

Holmes Co. and surrounding counties to receive disaster assistance from SBA

Durant MB Church, a Disaster Loan Outreach Center until Aug. 18, apply today

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

The major, alderpersons and local/area citizens were all attentive to some good news shared at the Goodman, Miss. Board of Alderman’s meeting Tuesday evening. The bearer of the news information was Dorris A. Evans, Public Affairs Specialist for the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Assistance Field Operations Center – East. “I have been all over Holmes County,” Evans said to the Board and the audience regarding the outreach. Evans shared that Mississippi businesses and residents in Holmes and surrounding affected areas hit by the severe storms, straight-line winds and tornadoes March 22, 2022, may apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The announcement was made nationally by SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman Aug 2. Guzman made the loans available in response to a letter from Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves dated July 18, request-



Gyrene Granderson, Holmes County Emergency Management Agency and Dorris A. Evans, SBA Public Affairs Specialist
PHOTO COURTESY OF DORRIS EVANS

ing a disaster declaration by the SBA. Businesses and residents in the declared area can now apply for low-interest disaster

loans from the SBA. “We have an agency declaration,” Evans said. The declaration covers Holmes County and

the adjacent counties of Attala, Carroll, Humphreys, Leflore, **SBA**

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Elected leaders - what do you embrace? - Part 3

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer



Over the last two weeks we’ve looked at some of our elected leaders in Mississippi through candid lenses. When candidates campaign for elected offices they tell of their qualifications, experience and deep desire to serve the people of Mississippi. Once inside their elected office, that doesn’t seem to hold up in many cases. It’s important to note that there are many elected leaders fully committed to serving and do so effectively and honorably, and it becomes easy to see their true colors by the issues they attach themselves to. They say power can be intoxicating, but you don’t see that in people like Senator Hillman Frazier, Representative Zakiya Summers, Senator Derrick Simmons or Senator John Horhn – these elected leaders are about the people, and their humble leadership sets an example for others of all ages. Before moving on to Hinds County and City of Jackson elected leaders, there is the Com-

COMMENTARY

missioner of Agriculture and Commerce, James Andy Gipson, appointed to the position by former Governor Phil Bryant. Gipson, Mr. Genuine MS, served in the legislature for ten years representing the 77th district (D’lo, Magee, Mendenhall), and championed bills for guns to be carried in more places, such as university campuses, and to be able to sue government agencies that attempt to ban guns, based on reporting in the *Clarion Ledger* in February 2018. This year, after the shooting in the parking lot at the Mud Bug Festival, Gipson demanded more security for future events at the Fairgrounds– starting with the Black Rodeo. I thought for sure I would see and hear Gipson at the Black Rodeo; welcoming the people back for the 19th year, telling them how much they are valued, etc. Nope, didn’t happen. You can easily see what this appointed leader embraces. Lastly, on the state level, we have the Capitol Complex Improvement District (CCID). Jackson officials have pleaded

with state officials for years to contribute to infrastructure projects, since the state pays no taxes for the plethora of state buildings inside Jackson. Instead, they said no, we are not going to support the whole city, just our section. They installed their very own police department – the Capitol Police, supposedly to protect and serve an 87 square mile area that covers just 8% of the land mass of the city and unsurprisingly the wealthiest part. Jackson Police Department is short over a hundred officers, and now must compete with the Capitol Police for new hires. The Capitol Police is allotted 16 officers, a ratio of 17.2 officers for every square mile of jurisdiction. JPD has 2.4 officers for every square mile of the 104 square miles remaining. It’s crystal clear who the elected state leaders embrace, and who they don’t. Credell Calhoun is the president of the Hinds County Board of Supervisors. He tells me there are four areas where the county is moving forward: 1) repairing an 8 inch water line from the tower to serve South and West Jackson, 2) building a new 200-

bed jail, 3) transferring the holding facility downtown from the county to the City, and 4) shifting \$3 million of ARPA dollars to partner with Hope Enterprise Corporation which will result in \$10-12 million to address the black-white wealth gap in our 75% black county and help black business grow. Despite the drama at many of their board meetings, it sure does sound like the people are being served. The City of Jackson is in a rough spot, and it’s not a new thing. The mayor gets opposition from every quarter. The state seems to exhibit a perpetual Jackson-hating attitude; just this week the Governor claimed his reluctance to help Jackson with its long-standing water issues, stating that “the money is there, but the city of Jackson isn’t spending it the way it should.” The water issues in Jackson did not suddenly appear, the problems have been here for decades. Currently, when billions in additional funds are flowing to us from the federal government, this would be the perfect time to

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INSIDE HINDS COUNTY TAX SALE PARCELS

Viral video of Mississippi arrest sparks investigation

By Michael Goldberg
Associated Press

An incident involving a white Mississippi Highway Patrol officer and three black men is under investigation after a viral video showed the officer putting a handcuffed man into a chokehold and wrestling him into a ditch. The video, captured Friday in McComb by a man named Packer Lewis, sparked outrage over the officer’s conduct. The video shows one of Lewis’ brothers, Eugene Lewis, standing in the street in handcuffs as Packer Lewis and another brother, Darius Lewis, yell that they are recording the incident. Suddenly, the officer grabs Eugene Lewis by the neck and pulls him across the street, tackling him to the ground. At one point, the officer appears to use his knee to pin him down. “That’s how George Floyd died,” Packer Lewis yelled while recording a livestream on Facebook, referring to the 2020 murder of Floyd, a black man who was pinned under a Minneapolis police officer’s knee for more than nine minutes. Packer Lewis said the Mississippi officer became aggressive after he told the Lewis brothers to leave the scene. “He said y’all need to leave. It’s not y’all business. We said it’s our business because it’s our brother,” Lewis told The Associated Press on Monday. After detaining Eugene Lewis in a police car, the officer then walked toward the other two brothers and pointed a weapon at one of them. After another officer arrived, Packer and Darius Lewis were then arrested. Public officials said an investigation is underway. Authorities have not identified the officer involved nor said what prompted Eugene Lewis to be placed in handcuffs. Packer Lewis said his brother was pulled over for allegedly speeding and then was arrested for having an expired license. “The Mississippi Department of Public Safety was made aware of an incident involving a Mississippi Highway Patrolman conducting an arrest on a subject in McComb, MS,” said Bailey Martin, a spokesperson for

the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. “This incident is being reviewed internally by the Department of Public Safety. The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation is also conducting an inquiry.” McComb Mayor Quordiniah Lockley urged patience as an investigation unfolds. “I know that many of you like myself, have viewed the video of the Mississippi Highway Patrol Officer and Mr. Eugene Lewis. I am alarmed as well as disturbed over it,” Lockley said. “I ask that you allow the investigation to be completed but at the same time let your voice be heard.” Lockley said he contacted State Representative Daryl Porter Jr. and asked him to intervene on behalf of the City of McComb since it involved Mississippi Highway Patrol, which is the state’s jurisdiction. In a statement, Porter, Jr., a Democrat from Summit, said the commissioner of public safety told him the incident is being investigated by the Internal Affairs and the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation. Packer Lewis said his brothers were released from jail Friday night, but he was kept up until Sunday night because of a past charge on his criminal record. He said he is facing eight charges related to the incident, including obstruction of justice. He is still processing Friday’s events several days later. “I was kind of shocked because I’ve seen this type of activity on TV. But I never thought I’d be hands-on with it. I never thought I’d be a part of something like this.” The incident occurred less than a month after the firing of the police chief in Lexington, 130 miles (210 kilometers) north of McComb. The Mississippi Center For Investigative Reporting said the Lexington police chief was caught on tape using racial slurs and talking about how many people he killed in the line of duty. Howard Henderson, the director of the Center for Justice Research at Texas Southern University and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said Lewis’ video displayed “bad policing 101.” “He seems to obviously

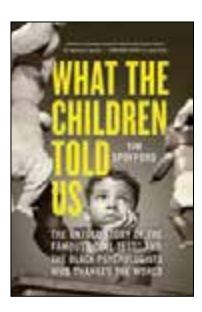
Viral
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Inside

Prime time in the SWAC? Deion Sanders & Co. think so



What the Children Told Us



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University of Mississippi School of Medicine’s Class of 2026 in White Coat Ceremony/Thalia Mara Hall

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

On Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Thalia Mara Hall in downtown Jackson was the site for hundreds of families and friends who witnessed the white coat ceremony in honor of 160 students – the class of 2026. Administrators from The University of Mississippi School of Medicine conducted the ceremony.

Associate Dean for Admissions, Dr. Demondes Haynes, denoted that the class of 2026 is composed of 100% Mississippians. Prior to medical school, a few established residency in Miss. Ninety seven percent are from underserved rural areas. African Americans make up 14 %.

Students were cloaked in their first white coat which symbolizes trust being bestowed upon them to carry on the honorable tradition of doctoring.

Afterwards, the class pledged that honoring with the Oath of Hippocrates. The oath says essentially that they would be loyal to the profession of medi-



160 students in the class of 2026

PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT, PH.D

cine and its members; that they would be upright in the practice of their art; that they would honor and care for the sick without hindrance; that they would not allow disruption or corruption of any kind to interfere with their duties; and that they will remain faithful to their oath.

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation provided the Humanism in Medicine pins for the class.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Scott M. Rodgers (the school’s Associate Vice Chancellor for

Academic Affairs – Chief Academic Officer; Professor, Psychiatry and Human Behavior), emphasized that the class of 2026 has difficult days ahead while engaging in the rigorous process of their medical training. Hard work and perseverance will determine their four-year outcome. Throughout their matriculation at The University School of Medicine, the responsibility falls upon the students’ shoulders to undergo training that exemplifies equitable health care to all citizens

of Miss., the region and the nation.

In this regard, teacher – student rapport is necessary in requiring the acquisition of a large base of knowledge. Their conduct is a mutual obligation through which the medical profession instills its ethical values.

Acknowledgement of this lies within the precepts, “Fundamental to the ethic of medicine is respect for every individual. Mutual respect between learners, as novice members of the medical profession, and

their teachers as experienced and esteemed professionals, is essential for nurturing that ethic.”

Hence, upon completion of the four-year course of study leading to the Doctor of Medicine degree, the class of 2026 is charged with absorbing the school’s core values, including respect for the range of diversity reflected in all people.

Reacting to the ceremony were a number of persons.

