

# JSU Tiger great T. C. Taylor named head football coach



*gojsutigers.com*

One of the greatest Jackson State Football Tigers to ever don the Blue and White has ascended to the position of head coach at his alma mater.

T.C. Taylor has been named the 22nd head coach

for JSU football. He will officially take the reins of the program following the conclusion of the Celebration Bowl and will be formally introduced in January.

The former JSU quarterback and wide receiver has been a part of the Jackson

State football staff since 2019, coaching tight ends and wide receivers, and has played a key role in an historic run over the past two seasons of Tiger football.

JSU has posted a 23-2 record over the past two seasons, winning back-to-back

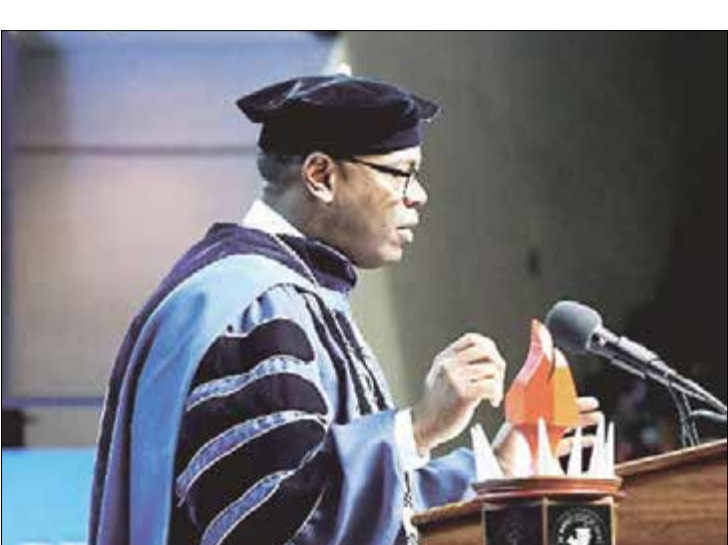
Southwestern Athletic Conference championships and posting consecutive undefeated conference seasons.

“I am excited to announce T.C. Taylor as our next head coach,” said Jackson State Vice President/Director of Athletics Ashley Robinson.

“T.C.’s passion and love for Jackson State University is unquestioned. His fervent desire and hunger to lead his alma mater as head coach is unparalleled. His standard of excellence as a player as

*JSU*  
*Continued on page 3*

# Roland S. Martin speaks at JSU’s fall commencement



Hudson presided over the commencement.



Roland Martin, keynote speaker at the commencement

**By Jackie Hampton**  
*Publisher*

Jackson State University’s Fall commencement was held Friday, Dec. 9, at the Lee E. Williams Athletic & Assembly Center, located at 1400 Lynch Street in Jackson.

The keynote speaker was Roland S. Martin, managing editor of #RolandMartinUnfiltered.

JSU President Thomas K. Hudson, J.D., presided over the commencement.

Hudson said to the graduates,

“This is your day. We are here to celebrate you, so I encourage you to enjoy this accomplishment, for it is a tremendous milestone in your life and a major step in your career.”

When Martin took to the podium he shared a story about one of his nieces that is in college.

He told the story that when she was in kindergarten, there was a noticeable change in her happy free spirit. It was later revealed that her teacher had bro-

ken her spirit by telling her that a picture which she had drawn was not good. As a result of the interaction, Martin had his niece removed from that class.

Martin said, “It offended us that a teacher would somehow stop this amazing, wonderful mind and begin to say her artwork wasn’t good enough when she’s a kindergartener, when she should’ve been teaching them to think far beyond what they were actually doing.”

Martin wanted the graduates

to have confidence in themselves when they walk into a room. He said, “There are some folks who are present, but there are some folks who have presence.”

In closing he said, “This is your moment to lead. This is your moment to create. This is your moment to stand up. This is your moment to be able to challenge and show the world exactly who you are and what you are made of.”

*See graduation photos, page 13.*

# Surplus funds at the Mississippi Capitol

## When will our state’s fiscal priorities truly serve All Mississippians?

**By Chris Young**  
*Contributing Writer*

Mississippi is a red state. Our legislature is dominated by Republicans in both chambers – a total of 110, compared with 58 Democrats, and a few Independents, per their website. The make-up of the legislature, which is the result of the will of the voters, has resulted in a supermajority in both chambers; meaning if the Republicans want something, they can get it without any help from Democrats.

We hear the terms conservative and liberal, and in our state, it seems as if being or leaning liberal is akin to something downright horrible. So, we have all these conservative Republican legislators that have a firm hold on power, and of course, we have our governor.

Despite having a supermajority of Republican legislators, we have things going on in Mississippi that make one wonder about these legislators’ belief in conservative values and principles. Britannica.com says that conservatism is a political doctrine that emphasizes the value



PHOTO BY WIKIPEDIA

of traditional institutions and practices. Clinging to tradition is a full-time endeavor in Mississippi – no doubt more valued than even the Egg Bowl.

Holding on to yesterday has its costs though. A price is paid. The American dream evolves on a forward trajectory – inspiration, ingenuity, and advancement. In Mississippi we embrace a past that was devastating to a huge swath of our population, and now we are trying to restrict

the telling of that past.

A few days ago, our governor sent this message on Twitter – “No country can survive if it raises its children to despise the inherent values upon which it was founded.”

Among those values, especially in the Deep South, were systemic slavery and oppression, yet our governor attempts to whitewash that truth at every opportunity. The price that is paid is revealed in multiple ways for

Mississippi. We are last in every meaningful ranking of progress. Hospitals are closing and more are in jeopardy of closing, most in areas of the state where poverty is highest. We continue to oppress African Americans, other people of color, and the poor. In the state with the largest percent of African American population per capita – 40 percent, 94 percent of our state agencies are headed by European Americans.

We are cutting income tax, which benefits wealthy people far more than poor people, yet our grocery tax is the highest in the whole country – even poor people need groceries. The enduring refrain in Mississippi is one of white supremacy – keeping African Americans from advancement and making sure our history is told in a manner which is favorable to European Americans, regardless of truth.

Running parallel to this backward thinking is our fiscal policy. There is so much talk now of having a budget surplus; somewhere between \$1-2 billion, but

*Funds*  
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# CSLC hosts SBA Community Navigation Pilot Program (CNPP)



(L-R) Veronique Thomas, SBA marketing and outreach specialist; Ashley Donerson, SBA deputy district director; Allen Thomas, SBA regional administrator; Janita Stewart, MS SBA district director, Beulah Greer, CSLC executive director and Leslie Greer, CSLC founder and board president PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON

**By Jackie Hampton**  
*Publisher*

Mississippi’s Small Business Administration Community Navigation Pilot Program (CNPP) held a media event Dec. 1, 2022. It was hosted by and held at the Community Student Learning Center (CSLC) located at 333 Yazoo Street in Lexington, MS.

SBA Regional Administrator Allen Thomas was there to meet, tour and see some of the small business owners and businesses that were being helped by CNPP.

CNNP is a federally funded program that helps the SBA engage with states, local governments, SBA resource partners and other organizations in targeted outreach for small businesses in underserved communities” (sba.gov).

Lexington Mayor Robin McCrory welcomed guests to the event and to the city.

Allen, whose home base is in Atlanta, stated he is very appreciative of the work that is being done in the navigation pilot program and local trusted partners are very instrumental in assisting with planting seeds that will multiply in getting resources in the right hands of those that need help.

Others that accompanied Thomas and spoke about their roles included SBA Mississippi District Director Janita Stewart, Deputy Director Ashlei Donerson, and Specialist Outreach and Marketing Veronique Thomas. They were there to visit businesses and hear success stories.

Lucretia Holmes, a grant project manager spoke briefly regarding implementation of a grant which serves elementary, middle and high

school students in Holmes County. She said the grant she is managing focusses on teaching students about good character, conflict resolution and how to avoid violence.

The group visited two business owners in Lexington that had success stories to share.

One was Holmes County native Kalyn D. Davis of KT Home Construction LLC. Davis said he was literally shocked when CSLC, SBA MS CNPP Projector Director Antwan Clark told him he had been approved for a \$100,000 low interest business loan.

Davis gives God credit for blessing him with the loan and all other blessings that have been coming his way. He and his KT Home Construction, LLC team are looking forward to their first major historic government contract to be constructed in the Mississippi Delta.

Holmes County native and disabled Vietnam War Veteran Leonard Hampton has been in business since 1972. The owner of Harvesters Enterprise, LLC said he started his first business, Soul Scissors Barber Shop, on Lynch Street in Jackson, MS with only \$341 in the bank. “Being a business owner is a struggle” he said, “but you have to keep moving along.”

Harvesters Enterprise, LLC leases office space in Lexington and due to COVID-19 one of his tenants had to close his business in 2020.

Hampton heard about the Community Navigator Pilot Program, operated by the Community Students Learning Center via one of its Spoke partners, Henry Luckett of Knowledge Info, LLC.

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## In Memoriam

# Jerry Mitchell, Sr.

December 26, 1949 - December 9, 2022



Jerry Mitchell, Sr. was born December 26, 1949 in Jackson, MS to the late Arthur and Rosie Lou Thompson Mitchell. He is the second child of three children.

At an early age, Jerry was baptized at Saint Luther Baptist Church under the pastorship of Pastor Fred Black. Upon marriage, he joined College Hill Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorship of Pastor R.E. Willis where he remained faithful until his passing. Jerry was a member of

the Laymen Ministry, the church Outreach Ministry, and part of the church Finance Ministry.

For 54 years Jerry shared his love with his beloved wife, Lena Yvette Mitchell. They were blessed with two children, Elizabeth “Prissy” Washington and the late Jerry “Dune” Mitchell, Jr.

Jerry’s early education began at Christ the King Catholic School, later transitioning to Jackson Public Schools where he attended Jim Hill High School. During integration, Jerry transferred to Provine High School where he graduated in 1967, however his heart was always with his beloved Jim Hill Class of 1967. Jerry enrolled at Jackson State University where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Jerry began his work career with the Center for Early Education (CEE), a branch of the Head Start and Early Childhood Development Program. He was later employed as director of Payroll at Jackson State

University until retirement in 2007. He was an avid fisherman, hunter and a master chef on the grill. His joy was catching, preparing and sharing the rewards of his labor with his family and friends.

He leaves to cherish his memories wife, Lena Yvette Mitchell; children, Elizabeth (Ben) Washington and Kevin Baker; daughter-in-law, Sonya Mitchell; godchild, Wayne Brent; grandchildren, Kierrariel Mitchell, Kyle Washington, Da-jai’ Mitchell, Johnathan Bowden, MaKayla Mitchell, Demi Washington, Erin Washington and Jerry Mitchell, III; godgrands, Kristian (Dyllan) Taylor and Cameron Brent; great-grands, Braxton Thompson and Jersey Bowden; siblings, Glenn Mitchell and Francine Mitchell Stiff; Aunt Betty DuBoise; sisters-in-law; brothers-in-law; nieces; nephews; cousins and friends.

Services were held Thursday, Dec. 15, at College Hill MB Church, 1600 Florence Ave., Jackson, MS. Pastor Chauncy Jordan, Sr., officiant.

# Councilman Aaron Banks elected president of the National League of Cities

## The Mississippi Link Newswire

Aaron Banks, Jackson City Councilman, Ward 6, has been elected as the 2023 president of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a constituency group of the National League of Cities (NLC). The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials serves as a forum for communication and networking among African-American municipal officials and their colleagues to share ideas and develop leadership experience. Banks was elected in November at NLC’s 2022 City Summit conference in Kansas City, MO.

“As president of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, I will play a vital role in shaping the influence of policy on a national level, ensuring better resources and access for our local cities, towns and villages. In addition, as president, Jackson, Mississippi will become a pilot to the various programs, policy recommendations and resources needed to enhance



Banks

the quality of life in our cities, towns and villages around the country.”

Established in 1970, The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials provides a platform for municipal leaders to connect, share best practices, and advocate for the needs of their communities. The group also contributes to NLC’s leadership development, policy formulation, advocacy, and program activities.

“Constituency groups play a vital role in shaping and influencing NLC’s priorities by uplifting the voices of our communities,” said NLC President Mayor Vic-

toria Woodards of Tacoma, Washington. “I am excited to work with Councilman Aaron Banks and look forward to supporting his vision this year as a leader of this very important group.”

This year’s leadership also includes Mayor Pro Tem Denise Mitchell of College Park, MD, elected to serve as first vice president, and Mayor Derrick Wood of Dumfries, VA as second vice president.

For more information on NLC’s constituency groups, visit: <https://www.nlc.org/post/2022/12/02/national-league-of-cities-elects-new-constituencygroup-leaders/>

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## JSU

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a JSU Tiger and his career trajectory as an assistant coach has prepared him for this opportunity. His vision and plan to continue the championship excellence of Jackson State football elevated him to the top of the search process. I look forward to him leading our program in 2023 and into the future. Let's rally behind coach Taylor by investing in our football program at [gojsutigers.com/footballgift](https://gojsutigers.com/footballgift), and let's continue to make history."

"Coach Taylor's experience working with our student-athletes, along with his dedication to support and enhance his alma mater, are exactly what Jackson State University needs to continue to elevate the athletic prowess of our football program," said JSU President Thomas K. Hudson, J.D. "I look forward to working with him as he continues to build on tradition and blaze new trails."

