

Community voices heard loud and clear at College Hill

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba held a community meeting at College Hill Baptist Church Tuesday night and the residents of Jackson were surely heard; sometimes through tears and other times through resolute exclamations that the City of Jackson is not for sale.

The meeting was focused on the water crisis and the mayor painstakingly laid out where we have been, where we are now, and where we need to go moving forward. He shared numerous graphics, capital improvement plans, specific infrastructure requests made of the state, personal letters that have gone unanswered, and gave credit to a long line of past mayors who have sought help with infrastructure issues but been largely ignored.

He made his case against privatization, against a regional plan, and against a state takeover of Jackson's water and sewer services. He is, however, advocating for a third-party operations and maintenance agreement.

Chief Financial Officer Fidelis Malembeka articulated a lengthy list of aspects related to revenue and expenditure realities that Jackson is dealing with and spared no detail. He indicated that the City Council had recently adopted the 2023 budget including \$30.8 million for sewer projects. He mentioned that \$34 of Jackson's \$42 million in ARPA funds will go toward water and sewer infrastructure, and with the State indicating a dollar-for-dollar match, it will be very helpful, but that more will be needed. He also mentioned Hinds County recently deciding to share \$17 million of their ARPA funds with Jackson, which will also be matched by the State. He



Mayor Lumumba leading community meeting at College Hill Church, Sept. 12, 2022. PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER YOUNG

stressed numerous plans that have been shared with many entities and went into the EPA Consent Decree and that negotiations are ongoing yet currently more cannot be revealed about those negotiations due to a non-disclosure agreement.

Malembeka also mentioned being able to borrow money from the state through the State Revolving Loan Fund; low interest rate loans. And mentioned that Mississippi has received \$75 million this year for water and sewer infrastructure, but that 51% is added to the State Revolving Loan Fund,

*Water
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Socrates Garrett asking questions regarding City of Jackson's destiny. PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

Malcolm X becomes 1st black honoree in Nebraska Hall of Fame

The Associated Press

Fifteen years after being rejected as too controversial, Malcolm X is the first black honoree to be inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame.

The organization's commission selected the civil rights icon Monday with a 4-3 vote, edging out the late University of Nebraska educator and author Louise Pound.

"Malcolm X used the lessons he learned early in life and his intellectual power, dedication and perseverance in the fight for freedom and equality for all during the civil rights movement in America," said commission chairman Ron Hull. "His work and his legacy continue to impact the citizens of the world."

Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska,



Malcolm X

in 1925 as the son of a Baptist preacher. His family left for Milwaukee the following year after threats from the Ku Klux Klan.

At 20, he was convicted of burglary in New York and sentenced to nearly seven years in prison, where he converted to Islam

and later changed his name. He emerged as a fiery Nation of Islam minister with a message that black people should cast off white oppression "by any means necessary," before later splitting from the Nation of Islam and renouncing racial separatism.

He was assassinated in Manhattan's Audubon Ballroom by gunmen who opened fire during a speaking engagement.

The firebrand was first nominated for Nebraska's Hall of Fame in 2004, but passed over by a commission made up solely of white men who instead selected a mid-1900s U.S. senator who made a name for himself with his campaign to remove gay men from government posts in the 1940s and 1950s. The pick of Sen. Kenneth Wherry was later nixed because of an open-meetings violation.

Malcolm X was passed over again in 2007 for little-known botanist Charles Bessey. Each Nebraska Hall of Fame member is immortalized with a bronze bust displayed in the state Capitol.



What you can't see in Jackson

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer



What do you see when a city is your home? It's quite a lengthy list. Grown-ups and children scurrying back and forth in the activity of their lives, neighbors, schools, growth, change, set-backs, celebration and sorrow.

You see so much here in Jackson. You notice when an old building is finally torn down, and when a new house is built, or when a new business sprouts up and when one closes its doors. You see when prices change at the pumps, grocery store, on your insurance premiums, and your water and light bill. You see if your neighbor is walking a little slow to the mailbox lately, or when a fire truck grinds on by, or the whooshing pass of a JPD patrol car – siren blaring. You watch and read the local news and get to see what those folks think you should see. You see so much when a city is your home. Every morsel of what you see has meaning because you care.

Our city, Jackson Mississippi, is a black city. Estimates vary between 150,000 and 170,000 residents. 84% black/African-American. The recent Census tells us 25% of the folks in our city live in poverty. You know what you don't see in our black city though? You don't see an abundance of thriving black businesses. You certainly don't see many large black businesses – the kind that a man or woman, a mom or dad, can earn a living wage year after year to raise their children. The kind where health insurance and paid leave are the norm, rather than the exception. Small black businesses are everywhere, but not larger ones – businesses that would serve as a black economic engine in our black city; a source of pride and advancement. As a direct result of what you don't see – we suffer.

Why is that? That's not the way it is in Chicago, Detroit, Birmingham and Atlanta, just to name a few. But here in Jackson, black businesses and black contractors struggle over crumbs – in a black city. God bless the ones that can find a niche and excel. Year after year, the city government awards less than 5% of its contracts for goods and services to black businesses – and that is with a black mayor and a majority black city council. No one seems to lose any sleep over it. It's the norm.

Ask yourself the last time you heard a black elected official at the local level, or even

the state level, demand a higher percentage of contracts? Our Governor, who always shows his true colors, promised voters that he would govern for all of Mississippi. Not true. There is always work going on at The Capitol and The Mansion that the Governor resides in – even take notice of who those contractors are? Have people forgot who it was that built those buildings, as well as Jackson City Hall? Have we forgot who built Mississippi?

Even today, with all the talk about contracts to repair water and sewer infrastructure, distribution lines, and so forth – have you heard one member of our legislative delegation stepping to the microphones to demand that black businesses get a high percentage of those contracts? Sadly, we have not. They seem very capable. Yet they appear to lack the willingness to stand and fight for black businesses. Have they forgotten Fannie Lou Hamer, Medgar Evers, Vernon Dahmer and James Meredith?

Save our mayor, who else pushes back against the white supremacy that controls the conditions on the ground in Jackson? So many intelligent and experienced people making campaign promises to serve us, but our conditions do not change.

Medgar Evers was shot in the back by a white supremacist on June 12, 1963. He died soon after at a Jackson hospital. The shooting occurred just hours after President John F. Kennedy announced nationally that he would ask Congress to enact civil rights legislation. Earlier in June of 1963, at a speech as part of a direct-action campaign, Evers stated "We will be demonstrating here until freedom comes to Negroes here in Jackson, Mississippi."

Some sixty years later, just ask the simple question, what are the civil rights for the majority of the residents of Jackson, Mississippi? Should they include opportunity for safe, affordable housing, quality public education, safe neighborhoods, the ability to earn a living wage, a level playing field to transact business?

In an 85% black city, should rights include safe and reliable water?

If a city is your home and you don't even demand safe and reliable water service, it's easy to see how black businesses don't expand and prosper in a black city. To the extent that this continues becomes the extent of our indifference.



Former neighborhood children, pacesetters for Cleanup Day held in Virden Addition

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

It began with a text message from Willa Watson which read: “Family, come join us in cleaning up the community we love and call home...” She explained that she and another sibling, Autry Richmond, were planning Cleanup Day which was held September 10 from 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon on Collier Avenue, Lampton Avenue and Bailey Avenue in Virden Addition.

While family members did not respond within the text message, they arrived with shovels, rakes, weed eaters, gloves and other tools.

Keep Jackson Beautiful, an organization that engages in cleanups, donated garbage bags, gloves, safety vests, grabbers and the Keep Jackson Beautiful banner.

Volunteer Bethan Read, member of Keep Jackson Beautiful, said she was happy to be engaged with the group cleanup while using her weed



L-R: Willa Kenney Watson; Jackson Police Officer Bernard Burton; Autry Kenney Richmond



Willa Kenney Watson clears rubbish from concrete. PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT



L-R Charlene Kenney Taylor; Yancy Kenney; Bethan Read; Zion Stockett; Willa Kenney Watson; Louis Holmes; Autry Kenney Richmond; Margie Kenney Thompson.

eater.

Some passersby left their homes, parked their vehicles and volunteered their services.

Adrienne Stockett and her children approached Richmond. When they were invited to work, one of the children said that he would work for pay. Richmond firmly stated, “You will only get a snack and flavored water for volunteering.”

Stockett and the children put on vests.

As Stockett watched, Yancy Kenney began to teach the children how to pick up the trash

and place it in the garbage bag that he was holding. The children followed his instructions.

Jackson police officer Bernard Burton was driving through the neighborhood and greeted the workers. He said to one of the adults, “Today is a great day for the citizens of Jackson who stay in this Virden Addition community. Not only do you have the Mississippi Beautiful Organization, but you have citizens from the community and the next generation. It is very important that we teach by example. The

youth, the next generation, are out here watching everything that you do.”

“But the main thing,” Burton continued, “is we’re teaching youth out here today how to keep the community beautiful so that little boy and that little girl will grow up like the adults who are out here working.”

Though officer Burton clocked out from his scheduled community service, he clocked in again and remained with the group until they completed their work at 12:00 noon.

“Caring citizens of Jackson

challenge every street, avenue, boulevard and alley to do their part to help eliminate disease in all neighborhoods. Jacksonians can and will make a difference by creating beautiful and healthy environments for all,” expressed Richmond.

Richmond mentioned that Community Cleanup Day will occur again in the Virden Addition section of the city October 8, 2022. “From 7:30 a.m. – 12 noon, volunteers return to clear trash and garbage, weed and cut grass to uncover hidden curbs and water drains, and haul to

dump. Everyone is invited to clean up where you live or meet at intersection of Collier Avenue and Bailey Avenue Extension with blower, lawn mower, hoe, rake, weed eater, mask, gloves, edger, shovel, wheel barrow, clippers, etc.”

Watson and Richmond awarded certificates, gifts and snacks to volunteers.

Watson mentioned that friends and families of Cottage Grove hosted the cleanup.

Groups wanting to organize their own cleanup can email keepjacksonbeautiful.com.

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Water

Continued from page 1

whereas 49% become funds to be used as grants. He reiterated that Jackson should be viewed by the state as a disadvantaged community and be eligible for significant grants in addition to loans.

In the crowd of approximately 250, many sought out a microphone when the mayor began to field questions. It was well noted by numerous residents who spoke that the event was poorly attended by our elected officials. FEMA, MEMA and EPA were represented. One member of the seventeen members of the Hinds County delegation was present, State Senator Sollie Norwood. One of the five members of the Hinds County Board of Supervisors was present, President Credell Calhoun. One of the seven members of the Jackson City Council was present, Ward 4 Councilman Dr. Brian Grizzell.

Evelyn Ford tearfully complained that on Sunday when she went to pick up water for herself and elderly neighbors at Smith Wills Stadium, the attendant directed her to a tent when she indicated that she needed more than two cases of water. She reported that a State Trooper came, put his lights on her, and asked her for her license, and she asked him if there was a problem and he said, “let me see your license, and indicated that she was being disrespectful to the attendant.” Then a man in fatigues came up and told her that she could go to Wal-Mart to get water.” Eventually she was told to leave. “I felt humiliated. We already have a hard enough time.” The mayor responded full-heartedly and assured her that nobody should make you feel like you’re begging.

A gentleman spoke about infrastructure needs in Woodhaven and that he has never known Governor Reeves or his predecessor to ever hold a community meeting in Jackson. A former O.B. Curtis Operations supervisor spoke about the importance of quality upfront hiring paired with meaningful training to achieve their qualification. “I went to Georgia and doubled my salary,” he stated.

Socrates Garrett asked how the state can take over negotiations with a contractor without the state having taken over



Jackson residents listening and waiting to speak at community meeting called by Mayor Lumumba regarding water crisis.
PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON



Ronald Gilbert, former O. B. Curtis operations supervisor
PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER YOUNG

the water plant, and then asked how do we get a united community to take on Jackson’s problems or are you able to get the cooperation from the Hinds County delegation of elected officials, are you able to get the supervisors and the council people to take on this fight collectively so that Jackson maintains it’s independence and controls its destiny?