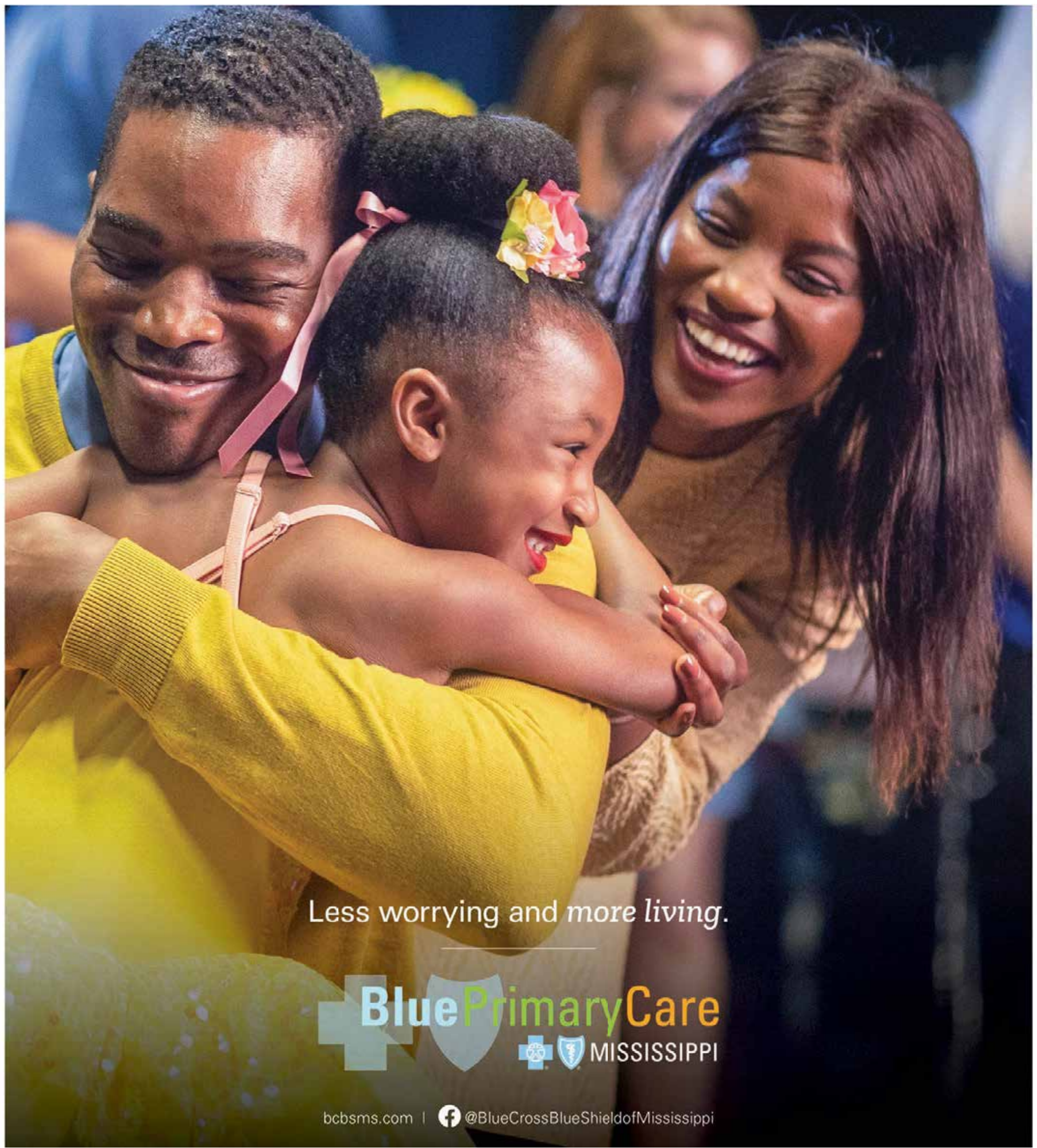
Neuroradiology Specialist, Dr. James Kenney, MD

(Amarillo, Texas) and father of Jamesia La Fondria Kenney (2026 class member), stated that he had never attended a white coat ceremony but that he was pleased with what he had witnessed.


“This is a great day for the class of 2026. Though I’ve never seen such a ceremony, I’m in love with this. I’m going to spread the word about this encouraging stance for these young people,” stated Arthur Wheatley (Brookhaven, Miss.).

“I’ve been down lately and needed this to pep me up. Hearing Dr. Demondes Haynes say that the oldest student in the class is age 45, set my mind to racing. I now know it’s not too late for me to strive to reach my goal,” expressed 50-year-old Margaret Tucker (Starkville, Miss.).


Reginald Branch said, “I’m here on vacation and almost didn’t make it. I thank my friend for inviting me. When I get back to Rhode Island, I’m going to tell my family and friends about this ceremony, filled with intellect, compassion and goodwill.”



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SBA

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Madison and Yazoo in Mississippi.

She pointed out that Durant Missionary Baptist Church located at 16455 North Jackson Street in Durant, Miss. is the Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC). “If you have suffered a loss, our SBA customer service representatives are there to help you apply at the center until August 18,” she said.

Due to COVID-19, health guidelines are in place according to the SBA release.

When asked about his church being designated the DLOC, Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Christian, pastor of Durant MBC, told *The Mississippi Link*, “We are super excited about assisting our community in recovering from any disaster. It’s everyday ministry and it gives us an opportunity to be a ‘Matthew 25:25-26’ servant.”

Also according to released information, “Businesses and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets,” said SBA’s Mississippi District Director Janita Stewart.

For small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

“Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property,” said Kem Fleming, director of SBA’s Field Operations Center East in Atlanta.

Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase of up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a safe room or storm shelter, sump pump, French drain, or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

Interest rates are as low as 2.94 percent for businesses, 1.875 percent for nonprofit organizations, and 1.438 percent for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Evans told the audience at the Goodman meeting that she encourages as many people

as possible to take advantage of the assistance while the Durant DLOC is still open. She also urged staying in compliance with all the SBA deadlines.

Residents and business owners are pleased to learn of the assistance. Lucretia Holmes, a Goodman resident, said her town was devastated. “Many people, mostly renters, had to relocate from their damaged apartments wondering where they were going to go,” Holmes said. “So SBA coming to Holmes County with this program will help a lot of renters and homeowners get back to living their lives in a safe place for them and their families.”

Learning of SBA Disaster Assistance and on-the-ground efforts in Holmes County, the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC), the Hub for one of SBA’s Community Navigator Pilot Project (CNPP), connected with Evans via one of its Spokes, Henry Luckett of Knowledge Info, LLC, and offered to help Evans spread the word of the outreach via its media contacts and social media platforms. “This is so important that we asked staff members to share the SBA Disaster Loan Assistance press information and fact sheets on their own social media pages,” said CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer.

“This assistance is critical to getting businesses [and residents] in our communities up and running following the March 22, 2022 disaster,” commented Luckett. “We are thankful that the SBA assistance is a part of the recovery process.”

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s and should apply under SBA declaration # 17539. Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (if you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services) or by sending an email to DisasterCustomerServe@SBA.gov.

Loan applications can also be downloaded from SBA.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Sept. 30, 2022. The deadline to return economic injury applications is May 1, 2023.

Viral

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have lost control of himself, and he almost looked like he was afraid of the gentleman recording. And because of that, he overreacted in the moment,” Henderson said.

Henderson said police departments should hire more black police officers as they bring a different perspective to the job than their white colleagues.

A 2017 Pew Research survey of police officers found that 72% of white police officers but fewer than half of all black officers view police killings of black people as “isolated incidents,” instead of “signs of a broader problem between.”

These disparities beget distrust, and distrust begets poor policing, Henderson said.

“Trust in the community is fundamental to successful policing. And only through police conduct are you able to improve community interactions and promote a shared responsibility for addressing crime and disorder,” Henderson said. “When that trust is broken down, you destroy the ability of a police department to be effective at doing the job society has said it needs to do.”

Michael Goldberg is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on uncovered issues. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/mikergoldberg.

Leaders

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stop pointing fingers, put our heads together and get things fixed, but that is just not the way it works in Mississippi.

The mayor is constantly in the crosshairs of the city council as well. The trash collection contract has become a prime example. A majority of the seven-member city council, including three of the five African-American council members, adamantly resist having a different vendor to collect the trash. Even with a \$1.2 million annual savings, they resist. The agenda of a few becomes yet another anchor that weighs us down.

As this series concludes, having focused on decisions our elected leaders make, and what is revealed about what they embrace and who they

don’t, our own Jackson State University comes to mind. JSU’s motto is “Challenging Minds, Changing Lives.” There is no question that we have bright and dedicated leaders in Mississippi, but we have far too many that are stuck in old and wrong-headed thinking that keeps us lagging behind, and for some – in chronic suffering.

Those who know of Jackson State University are well familiar with three other words – THEE I LOVE. Imagine, just for a moment, if our elected leaders truly loved Jackson and all Mississippians. We would sure see the results, and we could even hear the change – as loud and proud as The Sonic Boom of the South. Go ahead, spend another minute just imagining.



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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Senator Hillman T. Frazier visited on Monday, August 8, 2022, with Mississippi National Guard Sgt. First Class Russell Patterson, (6th from right), State Partnership Program Operations NCO, and aviators from The Republic of Uzbekistan’s Air Force, who were in Mississippi visiting various aviation facilities including 186th Air Wing, 172nd Air Wing and 1108th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, Camp Shelby, and others, during the 10th year of partnership between the Mississippi National Guard and The Republic of Uzbekistan.

Jones holds press conference in his court battle against Emily Sanders and her companies of Metro Center Mall

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

Christopher Jones held a press conference at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 9, 2022, outside the Thad Cochran United States Court-house (501 E. Court Street, Jack-son, Miss). He alerted the public that he and his party were hired as contractors for Metro Center Mall (3645 Hwy 80 W, Jackson, Miss) by Emily Seiferth Sanders who owns the mall.

“When I first arrived on the scene, Ms. Sanders authorized the work we performed. We did a lot of demolition work on the parking lot [and Metro Center restoration]. We want to make sure that everybody involved gets paid. We are hoping that she does the right thing,” noted Jones who resides in Greenville, South Carolina.

Despite these concerns, Jones explained that Sanders refuses to acknowledge that she gave him permission to do the job.

“She hasn’t paid for the work done, saying she didn’t know anything about it. She got in the truck with me and Mr. Jones, and now she’s denying all of it,” charged Roger Thomas, a hired worker.

Thomas and his spouse – Ti-anna – indicated that he and the workers want to bring closure to the situation so that they can get paid for their labor and establish ties with other businesses.

Jones commented that sev-eral meetings had been held with supervisors regarding Sanders’ conduct.

He added that the defendant diverts to biblical scriptures to justify her refusal to pay the workers.



(L-R) Spouses Roger & Tianna Thomas; Christopher Jones Fighting to get paid
PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL INCENT

“We have her whole testimony, and it’s been a year and a half [that this has been going on],” he claimed.

Referencing December 2021, Jones commented that he and his party were offered a \$2 million loan settlement but have been ap-proved since then for \$3 million.

The plaintiff stated that he was in court Tuesday regarding fraud accusations against Sanders. He went on to say that her credibil-ity is at stake. Thus, his objective is to show the public who Ms. Sanders is.

“Today was the first time she appeared in court. She and her company have been given addi-tional days to comply with the court order, and a federal trial is set for August, 2023,” Jones con-tended.

Despite longevity, Jones as-serted that he is optimistic that things will work out in his com-pany’s favor.

We just found out today that

a large part of the case will be over,” he said. He then expressed happiness with the judge’s decision: “We’re close to \$700,000 now.”

“We’re going to be very busy and very productive in getting fair judgment. There were a dozen affidavits, but not one was filed to challenge my affidavit,” stated the plaintiff.

Jones turned his attention to community healing when he in-dicated that bridges should be built, not torn down. “We believe in compromise and that the community should come together and support positive leadership,” he concluded.

One thing to bring this about is Jones’ desired partnership with Jackson State University for the purpose of building a stadium and a Metro Center entertain-ment community. Jones men-tioned further, that he would like to do business with Socrates Gar-rett Enterprises.

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~~felon~~
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On any given day, nearly 2 million people in the U.S. are incarcerated in jail or prison and rates of incarceration are highest for Black communities. **These are our neighbors, and they are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, and daughters** - but far too often, those aren’t the words media outlets use to describe them. Instead, they’re given harmful labels like criminal, felon, offender, inmate and convict.

Words matter - Research has shown that when we transform the language we use to describe people who have been convicted and incarcerated, we can help change how society treats them. There’s no better time for news organizations to join this language evolution.

It’s well past time to drop the harmful labels and put #PeopleFirst.

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Statement of Mississippi Senate Minority Leader Derrick T. Simmons on Governor Reeves ending rental assistance program

Mississippi Link Newswire

I would ask Governor Tate Reeves to reconsider his decision to end the federally funded rental assistance program started during the height of COVID-19 to assist those in need to avoid homelessness.

As much as \$130 million in federal dollars will be sent back to the federal government if Governor Reeves does not change his stance.

People continue to struggle with the high cost of food, medicine, childcare and gasoline, among others. This money was meant to help those people maintain their lives and most importantly, to remain housed.

I ask the governor to have compassion on the poor and needy and continue this program until the needs of all are met.