As an assistant coach at JSU, Taylor has helped develop some of the best receivers in the SWAC. During the abbreviated Spring 2021 season, he tutored WR Daylen Baldwin, who led the SWAC in receiving yards (540) and touchdowns (seven). During the Fall 2021 season, Malachi Wideman tied for the conference lead with 12 touchdown receptions, while Keith Corbin ranked second in both receptions (69) and yards (921) and tied for seventh in touchdowns.

In 2022, Dallas Daniels ranks second in the SWAC in receptions (60), third in receiving yards (666), and fourth in touchdowns (six). Shane Hooks ranks third in the SWAC in receptions (59) and third in both receiving yards (705) and receiving touchdowns (10). Prior to the 2022 season, Taylor was selected for an NFL coaching fellowship with the Tennessee Titans.

A native of McComb, Miss., Taylor played quarterback and wide receiver at Jackson State from 1998-2001, starting off as a signal caller for two-and-a-half seasons before switching to wide receiver. In just 19 games as a receiver, he amassed 188 catches for 1,793 yards.

As a senior at Jackson State, Taylor broke the JSU single-season record with 84 receptions for 1,234 yards and 11 touchdowns, earning NCAA Division I-AA Third-Team All-America honors from The Sports Network and First-Team Black College All-America recognition

from Sheridan Broadcasting Network. He was also the runner-up for the 2001 Conerly Trophy, presented to Mississippi's top college football player, behind Eli Manning.

Prior to returning to JSU as assistant coach in 2019, Taylor coached at North Carolina Central from 2014-18, where he coached quarterbacks and served as offensive coordinator.

At NCCU, Taylor helped guide the Eagles to three MEAC championships (2014, 2015, 2016), and in 2016 went unbeaten in conference play and qualified for the Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl.

In 2016 and under Taylor's guidance, NCCU set a record for total offense in a single season (4,614). Also, in 2014, Taylor's unit set a program record for passes completed in a season (227).

From 2014 to 2018, Taylor coached 28 All-MEAC offensive players and five All-Americans. In 2016 and under Taylor's tutoring, Malcolm Bell was a finalist for the 2016 Black College Football Player of the Year. Bell was also a three-time All-MEAC quarterback (2014, 2015, 2016) and set the program record for total offense (7,844 yards) and career completion percentage (56.6 percent) and was second in passing yards (6,340).

Taylor spent the prior two seasons (2012-13) at Texas Southern University as wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator.

From 2005-11, he coached at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Miss., starting as the quarterbacks and wide receivers coach and spending the final six years as offensive coordinator. His offenses ranked among the top five in Mississippi junior colleges in total yards for four straight seasons from 2007-10.

Taylor signed as a rookie free agent with the New England Patriots in 2002, played wide receiver for the NFL Europe World Bowl XI champion Frankfurt Galaxy in 2003, and participated in the 2003 NFL preseason with the Detroit Lions before a nagging injury ended his playing career.

Taylor graduated from Jackson State with a bachelor's degree in health, physical education and recreation in 2005. He is married to Dawn, and they have two sons, Tre and Tylan.

## CSLC

Continued from page 1

Hampton was determined to keep his business open and applied for two grants. He was approved for both and used the funds to renovate the vacated space.

When asked about his business since he received the grants he said, "It's moving along; the grants were a God-send."

Stewart was very pleased with the entire

event. In a letter addressed to CSLC Executive Director Greer, Stewart said, "Thanks for accomodating and being such gracious host."

Stewart said it was evident that CSLC was truly embedded in the community of Lexington and surrounding areas. She encouraged Greer to continue the good work of helping small businesses and entrepreneurs.

## Funds

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how will it be spent? That really matters because we are a debtor state – receiving over 45 percent of our annual income from the federal government – is that the byproduct of being fiscally conservative? We are cutting income tax – when the state is four billion dollars in debt and pays over \$435 million a year to service the debt – is that sound fiscal policy? Is stealing federal funding earmarked specifically for the poorest among us – an immoral misuse of taxpayer dollars – is that a reflection of being fiscally conservative? Is this the way fiscal conservatives run their family budget? Is spending tens of millions of taxpayer dollars to preserve the Old State Capital in Jackson, where statistically, nearly four out of every ten people you pass on the street live in poverty?

Folks that are conservative don't spend more money than they make. They realize that spending what you want, regardless of having the money to pay for it, is the root cause of financial problems. Our conservative legislators, over time, seem to ignore that.

The two states that are closest to Mississippi in population, per [worldpopulationreview.com](https://worldpopulationreview.com), are Arkansas with 3,021,085 and Kansas with 2,946,356. Arkansas' rate of population growth is .32 percent and Kansas' is .29 percent. But Mississippi with 2,960,677 is losing population at a rate of .02 percent – not

growth, but decline.

When discussing the governor's recently published proposed budget for FY2024, local syndicated columnist Bill Crawford looked at the numbers in a column in *The Northside Sun*, entitled, "Can state afford income tax cut?" He detailed several areas where it seems unlikely that we can afford it.

One part of his article that really merits extra attention is when Crawford quoted the governor's recent press release – "We will build a future that every Mississippian can be proud of." In response, Crawford shares from a recent United Way ALICE project (Asset Limited, Income Constrained and Employed) report. The report stated, "It is estimated that in 2021 that 50 percent of Mississippi households were left out or left behind – 19 percent living below the poverty line plus another 31 percent too poor to afford the basics of housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and technology due to low wages."

A debtor state, receiving forty-five percent of its annual revenue from the federal government, and being in debt four billion dollars, and in the process of eliminating the revenues from income tax, while over-taxing groceries that are essential to all human beings, is not a state that all Mississippians can be proud of. Nor is it fiscally conservative. Nor are we moving out of last place.

# Jim Hill High School presents annual Christmas concert for the community



The Jim Hill Choir sings Betelhemu (arr. By Barrington Brooks) They are accompanied by Northwest IB Middle School Drum Ensemble under the direction of Wangela Brown. PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

By Jackie Hampton  
*Publisher*

The Jim Hill High School choir, under the direction of Pamela Moody, presented 'Songs of the Season,' a free concert for the community.

The annual concert was hosted Sunday, December 11, at 3 p.m. by the Music Ministry of College Hill, which is under the direction or Rev. Andrew Lewis.

Members of the community filled the church pews for this annual event.

Jim Hill teacher Delia Gilmer served as program guide. After greeting the audience, Gilmer asked the attendees to join in the singing of "Jesus Was a Wonderful Child."

A welcome and occasion was given by Shannon Gad-dis, vice president of the Jim Hill Tiger Singers Booster

Club.

After prayer by Lakesharné Smith the concert began.

Also performing at the concert was the Isable Elementary School Choir, under the direction of Cassandra Watkins and the Newton High School Choir, under the direction of Ursula Patrick.

Closing remarks were given by College Hill Pastor Chauncy Jordan, Sr.



Isable Elementary School Choir



Newton High School Choir directed by Urshula Patrick.

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# Community Library Mississippi hosts 3rd Annual Intellectual Revolution of Creativity at Holiday Book Festival 2022

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

Community Library Mississippi remains true to its public persona in its pursuit of word investors.

Following Thanksgiving celebration, the organization hosted its 3rd Holiday Book Festival 2022 Live on FACEBOOK Saturday, November 26, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The event featured a spelling bee, two poetry contests and book authors who expounded upon their books. Participants hailed from several Mississippi locations: Jackson, Fayette, Greenville, Grenada, Hernando, Madison and Meridian. Other locations included Atlanta, GA, Richmond, VA, Tallahassee, FL, Vallejo, CA, and Belize, Central America.

"I feel so proud that emerging writers are developing their God-given writing talents through our Intellectual Revolution," commented Meredith Coleman McGee, Community Library Mississippi chair and event organizer.

When it comes to learning, Community Library Mississippi encourages growth and invites writers and speakers to hone their skills.

Several persons who attended the 2020 virtual setting were present in November. McGee expressed that she was appeased with this year's competitive outcome, though some persons who registered were unable to attend the affair.

"I stopped breathing when Mikayla read her poem entitled 'Belittlement.' I've seen her read in public three times – at the Holiday Book Festival 2020



Thompson Family

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COMMUNITY LIBRARY MISSISSIPPI



Iyanu Carson



Michelle Heusner



Mikayla Smith



Chelsea Smith



Chevron Guthrie



Jacalyn Eyvonne

and at Battlefield Park." I felt the pain she experienced while she was belittled at school. I also felt joy when she read about how she overcame the belittlement. Mikayla's storytelling is so strong," boasted McGee.

"Jacalyn Eyvonne's poem, 'The Talk,' was very real to me as an adult. I pray the youth walked away with a greater worldview from the sharing which was based on different experiences. The youth expressed repeatedly that no one had ever had the talk with them before," articulated McGee.

Eyvonne nudged the point, "Behind 'The Talk' is the word

that every parent of color would have – the conversations we have with our youth, young boys in particular, about going out into the world."

McGee noted that for three consecutive years, Chevron Guthrie has won first place in poetry. "This great spoken word artist shared information about himself for the first time. I was spellbound when he read his original freestyle poem, Top of his Crown [which reminded me of what rappers used to do in rap battles without using paper]."

Community Library Mississippi features the Delta Book Festival Spelling Bee and the

Jackson Book Festival Poetry Contest virtually the Saturday after Thanksgiving annually. Each contest was in person via Greenville and Jackson until the pandemic when the entities joined under the Community Library Mississippi goes Virtual programming.

Organized by Mary Hardy, owner of Book Gallery in Greenville, The Spelling Bee had one lone competitor: Michelle Heusner (7th grader from Belize, Central America and member of the Learning Tree Book Club) who engaged in a rigorous round which included exposure to 800 words. Heusner won first place

which merited a \$100 cash award.

The combined elementary and middle school level included two participants in the poetry contest. Iyanu Carson (4th grader from Casey Elementary School, Jackson, Miss.) won second place (\$75 cash). Chelsea Smith (6th grader from Chastain Middle School, Jackson, Miss.) won first place (\$100 cash).

Referencing her poem, Chelsea said this. "At first I believed a lot that people told me [when they called me ugly], but I wrote my poem because I now know that I am beautiful."

"Chelsea Smith wrote her first poem on this platform in 2020," stated McGee. She recalled when she first witnessed Smith reciting poetry and spoke of her artistic growth.

Iyanu Carson won first place in poetry in 2020 and 2021. According to McGee, "She has also grown as a poet. She introduced herself as a poet. Today she backed the title of her poem, 'Baby Doll,' while holding a baby doll in her arms during her recitation, thereby enhancing her stage presence." The festival organizer admired Iyanu's understanding of her poem and her ability to transmit the poem's message.

There were three poetry contestants within the combined high school and adult division, and they received cash awards. Mikayla Smith (Murrah High School 11th grader, Jackson, Miss.) won third place (\$50). Jacalyn Eyvonne (adult from Vallejo, CA) won second place (\$75). Chevron Guthrie (adult from Atlanta, GA) won first place (\$100).

Madison residents, Adrienne Dumas (Ph.D.) and Allycea Huskey, served as adjudicators. Both concurred that the contestants were "powerful presenters."


Xavier Bailey, the timekeeper, resides in Tallahassee, FL.

Present in the virtual marketplace were vendors who sold jewelry, t-shirts, and books. Khadiya Spacei-Aziz (@charmedbykhy) displayed necklaces, bracelets and earrings. The Thompson Family (Michael, Earnice, Ermya, Emeri, McKenzie and Micheal Thompson Jr) displayed Christian t-shirts.


Among authors who shared their works were William Trest (Reverse Guilty Plea; The New Populist Party); The Thompson Family (Creation – Everything Honors God in its own Way); Jacalyn Eyvonne (I am Not a Consequential Word); Linda Kay Chandler (Linda Kay's Book of Poetry: Inspirational Spiritual Self Guide Inspired by my Daughter Precious Nicole Epilepsy Journey); LaDonna Marie (Until Tomorrow Comes and Larry the Alligator Makes Friends); Dana Rice (Affirmations – Album; A Half Truth Equals a Whole Lie; Grandma Sayings); Meredith Coleman McGee (Nashida Goes to the Capital; Every Inch Love Will; James Meredith: Warrior and the America That Created Him; Odyssey).

Community Library Mississippi's Virtual Holiday Book Festival 2022 attracted 214 viewers and reached 616 people.

To learn more about Community Library Mississippi, contact Meredith Coleman McGee at [communitylibrary.ms@gmail.com](mailto:communitylibrary.ms@gmail.com) or call 601-601-454-3855.



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# Ethics Commission votes to block the sunshine

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

The Mississippi Ethics Commission has four main areas of authority under four separate laws: Ethics in Government Law, Open Meetings Act, Public Records Act and Campaign Finance Law.

In April 2022, The Mississippi Free Press filed a complaint after being barred from a meeting of the Mississippi House of Representatives Republican Caucus at the Capitol building. The caucus, which contains 75 of the 122 members of the chamber, represents a quorum of the Legislature, and is a powerful, secretive driver of key legislative agendas, per reporting by The Mississippi Free Press and numerous other sources.

The Ethics Commission website says that “all elected and appointed officials and employees of state, county, district and municipal government in Mississippi are subject to at least one of these laws. The commission and its staff are committed to helping public servants comply with the law and ensuring the highest standards of governmental integrity and transparency for the people of Mississippi.”

