

# Big student loan forgiveness plan announced by Biden

By Seung Min Kim  
Chris Megerian  
Collin Binkley and Zeke Miller  
*The Associated Press*

President Joe Biden Wednesday announced his long-awaited plan to deliver on a campaign promise to provide \$10,000 in student debt cancellation for millions of Americans – and up to \$10,000 more for those with the greatest financial need – along with new measures to lower the burden of repayment for their remaining federal student debt.

Borrowers who earn less than \$125,000 a year, or families earning less than \$250,000, would be eligible for the \$10,000 loan forgiveness, Biden announced in a tweet. For recipients of Pell Grants, which are reserved for undergraduates with the most significant financial need, the federal government would cancel up to an additional \$10,000 in federal loan debt.

Biden is also extending a pause on federal student loan payments for what he called the “final time” through the end of 2022. He was set to deliver remarks Wednesday afternoon at the White House to unveil his proposal to the public.

If his plan survives legal challenges that are almost certain to come, it could offer a windfall to a swath of the nation in the run-up to this fall’s midterm elections. More than



Biden

43 million people have federal student debt, with an average balance of \$37,667, according to federal data. Nearly a third of borrowers owe less than \$10,000, and about half owe less than \$20,000. The White House estimates that Biden’s announcement would erase the federal student debt of about 20 million people.

Proponents say cancellation will narrow the racial wealth gap – black students are more likely to borrow federal student loans and at higher amounts

than others. Four years after earning bachelor’s degrees, black borrowers owe an average of nearly \$25,000 more than their white peers, according to a Brookings Institution study.

The action drew praise from a wide spectrum of Democrats, but appeared unlikely to completely appease any of the factions that have been jostling for influence as Biden weighs how much to cancel and for whom.

Biden has faced pressure from liberals to provide broader

relief to hard-hit borrowers, and from moderates and Republicans questioning the fairness of any widespread forgiveness. The delay in Biden’s decision only heightened the anticipation for what his own aides acknowledge represented a vexing set of political and policy choices. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss Biden’s intended announcement ahead of time.

The White House empha-

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# Jackson’s rising opera star has ‘no limits’ as he soars to NYC

## Bell gives a crowd-pleasing farewell performance to his hometown



Bell

By Edison T. Brown, III  
*Contributing Writer*

A diverse crowd of supporters, family, friends and educators gathered Saturday evening, Aug. 20, at 6 p.m. to witness the fine art of operatic singing. Justin E. Bell, a Jackson native and Murrah High School alum, presented “Ode to Joy: A Farewell Concert” at St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Jackson, Miss.

Bell, an operatic tenor, created the event as a gift to the community that contributed to his musical journey. This was his last concert in Mississippi before moving to

New York City this month to commence graduate studies in opera at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music.

Bell started his opera studies at The University of Southern Mississippi, graduating Summa Cum Laude in May 2022 with both a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and a Bachelor of Music Education in Choral Pedagogy.

The concert repertoire included Italian, French and English art songs and arias along with spirituals and mu-

**Bell**

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# Jewell Bronaugh, U. S. Deputy Secretary Department of Agriculture, attends CBC Policy Conference in Tunica Announces land ownership & scholarships

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

Deputy Secretary Jewell Bronaugh is a champion for America’s rural communities, families, ranchers, foresters and products. Last week she engaged in the U. S. Administration Officials’ Roundtable Discussion with other leaders from the Biden-Harris Administration in Tunica, Miss.

This was Bronaugh’s first visit to Tunica for the Congressional Black Caucus Institute Policy Conference representing United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under Bennie Thompson’s leadership. The Tunica sessions are directed towards identification of workable solutions to problems facing minorities. Thus, the conference lends face and voice to an historically under-utilized industry.

In a telephone interview the deputy secretary mentioned that



Bronaugh

President Biden has worked hard for equity in the U. S. Most recently, he passed the Reduction Act in helping rural Americans lower health costs. Legislation provides \$2 million to fight climate change and help feed the world. Additionally, funding is provided to help keep farmers on

the land, and help farmers have financial assistance who have experienced discrimination.

“We have announced a nationwide program [about having] gotten resources from the American Rescue Act for ownership of the land called heirs property. We’re assisting in trying to purchase that property and keep land owners owning their land. We have identified financial institutions to make the loan. The program will be available in Mississippi and throughout the U.S. within the next couple of months,” stated Bronaugh.

Bronaugh voiced that there are approximately nine counties in Mississippi that are impacted, “and when partnership is put into place, we will alert a pilot study.”

USDA has selected the following community networks for the Rural Partners Network in Mississippi: Washington County

Economic Alliance Community Network, including the counties of Bolivar, Leflore, Sunflower and Washington; Greater Grenada, Lake District Partnership Community Network, including the counties of Grenada and Yalobusha; and North Delta Planning and Development District Community Network, including the counties of Coahoma, Quitman and Tunica.

The Rural Partners Network, a first-of-its-kind collaboration between federal agencies and local leaders and residents, focuses on improving social and economic well-being bolstered by existing local partnerships and assets. Individualized support will be received by Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Mexico and certain Tribes in Arizona.

Under the Biden-Harris Ad-

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# Culture of Life in Mississippi

By Christopher Young  
*Contributing Writer*



Well, we have heard it from Governor Reeves, and Attorney General Fitch, too, so you know it’s the real deal – Mississippi is creating a “culture of life.” These were their words, on numerous media outlets, following the overturning of Roe v. Wade by the Supreme Court. A culture of life. A culture of life. A culture of life. I have to keep repeating it over and over, just because it does not ring true to my ears.

Let’s review now how much life is valued in Mississippi. Let’s start with resisting the expansion of Medicaid. Mississippi is one of only twelve states that has

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refused to do so. Mississippi is the poorest state in the country.

Medicaid expansion would immediately provide insurance for an additional 300,000 residents with the Federal Government paying 90% of the cost by using ARPA funds it increases to 93% for the next five years and allows millions in savings that would fund a sixth year of expansion at zero net cost to the state.

Yet Governor Reeves and Speaker Gunn are opposed to helping poor people, despite claiming to be Christians. I wonder why they would take that stance? 600,000 people in Mississippi live below the

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## The Mississippi Book Festival features Pulitzer Prize winner Alice Walker on the fortieth anniversary of her novel, *The Color Purple*

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

The Reverend Cary Stockett, senior pastor of Galloway United Methodist Church, (305 N Congress Street, Jackson) and Jon Livingston, member of the Board of Directors of The Mississippi Book Festival, welcomed a large crowd into the church’s sanctuary at noon on Saturday, August 20, 2022.

President Thomas Hudson of Jackson State University introduced conversationalists – Mississippian Kiese Laymon (a Carnegie Medalist) and *The Color Purple* author, Alice Walker. The well-attended conversation was sponsored by The Margaret Walker Center and Jackson State University.

The conversation pinpointed the legacy of Walker’s acclaimed novel published in 1982 and the release of her journals: *Gathering Blossoms Under Fire*. The journals entail the 10-year period when the novelist lived in Jackson.

Laymon asked Walker to talk about what she saw and felt when she came to Mississippi.

“Living in Mississippi for 10 years reminded me of extreme discourtesy that I had experienced as a child...but [rather than focus on racism] my parents turned their attention toward community building.

“I [also] saw the fierce love [blacks] had for themselves and the conviction to reach out to change their situation, and they did. The other thing that was so remarkable about Mississippians was they wanted to change the violence in

America.”

When Laymon asked about the writer’s relationship with her mentor, Margaret Walker Alexander, the novelist revealed: “She was an incredible force in my life, an incredible writer, married with a lot of children...and it took her 20 years to write *Jubilee*. She taught me in ways that I don’t think she realized.”

*The Color Purple*, not written in the style of most novels, is a work of social criticism in that Walker criticizes how black women were treated in the early twentieth century. Life experiences of the character Celie are illustrative of the social criticism that Walker uses. In this vein, an abused, impregnated African-American girl, Celie, gains personal and spiritual growth when she finds her voice and personal identity during the course of time.

Walker admits that hers is a book that is indicative of not only Celie’s struggle, but also her struggle “to develop an encompassing theology within the confines of a restraining theology.” Thus, Walker’s real life spiritual journey is reflected within the pages of *The Color Purple* and has continued since its publication.

On another note, Laymon wanted to know if Walker was breaking a rule when she explored a black woman’s desire for freedom. “No,” quipped Walker. “The sister (Nettie) refused to be dominated and ended up in Africa. The first time I went to Europe, I saw so many men who wanted to dance. When I was growing up, there were white people who wouldn’t speak. They were trapped and

couldn’t show love. That’s a heavy load.”

Referencing Laymon’s inquiry of the importance of ownership mentioned in the journal, Walker remarked: “Remember our history of not being able to find a hotel, a town, and have to be out of the town by sundown. It was crucial that we find our own homes. We see what’s happening in America today when people can’t find their own homes. My anxiety was on how to raise enough funds for my child and me to manage our money and find ways to own our own land and home.”

When Laymon posed the question, “What do you wish for Mississippi in the future?” Walker commented that it is essential to connect to other people who have respect for themselves. “If their work is terrible, don’t go near them. It’s a waste of time. Writers can be dangerous, but be aware that they are what they are,” she said.

Walker concluded the conversation: “Be completely free and true to who you are. Love is the only thing that will save us in the culture. Ask questions about farm land. It means a lot of studying to understand why Bill Gates has bought so much farm land. All the pieces actually fit if you take the time to look. Look around and try to understand where we are in our evolution, if that’s what it is.”

To view the conversation in its entirety, visit <https://vimeo.com/740335425> or <https://msbookfestival.com/media/year/2022>.

See Mississippi Book Festival photos on page 4.

## Celebrating the life of Charcy Mae Boler-Buford March 29, 1932 – August 13, 2022



Buford

Charcy Mae Boler Buford was born March 29, 1932, in Decatur, Mississippi, to the late Wilmon and Emma Boler. She grew up with five sisters (Dorothy, Myrtis, Mary Helen, Dora and Faye) and two brothers (James and Jessie) in a wholesome and supportive family environment. She began her quest for learning and serving within her community where all of the siblings were expected not only to achieve their best but also to serve others with all of their gifts, talents and achievements.

She became well-known for her loving and generous spirit that was embedded through experience with teachings from Third Temple Holiness Church located in Jackson, Mississippi. Charcy later achieved a notable milestone that set her apart from many women of color at that time. She was hired to be the first African-American saleswoman in the state of Mississippi at Kent’s Dollar Store. She exuded

pride and prestige with this honor. Later she graduated from cosmetology school and became a successful hair stylist.

Charcy was a leading lady in her community and church. She wore many hats both literally and spiritually. She was known as “the hat lady” since she proudly wore her beautiful hats to church. She served joyfully as a deaconess, usher, member of the Mothers’ Board and wherever else she could help. Her warm and engaging smile greeted everyone.

In 1973 she married Thomas Buford and they resided in Jackson. Their blended household consisted of seven unique children.

Her parents, sister Dorothy, brother James, and daughter Barbara Buford, all preceded her in death. Charcy departed this life on Saturday, August 13, 2022.

Her memory will forever live in the hearts of her husband: Thomas Buford; her children: Toni Roberts, Dianne Stingley, Vernon Perry, Alpha Robinson-Ross (Frank), Joseph Darby (Connie), and James Darby (Joscelyn); her sisters: Myrtis Minor, Dora Thigpen (Bera), Mary Helen Anderson, and Faye Jones (George); her brother Jessie Boler; seventeen grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Services were held August 19, 2022 at Lynch Street CME Church in Jackson.

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## Bell

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sical theatre.

After the concert, many audience members formed a lengthy line as they expressed their love and support for Bell’s transition to an internationally-known graduate school.

Bell’s pastor, Bishop Ronnie Crudup of New Horizon Church International, said he was “so excited, so proud and just thrilled for Justin. He is another one of our children who is touching the world.” Crudup said his church has always sought to raise children who will take their abilities to the fullest extent, realizing they have no limits. “He is doing that and wow; I am thrilled for Justin and his family,” he said.

Sara Christy, a member of the Mississippi Chorus, learned about Bell’s concert through email. She commented that Bell is “a star on the rise.” “We just had to come and support him,” she said. “We know of his Murrah High School choral teacher.” She said it is just important that we support all our young people. Both Christy and her husband are supporters of opera music. Sara



Bell and his mother Lisa T. Bell

Christy is a retired music teacher.

Bell’s mother, Lisa T. Bell, his biggest fan, counts all the great opportunities her son has re-



Bell and his pastor Bishop Ronnie Crudup

ceived along his journey from early childhood to presently as blessings from God. “I am so grateful to God and to everyone who has supported

him over the years,” she said.

“It warmed my heart to see how well the audience applauded his performance,” said Lisa T. Bell. “God has gifted my child with a talent to use for His Glory, and I am grateful.”