Simmons

Airbnb removes Mississippi ‘slave cabin’ from listings

The Associated Press

An Airbnb listing in Mississippi advertised as a “slave cabin” has been removed from the site following backlash on social media.

Airbnb apologized after a TikTok video went viral criticizing the description of a cottage in Greenville. The bed and breakfast was marketed as an “1830s slave cabin.”

The “meticulously restored” property, complete with a new television and premium streaming channels, was described as a “tenant sharecropper’s cabin and a medical office for local farmers and their families to visit the plantation doctor.”

The listing caught the attention of Wynton Yates, a black lawyer

from New Orleans.

“How is this okay in somebody’s mind to rent this out? A place where human beings were kept as slaves?” Yates asked in his video.

In response to the video, which has been viewed over 2.7 million times, Airbnb said properties that formerly housed enslaved people have no place on the site.

“We apologize for any trauma or grief created by the presence of this listing, and others like it, and that we did not act sooner to address this issue,” the company said in a statement.

Airbnb said it removed the Mississippi listing from its site and is doing the same for other listings known to include former slave quarters in the United

States.

In a follow-up video, Yates posted what he said was a statement from the cabin’s owner, Brad Hauser. The statement includes an apology for providing guests a stay at the “slave quarters” behind an antebellum house that is now a bed and breakfast.

“I also apologize for insulting African Americans whose ancestors were slaves,” the statement reads.

The statement also alleges the previous owner mischaracterized the property’s history as a former slave cabin connected to a plantation.

Hauser said he became the cabin owner three weeks ago, WLBT-TV said.

New Stage announces SchoolFest matinees for 2022-2023 season

Special to the Mississippi Link

New Stage Theatre, a professional theatre located in Jackson, Mississippi, announces its 2022-2023 SchoolFest Matinee performances, part of New Stage’s Arts in Education program. They will celebrate their 57th year with a wonderful variety of great theatre for all ages.

“Offering a season of classic and contemporary literature, our 57th season is comprised of remarkable storytelling that will appeal to all generations,” says artistic director Francine Thomas Reynolds.

New Stage will offer SchoolFest Matinee performances for Tennessee Williams’s The Glass Menagerie on October 26, 28, November 1, and 3, 2022 at 10 a.m.

From her cramped St. Louis apartment, Amanda Wingfield dreams of her days as a Southern debutante while worrying about the future of her aimless son and unmarried daughter. With their father absent and the Great Depression in motion, the siblings find comfort in their foibles, which only heightens Amanda’s anxiety. When a man caller arrives for dinner, the Wingfield’s are flooded with hope. Recommended for ages 12+ for complex themes

The SchoolFest Matinee performances will include The Sound of Music on December

7, 8, 13, 14, 16 and 20, 2022 at 10 a.m.

When a postulant proves too high-spirited for the religious life, she is dispatched to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed naval Captain. Her growing rapport with the youngsters gradually captures the heart of the Captain and they marry. Upon returning from their honeymoon, they discover that the Nazis, who demand the Captain’s immediate service in their navy, have invaded Austria. The family’s narrow escape over the mountains to Switzerland on the eve of World War II provides a thrilling and inspirational finale. Recommended for 8+.

The August Wilson classic, Fences, will have 10 a.m. performances on April 19, 21, 25 and 27, 2023.

Set against the backdrop of 1950’s Pittsburgh, August Wilson’s Pulitzer Prize winning drama tells the story of Troy Maxson, a one-time star of the Negro baseball leagues who now works as a garbage man, holding court and expounding on life from the chair in his backyard. Due to his race, Troy was denied his shot at the big league, so when his son Cory wants his own chance to play ball, will Troy’s bitterness and resentment threaten to tear their relationship apart? Fences explores the walls we build

around ourselves and our loved ones, while also illuminating one family’s struggles in a racist society. Recommended for 14 and older. Contains adult themes, subjects and language.

Students can attend these SchoolFest Matinee performances for the low ticket price of \$8. The students can also attend a post-performance question and answer session with the production’s casts. You will receive a comprehensive study guide before the show that will include a synopsis of the play, information about the playwright, character summaries, and suggestions for classroom activities.

New Stage Theatre was chartered as a not-for-profit organization in 1965, producing its initial season in the winter/spring of 1966. Founded by Jane Reid-Petty with the assistance of the American National Theatre Academy and Actor’s Equity Association, dedication to professional excellence in theatre arts was part of the theatre’s original mission. New Stage’s first home was a converted church, and the full houses for its opening season were significant: they represented the city’s first racially integrated theatre audience.

For reservations, please contact 601-948-3533, ext. 245 or sfrost@newstagetheatre.com.

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FILM REVIEW: ‘Nope’ is a Yes! — Peele delivers with follow-up

By **Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D.**,
NNPA Newswire Culture and Entertainment Editor

Jordan Peele has been compared to horror and psychological thriller giant Alfred Hitchcock and science-fiction legend Steven Spielberg, but Peele is in a league of his own. Peele’s masterful ability to merge two beloved film genres, with social commentary on issues of race, gender, class and sexuality is unparalleled in the current filmic landscape.

Initially celebrated for his comedic chops, Peele burst onto the horror scene with his cult-classic horror *Get Out* (2017) and followed-up with the scary and often meandering *Us* (2019). Both films used symbolism brilliantly and succeeded as horror films because the monsters were familiar characters, symbolic of society and played by characters who look and feel like us.

There is an otherworldliness about Peele’s films that traffic in the mundane, to highlight the complexity of the precariousness of a world driven by a perverse need for power, influence and capital. Peele humanizes those who live on the margins or the underbelly of the society and brilliantly recasts their lives into the horror show that is often America and what it means to live on the margins of society while the tokenism and appropriation of your culture is center stage.

Peele delivers with *Nope*, a film set on the margins of Hollywood, focusing on the family of the black jockey captured in the early films of trailblazing photographer and filmmaker Ead-



Jordan Peele does it again, making a must-see film that will be talked about in film classes, the barbershop, dinner tables, Hollywood and the like for many years to come.

weard Muybridge. By incorporating Muybridge’s short film, “The Horse in Motion,” Peele elevates the importance of black jockeys in the many aspects of American culture and the significance of the black presence and influence at the beginning of Hollywood.

The Haywood family is a black family that has worked as horse wranglers for Hollywood for over a century. They are the descendants of the black jockey showcased in the Muybridge film and are still stuck in the same position as their ancestors despite the change in time and ostensibly space.

Keith David plays Otis Haywood, Sr., the patriarch of the Haywood clan who is hell bent on maintaining his ancestor’s greatest dream. Daniel Kaluuya stars as Otis, Jr. (OJ), who works with his father and is unimpressed by the movie business or the

jackasses who permeate filmmaking culture.

Although OJ, who is black, is the expert on the movie set, he is belittled and demeaned by all of the white folks on set from the director to the production assistants. Keke Palmer stars as Emerald, the free-spirited daughter who plays to the hostile audience, literally listing all of her skills and abilities as she performs servitude.

The audience knows if Emerald was white, the offspring of Hollywood royalty, and working with all of those skills, Emerald would be the star or director of the film and calling the shots. Such is not the case with the Haywood clan, who is relegated and reminded of their position on the lower rungs of society and Hollywood throughout the film.

Desperate for money and fame af-

ter being kicked off set, the Haywood family decides to capture the greatest spectacle ever – unidentified flying objects (UFOs), now called unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs). OJ and Emerald set out to photograph and record the alien life that is omnipresent yet largely ignored by those who live with them on the outskirts of Hollywood.

Instead of engaging scientists or the government, the Haywoods set out to do it themselves so they can reap the financial rewards and adoration of an industry and public that has little to no use for them otherwise.

The Haywoods embody the “find a way or make one,” spirit of black independent cinema and literally create and capture the story that was always worth telling but undervalued by Hollywood and society. Along the way, they pick up Angel (Brandon Perea), a techie with an obsession with outer space and Antlers (Michael Wincott), a maverick cinematographer who is still chasing cinematic glory in spite of his elite status in the industry.

Antlers, who insists he captures images, but is not part of the story, disposes of his philosophy, deciding to be part of the spectacle and jeopardizes the entire shoot and lives in a harrowing scene.

One of the most interesting parts of the film is the number of Easter Eggs (intertextual references) strewn throughout the narrative. In fact, it is an intertextual reference to 1980s sitcoms that is most harrowing and provides the context and strongest

symbolism of tokenism and what that means for people of color pursuing the Hollywood dream. Ricky “Jupe” Park (Steven Yeun) is a former child star who survived a merciless attack by a chimpanzee named Gordy during the taping of a hit 1980s sitcom.

Jupe now runs Jupiter’s Claim, a Western-themed amusement park, pulling in an audience that would probably be at Disneyland if they could afford it. Instead, Jupiter’s Claim fits the bill, and Jupe who survived the brutality of the attack and the tokenism of Hollywood, clings to his desire to be the star of the show.

While he appears to work with OJ in taking horses off his hands to keep the horse farm going until OJ can afford to buy them back, Jupe actually works against his closest ally in order to create a spectacle for attendees at the expense of all involved.

Nope is a commentary on so many things – the environment, animal cruelty, racism, sexism, heterosexism, the entertainment industry – and shows how all of those things are interconnected in shaping who we are as a society. It’s the intersectionality for me.

With a storyline told through a historical lens that interrogates society and the people who make up this world and the next, strong performances and a brilliant use of camp and other comedic tools, Peele does it again, making a must-see film that will be talked about in film classes, the barbershop, dinner tables, Hollywood, and the like for many years to come.

Donald Trump home raided by FBI; Is arrest imminent?

It wasn’t immediately clear what the FBI was looking for and what spurred the raid

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

The FBI on Monday executed a search warrant on former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida.

“My beautiful home, Mar-A-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida, is currently under siege, raided and occupied by a large group of FBI agents,” Trump said in a statement first sent to CNN. It wasn’t immediately clear what the FBI was looking for and what spurred the raid.

However, the Department of Justice recently acknowledged it had launched an investigation into Trump’s actions leading up to Jan. 6. Multiple outlets cited several individuals familiar with the investigation in their reports. The outlets noted that prosecutors had asked witnesses before a grand jury about conversations with Trump.

“Some of the questions focused on substituting Trump allies for electors in states President Joe Biden won and on a pressure campaign on then-Vice President Mike Pence to overturn the election, the newspaper reported,” the *Washington Post* reported earlier this month. The newspaper said the Justice Department obtained aides’ telephone records, including former Trump chief of staff Mark Meadows.

The Department of Justice, a Trump spokesperson, and a lawyer for Meadows did not respond to requests for comment.

In an NBC Nightly News interview last week, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said “anyone” would be held accountable. “We will hold accountable anyone who was



Trump

criminally responsible for attempting to interfere with the transfer, legitimate, lawful transfer of power from one administration to the next,” Garland said.

The former president declared the election as fraudulent “right out of the box on election night before there was any potential of looking at the evidence,” former U.S. Attorney William Barr said in a taped deposition played by Committee members in June.

Matt Morgan, the Trump campaign’s general counsel, provided a videotaped deposition in which he noted that “the law firms were not comfortable making arguments that (lawyer and advisor) Rudy Giuliani was making publicly” about election fraud. One lawmaker described Giuliani as “apparently inebriated.”

At the same time, Trump’s daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, testified that the for-

mer president waited in the White House in a room with advisers while awaiting election results.

Meanwhile, Trump’s former campaign manager Bill Stepien, said his boss disagreed with those who suggested it was too early to call the election.

“They were going to go in a different direction,” related Kushner, who admitted telling Trump that “it was not the approach I would take if I were you.” Following Joe Biden’s election win, Trump publicly declared himself the victor, and the Big Lie began.

He told supporters at the White House, including Barr, that a big vote dump had occurred in Detroit.

“I said, ‘Did anyone point out to you – did all the people complaining about it point out to you, you actually did better in Detroit than you did last time?’” Barr stated. The former attorney general declared, “there’s no indication of fraud in Detroit.