Pastor DeWayne Pickett indicated that there is no way to get unity without honesty. He questioned why our Hinds County delegation would write a letter and send it to the governor requesting a special session before meeting with you – talking about what is needed for Jackson without talking to the mayor and administration of Jackson first. “Why would Lt. Gov-

ernor Delbert Hosemann give instructions to certain council members and a state senator regarding the city of Jackson, and we know now where he stands now – he wants to regionalize the system, it’s not a secret anymore.” “Why would the City Council be discussing things with the Lt. Governor about the garbage contract – that’s a part-time job – over and over we are seeing the same thing happen and the people of this city deserve the truth. I watch the City Council slicing the budget on some things, they want to save money, but they want to award a contract to somebody who is \$12 million higher. Those people got to be called to the carpet and then redeemed to serve. One of the things, regardless of who you voted for, when you don’t want a mayor Lumumba to succeed, or a Thomas Hudson to succeed, or a Ashley Robinson to succeed, or a Tameka Reed to succeed, you don’t want Jackson to succeed, yet you allow other elected officials to do everything possible to destroy what this young man from Jackson, Mississippi has tried to be.”

The mayor proposes that Richard’s be allowed to complete the first year of collection services and to put it to a referendum for the residents of Jackson to vote on.

Sherri Jones stated that he has heard time after time that the city does not have a plan and you proved tonight

that is wrong. “I went to a US Senators office about three months ago and asked him what he is doing about the crime rate in Jackson and about the water issue. Flint is getting ready to send people here to test water at the tap and they are going to work with the young people here to develop a lab so that our young people have something to do besides tote guns.” He also spoke about the comments by Ford and challenged the men to step up and hold those people accountable.

In responding to a question from a resident who made several complaints and expressed that things have not improved since she was a little girl the mayor stated, “No matter if you are talking about how our babies feel, whether you’re talking about feeling like you are not heard and no one’s answering, that pothole in the middle of the street, the fact that we have been dealing with decades of water insecurity – are all part of a cycle of humiliation. We have to restore dignity, a dignity economy – sustainable development goals; sustainable infrastructure, schools and economic development.”

Danyelle Holmes, a 31-year Jackson resident and with the National Poor Peoples Campaign stated that our elected officials need to be checked, and “the foolishness that is going on in our City Hall with our City Council has hijacked our city and that’s what’s going on. Our city is being held hostage; business can’t go on as usual, and it’s going to take the citizens to take a stand and challenge these elected officials to do what is right, and to take the city of Jackson off the for-sale block. Jackson is for sale under the table, they are running a cult, and Jackson is not for sale. She announced that there will be an event September 26, details to follow, “and we are going to have a speak out and we are going to nationalize the issues in Jackson, and we are going to nationalize the voices of those who have been impacted.”

The mayor wrapped up the evening sharing that he told someone in a very senior state position, who he did not name, that, “If it does not benefit my people, I’m going to fight you to the death.”



Devasia Spires,
NMLS #53891



John Michael Wilson,
NMLS #502571

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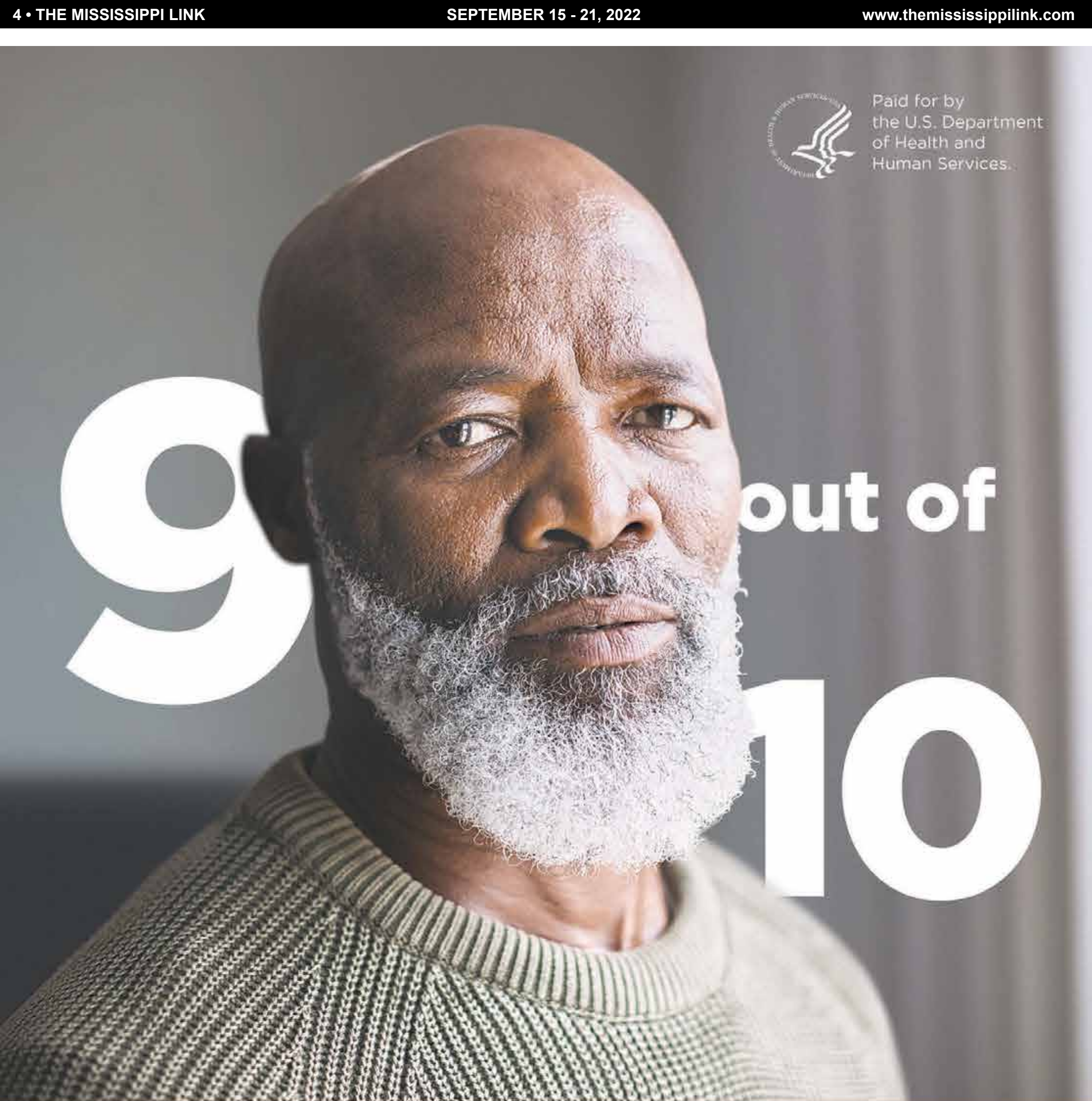
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Editorial: Greenwood (MS) Commonwealth - court displays historical naivete

The Associated Press

If the majority of the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals thinks Mississippi did anything “race-neutral” in the 1950s and 1960s, then it doesn’t much know this state’s history.

During those decades, Mississippi was at its racially worst. White Mississippi resisted court-ordered desegregation of schools and congressionally ordered protections of voting and other civil rights. The Ku Klux Klan used violence, and Citizens Councils used economic intimidation to try to preserve a political and social system based on a belief in white superiority.

To think that this same state would be progressive enough during that era to rid Mississippi law of what was an admittedly racist provision in the state’s 1890 constitution is ludicrous.

Yet, that’s the argument the majority on the appeals court accepted when it ruled that Mississippi’s lifetime voting ban for certain felony convictions was constitutional because in 1950 and 1968 state

lawmakers amended the list of disenfranchising crimes in ways that the court believes made the ban race-neutral.

Judge James Graves, who is black and from Mississippi, was incredulous of the reasoning used by his fellow jurists on the Court of Appeals. To think that “a virtually all-white electorate and legislature, otherwise engaged in massive and violent resistance to the Civil Rights Movement” would cleanse the 1890 constitution of any part of its discriminatory intent defies reason, said Graves in his dissent.

Nevertheless, as a result of this flawed decision, Mississippi will continue to operate with voting rules for felons that are arbitrary.

For many crimes, voting rights in this state are withheld even decades after the offenders have served their sentence. For other crimes, offenders are able to vote even while they are behind bars.

Even if the courts are not going to force Mississippi to change the law, the Legislature should do so anyway

out of logic and fairness. For a few violent crimes, such as murder and rape, a lifetime ban on voting is an appropriate part of the guilty party’s punishment. But for most crimes, particularly those of a nonviolent variety, voting rights should be automatically restored when offenders have completed their entire sentence.

That’s the way it works in most states.

Mississippi, with the highest incarceration rate in the world and one of the stingiest attitudes when it comes to forgiveness, is disenfranchising a disproportionate share of its population. That’s just not right, and it may contribute to the difficulty felons experience when they leave prison and try to integrate back into law-abiding society. They are made to feel like perpetual outcasts.

If we want former inmates to not return to a life of crime, we have to allow them to show they have learned their lesson. Restoring voting rights is a concrete way to demonstrate that Mississippi truly believes in second chances.

Mississippi’s only burn center to close Oct. 14

The Associated Press

Mississippi’s only burn center will close Oct. 14, hospital officials said Thursday.

The JMS Burn and Reconstruction Center, located at Merit Health Central in South Jackson, includes 13 burn intensive care patient rooms, 20 burn step down unit patient rooms and a 12-room outpatient clinic. The center cares for both adult and pediatric burn patients on an inpatient and outpatient basis.

After Oct. 14, burn patients will be redirected to Doctors Hospital in Augusta, Georgia, Firefighters Burn Center – Regional One Health in Memphis, Tennessee or USA

Health in Mobile, Alabama, the *Clarion Ledger* reported.

“The complex medical needs of burn patients require support from a broad range of specialists – ones you typically associate with burn programs, such as plastic surgery, and others you may not typically think of, like gastroenterology, ophthalmology and urology,” according to a hospital statement. “The COVID-19 pandemic and the challenging staffing and recruitment environment have made it increasingly difficult for us to recruit the breadth of specialists needed to maintain the burn program, which is the primary reason why we’ve

made the difficult decision to close.”

The hospital said the Burn & Hand Rehabilitative Services Clinic will continue to provide care to those current patients until they are transitioned to other appropriate physician practices,” the hospital said.

The hospital said it has been in discussions with other regional providers to explore the possibility of them establishing a burn program.

“We are grateful to have been able to meet the burn and reconstructive needs of patients from our state and from across the region for the past 14 years,” the hospital said

‘Bridging the GAP’ links grandparents with resource

By Ginna Parson
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal

For years, Mary Marion was haunted, even tormented, by an idea. She’d put it aside for a while, but it never really disappeared. Finally, she prayed about it. And in 2002, she got her answer.

She had to bridge a gap; a gap created when grandparents rear their grandchildren and don’t have the resources to do it.

“I’d been reading articles in AARP that were talking about more and more grandparents having to raise their grandchildren,” said Marion, the former director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program at Lift, Inc. “There was stuff out there, but not for grandparents.”

Marion visited or researched several nonprofit agencies in Tupelo to see what they offered, because she didn’t want to duplicate services. What she found was no one had a program aimed at helping grandparents access services to help make a bumpy road smoother.

So Marion bridged the gap by founding a nonprofit organization called “Bridging the GAP: Building Bridges for Kinship Care Families,” with GAP standing for Grandparents as Parents.

Once Marion came up with the idea for Bridging the GAP, she started looking for volunteers to help her realize her vision. Lillian Young of Tupelo and Beverly Smith of Aberdeen came on as founding members, with Doris Renshaw of Tupelo acting as a grandparent coordinator.

The group was active for six or seven years, then Marion’s mother became ill and Bridging the GAP became largely

dormant. In the last year, Marion, Young and Smith have been meeting again to revive the mission.

