

NC Central beats Jackson State in Deion Sanders’ final game

By Charles Odum
AP Sports Writer

Deion Sanders was sentimental before his final game at Jackson State, and those emotions grew after coming up short in the Celebration Bowl for the second straight year.

Quarterback Davius Richard ran for 97 yards and two touchdowns, including a 1-yard scoring plunge in overtime, and North Carolina Central beat Jackson State 41-34 on Saturday in the Celebration Bowl to spoil Sanders’ bid for an undefeated season in his farewell.

It was the second consecutive season that Sanders’ Tigers were favored before losing in the game regarded as the championship of teams from Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

“I feel like we’ve won, but we didn’t win that game,” said Sanders, who now will devote his full attention to his new job as Colorado’s coach. He was tearful in a pregame speech to his players.

“I miss these guys already. I love them,” Sanders said after the game.

The Eagles’ defense made a goal-line stand on Jackson State’s first possession in overtime to preserve the win. Tight end Hayden Hagler’s drop on



JSU’s #12, Travis Hunter catches game time touch down, forcing overtime. PHOTO BY TIMOTHY WARD

third down from the 1 set up an incomplection by Jackson State quarterback Shedeur Sanders to end the game.

Sanders’ 19-yard touchdown pass to Travis Hunter as time expired in regulation set up Ale-

jandro Mata’s tying extra point to send the game to OT. It was the fourth scoring pass of the game for Sanders, who also ran for a score.

Jackson State (12-1) was denied its bid for the first unde-

feated season in school history. Deion Sanders wanted to finish the season with his Tigers first before taking over at Colorado. Shedeur Sanders will accompa-

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Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass is sworn-in, focuses on homelessness

By Stephen Groves and Amy Forliti
Associated Press

In her first act in office, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass will declare a state of emergency against homelessness in an announcement at Los Angeles’ Emergency Operations Center.

The new mayor asserts that the move “will allow her to take aggressive executive actions to confront the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles. The declaration will recognize the severity of Los Angeles’ crisis and break new ground to maximize the ability to urgently move people inside.”

On November 16, 2021, during an interview on Black Press USA’s daily morning show Let It Be Known, Bass spoke on homelessness saying it was “a humanitarian crisis,” and added that there were “40,000 people in the city unshoused, many living in tents all around the city.”

Clearly Mayor Bass is moving quickly to make homelessness a



On Dec. 11, Bass, 69, was sworn-in as Los Angeles’ 43rd mayor at a historic ceremony by Vice President Kamala Harris. PHOTO: @KARENBASSLA/INSTAGRAM

top priority during her first weeks in power.

On Dec. 11, Bass, 69, was sworn-in as Los Angeles’ 43rd mayor at a historic ceremony by

Vice President Kamala Harris. Her predecessor, Mayor Eric Garcetti, looked on at City Hall with thousands of others taking in the history of the moment. Bass earned

more votes than any candidate in the history of Los Angeles. Her election was also the most expen-

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Nutcracker’ productions give black dancers chance to shine



Scene from Ballet Nouveau Conservatory PHOTO COURTESY OF FB

By John-John Williams IV
The Associated Press

After 15 years of performing ballet, NaTori Blackman-Gray finally got her chance recently to dance as the Snow Queen – a leading role in “The Nutcracker.”

For the black ballerina, the role in the holiday favorite is a full-circle moment. She remembers first seeing Misty Copeland dance in a lead role with the American Ballet Theatre in 2015, when Copeland became the first black woman promoted to principal dancer in that company’s 75-year history.

“It’s very inspiring because you don’t get to see often African Americans play a lead role,” the 22-year-old Jarrettsville resident said. “I feel honored to play this role with a darker complexion because I know there are so many others who don’t have the opportunity.”

This holiday season, as the dance world enters its most popular time of year, audiences in the Baltimore region and across the country will be treated to performances by ballerinas from more diverse ethnic backgrounds. In Baltimore, which boasts one of the largest concentrations of black people in the country, roles that were previously reserved for white dancers are now available to dancers of color. In fact, it is becoming the norm in some dance companies.

Ballet Nouveau, a black-owned conservatory in Essex, produces “A Nutcracker Suite” each winter season. That showcase includes excerpts from “The Nutcracker” and classic holiday tunes by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Frank Sinatra and others.

Blackman-Gray – who performed in the version of “The Nutcracker” produced by Morton Street Dance Center

recently at the Chesapeake Arts Center in Brooklyn Park – recalled years of being part of an industry that told her that her body type was wrong for the sport because of her natural build. She traces this to an industry that she says focused on Eurocentric skin and bodies. And she remembered leaving practices in majority-white dance studios feeling dejected.

“I am very broad at the top and my glutes stick out a bit,” she explained. “I was told that because of my build – and I am a very slim, petite girl, I could not be a ballerina. They wanted you to be like a toothpick. And for me that’s not the case.”

She added: “I think it comes from people not accepting change. I have had many experiences where I could have been the best in the room, but I didn’t get the opportunity because of the color of my skin.”

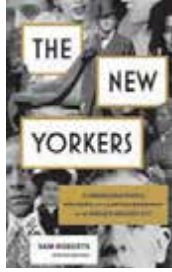
When Camille Weanquoi started to dance more than two decades years ago, she never imagined seeing a black dancer performing the lead in “The Nutcracker,” the 1892, two-act ballet set on Christmas Eve and to a Tchaikovsky score.

Now it’s happening with more frequency, the executive director for the Baltimore Black Dance Collective said. The world of ballet is going through other changes, from casting diverse talent to now offering tights and ballet shoes that complement the skin tones of Black ballerinas.

“As a teacher I am seeing black and brown boys and girls gravitate to ballet in a way that they have not in the past,” she said. “Instead of being the outsider looking in, you are now on the inside. You can see yourself – even if it is in this imaginary form, you can see yourself.”

Weanquoi, 40, attributes the progress to black dance teach-

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Bass

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sive ever, as Bass defeated Rick Caruso, who spent \$100 million on his campaign.

Bass served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2011 to 2022 for California’s 33rd congressional district and was chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. She was also a member of the California State Assembly from 2004 to 2010 and spent her final years there as Speaker of the California House.

Bass acknowledged California’s first female Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis in the audience and Los Angeles’ all-female County Board of Supervisors.

“I believe that times of inflection require reflection – I believe, it’s time for Angelenos to remind ourselves where we come from and who we are. My father fled Jim Crow Texas during the great African American migration after World War 2. He worked for the postal service as a letter carrier. It was a union job, and his paycheck supported my brothers and me and allowed my mother to choose to be a homemaker. When I think about the dreams of working people today, I reflect on the fact that my mother and father were able to buy a home in Los Angeles for their family of six with one paycheck,” Bass said in her inaugural speech.

She then commented on the high cost of housing in Los Angeles.

“Tragically, our city has earned the shameful crown as being home to some of the most crowded neighborhoods in the nation – Pico Union, South L.A., East L.A., the East Valley. We know our mission – we must build housing in every neighborhood,” Mayor Bass said.

The new mayor then focused on homelessness – a huge problem in Los Angeles and

across the U.S.

“I will start my first day as mayor at our city’s Emergency Operations Center, where my first act as mayor will be to declare a state of emergency on homelessness. My emergency declaration will recognize the severity of our crisis and break new ground to maximize our ability to urgently move people inside and do so for good. It will create the structure necessary for us to have a true, unified and citywide strategy to set us on the path to solve homelessness,” Bass announced.

“If we are going to bring Angelenos inside and move our city in a new direction, we must have a single strategy to unite our city and county and engage the state, the federal government, the private sector and every other stakeholder. And so I call on our City Council, and our City Attorney and City Controller, to continue the work we started during the transition on a unified and urgent strategy to solve homelessness. I call on the County of Los Angeles, with its authority over health, including mental health and substance abuse, to lock arms with me – and we have already started these discussions,” the new mayor told the crowd.

In a city of many challenges, Bass’ four-year term will no doubt be eventful. But her long political resume and experience as a community activist and establishment actor in local, state and federal government will no doubt be beneficial as she navigates policy over the next four years in office.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

Nutcracker

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ers who have helped to shepherd a new generation of ballerinas into positions of success.

“It was a wonderful reflection of ‘I can do this’ and ‘I can make a career out of this,’” the Pikesville resident said.

“The Nutcracker” is one of the oldest, best-known ballets for mainstream society – all the more reason for it to be diversified, according to Donna L. Jacobs, director for Morton Street Dance Center, which she opened in 1992. She has also served as artistic director for Full Circle Dance Company since 2000.

“You don’t have to be a ballet aficionado to enjoy it,” Jacobs said. “Historically they (productions) have not been very diverse. That has been changing as of late.”

Jacobs said young people of color “want to be a part of it.”

“When I announced there would be auditions, they started cheering. My 7-year-old students say they want to be in it next year. One of my more seasoned students said ‘I have never seen this many black ballerinas in one place.’ It is wonderful. That was part of the reasons I opened the school. It was part of my hope,” Jacobs said.

Many dancers attribute the surge in popularity among black ballerinas to Copeland, who was the first ballerina to sign an athletic contract with Under Armour, the Baltimore-based athletic wear company.

Copeland “has been almost a beacon for black ballerinas in the making.

She has come to Baltimore, and had a book signing here. That has been the catalyst for many black and brown ballerina seeing themselves in the field,” Weanquoi said.

Morton Street Dance Center has seen a spike in interest in the center and ballet the past four years, according to Julianna Pahr, its manager.

“Although Misty Copeland has been very significant, we get a lot of people who say they want a black-owned school,” said Pahr, who is white. “That’s the most common. They want to support black-owned businesses and they are inspired by the director’s vision.”

The school now boasts 210 dancers – 95% of whom are black.

“A lot of folks are looking for a diverse school as well,” Pahr explained, adding that 70% of the instructors at the company are black.

Black dancers have not been the only ones to benefit from the expanded opportunities.

In Annapolis this month, a Latino dancer will perform the role of the Nutcracker Prince during the Ballet Theatre of Maryland’s performance of “The Nutcracker.”

Armani Rey Colon, a Latino male dancer originally from Chicago who performs this season as the Nutcracker Prince in the same production as Blackman-Gray, attributes his first leading role to strides made by the black community.

“I never thought I would,” said Colon, 19, a sophomore dance major

at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. “Growing up, a lot of my training was in white institutions. They were predominantly filled with blonde-haired, blue-eyed ballet boys. I would always get side roles and small roles on the side. It’s a very different experience. If you want ballet to continue and thrive, we need to be the forefront of that type of change and making sure it is for everybody and not a specific point for people. Representation is so important.”

Colon said he has been embraced by Morton Street Dance Center, the company producing “The Nutcracker” at Chesapeake Arts Center in Brooklyn Park.

Jacobs hopes that diverse productions will also result in diversified audience members, as well.

According to a report by the National Endowment for the Arts, its most recent findings show that audiences for ballet have the smallest representation of racial and ethnic minorities. In 2012, 80% of attendees were non-Hispanic white adults.

“There is a certain level of reluctance to access programs that have not been diverse,” she said. “People want to see people that they know performing.”