Lawyer: Arbery shooter fears he’ll be killed in state prison

By **Russ Bynum**
Associated Press

The white man who fatally shot Ahmaud Arbery after chasing the running black man in a Georgia neighborhood says he fears he will be killed by fellow inmates if he’s sent to a state prison to serve a life sentence for murder.

Travis McMichael, 36, faces sentencing Monday in U.S. District Court after his conviction on federal hate crime charges in February. His defense attorney filed a legal motion Thursday asking the judge to keep McMichael in federal custody.

Attorney Amy Lee Copeland argued McMichael has received “hundreds of threats” and won’t be safe in a Georgia state prison system that is under investigation by the U.S. Justice Department amid concerns about violence between inmates.

On Feb. 23, 2020, McMichael and his father, Greg McMichael, armed themselves with guns and jumped in a pickup truck to chase Arbery after he ran past their home just outside the port city of Brunswick. A neighbor, William “Roddie” Bryan, joined the chase in his own truck and recorded cellphone video of Travis McMichael blasting Arbery with a shotgun.

The killing of Arbery became part of a larger national reckoning over racial injustice amid other high-profile killings of unarmed black people including George Floyd in Minneapolis and Breonna Taylor in Kentucky.

In Georgia, the McMichaels and Bryan were sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of Arbery’s murder in a state court last fall. They have remained in a county jail in custody of U.S. marshals since standing trial in February in federal court, where a jury convicted them of hate crimes. Each defendant now faces a potential second life sentence.

Once the men are sentenced Monday by U.S. District Court Judge Lisa Godbey Wood, protocol would be to turn them over the Georgia Department of Corrections to serve their prison terms for murder. That’s because they were first arrested and tried by state authorities.

For Travis McMichael, “his concern is that he will promptly be killed upon delivery to the state prison system for service of that sentence,” Copeland wrote in her sentencing request. “He has received numerous threats of death that are credible in light of all circumstances.”

Copeland said she has alerted Georgia’s corrections agency, “which has replied that these threats are unverified and that it can securely house McMichael in state custody.”

Greg McMichael, 66, has also asked the judge to put him in federal rather than state prison, citing safety concerns and health problems.

Arbery’s family family has insisted the McMichaels and Bryan should serve their sentences in a state prison, arguing a federal penitentiary wouldn’t be as tough. His parents objected forcefully before the federal trial when both McMichaels sought a plea deal that would have included a request to transfer them to federal prison. The judge ended up rejecting the plea agreement.

“Granting these men their preferred choice of confinement would defeat me,” Arbery’s mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, told the judge at a hearing Jan. 31. “It gives them one last chance to spit in my face.”

A federal judge doesn’t have the authority to order a state to relinquish its lawful custody of inmates to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, said Ed Tarver, an Augusta lawyer and former U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.

“She can certainly make that request,” Tarver said of the judge, “and it would be up to the state Department of Corrections whether or not they agree to do that.”

Copeland’s court filing refers to a prior agreement between the judge, prosecutors and defense attorneys to keep the McMichaels and Bryan in federal custody “through the completion of the federal trial and any post-trial proceedings.” She argued that means Travis McMichael should at least remain in federal custody through appeals of his hate crime conviction.

Facts about lightning

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Lightning has struck the White House. I have had about five lightning incidents in my lifetime. I have not been struck directly. After these five incidents I'm not keraunophobic, which is the irrational fear of lightning. My mother won't talk to me on the phone during a thunderstorm. I have also heard that the Empire State Building in New York is struck 24 times a year and was once struck eight times in 24 minutes.

The facts show that lightning strikes somewhere on the surface of the earth about 100 times every second. Lightning is the #2 storm killer in the U.S. Lightning kills more people than hurricanes or tornadoes on average. Lightning strikes central Florida more than any other region in the U.S. Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela is the place on earth that receives the most lightning strikes.

Lightning causes over \$7 billion of economic loss annually in the U.S. Your house has a 1 out of 200 chance of being struck per year. Lightning is one of nature's most recurrent and common spectacles. Fortunately, not everyone who is struck by lightning dies. Eighty percent of lightning strike victims survive. But twenty five percent of survivors suffer major aftereffects. Many of the aftereffects of lightning are difficult for inexperienced medical professionals to treat.

Lightning is an electrical discharge caused by imbalances between storm clouds and the ground, or within the clouds themselves. Most lightning occurs within the clouds. "Sheet lightning" describes a distant bolt that lights up an entire cloud base. Other visible bolts may appear as bead, ribbon or rocket lightning.

The flashes we see as a result of a lightning strike travel at the speed of light (670,000,000 mph) an actual lightning strike travels at a compar-



tively gentle 270,000 mph.

When lightning strikes a beach or sandy area, it fuses together the grains of sand to create a small glass-like tube known as a fulgurite. Fulgurite is not only prized by collectors, it also helps us study past occurrence of lightning storms.

Did you know that helicopters could cause lightning? Research finds that helicopters can cause an isolated lightning strike. While flying, helicopters acquire a negative charge, so if it flies close to an area that is positively charged it can trigger a lightning strike.

Lightning is indiscriminate. Lightning may hit the ground instead of a tree, a car instead of a nearby telephone pole and the parking lot instead of a building. Most people think people attract lightning. Nothing attracts lightning. Lightning occurs on much too large of a scale to be influenced by small objects on the ground, including metal objects or people. The location of a thun-

derstorm overhead alone determines where lightning will hit the ground. People are struck because they are in the wrong place at the wrong time.

To reduce your risk of harm during a thunderstorm:

- When you hear thunder or see lightning, go indoors. A building is the safest place to be during a thunderstorm.
- During the summer pay attention to weather reports and warnings of thunderstorms. Be ready to make adjustments, if necessary try to be near shelter.
- When there is a thunderstorm warning you should go inside immediately.
- If you're indoors you should avoid running water or using land-line phones. Electricity can travel through plumbing and phone lines.
- You should protect your property. Unplug appliances and other electric devices. Use surge suppressors for all your major appliances.
- If you are on a boat or swimming,

get to land.

- You should avoid flooded roadways. Remember, "Turn Around. Don't Drown!" Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down and one foot of moving water can sweep your car away. Water conducts electricity.
- Don't lie on concrete floors during a thunderstorm and avoid leaning on concrete walls because lightning can travel through any metal wires or bars in concrete walls or flooring.
- Stay inside for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.
- If you are in a car stay in the car. Cars are safe from lightning because of the metal frame surrounding the people inside the car. The metal cage of a car directs the lightning charge around the car's occupants and safely into the ground.

First Aid for Lightning victims:

- Most lightning victims can survive with timely medical treatment.
- Lightning victims don't carry a charge, so it's safe to touch them to

give first aid.

• Call 911 to provide directions and information about the likely number of victims.

• First make sure the storm has passed. You don't want to make more casualties. If the victim is in a high-risk area such as a mountaintop, under an isolated tree or an open field with a continuing thunderstorm, giving first aid may cause others to become lightning victims.

• Most lightning victims will have major fractures that can cause paralysis or major bleeding. During an active thunderstorm, a rescuer needs to choose whether to move the victim from high-risk areas to an area of lesser risk with little risk. Don't be afraid to move the victim if necessary because lightning can strike the same place twice.

• If your victim is not breathing, you should start CPR. Check the victims for breathing if you don't detect a pulse, start CPR. If you are in a situation that is cold and wet, you should put a protective layer between the victim and the ground. This may decrease the chance of hypothermia that the victim can suffer which can complicate the resuscitation. If you are in a wilderness areas or an area far from medical care you should prolonged basic CPR. Please give chest compressions in a very forceful manner. But remember the victim is unlikely to recover if they don't respond to the CPR. Use an external defibrillator if one is available. But, if your victim pulse does not return you shouldn't feel guilty about stopping resuscitation.

Remember lightning can travel at speeds up to 270,000 mph and can carry 50 million volts of electricity. No place outside is safe during a thunderstorm. So, when you see a thunderstorm approaching you should use common sense and act quickly to avoid danger.

HHS awards over \$1.2 million to Mississippi community health centers to advance health equity through better data

Funding from President Biden's American Rescue Plan will help improve care for the more than 30 million people served by community health centers across the country

Mississippi Link Newswire

During National Health Center Week, on Monday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded \$1,244,500 in American Rescue Plan funding to 19 community health centers in Mississippi to advance health equity through better data collection and reporting.

On Friday, August 5, President Biden issued a proclamation on National Health Center Week to recognize the vital role health centers play in safeguarding the well-being of Americans and honor the hero-

ic staff who keep these facilities running.

The Biden-Harris Administration has been committed to ensuring an equitable pandemic response and recovery, and these awards will help strengthen efforts to eliminate inequities in COVID-19 care and outcomes within communities of color and other underserved populations. The nearly \$90 million in funding announced nationally today also builds on the \$7.6 billion invested from President Biden's American Rescue Plan to strengthen the health center workforce, renovate facilities, and equip them with essential COVID-19 medi-

cal supplies over the past year.

"We have prioritized advancing equity in our COVID-19 response and throughout all of our work," said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. "Community health centers have played a pivotal role in the nation's COVID-19 response, and now serve more than 30 million people across the country. Today's investments will help ensure that all patients have equitable access to the high-quality health care they deserve."

Funding supports a data modernization effort aimed at better identifying and responding to the specific needs of patients and communities

through improved data quality; advancing COVID-19 response, mitigation, and recovery efforts; and helping prepare for future public health emergencies.

HRSA's initiative is designed to enable health centers to have better data on both patient health status and social determinants of health. With better information, programs can tailor their efforts to improve health outcomes and advance health equity by more precisely targeting the needs of specific communities or patients, particularly as part of the public health emergency response.

"Time and again, the COVID pandemic has demonstrated

the vital role of trusted community leaders in delivering health care services," said HRSA Administrator Carole Johnson. "Health centers are that trusted resource in the highest risk and hardest hit communities in the country. As we recognize the heroic work of the frontline health care workers who make health centers what they are, today we also are investing in the tools they need to help them continue to best serve their communities."

The nearly 1,400 HRSA-funded community health centers in this country serve as a national source of primary care in underserved communities.

They are community-based and patient-directed organizations that deliver affordable, accessible, and high-quality medical, dental, and behavioral health services to more than 30 million patients each year, with specific initiatives intended to reach people experiencing homelessness, agricultural workers, and residents of public housing.

In 2021, HRSA-funded health centers provided care for one-in-five residents in rural areas and one-in-eleven people nationwide. One-in-three health center patients are living in poverty, and nearly two-thirds are racial/ethnic minorities.

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Influence souls for Christ

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



It is the mission of the Church to spread the gospel throughout the world. We speak often of the Apostle Paul, and he was, possibly, the greatest worker in the Church in his day and time. But Paul did not do it all; even in his missionary journeys, he had some very capable co-laborers.

Timothy, not only traveled with Paul, but was sent on missions to help other congregations. Titus also traveled with Paul on some of his trips. Paul left him on the island of Crete to set in order things that were lacking, and to ordain elders in every city.

There was also Luke, who drafted the book of Acts. As you read, you can see there were times when he was with Paul and other times he was not present. Then there was Aquila and Priscilla, who after Apollos came to Ephesus, from Alexandria, took him “under their wings” and taught him more fully about Christianity. He also became an extremely helpful worker in the kingdom.

Now when we speak of it being the mission of the Church to evangelize, there is no one way to do it. A congregation can organize a group to work together, and an individual who is qualified can go out on missions to reach souls. Revivals and evangelistic efforts can be launched to reach the lost,

and other ways can be used.

God had a purpose in creating this world. He had a purpose in forming a man and a woman. I believe that God has a plan for each individual He has given life. We are not here by accident, nor are we here through evolution; we are here as a part of God’s overall plan.