Bridging the GAP’s objectives from the start – and today – are to find services to help grandparents and to connect grandparents to the services.

“The biggest problem we have is the system is set up for parents or guardians, but it’s not set up for grandparents,” Marion said. “It’s not set up to offer services for grandparents. If you’re not helping the grandparent, you’re not helping the child.”

According to data in the 2020 Census, more than 2.4 million grandparents in the U.S. are responsible for their grandchildren, Marion said, and an AARP state fact sheet shows Mississippi has 44,986 grandparents raising their grandchildren.

“Most grandparents are not aware of many services available to them, as well as how to access these resources,” Marion said.

Bridging the GAP is in the early stages of compiling a resource flyer for grandparents that will list local, state and national resources that offer services that could help them.

“Grandparents don’t know how to find or use these resources,” Young said. “They don’t know where to go, how to fill out paperwork. Some grandparents don’t have a computer or even know how to turn on a computer.”

When Bridging the GAP started 20 years ago, none of the founding members were grandparents. Now, both Young and Smith are helping to raise their grandchildren.

“I’m lucky,” Young said.

“I’m a licensed daycare director. I know how to operate a computer. I know how to help my grandkids with homework. I know where to find resources.”

Every weekday afternoon and into the early evening, Young helps take care of four and sometimes five of her grandchildren. She works with the older ones on homework and helps the younger ones with puzzles or coloring books. She gets them fed and bathed so when their moms get off work and pick them up, the kids are ready for bed.

“Sometimes, I feel like the parent when I have to fuss, but sometimes I feel like the grandparent when I let them get away with something,” said Young, a teacher’s assistant and bus monitor for the Tupelo Public School District.

When Bridging the GAP gets its resource flyer ready later this year, members hope to put them in schools, churches, doctors’ offices – anywhere that will let them drop some off.

“We’re only providing information and connecting grandparents with the resources,” Marion said. “We’re not social workers. But I believe you do what you can do. And we can do this.”

Sunday, Sept. 11, was National Grandparents Day. Marion hoped people remembered to set aside some time to honor and remember grandparents.

“They are the cornerstone of our families,” she said. “Grandparents have helped form our family value systems, develop our character and mold our personalities. They are truly the jewel of the family unit.”

MSDH News: New bivalent COVID-19 booster shots now available at County Health Departments

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Appointments for the new bivalent COVID-19 booster shot became available at all Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) county health department clinics Tuesday, September 13.

Appointments can be made through <https://covidvaccine.umc.edu> or by calling the COVID-19 hotline at 877-978-6453.

The FDA has authorized an updated COVID-19 booster that offers improved protection against recent variants. The new booster is bivalent, providing better protection against both the original strain of COVID-19 and the Omicron variants that are currently causing most infections (BA.4 and BA.5).

The updated vaccines are

recommended for use as a booster shot for those 12 and older at least two months after completion of the primary vaccination series (Pfizer, Moderna or Novavax two-shot regimen, or Johnson & Johnson/Janssen’s one-shot regimen) or two months after the last booster shot.

“We strongly recommend that anyone eligible should go ahead and receive the updated booster now to provide the best protection against COVID-19 infection and severe complications from COVID-19,” said MSDH State Epidemiologist Dr. Paul Byers. “There is always the possibility of increased cases as we move into the fall and winter months. Don’t wait to protect yourself.”

MSDH recommends vaccination against COVID-19 for

anyone 6 months and older. Vaccination is especially important for adults 65 and older, children, and adults who have weakened immune systems, and anyone with underlying health problems.

COVID-19 vaccinations are available at no cost from county health departments. Vaccinations are also available at numerous pharmacies and private providers throughout the state. For information about eligibility and to make an appointment for COVID-19 vaccinations or boosters, visit covidvaccine.umc.edu.

Please remember to bring your COVID-19 vaccination card to your appointment, if available.

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Member:



Divine 9 aims to save the lives of black women endangered by Roe v. Wade repeal with ‘Tell Somebody’ PSA campaign

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The Divine 9, the historically black fraternities and sororities of the National Pan-Hellenic Council led by Phi Beta Sigma, are joining forces to save the lives of black women.

In a news release, the influential organization said it would launch “Tell Somebody,” a public service campaign emphasizing the profoundly disproportionate impact of the U.S. Supreme Court’s June 24 decision to overturn nearly half a century of established law under Roe v. Wade, on black women.

The campaign is a collective effort by the Divine 9 to empower the community to counteract the potentially disastrous effect of the repeal by urging Americans to contact the politicians who can make the most difference.

“Overturning Roe v. Wade will not end abortion, it will only end safe abortions and access to healthcare for millions of women – particularly poor women of color – and fuel a full-fledged public health crisis in this country,” Chris V. Rey, J.D., president of Phi Beta Sigma, a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, said in the news release.

“We’re calling on the 2.5 million members of the Divine 9 to contact lawmakers to mitigate the impact of this egregious blow to the well-being of 10 million black women of child-bearing age.”

“Tell Somebody,” narrated by iconic actor Jenifer Lewis (Black-ish, Strong Medicine, Five, The Preacher’s Wife, Cars, What’s Love Got to Do With It) starkly illustrates the circumstances that drive nearly four times more black women to seek abortions versus their white peers, particularly sexual violence.

According to the release, nearly half of black women experience sexual coercion, and one in four



The campaign is a collective effort by the Divine 9 to empower the community to counteract the potentially disastrous effect of the repeal by urging Americans to contact the politicians who can make the most difference

will experience sexual abuse, by the age of 18. Thirty-five percent will experience some form of sexual violence within their lifetime.

Black women are also three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than their white peers.

This mortality rate among black mothers is expected to increase by 33 percent in the wake of the repeal, officials stated in the release.

Lewis, known as the “Mother of Black Hollywood,” urges viewers to contact key lawmakers to tell them to relax filibuster rules so Congress can protect women’s healthcare rights.

Alexis McGill Johnson, president of Planned Parenthood Action Fund, an advocate for reproductive rights, supports the Divine 9 campaign, proclaimed that “What we are living through is an unprecedented public health crisis.”

“The severity of losing the right to govern our own bodies cannot be overstated, especially for black communities who have long felt the impact of politicians asserting power and control over our bodies at the expense of our health, lives and futures,” McGill Johnson stated.

She continued: “Creating medically unnecessary barriers to abortion only makes it harder for people to get the health care they need, and deeply affects communities that already face challenges within the health care system – communities like ours.

“Despite the darkness we are living through, we must remember that we have the power to make a difference. As a member of a Divine 9 sorority, I know there is power in our stories and strength in our voices as we continue to push for freedom.”

“Tell Somebody” is produced by veteran broadcaster Sybil Wilkes “The Voice of Reason” on the Tom Joyner Morning Show and Executive Producer Yolanda Starks-White, co-founders of YoSy Media, a multi-media news, information and black culture platform.

“This is a call to action. Lives are on the line – the lives of those with the least access to medical, financial and social resources,” Wilkes stated.

“The measure of a nation is how it treats its most vulnerable. It’s time to stand up together for those who cannot stand up for themselves.”

Contact information for members of the U.S. Senate can be found at: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

For more information about the Tell Somebody campaign visit www.TellSomebodyNow.org.

For Oprah Winfrey, ‘Sidney’ is an act of love for Poitier

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

Oprah Winfrey was discussing her profound affection for trailblazing actor Sidney Poitier – a longtime friend and mentor to her – when she was overcome by emotion during an interview on the upcoming documentary “Sidney,” a life-spanning portrait. She plunged her head into her hands and cried, “I just love him so much.”

Denzel Washington, Spike Lee, Morgan Freeman, George Nelson, Robert Redford and Halle Berry were all interviewed in “Sidney,” and their reflections on the iconic performer and civil-rights activist are often illuminating. But “Sidney” means something intensely personal for Winfrey, a producer on the film.

“I was trying not to lose it, actually, because my love for him is as deep and as strong as for any human being I know,” Winfrey said in an interview at the Toronto International Film Festival, where “Sidney” premiered Saturday. “He was my adviser, my counselor, my friend, my comfort, my balm, my joy.”

“Sidney,” which Apple TV+ will premiere Sept. 23, arrives eight months after the death of Poitier, the groundbreaking actor who paved the way for countless black actors in Hollywood and single-handedly revolutionized how they were portrayed on screen. Directed by Reginald Hudlin, “Sidney” was made with the cooperation of Poitier’s family. Much of it had been completed before he died in January at the age of 94, including his interview with Winfrey.

But the loss of Poitier – whom Winfrey at the time of his death called “the greatest of the ‘Great Trees’” – has made “Sidney” only more poignant.

“The film is an act of love for me for him,” Winfrey said as tears again welled up. “I don’t know why I’m breaking down. My opportunity to do this was my offering to him.”

Winfrey has said her life was irrevocably altered when she saw Poitier become the first black performer to win best actor at the Academy Awards (for 1963’s “Lilies in the Field”). A life in show business suddenly became attainable to her. They later met for the first time when Winfrey’s talk show was taking off. Poitier was one of the few who could understand what she was going through as a black entertainer.

“During the early days of navigating fame and all that comes with fame, being assaulted on all sides by black people, white people, people saying you’re not this or you should be doing that, he was the person I turned to,” said Winfrey. “He said, ‘It’s always a struggle and a challenge when you’re carrying other people’s dreams.’”

It was the first of many conversations over the years. “Remember ‘Tuesdays with Morrie’? I could have done ‘Sundays with Sidney,’” says Winfrey. “He was my person. He was my guy. He was my friend and my brother.”

Hudlin, the director of “House Party” and the Thurgood Marshall drama “Marshall,” estimates he had completed about 90% of the interviews on the film when Poitier died.

“Whatever pressure I was putting on myself basically doubled,” Hudlin said. “There was a disappointment to know that he would never see it, but I was glad at a time when everyone wanted to touch him and connect with him, we would have this movie.”

Interviews with Poitier were conducted earlier, separate of the film, before the star’s health deteriorated. But the footage of Poitier speaking directly to camera, and hearing that voice narrate his life story, makes for one last chance to be in his regal presence. Poitier, born in the Bahamas, talks about how his young identity was forged without racism’s influence. It wasn’t until he left for Miami at 15 that he encountered it.

“I left the Bahamas with this sense of myself,” Poitier says in the film. “And from the time I got off the boat, America began to say to me, ‘You’re not who you think you are.’”

“Sidney,” which draws on Poitier’s memoir, “The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography,” touches on some of his seminal films, including “The Defiant Ones” (1958), “A Raisin in the Sun” (1961), “In the Heat of the Night” (1967) and “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner.” It also delves into how he connected to Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights movement with Hollywood; his friendship with Harry Belafonte; and his move into directing with “Buck and Preacher” (1972). Above all, it captures how racism, or anything else, was never a match for Poitier’s unshakable integrity.

“For me, personally, I look and go: How did he do it, with no role model?” marveled Hudlin. “He’s looking at a wooded forest and he just carves a path, always making the right choice. How did he always know the right thing to do without a road map? To single-handedly take on decades of racist imagery in cinema, right from its inception, and shatter all of that misbegotten imagery with the truth of who he was.”

Barack and Michelle Obama revel in ‘Family Reunion’ in return to White House for official portrait reveal

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Former President Barack Obama declared a family reunion at the White House Wednesday, Sept. 7, as official portraits of him and former First Lady Michelle Obama were unveiled during a ceremony in the East Room.

“It’s great to be back,” Obama declared in a ceremony that included several officials and staffers from his administration.

Former presidents and first ladies usually have their official White House portraits unveiled by their successors. However, former President Donald Trump spent much of his presidency attempting to erase Obama’s legacy and never held the traditional ceremony.

“Welcome home,” President Joe Biden declared to the Obamas.

Biden, of course, served as Obama’s vice president for two terms beginning in 2008.

“Believe it or not, it is still a bit odd for me to stand in this historic space, see this big, beautiful painting staring back at me,” Michelle Obama remarked about the portraits.

The former first lady’s portrait was painted by Sharon Sprung,



Barack

while Robert McCurdy painted the former president.