Jacobs also points to ticket prices as a deterrent. She pointed out that tickets to her performance of “The Nutcracker” ranged from \$20 to \$30, compared to several hundred dollars to see performances in New York City.



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JSU

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ny his father to Boulder.

The win by N.C. Central (10-2) gave the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference a 6-1 edge over teams from the Southwestern Athletic Conference in the Celebration Bowl.

Eagles coach Trei Oliver said he hopes the victory gives more respect to the MEAC and North Carolina Central after all the pregame attention was on “Coach Prime” and Jackson State.

“They had a chip on their shoulder,” Oliver said of his players. “The disrespect was real since we’ve been down here.”

Latrell Collier's 7-yard scoring run with 4:31 remaining gave NCCU the lead. The Tigers answered with a 15-play drive that included Sanders' 10-yard, fourth-down pass to T.J. Martin.

Richard passed for 177 yards with a touchdown and ran for 97 yards and two scores. Richard showed his versatility on a three-yard drive for game's first touchdown. He had a 21-yard run, a 30-yard catch on a trick play and a 5-yard scoring run that gave the Eagles a 10-0 lead.

Sanders quickly showed he also boasts dual-threat skills as Jackson State outscored North Carolina Central 21-7 the remainder of the half. Sanders completed 13 of 14 passes for 178 yards and two touchdown and had four carries for 34 yards with another score in the half, giving the Tigers a 21-17 lead.

A fake punt early in the second half helped the Eagles reclaim the lead. Tight end Kyle

Morgan took the snap on the fake punt and ran 43 yards to the Jackson State 24. Richard's 12-yard scoring pass to Quentin Mcall gave North Carolina Central a 23-21 lead following Adrian Olivo's missed extra point.

Olivo's 21-yard field goal late in the third quarter pushed the lead to five points.

Passing fancy

Sanders completed 30 of 40 passes for 349 yards and four touchdowns. A highlight was an 85-yard touchdown pass to Kevin Coleman. The touchdown pass to Hunter at the end of regulation was perhaps the biggest highlight.

“When I threw the ball, all I’ve got to do is put air under it, he’s going to do the rest,” Sanders said of Hunter.

Commish in the crowd

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell attended the game in support of his nephew, Jackson State sophomore defensive lineman Charlton “Charlie” Goodell. The younger Goodell is the son of Roger Goodell’s brother.

The takeaway

North Carolina Central: The Eagles relied on their stronger running game. A balanced running attack led by Richard and Latrell Collier gave N.C. Central a 276-78 advantage in rushing yards. "Those boys were running with an edge," Richard said of the Eagles' running backs.

Jackson State: The Tigers were resilient in responding to an early 10-0 deficit. Sanders was the key, producing as a runner and passer while leading the comeback.



Do you have a holiday checklist?

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Visit aarp.org/holidayscams or call 1-877-908-3360 to get up-to-date tips on charity scams, online shopping scams, package scams and more.

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COVID-19 grief: Four ways to cope with loss during holidays



By Paula Penebaker
Special to The Mississippi Link

The holiday season is touted as the most wonderful time of the year, but for so many, it's painful to endure after losing loved ones to COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that more than 1 million people have died of COVID-19 since 2020. Among them are more than 56,000 black people who have lost their lives.

How can you celebrate when cherished traditions feel tainted? Grief may cloud your emotions, making you feel anything but wonderful this season. And that's okay. In fact, it's expected. As you walk the winding road of loss, remember to create space to care for yourself.

There are many trusted resources with helpful advice and ideas on how to cope with loss during a season of togetherness. Many experts say that understanding how grief affects your mental and physical health is crucial to healing. Below are a few tips for coping with grief and loss

this holiday season:

Seek support: One free, in-person option is speaking with a pastor or other clergy member, who can provide a listening ear and spiritual guidance. You can also join a grief support group, as you may find it easier to talk with strangers than family. For those with health insurance, mental health counseling may be covered.

Change is good: Beloved family traditions can become painful reminders of an incomplete family unit. You have the power to amend your traditions, old and new, such as Christmas morning breakfast or doing the latest dance craze for social media. Part of coping with the holidays is learning to navigate traditions, determining which ones you'll keep, change and leave behind.

Offer grace and space: It's important to realize that people cope with loss in different ways. Be willing to give yourself and your loved ones the grace and space to process their emotions. If you need support dealing with loss, these CDC resources can

help.

Give the gift of protection: For those who have lost loved ones to as the result of the COVID virus, giving the gift of protection can provide much-needed peace of mind. Updated COVID vaccines can give the gift of a boost in protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID. Health fairs in black communities such as the Stay Well Health fairs bring easy accessibility to black families during the pandemic such as health screenings and any COVID-19 needs. Visit the Stay Well Health Hub for more information.

For those who are struggling, the holiday season can be a season of hope and healing. Healing is a process, everyone heals differently. We're stronger when we proactively process our grief.

Together, we can do this.

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.



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Symptoms that need to be seen by a doctor

HealthLifeGuru Staff

Have you ever had something feel wrong and don't know if you should go to the doctor or not? There are a lot of different symptoms that can indicate that something is wrong with your health. Some of them are more serious than others, and some you can treat easily.

It is important to know what the symptoms are that need to be seen by a doctor so that you can get the treatment you need as soon as possible. This article will examine some of the most serious symptoms that should not be ignored.

Chest pains

One of the more alarming symptoms of a heart attack is chest pain, which can be a sign that the heart is not receiving enough blood. While chest pain is not always indicative of a heart attack, it is something that should always be seen by a doctor, as it could be a sign of a severe underlying condition. In addition, there are many possible causes of chest pain, from heartburn to kidney stones, so it is vital to get a professional opinion to rule out any potential threats.

In the case of a heart attack, prompt medical attention can be the difference between life and death. Therefore, if you experience chest pain, don't hesitate to seek medical help.

Fainting

Fainting is a sudden, brief loss of consciousness. It's also called syncope. A faint is usually caused by a drop in blood pressure. When you faint, you'll feel weak and dizzy before losing consciousness. You may sweat, have blurred vision, and feel as if you're about



to vomit. A faint usually lasts only a few seconds to a few minutes.

Afterward, you may feel tired and confused for a short time. Fainting is generally nothing to be concerned about. But it can sometimes signify a more serious problem, such as heart disease or low blood sugar. So if you experience fainting, you should see your doctor for an evaluation.

Sudden loss in weight

Sudden weight loss can be a sign of many different medical conditions, ranging from mild to severe. If you've lost more than 5% of your body weight over the course of 6-12 months, it's worth talking to your doctor to rule out any underlying causes. Common causes of sudden weight loss include thyroid problems, diabetes, cancer, gastrointestinal issues and anxiety disorders.

In most cases, weight loss is due to a combination of factors, and treating the underlying condition can help to pro-

mote weight gain. However, weight loss may be unavoidable in some cases, such as with cancer. In these cases, working with a nutritionist to develop a healthy diet plan can help ensure you get the nutrients you need.

A traumatic hit to your head

Nearly everyone will experience a minor head injury at some point in their life. Whether it's from a fall, a car accident or a sports injury, head injuries can range from mild to severe. In most cases, the only treatment required is rest and ice. However, more serious head injuries can require medical attention. If you ever experience a traumatic hit to your head, it's important to see your doctor as soon as possible.

Symptoms of a concussion, such as dizziness, headache and nausea, can often worsen over time. Additionally, concussions can lead to more serious problems if you don't

receive the proper treatment. If you have any concerns about a head injury, always err on the side of caution and make an appointment with your doctor.

Pain when swallowing

While pain when swallowing is usually nothing to worry about, there are some instances where you should see your doctor. If the pain is severe, lasts longer than a week, or comes with other symptoms like fever or weight loss, then it could be a sign of a more severe condition, and you should seek medical attention.

Additionally, if you have difficulty swallowing or experience pain when eating solid foods, you should also see your doctor to see if you have developed an obstruction. While pain when swallowing is usually harmless, it is always better to be safe and consult with a doctor to rule out any serious conditions.

Thoughts of causing yourself harm

It's important to talk to your

doctor if you're experiencing thoughts of harming yourself. While it may be challenging to discuss, it's a sign that you need help and support. Your doctor can provide resources and referrals to mental health professionals. They can also work with you to create a safety plan. This may include establishing a support system of close friends or family, agreeing not to hurt yourself, and having a plan for what to do if you have an urge to harm yourself.

If you're experiencing suicidal thoughts, your doctor can also help connect you with crisis services. Seek help as soon as possible if you're having these thoughts, as they can be overwhelming and difficult to manage independently. Taking these steps can give you the support you need to start feeling better.

Swelling in your feet or ankles

Most people have experienced swelling in their feet or ankles at some point. The discomfort can be significant, whether it's due to a long day on our feet or a more serious medical condition. While occasional swelling is usually nothing to worry about, persistent swelling can be a sign of a more severe problem. However, if you ever experience swelling in your feet or ankles, it's essential to see your doctor.

They will be able to determine the cause of the swelling and provide treatment as needed. In some cases, the swelling may be due to a simple issue like poor circulation. However, it could also be a sign of something more serious, such as heart disease or kidney prob-

lems. So don't take any chances with your health – if you experience persistent swelling in your feet or ankles, make an appointment with your doctor today.

Blurred vision

Blurred vision can be caused by several things, from fatigue to a change in your prescription. In most cases, it's nothing to worry about and will clear up on its own. However, there are some instances where you should see your doctor. For example, sudden or severe blurred vision could be a sign of a more severe condition such as a stroke or eye infection.

If you have diabetes, blurred vision can be a symptom of diabetic retinopathy. This can be a serious complication that can lead to blindness. Finally, if you're over the age of 60, blurred vision could be a sign of cataracts, which is another serious condition that can cause blindness. If you ever have any concerns about your vision, it's always best to consult with your doctor to rule out any serious conditions.

Don't wait to see your doctor

There are many different symptoms that should be seen by a doctor. While some of them may seem harmless, they could be indicative of a more severe problem. Therefore, it's always better to err on the side of caution and consult with your doctor if you're experiencing any unusual symptoms. They will be able to determine the cause of the symptom and provide treatment as needed. Remember, your health is always worth taking the time to see a doctor.

What the latest science says about COVID-19 testing and treatment

StatePoint

While it can be tempting to think of the pandemic as something that occurred in the past, the reality is that COVID-19 continues to be a significant burden in the United States. As of November 2022, there are more than 39,000 new cases, more than 3,000 hospitalizations and about 350 deaths attributable to COVID-19 each day.

"We're not out of the woods yet," says Albert A. Rizzo, M.D., chief medical officer for the American Lung Association. "That's why it's so important for those at high risk to understand when to test for the disease and to learn more about available treatment options."

In response to the evolving science, the American Lung Association, with support from Pfizer, aims to encourage older adults, people living with chronic lung disease and other high-risk individuals to speak with their healthcare provider about their treatment options if they test positive for COVID-19.

Testing

Cold and flu season is upon us, and we will continue to see increased cases of infectious respiratory diseases, including flu, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19. If you experience symptoms that could be COVID-19, get tested right away. Keep in mind that many infectious respiratory illnesses have similar symptoms, so during flu season, it's especially important to get tested to find out which virus you have and which treat-



ment is right for you.