How many in the world today are striving to let God work out His plan in their lives? The fact that the world is filled with wickedness is proof enough that God’s will is not being done by very many.

We read in Ecclesiastes 3:1, “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” He also read in II Corinthians 9:6, “But this I say, He

which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”

Love plays an important part in our effort to win souls to Christ. It is God’s love that brought Jesus into this world to be our Savior – John 3:16. We must keep ourselves in the love of God to keep our own experience, and we must have a true love for the souls of men, and they need to feel that love we have for them.

Paul said, “Speaking the truth in love.” You can speak the truth in harshness and drive souls away, not draw them.

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

Prayer for Back to School

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



For many of us, school is just weeks away and with the excitement of a new school year also comes the anxiety of what that new school year will bring. As part of my back-to-school tradition, I’d like to offer a prayer as well as declaration of blessings for the new school year. My desire is that it will bless you and provide hope. This week I offer a prayer and next week I’ll share a declaration of blessings for the upcoming school year.

Prayer: Heavenly father we come to you thanking you for your many blessings. You are so worthy, and we adore you. We just love you as you continue to shower us with grace and mercy. We come to you now as we prepare to start another school year. It says in Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Even as we make plans for the year, we know that your sovereign hand is guiding and controlling everything that happens. Let our plans be your plans. We pray that you continue to grant Godly wisdom to the everyone who is in a position of power and authority over students in pre-K, K-12, as well as the college and university level. Allow the decisions that are being made regarding what is taught and how to keep students and staff safe to be made keeping in mind that the goal of education is to cultivate, encourage and equip our students so they can be successful in the future.

Grant parents and loved ones an extra measure of confidence

to know that while our children are in school, they are in a safe place. Give us the assurance of Psalm 91 to know that we trust in the Lord who is our refuge and a place of safety. For any students who may be fearful about returning to school, we speak peace into their hearts and ask that you calm their minds. Let them feel your comforting presence as they prepare for classes every day. Also, let them feel your presence while they are at school. It says in 2 Timothy 1:7 “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” Remind us daily of the truth in that scripture. Let the truth of that scripture guard the hearts and cover the minds of our children as they go to their respective schools. Remind the administrators, faculty, and staff that the Lord will protect them as they perform their job duties.

Allow the students to stay focused despite any distractions that may come their way. Allow faculty, staff and administrators to be confident, courageous and creative as they work with our students. Allow the parents and school staff to work collaboratively as they make decisions regarding their children’s educational needs.

You God know the end from the beginning. So, we decree that the decisions that are made now will lead to an exceptional school year that reflects Godly excellence in Jesus’ name...Amen.

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




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Does anyone really care about African-American boys and men?

By Dr. Salvatore J. Giorgianni, Jr. PharmD.
Senior Science Advisor, Men's Health Network
and Dr. Jean Bonhomme, MD MPH.
Founder of the National Black Men's Health Network

Over two and a half years ago, in the article “African-American Boys and Men in America Are Killing Themselves and No One Seems to Care,” I wrote about the national disgrace that is the heavier toll of suicide facing African-American boys and men. I said that in minority communities, people often misunderstand what a mental health condition is, and therefore, discussing the subject is uncommon.

A lack of understanding leads many to believe that a mental health condition is a personal weakness or a form of punishment. African Americans are also more likely to be exposed to factors that increase the risk for developing a mental health condition, such as discrimination, social isolation, homelessness and exposure to violence.

What has changed – for better and for worse – since then? Do African-American men and boys continue to have a higher death rate from suicide and violence than others? Is the male suicide rate in the United States still far higher than women? Is suicide still a leading cause of death for minority males? Are African Americans still more likely to experience serious mental health problems than the general population? Sadly, the answer to all of these questions remains yes.

What has gotten worse? As I've said previously, African-American youth who are exposed to violence have a 25% higher risk of developing PTSD than non-black youth. Violent crime rates in US cities have only increased since 2019. This is especially true amongst young African-American men. These two facts seem inextricably tied together: violence leads to PTSD; PTSD leads to violence, over and over again.

Minority access to mental health-related diagnoses and care is impeded by barriers and challenges that are also experienced by minorities who need addiction and recovery support and resources. There also seems a strong correlation between mental health issues and overdose rates.

A recent *JAMA* study suggests that during the COVID epidemic, specifically from January 2019 through mid-2020, opioid overdoses decreased 24% among whites in Philadelphia. Conversely, opioid overdoses actually increased amongst black Philadelphians by over 50%.

According to the U. S. Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, only one third of black adults diagnosed with mental illness receives treatment. According to the American Psychiatric Association's “Mental Health Facts for African-Americans” guide, black adults are less likely to be included in research and receive quality care, while being more likely to use an emergency room as primary care.

I recently spoke with Dr. Jean Bonhomme, founder of the National Black Men's Health Network, who relayed to me some other startling recent statistics. In 2020, African Americans made up about 13.5% of the U.S. population, while they also made up over 55% of homicide victims, with a more than a 65% increase in homicides relative to 2019.

Other stark figures that Dr. Bonhomme shared were from a recent CDC study.

In the same period –2019 through 2020 – drug overdose death rates for non-Hispanic black persons increased by 44%, while for non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) persons the drug overdose death rates increased by 39%.

Other numbers that jump out include the 2020 death rate from overdose among black males aged 65 years (52.6 per 100,000) as being nearly seven times that of non-Hispanic white males of a similar age. Meanwhile, treatment for substance use was at the lowest for black persons (at 8.3%).

One factor in the mental health crisis disproportionately facing the black community is shown in data from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. This data indicates that the number of people admitted to psychiatric hospitals (and other residential facilities) in the US declined from 471,000 in 1970 to 170,000 in 2014. This reduction in the availability of a potential intervention opportunity appears to

have led to growth in incarceration and similar non-therapeutic interventions, which, in the absence of these other options, take the place of actual psychiatric help. We must also consider that the life circumstances of young black men must also be the driver of many of these differences and disparities. Out of decency alone, the US needs to find a way to identify and target systemic changes to benefit these populations, which have the most urgent need.

Data like this can seem overwhelming, but this only highlights how disparities tend to cascade through any system, like an engine with one worn part eventually damaging another. The United States has deferred system-wide maintenance in the places that have needed them most for far too long: the health and mental health care systems. The outcome is predictable, yet we remain shocked when the situation worsens.

Are there any positives that can impact minority mental health? Absolutely. The new nationwide 988 crisis number launch went live July 16th of this year, and text-based services will be included. Studies suggest that over 75% of those using text on existing crisis services are under 25. Minority populations in the USA have a higher percentage of people in younger age groups than whites. Therefore, better serving an underserved community is an outcome that is a clear improvement on the current situation.

Post-pandemic societal trauma, proper focusing on framing gender equity, gender identification, and gender expression are all areas of special concern within minority communities. For example, a black teen in a city school district might not find the same resources and support as a white teen in the suburbs. This can trigger high mental stress that may follow them into and throughout adulthood. Issues like these, and the struggle to keep issues relevant to mainstream media, are just the tip of the iceberg of challenges facing any effort to improve the existing situation surrounding minority men's mental health.

What can be done? The ACA (Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare), as passed by Congress, does not provide for Well-Man visits. I continue to urge insurance companies and other payers to include adequately-reimbursed Well-Man medical visits similar to the yearly Well-Woman Visits available under the ACA.

Men's Health Network redoubles its recommendation that those charged with the health and social welfare of boys and men consider the following:

1. Acknowledge the heterogeneity of boys and men and the unique needs of diverse populations
2. Develop culturally appropriate male-focused screening tools
3. Develop guidelines that recognize the need to regularly and routinely screen boys and men for both physical and mental health issues
4. Address the poor reimbursement for behavioral health clinical services

5. Establish culturally and gender-appropriate programs to identify, interrupt, triage, and manage mental health issues in African-American boys and men, providing education and training for those in the community who interact with boys and men.

With this said, Men's Health Network, Healthy Men, Inc., the National Black Men's Health Network, and the Men's Health Caucus, have launched a public awareness campaign, “You OK, Bro?” (<https://www.youokbro.org/>) and will be hosting a workshop summit Thursday, October 13, 2022 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC to build awareness of the mental health crisis now erupting in the male population of the US. This important event will be live-streamed.

The goal of the summit is to examine and return recommendations to help reverse the recent increase in mental health crises. Behavioral experts from multiple organizations will share research, trends and discoveries, and supply information to men, boys, and their loved ones to help them identify the signs of mental distress, and recommend ways to improve mental and emotional fitness.

“You OK, Bro?” is the beginning of a dialog that can start with those words, whether between just two men, or at a national scale. We hope “You OK, Bro?” can change the way the US sees and talks about men's mental health.

Diversifying American media ownership must become a national priority

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
President and CEO of the NNPA
and Jim Winston
President and CEO of the NABOB

2022 thus far has been a year of multiple socio-economic and political challenges for all Americans across the nation. Yet for African-Americans and other communities of color, this year represents both challenges and opportunities from a business ownership perspective. In particular, for black-owned media businesses there is a growing sense of resilience even in the face of continued profound racial disparities and societal inequities.

The communications and media industry in America especially should be one of the leading industries that adopts the “good business” sense to embrace the values and benefits of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). This is not about charity or benevolence. Diversity is objectively good for business.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB) are working together to encourage the media and advertising industries to become more proactive and committed to diversity from the C-suites to the decision-making managers. But more needs to be done to increase and to enhance the ownership of media businesses by African-Americans and other minorities.

Economic equity in media requires equal access to investment capital, technical advances in communications infrastructure, and inclusion in other industry innovations. As increased changes in the racial demographics of the nation continue to accelerate in the United States, American media must be more representative of the growing diversity of the nation.

It is noteworthy, therefore, that one of the recently announced major media mergers has Standard General, a minority-owned firm, pending regulatory reviews and approvals by the Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission, acquiring TEGNA, a company owning 64 television stations around the country. Soo Kim, a successful Asian American business leader, who serves as Standard General's founding and managing partner, emphasized “We're open to exploring new partnership models to get diverse viewpoints and perspectives on the air and to make sure people have the resources to do it.”

We agree with this sentiment as multiracial ownership of American media businesses will continue to be viewed as a strategic forecast for the future economic wellbeing of the nation. We intend to raise our voices in support of the positive economic and social-equity consequences of diversifying American media. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights has pointed out, “Access to the media

by the broadest sector of society is crucial to ensuring that diverse viewpoints are presented to the American people, but racial and gender disparities in media ownership dating back to the beginning of the civil rights era continue to persist.”

Again, overcoming these disparities should be a national media industry priority.

“At a time when more people, particularly black people, are distrustful of the media, diversity in media ownership,” the Leadership Conference argues, “has become more important than ever for the functioning of our democracy. Diversity in ownership is part of that solution.” We agree with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' position on this issue.

Lastly, as our nation today prepares for the upcoming Midterm Elections in November, there are many who are predicated low overall voter turnout. Millions of dollars will be spent on Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) campaigns. Those who desire to increase GOTV among African-Americans and other communities of color will have to engage black owned media as the “Trusted Voice” of Black America in order to increase voter turnout.

Jim Winston is president and CEO of the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB) headquartered in Washington, DC.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) headquartered in Washington, DC.

Social issues may be tipping points in determining upcoming elections

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



Elections are always determined by the issues and concerns of the day. That is how it has always been and that is how it will always be.

Life brings us a myriad of challenges and opportunities. How we navigate them is one of the keys to successful living. Many of them become ballot box issues.

We look for candidates and organizations that share our views. When we do, we will vote for them, or we will use their services.

I have voted for a number of candidates over the years. Some have won while others have lost.

Elections are happening all over our country. Candidates are jockeying for position trying to obtain endorsements and to win votes.

Just from where I sit more people are voting now. It could be that they now see the power of their vote. Races are now being won by close margins. A while back, a candidate lost a GOP primary in the state of Washington by one vote.

