



A look back on 2022 and how black excellence still prevails

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The Black Press of America entered its 195th year in 2022, highly engaged in the continued fight for freedom, justice, equity and equality.

Just one year after the Jan. 6 insurrection not only threatened America's democracy but freedom for people of color, the United States and the hundreds of millions of news consumers demonstrated a need for the Black Press like never before.

Fake News and the growing number of overt racists who dispensed misinformation and false reports had taken over social media and mainstream headlines.

But like in 2020, when the Black Press was the first to reveal that the coronavirus was airborne, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) issued facts on which African Americans and others could be certain.

The NNPA is the trade association representing the more than 230 African-American-owned



newspapers and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America.

Reeling from the deaths of American icon Sidney Poitier, Civil Rights leader and legal scholar Lani Guinier, Helen Chavis Othow, the beloved sister of NNPA President and C.E.O. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., and many others, the Black Press

challenged Congress.

Many urged lawmakers to eliminate the racist filibuster that suppressed needed laws like the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York) responded, calling for a vote to change the filibuster on Martin

Luther King Jr. Day. The vote failed, but America heard the clarion call from the Black Press.

When the Black Press noted President Joe Biden's declining approval ratings among African Americans, the commander-in-chief responded on several fronts.

2022
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\$600 million designated for struggling water system in Mississippi



By Emily Wagster Pettus
The Associated Press

The federal government will put \$600 million toward repairing the troubled water system in Mississippi's capital city – a project that the mayor has said could cost billions of dollars.

Funding for Jackson water is included in a \$1.7 trillion federal spending bill that passed the Senate Thursday and the House Friday. President Joe Biden is expected to sign it into law.

“As families begin to gather for the holiday season, today's action providing emergency funding to address the fundamental need of safe drinking water for every household in Jackson should be celebrated as a promise of equitable infrastructure services for all families everywhere,” NAACP President Derrick Johnson, who lives in Jackson, said in a statement Friday.

Jackson is a majority-black city of nearly 150,000, with about 25% of residents living in poverty.

The city has had water woes for years, and its system nearly collapsed in late August after heavy rainfall flooded the Pearl River and exacerbated problems at the main water treatment plant. Most of Jackson lost running water for several days, and people had to wait in lines for water to drink, cook, bathe and flush toilets.

Since late July, people in the city had been advised to boil water before consuming it because health officials had found cloudy water that could cause illness. That advisory remained in place until mid-September.

In a federal complaint Sept. 27, the NAACP said Mississippi officials “all but as-

sured” a drinking water calamity by depriving Jackson of badly needed funds to upgrade its infrastructure.

The EPA announced Oct. 20 that it was investigating whether Mississippi state agencies discriminated against the state's majority-black capital city by refusing to fund improvements to the water system. EPA Administrator Michael Regan has been to Jackson multiple times for meetings about the water.

In early November, state officials announced that Jackson would receive \$35.6 million for water system improvements – money that came from the federal government through the American Rescue Plan Act. The city was required to make a dollar-for-dollar match from its share of the rescue plan funding, bringing that total to more than \$71 million.

In late November, the U.S. Justice Department made a rare intervention by filing a proposal to appoint a third-party manager for the Jackson system. That was meant to be an interim step while the federal government, the city and the Mississippi State Department of Health try to negotiate a court-enforced consent decree, the department said. The goal is to achieve long-term sustainability of the system and the city's compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and other laws.

A federal judge approved the intervention, and Ted Henifin, an experienced water system manager from Virginia, was appointed manager. He has the backing of Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba.

Henefin is overseeing work that includes a winterization

Water
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Contemplating a New Year in Mississippi

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Well, here we are, closing out another year – reflecting on all the things that this year has brought, and no doubt considering what we would like to see come to pass in the brand-new year. For the fortunate among us, we can see the changes and growth that has accompanied us throughout the year. For those less fortunate – it's not about change and growth, it's simply about survival.

The United States is the wealthiest country on earth, and Mississippi is the poorest state in the country. Twenty percent of our residents live in poverty – over 51% higher than the U.S. average, per the welfareinfo.org website. This is the norm here, the poorest state inside the wealthiest country.

It's been said over and over that everything about Mississippi is about race. Per capita, over 34% of the poor in Mississippi



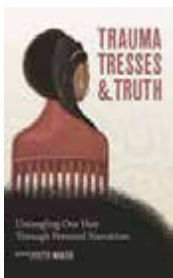
Classic image depicting Christ in a bread line, via Pinterest

are black, and 13% of the poor are white. Mississippi has more black residents than any state in the country – over 38%, per capita. Hidden in this number are various subsets. Thankfully, more attention is now being given to

a key subset of overall poverty levels – child poverty. Even typing those two words are upsetting but seeing the following numbers are far worse. The Economic Research Service of the US Department of Agriculture indicated

that in 2019, 72% of Claiborne County children lived in poverty. In 2021, 27.7% of those under 18 years of age in Mississippi live in poverty. For those children ages

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Women for Progress of Mississippi, Inc. celebrates 44 years of Kwanzaa in the Capital City of Jackson

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

Women for Progress of Mississippi, Inc. paid homage to Kwanzaa in the Craig H. Nielsen Auditorium of the Two Mississippi Museums at 6 p.m., Monday, December 26, 2022. Co-hosts – Angela Stewart and C. Leigh McInnis – were ecstatic throughout the free and open event to the public in adherence to the theme, Restorers of Streets to Live in: Celebrating Family, Community and Culture. They reminded the packed audience of the rallying cries of visionaries for blacks to be in control of their destiny.

In 1978, Women for Progress (co-founded by the late visionary, Dorothy Stewart Samuel) held Jackson's first official Kwanzaa celebration. In her rationale for Kwanzaa, Samuel indicated, "It is important for African Americans to celebrate their heritage because slavery and segregation destroyed much of it. We were not taught to look at ourselves as African kings and queens. We were given negative pictures of ourselves, and Kwanzaa teaches us that we have to see ourselves



Co-hosts Angela Stewart & C. Leigh McInnis enlighten the audience of the ancestors' struggles and strides for a better humanity.

as noble, proud and wonderful individuals, and we can see the positive, and we know that we are gifted, and we encompass a whole different gift and positive approach."

As part of the Kwanzaa celebration, Stewart and McInnis recalled the influential role exemplified by Margaret Walker (poet, novelist and founder for the Institute of the Study of the History, Life, and Culture of Black People [now The Margaret Walker Center] at Jackson State University). They set the tone for acknowl-



Honoree Albert Sykes lights candle in deference to poet June Jordan as Ratoya Gilmer of WFP accompanies him.

edgement of poets (past and present) brought forth by Walker who impacted the university and community. Thus, the night's honorees, who were accompanied by members of Women for Progress, lit red, black and green candles in recognition of the seven principles of African heritage (Nguzo Saba).

Umoja (Unity) was represented by Jarvis Dortch (honoree) and Vera Hall (WFP) in deference to poet Margaret Walker. Kujichagulia (Self-Determination) was represented by Rhea Williams



Honoree Carla Kirkland listens to Christeen Moffett who compares her to Poet Mari Evans.

Bishop (honoree) and Brenda Myers (WFP) in deference to poet Audre Lorde. Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility) was represented by Lataisha Jackson (honoree) and Waikinya Clanton (WFP) in deference to poet Sonia Sanchez.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) was represented by Albert Sykes (honoree) and Ratoya Gilmer (WFP) in deference to poet June Jordan. Nia (Purpose) was represented by Shuwaski Young (honoree) and Zakiya Summers (WFP) in deference to



Honoree Lataisha Jackson represents Ujima in deference to Poet Sonia Sanchez as Waikinya Clanton of WFP speaks of her accomplishments.

PHOTOS BY JANICE N. VINCENT



Honoree Lataisha Holmes listens as Thea Faulkner addresses audience.

poet Alice Walker. Kuumba (Creativity) was represented by Carla Kirkland (honoree) and Christeen Moffett (WFP) in deference to poet Mari Evans. Imani (Faith) was represented by Hinds County Chief Latasha Holmes (honoree) and Thea Faulkner (WFP) in deference to poet Nikki Giovanni Jr.

During the libation ceremony Jackson's First Family, Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba (Ebony) and daughters, evoked the spirits of ancestry, thereby recognizing the legacy of African heritage. The mayor called for



Honoree Rhea Williams Bishop represents Kujichagulia in deference to Poet Audre Lorde as explained by Brenda Myers of WFP.

individual and collective soul searching for the betterment of family, community and culture.

Woman of the Year 2021-2022, Juanita Stewart Brown (vice president of WFP Public Relations & executive producer, WFP Radio Network) crowned Yolanda McElroy (owner of Our People – Ronald McDonald House Charities) Woman of the Year 2023-2024.

Persons who gave the affair high marks included Reginald

Kwanzaa

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2022

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Frances 'Toni' Draper wins 'Publisher of the Year'



Cheryl Smith, publisher, Texas Metro News/iMessenger Media



White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre with NNPA Sr. National Correspondent Stacy M. Brown at the White House/NNPA



(Pictured left to right): Karine Jean-Pierre, the nation's first black press secretary, Erica Loewe, director of African American Media and outgoing press secretary Jen Psaki

First, the Biden-Harris administration took a historical approach to advancing racial equity, including directing every agency across the federal government to address the lasting impacts of systemic racism on black communities.

Maya Angelou became the first black woman on the U.S. quarter, and Ketanji Brown Jackson became the first black woman appointed and confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court. With the help of federal authorities, the killers of Ahmaud Arbery received life in prison.

Black Press U.S.A. ran the headline, “Will Commission Conclude that Trump was Negligent in Jan. 6 Insurrection?”

In December, the Jan. 6 Commission referred criminal charges to the Department of Justice, emphatically stating that the former president should face a judge and jury for inciting the insurrection.