If you're exposed to COVID-19 but don't experience symptoms, you should also test at least five days after the exposure, with day 0 being the day of contact. You may also consider getting tested prior to visiting someone at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

If you test positive for COVID-19 and are high risk, speak with your healthcare provider right away about available treatment options.

Treatment

Treatment may help prevent severe illness and reduce the risk of hospitalization. Depending on your situation, your healthcare provider may prescribe one of the following:

- Oral antiviral medications, which may reduce the spread of COVID-19 throughout the body by stopping the virus from making copies of itself. This medication should be taken as soon as possible after diagnosis and within five days of symptom onset.

- Monoclonal antibody treatment, an IV infusion antiviral medication, can help your immune system fight off the virus by blocking and limiting the amount of virus within the body. This medication should be given as soon as possible, and within seven days of when you started feeling ill.

After treatment, be sure to monitor your condition and report any lingering or worsening symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you begin having difficulty breathing or any other symptom indicating severe illness, seek urgent care.

"While effective treatments can help prevent severe illness after infection, vaccination is still the best protection against COVID-19," says Dr. Rizzo. "Keep your vaccinations up to date. Check with your healthcare provider to see if you're eligible for an updated booster."

For more information about COVID-19 testing and treatment, visit [Lung.org/treating-COVID](https://lung.org/treating-COVID).

Diagnosed with bladder cancer? Here are 4 things you should know

StatePoint

Bladder cancer is the fourth-most diagnosed cancer among men in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In fact, men have a one in 27 chance and women have a one in 89 chance of developing this cancer during their lifetime.

As with any serious illness, being equipped with the right information after a bladder cancer diagnosis is important. Here are five things you should know about detection, removal and surveillance.

1. The importance of improved detection. You probably had a cystoscopy procedure during your diagnosis or during a transurethral resection of bladder tumor (TURBT). While performing the cystoscopy, your urologist likely looked inside your bladder with a small scope using regular white light for illumination.

There is also an enhanced cystoscopy procedure called Blue Light Cystoscopy, which uses both white and blue light. This can reveal additional tumors that are either difficult or impossible to see in white light. If you don't know whether you had this procedure, ask your doctor.

2. The value of enhanced visibility. Without the use of Blue Light Cystoscopy, it can be more difficult to identify the margins of certain tumors or smaller tumors may be missed. In fact, some flat tumors, called carcinoma in situ (CIS), are typically invisible with white light alone. While Blue Light Cystoscopy may



not detect all malignant lesions, when urologists have a better view of tumors, they're able to more completely remove them.

3. Impact on your care. A more complete resection of tumors means that your urologist has removed all the cancer that can be seen using both white and blue light. Less cancer in your bladder improves the chances that subsequent treatment will be successful. Also, the more tumor samples that can be tested by the pathologist, the better chance there is of more accurately understanding the stage and grade of your cancer. The guidelines that doctors use to make treatment decisions are based on cancer stage and grade, so more confidence in this determination can mean a greater chance of success with appropriate treatment.

4. Surveillance is critical. Historically, bladder cancer has the highest recurrence rate (between 50-80%) of any form of cancer. This can be due to missed tumors and incomplete surgeries because not all cancerous tissue is easy

to see under white light. This is one reason that surveillance visits are of the utmost importance. It is vital to keep checking in with your doctor as directed. If you visit an office that uses Blue Light Cystoscopy, you'll be able to see on the monitor whether any areas of your bladder indicate potential cancer. Small tumors might be removed right there in the office, while more advanced tumors could mean needing another TURBT procedure in the operating room. Whatever the results, both patients and urologists report having greater confidence in the examination when using enhanced imaging techniques.

5. Find out more. After a bladder cancer diagnosis, it's important to be aware of the latest technologies available in disease detection. Ask your urologist about whether you were diagnosed using Blue Light Cystoscopy.

To find where Blue Light Cystoscopy is available near you, visit <https://rebrand.ly/Find-BLC-4things>.

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Biden Administration announces plans to reduce homelessness nationwide

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

In major U.S. cities, officials have either ramped up or dialogued about efforts to reduce homelessness, with New York City Mayor Eric Adams announcing plans to place the unhoused with severe untreated mental illness into hospitals among the strategies employed.

Now, the Biden-Harris administration has decided to roll out a national push to reduce homelessness by 25% in two years. Titled “All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness,” the initiative, announced Dec. 19, would mandate federal officials to intervene.

Various government agencies would work with states and cities to target unsheltered homelessness. In addition, the administration would expand housing and services and strengthen efforts to prevent people from being unhoused before they turn to the streets.

“Many Americans live each day without safe or stable housing,” Biden stated. “Some are in emergency shelters. Others live on our streets, exposed to the threats of violence, adverse weather, disease, and so many other dangers exacerbated by homelessness.”

The White House called the plan the “most ambitious effort by any administration to prevent people from becoming homeless, address inequities that disproportionately impact underserved communities, including people of color and other marginalized groups, and help cities and states reduce unshel-



tered homelessness.”

The “All In” plan outlines new strategies to prevent homelessness and increase the housing supply with supportive services to reach that goal. Administration officials said these strategies build on the proven “Housing First” model – an approach where housing is the first step to a better, safer, and healthier life and serves as a platform for providing services so people can stay housed.

“All In” also sets the foundation for new initiatives, including one to reduce unsheltered homelessness in a cohort of geographically diverse communities.

Biden called on state and local governments to set goals for 2025 and use “All In” as a blueprint to address

homelessness in their communities.

“My plan offers a roadmap for not only getting people into housing but also ensuring that they have access to the support, services, and income that allow them to thrive,” Biden asserted. “It is a plan that is grounded in the best evidence and aims to improve equity and strengthen collaboration at all levels.”

White House officials said “All In” builds on the Obama-Biden Administration’s efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness, including using proven strategies that led to a significant drop in homelessness between 2010 and 2016.

Officials contended that some of those gains were reversed between 2016 and the pandemic’s beginning

due to a lack of focus on evidence-based strategies, officials contended. The number of people experiencing homelessness increased by 6%, officials stated.

New data from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) shows that further increases in homelessness were largely avoided despite the economic crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic – in large part because of the Biden administration’s robust response, including critical assistance in the American Rescue Plan and a historic economic recovery.

According to HUD data, 582,462 people were experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2022 – a slight .3% increase since 2020. The unsheltered homeless population, including encampments, has increased by more than 3% since 2020. In addition, chronic homelessness, including those with disabilities, increased by 15%.

In New York, 65,633 lived in shelters in October 2022, compared with 57,341 in October 2020, according to the Coalition for the Homeless. The Los Angeles region, which recently counted 69,144 people experiencing homelessness, has realized recent increases, including a 25% jump from 2018 to 2020.

Homelessness has reportedly decreased by 47% in the District of Columbia since 2016. Because the Biden-Harris administration kept the national eviction moratorium in place until August 2021 and with support from the

American Rescue Plan, evictions were prevented, and many vulnerable families could stay in their homes, officials insisted.

The Emergency Rental Assistance program from the American Rescue Plan delivered over 8 million payments to provide rental or utility assistance to individuals at risk for eviction or housing instability.

And the expanded Child Tax Credit helped drive child poverty to record lows in 2021. As a result, eviction filings remained more than 20 percent below historic averages in the 12 months following the expiration of the national eviction moratorium.

Despite overall homelessness remaining relatively flat, the administration noted that the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness – including people living in cars and tents – rose by 3%.

“Ending unsheltered homelessness will require a coordinated effort to promote healthy and safe communities where all can live in dignity,” administration officials wrote in a fact sheet. “Effective practices, such as using an emergency management approach to resolve encampments by rapidly moving people into housing with services and supports, are starting to emerge as national models.

“Although each community is different, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution, these practices could be successfully replicated in communities facing the growing challenge of unsheltered homelessness.”

Congressional Black Caucus names Nevada’s Steven Horsford new chair



Nevada Democratic Rep. Steven Horsford

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Democratic Rep. Steven Horsford, who earned the distinction of Nevada’s first African American State Senate Majority Leader, will lead the Congressional Black Caucus during the 118th Congress in January.

Horsford, who won reelection to Nevada’s fourth congressional district in November, was announced on Thursday as the CBC’s choice as its 28th chair.

“Over the last 50 years, the CBC has served as the ‘conscience of the Congress,’ helping guide the legislative priorities that have shaped our nation and helped improve the lives of African Americans and all our constituents,”

Horsford, 49, said in a statement.

“As chair, I will provide the leadership, strategic vision and execute on our plans to guide us on a path that will deliver positive socioeconomic outcomes for the communities and constituencies we serve.”

Horsford’s selection as chair comes as the Democrats fall into the minority in the House.

Known for successfully working across party lines and being calm under the everyday pressures of Congress, has continued his work to ensure veterans and seniors citizens, receive needed benefits.

He authored and passed the Nevada Lands Bill to create jobs across the state and fought to protect a woman’s right to make healthcare deci-

sions.

In addition to Horsford’s chairmanship, the CBC announced Rep. Yvette Clarke, 58, of New York as first vice chair; Rep. Troy Carter, 59, of Louisiana as second vice chair; Rep. Lucy McBath, 62, of Georgia as secretary; and Rep. Marilyn Strickland, 60, as whip.

“I am so honored to have been elected as the CBC Secretary for the 118th Congress. It is always necessary we continue to forge a path toward getting into Good Trouble and do the work to make life better for American families,” McBath asserted.

“Together, we must build a brighter, more just future for our communities, our caucus, and our country.”

Claudine Gay to be Harvard’s 1st black president, 2nd woman

By Michael Casey
Associated Press

Harvard University announced Thursday that Claudine Gay will become its 30th president, making her the first black person and the second woman to lead the Ivy League school.

Gay, who is currently a dean at the university and a democracy scholar, will become president July 1. She replaces Lawrence Bacow, who is stepping down and has said he wanted to spend more time with family.

“This is crazy, right?” a beaming Gay said as she was introduced to applause at the Smith campus center. She currently serves as the Edgerley Family Dean of Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

“I am absolutely humbled by the confidence that the governing board has placed in me,” she said. “I am also incredibly humbled by the prospect of succeeding President Bacow and leading this incredible institution.”

A child of Haitian immigrants, Gay is regarded as a leading voice on the issue of American political participation. Among the issues she has explored is how a range of social and economic factors shape political views and voting. She also is the founding chair Harvard’s Inequality in America Initiative, which studies issues like the effects of child poverty and deprivation on educational opportunity and American inequality from a global perspective.

“Claudine is a remarkable leader who is profoundly devoted to sustaining and enhancing Harvard’s academic excellence, to championing both the value and the values of higher education and research, to expanding opportunity, and to strengthening Harvard as a fount of ideas and a force for good in the world,” Penny Pritzker, senior fellow of the Harvard Corporation and chair of Harvard’s presidential search committee, said in a statement.

In her speech, Gay called for



Gay

greater collaboration among schools at Harvard and said there was an urgency for the university be more engaged with the world and to “bring bold, brave and pioneering thinking to our greatest challenges.”

“The idea of the ‘ivory tower’ – that is the past not the future of academia. We don’t exist outside of society, but as part of it,” she said. “That means that Harvard has a duty to lean in, engage and to be of service to the world.”

