

Does Capitol Police approach deserve a closer look?

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Military service – 20+ years active-duty U.S. Navy – taught the importance of the concept of mission. All actions of an organization, division, department, or unit are inescapably tied to the mission. The mission is designed and developed by those at the top of the organization, then executed by those below.

Now comes the Office of the Capitol Police inside the relatively new Capitol Complex Improvement District (CCID). Due to Capitol Police shootings in recent months, substantial increase in patrols in residential areas, and reports of aggressive behavior, it seemed like a good time to take a closer look.

The mission of the Office of Capitol Police, per their own website, is “to enhance the quality of life for employees, visitors, elected and appointed officials located within the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement District within the City of Jackson, MS and properties named in Section 25-5-2 and 29-5-77 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 as amended. We can achieve this mission by working co-operatively with members of this community. We are obligated to conform to the United States Constitution to enforce the laws, preserve the peace, reduce fear and provide for a safe environment. The office is committed to reviewing ideas from the community in the development in its policies that directly affect all those who work at or visit facilities within our jurisdiction.”

It goes on further to state, “The Office of Capitol Police

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Faces of Justice in Mississippi

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Words tell us so much. On any given day, just think about how many words we hear, see, or read – and from so many different sources. And our own communications listening and sharing with – others; family, friends, co-workers, neighbors. So many words – the core of our connectivity with our fellow man.

Pictures though, how many times have we heard that a picture is worth a thousand words? Ever wonder why that is? Pictures are a story in and of themselves. Typically fixed on a certain date, time, or even an era. More times than not, they leave us with a higher certainty about someone or something, perhaps a clarity that isn’t always achieved in words.

The top photo shows the current Mississippi Court of Appeals judges taken from the Court’s website.

Five of these ten judges arrived on the Court by appointment; all by Republican governors. The remaining five arrived via “non-partisan” election; conducting a campaign and being elected from day one by the voters across the state. Three of those initially appointed have gone on to win election by the voters. Two who were initially appointed are early in their first term.

The second photo is of the Mississippi Supreme Court taken from the Court’s website.

Six of these nine justices arrived on the Court by appointment; all by Republican Governors. The remaining three arrived via “non-partisan” election; conducting a campaign and being elected from day one by the voters across the state. All six of the justices initially appointed have gone on to win election by the voters.

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Court of Appeals: Standing: L-R Judges Smith, Lawrence, Westbrooks, Greenlee, McDonald, McCarty, & Emfinger. Seated: L-R Judges Carlton, Barnes and Wilson



The Mississippi Supreme Court: Standing L-R: Justices Chamberlin, Griffis, Ishee, Coleman, Maxwell II and Beam. Seated L-R: Justices Kitchens, Randolph and King



Coach Prime tells University of Colorado PAC-12 players get to packing



Sanders addressing Colorado players.

By Leon Williams
Contributing Writer

Before the dust could barely settle from JSU’s record-setting football season and before the thought of them being 2022 SWAC Champions could fully sink in, coach Deion Sanders held his introductory meeting Sunday, December 4 with University of Colorado officials and players from the football team.

To many sports aficionados the speed at which Sanders arrived in Boulder leaves a bittersweet taste since JSU has yet to play in this year’s Celebration Bowl on December 17 in Atlanta’s Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Given this expected, yet unexpected development, many now question the motives behind Sanders’ initial arrival at Jackson State University to begin with. From the outset, Sanders’ claim was that he was spirit-led to lead Jackson State University to the archetypal football promised land, while allowing the City of Jackson to share economically, socially and spiritually in the spoils.

In truth, the previous three seasons did bring sorely needed excitement and hope to a city badly in need of space to exhale. The Jackson State football team, led by Sanders, allowed the City of Jackson, Mississippi to, at least momentarily, put the ever-present problems of poverty, crime and unacceptable drinking water on the back burner. On the other hand, Sanders’ plundering of the JSU 2023 football team by transferring several key players to the University of Colorado’s football program – including shifting ten high-profile players who had already committed to attend JSU next season also to the University of Colorado – is seen as a monumental betrayal by many. Alabama State University Head football coach Eddie Robinson Jr. is certainly feeling vindicated after having been the brunt of jokes centered around the “I am SWAC” slogan.