The Ethics Commission has eight members, 100 percent European American, who are appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, and the Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court.

The chairman of the commission, Ben Stone, has been on the job for over 40 years. He was first appointed in 1981 to a four-year term and has been re-appointed every four years ever since. Recently he received a commendation from the Senate honoring his contributions leading to his 40 years of service on the commission.

According to their website, the Ethics Commission “is served by a small, dedicated staff of professional public servants. The staff serve at the will and pleasure of the Executive Director, Tom Hood, who serves at the will and pleasure of the Commission. The Ethics Commission is outside the state personnel system, and all employees are classified as non-state service. The staff makes recommendations to the Commission members on virtually all matters under consideration by the Commission, but the staff have no authority to take action on behalf of the Commission.”

Last week, Ethics Commission Executive Director Tom Hood recommended that the commission rule in favor of the Mississippi Free Press, writing that “it is essential to the fundamental philosophy of the American constitutional form of representative government and to the maintenance of a democratic society that public business undertaken by a quorum of the House of Representatives be performed in an open and public manner.” However, the commission overruled his recommendation 5-3, substantially rejecting the argument that the House of Representatives constituted a public body, but pushing off a final decision to the debate this week, per The Mississippi Free Press on December 8, 2022.

As of press time for *The Mississippi Link* newspaper, it appears that Ethics Commission Chairman Ben Stone has postponed adopting a final order affirming that the Mississippi Legislature is excluded from our open meeting laws in Mississippi, and another meeting of the Ethics Commission is scheduled for December 14, 2022, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., per their website.

It is noteworthy that, unlike

the House, the Senate has chosen not to have caucus meetings due to concern by members that it would violate Open Meetings law, as reported by Mississippi Today on December 2, 2022. Depending on what the final order says, this issue could wind up in the courts.

We have a long history in Mississippi of trying to block the sunshine, preferring so often to make decisions that impact either some or all Mississippians, behind closed doors and out of the public view. When personnel issues are the focus, it seems like most folks understand those are private discussions. Yet the public has a right to know what their representatives are up to. The taxpayers are the ones footing the bill; not only the bill for all the lawmakers, but for everything else, and that includes the \$583,597 recommended funding this year for the Ethics Commission itself, with its staff of six, per Mississippi Legislative Budget Office.

Think about the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) scandal, perpetrated by GOP leaders, and how without dogged reporting by Anna Wolfe at Mississippi Today, we may well still be in the dark about it. It begs the question what else we are in the dark about.

This year, Mississippi’s budget was over \$21 billion, with over \$9 billion coming from the federal government, which is over 45 percent. Our lawmakers decide how every penny is spent. Do you think it’s possible that there is a correlation between Mississippi’s inability to support itself – behave honorably – and grow as a state from our perpetual standing in last place, and the fact that we like to keep the drapes closed as much as possible?

# Slain teen ‘loved life,’ mom says before killer’s execution

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

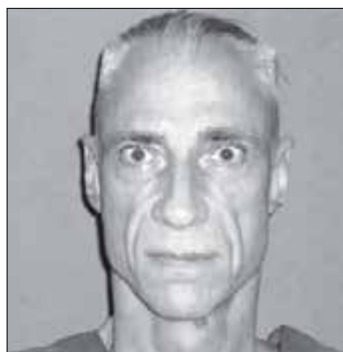
Leesa Gray was a 6 year-old girl who found joy in her church youth group, sang in the school chorus and quietly stood up for teenagers who were bullied by their peers, according to friends and family.

“She was pretty happy-go-lucky, always smiling,” recalled Leesa’s mother, Wanda Farris. “That’s what I most remember her by. She loved life and she was a good Christian girl.”

Farris went to the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman to witness the execution by lethal injection of the man who pleaded guilty to raping and killing her daughter. Thomas Edwin Loden Jr., now 58, had been on death row 2 years.

Loden was among the death row inmates suing Mississippi over the state’s three-drug protocol for executions. A federal judge last week denied a request to block Loden’s execution while the lawsuit, which was filed in 2015, continues. Mississippi’s most recent execution was in November.

During the summer ahead of what should have been Leesa’s senior year of high school, she worked as a waitress at her uncle’s restaurant in north Mississippi’s Itawamba County – a place that serves eggs, grits and biscuits in the morning, and hamburgers, steak and catfish later in the day. On June 2 she left work after dark and became stranded with a flat tire on a rural road.



Loden

Loden, a Marine Corps recruiter with relatives in the area, stopped about 4 p.m. According to an interview he later gave investigators, he forced Leesa into his van and spent four hours raping and sexually battering her before strangling and suffocating her.

In September Loden pleaded guilty to capital murder, rape and four counts of sexual battery. According to court records, Loden told Leesa’s friends and family during his sentencing: “I hope you may have some sense of justice when you leave here today.”

Farris told The Associated Press Friday that she did not believe Loden’s apology.

“I don’t particularly want to see somebody die,” Farris said. “But I do believe in the death penalty. ... I do believe in justice.”

Leesa’s best friend, Lisa Darracott, hopes the execution will bring her closure. She thinks every day about Leesa, whom she met the first day of kindergarten. She described Leesa as both quiet and outgoing, and welcoming to others.

When they were small, they would play at working in an office or keeping house, she said, and “give ourselves married names of whatever boy we had a crush on.” When they were older, they enjoyed dancing to Shania Twain’s “Any Man of Mine.”

“We had a secret obsession with the Spice Girls,” Darracott said with a laugh.

Leesa loved to do hair and makeup while she was a student at Itawamba Agricultural High School and would help Darracott get ready for dances.

Farris said Leesa had a job babysitting two young boys and loved taking part in the youth group at Bethel Baptist Church. She described her daughter as “a good kid.”

Farris said her daughter aspired to become an elementary school teacher.

Farris said she forgave her daughter’s killer years ago. A feeling came over her, and she believes it was the Lord speaking to her heart.

“I said, ‘I forgive you, Eddie Loden,’” Farris said. “I just felt at peace about it, but I started crying. I felt like I was betraying Leesa.”

She called her pastor, who assured her that Leesa would want her to forgive Loden.

Like Darracott, Farris hopes the execution will help her move on – but not forget.

“You just have this hanging over your head all these years,” Farris said. “Leesa is always going to be in my heart and my mind.”

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# Ex-cop who kneeled on George Floyd's back gets 3.5-year term

By Stephen Groves and Amy Forliti  
*Associated Press*

The former Minneapolis police officer who kneeled on George Floyd's back while another officer kneeled on the black man's neck was sentenced Friday to 3-1/2 years in prison.

J. Alexander Kueng pleaded guilty in October to a state count of aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter. In exchange, a charge of aiding and abetting murder was dropped. Kueng is already serving a federal sentence for violating Floyd's civil rights, and the state and federal sentences will be served at the same time.

Kueng appeared at the hearing via video from a federal prison in Ohio. When given the chance to address the court, he declined.

With credit for time served and different parole guidelines in the state and federal systems, Kueng will likely serve a total of about 2-1/2 years behind bars.

Floyd's family members had the right to make victim impact statements, but none did. Family attorney Ben Crump, who has



Kueng

taken on some of the nation's most high-profile police killings of black people, said in a statement before the hearing that Kueng's sentencing "delivers yet another piece of justice for the Floyd family."

"While the family faces yet another holiday season without George, we hope that moments like these continue to bring them a measure of peace, knowing that George's death was not in vain," he said.

Floyd died on May 25, 2020,

after former Officer Derek Chauvin kneeled on Floyd's neck for 9-1/2 minutes as Floyd repeatedly said he couldn't breathe and eventually went limp. The killing, which was recorded on video by a bystander, sparked worldwide protests as part of a broader reckoning over racial injustice.

Kueng kneeled on Floyd's back during the restraint. Then-Officer Thomas Lane held Floyd's legs and Tou Thao, also an officer at the time, kept bystanders from intervening. All of the officers were fired and faced state and federal charges.

As part of his plea agreement, Kueng admitted that he held Floyd's torso, that he knew from his experience and training that restraining a handcuffed person in a prone position created a substantial risk, and that the restraint of Floyd was unreasonable under the circumstances.

Matthew Frank, who led the prosecution for the Minnesota attorney general's office, said repeatedly during the hearing that Floyd was a crime vic-

tim and that the prosecution "focused on the officers" who caused his death. He added that the case was not meant to be a broader examination of policing, but added that he hopes it will reaffirm that police officers cannot treat those "who are in crisis as non-people or second-class citizens."

"Mr. Kueng was not simply a bystander that day. He did less than what some of the bystanders attempted to do in helping Mr. Floyd," Frank said.

Kueng's attorney, Thomas Plunkett, on Friday blamed the Minneapolis Police Department's leadership and a lack of training for Floyd's death. He highlighted Kueng's status as a rookie — saying he had only been on the job on his own for three days — and accused department leadership of failing to implement training to encourage officers to intervene when one of their colleagues is doing something wrong.

"On behalf of Mr. Kueng, I'm not calling for justice. I'm calling for progress," he said.

Then-Chief Medaria Arradondo fired Kueng and the three other officers the day after Floyd's killing and later testified at Chauvin's trial that the officers did not follow training. The former head of training for the department has also testified that the officers acted in a way that was inconsistent with department policies.

Kueng's sentencing brings the cases against all of the former officers a step closer to resolution, although the state case against Thao is still pending.

Thao previously told Judge Peter Cahill that it "would be lying" to plead guilty. In October, he agreed to what's called a stipulated evidence trial on the count of aiding and abetting manslaughter. As part of that process, his attorneys and prosecutors are working out agreed-upon evidence in his case and filing written closing arguments. Cahill will then decide whether Thao is guilty or not.

If Thao is convicted, the murder count — which carries a presumptive sentence of 12-

1/2 years in prison — will be dropped.

Chauvin, who is white, was convicted of state murder and manslaughter charges last year and is serving 22-1/2 years in the state case. He also pleaded guilty to a federal charge of violating Floyd's civil rights and was sentenced to 21 years. He is serving the sentences concurrently at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tucson, Arizona.

Kueng, Lane and Thao were convicted of federal charges in February: All three were convicted of depriving Floyd of his right to medical care, and Thao and Kueng were also convicted of failing to intervene to stop Chauvin during the killing.

Lane, who is white, is serving his 2-1/2-year federal sentence at a facility in Colorado. He's serving a three-year state sentence at the same time. Kueng, who is black, was sentenced to three years on the federal counts; Thao, who is Hmong American, got a 3-1/2-year federal sentence.

## To be equal #41: House Oversight Committee's revelations are merely the tip of Trump's iceberg of graft

By Marc H. Morial  
*President and CEO, National Urban League*



"The exorbitant rates charged to the Secret Service and agents' frequent stays at Trump-owned properties raise significant concerns about the former president's self-dealing and may have resulted in a taxpayer-funded windfall for former President Trump's struggling businesses," said House Oversight Committee Chairwoman Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney.

It's not clear whether the opportunity to funnel taxpayer funds into his private business was Donald Trump's primary motivation for seeking the presidency. What is crystal clear, however, is that he took every opportunity to do just that — and lied about it along the way.

The House Oversight Committee revealed that the Trump Organization charged the Secret Service up to \$1,185 per night for hotel rooms used by agents protecting Trump family members. That's five times the government rate and nearly 24 times the \$50-a-night rate the Trump Org

### COMMENTARY

claimed to be charging.

Trump visited his own properties more than 500 times during his presidency, and the Trump Organization has continued to bill the Secret Service since he left office and began living in his properties full-time.

The records released by the Oversight Committee, which cover more than \$1.4 million in self-dealing, are merely the tip of Trump's iceberg of graft. The cost to the taxpayer of tax dodges, deceit, and self-dealing by Trump's family and companies reaches into the hundreds of millions.

A *Washington Post* investigation found that Trump's company raked in at least \$2.5 million in taxpayer money and \$5.6 million in campaign funds during his presidency, — an incomplete accounting, as several federal agencies refused to turn over records to the *Post*. The Trumps' illicit taxpayer-funded windfall included exorbitant overcharges like \$2,600 per night for a house at Mar-a-Lago, \$50 per palm for decorative palm trees, \$7,700 for a catered dinner for 30 — more than \$250 a plate — and more than \$1,000 in liquor for a White

House staff meeting.

Eric Trump, executive vice president of the Trump Organization, falsely claimed the business was required by law to charge the federal government, and that government employees were charged only "like 50 bucks" per night for hotel rooms.

But Trump's fleecing of the American taxpayer did not begin with his presidency. According to *The New York Times*:

"He and his siblings set up a sham corporation to disguise millions more. He built more than 1,000 apartments for the Navy at taxpayer expense. After the war, he sold apartments to returning veterans, funded by the G.I. Bill. The elder Trump's taxpayer-bolstered wealth backed the major real-estate project that launched Donald Trump's own career.

As president, Trump proposed the largest retrenchment of federal housing aid since the U.S. Housing Act was enacted in 1937.

Trump has not been accused of breaking any laws with the brazen bilking of the taxpayers revealed this week. But presidents — even ex-presidents — should be held to a higher standard than "technically legal" and the House Oversight Committee's work should result in safeguards to prevent future presidents from abusing the power of the office for personal gain.

*Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of BlackPressUSA.com or the National Newspaper Publishers Association.*

Ironically, the fortune Trump inherited — and largely squandered — was built on taxpayer-funded subsidies and loans of the very kind he sought to eliminate as president. Shortly after President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Federal Housing Admin-

istration in 1934, Trump's father, Fred Trump, used FHA loans to build apartment buildings. During World War II, he built more than 1,000 apartments for the Navy at taxpayer expense. After the war, he sold apartments to returning veterans, funded by the G.I. Bill. The elder Trump's taxpayer-bolstered wealth backed the major real-estate project that launched Donald Trump's own career.

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## Minneapolis to buy gas station at site of Floyd's killing

*The Associated Press*

The city of Minneapolis has decided to buy the boarded-up Speedway gas station at the intersection where George Floyd was killed by police and turn it into a racial justice healing center and permanent memorial for the black man.

The City Council voted unanimously Thursday to purchase the gas station at the intersection now known as George Floyd Square. The area has become a protest site since Floyd was killed in May 2020, when white police officer Derek Chauvin used his knee to pin Floyd's neck to the pavement for 9-1/2 minutes as the 46-year-old Floyd gasped that he couldn't breathe and went limp.

Floyd's killing, which was recorded by a bystander, sparked a national reckoning on racial injustice.

*The Star Tribune* reported that the project will cost \$200,000 in taxpayer money, assuming the city accepts a \$420,000 donation from the entity that owns the parcel, which likely stands on contaminated soil because of

the land's use as a gas station.

Realty Income Corp., the California real estate investment group that owns the land, said it wants to unload the property, in part, out of concerns over liability, according to city documents. In March, the body of a 45-year-old man was found in the building; prosecutors said he died from a fentanyl overdose.

Some activists have said the city's involvement in taking over the property could taint the protest and community space that emerged organically after Floyd's killing.

The official acquisition will likely begin in the first few months of 2023, though the city has said the full timeline will be a lengthy community-based process that could take years.

Four former Minneapolis police officers have been convicted of various charges in connection with Floyd's killing, including Chauvin, who was convicted of state murder and manslaughter charges last year and is serving 22-1/2 years in the state case.

## Griner's return home last week resonated with many

By Stacy M. Brown  
*NNPA Newswire Correspondent*

The images remain surreal. WNBA star Brittney Griner walked across a tarmac in Saudi Arabia and met face-to-face with Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout. Having agreed to the exchange, America couldn't have intended the face-to-face — though it proved incident free.

While serving a 25-year prison sentence in Illinois, Bout headed back to Moscow. Griner, unlawfully detained and stuck in a prison colony on a nine-year sentence since her drug conviction earlier this fall, headed to Texas.

"The fact remains that she's lost months of her life, experienced needless trauma, and she

deserves space, privacy and time with her loved ones to recover and heal from her time being wrongfully detained," President Joe Biden declared.

Biden noted that Griner had never pleaded for special treatment. Instead, she wanted freedom for her, and other Americans unjustly imprisoned in Russia's harsh Soviet-era style conditions and those detained in other nations.

"She said, 'please don't forget about me and the other American detainees,'" Biden shared from his July correspondence with Griner. She said, 'please do all you can to bring us home.'

For varying reasons, Griner's return home last week resonated

with so many.

"We are taking a collective breath because she's home," political expert and strategist Amani Wells-Onyioha, told the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Let It Be Known live morning show.

"It took much longer than we anticipated, but it was a great and smart move for Biden. Hopefully, he will continue to help make the black community happy over the next two years because we still think he has a lot to prove," Wells-Onyioha insisted.

She believes that Biden's work to free Griner and other efforts to secure a level playing field for African Americans can help Democrats now and in the future.

"I understand the frustration that a lot of black voters have with the Democratic Party because we are often used like a big pillar of that vote," Wells-Onyioha stated, echoing words she wrote in a national column.

"A lot of black people feel jaded because they feel like once the election is secured, and we come out in record numbers more every year, that not a lot of tangible results are being applied to the lives of everyday black folks in this country."

Like Wells-Onyioha, the Biden administration believes allowing Griner adequate recovery time is crucial.

However, unless there's a resolution to other hostages like for-

mer U.S. Marine Paul Whelan, imprisoned in Russia for nearly four years, Griner will remain a hot topic — even a source of outrage from some.

"She will be offered appropriate care and support from the U.S. government, including medical screenings," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre asserted.

When he learned of Griner's release, Whelan was displeased. "I am greatly disappointed that more had not been done to secure my release, especially as the four-year anniversary of my arrest is coming up," Whelan, 52, told CNN from a penal colony.

"I was arrested for a crime that never occurred," he said, perhaps

a not-too-subtle shot at Griner, who admitted to illegally carrying a small amount of cannabis oil.

Wells-Onyioha said the specter of Whelan still in custody is another issue facing Griner when and if she does a sit-down interview with the media.

"She played basketball over there and won for their team. The arrest clearly was a slap in the face to Biden and a response to Biden backing Ukraine in the war."

Jean-Pierre asserted that the Biden administration tried to include Whelan in the swap, but Russian officials said it was Griner or nobody.



# Breast cancer and exercise

By Vince Faust  
*Tips to Be Fit*

Breast cancer patients often are warned that lifting weights, groceries, children or other objects could exacerbate postsurgical lymphedema in your arms and hands. A recent study has changed thinking on exercise and breast cancer.

Your lymphatic system is part of your immune and circulatory systems. It is approximately twice the size of the blood circulation system and manages almost double the volume of fluid daily. Your lymphatic system helps clean your body's tissues and maintains your balance of fluid. It includes vessels that carry lymph fluid through your body plus nodes that filter out waste. If part of the lymphatic system is damaged lymph fluid can accumulate in nearby tissues triggering severe swelling, increasing infection risk and eventually causing your skin to thicken and harden. Breast cancer patients are at risk because one or more lymph nodes are removed during a mastectomy or lumpectomy. Radiation therapy can produce scar tissue. Both of these factors can interrupt your lymph flow.

If our lymphatic system



stopped working we would die within 24-48 hours. Unlike your circulatory system, it is a one-way system that has no "pump," relying on movement, gravity and breathing to keep it flowing.

In this study participants include the two groups of breast cancer survivors with lymphedema. Women in the control

group were asked not to change the exercise routine. The second group of women receive 13 weeks of twice weekly 90 minute sessions of group instruction that included cardio warm up, abdominal and back exercises. They were also given weight lifting exercises that included leg press, chest press, bicep curls and seated row.

They begin with little or no resistance. They continued twice weekly-unsupervised exercise for 39 weeks.

The control group women in the weight lifting group reported a greater improvement in their lymphedema symptoms and were less than half as likely to experience worsening of their lymphedema.

Exercise, diet and sleep are three parts of our lives that we have a lot of control over. Research shows that improving these three areas of your life will improve your health.

Your muscles act as a pump to facilitate your lymphatic return. Strength training exercises should be done at least three times a week. If you're just starting, start slowly and build on intensity gradually. A complete workout should include exercises for each body part. Start with 2 or 3 different exercises for each body part. Gradually work up to 8-12 repetitions for each exercise. Do each exercise 1-3 times to start. If you can do more than 12 repetitions for a set the weight is too light. If you can't do at least 8 repetitions for a set the weight is too heavy.

You'll also need to do aerobic exercises. Doing aerobic exercises for up to twenty min-

utes will boost your immune system, work your heart, lungs and circulatory system. Aerobic exercises will also help burn body fat. You don't start to burn body fat until you're about 20-25 minutes into the workout. If you're not already working out it may take you several weeks to reach this goal. You should start with between 5 to 20 minutes of aerobic activity at a moderate pace. As your body becomes stronger you want to increase your time and intensity (effort level) gradually.

Many people do not get enough sleep during the workweek and then sleep longer on the weekends or days off to reduce their sleep debt. If too much sleep has been lost, sleeping in on the weekend may not completely reverse the effects of not getting enough sleep during the week.

To get a better night sleep you may want to:

1. Set a time to go to sleep and waking up.
2. Avoid anything mentally and physically stimulating just before you go to bed.
3. Try sex.
4. Don't drink alcohol.
4. Keep your bedroom for sleeping and sex.
5. Develop a pattern for go-

ing to sleep.

6. Create a good sleeping environment.

7. Keep your mind off of stressful thoughts.

8. Don't stay in bed if you're not sleeping.

9. Find out how many sleep hours you need.

10. Don't go to bed too early.

11. Avoid too many naps.

12. Take a bath two hours before bed.

13. Don't obsess about sleep.

14. To eat or not to eat.

15. Give yourself "permission" to go to bed.

16. Create a restful place to sleep. Sleep in a cool, dark room that is free from noises that may disturb your sleep.

17. Sleep on a comfortable, supportive mattress and foundation. It's difficult to sleep on a bed that's too small, too soft, too hard, or too old.

18. Exercise regularly.

19. Cut down on stimulants.

Consuming stimulants, such as caffeine, in the evening can make it more difficult to fall asleep.

20. Don't smoke. Smokers take longer to fall asleep and wake up more often during the night.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

## PRESS ROOM: Walgreens launches free Paxlovid delivery services with DoorDash and Uber

NNPA newswire

In partnership with DoorDash and Uber, Walgreens announced Dec. 8, free delivery of Paxlovid, a COVID-19 oral antiviral therapy, directly to the doorsteps of those who need it.

With more than 8,000 Walgreens locations offering same day delivery services, available to anyone who lives within 15 miles of participating Walgreens locations, the majority of Americans have access to this program, about 92% of the population.

This initiative is aimed at increasing access to COVID-19 treatment, with a focus on reaching those in socially vulnerable or medically underserved areas at a time when COVID-19 cases are beginning to rise again across the United States. According to Walgreens COVID-19 Index data, overall positivity rates reached 36 percent this week. This steady rise in cases reinforces the critical need for access to life-saving treatments.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated health disparities and emphasized the need to address long-standing barriers, including access to treatments," said Anita Patel, PharmD, vice president, pharmacy services development, Walgreens. "Our pharmacy teams will continue to play a trusted and essential role in helping to keep people protected from COVID-19, including getting people vaccinated, tested and treated as safely, equitably and effectively as possible."

Eligible patients must have a Paxlovid prescription from a healthcare provider. After the pharmacy has filled the prescription and before it gets picked up, individuals can go online to select Same Day Delivery by visiting [Walgreens.com/PrescriptionDelivery](https://www.walgreens.com/PrescriptionDelivery), the Walgreens app



**This initiative is the latest offering in an ongoing collaboration between Walgreens, DoorDash and Uber to increase accessibility of life-saving treatments to medically underserved and underrepresented areas, following the companies' response to the White House COVID-19 call to action to ensure a safe and healthy winter.**

or by calling their store.

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To use Same Day Rx Delivery, you must be opted into Prescription Status Alerts. It will appear as an option if order is before that store's cutoff time for the day. Certain health plans do not cover, or participate in, Same Day Rx Delivery. Check with your health plan for further details. Excludes California.

Same Day Prescription Delivery is available on eligible prescriptions only. Most prescription orders are available to be delivered to the patient's home same day. Orders must be received by 4 p.m. to be eligible for Same Day Rx Delivery. Please note that while most prescriptions are expected to be delivered same day, some deliveries may not be eligible for delivery due to prescription type, delivery address, holidays, weather, or other delivery constraints.

Age-restricted items are not

eligible for delivery. Other exclusions may apply. For details, visit our Help Center.

### About Walgreens

Walgreens ([www.walgreens.com](https://www.walgreens.com)) is included in the U.S. Retail Pharmacy and U.S. Healthcare segments of Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. (Nasdaq: WBA), an integrated healthcare, pharmacy and retail leader with a 170-year heritage of caring for communities. WBA's purpose is to create more joyful lives through better health. Operating nearly 9,000 retail locations across America, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Walgreens is proud to be a neighborhood health destination serving nearly 10 million customers each day. Walgreens pharmacists play a critical role in the U.S. healthcare system by providing a wide range of pharmacy and healthcare services, including those that drive equitable access to care for the nation's medically underserved populations. To best meet the needs of customers and patients, Walgreens offers a true omnichannel experience, with fully integrated physical and digital platforms supported by the latest technology to deliver high-quality products and services in communities nationwide.

## A family's harrowing experience with RSV

StatePoint

Respiratory Syncytial Virus, or RSV, is so common that nearly 100% of children have been infected by age 2. Most people, including infants, develop only mild cold-like symptoms. However for some, RSV can be severe and even life threatening. Many people are surprised to learn that RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization in infants.

The American Lung Association, with support from Sanofi, is raising awareness of RSV among new and expecting parents and caregivers of infants and toddlers. As part of the campaign, they're sharing the story of a family impacted by RSV.

RSV was one of Sarah Driscoll's biggest fears when her daughter was born. She'd heard about it from social media and television commercials. So after learning a few family members had a cough, she was wary about attending a Christmas Eve gathering with her newborn.

"My wife and I debated whether to go, but of course everyone wanted to see us and we wanted to share Charley with the family. I remember telling everyone to wash their hands before touching the baby and to keep their distance if they weren't feeling well," says Driscoll.

Not every family member observed Driscoll's wishes and shortly after the gathering, Charley, six weeks old at the time, started to show symptoms of a respiratory illness, which worsened quickly.

"Charley was placed in the pediatric intensive care unit while her tiny body fought against RSV. She was put on forced oxygen. They had to put in a feeding tube. I have a lot of memories like that, but mostly those days blend together in my mind. I did everything in my power to have this baby, and I wasn't going to let RSV take her away from me," says



Driscoll. "Thankfully, she got better. After five long days we were able to bring her home."