“Growing up on Euclid Avenue, I never could have imagined that any of this would be part of my story, but even it’s all still a bit awkward for me, I do recognize why moments like these are important, why all of this is absolutely necessary,” Obama insisted.

“Traditions like this matter, not just for those of us who hold these positions but for everyone participating in and watching our democracy.”

She continued: “You see the people; they make their voices heard with their vote. We hold an inauguration to en-



Michelle

sure a peaceful transition of power. Those of us lucky enough to work, as Barack said, as hard as we can for as long as we can, as long as the people choose to keep us here. And once our time is up, we move on, and all that remains in this hallowed place are our good efforts and these portraits.

“Portraits that connect our history to the present day. Portraits that hang here as history continues to be made. So, for me, this day is not just about what has happened. It’s also about what could happen because a girl like me, she was never supposed to be up there next to Jacqueline Kennedy and Dolley Madison.

“She was never supposed to live in this house, and she definitely wasn’t supposed to serve as first lady.”

Barack Obama spoke of the people he and Biden had worked with and fondly recalled his time in the White House.

“When people ask me what I miss most about the White House years, it is not Air Force One that I talk about, although I miss Air Force One,” Obama reflected. “It’s the chance that I had to stand shoulder to shoulder with all of you, to have a chance to witness so many talented, selfless, idealistic, good people working tirelessly every day to make the world better.”

The former president continued: “And for eight years and even longer for some of you, I drew on your energy and your dedication and your goodness. You inspired me, and I never wanted to disappoint you.

“And I tried to reflect the same heart and character that you displayed every day. Even during the toughest times, it was all of you that kept me going. So, it’s good to be back to have a chance to see all of you and to once again say thank you.”

Prescribing adolescents multiple psychiatric drugs now the norm, particularly in BIPOC communities

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The current trend of polypharmacy – the simultaneous use of multiple drugs by a single patient for one or more conditions – reflects racism and discrimination in the treatment of black, Indigenous, and people of color children and teens, according to Dr. Carolyn Coker Ross, an intergenerational trauma expert and eating disorder treatment specialist.

“It has been documented in adults that black patients with mental illness are more likely to receive substance care and more likely to be diagnosed with psychotic disorders than with depression and anxiety,” Dr. Ross stated. “The lack of access and availability of therapeutic options to treat mental illness and the lack of understanding and acknowledgment that mental illness in teens and children may have their roots in trauma. “Medication will not fix the brain changes caused by childhood trauma experiences and may not even fix the symptoms. Beyond this, medication use in children and teens is risky at best and dangerous at its worst.”

Dr. Ross’ comments are in response to a new report revealing that anxious and depressed teens are using multiple, powerful psychiatric drugs, many of which are untested in adolescents or for use in tandem.

In 2020, the journal *Pediatrics* reported that 40.7 percent of people ages 2 to 24 who were prescribed a drug for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder also were prescribed at least one other medication for depression, anxiety, or another mood or behavioral disorder. Further, researchers found more than 50 psychotropic medicines prescribed in such combinations.

“These patterns should spark further inquiry about the appropriateness, efficacy, and safety of psychotherapeutic polypharmacy in children and young adults, particularly within subgroups where the use is high,” the authors concluded.

While the use of multiple psychotropic medications counts as concerning in such a young population, it is also not surprising given the lack of other treatment options, Dr. Ross told the *Washington Informer*. “Beyond this, however, is a lack of understand-



In 2020, the journal *Pediatrics* reported that 40.7 percent of people ages 2 to 24 who were prescribed a drug for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder also were prescribed at least one other medication for depression, anxiety, or another mood or behavioral disorder

ing about the root cause of many of the psychiatric conditions being diagnosed and treated with medications,” Dr. Ross asserted. She continued: “Both during and before the pandemic, BIPOC children and teenagers are exposed to more trauma and adverse events than any white children and teens.”

Given that depression and anxiety have increased in recent years among youth, and young ones who have experienced trauma or childhood adversity (or ACEs – adverse childhood experiences) are more likely to experience depression and anxiety and other health and learning challenges, this is a significant health and social justice conversation, added Sarah Marikos, the executive director of the ACE Resource Network (ARN).

“The issues on prescribing psychotropic medications for children, adolescents, and young people, and lack of access to behavioral health supports for youth who have an increasing need for mental health support is one of the biggest health challenges our country is facing right now,” Marikos wrote in an email.

“This is partly why the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory on youth mental health at the end of 2021. When diagnosing and treating depression, anxiety, and ADHD, as well as many more common health conditions, particularly among young people, it is important to have a trauma-informed approach,” Marikos continued:

“Giving children and young people, or anyone really, a psychiatric diagnosis with medication has serious, potentially

helpful, and potentially harmful consequences. Diagnosis informs treatment. Therefore, if the diagnosis is not right, the treatment may not work, or worse, it could be hurtful.”

“Diagnoses can also impact how young people think and feel about themselves and perhaps define themselves. Doctors and behavioral health providers who understand trauma and seek to understand their patients’ history and experiences, may mean a shift in diagnosis and treatment.”

The New York Times noted a nationwide study published in 2006 examined records of visits to doctors’ offices by people younger than 20 and found a sharp rise in office visits involving the prescription of antipsychotic drugs – to 1.2 million in 2002 from 200,000 in 1993. In addition, the drugs were increasingly prescribed in combinations, particularly among low-income children.

The newspaper added that between 2004 and 2008, a national study of children enrolled in Medicaid found that 85 percent of patients on an antipsychotic drug were also prescribed a second medication, with the highest rates among disabled youngsters and those in foster care.

“It’s a fact that our youth are experiencing more mental health concerns today than ever before,” offered Laura Tietz, a pediatric pharmacist. She once worked at Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital in Ohio. “While I believe physicians and psychiatrists are probably overprescribing these medications, I don’t believe they do so intentionally,” Tietz stated.

“Unfortunately, they are often left with little choice. Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and other forms of counseling have been shown to be an essential part of managing mental health conditions,” Tietz continued.

“However, there are few professionals in the medical field today who practice adolescent psychiatry and can provide this benefit to our youth. “This leaves prescribers with the task of trying to manage mental health concerns strictly with medication.

“I believe any physician would tell you that they want to help the patient to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, right now, physicians have few tools besides medication to do this.”

Get Immediate Help
People often don’t get the mental health services they need because they don’t know where to start. Talk to your primary care doctor or another health professional about mental health problems. Ask them to connect you with the right mental health services.

If you do not have a health professional who is able to assist you, use these resources to find help for yourself, your friends, your family, or your students:

Emergency Medical Services, 911

If the situation is potentially life-threatening, get immediate emergency assistance by calling 911, available 24 hours a day.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

If you or someone you know is suicidal or in emotional distress, contact the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Trained crisis workers are available to talk 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Your confidential and toll-free call goes to the nearest crisis center in the Lifeline national network. These centers provide crisis counseling and mental health referrals. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.

Find Treatment with SAMHSA

SAMHSA’s Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator is a confidential and anonymous source of information for persons seeking treatment facilities in the United States or U.S. Territories for substance use/addiction and/or mental health problems.

–*Courtesy MentalHealth.gov.*

Addressing the burdens of American nurses

StatePoint

According to a new survey, American nurses are overwhelmed by job demands, a long-brewing situation only exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the majority of nurses continue to be dedicated to the care of patients, many are considering leaving the profession at a time when staff shortages are part of the problem. But there’s hope, according to industry experts, who say that understanding these challenges can lead to meaningful and necessary reforms.

The 2022 national survey, “The Future of Nursing: A Profession in Crisis,” of nurses and student nurses, was conducted by Cross Country, a market-leading tech-enabled workforce solutions platform and advisory firm, in partnership with Florida Atlantic University’s Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing.

Overall, the study revealed that nurses remain passionate about patient care, with 66% citing helping people through meaningful work as a main driv-

er for staying in the field. Nevertheless, ongoing challenges have created undue burdens for nurses, with pay rates/compensation (86%), staff shortages (53%), stress (39%) and burnout (35%) cited as top career dissatisfiers.

This frustration has put the industry in crisis: 28% of nurses indicated their desire to leave the profession has increased dramatically since the pandemic, while those who said their desire to stay has dropped from 24% in 2021 to 4% in 2022. This translates to a real potential loss of talent in hospitals, physicians’ offices, long-term care facilities and other healthcare settings. Of those surveyed, 23% plan to look for a new career in 1-2 years and 13% plan to retire in 1-5 years.

“We had hoped that as the pandemic eased, nurses would have better balance, mental health and working conditions, but we are not there and as a result, nurses are leaving the profession in droves,” says John A. Martins, president and chief executive officer, Cross Country Healthcare. “The time to fix these mounting

problems is now.”

To that end, Cross Country is deploying several strategies to transform the nursing profession. These include an ongoing examination of pay rates and retention practices; identifying new pathways for education, licensing, and talent development; focusing on flexibility and growth opportunities; and investments toward innovation to strengthen the nursing workforce.

The company continues to invest heavily in technology and digital transformation to support these strategies. Among these initiatives is a new website dedicated to nursing candidates. Found at crosscountry.com, the site aims to help health care professionals find and engage with potential job opportunities more effectively.

Identifying new pathways for nursing education is also a critical steppingstone towards reforming the profession and addressing healthcare provider shortages. That’s why the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing offers accredited programs at all

levels to prepare and train students, including various tracks for a BSN, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), PhD and DNP focused on Caring Science. Also offered are a BSN-DNP program with a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner concentration and post-graduate dermatology and telehealth certificate courses, as well as other concentrations that intersect innovation and technology.

“Nursing is the greatest profession in the world. The experience you will get is priceless,” said one of the survey respondents. “Make sure you’re getting into nursing for the right reasons because I love coming to work and look forward to caring for patients every day. No two patients are alike, so every day in nursing is like a new experience and adventure. And you make the difference.”

To learn more about the challenges facing the nursing industry, visit crosscountry.com/the-future-of-nursing, where the complete study results, can be found.

Get checked for Ovarian Cancer before it’s too late



By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Some cancers of the female reproductive tract have obvious signs or early warning signals. Uterine cancer you have bleeding after menopause. Cervical cancer is a Pap smear that shows abnormal cells. Ovarian cancer of the gland that produces eggs and manufactures the hormone estrogen and progesterone often has no obvious symptoms or early warning signals. In the abdominal cavity a tumor can grow undetected for years and cancer cells can silently spread by the peritoneal fluid in the abdominal cavity.

A female’s reproductive system has two ovaries, one on each side of the uterus. Your ovaries are about the size of an almond. They produce eggs (ova) as well as the hormones estrogen and progesterone.

Among women whose ovarian cancer was caught and treated early while it was still confined to the ovary the five-year survival rate was 93%. Unfortunately the women in the United States newly diagnosed women with ovarian cancer each year 80% already had cancer that had spread to other parts of their body. Those women had a five-year survival rate of just 20 to 30%.

Every woman should determine her level of risk for ovarian cancer. You should watch for the subtle easy to miss warning signs of ovarian cancer.

- Abdominal swelling or bloating
- Pelvic pressure or abdominal pain
- Feeling full quickly when eating
- Urgent or frequent urination
- Pain during sex
- Fatigue
- Changes in bowel habits, such constipation
- Weight loss
- Back Pain

All of these signs can be caused by irritable bowel syndrome or urinary incontinence. These signs are more likely to indicated ovarian cancer when your symptoms include:

- Symptoms appear within the last year
- Are severe occur almost every day
- Last more than a few weeks

For every 100 woman who inherit a mutated form of the genes link to Breast Cancer, BRCA1and BRCA2, 60 of them depending on the specific mutation are likely to develop ovarian cancer. You are also at a higher risk if:

- Your mother, sister or daughter had ovarian cancer
- Your grandmother aunt had ovarian or breast cancer
- You have a personal history of breast cancer diagnosed before menopause
- Any relative who has had ovarian cancer

If you are at high risk you need

to be proactive and talk to your doctor for a plan to reduce your risk and insure early detection. Get genetic counseling. This counseling maps out your family genetic history for the BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene to determine if genetic testing is necessary. Genetic counseling is available at most university base cancer centers.