Kevin Entze, a police officer who lost by a single vote later found out that one of his fellow officers had a memory lapse and forgot to mail in his ballot.

Entze said, “He left his ballot on his kitchen counter, and never sent it out.” That was unfortunate. Entze was probably sick.

Communities and schools have become more vocal about their wants and needs. Money for them often comes about by we the citizens going to the polls to vote.

Safety is on everybody's priority list. That means voting for additional monies to hire more police officers. Statistics show many police officers leaving their positions because of a lack of resources.

Small towns and big cities are suffering from not having enough funds for much needed projects. In some instances, for example, streets need fixing and traffic signals need replacing.

Schools remain underfunded and under-staffed. Unfortunately, this has become a disturbing trend. Now more of these school-related issues are appearing on ballots. We want good schools and great teachers, so we are having to find the necessary money to pay for them.

Women's rights are at a crossroads in the eyes of many citizens. Equity and parity are being debated now more than ever in my opinion. Over the years, women have disagreed about the choices they make about their bodies. Abortion is a sensitive topic, yet it is now in the public square for debate and dialogue.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed Roe v. Wade.

Justice Samuel Alito writing for the majority said, “Roe must be overruled because they were egregiously wrong, the arguments exceptionally weak and so damaging that they amounted to an abuse of judicial authority.”

If you are pro-life, you welcomed this decision. However, there is another side.

Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan said that the court decision means that young women will come of age with fewer rights than their mothers and grandmothers.

Similar sentiments have been voiced by many women. It is clear this issue has already become a ballot box issue in some states with more to come.

The mid-term elections will be held in November. Some critics are already saying that these elections will be the most important in recent memory.

As reports indicate, all 435 House seats and 35 of the 100 Senate seats will be on the line.

As citizens, we are eagerly awaiting this election cycle as we will vote for candidates who align with our perspectives.

What is most important is that we exercise our right to vote.

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time (CT), Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of the following parcel:

1. 437-3 located at 807 E. Northside Dr.

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

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1055. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Room 223, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

Contract Documents may be obtained from and/or examined at the offices of the Community Improvement Division located at 200 S. President Street, Suite 331, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Telephone 601.960.1054. Prospective bidders may obtain copies of all materials required for bidding purposes. There is NO charge for electronic or e-mail copies. Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic 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.

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

by:
LaTonya Miller, Manager
Community Improvement Division of Planning and Development

8/4/2022, 8/11/2022

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
PHASE I, FARISH STREET
DEVELOPMENT OF LIMITED
COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES
LOCATED WITHIN THE 200 BLOCK.

The Jackson Redevelopment Authority (JRA) is seeking proposals from interested parties for the development of Limited Commercial Property(ies) owned by JRA, located within the 200 Block of the Historic Farish Street District, Downtown Jackson, MS. The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be available to the public beginning August 1, 2022, at www.jrams.org. Copies of the full RFP will be available for online review and download. All proposal responses must be received by JRA no later than Friday, September 30, 2022, at 4:00pm CDT. JRA reserves the right to cancel all solicitations and to accept or reject, in whole or in part, all proposals for any reason or to redevelop the project by other means at JRA's sole discretion.

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE:
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, AT 4PM

A virtual pre-proposal informational meeting will be held via zoom:
Monday, August 29, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND
The registration link will be available online 7 days prior to the meeting at www.jrams.org.

For additional information about this solicitation, contact JRA via email at info@jrams.org or develop@jrams.org or by phone at 601.960.1815. Emails are preferred and strongly encouraged.

7/28/2022, 8/4/2022, 8/11/2022, 8/18/2022, 8/25/2022

LEGAL

ORDINANCE ACCEPTING WATERSTONE SUBDIVISION, PART FOUR AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE FINAL PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION.

WHEREAS, the Preliminary Plat for the subdivision of Waterstone Subdivision, Part Four was approved by the Site Plan Review Committee on march 24, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department recommends accepting Waterstone Subdivision, Part Four as a subdivision in the City of Jackson.

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

SECTION 1. Waterstone Subdivision, Part Four is hereby accepted.

SECTION 2. The Mayor is authorized to sign the final plat of Waterstone Subdivision, Part Four.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days following its passage and upon its publication.

President Lindsay moved adoption; Vice President Lee seconded.

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

ATTEST:

Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting May 10, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6U".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 6th day of June, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

8/11/2022

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30p.m., Tuesday, August 30, 2022.

As Jackson celebrates its 200th year, we want to encourage communities across the city to reflect upon and celebrate the shared history and culture of Jackson, while envisioning a future for Jackson. The Bicentennial offers a unique opportunity to foster appreciation among Jacksonians for our city's remarkable story and educate people of all ages about the founding, growth, and evolution of the city.

Our hope is to inspire and empower local organizations throughout Jackson to develop events and/or bolster existing programs, etc. that help document, interpret, and explore community culture throughout the city.

These bicentennial grants will support a wide array of public events, programs, awareness, etc. All funding from this grant opportunity must relate to some aspect of Jackson, MS history, contemporary culture, the celebration of the city's bicentennial, including but not limited to storytelling, history, arts & culture; music & food; industry & entrepreneurship; and outdoors and recreation.

The maximum award is \$2,500.

The goal of the Jackson Bicentennial Grants program is to empower Jacksonians to explore the unique history and character of our city. Programs must take place from September 2022-December 2022. The events should bring together communities, foster discussion, celebrate the city, and forge relationships between individuals, organizations, and regions. Grant awards offered by the City of Jackson shall only represent supplemental funding in support.

For the Request of Proposals Packet, please contact Christina Spann at 601-960-1537 or email 200jxn@gmail.com To apply, visit 200jxn.com/contact.

All proposal must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: Jackson 200 Bicentennial Proposal City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 219 South President Street by 3:30pm on Tuesday, August 30th,2022. The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: 200jxn.com/contact. Packet proposals may also be picked up at the City of Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Services located at 1000 Metrocenter Drive Suite 101, Jackson MS.

By: David Lewis, Deputy Director
Department of Human and Cultural Services

8/11/2022, 8/18/2022, 8/25/2022

LEGAL

ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE JUNCTION SUBDIVISION AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE FINAL PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION.

WHEREAS, the Preliminary Plat for the subdivision of The Junction was approved by the Site Plan Review Committee on December 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the owners of The Junction shopping center between Target and Home Depot desire to divide the property into lots and common areas; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department recommends accepting The Junction subdivision as a subdivision in the City of Jackson.

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

SECTION 1. The Junction subdivision is hereby accepted.

SECTION 2. The Mayor is authorized to sign the final plat of The Junction subdivision.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days following its passage and upon its publication.

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

ATTEST:

Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting May 10, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6V".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 6th day of June, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

8/11/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, September 06, 2022 at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

75078-090622 Twenty-Four Month Supply of Clay Gravel and Wash Gravel

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

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1638. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best bidder quoting the lowest net price in accordance with specifications. The award could be according to the lowest cost per item; or to the lowest total cost for all items; or to accept all or part of any proposal. Delivery time may be considered when evaluating the bid proposal. In those cases where it is known prior to advertising that the City's intention is to award according to the lowest total cost for all items, or in some variation thereof, statements to this affect will be included on the proposal form. Absence of such statement means the City will make that determination during the bid review.

Monica Oliver, Acting Purchasing Manager
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1028

8/11/2022, 8/18/2022

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TIME CONSTRAINTS APPLY TO THESE CAMP LEJEUNE CASES

If you or your family were stationed in Camp Lejeune between 1953 and 1987 for 30 days or longer, you may have been exposed to drinking water that was contaminated with toxins. These toxins cause cancer, death, birth defects, miscarriages, female infertility, and more. If you suffered any medical hardships, it may have been caused by the poisonous water. You may qualify for significant compensation for your medical costs, continuing issues, or lost loved ones even if you receive VA Benefits.

Contact Us NOW!

bobbymoak402@att.net

1-800-595-6244

The Law Office of Bobby Moak, PC, PO Box 242, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629

The Mississippi Supreme Court advises that a decision on legal services is important and should not be based solely on advertisements. Free background information available upon request. Listing of these previously mentioned areas of practice does not indicate any certification of expertise therein. For information on these office you may contact the Mississippi Bar at 601-948-4471. Phone calls or replies to ads and correspondence does not create Attorney/Client representation, which is by contact only.

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Sudoku

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

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

© Feature Exchange

PICK UP

THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON

BULLY'S RESTAURANT
3118 Livingston Road
CASH & CARRY
Capitol Street and Monument Street
CITY HALL
219 S President St
GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX
2659 Livingston Road
DOLLAR GENERAL
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
J & A FUEL STORES
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
MCDADÉ'S MARKET
Northside Drive
MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive

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

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

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

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

CLINTON
DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY
SERVICE STATION
at Exit 78
CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND
HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WELCOME CENTER
505 E. Main Street
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
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Week of August 7, 2022

Wendy Wilson White is a new face in the election

Special to The Mississippi Link

Wendy Wilson White is a new face in the election to be the next Hinds County Circuit Court Judge of the Seventh Circuit Court District, with a goal of sharing her story with every person she meets. The race is challenging, but the ability to relate to her community members makes the experience worthwhile.

Born and raised in Jackson, White resides in the Pinehaven community in Hinds County with her husband and two young daughters. She’s busy as an Assistant District Attorney for Hinds County, and is a past chief prosecutor for the city of Jackson.

Prior to earning her Juris Doctor from Mississippi College School of Law, White earned a bachelor’s degree at Tougaloo College in economics accounting and a master’s degree in finance at Clark Atlanta University.

White hopes to fill the soon-to-be vacant seat of Senior Circuit Court Judge Tomie Green, retiring at the end of 2022 after serving 24 years on the bench. Also serving the seventh circuit’s two judicial districts are judges Adrienne Wooten, Win-



White

ston Kidd and Faye Peterson.

District 2 is a large swath of Hinds County and consists of 26 voting precincts in parts of Northwest Jackson, Clinton, Raymond, Pocahontas and Brownsville.

On the campaign trail, White discusses how the role of mother and legal professional informs what she does on a daily

basis because she identifies with the needs and concerns of her neighbors.

White’s campaign platform “Redefining Justice” features what she calls “Three REs to Judicial Success.” She outlines re-focusing crime fighting efforts, re-evaluating mental health and re-educating the community as key tools in solving crimes and

greater accountability through the justice system.

“Everything I do hinges upon or has a direct impact on other people’s families, and I know how people feel about their children, I know how people feel about their siblings, I know how people feel about their parents, neighbors and friends, all of that matters,” White said. “You have to have some compassion for people in general, especially the family structure.”

In her legal experience, White handles all types of misdemeanor and felony offenses. Jackson experienced its deadliest year in 2021 with over 150 homicides, and the city has recorded 76 homicides so far in 2022, according to a recent Associated Press report. A recent report by the Office of the State Auditor shows homicides in 2021 cost Mississippi taxpayers between \$136.8 and \$182.4 million.

“We need to slow down and think about the people behind these crimes,” said White, noting that juveniles are behind many violent crimes. “There are no victimless crimes, in my opinion. If we want to see a change, we have to give thought

and consideration to the victims, because these crimes leave victims broken, and you have to question where these broken people go and respond (to their needs).”

In the years leading up to serving as chief prosecutor for the city, White worked as an advocate for residents of local mental health facilities and made sure their rights were protected. If elected, she envisions a mental health docket and mental health court involving mental health professionals on the front end. Mental health is just one underlying problem of Jackson’s crime issues, chief among them being the justice system’s structure of lenient sentencing and bonds.

“There is a fine line between mental health and criminal activity. A lot of times, what you see behind the crime we witness is some type of mental health deficiency,” White said. “In order for us to alleviate this crime (and) properly address this crime (and) hold people accountable, we have to address the mental health issues plaguing this community.”