Bell was grateful for the excellent turnout and for the support he has received from the community. “This concert truly exceeded all my expectations and dreams of what it could be,” he said. “To see much support from my community, inspire younger students, and reconnect with so many meaningful people in my life was a gift. As my first self-produced concert, I am so grateful for everyone involved and the gorgeous music that I had the honor to share. This is only the beginning. Moving forward to NYC, I feel that Jackson has given me wind beneath my wings to soar into my dreams.”

If you would like to donate towards Bell’s graduate studies, he has set up a GoFundMe at this link: <https://gofund.me/703ec933> or search “Mississippi to NYC: Support Justin’s Opera Studies”.

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administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas.

Brognaugh maintained that land grant institution Alcorn State University “is the only university in Mississippi expecting funding to help for agricultural leaders to provide scholarships in professional development.”

To learn more, visit [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov).



Bronaugh speaking at the U.S. Administration Officials Roundtable with other leaders from the Biden-Harris Administration.

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sized that no one in the top 5% of incomes would see any loan relief.

The continuation of the coronavirus pandemic-era payment freeze comes just days before millions of Americans were

set to find out when their next student loan bills will be due. This is the closest the administration has come to hitting the end of the payment freeze extension, with the current pause set to end Aug. 31.

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poverty line – 34% of black people and 13% of white people in Mississippi according to the Kaiser Foundation and the U.S. Census Bureau. Does that figure into their stance?

What about extending Medicaid eligibility for poor post-partum mothers? The Mississippi Mortality Report in 2019 indicates that 86% of pregnancy-related deaths occur postpartum, and the mortality rate for black mothers is three times higher than for white mothers.

Along with being the poorest state in the country, overall healthcare in Mississippi is ranked 50th by U.S. News & World Report. Once again, the Federal Government would pay 85 cents on the dollar for the extension of eligibility. Here in Mississippi Senate Bill 2033 passed overwhelmingly, including 30 Republican senators, yet once it got to the Lower Chamber, Gunn made sure it died on the calendar once again.

Health disparities by race is a well-known fact in Mississippi. 60 of 82 counties in Mississippi are living in poverty (at least 20% of population for at least 30 years), according to numerous sources, including [welfareinfo.org](http://welfareinfo.org). Many communities lack sufficient food, many lack access to fresh fruits and vegetables – Dollar General doesn’t sell them.

Many communities do not have access to appropriate healthcare due to physician shortages and hospital and clinic closures. Many poor people have challenges with transportation. There is the strong correlation between low education levels and poor health outcomes. All or parts of every county in the Mississippi Delta live in poverty. Poverty and a culture of life do not go together.

Speaking of the Delta, Spotlight on Poverty & Opportunity just published a study by the University of Colorado on a small community that they refused to name due to the stigma involved, where 80% of the kids tested positive via stool samples for parasite infections. “The lev-

els of intestinal inflammation in the Mississippi children sampled were 17 times higher than those documented among indigenous Shuar children from Amazonian Ecuador.” These parasites are predominantly caused by exposure to raw sewage – frequent flooding and infrastructure neglect leads to sewage backups. Culture of life you say?

We cannot overlook that Mississippi has the highest COVID death rate in country, as reported by U.S. News & World Report. Once again, not a culture of life.

In Mississippi poor people are looked down on by our elected officials and their constituents. The governor makes excuses in his resistance to helping Jackson with its water troubles. He makes blanket statements like, “the city is not spending money the way it should,” reported by WAPT on August 4. He doesn’t provide any specifics. He does not appear invested in Jackson moving forward.

Now imagine the infrastructure nightmares in rural areas of Mississippi. And now, in this season of receiving an additional \$6 billion extra from the American Rescue Plan Act, how much is going to infrastructure? Then we discover through dogged reporting by Anna Wolfe at Mississippi Today, that former and current elected officials have stolen \$77+ million dollars intended to provide a safety net for the poorest among us.

Mississippi earns its horrid rankings. It does so by its attitudes and its actions. There is no culture of life for all of Mississippi, only for some.

Mister Governor, how do you explain this caldron of pain, suffering and death to your children? How do you tell them it was okay for you to steal federal dollars for a pet project like a fitness center that offer fitness bootcamps to legislators, money that was explicitly given to Mississippi as a safety net for the poorest among us? How do you pull that off? Do you pull them aside before Sunday school or after Sunday school, to let them know how?

PEOPLE  
first

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criminal

felon

offender

inmate

convict

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.**



# Mississippi Book Festival 2022

## A Literary Lawn Party

### Aug. 20, 2023 - State Capitol Building & Grounds

COLLAGE PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON,  
JAMES HAMPTON III AND JANICE L. VINCENT

On Saturday, August 20, 2022, more than 6,200 people attended the Mississippi Book Festival in Jackson. Some attended indoor panel discussions and interviews, while hundreds more enjoyed outdoor festival offerings, visiting tents and vendor set-ups. The one-day festival event drew book lovers from across the South and included activities for all ages.





# Rep. Zakiya Summers responds to State Auditor’s report on fatherlessness

Mississippi Link Newswire

The statement below is attributed to Representative Zakiya Summers (MS-68) in response to the Mississippi State Auditor’s Office report entitled “Dads Matter: The Taxpayer Cost of Fatherlessness.”

“We have seen a wave of efforts across many republican states to address the so-called fatherlessness issue. These efforts put value on traditional roles, but not on individuals nor lasting solutions.

“The mission of the state auditor is to assess state and local government to ensure that public funds are legally spent, accounted for, and reported. I’m not certain why the auditor took it upon himself with the use of taxpayer dollars to study this issue and not offer any real solutions. The JROTC program is a fantastic program, but the auditor will have to do better than that. We need real solutions and support from leadership to move the needle forward.

“Fathers, dads, stepdads absolutely matter. However, this report and rhetoric regarding absent fathers actually stigmatizes working class families and fathers in particular. We cannot blame fathers for all the problems that children face nor the costs associated with incarceration.

“If Mississippi wants to address the absent fathers issue, then this report is addressing it from the wrong end. Instead of looking at it as the sole issue that contributes to increased incarceration, a negative economy, teen pregnancy and increased crime, as the report indicates, we should investigate the issues that lead to fatherlessness in the first place and then put policies backed by equitable funding in place.

“This report also ignores the range of forces that contribute to inequities and stamp out



Summers

policies and structures that continue to widen the gap between the haves and the have nots. By focusing on so-called absent fathers, we ignore the persistent oppression and disparities faced by marginalized communities.

“Disinvestment in quality of life needs like access to clean water, racist drug laws, police brutality, the intentional dismantling of public education, the inability for children and families to access early childhood programs, food, health-care and other basic needs is crippling and devastating.

“In fact, Mississippi is ranked as the second worst state for childcare in the nation. What would happen if children woke up in homes with sound utilities and food on the table, went to high quality schools with teachers and counselors that have everything they need instead of police patrols meeting them at the door, lived in communities that have access to resources, good jobs, higher wages for working families, and in a state that refuses to put

politics over people and perpetuate a biased narrative? Would we be talking about the problems this report cites? Would Mississippi still be the worst state to raise a family? Now that women have no autonomy over their own reproductive health, will we see an increase in fatherless homes?

“This report and this idea prevents us from reckoning with what’s real and what can be done about it.

“I want to see the auditor ensure that those who are taking money out of the mouths of our children are held accountable and that taxpayer dollars are not going to those who simply want to fatten their pockets or be utilized to paint a portrait that will not move Mississippi in the right direction.”

*Zakiya Summers represents Mississippi House District 68, which covers portions of Hinds and Rankin Counties. Follow her on Twitter @zakiyasummers and on Facebook @zsummersforHouse68.*

# Institutions of Higher Learning funneling TANF funds

By Chris Young  
Contributing Writer

The state Institutions of Higher Learning, all nine of them, are under the management and control of a board of trustees known as the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL). The twelve members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, and serve a nine year term.

The eight public universities and one academic medical center are: University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University of Agriculture and Applied Science, Mississippi University for Women, University of Southern Mississippi, Delta State University, Alcorn State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, and University of Mississippi Medical College.

The members of the board, appointed by former Governor Phil Bryant, are Tom Duff (president) of Hattiesburg, Dr. Alfred McNair, Jr. (vice president) of Ocean Springs, Dr. Steven Cunningham of Hattiesburg, Jeanne Luckey of Ocean Springs, Bruce Martin of Meridian, Chip Morgan of Leland, Powell Ogle-tree of Madison, Hal Parker of Bolton, and Dr. J. Walt Starr of Columbus. The three members appointed by Gov. Tate Reeves are Gregory Rader of Columbus, Teresa Hubbard of Oxford, and Ormella Cummings, PhD, of Tupelo. 25% of the members are African American, whereas 39% of our state’s population is African American.

In 2018, the board appointed Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr. as the Commissioner of Higher Education. His role is to advise the board on the governance of the institutions, and to supervise the chancellor and presidents of the institutions. IHL board members actually appoint the institution presidents. There is no question

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about the power wielded by this board.

So here is the thing – this board approved of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding to be used at various state institutions of higher learning, based on reporting by Anna Wolfe at Mississippi Today in May 2020. Not only did they approve a lease arrangement between the University of Southern Mississippi and the USM Athletic Foundation for \$5M to be spent for a volleyball center that Bret Farve had requested, but other institutions were in on the steal as well. Mississippi State University was in on the take for \$816,282. Delta State University took \$563,600.

Governing public universities seems like a big job. Each of these institutions has a history, traditions, oodles of scholars, sports teams, and so forth. There is pride for families. Families trust these institutions with their young adults in hopes that they receive a formal education that is well-rounded and will position them for a successful career of their choosing. Parents trust that these publically funded institutions will foster a culture of honesty, fairness, respect, and equal opportunity.

USM has a published Mission, Vision, and Values statement. Lots of really good stuff is included; lofty ideals, honor, integrity, excellence, etc. Nowhere does it mention accepting federal funds, through an athletic foundation or not, that are expressly forbidden from being used in public education, and that were actually stolen from the neediest Mississippians.

Mississippi State President Mark Keenum spoke about “timeless values” at a commencement address last November when 1,600 degrees were conferred. “I also believe that the timeless values we hold dear as

members of the Mississippi State University family will serve you well – you will need integrity; you will need to work hard; you will need to show respect for others,” Keenum said. Nothing in that statement about stealing TANF funds.

The MSU Total Net Position, based on published unaudited financial reports for 2021 was \$681,320,148, yet they found it necessary to take nearly a million dollars of welfare funds.

Delta State University has an ethics statement on their website. “Delta State University is a community of individuals – faculty, staff, and students – recognizing the institution’s mission and dedicated to its fulfillment. To that end, each member of the community pledges his/her best effort. Integrity, civility, accountability, and a commitment to excellence govern behavior. Compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies is expected and accepted as the standard for the community.”

Taking \$563,600 from the federal government intended for Mississippi’s poorest residents lacks integrity and is illegal since TANF funds are expressly prohibited from being used in public education. It goes without saying that these folks need to give the money back. Thus far, there has been no outcry for them to publicly take ownership of what they did and apologize. There has been no demand that they be sanctioned by their accreditor – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

While it appears that this plan to pilfer TANF funds was cooked up in the governor’s mansion, this board had a key role in funneling these funds. State legislators that have not been soiled by this scandal have yet to start making public recommendations for an entirely new IHL Board.

## NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVIES FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR FOR CITY OF JACKSON, MS

The City of Jackson, Mississippi will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for fiscal year 2022-2023 on Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers located in City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$ 401,648,838 (18.6 percent) or \$74,719,551 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$443,755,254. Of that amount, (17.4 percent) or \$75,607,341 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

For the next fiscal year, the City of Jackson plans to increase your ad valorem tax millage rate by 4.00 mills from 63.03 to 67.03 mills. This means that you will pay more for ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment and rental real property.

Any citizen of City of Jackson is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies for fiscal year 2022-2023, and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

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# All-black female crew observes 100th Anniversary of Bessie Coleman’s first flight

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

American Airlines celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first black woman to earn a pilot’s license – Bessie Coleman accomplished that feat in 1922.

With an all-black female crew, the airlines hosted the Bessie Coleman Aviation All-Stars tour, recognizing how Coleman bravely broke down barriers within the world of aviation and paved the path for many to follow.

To help honor Coleman’s legacy, American Airlines hosted Gigi Coleman, Bessie’s great-niece, on a flight from Dallas-

Fort Worth to Phoenix.

An all-black female crew – from the pilots and flight attendants to the cargo team members and the aviation maintenance technician – took the reins for the special occasion.

“American is being intentional in its efforts to diversify the flight deck,” airline officials wrote in a news release. “Black women have been notably underrepresented in the aviation industry, especially as pilots, representing less than 1% in the commercial airline industry.”

Through the American Airlines Cadet Academy, the airline

said it’s committed to expanding awareness of and increasing accessibility to the pilot career within diverse communities.

Coleman earned a pilot’s license in 1921 and performed the first public flight by a black woman in 1922. She traveled to France to obtain her license when the U.S. refused her. Coleman then performed air shows in and around Chicago, according to federal records.

Captain Beth Powell and First Officer Charlene Shortte led the American Airlines flight to observe the centennial of Coleman’s history-making journey.