Adding insult to injury, Sanders’ introductory meeting with the University of Colorado football players certainly raised many eyebrows when he verbally lambasted the team for their unimpressive prior season record and unabashedly told them to pack their bags and enter the transfer portal. Many observers, whether sports fans or not, are baffled by this unnecessary behavior by someone held in such high esteem.

It remains to be seen whether Coach Prime can deliver the goods as far as rebuilding the University of Colorado football program is concerned, but many would agree that his rebuilding program may very well need to start with the man in the mirror.

Democratic Sen. Warnock wins Georgia runoff against Walker


By Bill Barrow and Jeff Amy
The Associated Press

Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock defeated Republican challenger Herschel Walker in a Georgia runoff election Tuesday, ensuring Democrats an outright majority in the Senate for the rest of President Joe Biden’s current term and capping an underwhelming midterm cycle for the GOP in the last major vote of the year.

With Warnock’s second runoff victory in as many years, Democrats will have a 51-49 Senate majority, gaining a seat from the current 50-50 split with John Fetterman’s victory in Pennsylvania. There will be divided government, however, with Republicans having narrowly flipped house control.

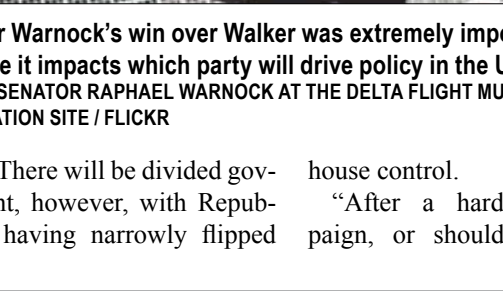
“After a hard-fought campaign, or should I say campaigns, it is my honor to utter the four most powerful words ever spoken in a democracy: The people have spoken,” Warnock, 53, told jubilant supporters who packed a downtown Atlanta hotel ballroom.

“I often say that a vote is a kind of prayer for the world we desire for ourselves and for our children,” declared Warnock, a Baptist pastor and his state’s first black senator. “Georgia, you have been praying with your lips and your legs, your hands and your feet, your heads and your hearts. You have put in the hard work, and here we are standing together.”

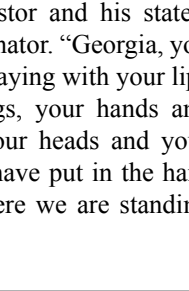


Senator Warnock’s win over Walker was extremely important because it impacts which party will drive policy in the U.S. Senate. PHOTO: SENATOR RAPHAEL WARNOCK AT THE DELTA FLIGHT MUSEUM MASS VACCINATION SITE / FLICKR

Deion Sanders leads Jackson State to SWAC title



Wind at My Back



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The Christmas spirit has arrived at Mississippi State Hospital

Special to The Mississippi Link

More than 20 floats and metro area bands rolled down the streets at Mississippi State Hospital last week, kicking off the 2022 Christmas season for patients and residents.

The theme for this year's parade was "Christmas In..." Hospital staff and patients filled in the blanks with a wide variety of award-winning themes, including: Christmas in Vegas, Under the Sea, Christmas in Whoville, Christmas on the Ranch, and many more fun ideas.

The marching bands were back this year from Jim Hill High School, Canton High School, Raymond ROTC, Bailey APAC Middle School, Brinkley Middle School and Northwest Jackson Middle School.

Dwight Owens, author of the book "Still Standing," served as Grand Marshal, smiling, waving and cruising down the streets in his customized pickup truck. After the parade, Owens and his special guest, Ishaunna Gully-Bettis, visited several buildings and shared their stories of hope and inspiration with patients.

Owens shared his story of being hit by a drunk driver just as his professional

adult life was unfolding the way he'd planned and how the injuries that resulted from that accident caused him to spend nearly a year in the hospital fighting for his life. Owens shared how his journey has, "turned his pain into purpose and his wounds into wisdom."

Gully-Bettis shared how drastically her life changed as a result of domestic violence and how hope led her to use her experiences to become an inspiration for others by sharing her message of taking a stand by knowing your worth and realizing that love does not hurt. Their stories resonated with patients and offered hope during trying times.

The Christmas season continues throughout the month of December as volunteer groups visit with patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital to celebrate and share the Christmas Spirit.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety and supporting recovery.