Having already spearheaded a lawsuit against prison officials in Mississippi over conditions there, hip-hop superstar Jay-Z and his team publicly demanded that authorities investigate racism and corruption in the Kansas City Police Department.

In February, the nation’s historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) began facing bomb threats, while Howard University’s Lacrosse team met racial slurs during a game in South Carolina.

As critical race theory proved all the rage, D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton called on Congress for \$30 million to combat implicit bias in schools.

In a year of black achievement, Snoop Dogg purchased Death Row Records, the label that made him, Dr. Dre and many others famous.

The three officers involved in the murder of George Floyd finally received the justice many had sought, each pleading guilty for their role in killing the black Minneapolis man.

As Russia invaded Ukraine, the Black Press reminded the world why black lives should matter in Ukraine. Russia responded to America’s assistance to Ukraine by taking WNBA star Brittney Griner hostage, charging her with possessing a small amount of cannabis oil. A Russian court found her guilty, and the basketball player received a more than 9-year sentence. However, in a December prisoner swap, Griner finally returned home in exchange for notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout.

The P.G.A. Tour reiterated its commitment to the Black Press and continued offering scholarships and grants to HBCUs and other initiatives to people of color.

Meanwhile, an emotional Tiger Woods opened up for the first time. During his induction into the Pro Golf Hall of Fame, Woods spoke candidly about the racism and discrimination he faced as a child.

As African-American homeowners continued to face bias in real estate, Vice President Kamala Harris released a plan to stop appraisers from putting an unfair low value on the homes of black people.

Congress also passed the Crown Act, which ends discrimination against natural black hairstyles.

In Entertainment, despite the controversial Will Smith slap of Chris Rock, Florida A&M graduate Will Packer led an all-black production team for the 94th annual Academy Awards.

Deion Sanders, who survived life-saving surgery that resulted in the amputation of two toes, led Jackson State University’s football team to another successful season. Sanders then signed a multi-million-dollar contract to lead Colorado State in 2023.

The Black Press made news with outstanding accomplishments within its ranks.

William Garth, Sr., a philanthropist, community leader, activist, political influencer, and freedom fighter, earned posthumous enshrinement into the Black Press Archives and Gallery of Distinguished Black Publishers at Howard University’s historic Moorland-Spangarn Research Center.

The guiding force behind the Chicago Citizen Newspaper Group, Garth joined a host of others enshrined, including Lenora “Doll” Carter, Marcus Garvey, Frances Murphy, Dr. Mary Ellen Strong, Charles Tisdale and M. Paul Redd.

Dr. Toni Draper, the publisher of the *AFRO*, earned NNPA Publisher of the Year honors, and won selection as one of “25 over 50” by *Editor & Publisher Magazine*.

Texas Metro News Publisher and IMessen-

ger Media boss, Cheryl Smith, also earned the same distinction. Additionally, Smith earned induction into the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame. She was also named Distinguished Alumni by Florida A&M University School of Journalism and Graphic Communications.

Additionally, *Houston Forward Times* Associate Editor Jeffrey L. Boney, who serves as Mayor Pro Tem in Missouri City, has received appointments to two crucial national posts. The award-winning journalist, author, and two-term councilmember earned an appointment to the National League of Cities (N.L.C.) 2022 Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee (C.E.D.) and the 2022 Race, Equity, And Leadership Council – or REAL.

Dr. Chavis continued to bring the Black Press and NNPA to a global audience with his PBS TV and PBS World show, *The Chavis Chronicles*.

Meanwhile, the NNPA’s live morning show, *Let It Be Known*, continued to attract mainstream viewers and celebrity guests like Gabrielle Union, LisaRaye McCoy and Skip Marley. The show remains the NNPA’s premiere public-facing entity and, on Dec. 31, airs its 500th episode.

With its vision, legacy, culture and story on full display, the *AFRO* celebrated its 130th anniversary in style Saturday night with a gala at Martins Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland. Comedian and D.C.-area native Tommy Davidson served as the night’s host, while Temeka Moore and Absolute Music performed various hit songs. The sold-out crowd capped the evening with a dance party as famed D.J. Kid Capri worked his magic on the turntables.

During the signing of anti-lynching legislation, Vice President Harris sang the praises of the Black Press. “Ida B. Wells,” Harris stated midway through her speech, “The courageous nature of that incredible American who used her skill, her profession, her calling, as a journalist to help open the eyes of our nation to the terror of lynching which speaks to the role – going off-script – and the importance of the Black Press and making sure that we have storytellers in our community, who will tell the story when no one else is willing to tell it.”

The Black Press also called out how white people were more likely to ignore safety precautions like wearing masks and social distancing during the pandemic when they realized the various and disproportionate ways COVID-19 affected African Americans. Psychologists at the University of Georgia’s Department of Social Science & Medicine made those conclusions following an in-depth study of racial disparities during the pandemic.

In releasing the 2022 State of Black America report, National Urban League President and C.E.O. Marc Morial said factions of state and federal lawmakers, working in concert with shady political operatives and violent extremists, are dangerously close to dismantling American democracy and establishing autocratic rule.

The report outlined “the conspiracy and the urgent case for a national mobilization to protect and defend our most sacred constitutional right,” Morial noted in the report titled “Under Siege: The Plot to Destroy Democracy.”

Karine Jean-Pierre became the first black woman to hold the White House press secretary job, while colleague Erica Loewe continued to open doors for black media at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

White Supremacy again reared its racist head with the massacre at Tops Supermarket in Buffalo. An 18-year-old white male, Payton Gendron, killed ten people and injured three others Saturday, May 14, in a venue where blacks make up the most significant percentage of shoppers and count as the majority of those who died.

Once again, Americans grappled with the nation’s latest example of senseless and unprovoked violence. This time, the dead included grandmothers, fathers, sons and sisters whose only “crime” would be picking up essential groceries for their families. The victims in the shooting included a former police officer and a beloved wife and grandmother who served as the primary caretaker for her husband, who lives in a nursing facility.

Federal and state governments, including in California, failed to protect black artists, culture-makers and media-makers from discrimination and simultaneously promoted discriminatory narratives, according to a report done by a task force investigating reparations for citizens in the Golden State.

State governments memorialized the Confederacy as just and heroic through monument building while suppressing the nation’s history of racism and slavery, said researchers for the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans.

When the U.S. Supreme Court abolished *Roe V. Wade*, individuals like the Rev. William Barber held a “Moral March on Washington,” helping to push the Biden administration and local governments into action to protect women.

In June, the NNPA wrapped its 2022 convention in New Orleans with a cruise aboard the Creole Queen Riverboat along the Mississippi River. But the convention, which celebrated the 195th anniversary of the Black Press in America and featured a live concert by Stephanie Mills, wasn’t about smooth sailing – especially given the issues facing African Americans and other marginalized communities.

Mark Thompson, the decorated journalist, and host of the podcast “Make It Plain,” moderated the topic, “Amplifying Voices of Generation Z and Millennials Through the Black Press of America.”

Electrifying the audience were on-air personalities Jonita “Go J.J. Go” Buchanan, DaNeshia Bell, Joshua McMillian, Lafayette Barnes and Melony Mainor.

Erica Myles, the senior consultant and senior vice president of Diverse Segments, Representation, and Inclusion for Wells Fargo, discussed the topic, “Relationships and Resources: Tools to Move Black-owned Small Businesses from Surviving to Thriving.”

A General Motors contingent spoke with NNPA President and C.E.O. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. about “The Path to Inclusion is Electric: How G.M. is Building an All-Inclusive Workforce to Build an All-Electric Future.”

Representatives from G.M. and Wells Fargo also sat for a live interview on the NNPA’s national news program “Let It Be Known.”

“The Google News Initiative Lab: Growing Digital Advertising Revenue” panel featured publishers James Washington of the *Dallas Weekly*, Janis Ware of the *Atlanta Voice*, Google News Initiative employees Eric Rosato and Casey Pallenik, and Association of Alternative Newsmedia Manager Todd Stauffer.

Munson Steed, the *Rolling Out National Publications* publisher, presented the topic: RIDE (Rolling Out Innovation Digital Entertainment) Lab for NNPA Publishers.

The year of Black Excellence continued despite repeated attacks on blackness.

In 2021, Rihanna achieved billionaire status. In 2022, Forbes acknowledged that the Barbadian beauty is now the youngest self-made billionaire in America. The 34-year-old, who recently gave birth to her first child, ranked 21st in the latest Forbes list of billionaires.

For the first time in its 246-year history, the Marines have a black four-star general. In addition, Lt. Gen. Michael Langley was confirmed to lead all U.S. military forces in Africa as chief of U.S. Africa Command.

Democrats elected New York Rep. Hakeem Jeffries as the party’s leader, making him the first black ever to head a major political party in Congress. The congressman, who once quoted the late Notorious B.I.G. during one of former President Donald Trump’s impeachment hearings and has maintained a vow to oppose Republican extremism, takes the reins from longtime House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), who earlier this month stepped down from the party leadership role she held for nearly two decades.

For the second time in as many years, voters in Georgia have delivered a Senate runoff victory for Democrats.

Incumbent Raphael Warnock, who won a runoff in January 2021 against Republican Kelly Loeffler, defeated G.O.P. nominee Herschel Walker Tuesday in a close contest that saw both candidates earn nearly 2 million votes. Warnock’s victory underscored the major disappointment experienced by the G.O.P. after pundits and Republicans anticipated a so-called red wave that never materialized.

Harvard University has announced Claudine Gay as its new president. The dean of Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Gay, becomes the first African American to serve as the university’s leader and the second woman president in the institution’s illustrious history. Founded in 1636, the university has graduated Barack Obama, John F. Kennedy, W.E.B Du Bois and other famous individuals and leaders.

Water

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project to make the water system less vulnerable and a plan to increase staffing at Jackson’s two treatment plants, which have had a shortage of skilled workers.

In a statement Friday, the EPA administrator said he is grateful to Congress for committing money to Jackson.