With Gay’s appointment, women will outnumber men as chiefs of the eight Ivy League schools. Dartmouth and the University of Pennsylvania appointed women earlier this year, joining Brown and Cornell. Columbia, Princeton and Yale are led by men.

Drew Faust was the first woman to be president at Harvard. A noted historian of the American South and the Civil War, she stepped down in 2018 after 11 years.

Gay will be the only black president currently in the Ivy League and the second black woman ever, following Ruth Simmons, who led Brown University from 2001 to 2012.

“Gay’s appointment is remarkable in part because relatively few U.S. universities are led by black presidents,” said Eddie R. Cole, a historian of college presidents and race at the University of California, Los Angeles. Harvard wields outsized influence in higher education, he said, and other universities are bound to take notice.

“At a time when everyone continues to look at Harvard, this presidential hire will arguably be one of the most significant in American higher education for years to come,” Cole said.

As president of Harvard, Gay will shape decisions that can have impact at the local, state and federal level, Cole said. That includes racial issues that the campus has confronted in recent years, including affirmative action and the school’s own history with slavery.

Bacow, who took over as president in 2018, expanded and updated the university’s teaching and research missions and fostered cooperation across disciplines to address issues including climate change and inequality.

Under his leadership, Harvard joined the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in a legal challenge to the Trump administration’s decision to make international students leave the country if they planned on taking classes entirely online in fall 2020 at the height of the pandemic. He criticized the policy for its “cruelty” and “recklessness.”

Harvard also faced challenges during his tenure. The university survived a legal challenge to its admissions policies in U.S. District Court, a case now being weighed by the Supreme Court.

Gay’s early challenges could include fallout from the Supreme Court’s review of the use of race in admissions. The court is weighing challenges to processes at Harvard and the University of North Carolina, which consider race among many factors when choosing students.

Lower courts have upheld practices at both universities, rejecting claims that they discriminated against Asian American applicants. But in oral arguments this year, the high court’s six conservative justices expressed doubts about the practice, which has been upheld under Supreme Court decisions reaching back to 1978.



Northeast Mississippi county rejects medical marijuana sales

The Associated Press

Voters in a northeast Mississippi county and city have rejected making it legal to sell, grow and process medical marijuana legal in two separate elections. Nearly 80% of voters inside the city of Pontotoc rejected the referendum Thursday. More than 70% of voters in the surrounding unincorporated areas of Pontotoc County rejected the same question Tuesday.

Even though voters rejected the referendums, it will remain legal to possess marijuana prescribed for 22 debilitating condi-

tions and bought elsewhere. A state law passed earlier this year allowed cities and counties to forbid sale and processing. Officials in 18 Mississippi counties and 85 cities opted out. But the law also allows 20% of voters to submit a petition for referendum to override that decision. Voters statewide initially approved legalizing medical marijuana in a November 2020 vote. But the state Supreme Court overturned it six months later by ruling it was not properly on the ballot because the initiative

process was outdated. Gov. Tate Reeves signed a new law earlier this year. The new law allows patients to buy up to to 3.5 grams of cannabis per day, up to six days a week. That’s about 3 ounces per month. So far, 154 dispensary licenses have been issued in 38 of Mississippi’s 82 counties, according to the state Department of Revenue. The National Conference of State Legislatures says medical use of cannabis is legal in 37 states and the District of Columbia.

Panel: Mississippi House’s GOP caucus can meet in secret

The Associated Press

Mississippi’s House Republican Caucus does not have to meet in the open, the state Ethics Commission ruled Wednesday, clearing the way for the Republican majority to keep formulating policy and tactics behind closed doors. The commission voted 5-3 to approve the order, after taking a similar vote earlier this month. It found that the group is not a “public body” that is subject to the state’s open meeting law, although its 77 members make up a supermajority of the House’s 122 seats. The *Mississippi Free Press*, which filed the complaint, said it would appeal the decision to Hinds County Chancery Court. “The public and the press have a right to know, and there is no reason the legislature should be held to a lesser standard than every city council and board of supervisors throughout the state,” Editor and CEO Donna Ladd said in a statement. “Any notion that a legislature full of elected officials is not a public body is a strike against public transparency.”

Those who argue that the

meetings should be open say such actions are the core of the kind of public business the law requires to be done in public. Republicans, though, say political caucuses should be able to meet in private. The state’s open meeting law does apply to legislative committee meetings, although committee meetings and floor proceedings sometimes have only limited debate and discussion of bills. The staff of the Ethics Commission, led by longtime executive director Tom Hood, had recommended that the commission should find the Mississippi House of Representatives is a “public body” as defined in the Open Meetings Act and require the caucus meetings to be open. Commissioners disagreed, noting that legislative committees are already covered by the act. They also noted that the Mississippi Constitution states that any time a majority of the House is present and discussing legislative business, that means a quorum is present. “The doors of each house, when in session, or in the committee of the whole, shall be kept open, except in cases which may

require secrecy,” the constitution states. Challengers say closed caucus meetings mean the required open meetings that follow will just be formalities, with the real decisions made behind closed doors, and the speaker and lieutenant governor taking even more control. House Republicans have maintained tight discipline on most issues since taking the majority in 2012. The Senate Republican Caucus has not held closed-door meetings out of concern that such meetings might violate the law. The Legislature is also exempt from the state’s open records law, meaning members of the public cannot request emails or other correspondence sent or received by lawmakers. Rob McDuff, an attorney with the Mississippi Center for Justice representing the *Free Press*, called on lawmakers to act. “We are appealing because we believe the Ethics Commission got it wrong, but the Legislature could easily fix this by requiring itself to live up to the standards it requires of other public bodies,” McDuff said.

Winter weather tips from MEMA

The Mississippi Link Newswire

With freezing temperatures expected later this week, the City of Jackson is advising residents to follow the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency’s tips for winter weather:

Dress for the weather

- Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight and warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves.
- Wear a hat.
- Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

Prepare your home and family

- Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.
- Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters,

repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.

- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip slightly during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- Learn how to shut off water valves in the case of a pipe bursting.
- Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.

Cold weather tips for your pets

- During dangerous cold, bring pets inside
- If you can’t bring your pets inside, provide them with a warm shelter that has a solid floor, three sides and flap door covering
- Give your pet extra food and fresh water that isn’t frozen

Tips for preventing/thawing frozen water pipes

- Residents may leave their faucets on at a low trickle to avoid frozen pipes
- Locate the frozen pipe

- Open the faucet
- Begin thawing pipe near faucet and work your way down

Prepare your car:

Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:

- Antifreeze levels: ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- Battery and ignition system: should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- Brakes: check for wear and fluid levels.
- Heater and defroster: ensure they are working properly.
- Lights and flashing hazard lights: ensure they are working properly.
- Gas tank: Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.
- Winter Weather Car Kit:
 - Windshield scraper
 - Flashlight with extra batteries
 - Jumper cables
 - Blankets
 - Cell phone chargers
 - Water/snacks
 - Emergency flares or reflectors
- Driving in winter weather conditions:
 - Slow down
 - Allow more space between the vehicles around you
 - Brake early and gently
 - Never slam on the brakes.

Mississippi’s largest hospital insurer ends contract dispute

The Associated Press

Mississippi’s largest private insurer and its largest hospital have reached a new contract, meaning patients covered by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi can resume seeking care at the University of Mississippi Medical Center at in-network rates. The insurer and hospital announced Friday that the medical center had returned to being in-network as of Thursday. The announcement, in a three-paragraph statement, left unanswered whether the hospital or insurer came out on top in their struggle over how much the medical center should be paid. “Blue Cross and UMMC remain focused on their missions of serving Mississippians’ health care needs,” the statement said. “The terms of the contracts are confidential.” The medical center has long argued that it’s being underpaid by Blue Cross compared to similar hospitals in other states. The medical center is Mississippi’s sole provider of some medical specialties, including the state’s only top-level trauma center and its most capable neonatal intensive care unit. Other hospitals in much of the state routinely transfer patients with the most complex conditions to the medical center’s flagship complex in Jackson. Blue Cross, though, has said paying the medical center at the rates it demanded would cause customer premiums to

rise. The hospital and insurer have also squabbled over how Blue Cross pays hospitals for quality outcomes. The yearslong dispute blew up again on April 1, when the medical center parted ways with Blue Cross. Patients covered by the insurer could still see medical center-affiliated providers, but most faced higher costs. Some patients reported putting off surgeries, while others traveled out of state. Dr. Alan Jones, associate vice chancellor for clinical affairs at the medical center, urged medical center faculty members to help reestablish relationships with Blue Cross policy holders, according to a memo obtained by the *North-east Mississippi Daily Journal*. “We understand that the past several months have been difficult and I appreciate the work our clinical departments, care teams and support staff have done to assist impact patients,” the newspaper reported. Republican Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney said in a statement that he was thankful the two entities overcame their differences and returned affordable healthcare to 750,000 policyholders. “I sincerely hope that UMMC and BCBSMS will now move forward in a collaborative relationship to provide innovative, accessible and affordable healthcare in our state and will put patients and poli-

cyholders as their first priority,” Chaney said. Both sides battled for public favor with advertisements and billboards. In July, Blue Cross & Blue Shield sued three medical center officials for defamation, including Vice Chancellor and Medical School Dean Louann Woodward, Jones and spokesperson Marc Rolph. The insurer said their public statements made it appear that the insurer dropped the medical center from its network when the insurer said it was the medical center that ended agreements with the insurer. It wasn’t immediately clear if the insurer would drop the lawsuit. The dispute could lead to increased regulation of insurers. Chaney has proposed that lawmakers block contracts between insurance companies and health care providers from being canceled outside of a 90-day window before an open enrollment period. The hospital also lost \$50 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds that it planned to use for capital improvements to its adult hospital and operating rooms after Republican Gov. Tate Reeves vetoed the appropriation in April. Reeves said at the time that the state shouldn’t “further subsidize the operations of UMMC to the detriment of competitors” when the hospital was “willingly” turning away Blue Cross patients.

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P R E S E R V E D

Regifting God's grace

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Regifting. Chances are that you have either done it or have had it done to you. And for many people, regifting is the simplest way to get rid of presents that you received that you didn't want.

I had a conversation with my parents a few years about regifting Christmas gifts. Both me and my mother agreed that we'd done it because it was a way to be a blessing to others.

Then one of the morning news shows did a story about the best way the to regift. One of the ways they mentioned was to add a little something of your own to your gift before you give it to somebody else. For example, if someone gave you a candle, they suggested buying a nice candleholder to go along with it.

Later, I thought about how

we do the same thing with the gift that God gave of his only son Jesus. I thought about how we regift Jesus to others. Some present lives that honor God through words and actions. Others regift God's love with hypocrisy. Matthew 6:4 says that we should "give our gifts in private, and our Father, who sees everything, will reward you."

For some, regifting Jesus follows this model. They give their time, talent, or treasure in support of community organizations. Others might take it one step further and create community organizations or ministries that help others. Rather than seek the "spotlight," they work behind the scenes being a blessing to others. These people act as Jesus' hands extended regifting his grace and love to others. Some choose to regift Jesus by encouraging others.