The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

Call the MSH Public Relations office at (662) 343-0000 for more information.



Dwight Owens served as Grand Marshal driving his customized pick-up. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MSH PUBLIC RELATIONS



Ishaunna Gully-Bettis and Owens visited with patients and shared their stories.



Bailey APAC and Northwest Middle School Bands participated in parade.



Canton High School Marching Band



Jim Hill High School Band brass section



Judges - L-R Gale Martin, Bill Bobbs, Kim Edwards, Daniel Elliot, Betty Harpe, Bobby Stephens, Marilyn Gartin, Ray Wallace, Dee Payne



MSH's Holiday Magic Award went to Building 60 for their Under the Sea float

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Police

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will follow fundamental principles and deliver its services in a way that preserves and advances democratic values. The office also protects the rights of all persons as guaranteed by the United States Constitution. The office is committed to maintaining the highest level of integrity and professionalism in all its operations. Professionalism, in a sense, means adherence to impeccable integrity and careful protection of the rights of those authorized to enforce the law.”

Certainly, a wordy mission. By comparison, JPD’s mission statement is one sentence – “The Jackson Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services to the 175,000 citizens of the capitol city of the State of Mississippi with honor and integrity.”

Like JPD, the mission statements of other police departments in Mississippi; Pascagoula, Meridian, and Vicksburg to name a few, are all brief and unambiguously centered on serving the people. None, other than Capitol Police, speak about careful protection of the rights of those authorized to enforce the law.

The words citizens, residents, and people of, are nowhere to be found in the mission of the CCID Police – which is technically a unit of the Mississippi Department of Safety, reporting to its commissioner Sean Tindell. Could that be where the disconnect is? They do say, “We can achieve this mission by working cooperatively with members of this community,” but the emphasis is “to enhance the quality of life for employees, visitors, elected and appointed officials located within the boundaries of the CCID within the City of Jackson.”

When Tindell met with community members last month, as the behest of Ward 3 Councilman Stokes, he vowed that “bad actors” in the Capitol Police would be held accountable. He also said there is a “criminal element” in Jackson “that is not used to being policed.” He went on to say, “Don’t sit here and complain about crime and death and murder and kids killing kids and tell me there’s respect for law enforcement. Because there’s not.” The Chief of the CCID Capitol Police, Bo Luckey, stated, “the way we’re going to police the area is not going to be the

same as it’s been in the past, “per reporting by *The Clarion-Ledger* on October 2, 2022.

Hinds County District 2 Supervisor David Archie, on-point echoing the concerns of many in our black city, stated at the meeting, “If you’re going to come into this community, please sir, I’m asking you not to come into this community like you’ve got all the answers.”

What was the adage, “you can’t fit a square peg in a round hole.” There’s ample indication that this Capitol Police chief and public safety commissioner, both of whom are European American, intend to “clean up Dodge.” Who among us could argue that we need to do something about the level of crime and that we have plenty of cleaning up to do? As of this writing, we are at 130 homicides this year, barely below last year’s – highest per capita homicide rate in the country.

It is the way in which we bring about change that becomes important, especially when the vast majority of the murders are by young black men against young black men, and especially against Mississippi’s undeniable history of racism and oppression.

When asked for his perspective on the Capitol Police, Harvey Johnson Jr., three times elected as mayor of Jackson, shared that “I’m concerned and the reason for concern gets down to accountability.” He went on to say that “this is coming at a time when law enforcement agencies are under increased scrutiny all across the country, and in this case (Capitol Police) the concept of one person one vote gets circumvented because the structure tears down the voice of many who are impacted.” When asked about investigations into their own behavior, he indicated that “Capitol Police and Mississippi Bureau of Investigation report to the same agency head at the Department of Safety, and that presents a possible conflict. It is confusing to the citizens when a third party is carrying out law enforcement duties.”

Mindful that good ole Marshall Dillon never stopped trying to clean up Dodge City; one dead body at a time, let’s keep our eyes wide open as we try to make Jackson a safer place for all residents.

Mississippi

Continued from page 1

appellate court system that reviews decisions of law and fact made by the trial courts. The Mississippi Supreme Court is the court of last resort among state courts. Decisions of the Chancery, Circuit and County Courts and of the Court of Appeals may be appealed to the Supreme Court,” per MS Supreme Court website.