“The people of Jackson – like all people in this country – deserve access to clean, safe, and reliable water,” Regan said.

Johnson said the federal funding would not have been approved without advocacy from Jackson residents and leadership from the Biden administration and House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, a Democrat whose district includes most of Jackson.

“While this funding is a significant step in the right direction, it represents only a down payment,” Johnson said. “NAACP and our partners will continue to fight to protect black and brown communities from environmental racism in Jackson and around the country.”

Mississippi

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5 to 17 years, 26.5% live in poverty. For those children under age 5 years, 31.4% live in poverty in Mississippi, per welfareinfo.org.

And what response is there in our state? Is there a state-level summit on child poverty, with an all-hands-on-deck approach to immediately address acute situations, and a solution-focused approach to deal with more chronic realities? No, there is not. How many of our elected officials do you hear screaming about the immoral tragedy of child poverty in our state? Do we get a special session of the Mississippi Legislature called to address child poverty? No, special session to address child poverty, just like no special session to address the Jackson water crisis, but we do get a special session called to approve giving \$247 million to a company that already sells in the multi-billions, per meridianstar.com. Therein lies the swamp-like stenchy glue that holds Mississippi down.

First and foremost, we get the oppression of anybody that is not European American, and in Mississippi that means 42% of the population is treated as less than. Sure, there is a percentage of those that have managed to overcome, and God Bless them for finding the pathways and the persistence to do so. By and large though, hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens are ignored, viewed as second-class citizens and left behind. How can a Christian state full of Christian leaders allow that? How can a reasonable person make sense of that, or ever accept it?

The second component is equally perilous – acceptance of the status quo – albeit surely able to be understood. How can you blame people for becoming numb and often times giving up when they live year after decade after century being oppressed by the poisonous beliefs and attitudes that they are less than? Every day they see majority white superiority in action.

Blatant disregard for our fellow man cannot be unseen in Mississippi. Fifty of our Republican state legislators voted against the removal of the oppressive stars and bars from our flag – seven of them were women. One Republican, Speaker Gunn, utterly dismisses an affirmative vote in the Senate, allowing the postpartum expansion of Medicaid benefits to die on the vine in the House once again – sealing hundreds of poor new mothers’ lives in caskets. Huge White farming operations in the Delta hire whites’ from South Africa to displace black farmers while paying the transplanted whites’ more. Black people here are incarcerated at a rate over 3:1 over whites’. State officials approve less than 5% of applications for TANF funding to the poorest citizens in our state. State officials, all of them white, then pilfer upwards of \$100 million intended by the federal government for the poorest people in the poorest state, and use it for fitness bootcamps and volleyball stadiums and God only knows what else, right under our noses.

Blatant disregard for non-white’s and for poor people is the day-to-day norm in Mississippi. Few people speak out against it. Fewer people stand up and fight against it. Black legislators fight for scraps because they have decades of knowledge that they will never succeed in getting more than scraps. They are routinely steam-rolled by a white majority.

How do these folks claim to be Christian? The obvious answer is they are not. Where do you see love thy neighbor among our white conservatives? If the Gospels are rooted in social justice, then why are these folks’ oppressors? And what of faith without works? Is Mississippi’s faith dead to our white Christians in positions of power and influence?

Contemplating a New Year in Mississippi, as it is, becomes a chore. The time of year when hope and aspirations should abound, ends up colliding with our reality of oppression and stuck-ness. If only these oppressors could meditate on the image of Christ in the bread line and be reminded that all people are created in God’s image, perhaps then behaviors could become righteous, and the shackles could forever be removed from Mississippi and all her people.

Kwanzaa

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Davis of Ridgeland, Miss., Doretha Simmons of Madison, Miss., and Hilliard Stephens of Jackson, Miss. “I almost didn’t make it tonight, but I am happy that I did. I learned many things about togetherness for our race,” said Reginald. “I loved the organizational structure of the program. The committee took time to link all the essentials which made for a nice flow,” stated Doretha. “Excellence in its finest is what I saw tonight. I can’t wait to see what another year will bring from Women for Progress,” gleaned Hilliard.

The event’s sponsors included Greater Jackson Arts Council; The May Law Firm, PLLC; Mississippi Department of Archives and History/Two Mississippi Museums; I CARE Citizenship and Dependable Source Corp. Center for Community & Workforce Development.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District was proud to announce and congratulate their Teachers and Administrator of the Year for 2022-2023. The ceremony was held at Raymond High School Performance Arts Building. The Hinds County School Board presented awards to these honored Hinds County School District employees in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments and dedication to professional excellence.

Their names are as follows: (Not in sequence with the pictures.)

Tancia Boone
Raymond High School

Julie Caballero
Terry High School

Dennis Daniel
Career Technical Center

Christi Dunn
Life Skills Academy

Taquela Garner
Bolton/Edwards Elementary/Middle School

Suzanne Jamison
Raymond Elementary School

Krisstina Maynard
Byram Middle School

Susan Parrett
Utica Elementary/Middle School

Adraine Reed
Gary Road Intermediate School

Analesia Scott
Carver Middle School

Doris Williams
Gary Road Elementary School

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR
Lashurn Williams
Bolton/Edwards Elementary/Middle School



Influencing Mississippi’s political narrative

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer



Don’t you just love it when those media outlets who pedal artificial and destructive nar-

atives take time out to point the finger at media outlets who provide facts and tell the truth? Recently I read a column in *The Northside Sun* by Douglas Car-swell that is an illustration. He is a transplant from Eng-land who now heads up the Mis-sissippi Center for Public Policy, a deeply conservative think-tank whose messaging seems closely followed by our conservative leg-islators. It certainly appears that they endeavor to set the conser-vative agenda for our state, with their 100% European American staff, according to their website. So perhaps it’s no surprise that he frowns on unnamed media outlets that subscribe to a differ-ent view than his.

In his December 15, 2022 ar-ticle, he stated, “We need to have a discussion as to why much of Mississippi’s progressive media seems to delight in portraying our state in a negative light. Per-haps those that fund Mississip-pi’s anti-Mississippi media don’t understand the damage this does to our state?”

With Mississippi perennially ranked at the bottom in every category of measurement, it’s not progressive or “talking Mis-sissippi down” to tell the truth. Moreover, these rankings of bottomness come from major national news organizations and foundations. If the shoe didn’t fit, we would be ranked higher.

Mississippi doesn’t need me-dia outlets to damage it – the thinking and attitudes prevalent in the state does that all by itself. So, to claim “others” are doing this to our state is irresponsible and fictional. When we consider that misinformation is false or inaccurate information – get-ting the facts wrong. And disin-formation is false information, which is deliberately intended to mislead, then it’s clear what we have here.

The American Psychological Association shares, “The spread of misinformation and disinfor-mation has affected our abil-ity to improve public health, ad-

dress climate change, maintain a stable democracy and more. By providing valuable insight into how and why we are likely to believe misinformation and dis-information, psychological sci-ence can inform how we protect ourselves against its ill effects.”

He claims that “Mississippi might have pockets of poverty, but please don’t let any media organizations tell you that this state is poor and backward.” One fifth of a state living in pov-erty is not pockets – it’s perva-sive. Not to mention that the fed-eral funding intended to address that poverty is first denied to the poorest in our state, but then turned into a slush fund by those at the top. A high percentage of Mississippi’s black residents, others of color, and its poor resi-dents – are invisible to those in the highest positions of power in Mississippi. It’s not misinforma-tion or disinformation – it’s the simple truth; truth that thank-fully is being showcased for all the world to see.

In 2021, *US News & World Report* ranked Mississippi 49th overall. That’s a step lower that 2019 when we were ranked 48th. Despite its beautiful geography, scores of wonderful people, and so many assets – we are on the bottom. Mississippi embraces the worst parts of its history, as opposed to learning from it. Those who defend that behav-ior and those who try to impart the narrative that Mississippi is prospering and thriving, are not helping our state, they are hurt-ing us.

On some level, they do know better, and so what do they garner from pedaling fiction? What are they getting out of it? They get to keep doing what they have been doing for cen-turies, because, after all, there are very bright folks out there telling the masses that we are improving.

If you are not doing anything different, because you don’t want to do anything different, and you have folks telling you that Mississippi is changing for the better – then you don’t have to change – you’ve been gifted a form of justification. Not chang-ing is one thing of which Missis-sippi excels.

So many older men and wom-

en in Mississippi have shared with me that the state has ad-vanced in its treatment of minor-ities and others. They are highly believable – they were there. These people, many born in the 40’s, are nothing less than mira-cles. They survived the sizzling racism and oppression, and they found ways to overcome. They are few and far between now and their numbers dwindle every year. How many were, and are, able to live the American Dream like the majority of their white counterparts in Mississippi?

Influencing the political nar-rative is critically important in Mississippi. In September, WJTV anchor and host of Mis-sissippi Insights, Byron Brown, interviewed our Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann about the water crisis and its attendant national media coverage. Hose-mann said, “We took a step backward to have the system collapse as it did. I don’t know that we’ll really be able to quan-tify how great the magnitude of the loss, not only in an econom-ic, but in a perception way. This just reinforces the old percep-tions that we’re backwards some kinda way...I just thought it was horrible....people had a precon-ceived notion and we confirmed it...”

Hosemann, viewed by many as the brightest in the top tier of Mississippi’s government, and who has lived in Jackson for 50+ years, knows full well that Mississippi is last in everything. This is not an old perception of Mississippi being backwards some kinda way, it’s a portrait of our reality. Hosemann knows this because he has had a front row seat to watch as other states in the South have advanced in the last fifty years, while Missis-sippi has not.