In the last year, I've had the chance to be both the giver of and receiver of words of

encouragement. When I was unsure and doubtful about personal and professional decisions I'd made, I was given words of encouragement that shifted my focus from my worries of the present to the promises of the future. Months later, when a friend was in a similar position questioning things that were happening in his life, I was able to offer him similar words of encouragement. Even though some friends told me to send him on his way because he had too much "drama," I had to regift God's grace just as it had been given to me when I needed it most.

Another way to regift Jesus to others is to speak words of encouragement to others. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says "therefore encourage one another and build each other up." Encouragement isn't necessarily deeply spiritual; sometimes it's just sincere words that uplift and inspire others. These can be as simple as

"You can make it," or "things are going to get better" or "you are smart/handsome/beautiful." These simple words may seem insignificant but to those who need to hear them, they can transform a life.

Some might forget about big gift giving until next Christmas, but we should always remember to regift God's grace. No matter how much money we have, we can always gift and regift God's grace.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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 or follow her on Twitter @shewanda. Find out more about her new podcast "The Chocolate Auntie Podcast" at www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com.

Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

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



We read in Matthew 18:1-4 these words, "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

If God has His hand on us for work in the Kingdom of God, we need to start visiting the sick, going to rest homes, and praying with people. Today, some people want to go straight into the pulpit and begin as an evangelist or a pastor. No, we need to have a good foundation and start from the ground up. We need to learn how to work with people, learn how to be compassionate with people, learn how to instruct and counsel people, and learn how to encourage people.

When we go to a hospital to visit someone, we should not tell that person about someone who had the same condition and died. We should encourage and lift up that person. The individual is already going through enough by worrying about the test results. If the individual does not know Jesus Christ, we should try to lead

him or her in that direction.

There are always people who think they should move up. When we get that thought, we ought to take it to Christ right away. A thought like that will get us into trouble.

Once I read a story of a young minister who attended a camp meeting, and he could not wait to preach. Finally, the word came that they were going to use him in a service, and he was thrilled. He had his outline ready to get into the message. When the time came for him to stand in the pulpit, he was exuberant. He was all fired up and ready to go; but as he left the pulpit, he went out feeling like a big flop, feeling depressed and discouraged. He no longer had confidence in himself. Afterward, he went to an older minister and said, "I don't know what happened. I had everything ready. I had my notes ready, I had studied, and I was well ready and well versed to go right in there and bring the message, but I feel discouraged and whipped." The older minister told him, "If you had gone in the way you came out, you would have done well."

How we need God to help us! God can still handle His church, just as He handled the congregations in the Old Testament.

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

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Reaffirming solidarity between Blacks and Jews in America

By Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
President and CEO of the NNPA



I will not be silent on the issues of racial hatred, violence and prejudice. I am speaking out publicly in

support of the recent call by billionaire African-American business leader and philanthropist Robert F. Smith to stand up against the resurgence of racism and antisemitism in America.

Blacks and Jews in the United States have had a long history and tradition of working together and sacrificing together for freedom, justice, equality and equity. Lest we forget that we have marched together for over a century. We have shared blood together. And we have died together for the cause of freedom in the Civil Rights Movement.

Both of our communities today increasingly are the targets of violent hatred, ignorant stereotypes and a demonic supremacist ideology. Racism and antisemitism are twin evils that cannot be ignored or trivialized.

In a recent full page paid advertisement in *The New York Times*, Smith affirmed, "At a time when racism and antisemitism are on the rise, I am determined to partner with leaders from all faiths to recognize 'Fifteen Days of Light.' We are unifying to celebrate Chanukah and Kwanzaa together, and encourage communities nationwide to join us in our support for one another."

"Fifteen Days of Light" is a timely national opportunity to do what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. prophetically defined as the development and establishment of a "Beloved Community."

Dr. King envisioned that this would be a nationwide multi-racial community where there would be no racism, no antisemitism and no hatred toward anyone. All people, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or faith would live together with mutual respect and unconditional love for all.

As we prepare to go into 2023, disunity between Blacks and Jews is ahistorical and counterproductive. We cannot afford to be nonchalant or indifferent. Smith's statement to encourage participation in acts of remembrance across the nation celebrating both Chanukah and Kwanzaa together over a 15-day period this month reminded me of the need to reaffirm the solidarity between Blacks and Jews.

I attended the historic 1963 March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his eloquent and transcendent "I Have a Dream" speech. I recall the strong advocacy from Jewish leaders like Arnold Aronson of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights that supported Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the NAACP, and other civil rights organizations at the March on Washington.

That day I also remember hearing from a dynamic young freedom fighter named John Lewis who emphasized the urgency for racial equality. Then there was a young Jewish folk singer named Bob Dylan who performed at the March a haunting song he wrote about the tragic assassination of civil rights leader Medgar Evers in Mississippi.

On that sunny day in August of 1963 in Washington there

were other freedom movement speakers that included a number of prominent Jewish voices from across the country, including the outspoken Rabbi Joachim Prinz, who spoke about "the shame and disgrace of inequality and injustice" facing the black community.

Later that year in November 1963 Dr. King joined with the theologian Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel at the United Synagogue of America's Golden Jubilee Convention in New York City. King and Heschel pledged to work together to end racism and antisemitism. In 1965 when Dr. King, John Lewis, Hosea Williams and other civil rights leaders marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama, the historic Selma to Montgomery March, for voting rights, Rabbi Heschel was there marching shoulder to shoulder in solidarity.

The black community and the Jewish community share a long, shared history of struggle and fighting for civil rights – from August and Henrietta Bondi's home in Kansas being used as a stop on the Underground Railroad to Jewish organizations participating in the protests following the murder of George Floyd and the acceleration of the Black Lives Matter movement.

According to recent national law enforcement data, today there has been an unprecedented increase in hate crimes targeted against black and Jewish communities. According to the Anti-Defamation League, 2021 was the highest year on record for documented reports of harassment, vandalism and violence directed against Jews since the organization began tracking incidents in 1979. Thus far in 2022 the incidents of antisemitism have not declined but have steadily increased.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) has documented a constant increase in racially motivated attacks on black people throughout the United States during the past decade. All forms of racism and antisemitism should always be challenged relentlessly. Dr. King said it best, "We must all learn to live together as brothers, or we will all perish together as fools."

Robert F. Smith, founder, chairman & CEO of Vista Equity Partners, Chairman, Carnegie Hall, is taking the right stand at the right time. Smith stated in the ad, "Michael Eric Dyson recently wrote that '... African Americans and Jews are passengers on the same ship facing the ferocious headwinds of bigotry and hatred.' It is time to put aside differences and shift our focus to the shared values that bring all Americans together as God's children."

The call to action is: "Join us this holiday season at public events from Los Angeles to New York, or in your own home, to light the Eight Nights of the Chanukah Menorah followed immediately by the Seven Nights of Kwanzaa and the Kinara. Post your own photos of black and Jewish friends, neighbors and colleagues coming together to #lightthecandles."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and is Executive Producer/Host of *The Chavis Chronicles* on PBS TV stations throughout the U.S. and can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.

When love rules, the true Christmas spirit can abide

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
Guest Writer



Today, so much is ruling our towns, cities, states, nations, our actions and responses, marriages, families and the world. Things like hate, jealousy, envy, wrath, murder, unforgiveness, vengeance, division, separations, fathers abandoning their homes and mother abandoning their homes, high divorce rates, broken families, broken children and so much more is ruling (controlling/taking over) the world even during the most wonderful time of the year – Christmas.

Further, we observe the tragedies and nightmares every day in the news and social media across the world weekly and it seems that it is worsening most days. Instead of many planning special Christmas traditions, events and occasions for the holidays; many are planning funerals, planning court dates, planning prison visits, planning divorce proceedings, planning child custody arrangements, planning deviant and perilous activities, planning press conferences, and so much more devastation.

When love rules the true Christmas spirit can abide. The true Christmas spirit must first abide in marriages and homes, which can positively influence the workplace, neighborhoods, towns, cities, states, nations and this world.

My mother ministered on this topic, when love rules the true Christmas spirit can abide, a few weeks ago and it penetrated my heart.

What is ruling your spouse? What is ruling your marriage? What is ruling your home? Is the true Christmas spirit ruling your spouse? Is the true Christmas spirit ruling your home? Is hate ruling your marriage? Is competition ruling your marriage? Is bitterness ruling your marriage? Is unforgiveness ruling your marriage? Is anger ruling your marriage? Is selfishness ruling your marriage?

Is animosity ruling your marriage? Is deception and manipulation ruling your marriage? Is jealousy and envy ruling your marriage? Is vengeance ruling your marriage? Is living in the past ruling your marriage? Is family or your children ruling your marriage? Is adultery ruling your marriage? Is social media ruling your marriage? Is fear ruling your marriage? Is pride and arrogance ruling your marriage? Are previous relationships ruling your marriage? Is your childhood ruling your marriage? Is the love of money ruling your marriage? Is convenience ruling your marriage? Is joy ruling your marriage? Is love ruling your marriage? Is forgiveness ruling your marriage? Is grace ruling your marriage? Is mercy ruling your marriage? Is patience ruling your marriage? Is empathy ruling your marriage? Is the true Christmas spirit ruling your marriage?

What is the true Christmas spirit? The true Christmas spirit is centered around two main factors: the birth of Jesus Christ and love. "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2: 2:11-14.

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8.

Jesus was born to bring deliverance, set people free from sin and bondages, give salvation, grace and mercy, and most importantly, he came to show and give love and grace to everyone. The love He gave and gives covers us all – covers (shields) everything we do, the good and the bad.

To sum up, the True Christmas spirit is simply showing and displaying love, joy, peace, happiness, forgiveness, kind-

ness, empathy, sharing, giving, extending grace and mercy to our spouses, family, friends, strangers and others.

Above all, love each other deeply. Do you love one another deeply in marriage? Do you and your spouse have an agape (God/Fatherly love for humans) love for one another? The Greek word for deeply is *ektenē* in Greek, which translates to mean fervently; intent, without ceasing fervent, to stretch out, extend, continual and intense. In other words, do you make every effort and intention to love your spouse intensely and continuously despite anything? Does your love for your spouse stretch deeply? Is your love for your spouse extended continuously or is your love limited by their failed actions and responses? Loving, deeply loving your spouse causes that love to cover your spouse's mistakes, errors, annoying habits, bad choices, covers a multitude of sins (faults). Moreover, Christ's love covers our multitude of sins and faults, especially when we ask Him to forgive us for our sins. When love rules the true Christmas spirit can rule.

When we love like Christ; we will witness less separations and divorces, we will witness less broken children and homes, we will witness less murders and incarcerations, and we will witness less devastations caused by unforgiveness, hate, vengeance, wrath and anger.

Christmas is a time when joy, empathy, love, unity, selflessness and giving should be exhibited to not only your spouse but to family, friends, even strangers too and of course others.

What happens when love rules? Keep in mind that this love is not Hollywood love that we often see in the movies or the Hallmark channel (my favorite holiday channel), or love measured by what your spouse does or does not do. This love as illustrated above is based on Christ's love for us, which is an agape love that is bestowed upon us by His unconditional love, forgiveness, grace, mercy,

giving, love and remembering unlike many do in marriages. Psalms 103: 8-14 states that: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, neither will He keep his anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his mercy towards those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions (wrongs, faults, sins) from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

If love rules like Christ loves rules for us, marriages will exemplify the following characteristics pre- and post-Christmas?