The all black female flight crew that hosted the Bessie Coleman Aviation All-Stars tour.

# NNPA leadership awards honoring four African American trailblazer to be presented



Dr. William Barbour II, architect of the Moral Movement, will receive a NNPA National Leadership award in D.C. September 29.

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Keith Ellison emerged as more than just a figurehead during his first term as attorney general in Minnesota. The “people’s lawyer” displayed a firm and steady hand guiding the state through Covid restrictions, settling multi-billion-dollar drug cases with opioid distributors, Johnson & Johnson and protecting tenants’ rights in landlord disputes.

James Winston, president of the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB), has earned the distinction as the voice representing black-owned broadcasters. Together with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), Winston and NABOB are working to encourage the media and advertising industries to become more proactive and committed to diversity from the C-suites to the decision-making managers.

Winston believes more is needed to increase and enhance the ownership of media businesses by African Americans and other minorities.

President of the historically black Tennessee State University since 2013 and the international president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Soror-

ity, Inc., Dr. Glenda Glover, has already carved an indelible imprint on black students at her school and across the nation. Recently, President Joe Biden appointed Glover as vice-chair of the President’s Board of Advisors on HBCUs.

Meanwhile, Rev. Dr. William Barber II, the architect of the Moral Movement, has remained vigilant in the fight for social justice.

Declaring that “we won’t be silent anymore,” Barber led the Mass Poor People’s & Low-Wage Workers’ Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the polls in June. Barber and his large following demanded that policymakers fight poverty, not the poor.

On Thursday, September 29, Barber, Glover, Winston, and Ellison will receive NNPA National Leadership Awards. With a guest performance by Grammy winner Chrisette Michele, the 7 p.m. ceremony at the Marriott Marquis in Northwest, Washington, D.C., honors individuals who show continuous support of the Black Press and the black community.

This year’s NNPA Leadership Awards Reception theme is “Saluting Transformational Leaders and Ensuring Black Voter Turnout.”

The NNPA’s social media hashtag, #10MillionNewVoters, continues to trend.

“I am truly honored to receive this award on behalf of the work we do at NABOB,” Winston told NNPA Newswire. “I am especially honored to join the highly distinguished list of former honorees, including Vice President Kamala Harris and Olympic Gold Medalist Allyson Felix,” he remarked.

“It has been my pleasure to work closely with Dr. Ben Chavis to further the mutual interests of our organizations. I humbly accept this award with a pledge to continue the work of NABOB and NNPA to amplify and enhance the voices of the African American community.”

Ellison, seeking re-election in Minnesota, also expressed gratitude for the award.

“I am honored to receive the National Leadership Award from the NNPA/Black Press of America,” Ellison stated.

“The Black Press has served as a trusted source of information for 195 years. Black media provides an invaluable service by centering black voices, engaging the community and pushing for a more just society.”

# Dallas Cowboy greets, Black Press attend PGA of America’s ‘Housewarming’ at sprawling new Texas campus



NNPA among 600 guests invited to housewarming of the new PGA “home” in Dallas

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The Professional Golfers’ Association of America (PGA) hosted an incredible housewarming, inviting 600 guests, including the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), to its new home just outside of Dallas, Texas.

The more than 106,000-square foot building, a masterpiece by any architectural standard, sits on 30 acres and overlooks the PGA’s sprawling campus at 1916 PGA Parkway in the town of Frisco.

Dallas Cowboy owner Jerry Jones and team legends Tony Dorsett, Drew Pearson and Ed “Too Tall” Jones were among the celebrities in attendance for the “Welcome Home” event.

“This is an amazing building, but we’re also slightly daunted by the work ahead, and ultimately, incredibly excited about that and all-in on making it all come alive,” PGA CEO Seth Waugh said during the glitzy ceremony.

In a separate conversation, Waugh thanked the NNPA for its partnership with the PGA.

“The work you’re doing is noticed and appreciated,” Waugh told the NNPA, the trade association of 235 African American-owned newspapers and media companies.

PGA officials, including Waugh and President Jim Richerson, refused to refer to the new building as “headquarters,” insisting instead that all in attendance refer to the structure as “home.”

The new home includes a Professional Development Center with a large bunker, chipping and putting areas, hitting bays and instructional technology, that PGA officials say are designed to assess all elements of a golfer’s swing.

The building includes several seating areas, offices and educational spaces, all with stunning views of two championship-level golf courses on the campus.

PGA officials said the remainder of the 600-acre, \$550 million campus will open to the public in Spring 2023 and “feature unique destinations encompassing: Fields Ranch at PGA Frisco, with

two 18-hole championship golf courses designed by Gil Hanse and Beau Well- ing; a world-class clubhouse; a 30-acre practice facility; a performance center; the 510-room Omni PGA Frisco Resort; and the PGA District, featuring a one-of-a-kind indoor and outdoor golf-centered entertainment area.”

Officials said PGA Frisco is currently the most extensive development under construction in North America. It’s projected to drive \$2.5 billion of economic impact over the next 20 years.

Additionally, over the next 12 years, the PGA’s new home will host 26 championships, including the National Car Rental PGA Jr. League Championship in 2023 and 2024; the PGA Professional Championship in 2024, 2030 and 2033; the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship in 2023, and 2029; the KPMG Women’s PGA Championship in 2025, and 2031; and the PGA Championship in 2027, and 2034.

“Our vision for our new Home of the PGA of America at PGA Frisco is to serve as the ultimate support system for our members,” Richerson said.

“It will be a first-of-its-kind golf laboratory that offers the best in professional development for our nearly 28,000 PGA Professionals. From cutting-edge technology to Member and Associate education, PGA Frisco will serve as a destination and gathering place for our PGA Professionals.”

Richerson continued:

“It represents the pride and passion exhibited in the work they do each day across the country to grow the game in their local communities. PGA Frisco will deliver the best in coaching, player engagement, golf operations and executive management and host some of golf’s greatest championships. It will enable our members to help golfers enjoy the game more now and in the future.”

PGA Frisco “is much more than a new home for the PGA of America,” added Waugh. “Our aim is to challenge golfers of all skill levels to improve, enjoy, and ultimately, fall in love with the game for a lifetime.”



# Fitness myths - they can hurt you

By Vince Faust  
*Tips to Be Fit*

The Internet is not always the best place to get your fitness information. On this information highway you'll find plenty of myths and half-truths.

Among those dangerous fitness myths you should avoid:

**Fitness Myth #1:** A little pain means you're getting the most from your workout.

The truth: Despite the old cliché "no pain no gain" you should never experience pain during or after your workout. You should never do a workout if you feel pain. Pain means damage. The pain could be a warning sign that you have overstressed a muscle, tendon or ligament. It can also indicate joint damage. People that continue to exercise when they are hurt increase their risk of serious injury.

You can at times be a little sore from a hard workout but it should never be debilitating. When you exercise hard, your muscles develop microscopic tears that lead to the rebuilding of your tissue and an increase in strength. If you're very sore you did too much.

**Fitness Myth #2:** Eating one meal a day will keep the weight off.

The truth: People who do this will lose weight but eventually they lose muscle tissue and collect fat on different parts of the body. Your body knows it needs energy in the form of food (calories) to perform the thousands of chemical actions, which take place throughout the day.

When you eat one meal a day your body thinks its being starved. To prevent starvation your body will slow down the rate at which it burns calories and store fat. Your body stores this fat because it provides a good source of reserved energy. It can't depend on you to give it what it needs throughout the day but it knows it can depend on stored fat.

Dieting does not burn fat or calories. Eating 3 to 6 small meals a day will allow your body to get the energy it needs. Digesting these meals actually causes the body to burn calories. The main reason you have to wait for your food to digest before you workout is because the digestion process will use a lot of the energy you need to do physical work. Eating small meals throughout the day and exercise both stimulate your



body to burn calories. Muscle tissue uses more energy than fatty tissue so a well-toned body burns calories at a faster rate than a flabby body.

**Fitness Myth #3:** You should stretch before you exercise?

The truth: Stretching is not necessary but a good warm up is. A warm-up allows your body to get ready for exercise slowly and gently. To warm up do some type of continuous movement exercise such as brisk walking, light jogging, or jumping jacks for 5 to 10 minutes. If you're lifting weights you can warm-up by doing a 2 to 3 sets with light-weights for each body part you work.

Recent studies found that people that used stretching for a warm up before their workout couldn't exercise as long and reduced their muscle strength.

**Fitness Myth #4:** Don't rest during your workout.

The truth: Your body needs between 15 to 20 seconds to recover from a set. This also depends on your level of fit-

ness. If you have a low fitness level it will take longer for the oxygen to return to your muscles and be ready for your next set of exercise. Read your body. If you need more time to do the next set take it.

**Fitness Myth #5:** High heat exercise works the muscles more.

The truth: Some people believe that high-temperature workouts like "hot" yoga, spinning and others in which the room temperature is sometimes 90F or higher will make the muscles more limber and improve their body's ability to remove toxins. I don't recommend it. When you exercise in a hot environment your body has to work harder to protect your body from the heat.

**Fitness Myth #6:** If you stop lifting weights the muscle will turn into fat.

The truth: Fat and muscle are two different tissues. One does not turn into the other. Fat is found beneath the muscle and skin. Fat is also distributed throughout muscle tissue but the fat that makes a body

look out of shape is found beneath the skin. Many once toned bodies, take on a flabby appearance for several reasons. The most common reasons have to do with the fact that the person becomes inactive and neglects to modify the amount of food he or she eats once they stop training. Steroid use also causes changes in a person muscle to fat ratio once a person stops using them.

To keep excess body fat from accumulating you need to do some form of aerobic exercise 3 to 5 times a week and do muscle-toning exercises for each body part 2 times a week. What you eat is also important. The average healthy diet should be high in complex carbohydrates (60-70 %), low in fat (10-12%), and include a moderate amount of protein (20% or .7 grams per pound of body weight). An athlete may require 5% more protein than the average person.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

# MSDH ensures naloxone is readily available

## *Prescriptions not necessary to obtain lifesaving opioid reversal medication*

Mississippi Department of Health

As part of continued efforts to reduce overdose deaths, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) has extended and expanded the statewide naloxone standing order that permits pharmacists to dispense the opioid reversal medication naloxone without a prescription from doctors or other medical practitioners.

According to MSDH, overdoses are now the leading cause of death among U.S. adults 18-45.

Naloxone blocks the brain's opioid receptors and restores normal breathing in people who have overdosed on fentanyl, heroin or prescription opioid painkillers. Naloxone's temporary blocking effect allows time for professional medical attention to be sought.

"Since this order was originally issued in 2018, many lives have been saved in communities throughout Mississippi because of the expanded availability of naloxone," said Jan Dawson, program director, Mississippi Public Health Institute. "We applaud our partners at the Mississippi State Department of Health for extending the order and for expanding it to include products that were not previously covered by the standing order, and to removing barriers to obtaining this lifesaving drug."

Signed by State Epidemiologist Dr. Paul Byers, the standing order states that pharmacists are allowed "to dispense an opioid antagonist [naloxone] to a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose or to a family member, friend or other person in a position to assist an at-risk person." And according to Mississippi's Medical Emergency Good

Samaritan Act, one cannot be prosecuted for calling 911 in the event of an overdose – even if they are in possession of a drug.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than 106,000 people died in the U.S. as the result of a drug overdose in the 12-month period ending November 2021, with opioid-related deaths accounting for 75% of all overdose deaths. A report from the Mississippi Opioid and Heroin Data Collaborative showed that drug overdose deaths in Mississippi rose by 49% in one year from 2019-2020.

Make Mississippi OD Free is a program administered by the Mississippi Department of Health in partnership with the Mississippi Public Health Institute, and is supported by a federal grant initiative funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The program's purpose, called Overdose to Action (OD2A), is to collect comprehensive and timely data on nonfatal and fatal overdoses to inform OD prevention and response efforts nationwide. Data for the initiative is provided by the Mississippi Opioid and Heroin Data Collaborative, a multiagency partnership among the Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Mississippi Board of Pharmacy Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and the Mississippi Department of Public Safety Bureau of Narcotics.

*The order may be viewed at <https://www.mbp.ms.gov/news/naloxone-statewide-standing-order>. Learn more at <https://odfree.org>.*

# The World Health Organization wants name change for 'Monkeypox' virus, calling it 'stigmatizing'

TriceEdneyWire.com

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced plans to find a new name for the viral disease informally known as 'monkeypox' which, says the world body, is "discriminatory and stigmatizing."

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, in a briefing on the matter, said the virus is no longer behaving as it did in the past and therefore should be renamed.

