall, Jackson State University (JSU) will make access to a higher education a little easier for 2,000 first-time-in-college freshmen through the new Tiger Ready Scholarship. The one-time award of up to \$1,000 will be given to incoming students who have not received other scholarships to defray the cost of tuition.

"Enrolling and paying for college can be an eye-opening experience for many families who are sending students off for the first time," said Vice President for Enrollment Management Josiah J. Sampson, III, Ph.D. "Even though Jackson State has made the conscious effort to hold our tuition flat

for the past three years to remain the affordable, high quality educational choice, we know many students will still need help with upfront costs. The Tiger Ready Scholarship is designed to be the boost to help make ends meet."

Eligible freshmen must meet the following criteria:

- Must be admitted to Jackson
- State University.
- Must not have received any other university scholarships.
- Must be scheduled for Fall 2022 classes by July 15.
- The award will be applied to the account balances of the first 2,000 first-time freshmen to successfully complete their registration.

"We're excited to offer the Tiger Ready Scholarship as another example of our commitment to support student success at Jackson State University because obtaining a higher education should be affordable," said President Thomas K. Hudson, J.D. "Whether our students are relocating from as far away as Houston, Chicago, Detroit or Indianapolis; or from as nearby as Atlanta, Birmingham or right here in Jackson, the first-year transition into college can put a toll on the family budget. We get that, and this scholarship will help alleviate some of the financial strain."

The Tiger Ready Scholarship will be applied directly to student accounts at the end of the fall reg-

istration period.

Students may sign up for one of the upcoming JSU Orientation programs to work with JSU staff to complete the registration process.

"This opportunity is going to go quickly and unfortunately, we have more interested students than we can accommodate," said Sampson. "So, we need our future Tigers who have been accepted into the university to complete their registration by July 15 and get 'JSU Ready' for the next step in their academic careers."

For more information, contact JSU Enrollment Management at enrollment@jsums.edu or visit www.jsums.edu/enrollmentmanagement.



## JUNETEENTH BOOKS FOR KIDS C.2022, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS 5.99 - \$17.99 • VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

By Terri Schlichenmeyer Columnist

You weren't born knowing everything.

People had to tell you what you needed to know, and that's how you learn. You can guess sometimes, or figure other things out on your own but mostly, you've been told and then you know. So why not read these books about a fact that was unknown for years...

When Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and freed the slaves, the word was spread far and wide... except in Texas. For more than two years after the signing, there were still people in bondage there.

In "Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free" by Alice Faye Duncan, art by Keturah A. Bobo (Tommy Nelson, \$17.99), you'll see what happened when those slaves learned, on Juneteenth 1865, that they were finally free.

In this book, kids will learn about Juneteenth, the woman whose activism ensured that it would be celebrated across the nation, and why that was important. Meant for kids ages 4 to 8, this book also has further information for grown-ups to help a child understand its meanings, along with a recipe for traditional Juneteenth red punch.

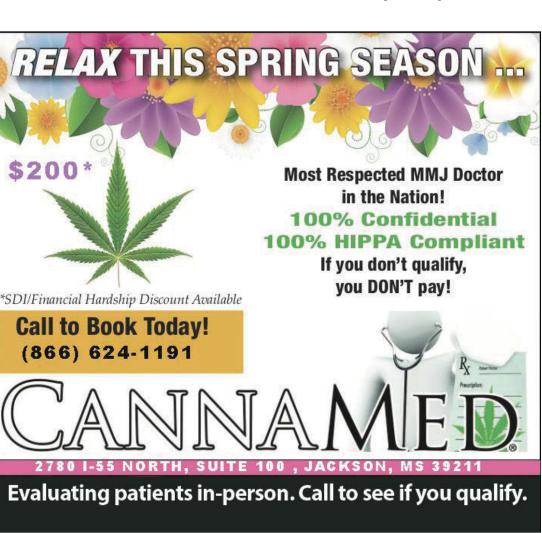
For early elementary-aged kids, "Free at Last: A Juneteenth Poem" by Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, illustrated by Alex Bostic (Union Square Kids, \$17.99) begins on the day when "The news arrived in Galveston." Here, however, only part of the story is told: kids don't much like backstory; the Emancipation Proclamation is never mentioned. Instead, the story is very simplified, bypassing Emancipation in favor of more personal stories, a wide variety of reactions that former slaves might have felt upon hearing the news, and how Texas' newly-freed black citizens likely would have celebrated their freedom. Like the Duncan story, this book has a nice author's note for parental guidance, and gorgeous illustrations that perfectly evoke the poem as it's told.

Older children – those who are well beyond picture books - will find a wealth of information inside "What Is Juneteenth? by Kirsti Jewel, illustrated by Manuel Gutierrez (Penguin Kids, \$5.99).