Folks like these spend so much time attempting to influ-ence the political agenda in Mis-sissippi, an agenda that deeply impacts all Mississippians, and are quick to remind us that they are religious, could stand to be reminded of Matthew 25:40 “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Mississippi State Hospital Public Relations employee wins Maggie Award

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi State Hospi-tal (MSH) Public Relations De-partment brought home a Mag-gie Award from the Mississippi Hospital Association’s Public Relations & Marketing Annual Awards Ceremony December 1.

The 2022 digital illustration for the Friends of MSH leg-islative notecards, created by graphic artist Jerry Johnson, won the Maggie in the Pho-tography/Illustration category. The winning design features the state wildflower and bird in per-sonalized notecards for our state legislators.

Johnson is the Print Shop manager in the Public Rela-tions Division. He has been em-ployed with MSH since 2013. He holds degrees in drafting & design from Hinds Commu-nity College and graphic design from Delta State University. Johnson shared, “I love being creative and having an outlet to pursue my passions. Graphic design has been my career path from the moment I learned of this field. I like the feeling of bringing an idea from concept to reality.” Johnson added, “As a child, I loved video games, art, music and sports. I was fas-cinated with the art in gaming magazines, which inspired me to spend more time drawing my favorite game characters while listening to my favorite hip hop artists.”

Kathy Denton, Public Rela-tions director at MSH boasted, “I am continually amazed at Jer-



Jerry Johnson, Print Shop manager, Mississippi State Hospital Public Relations

ry’s talent and artistry. He gives every project the same attention to detail and creativity making every single event and assign-ment stand out. We are blessed to have him as part of our Public Relations team.”

Each year, the Mississippi Hospital Association (MHA) Society for Healthcare Market-ing & Public Relations recog-nizes excellence statewide in healthcare marketing and public relations. Entries cover a wide range of categories including publications, digital communi-cations, special events, writing,

advertising, campaigns and cre-ative arts. One Maggie winner is selected in each category.

Entries are open to all 100+ MHA member hospitals. All entries are judged by Public Re-lations professionals in hospital associations in other states.

MSH, a program of the Mis-sissippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promot-ing safety and supporting recov-ery. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

Boil water order issued in MS capital amid freeze

The Associated Press

City officials in Jackson, Mississippi, on Christmas Day, announced that residents must now boil their drinking water due to water lines bursting in the frigid temperatures.

“Please check your business-es and churches for leaks and broken pipes, as these add up tremendously and only worsen the problem,” the city said in a statement, adding: “We under-stand the timing is terrible.”

The problems come months after the water system in Jack-son, the state capital with about 150,000 residents, partially collapsed. Most of Jackson lost running water for several days in late August after flood-ing exacerbated longstanding problems in one of two water treatment plants.

Residents had to wait in lines for water to drink, cook bathe and flush toilets.

Along with the order to boil

drinking water, city officials said some residents also have reported low water pressure or no water pressure. The city’s water system saw “fluctuat-ing” pressure beginning Sat-urday amid frigid tempera-tures.

The Christmas Day an-nouncement said crews were working to make repairs, but it did not give an estimate on how long the disruption might last.

Man who threatened to kill CDC head pleads guilty to charges

The Associated Press

A Mississippi man who threatened to kill Cen-ters for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky has pleaded guilty to making threats in interstate commerce, federal prosecutors announced Monday.

Robert Wiser Bates, 39, of Ridgeland, threatened to kill Walensky in voicemails left in July 2021 at the CDC headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, court records said.

Bates admitted to making the threatening calls in an interview with agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, according to a news release from the office of U.S. Attorney Darren J. LaMarca. He also said he would kill Dr. Anthony Fauci, the di-rector of the National Institute of Allergy and In-fectious Diseases and chief medical advisor to the president.

In August, a West Virginia man was sentenced to three years in federal prison after he sent emails threatening Fauci and another federal health official for talking about the coronavirus and efforts to pre-vent its spread.

Bates is scheduled to be sentenced on March 7. He faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Bates’ attorney did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



Rochelle Walensky, CDC and Prevention Director Official Photo, 2021 - Wikimedia



Robert Wiser Bates pleaded guilty to making threats in voicemails

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Atlanta Child Murders victims, families still searching for answers, DNA updates



A press conference calling for updates on the Atlanta Child Murders cases took place outside Atlanta City Hall Tuesday morning. PHOTOS BY DONNELL SUGGS/THE ATLANTA VOICE



Catherine Leach wears a silver pendant in honor of her son Curtis Walker, one of the victims of the Atlanta Child Murders.



What are they hiding?" asked Nicholas Burston, the cousin of Anthony Carter, an Atlanta Child Murders victim.

By Donnell Suggs
The Atlanta Voice

The silver C pendant around the neck of Catherine Leach shone brightly in the sunlight. She and three other relatives, neighbors and advocates of victims of the Atlanta Child Murders took their places in front of a bank of microphones and cameras outside Atlanta City Hall Tuesday morning. The C is in remembrance of her son Curtis Walker, who was killed as child nearly 50 years

ago.

They were there to hold a press conference to try to drum up some attention for the victims while attempting to get any updates in regard to the DNA of the victims that was outsourced more than a year ago under former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms.

The DNA was sent to Sorenson Forensics, a lab that specializes in DNA evidence and is located in the Salt Lake City suburb of Draper. There have not been any

updates, according to Leach and the others.

"No one has come forward and told me that Wayne Williams had killed my child," Leach said. "Deep down in my heart I know Wayne Williams did not kill my child."

"What are they hiding?" asked Nicholas Burston, the cousin of Anthony Carter, an Atlanta Child Murders victim.

"I still want justice for my son," Leach said. "I'm standing

in the gap for the other parents that are no longer here."

Williams has been in prison for the murders of two adults since 1981. He was not convicted for the murders of the many children connected to the Atlanta Child Murders.

Hazel Horne, a former neighbor and friend of Williams' family also wants answers about Williams' case. "I pray and I hope he gets back to his hometown," she said of Williams' neighborhood

in Southwest Atlanta. Horne still lives near the Williams home.

She bought the home 25 years ago but has lived there for nearly 50 years. "There have been so many people that haven't given up [on him]. If he ever gets out [of jail] he will have a place to go and to stay."

Williams family advocate Jimmy Howard organized the press conference and spoke with the media as well. He speaks often with Williams by phone and re-

mains in contact with Williams' new attorney Janis Mann. "We want some answers," Howard said. "We'd like to know what is happening with the DNA, the FBI files, where are they?"

Nicholas Burston, the cousin of Anthony Carter, an Atlanta Child Murders victim, asked "What are they hiding? Did Anthony Matter?" Burston added, "I don't think Anthony Carter belongs among the Atlanta Child Murders victims. Free Wayne Williams."

White House responds to migrant buses sent to VP Harris' D.C. home



By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The White House has condemned the latest tactic employed by Republican governors, including Texas' Greg Abbott, and Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, who have bused migrants across the country to push President Joe Biden toward stricter border policies. The latest incident occurred on Christmas Eve amid sub-freezing temperatures.

Three buses carrying 139 migrants from Texas arrived outside Vice President Kamala Harris' residence at the Naval Observatory.

Temperatures in the District of Columbia reached as low as single digits, with wind chill factors driving the real feel to minus zero.

Biden has called the moves "un-American" and "reckless."

"This was a cruel, dangerous, and shameful stunt," said White House spokesman Abdullah Hasan. "As we have repeatedly said, we are willing to work with anyone Republican or Democrat alike – on real solutions, like the comprehensive immigration reform and border security measures President Biden sent to Congress on this first day in office, but these political games accomplish nothing and only put lives in danger," Hasan asserted.

Amy Fischer, a core organizer with the Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid Network, told ABC News that she was outside the Naval Observatory on Saturday night as buses began arriving after about 7:45 p.m.

Fischer said the migrants included "a bunch of families," maybe around 30, as well as adults in groups like spouses and cousins and people traveling alone.

None of them wore cold weather

gear, Fischer told the news outlet, though many had blankets to wrap up.

Fischer said that the "vast majority" were asylum-seekers, and all spoke Spanish, with people from Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia and Nicaragua. She added that Texas Gov. Abbott's administration sent the migrants.

In August, the Texas Division of Emergency Management said that the state had spent more than \$12 million busing migrants to Washington and New York crossed from Mexico.

A state government spreadsheet that CNN obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request revealed that, as of August 9, Texas had paid \$12,707,720.92 to Wynne Transportation, the charter service that is taking migrants to the two cities.

Additionally, the 43 buses that departed Arizona for the District of Columbia between May and August, carrying over 1,500 migrants, have cost that state more than \$3 million.

Reportedly, the cost of each bus was approximately \$83,000, bringing the total to date to around \$3.5 million, according to the governor's office, which said about two to three buses depart Arizona per week, based on demand.

In the two days since Fischer told ABC News, her group had helped people make further travel plans to their final destinations while a "handful of folks" who are planning to stay in D.C. have been relocated to a hotel as they prepare to put down roots.

She said the groups left on the buses from Texas, knowing they were headed to Washington. "I think people are always a little bit confused. People are always a little bit scared," Fischer said.

Exclusive Interview: TSU Police Chief Mary Young

By Jeffrey L. Boney
NNPA Newswire contributor

Just when we thought the public issues surrounding Texas Southern University (TSU) had become a thing of the past, here comes another unnecessary situation that has negatively thrust the only HBCU in the city of Houston into the public spotlight.

For those that may have been following the story involving veteran officer, community leader, public servant, and current TSU Police Chief Mary Young, you are probably aware that she filed a lawsuit against TSU November 30 in response to claims she was set to be terminated by the TSU Board of Regents based off an anonymous complaint that was filed against her.

The complaint mysteriously came after Chief Young beseeched her officers to "maintain professionalism" and to avoid giving the appearance of serving as "chauffeurs, errand-runners, and personal assistants" while working for TSU President Dr. Lesia Crumpton-Young.

Crumpton-Young took the helm at TSU in July of last year after the controversial termination of former TSU President Dr. Austin Lane by the TSU Board of Regents, which unfortunately played out in the public and unceremoniously cast a negative light on the University.