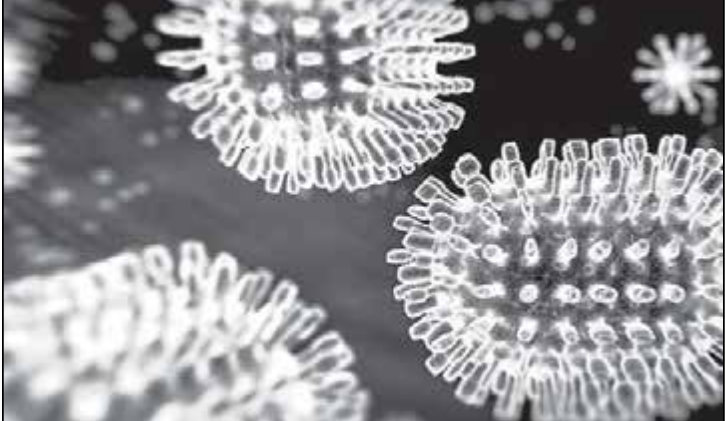
But a public narrative persists in suggesting the current outbreak is linked to Africa, West Africa or Nigeria, noted a group of 29 biologists and other researchers. That

builds on an existing stigma, although the virus has been detected without a clear link to Africa.

The majority – 84 percent – of confirmed cases are from the European region, followed by the Americas, Africa, Eastern Mediterranean region and Western Pacific region.

"The most obvious manifestation of this is the use of photos of African patients to depict the pox lesions in mainstream media in the global north," the researchers said.

Ahmed Ogwell, deputy director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and more than a dozen infectious



disease experts in the U.S. and Europe, are soliciting suggestions for a new name using the website

[virological.org](http://virological.org).

"We are removing the distinction between endemic and non-

endemic countries, reporting on countries together where possible, to reflect the unified response that is needed," the WHO said in its outbreak situation update sent out July 23.

As for what the virus should be called, the scientists suggest starting with hMPXV, to denote the human version of the monkeypox virus. Rather than geographic locations, they say, letters and numbers should be used, based on order of discovery. In that system, the lineage behind the current international outbreak would be dubbed B.1.

It has been reported in 39 countries so far in 2022, and most of

them are having their first-ever cases of the disease, according to the WHO.

Worldwide, it says, there are around 3,100 confirmed or suspected cases, including 72 deaths. The normal initial symptoms include a high fever, swollen lymph nodes and a blistery chickenpox-like rash.

Between January 1 and June 15, 2,103 confirmed cases, a probable case and one death have been reported to the WHO in 42 countries, it said.

Global Information Network creates and distributes news and feature articles on current affairs in Africa.



PART 2

# Take a stand for truth

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



Look at what Jesus Christ has done. He saved the woman who was caught in the very act of adultery. Those Pharisees brought her to Jesus. They did not want to condemn her, but they hated Jesus so much that they wanted to find an occasion to do away with Him.

No doubt they brought this woman to Jesus to see what He would do.

Friends, He came to save and to show mercy. We are told that He forgave this woman of her sin. If you will

look into St. John 8, you will find that He came to save. As I said before, He saves those which are lost. This woman was included, and there are many out here today who are in the same condition. They need to be delivered from such ungodliness. Jesus Christ will save today. He will deliver.

Do you remember the woman at the well as recorded in the fourth chapter of St. John? She went to draw water from the well, but friends, she needed something better than the water that was in the well. She needed living water. Jesus has that living water. He has living water today to give to may who are still thirsty.

Yes, my friends, He gave her that living water.

He said, "Woman if you knew who asked you for a drink of that water you were drawing from the well, you would never have refused giving it to Him." Who was He? Jesus, the Savior of the world. He was her deliverer. After her discussion with Jesus, the woman said, "Give me to drink."

Surely, Jesus gave her life. He gave her strength and contentment of mind. Her mind was no more after the many men she had in her life. Jesus told her of her sin, and that was what she confessed. After she received that living water, she was privileged to go into

the city and call to all those men and others in the area, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"

What a recommendation! My friends, it does not matter how far you are from God, you can come back to Him. It does not matter what you are doing, He will forgive you of your sins. He will not condemn you of the many sins that you are committing as long as you repent of them. The only way you will be condemned is if you continue to sin.

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

PRESERVED

## When is your next time?

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



Even though some say that it's the first time that's most significant, I think that when it comes to faith and trust in God, the most

important one is your next time. Are you ready to put your wholehearted faith and trust in God again? I know I myself have said, "This is the last time I'm praying about that." But I kept praying anyway.

Why is the "next" time more important than the first? Because it is often sincere desperation that accompanies that 'next time' faith that puts us in a position to get the much prayed for breakthrough. Can you put trust in God after years of disappointments, stinging memories of rejection or feeling like you've been fooled by God to believe in something that has yet to happen?

The story of Joseph shows the power of that 'next time' faith. Genesis 37 describes how in his youthful pride, Joseph described dreams to his older brothers that showed him having authority over them.

Out of jealousy and hatred, Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. Things just seemed to get worse for Joseph who then ended up in jail. While in jail, he correctly interpreted dreams for two members of the pharaoh's court. He sat languishing in jail as one's promise of getting him released went unheeded for two years. Overall, thirteen years elapsed between the time of Joseph's dream and his release from jail.

I wonder just what thoughts ran through his mind as he sat thinking about those who'd be-

trayed him in the past. I also wonder if he ever told God that the next time someone came to him with a dream, they'd have to figure it out for themselves. The bible isn't clear on what Joseph said during those two years.

What if Joseph had said when he was summoned to the pharaoh's court that next time he just wasn't "feeling it" because of what had happened two years earlier?

Genesis 41:14-16 says, "So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon.... "I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires." Yet despite his past disappointments, Joseph still trusted God. Unlike some of us who struggle with trusting after disappointments, Joseph put his trust in God again...and his life changed instantly. The scriptures don't say if it was an easy thing for him to do. They do say that he was quickly taken from the dungeon and cleaned probably so fast that he didn't have a chance to even think about refusing the request.

Joseph's story shows that when God has promised a breakthrough or a blessing, we have to hold onto to it...no matter what. He ultimately was able to fulfill God's purpose not because of him believing the first time...but because he made the choice to believe and trust God the "next" time.

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



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# Biden deserves credit – not complacency



President Joe Biden poses for a selfie with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (Calif.), chairman of the House Democratic Caucus Hakeem Jeffries (N.Y.) and Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (S.C.) before delivering remarks at the House Democratic Caucus Issues Conference, Friday, March 11, 2022, at the Hilton Philadelphia Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY ADAM S

By Rep. James E. Clyburn  
D-S.C., Chairman, Democratic  
Faith Working Group



We all have heard the popular expression, “give credit where credit is due.” After hearing numerous critics over the past 18 months, it is refreshing to see President Joe Biden finally getting the credit he deserves for what is one of the most productive starts to a presidential term in recent history.

The Financial Times’ Associate Editor Ed Luce recently wrote an opinion piece entitled, “The unexpected triumph of Joe Biden: Recent legislative successes suggest a good political system in good working order, but complacency is misplaced.”

Luce made the case for why President Biden’s star is rising, but warned that despite his impressive legislative record, voters may not give him the credit he deserves because too many people respond more to style than substance.

I agree with Luce’s assessment. Our media-driven culture seems to rate words and deeds that generate headlines over those that make headway. Joe Biden, and those of us who support him, prefer putting people over politics.

When President Biden took office, the country was in the grip of a global pandemic. Businesses were shuttering, schools were closing and people were dying. The country needed leadership. Unfortunately, we had a showman at

the helm when a statesman was needed. Forty-five was pre-occupied with scoring political points and securing media hits. And when voters were given a chance to express themselves, by a margin of nearly seven million votes, they chose statesmanship over showmanship.

Joe Biden was sworn in on January 20, 2021. On that day, the country’s unemployment rate was 6.4 percent. COVID-19 was infecting 193,030 Americans a day and people were dying at a rate of 3,167 a day. From day one, Biden focused on shoring up the shaky foundation left by the previous administration.

On March 11, 2021, less than two months after he took office, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) into law. It accelerated the American economic recovery by putting money in people’s pockets, getting children back in school and lifting nearly half of them out of poverty.

The ARP also prevented evictions and foreclosures for millions of America’s families, kept hundreds of large businesses open and reopened thousands of small businesses. It helped stem the deadly rampage of COVID-19 by expanding testing and access to vaccines. Republicans put their politics over people’s needs and voted unanimously against this legislation. Democrats put people over politics and started building a foundation for the country’s recovery.

The second corner of Biden’s foundation came on

November 15, 2021, when he signed into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This legislation made historic investments in our crumbling and outdated infrastructure. It invested in high-speed internet, clean drinking water, a resilient electric grid, replacing lead pipes, making a down payment on clean energy transmission, and charging stations for electric vehicles. These infrastructure investments are creating jobs and strengthening critical links in our supply chain.

During all of this, President Biden nominated the first black woman to the United States Supreme Court, a black woman to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, and 26 other black women to various federal courts, more than the combined total of all previous presidents.

President Biden continued working, away from public view, to help get the final two corners of his foundation solidified, and on August 9, he signed the CHIPS and Science Act into law. This third corner of his platform restores America’s standing as a global science and technology leader by providing the resources and tools needed to make more products like semiconductor chips here at home. It will create good-paying jobs, invest in building a more diverse workforce, and bolster our supply chains.

The fourth and final corner of the Biden platform, the Inflation Reduction Act, passed the Congress with every Democrat voting for it, and every

Republican voting against it.

Under this new law, signed by President Biden on August 16, Medicare recipients will see their out-of-pocket prescription drugs capped at \$2,000 annually and their cost of insulin capped at \$35 monthly. It reduces the cost of health care for 13 million Americans by extending the Affordable Care Act subsidies for more than three years with an average savings of \$800 per year. The new law includes provisions to increase taxes on corporations, address climate change, and decrease the prices of prescription drugs.

The IRA will help cut climate pollution by 40 percent by 2030, while building a new, clean energy economy and creating nine million new jobs. It invests in environmental justice by cleaning up legacy pollution most often found in communities of color and provides tax credits to ensure nuclear energy producers can continue to provide clean energy for consumers. The IRA will require corporations to pay a minimum tax of 15 percent and reduce the deficit by \$300 billion over the next decade.

As Luce warns us, “complacency is misplaced.” Voters should see this “good political system in good working order” as motivation to go to the polls to support more positive progress.

President Biden is finally getting some of the credit he is due. And, he and my fellow Democrats will continue putting the American people over partisan politics.

# Habits and mores used by the old school could be applied today

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



I am an old school guy. I was taught about what was good and right. I have done my best to live by those tenets each

day.

Growing up during a time when standards were in place gave us a foundation. Veering away from established norms was problematic and would cause us trouble. We had people that we observed every day who gave us a path to follow.

As black children coming of age, there were certain things that we had to do. There were no excuses or shortcuts. For starters, our parents told us that we represented the household. In other words, we represented them.

On countless occasions, they told us not to get into trouble. In fact, my dad told me if I was involved in police activity not to call him.

As I reflect now, that statement scared me then and made me think about the consequences of my actions. I was scared straight before any national program with the same name came into existence.

Education was important in my Winston-Salem, N.C. neighborhood. There were a lot of occupations and careers on my street. We had role models before the term was created.

Going to school was literally a “no-brainer.” We didn’t play hooky. Our attendance was perfect except for when we were sick.

Our parents were not our friends. I often say to audiences that there are two ships, the parenthood and the friendship. I believe what happened to me in childhood followed me into adulthood.

Now today is a bit different in my opinion. The importance of school for some is not what it was. Multiple factors have contributed to this decline in reading, writing and arithmetic.

Again, my thinking is there are not enough community ambassadors pushing the im-

portance of school as a way for a better quality of life.

Teachers are under-valued and under-paid. College graduates in some states don’t need to take a national standardized examination in order to become certified.

According to reports, a perspective teacher does not have to take the Praxis test in Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Michigan. Each state has instituted its own licensure requirements. I suspect more states will follow this example.

Back in the day, I took the National Teachers Examination (NTE) in order to gain a teaching position. School systems must place qualified people in front of children for them to learn. Just think, you would not go to a dentist, lawyer or surgeon who had not passed the required examination.

Are children today getting the message from their parents that they represent the household? I believe most of them are, yet some would disagree with my assertion.

Carjackings, guns being brought to school and assaults are all associated with today’s youth. For example, reports say that in Minneapolis there were 405 carjackings last year. Many of the suspects were between the ages of 11 and 17.

Other cities like Louisville, Kentucky and Kansas City, Missouri have also seen carjackings on the rise. We hear and read about carjackings by young people almost on an everyday basis.

Some of these crimes have resulted in people dying.

Lives are ruined forever because of poor decisions.

Earlier this year, Tariq Majeed was robbed of his vehicle in Washington D.C. Fortunately, the police came quickly and recovered it.

Majeed said, “I honestly believe it’s a game. Stolen cars used to be stripped down, with the parts sold for cash.” He added, “Now people are car-jacked, and the cars are often found afterward, crashed or just left on the street.”

I think we ought to try some lessons from the old school. I believe they will help.

# Redistricting is voter suppression too

By Ben Jealous  
People For the American Way



When Charles Diggs Jr., won election to Congress in Michigan’s 13th District in 1954, he launched nearly seven decades in which the city of Detroit had at least one black member of Congress. That’s likely to change this year.

Because of redistricting, Detroit no longer has majority-black congressional districts. And in the first primary election with newly drawn district lines, a black candidate did not win the Democratic contest in the heavily Democratic 13th. That means

the city is likely to lack black representation in Congress for the first time in decades.