When it comes to re-educating the people – especially youth – White likens the pro-

cess to parenthood, which she calls her greatest job. She wants to offer incentives to people who seek their GED and complete their high school education.

“Some of our children are of the mistaken belief that some of the things they do, they cannot be punished for,” she said. “If our children are finding themselves in the juvenile justice system, we missed a lot of opportunities. They have to be taught long before their introduction to the system what criminal behavior is and what it looks like, and what factors and circumstances they can be held accountable for.”

In another life, White sees herself as an interior decorator because of how “refreshing and fun” it can be as another way to express herself.

For now, the judicial candidate will keep on pushing citizens to become more active participants in helping the local justice system improve on holding criminals accountable.

“I am at a point in my life where I know I can make a difference based on the experiences I’ve had and how invested I am in Jackson and Hinds County,” White stated.

Lanier High School Alumni Association makes hygiene donation

Special to The Mississippi Link

On Monday, August 1, 2022, at 9:15 a.m. the Lanier High School National Alumni Association (LHSAA) made a hygiene donation to the health clinic at W.H. Lanier High School, which is operated by UMMC.

The clinic was started in 1982 by Dr. Aaron Shirley, who was an alumni of Lanier. The clinic was featured on CBS 60 minutes back in the mid-80s for the outstanding job they were doing by providing health care for their students at Lanier. High School..

Alvin Thomas, president of LHSAA, said the association has a shared mission with the health clinic which is to improve the overall health and well-being of students that enter the clinic. “The items LHSNAA provided to the clinic are often requested but rarely does the clinic have grant funding to purchase these items. Thanks to the financial support LHSNAA receives from our members we were able to provide the needed hygiene items” said Thomas.

“We realize how hygiene affects students’ ability to interact with others, and in some cases, poor hygiene leads to bullying. As resolute alumni, we are committed to devoting our time and energy to the well-being of students at W.H. Lanier High School,” said Thomas.



(L-R) Alvin Thomas, Sam Burns, Melvin Butler, Elizabeth Foster, Hazel Shields and LaDaryl Watkins
PHOTOS BY HAZEL SHIELDS



UMMC clinic operators with LHSAA members

Customers on the City of Jackson’s water system remain under a boil water notice, while some customers experience low water pressure

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Customers on the City of Jackson’s surface water system remain under a boil water notice until further notice. The advisory includes all City of Jackson surface water connections including areas of Byram and Hinds County.

Water samples taken August 3 revealed a higher than standard level of turbidity (cloudiness) caused by the use of lime to increase pH levels. Samples showed a turbidity level of 3.5 turbidity units. This is above the standard of .30 turbidity units. While lime does not affect the filters or filtering process, the turbidity created by the lime increases the chance that the water may contain disease-causing organisms.

This notice does not mean that your water is unsafe, but it does mean you must take precaution and boil your water before use. All customers are advised to boil their drinking water.

Water should be brought to a rolling boil for one minute for the following: cooking or baking, making ice cubes, taking medication, brushing teeth, washing food, mixing baby formula, mixing juices or drinks, feeding pets, washing dishes and all other consumption.

Also, due to mechanical issues at the O.B. Curtis Water Plant, some areas of Jackson are experiencing low water pressure. City workers are cur-

rently troubleshooting one of the plant’s raw water pumps that has been malfunctioning.

Meanwhile, the City of Jackson is requesting residents take efforts to conserve water as work crews make necessary repairs at the O.B. Curtis Water Plant.

The City of Jackson web site states they are currently troubleshooting two of the four eight million-gallon water pumps at the plant. One of the pumps was pulled offline Wednesday and sent to the shop for repair. A second pump will be pulled Thursday.

They are also monitoring an issue with the conventional traveling screen. It is presently functioning but will need to be dealt with once the pumps are repaired.

These issues have led to a decrease in water pressure. To ensure the system can maintain adequate pressure and volume, residents are asked to conserve water where possible and to observe the following water conservation practices until further notice.

- Do not water lawns between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Do not wash down sidewalks, driveways, etc.
- Refrain from washing cars
- Reduce draining and refilling of swimming pools
- Only wash full loads of clothes and dishes
- Take showers instead of baths.



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JPS: One District, One Direction Marching Towards Excellence

JPS Newswire

The Jackson Public School District kicked off the 2022-2023 school year with its annual Convocation Ceremony Wednesday, August 3. The celebratory event was held at the JSU Athletics and Assembly Center located on the campus of Jackson State University. The theme for this year's event is One District, One Direction, Marching Towards Excellence.

The District's 2021 Administrator of the Year Dr. Chinelo Evans and the 2021 Teacher of the Year Ebony Marshall-Newsome served as mistresses of ceremony. City of Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, JSU President Thomas K. Hudson, JPS Board President Dr. Ed Sivak and Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene delivered powerful and memorable addresses to Team JPS.

Entertainment was provided by the JPS Mass Band, all high school cheerleaders, plus musicians and choirs featuring JPS staff and scholars called UNITY.

A spirit stick competition between high school feeder patterns was also held during the pep rally-style event. Congratulations to the Jim Hill High feeder pattern on winning the spirit stick for the 2022-2023 school year



UNITY Vocal Group made up of JPS staff and scholars



JPS Mass Band



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City of Jackson Mayor Chokwe A. Lumumba



JSU President Thomas K. Hudson



DR. MARVIN GRAYER, EARL BURKE AND LAKETIA MARSHALL THOMPSON

City of Jackson equips children & families with kindergarten-readiness tools at Ready-to-Learn event, August 20

Mississippi Link Newswire

The City of Jackson in conjunction with Mississippi Families for Kids and Loving Hands Educational Services invites all parents and child care providers with children five years old or younger to its Ready-to-Learn Jackson event Saturday, August 20, 2022. The event will take place at

the Mississippi e-Center (1230 Raymond Road) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ready-to-Learn Jackson is a program focused on working with parents and child care providers to help ensure every child in the city of Jackson enters kindergarten ready to learn. This effort will include a Star

Early Literacy Assessment to help identify how parents and providers can strengthen reading readiness for four and five year olds.

In addition, Ready-to-Learn Jackson will provide developmental, autism, social and emotional screenings for all children. Every child that is screened will receive a \$10

Walmart gift card and free tickets to the Jackson Zoo and Mississippi Children's Museum while supplies last. Refreshments will also be provided.

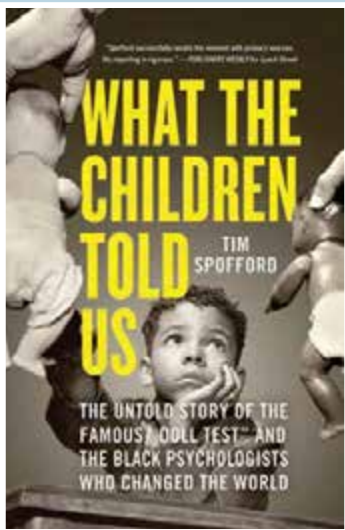
"We have already experienced significant success in increasing kindergarten readiness scores during the first year of our program. In year two, we are looking to continue that

success and expand participation," said Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Services Director Adriane Dorsie-Kidd. "We believe that by hosting events like this one, we can attract more families into the program and make sure our children have what they need to achieve successful outcomes in school."

The event will also feature other community resources such as the Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative Employment Equity for Single Moms Program.

Ready-to-Learn Jackson is funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

For more information, call (601) 376-9102.



BOOK REVIEW:

WHAT THE CHILDREN TOLD US:
THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE FAMOUS “DOLL TEST” AND
THE BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

BY TIM SPOFFORD

C.2022, SOURCEBOOKS

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

What was your favorite possession when you were a child? Of course, you remember it, the weight of it in your hands, the way it fit your fingers, the envy of your peers, the pretending fun of it, and the security of knowing it would be waiting for you after school.

Toys are essential in childhood, important in some adulthoods, and in the new book “What the Children Told Us” by Tim Spofford, they are key in understanding racism and inequality.

Kenneth and Mamie Clark had both grown up with the benefits that black middle-class life bestowed on its members in the 1930s and ‘40s. Still, they were both grad students when they eloped and after their marriage, his research and her job kept them in different cities.

Her family didn’t approve of him; Kenneth was driven, Mamie was focused, and in those Jim Crow years, they both keenly understood the effects that racism has on the human psyche. Rather than let it deter them, though, they complemented and supported one another and used that inequality to form their careers.

In 1939, Mamie began studying the effects of racism on young children, determining that self-awareness of race was set by age four, and publishing three articles on findings that gained attention from established psychologists.

The following year, Kenneth, who’d become quite passionate about psychology himself, helped Mamie to set parameters for a project based on some of the data that “gnawed at” her.

He also found the main ingredients for that project: four plastic baby dolls, identical except for their color.

Then the Clarks invited 253 black children ages three to eight to a conference room in an integrated school in the North and in the segregated South, and they asked the children a question: which doll – the white one or the brown one – looked more like you?

Two-thirds of the black children chose the white doll. Questions. You’re going to have a bunch of them, once you’re finished with “What the Children Told Us.” The first one

will be: why haven’t the Clarks taken their place next to other influential people in black history?

The answer may be because most stories stop at the “doll test,” but not this one. Author Tim Spofford tells this decades-long story almost in three pieces: the Clarks’ backstory, which unspools pleasantly like an old-time movie; the “doll test” years in which the study was refined and processed; and the Clarks’ many years after the test which, quite surprisingly, were so important that they almost turn everything else into a footnote.

Indeed, readers who have, until now, been unfamiliar with the work of Mamie and Kenneth Clark will have their eyes opened. Spofford takes us well-past a nationally-shocking study to the streets, schools, the White House, and into history.

It’s a story you need to read, and it may leave you with more pesky questions. It may also inspire you because this is that kind of book.

“What the Children Told Us” shows that heroes exist and activism is not child’s play.

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Prime time in the SWAC?

Deion Sanders & Co. think so

By John Zenor
The Associated Press

It was prime time in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

Jackson State football coach Deion “Coach Prime” Sanders has emerged as the most high-profile advocate for the league and HBCUs in general, but his colleagues are embracing potential change and celebrating the status quo as well.

Sanders touted the league’s “exponential growth” at the SWAC Media Day which was held July 21 at the Sheraton Birmingham, amid a challenging backdrop of name, image and likeness, the transfer portal and conference realignment.

“Something’s wrong with a plant that doesn’t grow, isn’t it?” the Hall of Famer said. “So everything should grow. Everything should progress. Everything should yield returns.

“And that’s my dream and my wish for the SWAC and for all these teams.”

The HBCU league expanded to 12 members last year, adding Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M. Sanders told ESPN that discussions on the possibility of forming an HBCU super conference have started on some level.

Commissioner Charles McClelland said if the SWAC did decide to expand more, it would follow the path of the SEC and Big Ten and “only take a look at schools if they fit our academic



Sanders

and competitive profile.”

“I think that there’s already a super conference in HBCUs, and it’s called the Southwestern Athletic Conference,” McClelland said. “What we can do is continue to grow. So when you’re talking about super conferences, you’re talking about all of the major players within that region, and now I guess you can say nationally, being a part of that league.

“And that’s what the South-

western Athletic Conference is.”

The SEC is adding Texas and Oklahoma from the Big 12. USC and UCLA are set to defect from the Pac-12 to the Big Ten.

New Grambling State coach Hue Jackson applauds the idea of an HBCU super conference. The SWAC and MEAC are home to all but three of the Division I HBCU programs.

“I think we have to do just

what everybody else is doing,” said Jackson, a former Cleveland Browns head coach. “Why shouldn’t we?

“If that’s what everybody else is doing to create more capital, more resources in the conference, I think we have to do the same. You have to follow the leader a little bit, and everybody is following the money so we should chase it too.”

Sanders made a splash on the field in leading Jackson State

to an 11-2 season and its first league title since 2007. The Tigers averaged more than 42,000 fans at home games, an FCS record.