- Happy
- Peaceful
- Healthy
- Forgiving
- Loving
- Gracefulness
- Mercifulness
- Radiant with beam and joy
- Long lasting
- Spouses hate to be apart
- Unity
- Patience
- Light and example for other marriages

- Children are happy
- Spouses are happy
- Intimacy is woo woo woo (Luther Vandross said it best)

In conclusion, Christ was born to spread love and joy to everyone, who is willing to receive it. Because of Christ's birth, you don't have to earn His love or work for His love, you only must believe and accept His love and grace. If we love like Christ loved and loves today, first in our marriages and homes, then this love could be reciprocated and shared in every place we are present whether living, working, occupying temporarily, visiting or walking through.

All in all, when love rules the true Christmas spirit can abide.

The January 6th Committee Hearings came to an end - What's next?

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



Christmas time is approaching, and we are checking the naughty and nice list to see where we are.

It is a special season where we especially practice kindness, humility and forgiveness.

This year, as it comes to a close, has been marked and marred by political strife and turmoil.

Midterm elections were unpredictable, suspenseful and stressful too, depending upon your candidate and whether they won or lost.

The Senate seat in Georgia was won in a runoff by Democratic incumbent Raphael Warnock as he defeated Republican challenger Herschel Walker.

The Democrats now have solid control of the Senate which helps President Joe Biden with judicial appointments.

They narrowly lost control of the House of Representatives so

we will see what happens there.

The January 6th Committee is coming to an end. It started on July 1, 2021.

Most pundits thought the committee was a waste of time and would be of no benefit to the American people. However, I believe some of those same people are eating crow now as the old expression goes.

Washington Post media columnist Margaret Sullivan said, "The hearings have been riveting to watch and even more remarkably, they have captured the daily news cycle again and again."

During each of its eight sessions, we the people learned more about the January 6th insurrection. The former president's appointees and staff came forward and testified about his involvement in this history making event.

It is my opinion that their sense of being a patriot "trumped" their allegiance to him. Others might say they were simply afraid of going to jail and that love of country had nothing to do with it. The January 6th Committee

held its last meeting Jan. 19 and released their report to the American people. Reports say they shared documents that incriminated the former president. The mountain of evidence was building against him as each hearing was held.

The January 6th Committee made referral of criminal charges to the Department of Justice against Donald Trump including insurrection.

There are a few issues that are on the table for us to consider. This is my opinion.

If the charges against him are acted upon by the Department of Justice (DOJ), what will happen to the former president?

A direct question is whether he will go to jail for the crimes he has allegedly committed? My thinking is that as guilty as we know he is that he will not go to jail. The legal wranglings and delays will prevent him from serving any time for his criminal activities.

How will the DOJ prosecution affect his presidential bid in 2024? Maybe it won't. We will

see. Do Republicans want a sor-did and stained candidate running for office? I hope not. Not even the most loyal Trumpers want a crook representing them.

The January 6th Committee was dissolved and will go down in history as an important component of our democracy.

Some will have a different view about the committee's contributions and findings. The truth even when you put it in front of them will not be accepted.

We can only hope that we as Americans have learned a valuable lesson. Elected officials no matter their position or title are going to be held accountable by we the voters.

The January 6th Committee has left behind a body of work that all of us will be able to read and to review over time.

Wrongdoing and corrupt activities under the false guise of the constitution and the flag will always be found out to be wrong and corrupt.

The January 6th Committee was our safeguard for right and for truth.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

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

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Advertisement for RFPS
RFP 2023-01 JPS Seeks a Partner to Support the Community-Based early Childhood Alignment RFP 2023-02 JPS Seeks a Pool of Vendors to Provide a Suite of Security Equipment/Supports RFP 2023-03 JPS Seeks a Vendor(s) to Provide a Universal Screener and Supplemental Software

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), January 18, 2023, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs/ are opened.

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

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

12/22/2022, 12/29/2022

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Advertisement for Bid
Bid 3213 JPS Seeks a Vendor to Provide Clear Backpacks for Students

Electronic Bid proposals for the above Bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), January 19, 2023, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all 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.

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12/22/2022, 12/29/2022



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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 opportunityfor 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. 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

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Advertisement for Bids

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time, Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of Casa Grande Apartments located at 3603 Terry Rd and 0 Sykes Rd (Parcels 626-118 and 626-118-1)

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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

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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.

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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the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Room 223, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

Contract Documents may be obtained from and/or examined at the offices of the Community Improvement Division located at 200 S. President Street, Suite 331, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Telephone 601.960.1054. Prospective bidders may obtain copies of all materials required for bidding purposes. There is NO charge for electronic or e-mail copies. Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

Samantha Graves,
Interim Manager Community Improvement
Division of Planning and Development

12/22/2022, 12/29/2022

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
BY THE
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
FOR
CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES
IN CONNECTION WITH THE JAN ELEVATOR
AND ESCALATOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE & ON-CALL SERVICES

JMAA PROJECT NO. 005-23

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking bids for preventive maintenance and on-call services in connection with the JAN Escalator and Elevator Preventive Maintenance & On-Call Services (the "Work").

Sealed bids to perform the Work will be accepted by JMAA until 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Monday, February 06, 2023 (the "Bid Deadline"). Bids shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

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

JMAA will publicly open and read all bids on Monday, February 06, 2023, at 4:05 p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

Questions and communications regarding the bidding procedure and schedule on this project should be directed to: Marvin Buckhalter, Director of Procurement, mbuckhalter@jmaa.com, and 601-664-3516.

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: JAN Escalator and Elevator Preventive Maintenance & On-Call Services, Project No. 005-23." If the submission is submitted via email, then the identification information must be provided in the email subject line. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, then the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any submissions, including bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received, after the Bid Deadline for any reason whatsoever.

JMAA will award the Work to the lowest successful bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered part of the Agreement. Any Addenda issued clarifying and/or changing plans and specifications; clarifying and/or changing instructions in the Instruction to Bidders; and/or answering questions in relation to the Instructions to Bidders shall become part of the Information for Bidders.

The Information for Bidders and bidding documents for the Work can be found at (https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/). The website will be updated periodically with addenda, reports and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Work.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 10:00am (CST) using the following login information:

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

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095
Passcode: 520966

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; to waive technicalities in the bid proposals.

JMAA has established a Disadvantage Business Enterprises participation goal of 13.00% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: December 21, 2022
John Means, Acting Chief Executive Officer

12/22/2022

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 Tube 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 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 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 promote fill 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.C. 2000d to 2000d-4, that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, 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 Cer-

tificate 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 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.centralbidding2.com. Electronic Bids may be submitted at www.centralbidding.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 mgucize@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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Week of December 4, 2022

House Committee details charges referred to DOJ against Donald Trump

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA National Correspondent

Donald Trump, who holds the ignominious distinction of being the only twice-impeached U.S. president, has become the first commander-in-chief to have criminal charges referred against him.

The dubious achievement occurred Monday, Dec. 19, when the House Select Committee investigating the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol, formally requested that the U.S. Department of Justice charge Trump with inciting, assisting, or engaging in insurrection against the United States and “giving aid or comfort” to an insurrection.

Chaired by Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Mississippi) and vice chair Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyoming), the committee released a 161-page summary that focused on Trump’s involvement in the effort to overturn his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden. The committee concluded that Trump’s efforts “makes him responsible for the violence that unfolded, and unfit to hold office.”

The panel then laid out a criminal case for the Justice



Department, including a cache of evidence. Based upon the assembled evidence, the committee has reached a series of specific findings, including the following 17 powerful conclusions against Trump:

- Beginning election night and continuing through January 6th and thereafter, Trump purposely disseminated false allegations of fraud related to the 2020 Presidential election to aid his effort to overturn the election and for purposes of soliciting contributions. “These false claims provoked his supporters to violence on January 6th,” the committee determined.
- Knowing that he and his sup-

porters had lost dozens of election lawsuits, and despite his own senior advisors refuting his election fraud claims and urging him to concede his election loss, Trump refused to accept the lawful result of the 2020 election. Rather than honor his constitutional obligation to “take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed,” President Trump instead plotted to overturn the election outcome.

- Despite knowing that such an action would be illegal, and that no State had or would submit an altered electoral slate, Trump corruptly pressured Vice President Mike Pence to refuse to count electoral votes during Congress’s

joint session on January 6th.

- Trump sought to corrupt the U.S. Department of Justice by attempting to enlist Department officials to make purposely false statements and thereby aid his effort to overturn the Presidential election. After that effort failed, Trump offered the position of Acting Attorney General to Jeff Clark knowing that Clark intended to disseminate false information aimed at overturning the election.

- Without any evidentiary basis and contrary to State and Federal law, Trump unlawfully pressured State officials and legislators to change the results of the election

in their States.

- Trump oversaw an effort to obtain and transmit false electoral certificates to Congress and the National Archives.

- Trump pressured Members of Congress to object to valid slates of electors from several States.

- Trump purposely verified false information filed in Federal court.

- Based on false allegations that the election was stolen, Trump summoned tens of thousands of supporters to Washington for January 6th. Although these supporters were angry and some were armed, Trump instructed them to march to the Capitol on January 6th to “take back” their country.

- Knowing that a violent attack on the Capitol was underway and knowing that his words would incite further violence, Trump purposely sent a social media message publicly condemning Vice President Pence at 2:24 p.m. on January 6th.

- Knowing that violence was underway at the Capitol, and despite his duty to ensure that the laws are faithfully executed, Trump refused repeated requests over a multiple hour period that he instruct his violent supporters to disperse and leave the Capitol, and instead watched the violent attack unfold on television. This failure to act perpetuated the violence at the Capitol and obstructed Congress’s proceeding to count electoral votes.

- Each of these actions by Trump was taken in support of a multi-part conspiracy to overturn the lawful results of the 2020 Presidential election.

- The intelligence community and law enforcement agencies did successfully detect the planning for potential violence on January 6th, including planning specifically by the Proud Boys and Oath Keeper militia groups who ultimately led the attack on the Capitol. As January 6th approached, the intelligence specifically identified the potential for violence at the U.S. Capitol. This intelligence was shared within the executive branch, including with the Secret Service and the President’s National Security Council.

- Intelligence gathered in advance of January 6th did not support a conclusion that Antifa or other left-wing groups would likely engage in a violent counterdemonstration, or attack Trump supporters on January 6th. Indeed, intelligence from January 5th indicated that some left-wing groups were instructing their members to “stay at home” and not attend on January 6th.20 Ultimately, none of these groups was involved to any material extent with the attack on the Capitol on January 6th.