Redistricting is robbing black candidates and voters of hard fought for opportunities they have had for years.

In Detroit, new districts merged black areas of the city with white neighborhoods across 8 Mile Road. The city stands to lose black representation in Congress and have less representation in the state legislature.

Knowing what the impact could be, voters have spoken out forcefully against the new redistricting maps from pulpits to street corners to the state capitol and even before the state courts.

Sadly, Michigan is not alone.

The New York Times reported in August that this year, “judges in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Ohio have found that Republican legislators illegally drew those states’ congressional maps along racial or partisan lines, or that a trial very likely would conclude that they did.” But elections are moving forward anyway.

We’ve all heard about the restrictive voter suppression laws that far-right state legislatures are passing. We’ve heard about the crackdowns on voting hours and mail-in voting, and even on giving food and water to voters in long lines. But we don’t hear enough about redistricting as another weapon being used to intimidate voters and keep us from

exercising our constitutional rights. It is erasing us from Congress and state legislatures. We need to call it out and challenge it where we see it.

Calling out and challenging means organizing, litigating and legislating. It means supporting national and local organizations that unite communities against racist gerrymandering and seek justice in the courts. They might not win every case, but advocacy and activism are essential to righting this wrong.

We must also keep voting, running for office and educating. My organization, People For the American Way, houses an African-American Religious Affairs network that has reaffirmed for

more than a decade that “every election matters and every vote counts” – and that includes primaries.

For black ministers in our network, voting and civic participation are acts of faith and so much more.

As Reverend Dr. Steve Bland Jr., pastor of Liberty Temple Baptist Church in Detroit, said, “It’s not about left or right. Splitting Detroit into two districts was an insult. But we have faith and must “deal with our self-interest by voting in every election.”

I know that a lot of media coverage of this summer’s primaries has focused on one big question: will Trump-style, MAGA candidates win or lose? But there’s

another question that needs to be asked: how harmful are the impacts of redistricting on our communities in this year’s elections and those to come?

The current reality dictates that we do not sit out any election. We need to resolutely register, educate, motivate and turn out voters. In every election. Every time.

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





# CLASSIFIED

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AUGUST 25 - 31, 2022

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## LEGAL

### CITY OF JACKSON REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR VARIOUS AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) WATER AND SEWER PROJECTS

The City of Jackson intends to employ consulting engineering firms to provide engineering services utilizing a Cost plus Fixed Fee, Labor Hour/Unit Price or Lump Sum/Firm Fixed Price contract for various water plant, sewer line, and sewer plant projects to be funded or partially funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These services include design engineering, surveying, bidding services, and construction engineering, inspection, and testing services, and related work.

The proposed projects will include the following:

- OB Curtis Water Treatment Plant: Claritrack and Sedimentation Basin Improvements
- West Bank Interceptor Sewer Main Segment 6 Rehabilitation
- West Bank Interceptor Sewer Main Segment 7 Rehabilitation
- Savanna Street 100 mgd Pump Replacement
- Mill St Sewer Reconstruction and Relocation
- Sewer Line Repair and Rehabilitation Project A
- Sewer Line Repair and Rehabilitation Project B

Consulting engineering firms shall submit one proposal for each project that the firm wants to be considered. Do not combine multiple projects into one proposal.

To be considered, the "Expression of Interest" proposal must respond to all requirements of this Legal Advertisement. The recommended proposal length should not exceed twenty-five (25) pages, exclusive of appendices. The resumes (which should not exceed 2 pages per individual in length), SF-330 Part II, proof of State Licensure and certificates requirements, and other information not relevant to the requirements should be included in the appendices. The Consultant's cover letter, table of contents, summaries and introductions, team organizational chart, past performances, and any other responses to the evaluation criteria should be included in the 25 pages. Pages should be numbered, single-spaced, one-sided, 8.5" by 11" with margins of at least one inch on all four sides. No more than five pages may be 11" by 17", but they will count as two sheets each against the recommended 25 page maximum. Information within the recommended 25 page limit of the proposal should be complete and sufficient in scope for the selection committee to evaluate the Consultant. Also, all text information in the recommended 25 page limit should be shown in a readable font, size 12 points or larger. Headers, charts, and other graphics may be provided in a different font type and size providing they are legible. Section dividers, tabs, or similar means are recommended but are not counted as part of the recommended 25 page limit. These recommendations will be considered when evaluating the quality of proposal.

With the exception of the information to be supplied in the appendices, the "Expression of Interest" proposal should be divided into the following sections as listed below.

Consulting engineering firms (CONSULTANT) interested in providing these services may so indicate by furnishing the City {three (3) copies and one (1) CD or Flash Drive} of an Expression of Interest which should consist of the following unless specifically stated otherwise:

1. The Prime CONSULTANT should provide a cover letter specifying the name and complete description of the Contract, the name of the Prime CONSULTANT and any of its Subconsultant(s), the name of an individual who will be the single point of contact throughout the selection process, the name of the project manager, the location and address of the managing office, and the location and address of the office(s) that may be assigned the work. Should any Subconsultant(s) be listed as team members, identify the roles of each of the team's members. In addition, the CONSULTANT must note if this is a joint venture;

2. The CONSULTANT should provide a resume for each principal member, the project manager, and employee(s) of the firm anticipated to be assigned to the project. Also, provide a team organizational chart and list each person's experience and qualifications, including proof that the Project Manager is licensed as a Mississippi Professional Engineer and that the firm has met state licensure and certification requirements\*. The team organizational chart should include each individual's name, job description (for the project), and company of employment,

3. The CONSULTANT should provide a description of similar type work completed during the past five (5) years which qualifies the consultant for this work. Provide a detailed description of the role of the consultant and define whether the consultant was the prime or a subconsultant. Include in the description the amount of the consultant's contract for the work they provided for the project, the date the consultant's project was initiated. The firm should provide contact information for each of the projects. This will include the name of the client and client's representative that can verify and discuss the project;

4. The CONSULTANT should provide a description of the team's approach to performing the services as referenced in this RFP in an efficient manner. This description should identify the CONSULTANT's (and subconsultant's) resources and abilities in project operations, project management and describe how they will utilize their equipment, personnel, and other technical and procedural resources. The CONSULTANT should estimate the number of crews anticipated to perform the work and identify how they intend to break out their resources in an efficient manner to provide proper oversight, inspection, and testing services. In addition, the CONSULTANT should identify any unique company resources, procedures, and/or equipment which will benefit the CONSULTANT to efficiently oversee the PROJECT.

5. The CONSULTANT should provide Part II of Standard Form (SF) 330, Architect-Engineer Qualifications. If a firm has branch offices, complete the form for each specific branch office seeking work. In addition, this form should be completed for any subconsultants in the same manner. This form can be obtained from the following web-address:

[http://sp.gomdot.com/Consulting%20Services/Forms/Standard%20Form%20\(SF\)%20330,%20Part%20II.pdf](http://sp.gomdot.com/Consulting%20Services/Forms/Standard%20Form%20(SF)%20330,%20Part%20II.pdf).

6. The CONSULTANT shall submit a City of Jackson Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) application any proposed EBO waivers. The EBO application form can be found on the CITY's website at <https://www.jacksonms.gov/business-development/>

The City will evaluate the Expressions of Interest based on the following factors listed in their relative order of importance:

- Experience of the Firm in performing specific services and experience on similar CITY projects
- Qualifications and experience of Staff to be assigned to the project based on requested scope of services
- Size of the firm's professional and technical staff with respect to the services needed
- Project Approach
- Local Presence of the Firm
- EBO Application

The CITY reserves the right for each project to select one (1) consultant or select a short list of consultants from whom more information will be required. The CITY reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals, discontinue Contract execution, and/or request additional information with any party at any time prior to final Contract execution.

The CITY's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) program shall apply unless federal or state regulations supersede the City's EBO program. All proposals shall include a completed EBO application and any waiver requests. Information on the CITY's EBO program including the EBO application form can be found on the CITY's website at <https://www.jacksonms.gov/business-development/>

The CONSULTANT should mark any and all pages of the proposal considered to be proprietary information which may remain confidential in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated 25-61-9 and 79-23-1 (1972, as amended). Each page of the proposal that the CONSULTANT considers trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information should be on a different color paper than non-confidential pages and be marked in the upper right hand corner with the word "CONFIDENTIAL." Failure to clearly identify trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information will result in that information being released subject to a public records request.

To be considered, all replies must be received by the Office of the Municipal Clerk, at Jackson City Hall, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205, on or before 3:30 PM p.m. Tuesday, September 20, 2022. The Expressions of Interest should be submitted and marked on the outside as \_ (insert name of project)\_ Consultant Proposal.

Robert Lee, Acting City Engineer  
Department of Public Works

8/25/2022, 9/1/2022

## LEGAL

### AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM (TWELVE MONTHS) ON THE ESTABLISHMENT, CREATION, OR EXPANSION OF BARS AND NIGHTCLUBS OPERATING ON OR ADJACENT TO CAPITOL STREET IN THE CITY'S CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, there is a concern that the location of additional bars in a concentrated area on and around Capitol Street in the City's Central Business District, as established by Section 707-A of the City of Jackson Zoning Ordinance, is both imminent and detrimental to public safety and to the development of this area consistent with the City's comprehensive plan and zoning laws; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Central Business District (or "CBD") which is in the vicinity of City Hall, the State Capitol, and numerous civic, commercial and residential buildings, as further defined in Sections 202.28 and 707-A of the Zoning Ordinance—is to "preserve and perpetuate an intensive and cohesive downtown urban core characterized as the center for employment and as the focus of commercial, governmental, and cultural activities" and "to develop a strong sense of place by extending the duration of downtown's activities by improving the pedestrian environment and creating mutually supportive land uses such as cultural arts, education, entertainment, housing, business, other commerce and government[;]" and

WHEREAS, the public safety and proper development of the Capitol Street Corridor—which is the downtown area adjacent to Capitol Street that is bounded by Amite Street on the north, Pearl Street on the south, State Street on the east, and Mill Street on the west (referred to hereafter as the "Capitol Street Corridor"), is vitally important to the overall success of the CBD and the City as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the existing bars within the Capitol Street Corridor have attracted large crowds to the CBD, which have frequently spilled out of the bars, to public sidewalks and streets—creating dangerous traffic conditions and other concerns for downtown residents, guests of nearby hotels, and neighboring business and property owners; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the effects on the flow of traffic and public right-of-ways caused by the large crowds drawn to existing bars within the Capitol Street Corridor, the city has received reports of dangerous criminal conduct, including the sale of illegal drugs and discharge of firearms in a crowded area, which creates serious public safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, in one recent incident of dangerous criminal activity in the Capitol Street Corridor, which has received significant media attention that is detrimental to the CBD's development, residents reported over 100 rounds fired by semi-automatic weapons in or around a bar operating on Capitol Street during a time in which crowds were congregating in the area, putting patrons, residents, employees, and other persons at serious risk of bodily injury or death; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson Police Department ("JPD") has a significant shortage of officers, with approximately 150 unfilled officer positions, and has publicly encouraged business owners in downtown Jackson—including the CBD and Capitol Street Corridor—to hire private security officers to help combat crime, and protect people and property in the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, there are concerns that the concentration of an excessive number of bars and nightclubs in the Capitol Street Corridor could undermine the City's existing zoning and development plans for the CBD by squeezing out other desirable business and civic property uses, discouraging residential development; and adversely impacting neighboring property uses and property values; and

WHEREAS, the City desires a reasonable period of time to study the impacts of bars on the Capitol Street Corridor and determine whether adoption or amendment of zoning laws and ordinances applicable to the CBD and Capitol Street Corridor—including whether bars should be limited or restricted as permitted uses—is appropriate to address those impacts; and

WHEREAS, this interim moratorium is intended to be of temporary duration so that the impact of bars on the Capitol Street Corridor can be further studied and analyzed, with as little impact on neighboring property owners and businesses as possible, and is necessary as a temporary measure to preserve and promote the health, safety, and general welfare to citizens, the property owners, businesses, and visitors to the CBD and Capitol Street Corridor; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that such study and review can reasonably be completed within a period of twelve months; and

WHEREAS, nothing in this temporary moratorium is meant to restrict or limit the operations of any permitted "bar" that is lawfully operating in the Capitol Street Corridor at the time of adoption of the moratorium; and

WHEREAS, the City has authority to adopt an ordinance, order, or resolution providing for a temporary moratorium on bars and nightclubs pursuant to Mississippi Code Sections 21-17-1 et seq. and 21-13-1 et seq., including the authority to adopt ordinances, orders, and resolutions for the immediate and temporary preservation of the public peace, health, and safety within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that a temporary moratorium on the location, operation, permitting, or construction of bars within the Capitol Street Corridor is necessary to address a significant threat to public safety and to preserve the public peace, health, and safety within the CBD and downtown Jackson more generally.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN FOR THE CITY OF JACKSON ADOPT THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE:

1. The City hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the acceptance of applications for building permits, certificates of occupancies, or privilege licenses for bars within the Capitol Street Corridor—the downtown area adjacent to Capitol Street that is bounded by Amite Street on the north, Pearl Street on the south, State Street on the east, and Mill Street on the west;

2. This moratorium shall apply to any business that meets the definition of "bar" in Section 202.15 or "nightclub" in Section 202.106 of the Zoning Ordinance. For avoidance of doubt, those definitions are recited here. Section 202.15 defines "bar" as "[a] commercial establishment having as its principal use the serving of alcoholic beverages or liquor for consumption on the premises and providing entertainment for its patrons. Food may be served as an accessory use." Section 202.106 defines "nightclub" as "[a] bar or similar establishment where a dance floor or live entertainment is provided."