Unlike the above books, this one begins with a quick and basic history lesson that starts with the Middle Passage. Jewel then quickly takes kids through a few pages about Abraham Lincoln and slavery just before and during the Civil War. It's not until then that she explains where former-slaves went once they were freed, what they did to be reunited with their families, and what it must've been like for Texas slaves to realize that freedom had been withheld from them for more than two

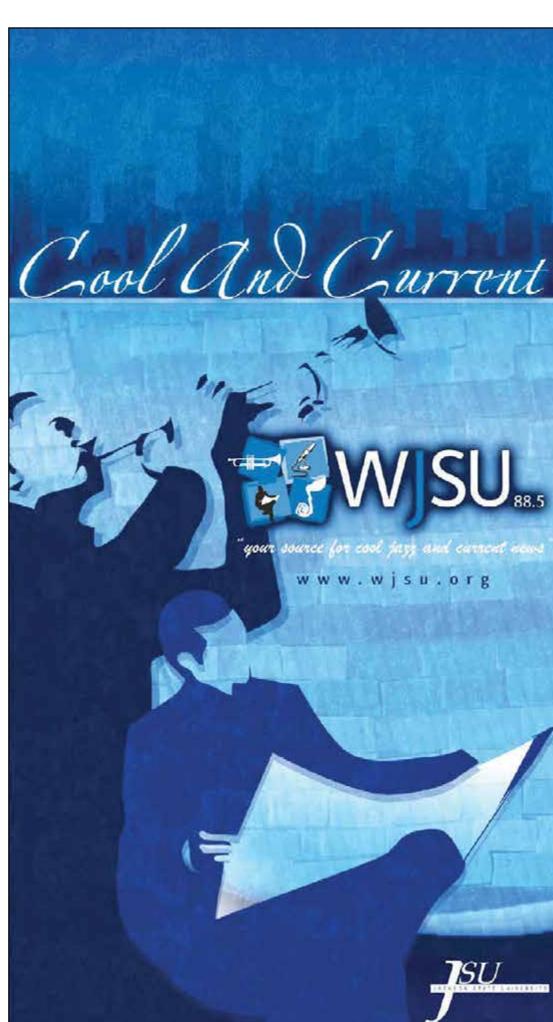
Jewel goes forward to explain more of Black History up through modern times, including the story of Opal Lee and her efforts to place Juneteenth firmly in the nation's consciousness. Kids also get brief biographies of notable black Americans along the way, and there's a handy timeline for reference. This, and the lack of overgeneralizing, make this books perfect for kids ages 7-to-14.

And if these books on Juneteenth aren't enough, then ask your librarian or bookseller for more. They'll help you find everything.





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## Hinds County School District Weekly Update engaging-empowering-ensuring-excellence

Jarred Caston (Eagle Scout) completed a project for GRI. He painted a 27' X 16' map of the USA with a map insert of Hawaii and Alaska. Social Studies was his favorite subject. He wanted to do something to help the teachers and students at his old school by getting them outside and moving to learn. He looked up the curriculum and gave a packet of interactive lessons teachers could use to teach students. He is a 4 year JROTC member, football player and will be an honor graduate this year at Terry High. He has already received his Eagle honor chords. We are so proud he is a Terry Graduate.







Two new principals was introduced to head the Utica Elementary/Middle School. Please join us in welcoming them to this new role! Mr. Jimmy Tullos - Principal and Dr. Clancey Freeman Assistant Principal.





Raymond High School administrators bestowed the diplomas of graduation to the class of 2022 on May 24 at the Jackson Coliseum.





Terry High School administrators bestowed the diplomas of graduation to the class of 2022 on May 24 at the Jackson Coliseum.









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## On Memorial Day Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9832, placed flags on gravesites of those who served in the U.S. military

**By Jeffory McKenzie Sr.** Vice Chair

On Monday, May 30, 2022, the comrades, auxiliary members, family and friends from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9832 in Jackson, performed sacred ceremonies at both Autumn Wood and the Memorial Garden

The placing of the U.S. flag on the gravesites of American men and women who served in the United States military and answered our nation's call to duty, is recognized as one of the most honorable traditions an American can do.

This is a way of saying thank you from Post 9832 to the men and women that bored the scars of battle, service and sacrifice, in the name of freedom and justice for all.

They explain it this way: "Let us never forget on this Memorial Day and everyday going forward that 'All gave some, some gave all' and they will never be forgotten."



VFW Post 9832 comrades, auxiliary members, family and friends honor and remember our veterans on Memorial Day PHOTO BY LUKAS FLIPPO



VFW Post Cmdr. Ira Turner PHOTOS BY JEFFORY MCKENIZE SR. VICE CMDR.



Auxiliary President Gladys McKenzie and other auxiliary members all dressed in blue T-shirts place U.S. flags on the final resting place of those who served.



Sr. Vice Cmdr. Jeffory McKenzie places U.S. flag on the grave of Army Specialist Larry Brown, a soldier killed in action in 2003 while serving in Iraq.



Domenik McKenzie (6) honors Air Force veteran with a flag.



Comrade Aaron Honeysucker (r), twins Chase and Chancellor Rigsdale (7 yrs.) and Felicia Friday, place a flag on the grave of family member and WWII Veteran George Friday.



Jr. Vice Cmdr. Chris Gray gives a history lesson to Chase and Chancellor on the late Charles Tisdale, a Civil Rights advocate and former owner of



Comrades and auxiliary members place flags on veterans' graves at Garden Memorial Cemetery.



Comrade Honeysucker places a flag on the grave of fallen Comrade Otis Washington.







Iraq 2005 veteran and former VFW Post 9832 Chaplain Derek Lacy is honored and remembered for his service.