Driscoll reports that today, Charley is a happy, healthy 2-year-old who loves puzzles, watching "Moana" and taking walks. Wanting no other family to experience what hers did when Charley was so sick, she's sharing a few tips she wishes someone would have told her before becoming a parent:

- Trust your gut. If you're debating whether to go somewhere that could potentially expose your child to illness, don't. It's not worth it.

- Set ground rules. People who already had kids think they know everything there is to know about raising kids. But this is your kid, and you call the shots.

- Pay attention to symptoms. RSV can progress incredibly fast. New parents need to know that their baby could go from being cleared to go home from the pediatrician to hospitalized in hours.

The American Lung Association wants you to know that in the event your child does get sick from a respiratory infec-

tion, knowing these signs and symptoms of RSV can help you care for them:

- Mild symptoms include congestion, runny nose, fever and cough.

- Very young infants may be irritable, fatigued and have feeding difficulties.

- A barking or wheezing cough can be one of the first signs of a more serious illness.

- Infants with severe RSV will have short, shallow and rapid breathing. Their mouth, lips and fingernails may also turn bluish due to lack of oxygen.

Call your pediatrician if your child has a poor appetite, a decrease in activity level, cold-like symptoms that become severe, a shallow cough that continues day and night, or any new or lingering symptoms that you find worrisome. Seek emergency care if your child is having trouble breathing.

Affecting millions of Americans each year, RSV is highly contagious. However, you can help protect your child by learning the facts.

For more information, visit [Lung.org/RSV](https://www.lung.org/RSV).



P R E S E R V E D

# Avoiding the entitlement trap

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



It's the most wonderful time of the year or so the well-known song by crooner Johnny Mathis would have you think. For some people, the holidays are not the most wonderful time of the year; they are actually the worst. Statistics prove that there is a disturbing increase in cases of domestic violence and suicide during the holidays.

Why all of this strife when we are supposed to be celebrating the joyous birth of Christ? One simple word: entitlement. I know some of you thought I'd write loneliness. But that's not the issue as I see it. I'm only seeing the issue through the eyes of someone who also struggles with entitlement.

What exactly do I mean by entitlement? The dictionary says that entitlement is the belief that "I deserve certain

privileges." As humans, it's only natural that we would expect certain things based on the effort we make. Expectations can dangerously become entitlement when there is not enough gratitude to balance them out. However, entitlement is rooted in a belief that "I get certain things because I deserve them" ...and for no other reason.

Expectation is to look forward to something with hope; entitlement is believing that it's supposed to happen. Entitlement is a reflection of pride that if it goes unchecked can lead to arrogance.

A few years ago, I had a discussion with some of my college English students about this same issue. They wanted to argue with me about a policy where I excuse missed assignments. The fact is that the policy was not something I was required to do but one I did because I wanted to show them "grace." College students being college students, they

acted like I was being unfair because I didn't excuse more. I didn't expect them to fall on their knees in gratitude, but I admit that I got a little frustrated because I felt that they didn't appreciate my efforts.

Just as soon as I thought this, God reminded me of how I sometimes treat his grace the same way. God had to remind me of the times when I showed little gratitude and also acted like what he'd blessed me with was somehow not enough.

Over the last few years dealing with the COVID pandemic and its many after-effects, we've seen entitlement lead to negative things like folks fighting over whether they should wear a mask to protect their own health. Entitlement is tricky because it deceives you into believing that your way is the right way for you...and others.

1 Timothy 6:5-6 says, "These people think religion is supposed to make you rich. And religion does make your

life rich, by making you content with what you have."

Being content with what you have and gracefully anticipating continued God's blessings can help you keep from falling into the entitlement trap this Christmas season. Especially during these difficult economic times, we could benefit by applying these words to our lives. Instead of giving entitlement to yourself and others, consider embracing contentment and giving more of God's grace to others.

Shewanda Riley (Aunt Wanda), PhD, is a Fort Worth-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 her at [preservedbypurpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda. Find out more about her new podcast "The Chocolate Auntie Podcast" at [www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com](http://www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com).

## Beware of the enemy's tactics

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



We are thankful for what God has done and is doing. One song says, "My God has never lost a battle yet," and that is true.

We are in a battle. Life itself is a battle We face battles every day, and we do not know how we are going to handle them. God, in His wisdom, will be right there for us in all areas of our lives. A battle is going on in our nation. It is truth versus falsehood, light versus darkness, right versus wrong, and Church of God versus Babylon.

Saints of God, we need to know what is going on around us and be aware of the enemy's tactics. We need to know the pitfalls that lie before us and the numerous tricks the enemy wants to play on us. We are facing an enemy that is bolder today than ever before. The enemy that we face is very arrogant. He does not care how he works or who he works through. He is there to try to take us down. The enemy uses things that look good on the outside but are rotten to the core on the inside. That is what makes the Christian's race so different from any other race. We must be alert and on our guard at all times for our soul's welfare.

Saints of God, the devil is after our soul. In the heat of the battle, how do we react? Our reaction is very important. It can be a pleasant reaction or an unpleasant one. We need to be careful. The devil would love to knock us out of this Christian race. He would love for us to give in to that which is wrong.

When we have reached a certain pinnacle in our lives, when we are close to winning it all, the devil would love for us to lose out. Maybe, we have a good record

among people regarding how we live, yet we could go all the way to the end of life's race, ready to receive the crown, and then at the very end lose out. All that joy and happiness would come crashing down because we did not serve God all the way to the end.

We need to be on our guard because the devil is real. King Nebuchadnezzar saw that the Hebrew boys wanted to live for God. Their influence throughout the trial persuaded him to believe.

We may think no one in this whole world wants to hear about God, but we cannot go on what we think. We read in Daniel 3:29-30, "Therefore I make a decree, that every people, nation, and language, which speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon."

How do we react in the heat of the battle? Not everyone reacts the same way. How do we react when we have pressure put on us? We read in James 1:3-4, "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have perfect work that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

Again, how do we react in the heat of the battle? We all are in a battle. The devil wants us badly, but I refuse to give in to the devil. I want to serve Jesus. I feel we have less time on this earth than many realize. The world needs to hear the truth of the Gospel.

Are others seeing the truth manifested in our lives?

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



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## Sen. Warnock's victory is a win for Georgia and America

By Ben Jealous  
People For the American Way



If you haven't watched Sen. Raphael Warnock's speech on the night of his reelection in Georgia December 6, stop everything you're doing, and watch it now. Then tell your kids to watch it. And your neighbors.

What you'll see is 20 minutes that will leave you with a deep feeling of inspiration and gratitude, and a question: why was this so hard? How is it that Warnock was so clearly the best candidate and had to prove it four times, in the last two years?

Let's take the question first.

The surprise victories by Sen. Warnock and Sen. Jon Ossoff in 2021 were triumphs over systemic racism and a vicious misinformation and disinformation campaign by far-right forces. Immediately after they won, Georgia became ground zero for a state voter suppression effort that included harsh crackdowns on early and mail-in voting. The runoff system that Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker were forced into was itself a relic of 1960s white supremacy. It was created by a Georgia segregationist who hoped it would stop black candidates from winning in a crowded field where white votes were split.

Meanwhile, Walker's entire campaign was a far-right ploy to split black votes while giving white Republicans plausible deniability about their party's racism. Most black voters saw right through it. But the GOP mustered enormous political firepower and financial resources for their scheme. That made the race close when it never should have been close.

It made Sen. Warnock's road, which was always going to be hard, even harder.

On the night of his reelection, Sen. Warnock addressed all of this with his usual dignity. He gave the credit to Georgians for electing the state's first black and first Jewish senators at a time when the Far Right was trying to divide the country. He took on the conservative pundits claiming his victory was proof that there was no voter suppression in Georgia. Just because Georgia voters endured long lines in the rain doesn't mean there is no suppression, he said. It means Georgians refused to have their voices silenced.

The rest of his address showed that Georgia has reelected a senator who values social justice and still believes it can be achieved through representative democracy. Democracy, he said, is the political enactment of a spiritual idea: that each of us carries within us a divine spark. It is a political system that is rooted in the belief that each of us has value, that if we have value we have a voice, and that our voice is our vote. I'm paraphrasing here, and words on the page don't do justice to Sen. Warnock's oratory skills. Again, I hope you'll watch the speech.

Hearing these words at a time when democracy is doubted and under attack is a restorative experience. Hearing Sen. Warnock pledge to work in a bipartisan spirit on behalf of all Americans feels like coming home, to an America where public servants used to believe that was possible. Hearing him say that he will fight for criminal justice reform because he believes we can have both justice and safety struck a personal chord with me. I believe that too, in my bones. My organization, People For the American Way, has dedicated itself to advancing that goal. There are so many solutions we can and should explore that will save lives.

This moment shows us something else, too, which is that a way forward to a better America now runs through the Deep South. Stacey Abrams's visionary work to organize voters made Georgia a swing state, and others can follow. Almost a decade ago, I worked on a study that showed that registering just 30 percent of unregistered voters of color could change the political landscape in heavily black southern states. There are still plenty of challenges, but we're seeing that prediction come true.

I will close with one other phrase of Sen. Warnock's from his reelection speech, one that I think serves us well in all the work we do for social justice. This is America, he said, where we "always have a path to make our country greater." I know there are times when those paths seem impossible, and optimism seems more like naivete.

We need more Raphael Warnocks in the world to tell us there is always a way. Right now, I'm deeply grateful that the one we do have will spend six more years in the U.S. Senate.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. A New York Times best-selling author, his next book "Never Forget Our People Were Always Free" will be published by Harper Collins in January 2023.

## Gonna love you like I'm gonna lose you

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.  
Guest Writer



Meghan Trainor sang it best several years ago, I'm Gonna Love You Like I'm Gonna Lose you. Life is short and is not promised to any

of us. Therefore, it is important for us to love one another like we are gonna lose one another daily. Think about it, if you truly knew the precise date of when your spouse was going to pass – how would you treat them? What would you say? Would the annoying habits your spouse has not bother you as much? Would their shortcomings and imperfections be put aside? Would you forgive the offenses and hurt they have caused? Unfortunately, there are many couples who have experienced losing their spouse following an argument, fight, and other not so pleasant circumstances; consequently, leading to regret, guilt, turmoil, animosity, and pain. I'm sure that there are many spouses who could attest to this and would advise couples to love their spouses like they are gonna lose them daily.

You never know when it may be your spouse's last day on earth, so please try to express your love to your spouse daily. Once a spouse passes, it is too late to express your love then, so why not express it while they are here today, especially spouses that you know are sick or even dying. I believe it is fortunate for married couples to have an opportunity to know when their spouse is sick or dying because at least you have a chance of making things right.

If you are aware that your spouse is ill or dying, please give them positive attention, forgive them, show grace, meet their every need, be kind, be patient, understanding, empathetic and be available. If you know that your spouse loves a certain meal – cook it or order it, if you know that your spouse likes to be tucked in, tuck them in every day, if your spouse wants to walk outside for a breeze, walk with them, if your spouse wants to dance, dance with them, if your spouse desires to try out a new restaurant every week (I do), go, if your spouse wants to travel – go, if your spouse wants to pursue community projects – help them (I do), if your spouse wants a cold glass of water – fix it even if it's multiple times a day...take every initiative to love your spouse like you are gonna lose them.

It does not matter who you are or what you have, life is not guaranteed to anyone. James 4:14 states whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Life is not promised to either of us. Love today, do not put love off until tomorrow, next week, next month or next year – it is not a guarantee that either of you will live to see it. Celebrate now. Celebrate today. Love today. Love your spouse today. Forgive your spouse today. Communicate with your spouse. Hold your spouse

today. Hug your spouse today. Kiss your spouse today. Be kind to your spouse today.

Can you imagine losing your spouse unexpectedly, not having a chance to correct the wrongs, heal the hurts and wounds, ask for forgiveness, shower them with love, etc. I know spouses who have recently lost their spouses, some unexpectedly. Most days, these spouses wish the following: they wish they could see their spouse's face to face, they wish they could touch them, communicate with them, hear their voice, smell them, laugh with them, embrace them, sit with them, eat with them, even be enthused by the things that once aggravated and irritated them like chewing loudly, playing the T.V. loud, humming, occupying the bathroom while you are in there (this is the one for me), talking too much, many men would say nagging, and so much more. These spouses are not eager to argue, fight, or be bitter with their spouses – they only yearn to say, "I love you," "I miss you," and "I wish you was here." Again, it can't be emphasized enough to love your spouse like you gonna lose them.

Then, think about it, how would you want your spouse to treat you if you were sick or dying. I know that we are often consumed by the things that we don't like about our spouses and the hurts and offenses they have caused but once they are gone; that will probably be the least of your concerns.

Imagine getting in a major argument with your spouse, and you expressed some things out of anger, you both leave your home angry, neither of you communicating with one another, pride intervenes that justifies the silent treatment, and time passes by with no contact with the spouse you fell in love and took vows with and then you receive a call that your spouse passed. How would you feel then? Would you still be angry and frustrated? Would you attempt to call them? Would you stop everything you are doing and rush to see them? Would you cry? Would you be regretful? Would you wish that you could start the day over? Guess what, this is reality for many spouses. There are many spouses who are in agony at this present moment because they did not love their spouse like they were gonna lose them. Don't let this happen to you too.