- Neither the intelligence community nor law enforcement obtained intelligence in advance of January 6th on the full extent of the ongoing planning by President Trump, John Eastman, Rudolph Giuliani and their associates to overturn the certified election results. Such agencies apparently did not (and potentially could not) anticipate the provocation President Trump would offer the crowd in his Ellipse speech, that President Trump would “spontaneously” instruct the crowd to march to the Capitol, that President Trump would exacerbate the violent riot by sending his 2:24 p.m. tweet condemning Vice President Pence, or the full scale of the violence and lawlessness that would ensue. Nor did law enforcement anticipate that President Trump would refuse to direct his supporters to leave the Capitol once violence began. No intelligence community advance

analysis predicted exactly how President Trump would behave; no such analysis recognized the full scale and extent of the threat to the Capitol on January 6th.

- Hundreds of Capitol and DC Metropolitan police officers performed their duties bravely on January 6th, and America owes those individual immense gratitude for their courage in the defense of Congress and our Constitution. Without their bravery, January 6th would have been far worse. Although certain members of the Capitol Police leadership regarded their approach to January 6th as “all hands-on deck,” the Capitol Police leadership did not have sufficient assets in place to address the violent and lawless crowd.

- Capitol Police leadership did not anticipate the scale of the violence that would ensue after President Trump instructed tens of thousands of his supporters in the Ellipse crowd to march to the Capitol, and then tweeted at 2:24 p.m. Although Chief Steven Sund raised the idea of National Guard support, the Capitol Police Board did not request Guard assistance prior to January 6th. The Metropolitan Police took an even more proactive approach to January 6th, and deployed roughly 800 officers, including responding to the emergency calls for help at the Capitol. Rioters still managed to break their line in certain locations, when the crowd surged forward in the immediate aftermath of Trump’s 2:24 p.m. tweet. The Department of Justice readied a group of Federal agents at Quantico and in the District of Columbia, anticipating that January 6th could become violent, and then deployed those agents once it became clear that police at the Capitol were overwhelmed. Agents from the Department of Homeland Security were also deployed to assist.

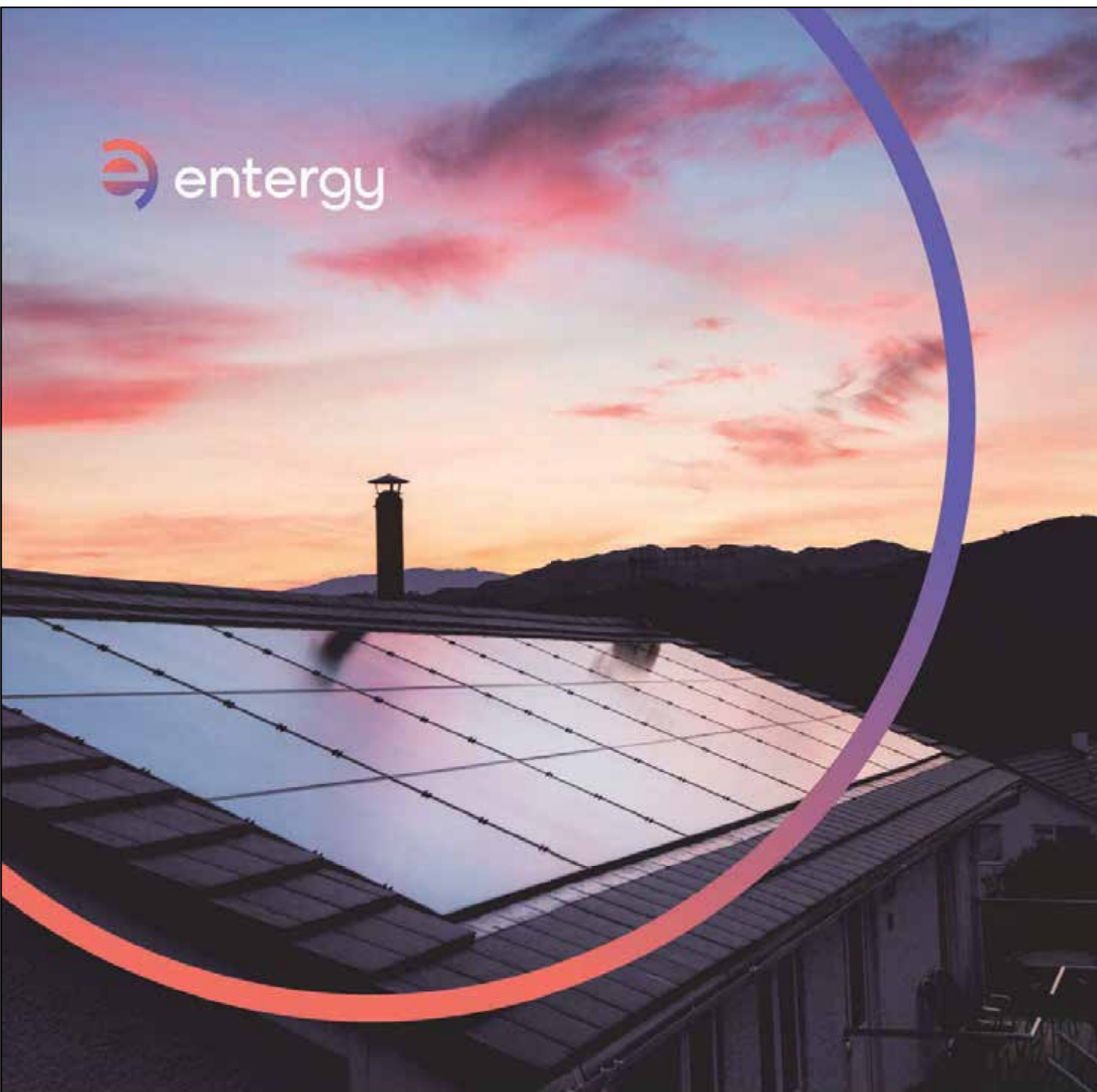
- President Trump had authority and responsibility to direct deployment of the National Guard in the District of Columbia, but never gave any order to deploy the National Guard on January 6th or on any other day. Nor did he instruct any Federal law enforcement agency to assist.

- Because the authority to deploy the National Guard had been delegated to the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense could, and ultimately did deploy the Guard. Although evidence identifies a likely miscommunication between members of the civilian leadership in the Department of Defense impacting the timing of deployment, the Committee has found no evidence that the Department of Defense intentionally delayed deployment of the National Guard.

The Select Committee recognizes that some at the Department had genuine concerns, counseling caution that President Trump might give.

“An insurrection is a rebellion against the authority of the United States,” said Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-Maryland). “It is a grave federal offense anchored in the Constitution. ... Anyone who incites others to engage in rebelling, assists them in doing so or gives aid and comfort to those engaged in insurrection is guilty of a federal crime.”

Raskin continued, “The Committee believes that more than sufficient evidence exists for a criminal referral of former President Trump for assisting or aiding and comforting those at the Capitol who engaged in a violent attack on the United States. The Committee has developed significant evidence that President Trump intended to disrupt the peaceful transition of power.”



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Hinds CC student graduation speaker: 'Use your failures'



Jacobus Roby of Raymond, left, and Olivia Williams of Hurricane, Utah, right, were student speakers at Hinds Community College's Dec. 15 graduation. They are with Hinds President Dr. Stephen Vacik, center. BRAD SMITH/HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Chancey Paige, 37, of Jackson is married with three kids but even with a fulltime job she managed to get through five semesters at night to earn a practical nursing degree from Hinds Community College on Dec. 15. She already had a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi but said "I've always wanted to be a nurse."



Graduating from Hinds Community College on Dec. 15 were, from left, Breland Grayson of Byram, Lakesha Coleman of McComb, Korshawndius Ezell of Port Gibson, Jeremy Powell of Florence and Skylar Dibenedetto of St. Francisville, La. (Brad Smith/Hinds Community College)

Special to The Mississippi Link

It's the failures that shaped Olivia Williams' experience in Hinds Community College's Associate Degree Nursing program. Williams, the student speaker for the 10 a.m. Dec. 15 ceremony, said while she found those failures humbling, they were also an opportunity for positive growth. Williams, who received her Associate Degree in Nursing, asked classmates to reflect on their experience in the rigorous health programs and what they were most proud of. Some of those reflections were about failures and what they learned from them. "I hope we can walk away from today with confidence,

not just in our victories but in our failures as well. The not-so-shiny stuff. The things we would never put on plaques or hang on our walls. Things like tests we bombed, the unintelligent answers we shared in class, or the damage we've accumulated from caffeine/sweets or other vices to comfort our sorrows from school," said Williams, a native of Hurricane, Utah. "While today may be a beautiful milestone for each of us and a celebration of all that has gone right, I hope that we can also take the time to celebrate all that went wrong that brought us to this point," she said. "Today is not a stagnant time, the celebration will end and tomorrow will

come; requiring us to do things that are challenging, awkward and frustrating – allowing us to use the failures we have experienced here to help us face those opportunities with confidence and endurance." She has accepted a position at the University of Mississippi Medical Center Neuro ICU and in January will also begin UMC's Bachelor of Science in Nursing. More than 850 students graduated from Hinds Community College in one of two ceremonies Dec. 15 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus. Jacobus Roby, a Raymond resident who has been enrolled in the Utica Campus Radio, Televi-

sion Production and Broadcasting program offered the invocation at both ceremonies. Hinds awarded nearly 1,300 credentials as many students will earn more than one credential. Hinds President Dr. Stephen Vacik congratulated graduates on their accomplishments. "You've made it through late night study sessions, beyond early morning commutes, and past all the personal barriers that stood in your way," he said. "You sit here today ready to move forward on your life's journey, a journey that will be full of adventures, challenges, victories and probably even a few failures." In total, 123 students graduat-

ed cum laude with a grade point average of 3.2 to 3.59; 73 graduated magna cum laude with a grade point average of 3.6 to 3.99 and 11 graduated summa cum laude with a grade point average of 4.0. Taia Gaskin of Clinton, spoke at the 2 p.m. ceremony on behalf of her classmates. She was a student on the Rankin Campus studying entrepreneurship. She is unsure about her specific career but does plan on creating her own path in life. With six campuses in central Mississippi, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study

leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills. Our Mission: Hinds Community College is committed to moving people and communities forward by helping develop their purpose, passion and profession. Our Vision: Hinds Community College will be a catalyst to create a competitive economy and a compelling culture for Mississippi. Our Values: Hinds Community College aspires to the following IDEALS: Integrity, Diversity, Excellence, Accountability, Leadership, Stewardship. To learn more, visit www.hindscc.edu or call 1.800.HindsCC.