According to Chief Young, she didn't even know her job was in jeopardy until she was made aware of the anonymous tip in July from the Interim Internal Auditor at TSU.

"In August, the President (Crumpton-Young) called and asked to meet me off campus and relay the news to me that the TSU Board had just had a board meeting, and that they had concluded that I was going to be terminated based on the findings from an audit investigation," Chief Young tells the *Forward Times*. "President Crumpton-Young proceeded to inform me that my Deputy Chief and I were going to be let go and provided me with no other information. I was floored."

Chief Young states she was never given an opportunity to give her side of the story or present any evidence to refute the allegations from the anonymous complainant, which is why she hired an attorney to file her initial lawsuit against TSU.

Attorney Ben Hall, who has taken on this case, is extremely concerned about the actions taken by TSU and believes the University has violated Texas state law every step of the way.

Hall states, however, this case is deeper and should concern everyone in the community regarding anonymous complaints against community-oriented police officers like Chief Young.



Chief Mary Young
PHOTOGRAPH BY VICKY PINK / HOUSTON STYLE MAGAZINE

"TSU didn't give Chief Young an opportunity to disprove this lie by an anonymous complainant to protect her own stellar reputation," said Hall. "What we have here is a coward who was too scared to add their name to the anonymous complaint. This is someone who would rather throw rocks and hide their hands by making false charges and claims, and this is a lie that the leadership at TSU has chosen to align themselves with."

According to Hall, Texas state law requires that any written complaint against a police officer must be signed by the complainant, given to the police officer, and then the police officer must be given an opportunity to respond to the complaint.

Hall states that Chief Young never received a signed complaint that complies with state law, which is why no adverse or disciplinary action should be taken against her.

On top of that, Hall states that Chief Young had a strong system of checks and balances to prevent any arbitrary decision to approve overtime as alleged in the complaint from ever occurring, in that two other supervisors must sign off on overtime before it even gets to her.

First, the immediate supervisor of the police officer seeking to get approval for overtime must sign off on the submittal, and then a captain would have to sign off on the overtime submission for approval before it even gets to the desk of Chief Young, according to Hall.

"I am confident that we will be able to prove all of this false, because even when you look at the lie, Chief (Young) doesn't even make the initial approval of overtime," says Hall. "I am just shocked that the TSU Board of Regents and the administration would violate state law, without giving Chief Young, or any officer, the opportunity to defend themselves, which is required by state law in Texas."

And then there is the false narrative that Chief Young has officially been placed on administrative leave.

According to Hall, TSU sent a letter to

Chief Young informing her of their decision to place her on administrative leave, which prompted them to file a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) on behalf of Chief Young December 7 prohibiting TSU from taking any further disciplinary or adverse employment action against Young pending a temporary injunction hearing scheduled for December 20, 2022. The designated ancillary judge granted that request and the courts have stopped TSU from taking any action.

Chief Young is still at her job, contrary to media reports stating otherwise, and she is still working at her office focusing on protecting the TSU campus and leading her department.

TSU has appealed the TRO, but Hall has filed an emergency motion to require the case to be returned to the district court, because no final judgments have been made by the district courts, and the district courts are where the judges have listened to and heard the evidence relative to the case.

"Administrative leave is a violation of state law," says Hall.

Chief Young came to TSU in 2017, at the height of her career with the Houston Police Department (HPD) and was excited about being given the opportunity to manage and lead a full police department, mentor young men and women, and create an environment where HBCU's were seen as impactful. The *Forward Times* highlighted her history-making achievement in March 2017, with an article entitled, "HAIL TO THE CHIEF: Veteran HPD Officer Mary Young Named TSU's Acting Police Chief," and she has served with distinction since that time with no incident until now with this anonymous complaint.

Now, Chief Young just wants the truth to be told regarding what she and her attorney are deeming an improper investigation. She believes that a wrong report was presented to the TSU Board of Regents and that she was not afforded the opportunity to present her series of facts and important information, and states that she looks forward to that day.

"This is more than my reputation that I'm fighting for, this is about my character," states Chief Young. "Without character, you cannot be trusted and if you cannot be trusted, you cannot lead. Your character is your mark on the world, and how you lead, how people see you, and how you follow, describes your character. I have worked extremely hard to become a person of honesty and decency. To present me any other way is absurd."

The *Forward Times* will continue to follow this case and keep our readers informed of the latest happenings surrounding Chief Young and TSU.

Your children need to eat their fruits and vegetables

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Children, who eat a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, may be able to help ward off, atherosclerosis. Atherosclerosis is a precursor of heart disease. Studies have found the children as young as nine years old, may already be experiencing health problems, such as high blood pressure that put them at risk of heart disease as an adult.

Atherosclerosis is the condition, in which plaque, a sticky substance consisting of fat, cholesterol other materials, found in the blood builds up inside your arteries, eventually narrowing and stiffening the arteries and leading to heart problems. It's a process that can take years or even decades.

The body needs carbohydrates, fats, protein, vitamins, minerals, fiber and water to be healthy. Without proper nutrition and exercise, optimal health cannot be attained. Carbohydrates, fats, and protein supply energy (calories) necessary for work and normal body functions. Vitamins, minerals, fiber and water do not have caloric value but are still necessary for normal body functions.

Carbohydrates, which include your fruits and vegetables, provide energy for work. There are a few types of carbohydrates.



Carbohydrates such as candy, soda pop, cakes and corn chips can rob the body of nutrients. They are commonly referred to as empty calories. You should choose complex nutritious carbohydrates like fruits and vegetables.

The average American consumes 40% fat 30% carbohydrates and 30% proteins daily. The average diet should consist of 15% fat, 20% protein and 65% complex carbohydrates. Saturated fats should make up less than 10% of your total fat

intake.

The primary function of carbohydrates is to supply energy to all the cells in your body. In the body, carbohydrates are broken down into smaller of sugar molecules, such as glucose and fructose. Your small intestine absorbs these sugar molecules. From your intestines they enter the bloodstream and travel to the liver. Your liver converts these sugars into glucose, which is carried through the bloodstream accompanied by insulin. Your glucose is converted into

energy for basic body functioning and physical activity. If the glucose is not needed immediately for energy, your body will store up to 2,000 calories of it in your liver and muscles in the form of glycogen. When your glycogen stores are full, the remaining carbohydrates are stored as fat.

If you don't ingest enough carbohydrates, your body will use protein for fuel. This can be a problem because your body needs protein to make muscles and build bone. When your body

uses protein instead of carbohydrates for fuel it puts stress on the kidneys. This can lead to the passage of painful byproducts such as urea and ammonia in the urine.

The difference with carbohydrates comes in their nutritional value and impact on your health. Some carbohydrates are healthier than others. Many carbohydrates are loaded with other nutrients. Fruits and vegetables are great carbohydrate sources and excellent suppliers of vitamins A and C and many other vitamins and minerals. For example, the sugar in apple juice is accompanied by vitamin C, folic acid and potassium. The sugar in grape soda pop is void of vitamins and minerals; that's why it's described as "empty calories."

Getting your child to develop healthy eating habits takes meal planning. You cannot change their eating habits if you leave their diet to chance. To do this you must shop wisely. Always have a list of the foods you need when you shop and never shop on an empty stomach.

Sticking to a regular meal plan will help to change your child's diet. Your child need 3 to 6 servings of fruit and 4 to 6 servings of vegetables everyday.

65 percent of the calories you eat every day should come from

carbohydrates. To calculate how many carbohydrates you need, multiply the number of calories you need by .6. That means, if you need 2,000 calories per day, 2,000 multiplied by .6 = 1,200. You need 1,200 calories from carbohydrates. There are 4 calories in a gram of carbohydrate. Divide 1200 calories by 4 = 300 grams.

What counts as a serving?

Vegetables

- 1 cup of raw leafy vegetables
- 1/2 cup of other vegetables cooked or raw
- 3/4 cup of vegetable juice

Fruit

- 1 medium apple, banana, orange, pear
- 1/2 cup of chopped, cooked, or canned fruit
- 3/4 cup of fruit juice

Here are a few tips to help you get more fruits and vegetables in your diet:

Eat fruit and/or drink juice when you wake up instead of sugary cereal or donuts.

Include fruit and vegetables in your lunch.

Plan your menu for each week.

Include fruit or vegetables in every meal.

It's never too late to use a healthful diet to prevent heart disease and it's never too early. We should make every effort to keep our kids fit and healthy.

Ending the HIV epidemic: Addressing HIV stigma, one community at a time

By Sandra Melvin, CEO
Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health



In the late 1970s and early 1980s, a virus that had previously appeared sporadically around the world began to spread throughout the United States. This disease primarily affected gay men and by the late 1980's, HIV/AIDS had become a household term and the number one threat to public health. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, despite significant progress, the global AIDS epidemic is far from over: 1.7 million people around the world were infected with HIV in 2019, bringing the total number of people living with AIDS today to 38 million. Black people account for a higher proportion of new HIV diagnoses and people with HIV, compared to other races and ethnicities. Racism, HIV stigma, homophobia, poverty, and barriers to health care continue to drive these disparities.

Today, one of the main factors negatively impacting our ability to effectively respond to the HIV/AIDS public health issue is stigma. Stigma is one of the greatest barriers to testing and treatment for people living with HIV. It also creates obstacles to prevention.

People may not want family, friends, and neighbors to know that they are visiting an HIV/AIDS provider for testing or treatment. In rural communities with limited anonymity, people may not seek care at all. People living with HIV often internalize the stigma they experience and begin to develop a negative self-image. They may fear they will be discriminated against or judged negatively if their HIV status is revealed.

Stigma is not new to public health, nor is it unique to HIV/AIDS. History provides several examples of "prejudice, discounting, discrediting, and discrimination" directed toward persons who are ill or perceived to be ill.