In conclusion, many times, spouses take one another for granted every day. They fail to forgive, fail to show grace and mercy, mistreat one another, get easily annoyed, ignore one another, complain, lack empathy, not present (find reasons not to be around them), wish they could be alone, contemplate divorcing, and so much more. However, reflect on the vows that you took with your spouse... I,\_\_\_\_, take you to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part.

Please make it a goal and a habit to love your spouse like you are gonna lose them daily.

## The power of partnerships

By Paula Penebaker  
Special to The Mississippi Link



Partnerships are powerful. Time and time again, they have yielded immeasurable goodwill and great financial support.

Just look at the partnership between 100 Black Men (The 100) and the "We Can Do This" campaign. Through collaboration, they have provided education on COVID-19 and promoted vaccines to control infections. Below are some of the outstanding results of this partnership:

**1. Vaccine Drives:** The 100 held 14 vaccine drives across the South in San Antonio; Savannah and

North Metro, Georgia; Montgomery Alabama; Memphis, Tennessee and Jacksonville, Florida. The drives resulted in 620 vaccinations.

**2. Public Service Announcements:** The 100 produced four public service announcements that promoted vaccines for youth and adults. The videos were posted on The 100's national social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and on the social media platforms of participating chapters. The total reach was 351,647 views.

**3. Webinar:** In conjunction with Morehouse School of Medicine, The 100 live streamed a webinar on Facebook and YouTube to discuss COVID misconceptions and youth vaccination guidelines. The total

reach of the webinar was 52,380 views.

**4. Virtual Town Hall:** The 100 held virtual town hall meetings to encourage the black population to get COVID vaccines. The total reach was 320,500 views. The meetings were recorded and disseminated on Kirkland's Korner, a national podcast.

**5. Partnerships within Partnerships:** To maximize reach, The 100 partnered with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Kiwanis Club, Methodist Healthcare Foundations and other organizations.

**6. Facebook Live:** A collaboration between The 100 and Russ Parr, a TV and radio personality, was featured on the "Stay Well, Stay Connected" Facebook Live. Parr and Dr. Eric D. Griggs, who serves as health and wellness chair for 100 Black Men, talked about their concerns about the convergence of COVID and influenza this winter as well as the impact of COVID in the black community.

Impactful collaborations work well at defining the problem, planning strategically with others, surveying collective solutions, and implementing changes.

Paula Penebaker is a writer at CMRignite, a strategic marketing agency and a partner of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services "We Can Do This" COVID-19 Public Education Campaign.

## Instant happiness was created when Brittney Griner was released from a Russian jail

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



ESPN has a programming component called "Instant Classics" They are sporting events that we want to watch again because of their excitement. Sports is a part of the American culture. That is how it has always been and will always be.

As Jim McKay, ABC commentator, said years ago, it is the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

The story of Brittney Griner captured our attention because of her detention and subsequent jailing in a Russian prison. Her release last week created instant happiness for her family, friends and simply all of us. Finally, after 294 days of mental agony and anxiety, she was released.

Sporting groups and Americans of different stripes had their radar tuned in to what was happening with BG.

President Biden in his press conference announcing her release said that she was safe, on an airplane and headed home.

Waking up to this verified news that she was free was a gift from above. The prayers of the faithful were answered and as we know, He is always on time. You must believe in the power of prayer because it does change things. It always has.

Griner landed in San Antonio Texas last Friday morning and is now undergoing various tests, both physically and mentally.

During the talks about getting Griner out of jail, there were also simultaneous talks about getting Paul Whelan out of a Russian prison as well. The former US Marine was accused of spying and was sentenced to 16 years in prison. David Whelan, his twin brother, said, "He is probably as well as you could be in a Russian labor camp." The United States is continuing to advocate and to negotiate for his release.

Now that Griner has been released, we'll have to wait and see what the next steps in her career and life will be.

She has a long list of WNBA honors and awards including being a champion as a WNBA player and as an Olympian.

She may take the route of Maya Moore, former WNBA and Olympic champion as well who stopped playing basketball in 2018. Moore is now a social justice advocate who is helping to free innocent people who are in prison.

I would, like many others, want to see Griner continue to play basketball yet that is solely her decision.

Phoenix Mercury president, Vince Kozar said, "If she never plays another game of basketball, another minute of WNBA basketball again, we will still love her and care for her just the same."

Griner and other WNBA players play overseas during the off season.

Sandy Brondello, longtime coach of Griner said on MSNBC, "I do not think Americans will go

back to Russia and play and they shouldn't."

While the money may be good in some parts of the international community, is it worth the risk of being detained and jailed? My answer is no.

The Brittney Griner case has brought much needed attention to other Americans who are being held against their will in foreign countries.

So as the Christmas season approaches, let us be thankful for the release of Griner.

We will as a country keep pushing and pulling for the immediate release of Paul Whelan and others who are illegally detained in countries for no legitimate reason.

BG is now with her family, friends and loved ones. We want the same for all political prisoners.

Remember, the fervent prayers of the righteous will prevail in the end. That is what the Good Book says, and I believe it.



LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
JTRAN BUS STOP SIGNAGE  
CITY PROJECT No. RFP#2022-03

Sealed bids will be received by the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, January 10, 2023, for supplying all labor and materials (as specified) necessary for JTRAN BUS STOP SIGNAGE, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2022-03.

Principal items of work are as follows:  
1. Standard Roadside Signs, Sheet Aluminum, 0.080" Thickness-1325 SF;  
2. Square Tube Post, 1.75"x 1.75", 14 GA-6570 LF;  
3. Square Tubc Post, 2"x 2", 12 GA-1767 LF

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

Contract lime for this contract shall be 120 consecutive calendar days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. The amount of liquidated damages per day will be \$500.00 plus any additional actual costs above \$500.00 incurred by the Owner. These actual costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

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 promotefill and equal business opportunivfor 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 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 Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Suite 223, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.O 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, or sex, in consideration for an award.

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 ensures that the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), as outlined in 49 C.F.R. Part 26, as amended, have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts. Therefore, it is imperative that you read the DBE Section and complete the necessary paperwork in its entirety. if there is any evidence or indication that two or more bidders are in collusion to restrict competition or are otherwise engaged in anti-competitive practices, the submission of all such bidders shall be rejected, and such evidence may be cause for disqualification of the participants in any future solicitation undertaken by the City of Jackson.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi Law and show current Certificate of Responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Public Contractors establishing his classification as to the value and type of construction on which he is authorized to bid. Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for JTRAN BUS STOP SIGNAGE, REQUEST FOR Fitorositi. (RFP)#2022-03." Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal.

Each Bidder must submit with his proposal a separate attachment stating the Bidder's qualifications to perform the Work. The Statement of Qualifications shall list past projects of similar size and nature, a list of references with name and telephone number, a list of key personnel who will perform the work, and other information supporting the bidder's qualifications.

Bids, EBO and DBE plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbctore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Official Bid Documents, including the Contract Documents and Drawings can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbiddin2.com. Electronic Bids may be submitted at www.centralbiddine.com. For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Awarding public contracts to non-resident Bidders will be on the same basis as the non-resident bidder's state awards contracts to Mississippi Contractors bidding under similar circumstances. Current state law, Mississippi General Laws of 2010, Chapter 383, section 31-3-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, requires a non-resident bidder to attach to the bid a copy of the Bidder's resident state's current laws pertaining to such state's treatment of nonresident contractors. Non-resident bidders must attach to their bid a copy of any bid preference law of the state, city, county, parish, province, nation or political subdivision where they are domiciled. If there is no such law where they are domiciled, all non-resident bidders shall attach a letter to their bid stating that there is no bid preference law where they are domiciled. The bid of any non-resident bidder who fails to attach to its bid a copy of its domicile's bid preference law or a letter stating that its domicile has no such bid preference law, whichever is applicable, shall be rejected and not considered for award.

Each Bidder must deposit with his bid a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City of Jackson. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, Instructions to Bidders and Bidders Proposal forms are on file and open to public inspection in the Office of Transportation, Department of Planning & Development, City of Jackson, Mississippi and the Office of the City Clerk.

Constructions plans were completed through the Office of Transportation, 1785 Highway 80 W, Jackson, MS 39204. For technical questions email mguice@jacksonms.gov.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that minority and women business enterprises are solicited to bid on these contracts as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities, equipment, material and/or supply needs.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

Christine Welch, Deputy Director Office of Transportation  
12/8/2022, 12/15/2022, 12/22/2022, 12/29/2022, 1/5/2023

LEGAL

Banking Services-Depository Bid

Depository Bids for 2023 to 2026 will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi on January 3, 2023 at 3:30 pm at City Hall, 219 South President Street. Please submit original and two (2) copies of sealed bids, marked "RFP#94629-010323 Depository Bid" to the following address prior to or on January 03, 2023 by 3:30pm.

City of Jackson, Mississippi  
Attention: Municipal Clerk  
219 South President Street  
Jackson, MS 39201

Depository bids must be submitted in compliance with Mississippi Code Section 27-105-315 and related Mississippi Code Sections 27-105-5 and 27-105-9.

Depository bid specifications may be received by contacting the City of Jackson, Mississippi as follows:

Department of Administration  
Attention: Felicia Young  
200 South President Street  
Jackson, MS 39201  
Telephone (601) 960-2005

12/8/2022, 12/15/2022

LEGAL

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

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20th, 2022, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 99-24 located on Dewitt Avenue in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$500.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail vsexton@cityjackson.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, December 20th, 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

12/1/2022, 12/8/2022, 12/15/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING  
ZONING CASE NO. 4196

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that David Spradlin has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C-3 (General) Commercial District to I-1 (Light) Industrial District to allow for compliance for a cannabis cultivation facility for property located at 1369 College Hill Dr. (Parcel: #808-28-1) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lots 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 White Rock Subdivision, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 5, at Page 24, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/ VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO DECEMBER 14, 2022.

WITNESS my signature this 24th day of November 2022.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth  
Zoning Administrator  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

12/1/2022, 12/15/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE RENAMING OF J.R. LYNCH STREET (FROM DALTON STREET TO ROSE STREET) TO DR. ROBERT "BOB" MOSES DRIVE.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HONORARY RENAMING J.R. LYNCH STREET (FROM DALTON STREET TO ROSE STREET) TO DR. ROBERT "BOB" MOSES DRIVE.

12/15/2022

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30p.m., Tuesday, December 20, 2022. The City of Jackson, Mississippi requests proposals from art groups and other community development groups providing services to the citizens in the City of Jackson.

Financial assistance is available to support arts and community development activities designed to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the arts and improve the quality of life among the citizens of Jackson. This solicitation seeks proposals with an emphasis on community exposure, history and education.

Grant awards offered by the City of Jackson shall only represent supplemental funding in support of arts projects and community development-based projects. To be eligible for funding, proposing organizations must have verifiable cash match contributions that equals to at least 50% of project cost.

For the Request for Proposal packet, please contact Beverley Johnson-Durham at 601 960 0383. All proposal must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: Proposal for general funds Arts and Community Based Grants. Proposal packets must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 219 South President Street by 3:30pm on December 20, 2022.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: www.jacksonms.gov and may be picked up at the City of Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Services located at 1000 Metrocenter Drive Suite 101, Jackson MS

By: Adriane Dorsey-Kidd, Director  
Department of Human and Cultural Services

12/8/2022, 12/15/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING  
ZONING CASE NO. 4195

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Aaron Honeysucker has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C-1 (Restricted) Commercial District and C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District with a Use Permit to allow for an events venue (community recreational center) for property located at 1990 Pleasant Ave. (Parcel: #99-30) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A certain tract or parcel of land situated in the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 34, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, on the east side of Pleasant Avenue, formerly Livingston Road, fronting 75 feet on said avenue and running east between parallel lines 522 feet, more or less, to the center of Potter's Creek, said property being bounded on the north by property formerly owned by Ida Sayles, subsequently owned by Rebecca Fleming and Maggie Little, bounded on the south by property formerly owned by J B Van Zandt, and being a of the Charles Phillips property and purchased by W A Sayles at a commissioner's sale and also conveyed to him by Mary Tanner, as shown by deed recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk at Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, in Book 225, at page 355, and being the same property conveyed by William A. Sayles to William W. Sayles on February 19, 1951, by deed recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk aforesaid in book 698 at page 431, and being the same property conveyed by William W. Sayles to A. D Fobbs by deed recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk dated August 3, 1951, and recorded in Deed Book 718 at page 619 of said records, reference to all of said records being hereby made in aid of this description.

And being the said property as described in warranty deed recorded in Book 7186 at page 4631,

(the "property").

The property is conveyed subject to, and there is accepted from the warranty of this conveyance, those certain recorded oil, gas or mineral leases, royalty reservation or other mineral conveyance, all recorded restrictive covenants, building restriction, right- of-way, zoning ordinance or easement affecting the property.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/ VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO DECEMBER 14, 2022.

WITNESS my signature this 24th day of November 2022.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth  
Zoning Administrator  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

12/1/2022, 12/15/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE RENAMING OF VALLEY STREET FROM JOHN R. LYNCH STREET TO UTICA AVENUE TO ROBERT SHULER SMITH DRIVE.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HONORARY RENAMING VALLEY STREET FROM JOHN R. LYNCH STREET TO UTICA AVENUE TO ROBERT SHULER SMITH DRIVE.