Alcorn State University celebrates 2022 graduation, awards, diplomas, honors and songs

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
Contributing Writer

Against intermittent sunshine and rain sprinkles, Alcorn State University community celebrated the school's fall convocation with merriment and joy. Alcorn's first female president, Dr. Felecia Nave, clad in the school's purple gown, presided over the occasion with remarkable proficiency. The articulate and fluent Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Ontario S. Wooden officially opened the convocation. Over three hundred students clad in Alcorn's black graduation robe and cap, cheerfully received certificates and headed to diverse destinations at home and abroad. Deans from the Schools of Arts and Sciences, Education and Psychology, Nursing, Agriculture, Applied Sciences, Graduate Studies, and Business congratulated degree recipients and presented their diplomas. Graduates earned degrees in agriculture, biology, chemistry, computer networking, mass communication, educa-



ASU's 1st female president, Dr. Felecia Nave
PHOTOS BY DR. JK DOMATOB



Food and Nutrition Team

tion, English, literature, math and physics. Attendees cheered, joked, shared experiences. Alcorn State University, located in rural Lorman, Mississippi, attracts students from diverse parts of the world. It graduates students from Russia, Ukraine, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, Nepal, Kenya, Zambia, India, Morocco and China. The school started as an Agricultural institute before panning out to other areas such as the sciences and business. They also learn foreign languages and many travel abroad for studies. Although the future is always

a mystery, Alcorn may expand its nursing, science and agricultural programs. Though resources are limited, the current leaders will cherish its diversification in sports and media. An admirable variable of the institution is the fact that instructors and professors hail from diverse parts of the world. Since Alcorn's establishment in 1871, it has educated agriculturalists, engineers, doctors, managers, leaders and scientists. A picturesque and ultramodern learning citadel, it has also made its mark in the sports and athletic arenas. It has valiantly

won championships with pride and distinction. Alcorn sparks inspiration. Instructors from all parts of the globe patronize Alcorn for teaching, research, grant writing and partnerships. Over the years, international scholars, artists and athletes have planned and executed their programs on the campus with Alcornites. They take advantage of the grandiose gym, neat classrooms, spacious farms, new technologies and study halls, eateries, resource centers and other admirable facilities.



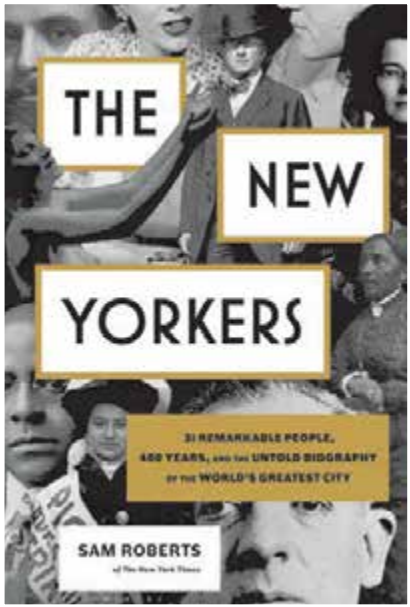
Alcorn graduates with Dr. JK Domatob, Mass Communication professor



Instructors, mentors, advisors



(l-r) SGA president, Provost and Dr. C.J. Rhodes



BOOK REVIEW:

THE NEW YORKERS:

31 REMARKABLE PEOPLE, 400 YEARS, AND THE UNTOLD BIOGRAPHY OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST CITY

BY SAM ROBERTS

C.2022, BLOOMSBURY

\$30.00 • 384 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Every day, you fly just under the radar. Nobody bothers you because they don't know who you are and that's just fine. As long as you can keep your head down and get stuff done, you'll survive and thrive to work another day. You don't need fame or fortune to have a good life. As in "The New Yorkers" by Sam Roberts, they might come someday anyhow, though. Through the years, as a writer of "quirky accounts" of

New York City, Sam Roberts has come to know many people whose names have been mostly forgotten – people who, in merely living their lives, made an impact on history, America, and The City That Never Sleeps. Here, Roberts presents thirty-one freshly-awakened tales, beginning with a mystery. It was a dark and stormy night in September, 1609, when John Colman bled to death in a small rowboat in New York Bay. Nobody knows for sure where, exactly, his body was

hastily buried; eyewitnesses all agreed that Colman was felled by a Native American arrow. His remains were never recovered, making his death New York City's first cold case. In many of the city's earliest years, women generally couldn't own property but Anneke Jans Bogardus did. It was a nice piece of land, too, until the British seized it, then it was seized back, and somehow Bogardus lost her property to a church. Well into the last century, her descendants launched lawsuits to regain control over

what is now very valuable land. Capitalist John Jay claimed to despise New York City, but the city wouldn't be what it is today without him. Elma Sands was found dead in a city well, becoming part of America's first "media circus." Thomas Downing, the free son of slaves, built a reputation as a restaurateur in the city, years before the Civil War. John Randel created the city's street grid. Thomas Jennings received one of America's first patents given to a black inventor. And Philip Payton "trans-

formed the sparsely populated swath of Manhattan...into a fertile destination for mass migration by black people.." Sometimes, in the whirlwind that this time of year seems to be, it's easy to think that one small life can't make an impact on anything. "The New Yorkers" tells not just a different story, but thirty-one of them. You don't have to be a New Yorker or even a big-city dweller to be delighted by the tales that author Sam Roberts offers. Many of these accounts happened when the Big Apple was


little more than a seed, back when pigs wandered freely around Manhattan and property was counted in acreage, rather than dollars-per-square-foot. Stories as varied as these really capture the imagination; it helps that Roberts' tales show readers what New York looked like and smelled like, and how it operated during the lives of each of his subjects. This is history at its most enjoyable, no matter where you live or hail from. If you love a book full of surprises, put "The New Yorkers" on your radar.

Happy Holidays from


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Brittney Griner prisoner swap

AP Sports Story of the Year

By Eric Tucker
and Doug Feinberg
Associated Press Writers

The return of Brittney Griner to the United States in a dramatic prisoner swap with Russia marked the culmination of a 10-month ordeal that captivated world attention, a saga that landed at the intersection of sports, politics, race and gender identity – and wartime diplomacy.

Griner had for years been known to fans of women’s basketball as – college player of the year, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and WNBA all-star who dominated her sport. But her arrest on drug-related charges at a Moscow airport in February elevated her profile in ways neither she nor her supporters would have ever hoped for, making her by far the most high-profile American to be jailed abroad – and her saga the AP Sports Story of the Year.

Her case not only brought unprecedented public attention to the dozens of Americans wrongfully detained by foreign governments, but it also emerged as a major inflection point in U.S.-Russia diplomacy at a time of deteriorating relations prompted by Moscow’s war against Ukraine.

“I think her celebrity and the coinciding with the time of the invasion of Ukraine, those two points together is what made her case national news, international news, but also I think it made it feel much more fraught than a lot of the earlier cases of Ameri-



Griner

cans being detained in Russia,” Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon, a Russian historian and doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania, said in an interview days before Griner was freed.

After months of strained negotiations, and an extraordinarily rare public revelation by the Biden administration that it had made a “substantial proposal” to get home Griner and another detained American, Paul Whelan, the case resolved last week with a prisoner swap in which the WNBA star was exchanged in the United Arab Emirates for Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout.

“It feels so good to be home. The last 10 months have been a battle at every turn,” Griner posted on Instagram. “I dug

deep to keep my faith and it was the love from so many of you that helped keep me going. From the bottom of my heart, thank you to everyone for your help.”

The deal drew criticism from some prominent Republicans, who lamented that the U.S. had not gotten Whelan home and who complained that the administration had given up a convicted felon as notorious as Bout. Administration officials, for their part, conceded that such prisoner swaps can carry a heavy price but also said it was unacceptable for Griner to remain locked up and that the deal that they reached was the only one that could secure her release.

For weeks after Griner’s arrest at a Moscow airport in February, where Russian authorities said a search of her luggage revealed

vape cartridges containing cannabis oil, her supporters kept a relatively low profile in hopes her case would be quickly resolved. In May, though, the State Department announced she’d been designated as a wrongful detainee, giving the U.S. government’s top hostage negotiator the authority to try to secure her release outside the legal system.

She pleaded guilty over the summer, admitting that she had the canisters in her luggage but that she packed them inadvertently in her haste to make her flight and had no criminal intent. From there, attention turned to the possibility of a prisoner swap, especially after Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s announcement of a “substantial proposal.”

All the while, Griner’s saga

sparked discussions about pay equity for WNBA players that leads women to play overseas to supplement their salaries. During her journey, Griner also drew support from her teammates and the league – the WNBA honored her with a floor decal – as the case received more attention and as her imprisonment put pressure on the administration to negotiate her release. Her wife, Cherelle, and her agent met with Biden at the White House as other officials worked behind-the-scenes on the case.

St. Julian-Varnon said Griner’s status as a black and openly gay woman – two minority identities “at the flashpoints of national politics in the United States right now” – cut both ways, with members of those communities seeing her as a representative. But it’s “also made a lot of people think that she doesn’t matter, that she deserves a nine-year sentence in a Russian penal colony.”

She was greeted last week by the special president envoy for hostage affairs, Roger Carstens, who traveled to bring her back to the U.S. Her first stop was a military base in Texas. Carstens said in an interview with CNN that he offered Griner some space to decompress on the plane but that she said: “I have been in prison for 10 months now, listening to Russian. I want to talk.”

“I was left with the impression this is an intelligent, passionate, compassionate, humble, interesting person, a patriotic person,”

Carstens said. “But above all, authentic. I hate the fact that I had to meet her in this manner, but I actually felt blessed having had a chance to get to know her.”

Now that she’s back in the U.S., Griner plans to be out of the public spotlight for awhile spending time with her wife. No longer just a generational women’s basketball player, Griner is standing at a much larger crossroads.

Griner said in a statement on Friday that she plans to play basketball this season for the Phoenix Mercury.

“I look forward to being able to say ‘thank you’ to those of you who advocated, wrote, and posted for me in person soon,” Griner said.

She was in Russia to supplement her WNBA income where she earned roughly \$230,000 in base salary. She earned five times that while playing overseas in the winter in Russia.

Off the court, the Griners do plan to continue to be advocates for the release of other wrongly detained Americans like Whelan.

“President Biden, you brought me home and I know you are committed to bringing Paul Whelan and all Americans home too. I will use my platform to do whatever I can to help you,” Griner said. “I also encourage everyone that played a part in bringing me home to continue their efforts to bring all Americans home. Every family deserves to be whole.”

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District was proud to announce and congratulate their Parents of the Year for 2022-2023. The ceremony was held at Raymond High School Performance Arts Building. The Hinds County School Board presented these awards to these honored guests. These parents showed unwavering support and unrelenting guidance to our schools and helped in leading our path to success. Their names are as followed: (Not in sequence with the pictures). Robert Green was also chosen as the District Parent of the Year.

Dr. Karla Turner Bailey
Utica Elementary/Middle School

Breyuna Carter
Bolton/Edwards Elementary/Middle School

Patricia Doty
Raymond Elementary School

Robert Green
Carver Middle School

Catrina Harris
Byram Middle School

Vontisha Vontrel McKenny
Gary Road Intermediate School

Kimberly Paymon
Raymond High School

Roshundra Rhodes
Gray Road Elementary School

Cochanta Robinson
Terry High School





SOUTHERN RURAL BLACK WOMEN'S INITIATIVE (SRBWI)

Happy Holidays!

The Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative for Economic and Social Justice (SRBWI) is a 501c3 Human Rights organization, formed in 2001 to address historical race, class, cultural, religious and gender barriers faced by Black women and young women in the rural U. S. South.

SRBWI's mission is to:
Nourish the internal capacity of women to take responsibility for their own lives.

- Engage women in advocacy and policy initiatives that redirect local, state, and federal resources to help ensure women's full participation and access to economic and social justice.
- Develop an asset-based economic development strategy that invests in women and communities for a long term strategy of lifting women out of poverty.
- Build organizational capacity within the region to sustain this work.
- Connect with women's groups committed to Human Rights and economic and social justice.

www.srbwi.org