Studies show that stigma associated with multiple factors (e.g., HIV, mental illness, sexual preference) both disad-

vantages the stigmatized and is a major source of stress in their lives. If stigma is a significant source of stress and social disadvantage, one might expect it to have substantial effects on population health, similar to other social determinants, such as socioeconomic status (SES), social relationships (i.e., social support), and racism or discrimination. As we work to reduce health disparities, we must take into account the effect that racism, discrimination and stigma has on health outcomes for minority, disadvantaged and underserved communities in Mississippi. For this reason, the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health works with communities to provide access and availability to HIV resource, including HIV testing and linkage to care and increase awareness about HIV stigma. We do this by:

Delivering provider education and training related to HIV stigma and misconceptions

Using telehealth and other remote care delivery models to provide increased access to treatment

Using mobile vans to deliver prevention, testing, and treatment services directly in communities

Overcoming stigma is not so much a decision as a process, one that involves training of the community and health care providers, increasing education and awareness, time, and patience.

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December is HIV/AIDS Awareness Month and is a time to raise awareness and reflect on the impact this epidemic has on Mississippi communities and the world.

To request HIV/AIDS educational information or to request self-testing kits, contact the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health at iamh@advancingminorityhealth.org or (769) 572-5263.

Good nutrition and better health of children in 'grandfamilies' care



StatePoint

There are 2.5 million children in the United States growing up in "grandfamilies," meaning they're being raised by relatives or close friends without their parents in the home, and they face higher rates of hunger and food insecurity, according to a new report.

The Generations United report, "Together at the Table: Supporting the Nutrition, Health and Well-Being of Grandfamilies," highlights the particular struggles of such households, which are often unprepared financially for the unexpected job of raising a child, and may encounter difficulty accessing food and nutrition programs designed to help.

In fact, 25% of grandparent-headed households experienced food insecurity between 2019 and 2020, which is more than twice the national rate. The long-term health implications of food insecurity – including diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, obesity and eating disorders – are dire. Additionally, food insecurity negatively affects a child's ability to learn and grow.

While families from all areas of the country face food insecurity, for the large number of grandfamilies living in the South and in rural

areas, services are often more limited or challenging to access. What's more, grandfamilies are disproportionately black, Latino and American Indian and Alaska Native, populations that already have disproportionate rates of food insecurity due to years of systemic racism.

Recently, the White House released a sweeping national strategy to reduce hunger. While advocates describe the plan as welcome and comprehensive on many levels, and say that it identifies the importance of improved outreach to grandfamilies, they also believe it must go further. According to Generations United, some key policy changes to reduce food insecurity for grandfamilies include:

- Developing quality kinship navigator programs that connect grandfamilies to support and services in their communities. These programs should provide food and nutrition support to grandfamilies outside the child welfare system.
- Expanding access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by making a "child-only" benefit that is based on the needs of the child as opposed to household income and by increasing outreach to grandfamilies.

lies.

- Ensuring automatic access to free and reduced school meals for children living in grandfamilies.
- Improving outreach of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to help reach more grandfamilies and connect them with benefits for which they are eligible.

- Creating joint meal programs for grandfamily caregivers and the children they raise.

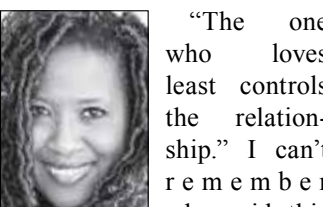
"Research shows that being raised by family members or close friends is the best option for children who can't be raised by their parents," said Donna Butts, the executive director of Generations United. "But unfortunately, these families face hunger and food insecurity at much higher rates than the average family. The need for basic nutrition and adequate food is universal, and every family deserves to be healthy and thrive. The fact that many of our policies and programs to reduce hunger were not designed with grandfamilies in mind should not stand in the way of this right."

To read the full report and learn more about issues affecting grandfamilies, visit <https://www.gu.org/>.

P R E S E R V E D

Loving the most

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“The one who loves least controls the relationship.” I can’t remember who said this however, this saying has always resonated as one of the most truthful statements I’ve heard about relationship dynamics. It’s a challenging thing to recognize because sometimes we spend so much time trying to convince the other person how much we love them that we don’t realize they stopped loving us a long time ago. More importantly, we justify doing some inappropriate things because of “love” without realizing that if we really loved that person or thing, we would let them go.

For example, I was talking to a friend about the stress that one family member in particular had put on their

siblings regarding the long-term terminal illness of their youngest sibling. All of the other siblings agreed about what to do concerning the family member who was put on hospice...except this one. She insisted that the sister who was dying remain on life support with the reason that she loved her sister too much to see her die. Despite the fact that the dying sister’s sons cried every time they had to visit their mother and see her hooked up to machines, this one sibling accused the others of not loving their sister and wanting to kill her. When asked repeatedly by the other siblings why she was acting that way, the sister simply stated, “Because I must love her more than you do.”

It was clear to everyone, including doctors, the “loving” sibling who insisted on keeping the other sister alive had selfish motives that had nothing to do with loving her sister more than the others. In

fact, one doctor offered that if she really loved her sister, she would not want her to suffer anymore. It took a lot of persuasion but the “loving” sibling was eventually convinced to relinquish the medical power of attorney so that the wishes of her sister’s adult children would prevail. A few short days later, the woman, who had suffered with brain cancer for 5 years, was able to peacefully transition and died with her family at her side.

Watching these events from the outside made me think about how often it is the one who claims boldly how much they love someone or something the most is sometimes the one who really loves the least. Often what they really love is being able to selfishly manipulate and control others. As 2022 ends, I’m thinking about how many times my own declarations of love were thinly masked attempts to control others.

I Corinthians 13:4-8 speaks

about all of the characteristics of love. When you study this amazing scriptural passage, you see how powerful love is not just because of how it transforms the object of love by how it transforms the one who loves. Loving well transforms others and most importantly it transforms you. My hope for 2023 is to spend less time superficially saying how much I love and more time authentically showing it to others.

Shewanda Riley (Aunt Wanda), PhD, is a Fort Worth-based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda. Find out more about her new podcast “The Chocolate Auntie Podcast” at www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com.

Will you hear His voice?

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



Our attitude is very important. Matthew 5:8-9 says: “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” The message of reconciliation is to bring people to peace with God. Tribulation and persecution are what draw attention to us from the world so that they might see Christ in our earthen vessels.

When we suffer tribulation and persecution, God allows it because He has confidence that we can handle it. We need to have confidence that God can bring us through it; then we can reach out to those who are lost with the message that they must be reconciled to God.

We read in Hebrews 3:7-8a, “Wherefore, today if ye will hear His voice. Harden not your hearts.” Sinner friend, God wants us to break off from sin. We need to see what sin is doing to us. It is not preparing us to meet God. We need to move while God is talking to us. If we can see that we are a sinner, we can only see it because God has opened our eyes to it.

God is not showing us our spiritual condition so that we can ignore it. He wants us to be saved. If we will trust Him and believe Him, God will show Himself strong to us. Are you willing to surrender to God? Someone may ask, “How can anybody want to get saved when he knows that

tribulation is coming on the whole world to try them?” Tribulation does not work the same way on the regenerated as the unregenerated. If a person is unsaved and does not have Christ working in his life, tribulation does not make him better; it makes his heart harder. However, if we will surrender to Christ, that same tribulation will make us more like Jesus. Everyone has tribulation, but not everyone handles it the same way, and tribulation does not handle everybody the same way.

Will you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior? Do you want to give God a chance? I was thinking about sin in the world today. I am convinced that the devil plans to keep people struggling with alcoholism. The devil knows that time is short, so he has stuff out there that, if we take it once, we are hooked. He wants to lay a trap for us because he would like to make us so burdened down with sin that we cannot see our way out.

Why give the devil a chance to continue to work? God can save us. The devil says, “Man, do you really think you can stay saved for more than fifty years?” When we were teenagers, fifty was a long time. Back then, fifty years of age seemed old to us, but it does not seem old now. God lets us know that all we had to do was live as a Christian one day at a time. Won’t you give Him a chance to change your soul? May God bless us.

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



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This holiday season, judges give us something to celebrate

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



I’ve written about the importance of judges a few times over the last year. And every time I do, I realize that many people have never met a judge. Or they have, but it was at a time when they’d rather have been anywhere else. So the idea that judges are on my mind as something to celebrate this holiday season may strike you as strange. But bear with me.

Since President Biden came into office, he has made it a priority to nominate federal judges who are not only legal stars but are diverse, come from underrepresented professional backgrounds, and have a deep commitment to civil rights. Many of them have been civil rights lawyers or public defenders. This is a real change, even from past Democratic presidents.

For decades, presidents most often nominated corporate lawyers or prosecutors to the bench. Those people were also overwhelmingly white and male. Not anymore.

At the federal circuit level, which is the level above the district or trial courts and just below the Supreme Court, 41 percent of Biden nominees have been black. So far, more black women have been confirmed to the circuit court bench than during all previous presidencies combined. At the district level, Biden has nominated people of color, LGBTQ+ people, and people of diverse faiths, who are historic “firsts” on their respective courts. Not only that, but we have our first black woman on the Supreme Court, Ketanji Brown Jackson. Her presence inspires me every day, even though there are many reasons to be dissatisfied with the Court’s far-right majority.

Thanks to President Biden, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Dick Durbin, the pace of nominations and confirmations has been fast – very fast. This was critical, because during the Trump presidency, the Far Right raced to confirm as many ultraconservative judges as possible. President Biden is beating Trump’s pace with one of the fastest confirmation processes ever. As I write this, 97 lifetime federal judges have been confirmed in the first two years of Biden’s presidency. Trump had 85 in his first two years. Biden’s pace is the second fastest in a quarter century.