3. This temporary moratorium shall remain in place for a period of twelve months, unless this moratorium is terminated prior to the end of that period by order of the City Council.

4. Based on the facts and circumstances of each individual case, and subject to approval by the Mayor and City Council, relief from the prohibitions of this moratorium may be granted to avoid undue hardship or for other good cause shown. Repairs and maintenance of existing buildings and structures, consistent with their present primary use and the zoning ordinances of the City of Jackson shall be exempt. The sale or transfer of legal existing businesses for the same continuous use shall be exempt.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED THAT in order to preserve the public peace, health, and safety of the citizens of the City of Jackson and for the reason set forth herein, this ordinance shall be effective immediately from and after its passage.

Vice President Lee moved adoption; Council Member Grizzell 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 July 5, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6V, Pgs. 255-259".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 23rd day of August, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

8/25/2022

## LEGAL

### ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI ESTABLISHING A PUNISHMENT AND FINE FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS OR CUSTODIANS OF MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE WHO HAVE COMMITTED A CRIME WITH A HANDGUN AND/OR FOUND TO HAVE POSSESSION OF A HANDGUN.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi is committed to reducing violent crimes where handguns, firearms and/or illegal firearms are used; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi is dedicated to increasing accountability of parents, guardians and custodians with authority over minors convicted of committing a crime with a firearm, handgun or illegal firearm; and

WHEREAS, the word handgun means a pistol, revolver or other firearm of any description loaded or unloaded, from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged, the length of the barrel of which, not including any revolving, detachable or magazine breech, is less than 16 inches; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance exempts the possession of handguns by minors in accordance with the statutory exemptions listed below in MS State Law Section 97-37-14,

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, it is an act of delinquency for any person who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years knowingly to have any handgun in such person's possession.

(2) This section shall not apply to:

- Any person who is:
  - In attendance at a hunter's safety course or a firearms safety course; or
  - Engaging in practice in the use of a firearm or target shooting at an established range authorized by the governing body of the jurisdiction in which such range is located or any other area where the discharge of a firearm is not prohibited; or
  - Engaging in an organized competition involving the use of a firearm, or participating in or practicing for a performance by an organized group under 501(c)(3) as determined by the federal internal revenue service which uses firearms as a part of such performance; or
  - Hunting or trapping pursuant to a valid license issued to such person by the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or as otherwise allowed by law; or
  - Traveling with any handgun in such person's possession being unloaded to or from any activity described in subparagraph (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) of this paragraph (a) and paragraph (b).
- Any person under the age of eighteen (18) years who is on real property under the control of an adult and who has the permission of such adult to possess a handgun.

(3) This section shall not apply to any person who uses a handgun or other firearm to lawfully defend himself from imminent danger at his home or place of domicile and any such person shall not be held criminally liable for such use of a handgun or other firearm.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "handgun" means a pistol, revolver or other firearm of any description, loaded or unloaded, from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged, the length of the barrel of which, not including any revolving, detachable or magazine breech, is less than sixteen (16) inches.; and

FURTHERMORE, the punishment and/or fine shall not exceed the allocated punishment provided in MS State Law Section 97-37-17, Weapons Possession on Educational Property.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI that an ordinance to codify a punishment and/or fine for parents, guardians or custodians of minors who are less than 18 years of age:

Section 86-92:

(a) Any parent, guardian or custodian who has knowingly caused, encouraged or aided a minor who is less than 18 years old to possess or carry any handgun, firearm or illegal weapon shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by either a fine up to the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or sentenced to serve up to six (6) months in jail, or both.

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO ORDAINED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI thereby also impose liability on adults who improperly store their firearms, thereby allowing children to access them.

[1] Except as provided in Section 97-37-14, a person commits the infraction of "class-one improper storage of a firearm" if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the person keeps any firearm within any premises that are under the person's custody or control;
- the person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to any such firearm without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian, or in a manner not otherwise permissible under Section 97-37-14; and
- the child obtains access to the firearm and thereby causes death or great bodily injury to the child or to any other person.

[2] Except as provided in Section [3], a person commits the infraction of "class-two improper storage of a firearm" if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the person keeps any firearm within any premises that are under the person's custody or control;
  - the person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to any such firearm without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian, or in a manner not otherwise permissible under Section 97-37-14; and
  - the child obtains access to the firearm and thereby causes injury other than death or great bodily injury to the child or any other person, or carries the firearm to a public place.
- [3] Sections [1] and [2] shall not apply whenever any of the following occurs:
- the child obtains the firearm as a result of an illegal entry to the premises by any person;
  - the firearm is kept in a locked container or in a location that a reasonable person would believe to be secure;
  - the firearm is carried on the person or within close enough proximity thereto that the individual can readily retrieve and use the firearm as if carried on the person;
  - the firearm is locked with a locking device, as defined in Section [6], which has rendered the firearm inoperable;
  - the person is a peace officer or a member of the armed forces or the national guard, and the child obtains the firearm during, or incidental to, the performance of the person's duties;
  - the child obtains, or obtains and discharges, the firearm in a lawful act of self-defense or defense of another person;
  - the person who keeps a loaded firearm on any premise that is under the person's custody or control has no reasonable expectation, based on objective facts and circumstances, that a child is likely to be present on the premises; or
  - liability would be inconsistent with any provision of state or federal law.

[4] Class-one improper storage of a firearm is punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisonment of up to six (6) months in jail, or both.

[5] Class-two improper storage of a firearm is punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisonment of up to six (6) months in jail, or both.

[6] A "locking device" means a device designed to prevent a firearm from functioning and that, when applied to the firearm, renders the firearm inoperable.

IT IS THEREBY ORDERED that this ordinance shall be effective and enforceable thirty (30) days after adoption and publication.

Council Member Banks moved adoption; Council Member Grizzell seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee, Lindsay and Stokes.  
Nays – None.  
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 July 5, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6V, Pgs. 260-262".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 23rd day of August, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

8/25/2022





LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 106-37 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI PROVIDING THE USER CHARGE FOR RESIDENTIAL SANITATION SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the last rate increase in the user charge for residential sanitation services occurred in 2008; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the user charge is necessary because the current charge is insufficient to pay the cost of the City's emergency agreement for residential solid waste collection, to pay the anticipated cost of the new agreement for residential solid waste collection that is anticipated to begin on April 1, 2022, to pay the current agreement for the disposal of the collected solid waste, and to pay the operating costs of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, without an increase in the user charge, the City will be required to use the General Fund budget and reserves to balance the budget of the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, which could adversely affect the level and quality of services funded by General Fund appropriations, such as the Police and Fire Departments; and

WHEREAS, at its October 2, 2006 Special Meeting, the City Council increased the residential units user fee from \$15.39 to \$20.00 per month for solid waste collection and disposal services with automatic increases effective October 1, 2007 and October 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 21-13-11 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, this ordinance should take effect immediately upon passage because the current user charge is insufficient during this fiscal year to pay the cost of the City's emergency agreement for residential solid waste collection, to pay the anticipated cost of the new agreement for residential solid waste collection that is anticipated to begin on April 1, 2022, to pay the current agreement for the disposal of the collected solid waste, and to pay the operating costs of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, Section 106-37 (a) should be amended as follows:  
(a) Effective November 1, 2006, there shall be imposed on all occupied single-family residential units a user fee of \$20.00 \$37.00 per month for solid waste collection disposal services, and operations of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Works, which may be provided under the auspices of the city.  
(b) Effective October 1, 2007, there shall be imposed on all occupied single family residential units a user fee of \$20.40 per month for solid waste collection and disposal services, which may be provided under the auspices of the city.  
(c) Effective October 1, 2008, there shall be imposed on all occupied single family residential units a user fee of \$20.80 per month for solid waste collection and disposal services, which may be provided under the auspices of the city.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 106-37 (a) should be amended as follows:

(a) There is hereby imposed on all persons who occupy residential units a user fee of \$37.00 per month for solid waste collection and disposal service, and operations of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Works.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to Section 21-13-11 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 as amended, this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage by a unanimous vote of all members of the City Council because the current user charge is insufficient during the current fiscal year to pay the cost of the City's emergency agreement for residential solid waste collection, to pay the anticipated cost of a new agreement residential solid waste collection, and to pay the operating costs of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Works.

SECTION 3. The Municipal Clerk shall cause this ordinance to be publish.

Vice President Lee moved adoption; Council Member Grizzell seconded.

Yeas –Foote, Grizzell, Lee and Lindsay.  
Nays – Banks, Hartley and 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 July 5, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6V, Pgs. 262-263".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 23rd day of August, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

8/25/2022

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 r elate 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

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEE COVID-19 PREMIUM PAY FROM THE CHILD CARE STRONG STABILIZATION GRANT AS A PART OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (WESTSIDE CENTER & JONES CENTER).

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2022, the Jackson City Council authorized the Mayor of the City of Jackson to accept two Child Care Strong Stabilization Grants totaling \$1,041,307.05 to increase employee recruitment and retention and make repairs and improvements at the Westside Early Childhood Development Center ("Westside") and the Jones Early Childhood Development Center ("Jones"); and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson, through the Department of Human and Cultural Services, has received its allocation of Child Care Strong Funding, which may be used to pay a premium to employees who performed essential work in response to the Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, to qualify for the funded premium pay, an eligible employee must perform essential work during the pandemic. The U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule to implement the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (hereinafter "Final Rule") defines "essential work" as "work involving regular in-person interactions or regular handling of items that were also handled by the public or co-workers of the individual performing the work;" and

WHEREAS, the Final Rule provides that premium pay may not be awarded to an employee for telework and an employee who works in person, but the nature of their work does not involve regular in-person interaction with others or regular physical handling of items that are handled by others; and

WHEREAS, the Final Rule further provides, the City of Jackson may use premium pay to respond to eligible works performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency if:

1. The eligible worker's total wages and remuneration, including the premium pay is less than or equal to 150 percent of the greater of such eligible worker's residing State's or county's average annual wage for all occupations as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupations Employment and Wage Statistics;
  2. The eligible worker is not exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act overtime provisions (29 U.S.C. 207); or
  3. The City of Jackson has submitted to the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury a written justification that explains how to provide premium pay to the eligible worker performing essential work during the COVID-19 public emergency.
- WHEREAS, it is the Director of Human and Cultural Service and the Early Childhood Division's opinion that eight employees at the Westside center and seven employees at the Jones center provided in-person work that required in-person interaction with the public for the City and were needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure services, including family or childcare; and

WHEREAS, on average, employees at the Westside center provided childcare services to at least 19 children, and at least 23 children were served at the Jones center from March 2021 through March 2022; and  
WHEREAS, the Final Rule defines "premium pay" as an amount of up to \$13.00 per hour that is paid to an eligible worker, in addition to wages or remuneration the eligible worker otherwise receives, for all work performed by the eligible worker during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Such amount may not exceed \$25,000.00 in total over the period of performance with respect to any single worker; and

WHEREAS, premium pay may be awarded to non-hourly and part-time eligible workers and will be considered to be in addition to wages or remuneration the eligible worker otherwise receives if, as measured on an hourly rate, the premium pay is:

1. With regard to work that the eligible worker previously performed, pay and remuneration equal to the sum of all wages and remuneration previously received plus up to \$13.00 per hour with no reduction, substitution, offset, or other diminishment of the eligible worker's previous, current or prospective wages or remuneration; or
  2. With regard to work that the eligible worker continues to perform, pay of up to \$13.00 per hour that is in addition to the eligible worker's regular rate of wages, substitution, offset, or other diminishment of the worker's current and prospective wages or remuneration.
- WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council can provide premium pay on an hourly basis, as a lump sum per pay period, as a monthly allotment, as a one-time payment, or according to other similar methods. The funds must be paid for work already performed. The funds may not be used to provide sign-on bonuses or similar upfront payments. If paid retroactively, it may not be used to reduce current or prospective compensation to the employee. And if an employee qualifies for a raise or bonus, according to the City of Jackson's pay classification plan, it may not be used to substitute for that raise or bonus; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Human and Cultural Services, through the Early Childhood Division, recommends that each eligible worker that performed essential work on or after March 3, 2021, receive COVID-19 premium pay in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) allotment for work previously performed or continued to be performed during the pandemic for the months of May, June, July, August, and September 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Child Care funds must be obligated by September 30, 2022, and must be liquidated by September 20, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Final Rule requires that the City of Jackson provide the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury periodic reports proving detailed accounting of the use of funds and such other information as the Secretary may require. Distribution and reporting information shall specifically comply with any rules set forth by the U.S. Department of Treasury in its Final Rule to implement the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds designated as 31 C.F.R. Part 35 in the Federal Register, January 27, 2022.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the City Council of the City of Jackson that the Mayor is hereby authorized to submit the following allocation out of the payment received by the City of Jackson under the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to support the stability of the child care sector during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers during the COVID-19 in an amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00);

1. All eligible full-time child care employees of the City of Jackson employed by the City on or after March 3, 2021, shall receive a payment of One Thousand Dollars as a monthly allotment from May 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022, or until all available funds are expended.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Council Member Banks seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee, Lindsay and Stokes.  
Nays – None.  
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 Special Council Meeting July 19, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6V, Pgs. 295-299".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 23rd day of August, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

8/25/2022

LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 122-40 OF THE JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR AN APPEAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL FROM THE DETERMINATION OF THE HEARING OFFICER.