12/15/2022

ANYTIME ONLINE

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www.mississippilink.com



LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPEAL FOR A USE PERMIT  
ZONING CASE NO. 4192

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Aayodhya, LLC d/b/a Colonial Wine & Spirits has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit within a C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to allow for a liquor store in a neighborhood shopping center and not in combination with a convenience type grocery store or service station on property located at 5070 Parkway Dr. (Parcel: 559-1040). in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Tract 1  
Being situated in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 7 and in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 8, all in Township 6 North, Range 2 East, City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows, to-wit:

Commence at the northwest corner of Lot 1 of Block "A" of Imperial Acres, a subdivision, the map or plat of which is recorded in Plat Book 14 at Page 31 of the Chancery Records of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, said northwest corner being the POINT OF BEGINNING for the parcel herein described; thence North 46 0 21' 02" East for a distance of 72.22 feet along the southeastern right of way line of Old Canton Road; thence leave southeastern right of way line and run North 89 0 28' 02" East for a distance of 119.92 feet; thence North 43 0 32' 53" East for a distance of 79.74 feet; thence North 00 0 31' 58" West for a distance of 67.72 feet; thence South 89 0 28' 02" West for a distance of 45.25 feet to the said southeastern right of way line of Old Canton Road; thence North 45 0 26' 45" East for a distance of 192.52 feet along the said southeastern right of way line; thence South 44 0 20' 58" East for a distance of 8.79 feet along a right of way offset; thence North 45 0 34' 02" East for a distance of 48.30 feet along the said southeastern right of way line; thence leave said southeastern right of way line of Old Canton Road and run South 48 0 40' 58" East for a distance of 125.00 feet; thence North 45 0 34' 02" East for a distance of 125.00 feet to the southwestern right of way line of Parkway Drive; thence South 48 0 40' 58" East for a distance of 151.68 feet along the said southwestern right of way line; thence run 246.94 feet along the arc of a 985.40 foot curve to the left along the said southwestern right of way line, said arc having a 246.29 foot chord which bears South 55 0 51' 58" East; thence South 62 0 52' 58" East for a distance of 99.84 feet along the said southwestern right of way line of Parkway Drive to the northern right of way line of Imperial Drive; thence leave said southwestern right of way line of Parkway Drive and run South 40 0 57' 02" West for a distance of 137.09 feet along the said northern right of way line; thence run 250.58 feet along the arc of a 294.30 foot curve to the right along the said northern right of way line, said arc having a 243.08 foot chord which bears South 65 0 20' 32" West; thence South 89 0 44' 02" West for a distance of 91.89 feet along the said northern right of way line to the southeast corner of Lot 7 of the said Block "A" of Imperial Acres; thence leave said northern right of way line of Imperial Drive and run North 00 0 27' 46" West for a distance of 150.00 feet along the eastern line of the said Lot 7 to the northeast corner thereof; thence South 89 0 32' 14" West for a distance of 545.00 feet along the northern line of the said Block "A" of Imperial Acres to POINT OF BEGINNING, containing 4.9704 acres, more or less.

Tract 2  
Ten foot (10') sewer line easement recorded in Book 5706 at Page 782 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi.

Said application was heard by the City Planning Board on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 with a recommendation to deny. The applicant has filed an Appeal of the recommendation of the Planning Board. The Case will be heard at the City Council's Zoning Meeting in the Council Chambers, First Floor, City Hall, 219 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 2:30 p.m., on Monday, January 23, 2022.

WITNESS my signature this 30th day of November 2022.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth  
Zoning Administrator  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

12/8/2022, 12/15/2022

LEGAL

Advertisement for Electronic Bid  
Bid 3212 ESSER III: Restroom Improvements for Whitten Middle School

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids 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) Monday, January 17, 2023, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Restroom Improvements for Whitten Middle School will be held at 210 Daniel Lake Blvd, Jackson, MS 39212 on December 20, 2022 at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at [www.jpdsmsprojects.com](http://www.jpdsmsprojects.com).

A \$300.00 Nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid specs/documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Anderson Ervin at Durrell Design Group. Phone:601-708-4788 or Email: [aervin@durrelldesigngroup.com](mailto:aervin@durrelldesigngroup.com).

12/8/2022, 12/15/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, January 03, 2023, 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:

55004-010323 – Eight-teen Month Supply of Waterproof Reflective Glass Beads  
55054-010323 - Eight-teen Month Supply of Traffic Sign Post  
55063-010323 - Eight-teen Supply of Aluminum Sign Blanks

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT [WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV](http://WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV) & [WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM](http://WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM)

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

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

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

Monica Oliver, Manager  
Purchasing Division  
(601) 960-1025/1028

12/15/2022, 12/22/2022

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
JTRAN BUS STOP SIGN REPLACEMENT  
CITY PROJECT NO. RFP#2022-04

Sealed bids will be received by the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, January 10, 2023, for supplying all labor and materials (as specified) necessary for JTRAN BUS STOP SIGN REPLACEMENT, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2022-04.

Principal items of work are as follows:  
1. Removal of Signs, including post and footing-190 each;  
2. Removal of Sign Panels, including hardware-174 SF;  
3. Maintenance of Traffic;  
4. Mobilization;  
5. Standard Roadside Signs, Sheet Aluminum, 0.080" Thickness-1325 SF (INSTALL ONLY);  
6. Square Tube Post, 1.75"x 1.75", 14 GA-6570 LF (INSTALL ONLY);  
7. Square Tube Post, 2"x 2", 12 GA-1767 LF (INSTALL ONLY)

Signs, fastners, posts, and mounts will be provided to the contractor and shall not be included in the bid price. The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all labor and equipment required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

Contract time for this contract shall be 120 consecutive calendar days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. The amount of liquidated damages per day will be \$500.00 plus any additional actual costs above \$500.00 incurred by the Owner. These actual costs include, but arc not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

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 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 Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Suite 223, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("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 ensures that the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), as outlined in 49 C.F.R. Part 26, as amended, have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts. Therefore, it is imperative that you read the DBE Section and complete the necessary paperwork in its entirety. If there is any evidence or indication that two or more bidders are in collusion to restrict competition or are otherwise engaged in anti-competitive practices, the submission of all such bidders shall be rejected, and such evidence may be cause for disqualification of the participants in anyfuture solicitation undertaken by the City of Jackson.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi Law and show current Certificate of Responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Public Contractors establishing his classification as to the value and type of construction on which he is authorized to bid.

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for JTRAN BUS STOP SIGN REPLACEMENT, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2022-04." Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal.

Each Bidder must submit with his proposal a separate attachment stating the Bidder's qualifications to perform the Work. The Statement of Qualifications shall list past projects of similar size and nature, a list of references with name and telephone number, a list of key personnel who will perform the work, and other information supporting the bidder's qualifications.

Bids, EBO and DBE plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Official Bid Documents, including the Contract Documents and Drawings can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbiddine.com](http://www.centralbiddine.com). For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Awarding public contracts to non-resident Bidders will be on the same basis as the non-resident bidder's state awards contracts to Mississippi Contractors bidding under similar circumstances. Current state law, Mississippi General Laws of 2010, Chapter

383, section 31-3-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, requires a non-resident bidder to attach to the bid a copy of the Bidder's resident state's current laws pertaining to such state's treatment of nonresident contractors. Non-resident bidders must attach to their bid a copy of any bid preference law of the state, city, county, parish, province, nation or political subdivision where they are domiciled. If there is no such law where they are domiciled, all non-resident bidders shall attach a letter to their bid stating that there is no bid preference law where they are domiciled. The bid of any non-resident bidder who fails to attach to its bid a copy of its domicile's bid preference law or a letter stating that its domicile has no such bid preference law, whichever is applicable, shall be rejected and not considered for award.

Each Bidder must deposit with his bid a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial

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 ensures that the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), as outlined in 49 C.F.R. Part 26, as amended, have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts. Therefore, it is imperative that you read the DBE Section and complete the necessary paperwork in its entirety. If there is any evidence or indication that two or more bidders are in collusion to restrict competition or are otherwise engaged in anti-competitive practices, the submission of all such bidders shall be rejected, and such evidence may be cause for disqualification of the participants in anyfuture solicitation undertaken by the City of Jackson.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi Law and show current Certificate of Responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Public Contractors establishing his classification as to the value and type of construction on which he is authorized to bid.

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for JTRAN BUS STOP SIGN REPLACEMENT, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2022-04." Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal.

Each Bidder must submit with his proposal a separate attachment stating the Bidder's qualifications to perform the Work. The Statement of Qualifications shall list past projects of similar size and nature, a list of references with name and telephone number, a list of key personnel who will perform the work, and other information supporting the bidder's qualifications.

Bids, EBO and DBE plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Official Bid Documents, including the Contract Documents and Drawings can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbiddine.com](http://www.centralbiddine.com). For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Awarding public contracts to non-resident Bidders will be on the same basis as the non-resident bidder's state awards contracts to Mississippi Contractors bidding under similar circumstances. Current state law, Mississippi General Laws of 2010, Chapter 383, section 31-3-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, requires a non-resident bidder to attach to the bid a copy of the Bidder's resident state's current laws pertaining to such state's treatment of nonresident contractors. Non-resident bidders must attach to their bid a copy of any bid preference law of the state, city, county, parish, province, nation or political subdivision where they are domiciled. If there is no such law where they are domiciled, all non-resident bidders shall attach a letter to their bid stating that there is no bid preference law where they are domiciled. The bid of any non-resident bidder who fails to attach to its bid a copy of its domicile's bid preference law or a letter stating that its domicile has no such bid preference law, whichever is applicable, shall be rejected and not considered for award.

Each Bidder must deposit with his bid a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City of Jackson. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, Instructions to Bidders and Bidders Proposal forms are on file and open to public inspection in the Office of Transportation, Department of Planning & Development, City of Jackson, Mississippi and the Office of the City Clerk.

Constructions plans were completed through the Office of Transportation, 1785 Highway 80 W, Jackson, MS 39204. For technical questions email [inguiace@jacksonms.gov](mailto:inguiace@jacksonms.gov).

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that minority and women business enterprises are solicited to bid on these contracts as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities, equipment, material and/or supply needs.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.  
Christine Welch, Deputy Director Office of Transportation

12/8/2022, 12/15/2022, 12/22/2022, 12/29/2022, 1/5/2023

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ASSOCIATES

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# Sudoku

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

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

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### Sudoku Solution

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

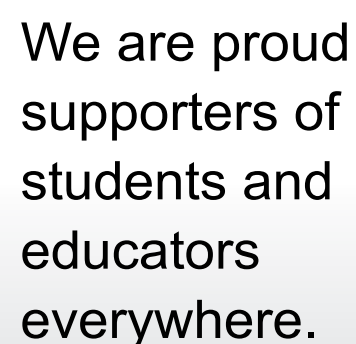
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AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

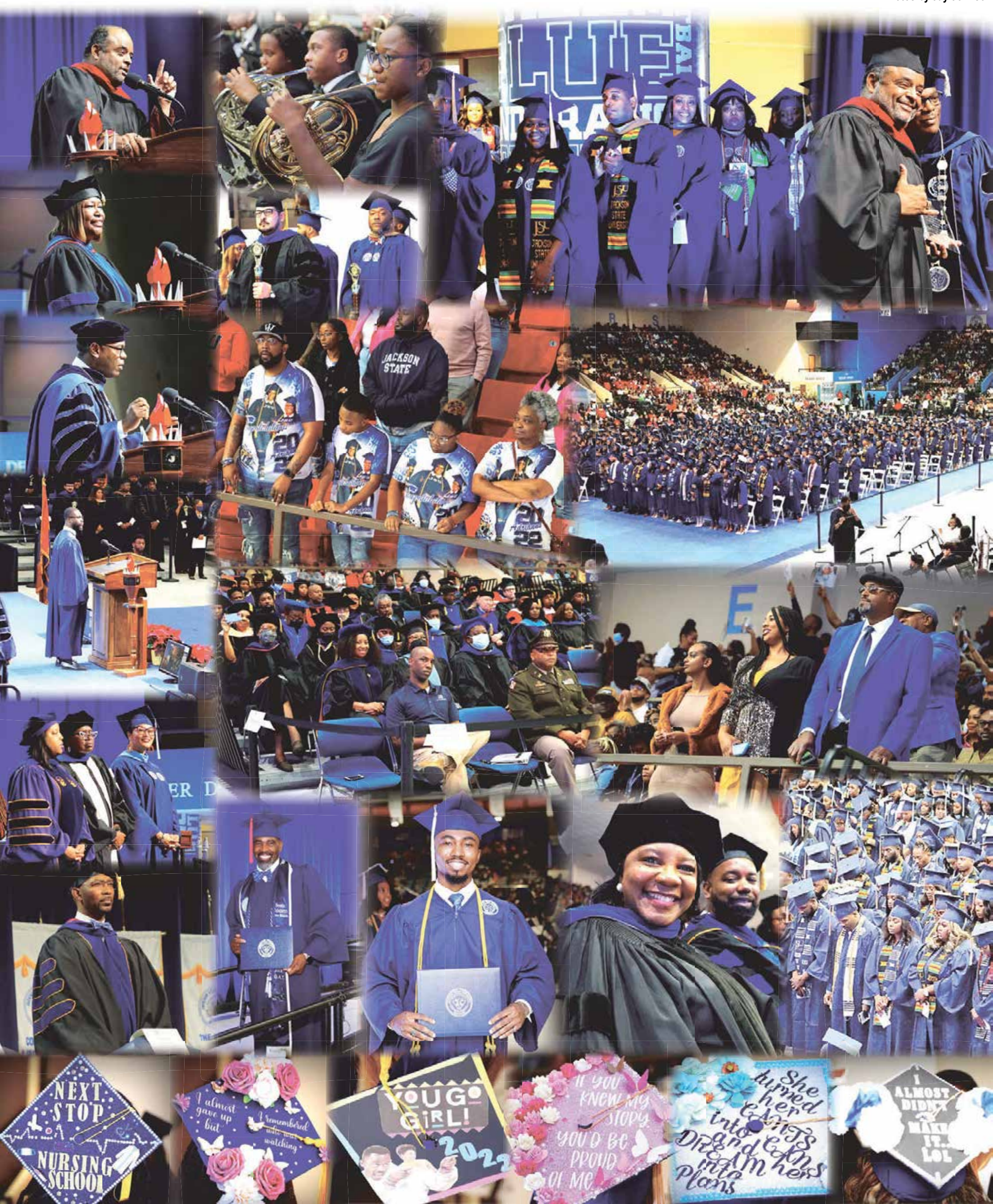
**BOLTON CITY HALL**

[illegible]