And when the Senate returns in January, there will be a spectacular roster of nominees just waiting for the final step in their confirmation process: people like

Nancy Abudu, an advocate for voting rights and civil rights through her work at the Southern Poverty Law Center and the ACLU; Natasha Merle, an advocate for racial justice at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Tiffany Cartwright, a civil rights litigator whose cases include police misconduct; and Julie Rikelman, the longtime litigation director for the Center for Reproductive Rights.

So why does all this matter? It’s not just because having people from underrepresented communities on our courts is inspiring to see and long overdue. Both of those things are true. It’s because the nominations and confirmations represent the administration’s commitment to building fairer courts overall. The Biden administration is actively seeking out judicial nominees who will improve the quality of decision-making on our courts because of the lived experience they bring. It’s seeking people who have seen the justice system from all sides, in their work or in life. People who are committed to upholding rights for everyone, not just the wealthy or privileged. And already, decisions by fair-minded Biden nominees have improved justice for many Americans in areas like workers’ rights and the environment.

When we have fair judges and fair courts, our lives are dramatically better. Fair courts hold police officers accountable for brutality. Fair courts protect our right to vote and strike down laws aimed at voter suppression. Fair courts protect our jobs, our air and water, and our right to health care, including abortion care. The list goes on and on.

So in addition to celebrating all the great new judges the Biden administration and Senate leadership have given us, there’s one more thing we can do. All of us can call our senators’ offices in January and encourage them to keep up the momentum by confirming all the rest of the president’s judicial nominees. It’s an easy way to make a difference.

As I’m thinking of things to be thankful for this holiday season, I’m thankful that many of our federal courts really are changing for the better. So many of the rights and freedoms we’ve worked for in the past and will work for in the future depend on this progress. We need to keep it going.

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

I still do, post holidays

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
Guest Writer



Christmas trees, Christmas decorations, Christmas parties, Christmas carols and music, gift exchanges, Eggnog, and hanging with family and friends have been the focus for many of us during the holidays. The holidays somehow help many married couples forget or at least neglect the idea that their marriage is in trouble or is facing some type of trouble such as lack of commitment, financial issues, infidelity, extra marital affairs, poor communication, lack of unity and lack of physical intimacy, addictions, and so much more.

In fact, around this time of year, many married couples will contemplate goals, aspirations and New Year’s resolutions in marriage for the upcoming year in hopes of a new beginning, or fresh start for their union. Many of these goals will be centered around improving finances and communication, seeking marriage and individual counseling, reducing stress and other meaningful important factors that will improve and invigorate their marriages.

Further, many will attempt to accomplish these goals in a short period of time but when reality forces one to determine that it is another goal with the same person (s), same approach, same ideas, and the same conclusion of getting nowhere, it will warrant many to unfortunately, contemplate filing for divorce. According to various law offices, January is the number one month for divorce in America.

Many married couples’ marriages survive during the holidays because it truly is one of the most wonderful times of the year with family, friends, and especially if children are

involved. However, research and data reveal that many couples begin researching divorce proceedings before January and many times attorney offices voicemails are filled to the capacity of potential clients, who wants nothing more than to end their unhappy marriages once and for all.

What happens post holidays? Why do married couples decide that the best decision for their marriage is to end in divorce post the holidays? What happens to the joy, laughter, contentment, peace, commitment and happiness that was experienced during the holiday between spouses? Why and when does the positive energy dissipate during the holidays? Does the excitement, warmth, and joy experience in marriage disappear when the Christmas Trees and decorations are taken down as soon as the next day?

I want to challenge your thoughts, contemplations and decisions regarding filing for divorce post holidays? If your reason for seeking a divorce does not pose any harm or danger to you and your children (domestic violence, sexual abuse) please answer the following: Have you and your spouse done everything you can to prevent filing for divorce? Have you engaged in the following:

- Marriage counseling
- Increased communication between the two of you
- Have you prayed without ceasing?
- Sought religious counseling from a pastor, pastor’s wife, priest, etc.?
- Have a support (accountable) group like church marriage ministry, family, etc.?
- Weighed out the cost and the length of proceedings for divorce
- Researched the chances of falling into poverty post-divorce
- Researched the impacts and

devastation of divorce on children, community and society

- Second, third person you meet will not be perfect – he or she will have problems too
- Researched that second marriages are at higher risks of divorcing
- Can you picture life without your spouse?
- Do you truly love your spouse?
- Do you know what God feels about divorce?

I learned throughout me and my husband’s marriage restoration journey that God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). Yes, you can forgive your spouse and still pursue a divorce only when it comes to adultery. God made it clear that because man’s hearts are hardened (not easy to forgive), He does grant divorce for infidelity if the spouse that was sinned against (cheated on) is not willing to reconcile – forgive and work towards restoration for the marriage (Mark 10:2-10).

- Is your love for your spouse based on First Corinthians 13 or some type of conditional love?
- Have you exhausted every option that can help save your marriage?
- If you have exhausted every option – is divorce the best option? Only you will know this – you will know when enough is enough and when it is time to do what is best for you.

All in all, I know marriage is not easy. Marriage is hard. I believe that many or most married couples have contemplated divorcing their spouses at some point throughout their marriage. But I believe that many remain married because it’s a choice, not an easy choice, but a made-up mind to fight for each other, fight for the marriage, and fight for the vows that perhaps was taken at the Justice of the Peace, special ceremony in front of family and friends, in private, on an island, wedding chapel, backyard, or in the

family living room.

The holidays can give a false vibe or a false sense of hope for marriage restoration. However, I am asking, whatever you did to experience joy, love, peace, and happiness during the holidays with your spouse – repeat it now, do it again, especially if you love your spouse. Divorce attorneys will become bombarded with couples in a matter of days, who lost the will, hope, fight, and motivation to still say I do, post holidays. Will you be one of these couples? Will you give your marriage one more chance?

It is not a coincidence that you are reading this article or know someone who you need to share this article with. If anything in you is encouraging you, fight for your marriage. Don’t just give your marriage away. Don’t let your marriage become another statistic. Don’t let divorce become the norm in your family history, community and society.

Recognize January as another month, another day, another opportunity for you both to fight for your marriage, fight for your spouse, and fight for your family. A fight involves two people wanting to fight for their marriage – marriage is two people coming together to become one.

In conclusion, many of us put forth every effort to fight for our jobs, health and other initiatives due to its benefits – why not put forth the same fight and efforts for the person you said I do to years ago that you promised to love for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do you part?

Moreover, many of the couples we witness celebrating 30+, 40+, and 50+ year wedding anniversaries and more believe it or not was just like us at some point – they however, decided to still say I do, post holidays.

Family and friends, not presents, made for a Merry Christmas

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



‘Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house not a creature was stirring not even a mouse. These are lines from the classic Christmas poem by Clement Clarke Moore in 1822. You probably heard this poem a few times recently.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and I wish for you a Happy New Year.

The buildup to the Christmas season featured gifts and gift-giving. Sales and discounts were highlighted in newspapers and online shopping was non-stop. Adults participated in Black Friday sales trying to get their purchases at the lowest price possible.

So now, we can relax and wait for Christmas 2023 and the shopping spree that will occur.

I suspect if you are in the 4th

quarter of your life, like I am, that you had a perspective on the Christmas that we just celebrated. Like you, I believed in all the Christmas legends and lore. I must give my parents credit for being what I call “Christmas ambassadors.”

So, here are a few of those long-held memories of what the season was like for me as a child.

First, at least in my Winston-Salem NC neighborhood, Christmas was not really talked about until after Thanksgiving. In fact, Thanksgiving was a big deal as we had a turkey and all the trimmings. It made for a happy time with my parents and relatives.

Equally important was that we didn’t have school until the following Monday which gave us additional time with our friends.

Well, I am not sure that the naughty and nice list was ever actualized when I was coming of age. Can you imagine not receiving your union skates because you were naughty?

No, you can’t.

My parents said that I should leave cookies and milk for Santa and of course I did. On Christmas morning, the cookies were gone, and Santa’s lip print was on the glass. He had been to our house.

The presents were under a real tree, and my staple gifts were skates and the latest cap gun. You must be a certain age to know what a cap gun is. Late morning and all afternoon we were outside on our skates or riding our bikes. This is what we did on Christmas Day, and everyone had fun.

As I reached adulthood, I started to buy gifts as well. At points, it was a bit stressful to know what to get family and friends.

As I age, I have some different perspectives on the season. Christmas is too commercial, and the emphasis is misguided as billions of dollars are being spent by we the citizens. The spiritual aspect of this season has been overtaken by the big spending that we do.

Will that inclination to spend money during the Christmas season ever stop? Probably not in the foreseeable future. There will have to be a totally different mindset for the economics around Christmas to change.

My Christmas season was spent with family and friends. Joy and happiness were in great supply. I made several calls to check up on people and to see how they were doing. That’s what we who are in the 4th quarter do. If you have older relatives, they will tell you the same thing.

The presence of people or listening to them on the phone brings me great pleasure. I believe human interaction fends off some illnesses and keeps the mind sharp.

Remember that if you are in your senior years chronologically doesn’t mean that you must throw in the towel.

Age is but a number. Wear it well and be proud of it.



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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

12/29/2022

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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 JPSD 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 JPSD 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, fasteners, 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 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 full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provision of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a contractor, bidder, or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Suite 223, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.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 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

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

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

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

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

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

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for JTRAN BUS STOP 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 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 ingnuice@jacksonms.gov.