WHEREAS, the Water-Sewer Utility Division of the Department of Public Works has emergency need for by-pass pumps to comply with the Clean Water Act to address certain sewer main breaks at various locations within the City of Jackson's wastewater collections system; and

WHEREAS, due to exigent circumstances, the procurement of these by-pass pumps from Hydraservice, Inc. was done without prior approval by the City Purchasing Manager or the City Council of the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, the by-pass pumps at the locations set forth in certain invoices attached hereto totaling \$430,418.59 were provided by Hydraservice, Inc. to the Water-Sewer Utilities Division; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that sewerage is prevented from freely running on the ground and into the rivers and lakes of the United States and to assist the City in complying with the Clean Water Act, it is necessary to pay these outstanding invoices to continue receiving any needed equipment from this vendor.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that rental of bypass pumps from Hydraservice, Inc.

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS  
PROPOSED OB CURTIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT CONVENTIONAL FILTER REHABILITATION PROJECT – PHASE #1  
SRF LOAN# DWI-L250008-03  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CDT, September 27, 2022, at the Municipal Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials, and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of PROPOSED OB CURTIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT CONVENTIONAL FILTERS REHABILITATION PROJECT – PHASE #1, SRF LOAN NO. DWI-L250008-03. Please address the envelope to City of Jackson Municipal Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The entire project must be completed within five hundred ten (510) calendar days. The contract will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the contract time is exceeded.

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 precondition to selection,

each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) plan. 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 Michael Davis with the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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.

Minority and women's business enterprises are solicited to bid on this contract as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities and equipment, material, and/or supply needs.

This contract is funded in whole or in part by funds from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 214 (H.R. 3547); therefore, this project must comply with the American Iron and Steel Requirements of the Act.

Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in whole or in part by anticipated funds from the Drinking Water Systems Improvements Revolving Loan Fund (DWSIRLF) loan program from the State of Mississippi. Neither the State of Mississippi, the Local Governments and Rural Water Systems Improvements Board, the MS Department of Health, the MS Commission on Environmental Quality, nor any of their employees, is or will be a party to this invitation for bids or any resulting or related contracts. This procurement will be subject to all applicable sections of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, as they apply to local governments, in accordance with Appendix D of the DWSIRLF Program Regulations.

The PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

1. Office of the Consulting Engineer: Cornerstone Engineering LLC, located at 600 Northside Drive, Suite A, Clinton, MS 39056, call Mauricka McKenzie, P.E., Project Engineer at 601-473-2403 office. One copy of the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be procured from the Consulting Engineer, upon payment of \$300, none of which is refundable.
2. Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.central-bidding.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.
3. Office of the MSDH/DWSIRLF Program: located at 570 East Woodrow Wilson, Suite U232, Jackson MS 39215, call Harry Gong, P.E., Project Manager at 601-576-7518.

The BID SCHEDULE may be examined at the following locations:

A. Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program (MPTAP) Mississippi Development Authority, Minority & Small Business Development Woolfolk Building  
501 North West Street, Suite B-01  
Jackson, MS 39201  
Contact: LaTisha Landing 601-359-3448

The Standard Specifications adopted by the City Council may be procured from the Department of Public Works, if desired upon payment of 5.00 dollars for each specification.

A nonmandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on September 15, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. local time, onsite at the OB Curtis WTP facility. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi law and possess a certificate of responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Contractors establishing its classification as to the value and type of construction on which it is authorized to bid. Each bidder must deposit with its proposal, a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid for the work, payable to the City of Jackson, as the bid security.

The successful bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded. Attorneys-in-fact who sign Bid Bonds or Payment Bonds and Performance Bonds must file with each bond a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney.

Proposals shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed, and deposited with the City of Jackson's Municipal Clerk prior to the hour and date designated above. Each bidder shall write its certificate of responsibility number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing its proposal.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all informalities

Acting City Engineer

8/25/2022, 9/1/2022

LEGAL

is hereby ratified and payment to Hydraservice, Inc. in the amount of \$430,418.59 be made, consistent with the attached invoices.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Vice President Lee seconded

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee, Lindsay and Stokes.  
Nays – None.  
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 Special Council Meeting July 19, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6V, Pg. 300".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 23rd day of August, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

8/25/2022



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NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF ACTION LOCATED WITHIN FLOODPLAIN

Address: 218 S. President Street; 2nd Floor, Jackson, MS 39201

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:

A notice appeared in the newspapers listed above on the corresponding publication dates, inviting participation in the floodplain management decision-making process. Specifically, we invited comments regarding a program being proposed by the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

PROJECT: Healthy Homes Production Grant; Grant Number: MSHHP0058-22; Award Amount: \$1,581,981.13; Grant Period: May 1, 2022 – November 1, 2025. Community Development Block Grant; Grant Number: B-18-MC-28-0003; Award Amount: \$147,087.85; Grant Year: 2018. Grant Number: B-19-MC-28-0003; Grant Amount: \$450,000.00; Grant Year: 2019. Grant Number: B-20-MC-28-0003; Grant Amount: \$300,000.00; Grant Year: 2020.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to provide healthy homes and housing rehabilitation interventions that reduce or prevent health hazards identified in homes due to disrepair in dwellings where children, individuals 62 and/or older, and disabled individuals reside. Ultimately, the goal of the program is to increase the number of residential properties that are safe from health hazards caused by issues such as improper ventilation, standing water, faulty plumbing, collapsing structures, lead-based paint hazards, and other health related hazards identified. This will be accomplished by providing lead-based paint and other hazard assessments, removal/abatement, stabilization, and minor rehabilitation activities.

LOCATION: The proposed project will be conducted within jurisdictional boundaries of Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson completed an evaluation concerning potential impacts on the floodplain and possible alternative actions. The proposed program could involve projects located within a 100-year floodplain. The conclusion was that there is no practicable alternative to the possibility of potential projects being located within the following Flood Zones A, AO, AH, A1-A30, A99, V and V1-V30. It has been determined that the program must occur within the intended target area/areas, as described above.

The alternatives considered included: 1) Denying participants that reside in the floodplain; 2) relocation of housing units and families; 3) no action.

These alternatives were rejected for the following reasons: 1) denying families services

will leave eligible children under the age of 6 exposed to dangerous lead paint hazards; 2) it is cost prohibitive and not feasible to physically move or raise structures out of the floodplain; 3) a no action alternative would certainly not serve to maintain affordable, safe (from lead-based paint or other housing-based health hazards as appropriate) housing for families.

In order to minimize risk and potential loss (to life, health, and financial investment), owners, and tenants will be notified that their units are located in the floodplain and flood insurance will be a required contingency to participation in the grant program. The amount and period of coverage will conform to the National Flood Insurance Program requirements.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) respecting the subject program has been made by the above-named jurisdiction which documents floodplain information and contains a full description of the proposed actions. The ERR is on file at the address listed above and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. by calling 601-960-2155.

Final approval of the City of Jackson's Healthy Homes Production Grant and Community Development Block Grant Programs will not be approved until/unless interested groups, individuals, or agencies have had an opportunity to comment. Comments will be accepted by Dr. Mary Manogin via email at ohcd@jacksonms.gov until September 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m..

For further information regarding HUD's regulations concerning floodplain management contact:

Karen M. Griego  
Program Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes  
U.S. Department of HUD  
500 Gold Ave SW, Suite 7301  
P.O. Box 906  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
Phone 505.346.6462 (this is not a toll-free number). Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 800-877-8339.  
E-mail: karen.m.griego@hud.gov  
\*\*RE" refers to the Responsible Entity, as defined at 24 CFR 58.2(a)(7).

8/25/2022

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

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Week of August 21, 2022





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## JPS scholars overcoming academic challenges during pandemic

### Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) recently released statewide results from the 2021-22 Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP), which shows considerable improvement for scholars in Jackson Public Schools. Overall, the percentage of scholars scoring proficient or advanced in English Language Arts (ELA) is 26.8%, 21.4% in Mathematics, and 32.5% in Science. While performance in Science held steady, performance in U.S. History exceeded the pre-pandemic level.

After achieving modest improvements with proficiency scores in 2019 and no state test administration in 2020, JPS achievement in 2021 reflected the devastating impact of the pandemic resulting in 8.8 and 14.7 percentage point declines in ELA and Math, respectively. However, scholars' performance on this year's MAAP assessment demonstrates dramatic gains – nearing pre-pandemic levels.

While celebrating scholars and educators, district officials acknowledge there is much more work to be done.

In Mathematics, the number of scholars scoring proficient or above increased from 9.1% in 2021 to 21.4% in 2022 – a gain of 12.3%.

In English Language Arts,

the number of scholars scoring proficient or above increased from 18.3% in 2021 to 26.8% in 2022.

In Science, the number of scholars scoring proficient or above increased from 20.4% in 2021 to 32.5% in 2022 (a gain of 12.1% and matching our pre-pandemic level of 32.5% in 2019).

"I am extremely proud of the academic gains our scholars have made and the work put forth by our teachers, support staff, and administrators," said Superintendent Errick L. Greene. "The delivery of quality instruction is where the rubber meets the road. Although the pandemic caused significant interruptions to teaching and learning, I am pleased to see our scholars accelerating toward academic success."

Michael Cormack, deputy superintendent, explained, "JPS focused teaching and learning on the ABCs: Acceleration, Balanced Assessment, and Culture of Observation/Feedback. We used this frame to align our professional development and instructional coaching to ensure that teachers and scholars were fully supported to make faster gains."

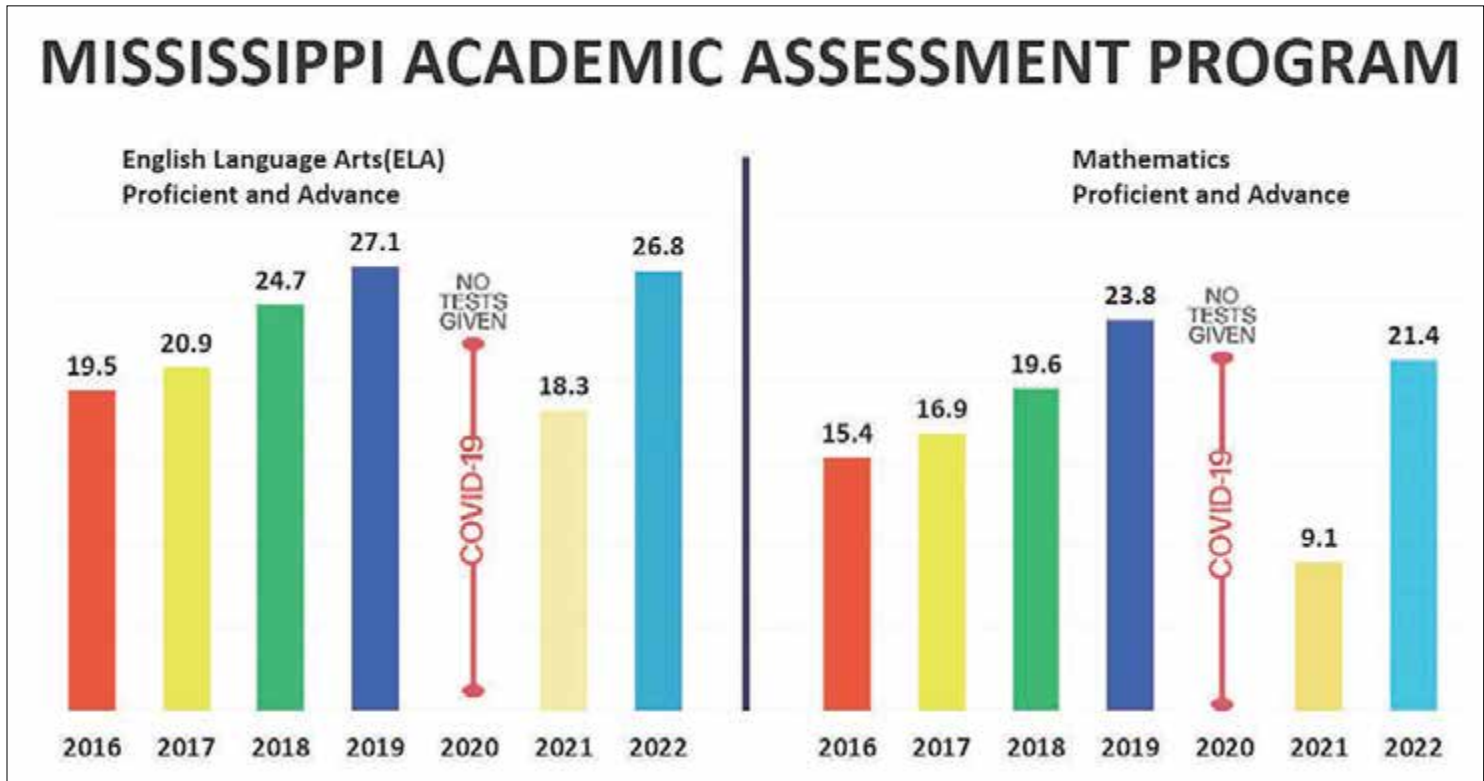
Accountability grades for the 2021-22 school year will be released at the Mississippi State Board of Education meeting September 29, 2022.