Sanders then brought in the nation’s top recruit, Travis Hunter, who is set to play both cornerback and wide receiver – just like his coach.

“A lot of people come up to me and tell me they appreciate me choosing an HBCU,” Hunter said. “It means a lot to a lot

of people.”

Before his arrival, quarterback Shedeur Sanders was Jackson State’s highest-rated recruit. The coach’s son wonders why more top prospects don’t follow suit.

“This is what I don’t understand about college football players,” Shedeur Sanders said. “It could be anywhere. I already had a name. Travis already had a name. So coming to places like this, people are scared they may be forgotten about.

“You go to a big Power 5, you sit. You sit and you’re not playing, you’re definitely getting forgotten about.”

The SWAC hasn’t been forgotten in the offseason, with help from Sanders. He even challenged Alabama coach Nick Saban – his co-star in commercials for an insurance company – after Saban brought up Hunter in discussing the use of NILs in recruiting. Sanders also has lobbied for more chances for HBCU players to catch the NFL’s eye.

“I think it’s been great for the SWAC, definitely for Jackson State,” Texas Southern coach Clarence McKinney said of Sanders’ presence. “But it’s been great for the SWAC because we have more cameras on us now. we have more eyes watching us.

“People are paying attention to the SWAC a lot more since coach Prime has been in the league.”

Serena Williams announces retirement from tennis

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Serena Williams is giving tennis one last hurrah before hanging up her racket for good.

With 23 Grand Slam titles and 192 career wins, Williams announced that she’s retiring following next month’s U.S. Open.

“This morning, my daughter, Olympia, who turns five this month, and I were on our way to get her a new passport before a trip to Europe. We’re in my car, and she’s holding my phone, using an interactive educational app she likes,” Williams penned in the September 2022 issue of Vogue Magazine.

“This robot voice asks her a question: What do you want to be when you grow up? She doesn’t know I’m listening, but I can hear the answer she whispers into the phone. She says, “I want to be a big sister.”

Williams said it’s time for her to focus on family.

Earlier this year, Williams penned an essay for Elle Magazine in which she recounted her reckoning that proved once again that black women remain three times more likely to die after childbirth than white women. She said she was almost one of them.

“I’ve suffered every injury imaginable, and I know my body,” she wrote. “Giving birth to my baby, it turned out, was a test for how loud and how often I would have to call out before I was finally heard.”

As Williams recounted, she had a “wonderful pregnancy” with her first child, Alexis Olympia, and even her epidural-free delivery was going well – at first. “By the next morning, the contractions were coming harder and faster. With each one, my baby’s



heart rate plummeted. I was scared,” she continued.

“Every time the baby’s heart rate dropped, the nurses would come in and tell me to turn onto my side. The baby’s heart rate would go back up, and everything seemed fine. “Then, I’d have another contraction, and baby’s heart rate would drop again, but I’d turn over, and the rate would go back up, and so on and so forth.”

The CDC noted significant disparities in the birthing experience of black women in its most recent report.

The agency noted that black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women.

The agency said multiple factors contribute to these disparities, such as variation in quality healthcare, underlying chronic conditions, structural racism, and implicit bias. The CDC added that social determinants of health prevent many people from racial and ethnic minority groups from having fair economic, physical, and emotional health opportunities.

After an emergency C-section, Williams gave birth to her daughter, Alexis.

“I have never liked the word

retirement,” Williams wrote for Vogue. “It doesn’t feel like a modern word to me. I’ve been thinking of this as a transition, but I want to be sensitive about how I use that word, which means something very specific and important to a community of people.

“Maybe the best word to describe what I’m up to is evolution. I’m here to tell you that I’m evolving away from tennis toward other things that are important to me.”

The U.S. Open, which begins in New York August 29, will be Williams’ last tournament.

“Unfortunately, I wasn’t ready to win Wimbledon this year. And I don’t know if I will be ready to win New York,” Williams stated, directing her message to her fans.

“But I’m going to try. And the lead-up tournaments will be fun. I’m not looking for some ceremonial, final on-court moment. I’m terrible at goodbyes, the world’s worst.

“But please know that I am more grateful for you than I can ever express in words. You have carried me to so many wins and so many trophies. I’m going to miss that version of me, that girl who played tennis. And I’m going to miss you.”

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District welcomes several new Administrators to our District

Terry High School



I am Tori Harris. I am extremely excited to be an assistant principal at Terry High School and a part of the Hinds County School District. My belief is that we do not just teach, we inspire. I have been an educator for 19 years. My experience includes teaching science and physical education at the high school and middle school level. I was also a head boys basketball coach for 17 years. I attended Alcorn State University and completed my master's degree at American College of Education. Currently, I am pursuing my doctoral degree in Educational Leadership. I have been married to my beautiful wife for 13 years. We have three children-Braylen, Ryleigh and Bryson. Go Bulldogs!



My name is LaTasha Ball Owens. I am a graduate of Pearl High School, Hinds Community College, Community College of the Air Force, Jackson State University and Mississippi College. I reside in Florence, MS with my husband and son. Hinds County School District has been my home since 2012. On last year, I served as Assistant Principal and Instructional Specialist at Byram Middle School. For the 2022-2023 school year, I have the pleasure of serving at Terry High School.



My name is Calvin Hudson. I am excited about starting my 14th year in education. This year I will serve the students, faculty and staff as an Assistant Principal at Terry High School. I have been in the Hinds County School District for 6 years. I am a retired Army veteran with 21 years of military service. I received my Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, Master of Arts in Teaching and Master of Educational Leadership from Mississippi College. I received my Specialist in Educational Leadership from William Carey University. I consider myself a lifelong learner. My philosophy of education is to help students and staff be the BEST version of themselves by empowering students and educators to embrace an innovator's mindset, while leading by doing. I am married to Tia Hudson. We have three children, one who graduated from Terry H.S. in 2022. In my spare time, I enjoy attending sporting events, traveling and working out. I look forward to serving the Terry High School community. Calvin Hudson, EDS

Utica Elementary/Middle School



Jimmy Tullos is the new principal of Utica Elementary Middle School. He previously served as an assistant principal and athletic director of Terry High School and as the transportation supervisor for the Richland zone of the Rankin County School District. A retired Sergeant Major in the Mississippi Army National Guard, this will be his eighteenth year in education. He is married to the former Marilyn Lee of Crystal Springs and has two children, Kaitlyn (24) and Ethan (21). He is excited to start this new endeavor and is looking forward to getting to know the Utica community and serving the students and faculty of UEMS!



Dr. Clancy Freeman began her teaching career as an elementary teacher with The Jackson Public School District. Her teaching experiences include elementary, middle and high school grade bands. With over eighteen years of educational experience, she has served as a general education teacher, special education teacher, executive childcare director, interventionist, and ELA Curriculum Specialist. Dr. Freeman earned her Doctorate Degree and Specialist Degree in Educational leadership from the Clinton based Mississippi College. She holds a Master and Bachelor of Science degrees in the area of Elementary Education from Jackson State University. She is a wife and mother with a nurturing spirit and a relentless passion for teaching and learning. Dr. Freeman has proven success with student growth, improving teacher capacity and pedagogy, and creating and implementing professional learning opportunities. She is excited about her new chapter with The Hinds County School District as Assistant Principal for Utica Elementary/Middle School, and lives by the motto, "The more reflective you are, the more effective you are." She strongly believes engagement is maintained by creating an atmosphere of open, honest, and effective communication with all district and community stakeholders. Therefore, she is willing and ready to hit the ground running and make a major contribution right away.

Career Technical Center



Dr. Aimee Brown has worked in education for 24 years and serves as the Director of CTE and Career Academies for the Hinds County School District. Prior to her current position, she served as the CTE State Director for the Mississippi Department of Education as well as CTE Director for Madison County Schools and Newton Municipal Schools. Dr. Brown attended Mississippi State University and received her BS, MS, ED.S. and Ph.D. degrees in the fields of Business and Technology Education and Educational Leadership. Dr. Brown is a member of several professional organizations and currently serves on the Board of Director for the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC).



Meagan Keyes has nearly 10 years of experience that has included serving students with special needs in Smith and Rankin Counties. Mrs. Keyes transitioned to Career and Technical Education after accepting a position at the Mississippi Department of Education. During her time at the MDE, she gained experience with Career Academy development and implementation, in addition to other components of Career and Technical Education.

Gary Road Intermediate



Dr. Arthur Jones. It is with great pleasure that I serve as your principal for the 2022-2023 academic year. As the quote so boldly states, "We are in the seed time and working towards greatness at Gary Road Intermediate." However, this can only be achieved with strong parental and community partnerships. When we work together for the achievement of all students, we will yield great results. I consider it an honor to serve the students and members of this wonderful Byram Community. After graduating high school, I enrolled at Mississippi College and earned a Bachelor's, Master's and a Specialist Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision. I'm a 2022 graduate of William Carey University with a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. I have nine years of classroom experience and 14 years of administrative experience at the high school and elementary level. During my career, I have received numerous awards, accolades and recognition for excellence in education. Outside of education, I am very active in community service in the Jackson Metropolitan area. I am a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. In addition, I volunteer with Big Brothers, Big Sisters of MS and Habitat for Humanity. Previously, I served as Executive Pastor of Relevant Empowerment Church. My wife and I are the proud parents of two children, Nicholas, a ninth grader and Kenley Grace, a second grader.

Byram Middle School



I am Brenda Singleton. I am elated to serve as the new principal of Byram Middle School. I have been in education for quite some time, a teacher for 16 years and a principal for 11 years. I completed my studies at Delta State University. I am a lifelong learner, dedicated to the field of education. My drive as an educator is based on the principles of character and discipline. Thus, I work diligently to help children become college or career and community ready. It makes me extremely proud to see that many of my former students have grown to be responsible, productive and successful citizens.



Hello. I am Chandra Holet, assistant principal at Byram Middle School. I am excited to be part of our great administration team. I received my Bachelor of Arts from Troy State University and my Master's in Educational Leadership from Mississippi College. This will be my 28th year in education; eighteen of those years have been at Byram Middle. All that I do will be based on what is in the best interest of students. I look forward to serving our students, parents and community this year.



Dr. Ebonee Brown is thrilled to be working at Byram Middle School (BMS) this year. Although she is new to the school, she is not new to the school district. She has served in the district for six years and has served as an instructional specialist for most of those years. While serving as an assistant principal, she will continue her work as an instructional specialist.



Rodney Phillips. I am a proud graduate of Tougaloo College where I received my Bachelors in 2007. I received my teaching license from Jackson State and my masters and specialist degrees from Mississippi College. I bring to our administrative team 13 years of teaching experience. I have spent the last three years as a teacher at Byram Middle School and I am excited to begin the next phase of my journey as an administrator in the same location, The Magnificent Byram Middle School. I am Rodney Phillips, Byram Middle School, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

Raymond Elementary



Roshonda Clark has 18.5 years of experience in education that range from a teacher, athletic coach, literacy coach, interventionist, assistant principal and principal. Ms. Clark earned a Bachelor of Arts in English, Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education, and a Master of Science in Education Administration and Supervision all from Jackson State University. She believes in the power of education and through it, you will receive the tools and skills that are essential to build a successful and prosperous life. Ms. Clark's passion is to build relationships and support teachers so that student achievement is the outcome of daily instruction.



Walter Mcleod is a native of Covington County where he attended school and graduated from Seminary High School. Mr. Mcleod completed his undergraduate studies at Jones College and William Carey University, where he earned both an associate degree and a B.S. degree in History Education. Additionally, Mr. Mcleod completed his graduate studies at Belhaven University with a Master's degree in Leadership Education and Administration. During his six years with the Hinds County School district, Mr. Mcleod has served as a U.S. History teacher, athletic coach and bus driver. Lastly, Mr. Mcleod is married to Mrs. Teresa Mcleod and they have two children (Carrera and Brandon).