You also want to have frequent screening test at least once per year.

- A pelvic exam doing which the doctor manually examines the ovaries and uterus
- Transvaginal ultrasound in which the probe is placed in the vaginal vagina to check for ovarian tumors
- Blood test for CA-125 a protein produced by ovarian cancer cells. This test detects about half of the early stages ovarian cancers and about 80% when used with a symptom questionnaire.
- A barium enema may be ordered. A barium enema is a test to see if the cancer has spread to the colon or rectum. Most times a colonoscopy is done instead.
- An x-ray might be done to determine whether ovarian cancer has spread (metastasized) to the lungs.

• Laparoscopy can help doctors plan your surgery or other treatments and can help confirm the stage (how far the tumor has spread) of the cancer. Doctors can manipulate small instruments through the laparoscopic incision(s) to perform biopsies.

If any of these test results are suspicious your doctor will order a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or computed tomography (CT scan)

Even if you’re not at high risk your chances of get ovarian cancer may be above average. Your risk increases with the following factors:

- Age – 2/3 of ovarian cancer patients are 55 or older
- Menstrual History – Ovulation increases ovarian risk. If you began to menstruate before age 12 and/or reach menopause after age 55 your risk is greater.
- No history of oral contraceptive use – The pill prevents ovulation so women who have taken oral contraceptives for at least two years are at lower risk.
- History of infertility – This link may be due to increased ovulation and or decreased progesterone.
- History of endometriosis. (Overgrowth of tissue lining the uterus) The link is unclear but it may be due to increased inflammation

The more of those risk factors you have the more vital it is to get annual pelvic exams. Also ask your doctor for a CA 125 blood test and ultrasound are necessary for you

My last Prevention Health Fair is September 24 at the “Thrifty Irishman” at 2226 E Butler St. Get your health checked out.



P R E S E R V E D

Old vision and new insights

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



It only took me driving 10 minutes away from the optometrist's office to realize that my new contact lenses were not going to work for me. Things were blurry and I had to squint to clear things up. I shouldn't have done it while I was driving but I kept closing one eye to see which one had the clearest vision. It was so frustrating.

I thought it would take my eyes a few hours to adjust to the new and stronger prescription. But 3 hours and a strong headache later, I realized that the contacts were the wrong prescription. It didn't matter to me which contact caused the problem; I just wanted the problem fixed.

The very next day I made a follow up appointment to get the contact lens prescription adjusted. During the appointment a few days later, I explained to my eye doctor that my vision with my new left contact was good but that the new right contact seemed to be all blurry. Then I told him that I seemed to see better with the old right contact lens but that the old left contact seemed blurry. He suggested that I try wearing the new left contact with the old right contact.

We did a few vision tests in the office while I was wearing the new combination and were both amazed at how much stronger my vision was. In a very weird way, the strength of the new balanced with the reliability of the old.

How is it possible to see better with both old and new things? Maybe it's that you sometimes need the balance of

both new insights and old wisdom to have the most precise vision.

2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds us that we are new creations, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." The Greek word for "passed away" is *parerchomai* which refers to the passage of time. Things and behaviors don't necessarily disappear overnight but through the passage of time, we see them with a new, improved vision.

When we change and become new creatures in Christ, some traits stay the same. I was talkative before I got saved and I'm still talkative now that I am saved. Those who loved to dance and sing before they got saved also love to sing and dance once they accept Jesus into their lives. God changes our hearts and

renews our minds. With that change there should also be a shift in how we see things, ourselves, and others.

I think God allows this so we can now see from both old and new perspectives. By doing so, we are able to come a healthy balance between the wisdom we gain from past experiences and the insight we gain from new ones.

Our Christian walk is about using wisdom to know how to balance the old and the new. It's also about allowing God to let us see old things but with a new perspective.

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 preservedby-purpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

Holiness is not optional

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



When Jesus Christ comes to judge the world, there will be no time nor opportunity to get right with the Lord. We

will all appear before the great judge just as we have lived and died. The Hebrew writer tells us, "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). Jesus said, "The pure in heart shall see God." If you are pure in heart you are holy, and you can live holy.

Holiness is a Bible doctrine. What is holiness? Well in part, it is separateness – separate from all sin; purity – clean, holy; and righteousness – doing what is right in the sight of God. We read in 1 Peter 1:15, "As He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of living; because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy."

Holiness is not just a Bible doctrine; it is not just a list of dos and don'ts. Holiness is a lifestyle; it is a way you live. Holiness reveals us to be children who desire to be like the Father. Again, "Be ye holy; for I am holy."

Holiness is obtainable in this life. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12).


"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" (1 Thessalonians 4:7).

Holiness is the standard of the house of God, the Church of God. "Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, forever" (Psalm 93:5).

Paul told Timothy that the house of God was the Church of the living God. The Lord said through the prophet Isaiah, "A highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean (the unsaved) shall not pass over it; the redeemed (the saved) shall walk there" (Isaiah 35:8-9). There are no sinners, even though they may be church members, on the highway of holiness.

Holiness is a practical way to live. It is not bondage; it is freedom. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Galatians 5:1). "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). The Apostle Paul informs us that the way of holiness is a reasonable way to live – "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

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



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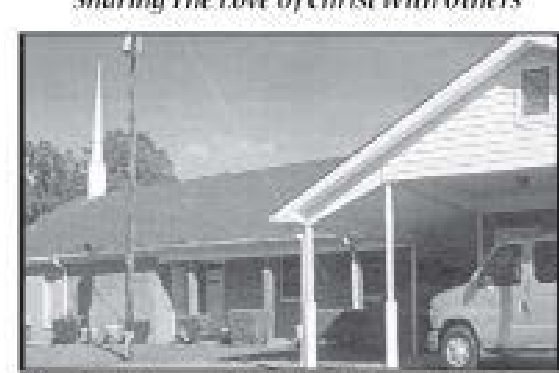
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Queen Elizabeth's legacy through the lens of colonialism and black lives

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent



Immediately following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, notable media personality Jemele Hill urged her peers to put the monarch's passing in perspective.

"Journalists are tasked with putting legacies into full context, so it is entirely appropriate to examine the queen and her role in the devastating impact of continued colonialism," Hill tweeted.

Elizabeth's legacy isn't necessarily complicated, but filled with enough ambiguity and action and inaction, that it might be easy to understand why people of color might view her differently than the adoring throng mourning outside of Buckingham Palace. The longest-reigning British monarch's history on race will forever exist as part of her legacy.

"Reminder that Queen Elizabeth is not a remnant of colonial times. She was an active participant in colonialism. She actively tried to stop independence movements and keep newly independent colonies from leaving the Commonwealth. The evil she did was enough," Twitter user @YaaAsantewaaBa wrote.

While her role in colonialism and its devastating impact on black people continue to gnaw at many, the latest generation had an up-close view into the Queen's relationship with her mixed-race daughter-in-law Meghan Markle.

"A low point was when [Prince] Harry was asked by a family member 'how dark Archie's skin might be,'" Markle told Oprah Winfrey in a 2021 interview.

Archie is Markle and Harry's son. Markle revealed that she began having suicidal thoughts while pregnant with Archie in early 2019.

"I just didn't want to be alive anymore," Markle told Winfrey. "And that was a very clear and real and frightening constant thought."

Harry expressed frustration over the lack of family support when British media members and others launched racially motivated insults at Markle.

"For us, for this union and the specifics around her race, there was an opportunity – many opportunities – for my family to show some public support," Harry stated during the same interview.

"And I guess one of the most telling parts and the saddest parts, I guess, was over 70 female members of Parliament, both Conservative and Labor, came out and called out the colonial undertones of articles and headlines written about Meghan. Yet no one from my family ever said anything. That hurts."

Earlier, many in Great Britain and around the globe called on the Queen to deal with the fallout over complaints that Buckingham Palace had no official response to the murder of George Floyd and the global Black Lives Matter Movement.

However, the palace offered only tepid responses.

Before and during Elizabeth's reign, journalists claimed the royal family looked the other way – and even enabled – racism. "These incidents aren't just historical – royal family members have been ignoring



Queen Elizabeth II

accusations of racism since as recently as June 2020, when the Queen failed to respond to accusations that the royal honors medal is 'highly offensive' and resembles the killing of Floyd," Royal Insiders Mikhaila Friel and Rachel Hosie wrote in 2021.

"It's hard to imagine the Queen showing support for BLM – and anti-racism in general – when in her 69 years on the throne, she has failed to address the racism that undeniably exists in the institution of the royal family," the duo concluded.

Further, a 2021 exposé in *The Guardian* revealed documents that shed light on Elizabeth's continued exemption from race and sex discrimination laws.

Investigative journalists David Pegg and Rob Evans said they discovered papers at the National Archives as part of an ongoing investigation into the royal family's use of an arcane parliamentary procedure, known as Queen's consent, to influence the content of British laws secretly.

"They reveal how the Queen's chief financial officer once informed civil servants that 'it was not, in fact, the practice to appoint colored immigrants or foreigners' to clerical roles in the royal household, although they were permitted to work as domestic servants."

Pegg and Evans wrote that the Queen had remained exempted from equality laws for more than four decades. "The exemption has made it impossible for women or people from ethnic minorities working for her household to complain to the courts if they believe they have been discriminated against," the journalists found.

They said Buckingham Palace didn't dispute their findings. Instead, officials offered without explanation that there's a separate process for hearing discrimination complaints.

In 2020, when Antigua and Barbuda marked 40 years of independence from Britain, calls grew louder for slavery reparations. Frustration with the Queen and colonialism also grew palpable.

"I think most Antiguans would want to replace the Queen now," historian Ivor Ford told BBC News during the celebration.

"Young people can't relate to the Royal Family; they don't understand their purpose. Even older people like me would love

to see us become a republic. The head of state should be someone who is elected like in America," Ford concluded.

Antiguan businesswoman Makeda Mikael recalled how as a child, she attended ceremonies that celebrated the Queen against her will.

"We didn't know as much about our history then as we do now," Mikael related.

"In school, I wasn't taught African or Caribbean history. So I knew everything about British and European history and nothing about ours."

She told the BBC she and others would continue to demand reparations. "England has enjoyed the benefit of our slave labor right up to today, and they need to be honest, admit it, and find a way to reconcile," Mikael insisted.

"Most people couldn't care less if [Elizabeth] is head of state or not. The Queen is not a significant part of anybody's agenda."

With a reported net worth of nearly \$12 billion, Elizabeth has never publicly spoken about reparations.

"Along with a number of colonies in North America, the Caribbean formed the heart of England's first overseas empire," explained David Lambert, professor of Caribbean History at the University of Warwick.

Lambert also authored *White Creole Culture, Politics and Identity During the Age of Abolition*, and *Mastering the Niger: James MacQueen's African Geography and the Struggle over Atlantic Slavery*.

In a white paper for the British Library, Lambert explained that from the early 17th century, people from other European powers, including France and England, settled in the Caribbean.

"The English settled St Kitts in 1624, Barbados, Montserrat, and Antigua in 1627, and Nevis in 1628," Lambert wrote.

"Around the same time, France established colonies in Martinique and Guadeloupe. In this way, the Caribbean came under the control of many competing European countries, joining Spain, which had established its first colonies in the region more than a hundred years before."

Further, Lambert noted that the system of slavery saw its dismantling in the early 19th century, and the enslaved received freedom in the British

Caribbean in the 1830s. A system called "Apprenticeship was put in place from 1834 to 1838 across most of the Caribbean," Lambert offered further.

"This was intended to provide a transition to freedom for the formerly enslaved people and the planters who relied on their labor. Even after Apprenticeship was ended, things remained very unequal."

Born Apr. 21, 1926, the eventual Queen's given name was Elizabeth Alexandra Mary. Her father, Prince Albert, was the youngest son of King George V, and Albert's place in the family presumably gave Elizabeth little chance to ascend to the throne.