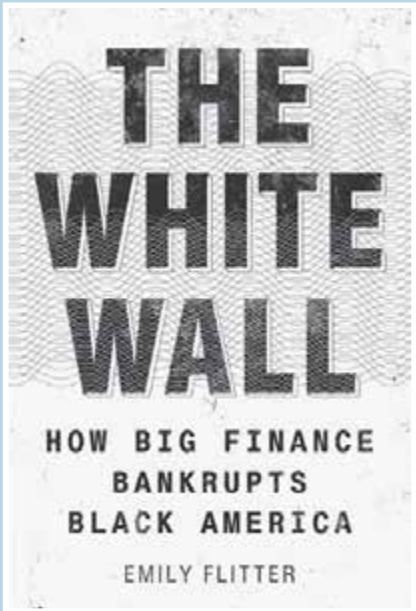




**Photos by Jay Johnson**







BOOK REVIEW:

# THE WHITE WALL:

## HOW BIG FINANCE BANKRUPTS BLACK AMERICA

BY EMILY FLITTER  
C.2022, ONE SIGNAL PUBLISHERS / ATRIA  
\$28.99 • 336 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

The big red-brick building down the road is where you get your groceries. You have to drive there, past the shiny chrome car dealership, and make a left by the green gas station.

The yellow fast-food place is your kids’ favorite; that’s in the same block. And that large brown building? That’s where you do your banking and keep your money. But, as in the new book “The White Wall” by Emily Flitter, can you get that money out?

A number of years ago, when she was a banking reporter for *The New York Times*, Flitter tried to follow a lead on a black man who’d been fired from his job at a major financial company. It turned out to be a weak lead but meanwhile, she met a lawyer who turned her toward a much bigger issue: racism in the financial industry.

Recent polls show that most Americans have no idea that there’s a racial wealth gap. They don’t know about the black/white gap in family wealth. They have no clue that black families

fared much worse in the 2008 financial crisis than did whites, or that they’re struggling again in this post-Pandemic time.

The truth is that racism thrives in banking institutions where, Flitter says, black consumers are often profiled as “suspicious” by white bank employees, even if they have a paper trail of proof for their own money. Black borrowers are often given less service and more wrong information.

Flitter also found instances where skin color determined interest rates. Bank customers who

are black aren’t always offered the valuable perks that white customers get. Insurance companies are not servicing black homeowners the same as they do white homeowners. Not even black business owners escape racism within the financial industry.

That isn’t even mentioning the proportionately low number of black employees in those institutions, or the insufficient number of high-level leaders.

Clearly, says Flitter, “Corporate America has a long way to go.”

Pick up your copy of “The

White Wall,” hold it tight, and make room on your lap for your jaw. It may be dropping a lot while you’re reading this shocking book.

Or maybe not. What’s in here might not come as much of a surprise to some readers who live this reality every day – and for that, author Emily Flitter has some words for you, starting with this: what you’ve experienced is no anomaly.

For Wall Street and for every large business in the nation, she offers more in an entire chapter devoted to ideas on how to do

better by making financial services more accessible for black Americans. On that, there’s good news in Flitter’s final words and that’s a happy start but, judging by the many, many stories she shares, readers could absolutely be forgiven for any lingering pessimism...

Still, this informative book is easy for even the most busy executive to read and use, and its essential message shouts to be heard. This book could create new consciousness, or “The White Wall” may also leave you blue.

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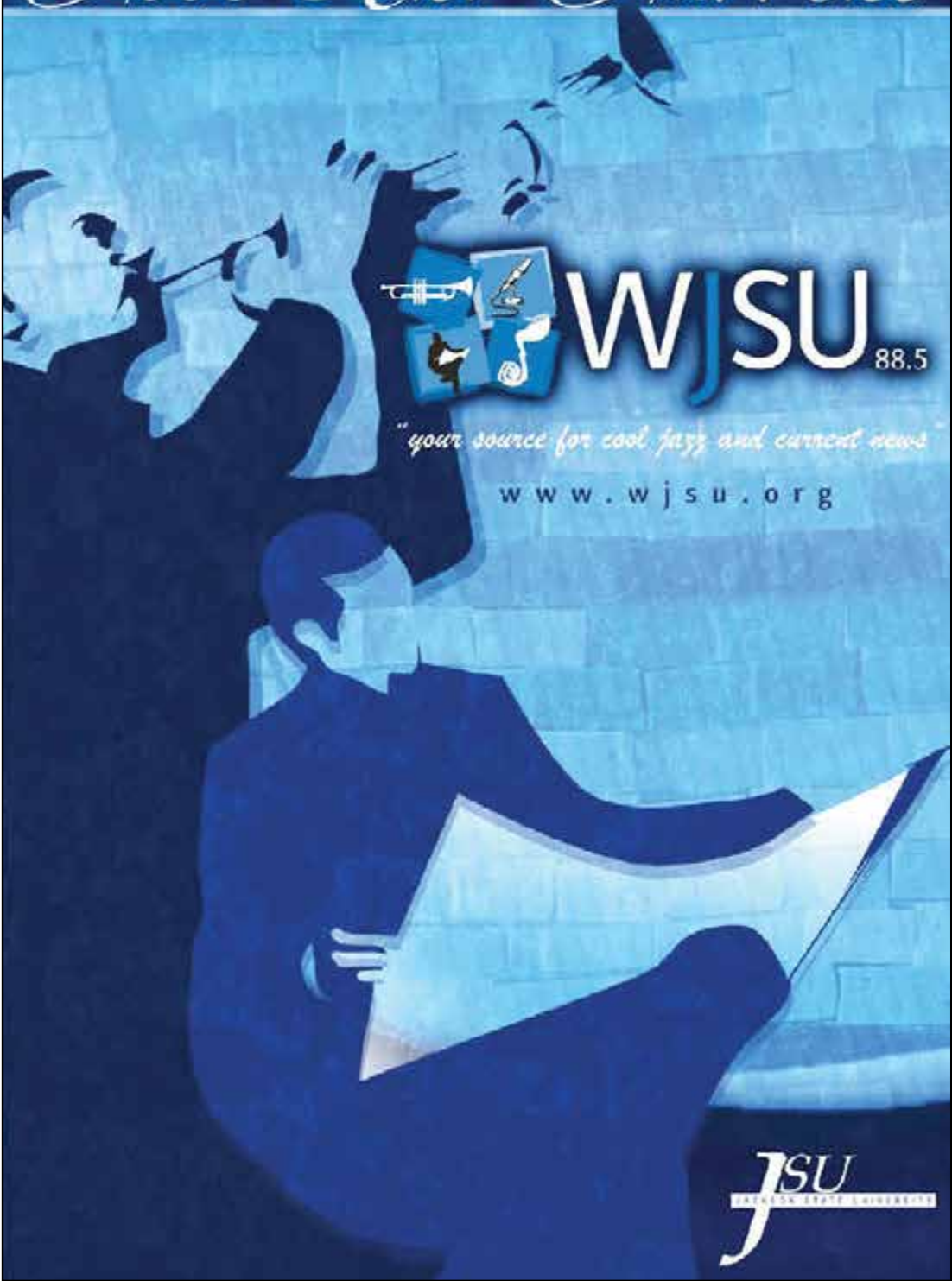
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Guest Speaker

Tracey Morant Adams, Ph.D.  
South Eastern Regional Director

SATURDAY  
**JANUARY 28, 2023**  
10:08 AM

Anderson United Methodist Church  
6205 Hanging Moss Road  
Jackson, MS 39206

CHAPTERS:  
Beta Delta Omega Chapter  
Rho Lambda Omega Chapter  
Upsilon Upsilon Omega Chapter  
Omega Beta Omega Chapter  
Gamma Omicron Chapter  
Gamma Rho Chapter  
Lambda Iota Chapter

# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### South Hinds Rotary donates dictionaries

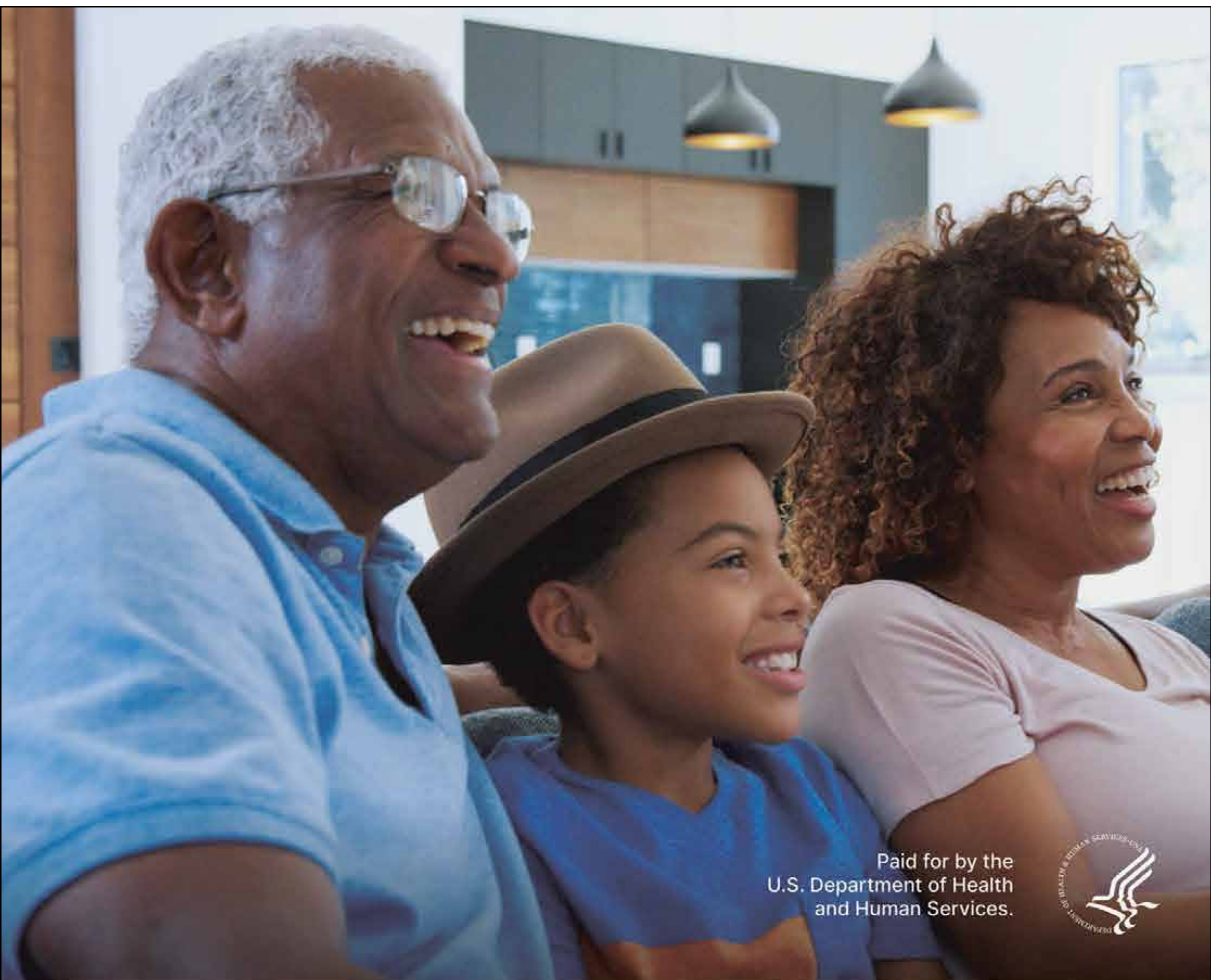


South Hinds Rotary donated dictionaries to all 3rd grade students in the Hinds County School District. They wanted to remind the children that they have options when it comes to education and dictionaries are very important when it comes to gaining knowledge in an old-fashioned way. These dictionaries were delivered to Bolton Edwards Elementary, Raymond Elementary and Gary Road Intermediate Schools. Hinds County Schools wishes to thank them for this wonderful donation.

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 31,000 Rotary clubs located in 166 countries.







Paid for by the  
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and Human Services.



# Keep Your COVID Protection On Point!

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Find updated COVID vaccines  
for everyone 5+ at [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov)