Jim Hill High science teacher Susan Bender helps a scholar identify an object through a microscope.



Callaway High chemistry teacher Linda Horton lectures her class regarding an assignment.



This chart displays the District's performance in ELA and Math from 2016 to 2022.

## Promote the Vote (PTV) K-12 education program now available



**Michael Watson**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

### Mississippi Link Newswire

Registration for the Secretary of State's 2022 Promote the Vote (PTV) program is now available online at [www.sos.ms.gov/PTV](http://www.sos.ms.gov/PTV). This year's theme "Why Vote?" encourages students to consider the importance of voting and how it corresponds to their beliefs and values.

PTV is the Secretary of State's comprehensive K-12 voter education program that consists of a statewide mock election, an essay, art and video production contests.

"Our children are the most valuable resources we have and through the commitment of Mississippi teachers to utilize PTV in the classroom, we are able to begin educating our youngest generation of voters on civic engagement and responsibility," said Secretary of

State Michael Watson.

The PTV Mock Election is open to all students who are enrolled in a Mississippi school or program registered for Promote the Vote. Students will "vote" for their mid-term election candidates during a statewide mock election Wednesday, October 26.

In partnership with Mississippi Public Broadcasting's (MPB) Education Department, a social media contest for all participating schools will be held. Details regarding the social media contest can be found on the SOS website.

The PTV art contest is available for kindergarten through 12th grade students, and the PTV essay and video production contests are available to any student in grades 6-12.

All contest winners and their teachers will be invited to attend an awards ceremony in Jackson in early 2023.

Anyone wishing to participate in our PTV program must register online. If you have any questions or need assistance registering for the mock election or PTV contests, please contact our External Affairs Division at [PTV@sos.ms.gov](mailto:PTV@sos.ms.gov) or 601-359-4454.

PTV Registration will remain open until November 25, 2022, at 5 p.m. It is free, easy, and only takes a few minutes to complete. All contest submissions will be due December 16, 2022, at 5 p.m.

For more information about PTV, or to register to become a participating school or classroom, visit [www.sos.ms.gov/PTV](http://www.sos.ms.gov/PTV).





BOOK REVIEW:

THE FAME GAME:

AN INSIDER’S PLAYBOOK FOR EARNING YOUR 15 MINUTES

BY RAMON HERVEY II

C.2022, AMISTAD

\$27.99 • 333 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

Who are you? That’s a common question and depend on how it’s asked you might have a dozen different answers. You’re a parent, an athlete, a hard worker, a cook, a reader, someone who’s curious, smart, colorful, serious, divine. You know who you are, and if you follow the new book “The Fame Game” by Ramon Hervey II, soon everyone will.

Like a lot of kids, Ramon Hervey II grew up with celebrities’ names on the periphery of his at-

tention but it wasn’t until he was a young man working as a Pan Am flight attendant that he had his first real brushes with fame.

Before he switched careers to work in the music industry, he served Peter Jennings, actress Shirley McLaine and Miles Davis in-flight. Later, at Motown Records, he met Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson and Diana Ross. When he went into public relations at Rogers & Cowan, “one of the premier entertainment public relations companies in the industry,” he worked with superstars like Babyface and Pe-

ter Frampton.

You’d think that with all those stars circling his life, Hervey’d know a thing or two about fame. And he does: he knows how you can catch it, or at least enter its orbit.

Comedian Richard Pryor, who was a challenge, taught Hervey that “a path of self-destruction can sabotage fame.” Ever-gracious Bette Midler taught him why authenticity is important and fame should never “define your self-worth.” Hervey didn’t trust Little Richard who refused to let the public “dictate” his

fame.

The Bee Gees showed him that fame can be repeatedly gained and lost. From Quincy Jones, he learned that superstardom can be harder to manage than mere fame (and Jones did it gracefully). Rick James taught Hervey about being “obsessed with the wrong thing. And Al Crouch taught him to dream, and to be honest about “self-inflicted setbacks...” Hervey showed Don Cornelius how much Cornelius needed the media’s help to be famous. And a Miss America’s “mistake” helped Hervey to find

the love of his life...

Sometimes, you have to shake your head until it rattles at the way your favorite celebrity acts like a fool. Still, you almost can’t get enough of that knucklehead de ss, and “The Fame Game” gives you even more.

And yet, author Ramon Hervey II doesn’t do so just for the sake of telling. You won’t read about silly scandals inside this book, no sleep-around tell-alls or party-all-night tales. Instead each chapter, which is built around one or more stars, offers a hint on how you can stay

grounded if you’re looking at (or for) fame yourself. Chapters lead readers into the tips, and Hervey uses his time with the famous to illustrate his reasoning.

And there’s where readers will smile: Hervey doesn’t unnecessarily put himself on the stage here, and there’s no gratuitous name-dropping. He acts heroically sometimes for his clients, but he’s not the hero of the story, which allows his points to shine forth. And those tips make “The Fame Game” a winner, no matter who you are.

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Website: [www.hindscountymiss.com](http://www.hindscountymiss.com)

# Jackson State University's Public Radio, WJSU, expands its music format for young, multicultural audiences

## The Mississippi Link Newswire

With an Urban Alternative grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), WJSU-FM, Jackson State University will officially launch a new urban radio format, "The Sipp.FM" Saturday, August 27, 2022, at noon. The Sipp.FM is the HD2 streaming signal of listener supported "Cool and Current," WJSU-FM, JSU's Public Radio Station.

While WJSU will continue its commitment and service of jazz, news and information to the Jackson Metro area, the station will provide a music format that appeals to a young, multicultural audiences. The Sipp.FM will feature commercial free programming centered in community and culture.

In addition to highlighting hip-hop and urban music from around the country, the station will also focus on Mississippi artists. With their primarily digital footprint, The Sipp.FM will meet audiences where they are in the shift to streaming while introducing public media to younger, more ethnically diverse listeners.

"We are grateful to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for affording WJSU the opportunity to reach a new generation of listeners – WJSU will capitalize on its current solid foundation in public radio and expand its range to a larger local and worldwide audience," said Anthony Dean, general manager of WJSU-FM.

"With this expansion, WJSU-FM will grow to be a much



stronger force and a true leader in the public radio arena."

Dr. Elayne H. Anthony, chair of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at JSU, agreed.

"I am proud of WJSU's historic transition to include a younger, multicultural community in its broadcast service. Our students stand to gain an abundance of hands-on experience and make significant contributions as the next generation of broadcasters."

The station has been built from the ground up by WJSU staff members consisting of, Chief Engineer, Dale Morris, Program Director, Meredith Hairston and Music Manager, DeShun Nance.

It launches with veteran DJ's and radio personalities: DJ Unpredictable 601 in the mornings, Coco Chanel middays, DJ Java on the afternoon drive and JSU senior Mass Communications major, JCo in the evenings. The

station will feature Hip Hop, Rap, R&B, Neo Soul and Southern Soul (Blues) music.

On August 27 at 12 p.m., WJSU will "flip the switch" for The Sipp.FM. Listeners can tune in via [thesipp.fm](http://thesipp.fm) or 88.5 FM.

The launch kicks off with a ribbon cutting at WJSU, located at the MS e-Center. At 2:30 p.m., festivities move to the Gibbs-Green Plaza on the main campus of JSU where students and community members are invited to enjoy live DJs, food trucks and a host of exhibitors.

The day culminates at 4 p.m. with a concert featuring JACK-IE JACKIE, R&B Sensation STEFANIE, Hip Hop Phenom VITAMIN CEA, Local Hip Hop Pioneer 5TH CHILD, JSU Alum & New Pop Sensation BREZAY, Featuring DEV MACCC and performing one of the biggest dance records from the south, "Monkey Swang," The Iconic I-55 BOYS.

# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE



Senator David Blount, Representative Ronnie Crudup and Mr. Skinner from Skinner Chevrolet, donated 200 clear book bags to the Hinds County School District at Gary Road Intermediate School. Dr. Delesicia Martin, Hinds County School Superintendent, Dr. Robert Sanders and Mrs. Michelle Ray, Assistant Superintendents, and Pastor Tonie Crisler, Community Relation Specialist, greeted them with gratitude for this wonderful and needed donation.





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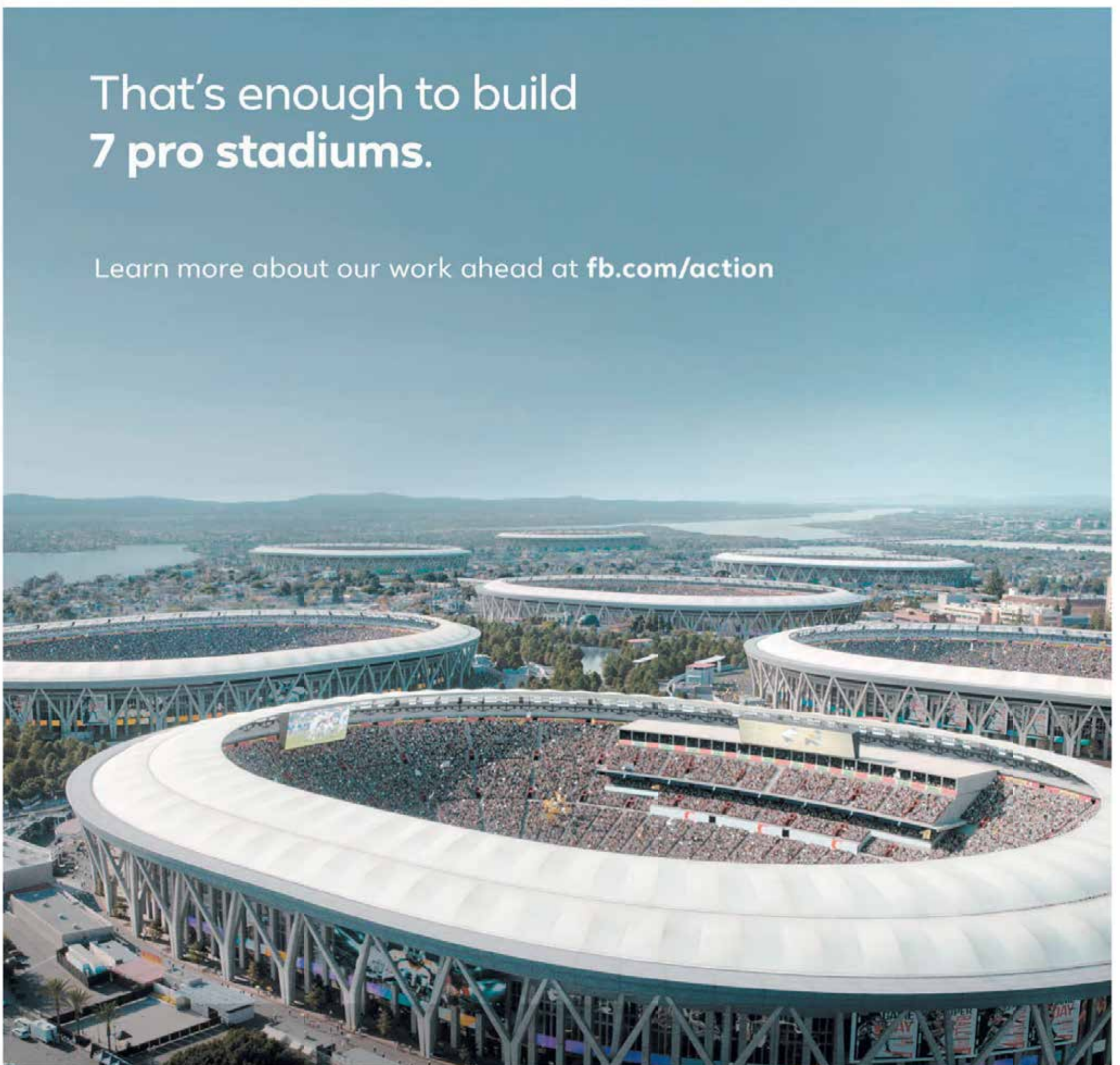


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