However, in a stunning move, Albert's brother, King Edward VIII, abdicated the throne in 1936 to marry an American woman, which allowed for Albert's ascension as King George VI – thus making Elizabeth heir to the throne.

On Nov. 20, 1947, Elizabeth married her distant cousin, Lt. Philip Mountbatten of the Royal Navy.

The former Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark, Philip then took the titles of duke of Edinburgh, earl of Merioneth, and Baron Greenwich.

The couple's first child, Prince Charles Philip Arthur George, was born on Nov. 14, 1948, at Buckingham Palace.

On Feb. 6, 1952, King George VI died after a months-long illness, and Elizabeth became Queen – though her coronation took place more than a year later at Westminster Abbey.

Elizabeth also gave birth to Princess Anne in 1950, Prince Andrew in 1960, and Prince Edward in 1964. With Elizabeth's death, Charles became the first King since his grandfather's death more than 70 years ago.

"Michelle and I were lucky enough to come to know Her Majesty, and she meant a great deal to us," former President Barack Obama said in a statement.

"Back when we were just beginning to navigate life as President and First Lady, she welcomed us to the world stage with open arms and extraordinary generosity. Time and again, we were struck by her warmth, how she put people at ease and brought her considerable humor and charm to moments of great pomp and circumstance."

President Joe Biden said Elizabeth had a steadying presence and a source of comfort and pride for generations of Britons, including many who have never known their country without her.

"An enduring admiration for Queen Elizabeth II united people across the Commonwealth. The seven decades of her history-making reign bore witness to an age of unprecedented human advancement and the forward march of human dignity," Biden stated.

"In the years ahead, we look forward to continuing a close friendship with The King and The Queen Consort. Today, the thoughts and prayers of people across the United States are with the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth in their grief."

"We send our deepest condolences to the Royal Family, who are not only mourning their Queen, but their dear mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Her legacy will loom large in the pages of British history and the story of our world."

The importance of getting exercise these days despite the pandemic in America

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



Most of the news these days is about world and stateside events.

News wires are filled with economic news about what is happening in this country and in the world for that matter.

If you own stock, you are checking to see if Wall Street had a good day or a bad day. If you are grandparents like we are, you are spending more time with your grandchildren.

For example, we know most of the programs on Nick Jr.

It could be that you are traveling again to some of your favorite destinations.

As we go through these momentum swings, our family's health and wellness has gone mostly under-publicized and un-noticed in my opinion.

For example, if you ask some students what their favorite class is, they may say it is physical education. There are some obvious and not so obvious reasons for their response.

First off, it gets them moving either outside or in a gymnasium. They get a chance to talk with their friends and classmates. No sitting at a desk and being quiet.

A not so obvious reason is that it gives students a boost for the rest of their day. They are motivated and stimulated to do their best academically and socially. The joy of exercising should be a regular part of a student's day.

That joy took a hiatus for almost three years.

COVID-19 stopped physical education in schools as school systems had to stop in-person learning. Virtual learning took over which meant no physical activity for students.

The good news now is that the schools have re-opened. Physical activity for our children and grandchildren has resumed. Without an organized and consistent activity schedule, they missed an important part of their school life.

We have heard the expression "all work and no play". Without physical activity, our

students were suffering.

This notion also applies to adults.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been without a regular routine for physical activity. We fell into some bad habits and practices. Instead of one cookie, we would have two cookies. Our sandwiches always had fries with them, and we consumed too much soda.

Some of us couldn't help ourselves. Bad became worse.

Some will opine that we had virtual exercise activities and that was true. Virtual classes aren't for everyone. Many of us simply took a vacation from exercise.

However, our in-person aerobics and dance classes have now resumed. Our class in New Orleans is for senior citizens. The instructor is Carly Bourgeois, a senior dance fitness instructor with the New Orleans Ballet Association.

She has been dancing since she was 3 years of age. At age 11, she was taking instruction in classical ballet.

Carly has the pulse of our class and creates an environment that is both healthy and fun. In a recent conversation with her she said, "Physical activity is great for the heart and mind."

She added, "It is gratifying to see how engaged our class is. We have fun and that's important."

When you come to our class, you will hear a variety of music which makes you want to move around and get in step. It is pretty cool to listen to the Temptations, Don Omar, Bill Withers, the Bee Gees, Aaron Neville and Linda Ronstadt as we go through our routines.

Rose Marie Powell, one of our participants and a retiree said, "I look forward each week to our classes. They are both relaxing and energetic."

If you are a senior citizen, put exercising regularly on your schedule. Contact an appropriate agency in your community. Take a friend or family member with you and enjoy moving around and the fellowship of others.

The importance of it cannot be overstated.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

98846-092722 24-Month Landfill Services for Chipping, Grinding, Hauling, and Disposal of Vegetative Debris

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV

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

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

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

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

Monia Oliver, Acting Purchasing Manager
moliver@city.jackson.ms.us
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1028

9/8/2022 9/15/2022

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

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4th, 2022, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 189- 29 located at 400 E. Silas Brown Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$25,000.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us.

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201). The outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, October 4th, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

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

City reserves the right to reject any and all bids
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

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Advertisement for Bid
Bid 3211 Surplus Liquidation of Jackson Public School Portable
Classrooms at Various School Locations

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), October 05, 2022 at which time and place they will be publicly opened. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing bjones@jackson.k12.ms.us or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

SPECIAL NOTICE

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

9/8/2022 9/15/2022

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Advertisement for RFP/RFQ
RFP Pool of Partners to Provide Professional Development and
Coaching Support for Advanced Courses, Special Programs, STEAM,
Computer Science, Health and Physical Education

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), September 28, 2022 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all RFP to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFP are opened.

There are two (2) options in which RFP proposals may be obtained. Download from Central Bidding website at HYPERLINK "<http://www.centralbidding.com>" www.centralbidding.com for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSD website at HYPERLINK "<http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us>" www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFP proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Special Notice

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

9/8/2022 9/15/2022

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Public Hearing
City of Jackson, Mississippi
P.O. Box 17
Jackson, MS 39201
Telephone No. (601) 960-2333
COJ Contact: Lakesha Weathers

Public Notice Start Date: September 15, 2022 Public Notice End Date: September 29, 2022

Mississippi Tire Recycling, LLC has submitted a request to the City of Jackson, Mississippi to modify its 1996 Solid Waste Master Plan to incorporate a proposed new waste tire processing facility. The proposed new facility will be located at 4976 Methodist Home Road, Jackson, MS 39213.

The City of Jackson is planning a public hearing at 10:00 am to be held at Jackson City Hall 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201 on October 11, 2022. During this time comments from the public will be accepted.

The City of Jackson has reviewed the application and has preliminarily determined that the applicant has met the necessary requirements for the City to amend its Solid Waste Management Plan.

Mississippi Tire Recycling, LLC is currently authorized to operate a waste tire processing facility at 2845 Meter Road, Jackson, MS 39209 and this facility has a maximum capacity to process 16 ton of waste tires per day. Mississippi Tire Recycling, LLC would like to add an additional facility at 4976 Methodist Home Road that would increase its processing capacity. The new facility will be in the former Bailey Lumber Facility and could employ up to 20 additional people.

Currently the City of Jackson and surrounding area have a need for more processing of waste tires, as tire collection facilities are at capacity. The City of Jackson is requesting input from its citizens to amend its solid waste plan to allow the new facility. The project is in an approved zoned area commercial waste tire processing and collection site at the above 10-acre location. The processing facility permit would allow waste tires collected at this site to be mechanically shredded to facilitate their further processing at a recycling outlet or otherwise allow for their disposal at a permitted solid waste disposal facility. The waste tire processing facility will accept waste tires that originate within the approved service area, which includes Central Area of Mississippi and other areas of Mississippi when necessary.

The City of Jackson is soliciting public input on the Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment on behalf of the Mayor and City Council for the proposed permitting of the waste tire processing facility. Public input on the draft amendment and supporting documentation is an important element in the staff evaluation and resulting recommendation to the Mayor and City Council. The draft plan amendment conditions have been developed to ensure compliance with all State and Federal regulations, but are subject to change based on information received through public comments.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the plan amendment recommendation are invited to submit comments in writing to Lakesha Weathers at the address shown above or by email to lweathers@city.jackson.ms.us no later than September 30, 2022, the end of the thirty (30) day public comment period. All comments received from the public by this date will be reviewed and considered in the final determinations regarding the plan amendment.

Any person that does not have internet access or that is interested in additional information on the draft permit or permit application may contact Ms. Weathers at the email address or telephone number above. The draft solid waste amendment is available for review at the City of Jackson office during normal business hours at the address below:

City of Jackson, Hood Building 5th Floor, Solid Waste Division

200 S. President Street Jackson, MS 39201

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of persons whom you know may be interested.

9/15/2022

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Advertisement for RFQ
RFQ 2022-04 Project Management and Communications Support for
JPS Hinds Early Learning Collaborative

Electronic RFQ proposals for the above RFQ will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), October 03, 2022 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all RFQs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any RFQ if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFQs are opened.

There are two (2) options in which RFQ proposals may be obtained. Download from Central Bidding website at www.centralbidding.com for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSD website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFQs proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

9/15/2022 9/22/2022

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Advertisement
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
WASTE TIRE RECYCLING SERVICES

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is soliciting proposals from qualified proposers to supply all labor and equipment for the removal, transporting, processing, disposal, and recycling of tires from selected waste tire abatement site(s) and from the City's Solid Waste Facility, 6810 I-55 South Frontage Road, Byram, MS 39272, and to process tires collected.

Proposals will be received by the City of Jackson at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, until 3:30 P.M. CST, **October 11, 2022**.

Selection of a Service Provider for contract/agreement negotiation will be based on an objective evaluation of the following criteria:

- A. Service Provider's innovative approach
- B. Service Provider's experience, qualifications and references as demonstrated in similar engagements
- C. Expertise of key personnel to be assigned to the contract
- D. EBO Plan and commitment to maximizing MBE and FBE participation goals
- E. Cost proposal

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

The City of Jackson, 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.

While the networking session is not mandatory, all interested minority and female business enterprises as well as locally based businesses are encouraged to attend to network with potential service providers. Attendance by Proposers intending to submit on the project is required. All potential Subcontractors and other interested parties are invited to attend.

Proposals (one signed original plus five copies) and the EBO plan (one signed original plus five copies included in the proposal) **shall be submitted in a sealed package and plainly marked on the outside of the package, "Waste Tire Recycling Services".**

Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk, 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205 by 3:30 p.m., local time, on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

Interested firms may obtain a copy of the detailed Request for Proposals at no charge from the City's Website at <http://www.jacksonms.gov/bids> or from:

Lakesha Weathers, Solid Waste Manager
City of Jackson
Department of Public Works
Warren Hood Building
200 South President Street
Jackson, MS 39201
lweathers@jacksonms.gov


Jordan Milman, Acting Director
Department of Public Works

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Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Walter Becker

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
VBCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
F Z V PDLB GVQTUG ZQPFXFVE
ASIDE FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN
VPFJD BWHZ CUVG F ID MDDE
ABLE TO PICK UP FROM OTHER
VMLD GH NFXR QN BWHZ HGUOW
NLVYDWP

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Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
VWXYZABCDEFGHIJKLMNPQRSTUWXY
I'M A SELF-TAUGHT MUSICIAN
F Z V PDLB GVQTUG ZQPFXFVE
ASIDE FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN
VPFJD BWHZ CUVG F ID MDDE
ABLE TO PICK UP FROM OTHER
VMLD GH NFXR QN BWHZ HGUOW
PLAYERS
NLVYDWP

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

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Week of September 11, 2022

Baba Asinia Lukata Chikuyu’s R.E.A.L. promotes Afrikan spirituality & identity to dispel mis-education in Jackson

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

“Mis-education has negatively impacted the self-worth of Afrikan People. A false sense of citizenship for Afrikan People makes us believe that we don’t need to fight harder than our ancestors did for ‘freedom.’ The way we are formally and informally mis-educated has us believing that America is too big and too corrupt to ‘get like’ and that fighting for a better life is futile; so, we go along to avoid the wrath of Americans, especially those who have an anti-Afrikan mentality and the power of the system to enforce their wrath.”