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

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

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

LEGAL

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)

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

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

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

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

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



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Sudoku

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

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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DOLLAR GENERAL

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421 Peace Street - Canton, MS

SOUL SET BARBER SHOP

257 Peace Street - Canton, MS

TRAILER PARK GROCERY

22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

B Y R A M

DOLLAR GENERAL

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5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE

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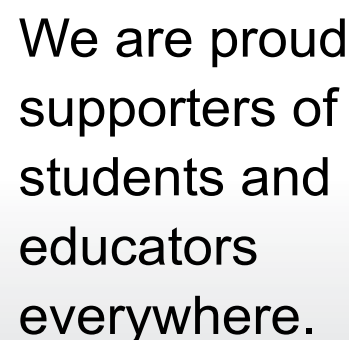
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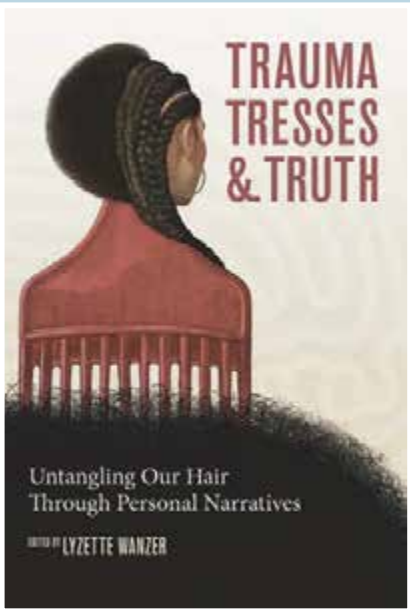
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Week of December 4, 2022



While their program honors one individual in each category, the District acknowledges that these awards are representative of many individuals throughout the District who makes a difference in the development of young people.



BOOK REVIEW:

TRAUMA, TRESSES & TRUTH:
UNTANGLING OUR HAIR THROUGH
PERSONAL NARRATIVES

BY LYZETTE WANZER

C.2023, LAWRENCE HILL BOOKS

\$19.99 • 255 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Your application was accepted. The phone interview went well; the person you spoke with seemed impressed with your credentials, your education and experience. You laughed at the same jokes. Knew some of the same industry people. At the in-person interview, they told you that the job was yours – if you’d change one thing. “Trauma, Tresses & Truth,” edited by Lyzette Wanzer, combs through this irritation.

Nearly four years ago, then-senator Holly Mitchell of California wrote and sponsored what she called the CROWN Act, which prohibits discrimination based on hair style and texture. That summer, California passed the law and since then, other states and municipalities have followed suit. And yet, hassles happen on behalf of hair.

In times of slavery, hair was hidden to “restrict the appearance” of marketable women and to enforce conformity, and preference was given to slaves that had straighter hair and

lighter skin. A century ago, advertisements for “hair dressing” promised to tame “kinky, snarly, ugly” hair. The availability of Madame C.J. Walker’s products showed that “Black women... take [their] nappy hair and figure it out.”

Sometimes, though, it feels like “the Black body is a war zone and the Black skull, the helmet.” It happens to men, when people question their braids in professional settings, or they stereotype men with locs. It happens when a white person touches your hair or even asks to touch it. Worst of all,

pelo malo (bad hair) are words that follow babies and small children who are too young to shout the word “no” or to choose for themselves.

As for work, says one essayist, “A 2017 study confirms that black women face bias in the workplace when wearing natural hairstyles.” It might happen with lowered tips at a restaurant job, a lack of promotion or a raise, or the loss of a job altogether – and for what? Says another essayist, “My hair doesn’t do my job. I do.”

A quick flip through “Trau-



ma, Tresses & Truth” suggests that this book isn’t going to tell you anything that’s new. It is, in fact, quite a bit of preaching to the choir, since most people who will pick it up are living it. And yet, there’s appeal in these pages, and support, as though you’ve just entered a town hall meeting for black women’s hair.

While it’s a fact that men are slightly represented in this book, the essayists that editor Lyzette Wanzer has pulled together are mostly black and Puerto Rican women who write about earlier hairstyles in a manner that

can make you sit back, sigh in remembered happiness, and let your shoulders relax. It’s not all good, though: some essayists recall tender-headed pain, Jheri curl messes, and embarrassment from long ago or last week. These memories, these experiences, serve to weave camaraderie into each tale.

Clearly, this is a book for women but black men may likewise find words that’ll make sense to them, too.

If you’re tired of hair harassment, read “Trauma, Tresses & Truth.” It’ll make your toes curl.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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Highlights of the 2022 Celebration Bowl

JSU vs. NC Central • Mercedes-Benz Stadium • Atlanta, GA • December 17, 2022

Photos by Jay Johnson

JSU and NC fans from across the nation packed the stadium for the Celebration Bowl in Coach Deion Sanders' finale as head coach of the Jackson State University Tigers. NC Central beat JSU 41-32 in overtime.



FRONT PAGE REVIEW 2022

As The Mississippi Link closes out publication year 2022, we want to share some of our front page covers from throughout the year to remind you that we are a community newspaper that publishes what goes on in our community each week as well as what goes on in the state and nation.

Inside our publication we enjoy sharing with our readers on a weekly basis health tips, religion, thoughts and opinions of individuals that care about the world in which we live, and the positive accomplishments of students and educators.

We look forward to a new year of coverage.

Happy New Year from The Mississippi Link family!

Celebrated Tuskegee Airman Charles McGee dies at 102

By [Name] [Image]

Charles McGee, a Tuskegee Army Airfield Engineer, died at the age of 102 on January 28, 2022. McGee was a member of the Tuskegee Army Airfield Engineer and was a member of the Tuskegee Army Airfield Engineer. McGee was a member of the Tuskegee Army Airfield Engineer and was a member of the Tuskegee Army Airfield Engineer.

Strike three! Still no garbage contract for City of Jackson

2-4-1, the council votes down mayor's third recommendation

By [Name] [Image]

The City of Jackson has been in a stalemate with the Jackson Area Solid Waste Authority (JASWA) over a garbage contract. The city council has rejected three recommendations from the mayor, leaving the city without a garbage contract. The city council has rejected three recommendations from the mayor, leaving the city without a garbage contract.

HBCUs receive bomb threats first day of Black History Month

Threats first day of Black History Month

By [Name] [Image]

Several Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) received bomb threats on the first day of Black History Month. The threats were received by various HBCUs, including Jackson State University and Southern University. The threats were received by various HBCUs, including Jackson State University and Southern University.

Future of solid waste collection in Jackson still unresolved

By [Name] [Image]

The future of solid waste collection in Jackson remains unresolved. The city council has rejected three recommendations from the mayor, leaving the city without a garbage contract. The city council has rejected three recommendations from the mayor, leaving the city without a garbage contract.

The third day of Confirmation Hearings reveal two troubling reasons GOP senators oppose Judge Jackson

By [Name] [Image]

The third day of Confirmation Hearings for Judge Jackson revealed two troubling reasons why GOP senators oppose his nomination. The reasons were related to his judicial record and his perceived bias. The reasons were related to his judicial record and his perceived bias.

Historic U.S. Vice President visits historic Mississippi Delta city

Greenville: 'a place... full of talent and tenacity of vision,' says

By [Name] [Image]

A historic U.S. Vice President visited the historic Mississippi Delta city of Greenville. The visit was a significant event for the city, as it was the first time a Vice President had visited Greenville. The visit was a significant event for the city, as it was the first time a Vice President had visited Greenville.

Juneteenth marks our country's second Independence Day

By [Name] [Image]

Juneteenth marks the second Independence Day for the United States. It is a day of celebration and reflection on the country's history and the struggle for freedom. It is a day of celebration and reflection on the country's history and the struggle for freedom.

ANCEBA Inaugural Summit, standing up for Jesus and Justice at the JSU E-Center

By [Name] [Image]

The ANCEBA Inaugural Summit was held at the JSU E-Center. The summit was a significant event for the community, as it brought together leaders from various organizations to discuss issues related to justice and faith. The summit was a significant event for the community, as it brought together leaders from various organizations to discuss issues related to justice and faith.

AARP launches 'Walk with a Doc' at Parham Bridges Park in Jackson

By [Name] [Image]

AARP launched its 'Walk with a Doc' program at Parham Bridges Park in Jackson. The program is designed to encourage seniors to walk and stay healthy. The program is designed to encourage seniors to walk and stay healthy.

Officials release names of those killed in racist Buffalo massacre

By [Name] [Image]

Officials have released the names of the victims of the racist massacre in Buffalo, New York. The victims were a group of African American people who were killed during the massacre. The victims were a group of African American people who were killed during the massacre.

Legal fees growing over garbage collection

By [Name] [Image]

Legal fees are growing over the garbage collection issue in Jackson. The city council has rejected three recommendations from the mayor, leaving the city without a garbage contract. The city council has rejected three recommendations from the mayor, leaving the city without a garbage contract.

Arson suspect arrested for setting 7 fires in West Jackson - also caught on camera breaking glass at College Hill Church

By [Name] [Image]

An arson suspect has been arrested for setting seven fires in West Jackson. The suspect was also caught on camera breaking glass at the College Hill Church. The suspect was also caught on camera breaking glass at the College Hill Church.

SLC hosts SBA Community Navigation Pilot Program (CNPP)

By [Name] [Image]

The SBA Community Navigation Pilot Program (CNPP) is being hosted in Jackson. The program is designed to help small businesses navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is designed to help small businesses navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Water blame game can't shroud the truth

By [Name] [Image]

The blame game over the water crisis in Jackson cannot shroud the truth. The crisis is a result of years of neglect and mismanagement. The crisis is a result of years of neglect and mismanagement.

Happy Father's Day to all Fathers

By [Name] [Image]

Happy Father's Day to all fathers. This is a day to celebrate the men who play a significant role in the lives of their children. This is a day to celebrate the men who play a significant role in the lives of their children.

College Hill B. Church celebrates Pastor's 1st Anniversary

By [Name] [Image]

The College Hill B. Church celebrated the first anniversary of its pastor. The celebration was a significant event for the church, as it marked the beginning of a new chapter in the church's history. The celebration was a significant event for the church, as it marked the beginning of a new chapter in the church's history.

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

By [Name] [Image]

JSU Tiger great T. C. Taylor has been named the head football coach of Jackson State University. Taylor is a former player and coach, and he is expected to lead the team to success. Taylor is a former player and coach, and he is expected to lead the team to success.