That was how Baba Asinia Lukata Chikuyu, founder of The R.E.A.L. (Repertory Ensemble of Afrikan Life & Literature) assessed the main issues facing the City of Jackson during an interview last week.

“We like to say REAL SOLUTIONS, which means solutions that are rooted in a humane fit to human errors,” stated the master mind. “Permanent solutions,” Chikuyu claimed, are the tools to combat mis-education.

Not a one-time fix for problems, then, Chikuyu’s learning



Baba Asinia Lukata Chikuyu

institute is an ongoing route of experience and study in “the learning of Black Afrikan History and the practice of Black Afrikan Culture, in an edutaining way...to increase economic growth in the black community.”

That mission, aimed to

educate and entertain, is accomplished via development workshops, seminars and symposia which enable children and adults to encounter personal introspection for higher spiritual self-control. Thus, soul searching enables them to divorce the “I” mentality to adopt the “We”

mentality while simultaneously obtaining knowledge.

“We further re-educate people to the value of Afrikan life and the need to redemption for the souls of human rights violators. Our work is targeted at Afrikan Peoples first, as they are ones who have the innate passion for humanity and need to use those instincts to heal and repair themselves,” contended Chikuyu.

On the contrary, the interviewee added, “others have to develop human compassion and accept their guilt and redress requirements for their unfounded ‘superiority complex.’”

When it comes to motivating Jackson’s citizenry, Chikuyu maintained that his strength was his logical perspective in seeking solutions to what he considered “priorities to our community.” Beyond articulating his rhetoric, Chikuyu mentioned having learned from freedom fighters like the late Chokwe Lumumba who “left an easy roadmap for those of us who can see with their third-eye the path forward.”

In order for youth to live in the moment, Chikuyu rec-

ommended that parents enroll them in the projects, programs and events hosted by the R.E.A.L. From there, it would be the institute’s job “to make the experience edutaining enough to make the youth want more and more.”

Further, the thinker charged that citizenry can restore Jackson by revisiting the Civil Rights Movement “with an open mind to where it failed, or at least, didn’t achieve its ultimate goal.” This means “the end of Black inferiority (eBi) = Black Empowerment (BE) to the fifth power combined with the cultural re-education of the black naivete’ to the tenth power and moral reeducation of white supremacists to the twelfth power, and moral reeducation of white people, in general, to the tenth power (Bn10 + RE rwp12 + wp10).

Chikuyu recommended, as well, that city and state officials should seek improved human relations by executing the following: (1) hire the REAL Learning Institute to do a scientific sociological study to test the Black inferiority (eBi) Formula; (2) the state must revisit its constitution, remove

all vestiges of racism, and sincerely apologize for all its human rights violation against Peoples of African Descent; (3) the state must enter into memorandums of understanding with Afrikan communities to provide redress for those violations and for the full healing of the Afrikan-psyche from the mis-educated Afrikan Peoples; and (4) re-educate non-Africans.

Reflecting on his assessment of the city and the state, Chikuyu looked to the United States: “If America is comfortable with its current value system, which reflects moral turpitude while professing moral righteousness, we have to change that. [This] means to do as the United States Constitution says, “But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.”

For further inquiry, email Baba Asinia Lukata Chikuyu: realsolutions@yahoo.com, or call 859-953-4234.

Grays becomes city president at So. Bancorp

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Southern Bancorp Bank recently announced the promotion of Manuel Grays to City President of the bank’s Ruleville market. Grays has been with Southern Bancorp, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), since 2006, most recently serving as Senior Vice President/Consumer Lender of the area.

“Manuel is a tremendous asset to our organization,” said Jeff Frazier, Central Region CEO. “He is committed to our mission and our core values, and is a strong ambassador for Southern Bancorp.”

Grays brings more than 20 years of banking experience to the position, predominantly in lending as a facilitator of both consumer and commercial loans.

In his new role, Grays will be based out of Ruleville but will continue to also serve the Indianola, Miss., market, as he has an extensive consumer portfolio in both communities.

Born and raised in the Mississippi Delta, Grays originally attended Mississippi State University on a football scholarship, later transferring to Delta State University where he graduated with a degree in Business Administration. He has also completed a number of specialty banking courses, including at the Mississippi School of Banking.

About Southern Bancorp

Founded in 1986 by some of the nation’s leading political, business, and philanthropic leaders with an initial investment of \$10 million, Southern Bancorp, Inc., along with its development partners – Southern Bancorp Bank, Southern Bancorp Community Partners, and Premier Bank of Arkansas – has



Grays

grown into a \$2.3 billion asset organization with 54 locations serving 65,000 customers across two states. Southern Bancorp has a unique array of financial products and services designed to help individuals at all stages of life’s financial journey – from teaching kids how to save to helping entrepreneurs and families realize the American Dream. Southern Bancorp is a certified Community Development Financial Institution, certified B-Corp, and proud member of the Global Alliance for Banking on Values. Learn more at www.BankSouthern.com or www.SouthernPartners.org

Operation Bill Assist: Entergy Mississippi pledges \$3.2M to help customers

Bill payment help, energy-efficiency tools and more on tap

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Entergy Mississippi has announced a \$3.2-million pledge, funded by its shareholders, to help customers with high bills brought on primarily by high natural gas prices. While the effort will apply to all residential customers, it will focus mainly on helping those with low to moderate incomes.

More than half of the power Entergy Mississippi generates comes from natural gas, and the cost to buy this fuel has more than doubled in the last year. These fuel costs are passed through to customers with no profit to the company. However, these persistent high natural gas prices are expected to affect customer bills later this year and into the next.

“We not only want to alert our customers ahead of time when we see factors that can affect their bills, we also want to give them the help and tools they need to prepare for those bills,” said Haley Fisackerly, Entergy Mississippi president and CEO.

Entergy announced four initiatives designed to help customers:

- \$150 bill credit for moderate-income customers. Nearly \$1.1 million will fund a temporary bill payment assistance program for Mississippi customers. The focus will be on moderate-income customers who struggle to pay utility bills, but do not qualify for federal bill assistance programs. These customers would receive a one-time \$150 bill credit.

- Up to \$1,000 for disabled and older customers in need. More than \$540,000 will provide emergency utility bill payments for one or more

months to older adults and customers with disabilities facing financial hardship. These funds will also provide agencies with administrative fees to cover added expenses associated with an increased volume of requests for help.

- Free \$35 energy efficiency kits. Nearly \$1.1 million will pay for money-saving energy efficiency kits. Customers can get these kits at community events in Entergy’s service area this fall or can request them online at <https://msentergy-solutions-marketplace.com/>. Available to all customers, the kits can potentially save customers \$5 per month or \$60 annually, and combined with Entergy’s available online tools, can save customers as much as \$300 annually

- \$460,000 for customer education. This money will fund a campaign to make Entergy customers aware of additional energy-efficiency and bill help available to them. This will include outreach and assistance to low-income households on how they can apply for federal bill assistance in their area, including the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program known as LI-HEAP.

“As part of a settlement, we worked with the Mississippi Public Service commissioners to get bill payment relief in the form of an \$80 rebate to all customers in September and a \$15 per 1,000-kilowatt benefit toward their bill through next year,” said Fisackerly. “Now we’re working with them again, and with our community partners, to expand on that effort and help Mississippians get additional relief.”

Fisackerly said the company is also addressing the natural gas crisis by taking steps to limit its use of natural gas.

“We are investing in Grand Gulf Nuclear Station’s low-cost power and incorporating more renewable energy into our generation portfolio,” he said. “An example of that is the recently-completed Sunflower Solar Station in the Mississippi delta.”

All Entergy charitable contributions come from shareholder profit, not from customers. No costs associated with Entergy charitable contributions are passed through to customers. The company will share more details about the initiatives as it rolls each one out in the coming weeks.

“During a time of rising costs from every direction, the Mississippi Public Service Commission and our regulated utilities are working closely to keep energy bills as low as possible,” Chairman Dane Maxwell said. “I appreciate the efforts of stakeholders at Entergy Mississippi for making this type of investment and commitment to help customers with high bills.”

“The Mississippi Public Service Commission remains committed to ensuring our regulated utilities provide affordable power to Mississippi consumers,” said Commissioner Brent Bailey, Central District. “We appreciate Entergy Mississippi’s efforts to provide the help and tools needed for their customers to lower their energy bills and put more money back in their pockets.”

Learn more at entergy.com/answers and entergy.com/billhelp.



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Dr. Valtreasa Tolliver-Cook promoted to chairperson of the Dept of Social Work

Alcorn State University newswire

The Department of Social Work at Alcorn State University is under new leadership.

Dr. Valtreasa Tolliver-Cook has been promoted to chairperson of the Department of Social Work. Cook also serves as an associate professor in the department.

Cook began her tenure at Alcorn in 2011 as an adjunct professor and became a full-time tenure-track assistant professor in 2012. She was promoted to associate professor in 2017. Cook has also served as the secretary and chairperson of the Faculty Senate, chairperson of the University Curriculum Committee, member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Leadership Team and Quality Enhancement committee, and a variety of other University committees. She brought 16 years of social work experience to Alcorn.

"Being at Alcorn State University for quite a while, Dr. Tolliver-Cook understands the needs and priorities for the Department of Social Work," said Dr. Babu Patlolla, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. "Most importantly,



Cook promoted to chairperson of Dept. of Social Work.

Dr. Tolliver-Cook is always in search of opportunities to grow and develop the Department. She maintains the culture of support and collaboration. I am excited and look forward to continue working with Dr. Tolliver-Cook."

Countless hours of commitment and hard work led to Cook achieving this milestone. She feels blessed to have reached a goal she's pursued for years.

"I feel blessed and highly fa-

vored," said Cook. "I am elated because this is something that I have sacrificed and worked hard for many years. I am honored to lead the Department of Social Work at Alcorn. My promotion is an answered prayer."

Now that she's arrived, Cook looks forward to implementing ideas that would lead to the betterment of the Department.

"My goals are to reaffirm the Bachelor of Social Work pro-

gram, develop a fully online Master of Social Work program, establish related certificate programs, increase recruitment and retention strategies, and continue teaching others how to become competent practitioners and leaders in social work. I also plan to continue supporting my colleagues as they strive to accomplish their academic and professional goals."

The promotion allows Cook to serve in a larger capacity and further extends her services.

"I want to continue serving my community, the Department and profession, and the University. I strive to promote Alcorn's educational legacy that has already been established. I want to contribute to the development of future leaders, particularly in social work."

Serving others is Cook's passion, which is why she believes being a social work leader is her calling.

"Social work is my calling and my purpose. Although teaching and leading others are challenging, it is also rewarding. Therefore, I embrace this opportunity to serve, learn, and lead."

U.S. News & World Report ranks Tougaloo College among the best



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Tougaloo College has been ranked No. 3 among the 2022-2023 Top Performers on Social Mobility and No. 12 in Historically Black Colleges and Universities by the U.S. News & World Report. Now in its 38th year, the rankings evaluate more than 1,450 colleges and universities on up to 17 measures of academic quality.

"Our persistent pursuit to preserving and advancing excellence is a commitment. This latest recognition will inspire and motivate us to continuously move our institution forward, as we prepare our students to enter a complex world with bigger responsibilities and challenges," Tougaloo College President Dr. Carmen J. Walters said.

U.S. News & World Report publishes the Best Colleges rankings each year to provide prospective students and their families with helpful data and information on factors such as graduation rates, social mobility, and graduate indebtedness. "For nearly 40 years, the Best Colleges methodology has continuously evolved to reflect changes in the higher education landscape and the interests of prospective students," said Kim Castro, editor and chief content officer at U.S. News.

Guiding that evolution is U.S. News' mission of providing useful data and information to help with one of life's biggest decisions. Prospective students can see how Tougaloo College compares to other institutions and how the rankings are calculated on USNews.com.

About Tougaloo College Tougaloo College is globally recognized for its academic excellence and social commitment. Since its founding in 1869, the College has maintained its rich history and deep roots within the social justice framework providing significant contributions of advocates, activists and scholars to the world. Its legacy of distinction in higher education is centered around the high-quality liberal arts studies curriculum and being among the top 25 U.S. institutions whose graduates go on to graduate or professional school. Its greatest mission is to prepare students to be lifelong learner who are committed to leadership and service in a global society.

Dr. Samecia Stokes to participate in White-Riley-Peterson Afterschool Policy Fellowship at Furman University

Special to the Mississippi Link

Executive director of Innovative Strategy, Dr. Samecia Stokes has been selected to participate in the White-Riley-Peterson Afterschool Policy Fellowship offered by the Riley Institute at Furman University. Stokes is one of nineteen afterschool leaders from across the country selected for this year's program.

The cohort will have the opportunity to gain a real-world understanding of the art and science of sound policy-making for afterschool and expanded learning.

Over the course of a year, WRP Fellows study an intensive policy curriculum, learn from policy experts, and benefit from national networking opportunities made possible by the Afterschool Alliance, a national advocacy organization, as well as the 50 State Afterschool Network supported by the Mott Foundation. By putting new policy skills to use, WRP Fellows develop and implement afterschool-related policy projects in their home states that ultimately support expanded learning op-



Hamony Porter

portunities for children across the country.

Stokes is an experienced educational leader with a demonstrated history of working in K-12 and higher education settings. Within JPS, she has served as a high school teacher, assistant principal, summer school principal, summer bridge coordinator, JPS Literacy Roadmap editor, A3 summer camp

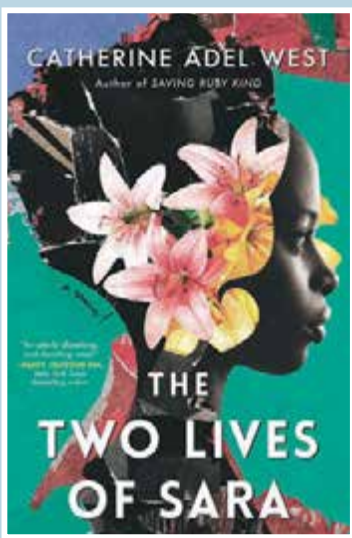
principal, feeder pattern lead (Forest Hill), and JPS Rockstar.

At Belhaven University, Stokes has served as a module writer, teacher mentor, educational leadership internship supervisor, and adjunct professor for both American and Chinese students. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Education/Emphasis in School Administration from Mississippi

State University, a Master of Science in Educational Leadership and Supervision from Jackson State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Tougaloo College. A proud graduate of Callaway High School and Leadership Greater Jackson, Stokes holds national recognition as an Andrew Mellon fellow and S.D. Shankland educator (American Association for School Administrators.)

Former U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, for whom the Riley Institute is named, said the role of afterschool and summer learning policy advocates is more important than ever. "Afterschool and summer learning programs play an essential role in the education and well-being of our children, and they are especially important in the learning recovery efforts necessitated by the pandemic," Riley said.

"These creative leaders will ensure that access to quality afterschool programming remains a key ingredient in guaranteeing the educational success of our children now and for years to come."



BOOK REVIEW:

THE TWO LIVES OF SARA

BY CATHERINE ADEL WEST

C.2022, PARK ROW BOOKS

\$27.99 • 320 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Pick yourself up. That’s what you’ve been told since you took your first step: you fall, you pick yourself up and you take another step. Keep going. Don’t stop, do the next thing, you really have no other choice. Things’ll get better but, as in the new novel “The Two Lives of Sara” by Catherine Adel West, it might take awhile. Sara King did not want that baby. He was always reaching for

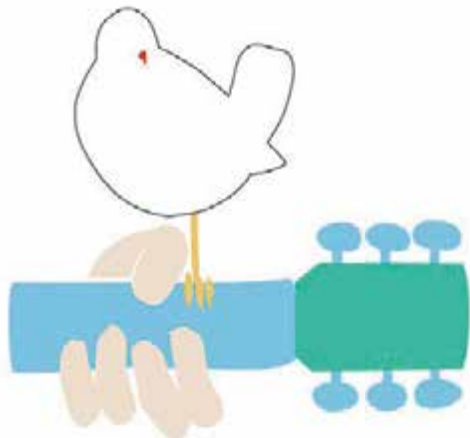
her, crying for her, hanging on her, and she was thankful that the other boarders at The Scarlet Poplar were happy to hold him and play with him because she didn’t want to. Mama Sugar, the owner of The Scarlet said that Sara would learn to love the boy, but Sara doubted it. She’d never love anybody after her mother died. Not after what her father did, not after she got pregnant, not after she had to leave Chicago for Memphis and lost touch with her friends, not after this child and

the lies and the losses. It was 1963, she was appreciative of Mama Sugar and her job at The Scarlet and all, but she wasn’t going to love anybody again. But time passes and wounds heal and a teacher at the Black school a couple blocks away finally melted her heart and then he asked Sara on a date. Mama Sugar was happy that Sara went out with Jonas Coulter and eventually, so was Sara when she allowed her mind to open to him. She fell in love – with her son, with Jonas, her com-

munity, and with her large new-found family at The Scarlet. But life has a way of swatting happiness over to one side and once again, Sara found herself closed off to everything good. That meant another re-invention of herself, another place, another decision that affected people she’d come to know. How much worse could her life be? How much worse could she make it? There’s one big thing you need to know about “The Two

Lives of Sara”: bring tissues. From the outset of her novel, author Catherine Adel West sets a flat tone, as if there is no color or depth to the life of her character, as if it’s forever cloudy and her days are empty. Slowly, though, as a painter creates a masterpiece, the other characters at West’s fictitious boarding house add layers of light and hue to Sara’s life, until the book seems to glow with happiness and a reader can breathe a sigh of relief. Followed by a gasp, as we

learn the truth about the child, what was left behind in Chicago, and two or three other things that plunge readers back into shadows and hushed conversation and a tale that turns simply devastating. And that’s not even the end of the novel. Bring tissues. Seriously. Don’t look now, but the holidays are coming and “The Two Lives of Sara” could make a good gift. Or, if you just can’t wait – and who could blame you? – pick it up yourself.



Jackson’s Original Music Festival

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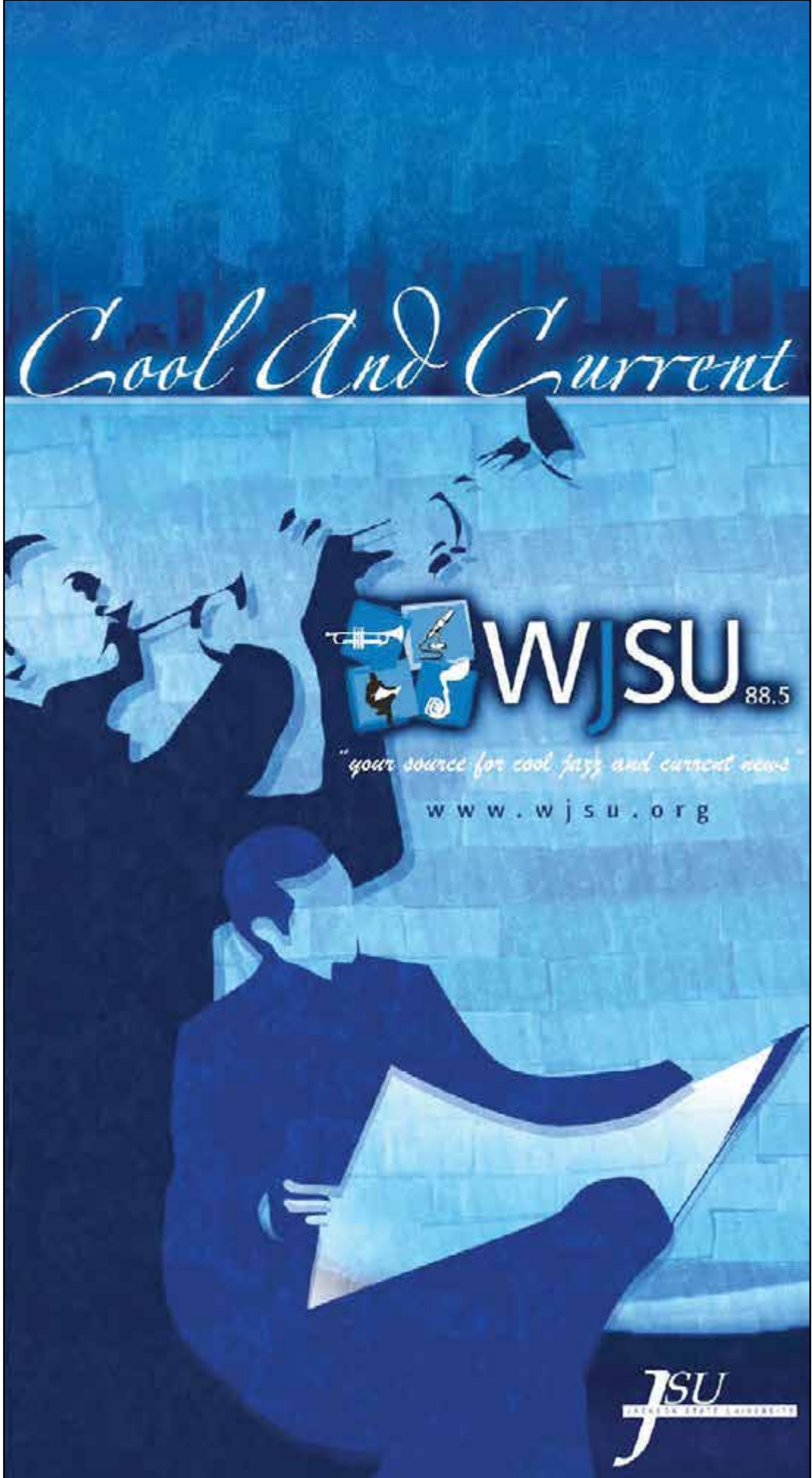
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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HINDS COUNTY DISTRICT BOWL

Raymond High School Rangers vs the Terry High Bulldogs is the featured rivalry game in the Hinds County School District, giving great bragging rights for one of only two high schools in the district. With the amount of rain received the week of the game, everyone expected a Mud Bowl, but the game turned out to be very competitive with the Terry High Bulldogs being the victor over the Raymond Rangers 14-7.



W.C. GORDEN Classic features Grambling State University this weekend

By Timothy Ward
Sports Writer

After traveling to Miami and Memphis respectively, the Tigers stay in Jackson for their home opener Saturday. Grambling will make the bus ride with the intent to spoil the home opener. Grambling State is coached by former NFL Head Coach Hue Jackson. With a 1-1 record thus far, Grambling is still learning Jackson's system. Coming off a 47-21 victory over Northwestern State, confidence is on their side.

Jackson State, usually ranks in the top 2 in game attendance, is expecting a packed house. The game kicks off at 1 pm. Based on the two previous games, the game Saturday should give a good indicator of where exactly the Tigers fit. Are they the offensive dynamo from Miami or are they the win ugly, but win physically offense from Memphis? The defense has been lights out in both contest. Alejandro Mata has made 80% off his field goals. Sam Johnson is averaging just over 37 yards per punt. Qb Shedeur Sanders is playing good football while leading the team. No sophomore jinx for Sanders thus far.

Unfortunately Travis Hunter will not make his home debut this weekend. "We're going to play him when he's healthy and he's ready," Coach Sanders said. "We want you to see all of Travis — the offensive guy, the defensive guy, the special teams guy. We want you to see all of him."

Good weather is in the forecast with temperatures hovering around 91 degrees. Put on your JSU shirt, come see the Sonic Boom of the South, and cheer JSU on for that home opening win.



Alejandro Mata

PHOTOS BY TIM WARD



Coach Deion Sanders



Running back JD MARTIN



Sonic Boom



JSU fans