These two Courts hear and/or review hundreds of cases each year, and address thousands of motions within those cases. For all those receiving a sentence, justice has been handed down. Rulings have been made, and orders are then entered from the bench. Sometimes that’s the end of it, other times there are appeals which could make their way to the Supreme Court. These judges and justices spend countless hours reading, studying, researching, listening, questioning, and deciding. They digest millions of words each year on the bench, and many are connected to incarceration.

In the United States we incarcerate 655 people for every 100,000 in population, by far the highest incarceration rate in the entire world, per US News & World Report. World Atlas agrees with that number and indicates that Mississippi, Louisiana, and Oklahoma have the highest incarceration rates, inside the highest incarcerating country, in the world – an average of 1,056 people for every 100,000 in population. Even if we slipped down the list twenty-five places, we would still be the world’s leading incarcerator.

And we know that blacks are incarcerated at disproportionate levels versus population. Stackerc.com dove into Mississippi’s incarceration rate earlier this year and reported that Blacks are incarcerated in Mississippi at a rate of 2.8:1; nearly three blacks incarcerated for

every white. This is compared to population itself where there are 1.54:1; over one and half whites in MS for every black.

Eighty percent of the judges on the Mississippi Court of Appeals are European American, yet the white population in Mississippi is 58.8%, per the most recent Census. Twenty percent are African-American, yet the black population in Mississippi is 38%, per the most recent Census.

Just under 89% of the justices on the Mississippi Supreme Court are European American, and again, the white population is 58.8%. Just over 11% (11.11% to be precise) are African-American, and again, the black population is 38%. African Americans on the Mississippi Supreme Court have been stuck at that number since 1985. It’s been 37 years since Justice Reuben V. Anderson was appointed by former Democratic Governor William Allain. One hundred and thirty-four white justices sat on the Mississippi Supreme Court prior to Justice Anderson, and that 11.11% remains today.

Ideally, African Americans should be better represented on these Court’s, reflecting the true population of the state. But ideals don’t seem to matter that much in Mississippi, with its tortured history of racism and oppression. Wouldn’t it be amazing if it became the will of the state, perhaps derived from atonement, to correct this obvious disparity in future appointments by Governors? We are short of many things in Mississippi, but we are not short of brilliant and highly qualified African American attorneys and jurists in the lower Court’s. What a signal that would send to the rest of the world. A clarion departure from the status quo, which is the very thing that keeps Mississippi at the bottom.

A picture is worth a thousand words.

Hosemann conveys his commitment to education

J-H MVSU Alumni’s 31st Business Scholarship Luncheon, ‘a huge success.’

By Gail H.M. Brown, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer

Before a large crowd, Mississippi Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann highlighted his commitment to education as he keyed the Jackson-Hinds Chapter of the Mississippi Valley State University National Alumni Association, Inc.’s 31st Annual Business Scholarship Luncheon, Friday, Dec. 2.

As Hosemann conveyed his commitment to education, he ensured students like Keyjuan Meeks (SGA president) are afforded the opportunity to be successful. “His speech was both encouraging and uplifting,” said Chapter President Della Weddington.

SGA President Meeks and Mister MVSU, Emmanuel Asuquo provided greetings from the university for the scholarship luncheon.

Noted media personality News Anchor Maggie Wade of WLBT-TV3 served as emcee.

“Maggie Wade did a spectacular job presiding over the event,” said Weddington.

An excited Weddington told *The Mississippi Link* that the event was the most successful luncheon for our chapter to date. “With 200 in attendance and other donors, we raised more than \$50,000 for MVSU



National Alumni Association President Jerry Redmond Jr. presenting Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann with a Valley football helmet and backpack. Joining him are Dr. Jerryl Briggs, president of Mississippi Valley State University and Della Weddington, president of the Jackson-Hinds Chapter of the MVSUNAA.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF J-H MVSU ALUMNI

scholarships and program support,” she said.

Dr. Jerryl Briggs, president of MVSU, expressed his gratitude to the lieutenant governor, and he provided university updates. His updates included plans for the construction of a new dormitory and renovations of several buildings.

Jerry Redmond Jr., president of the MVSU National Alumni Association, challenged all MVSU graduates to become

active members of the national alumni association. “We need 5000 members by 2025,” Redmond stressed.

Redmond also presented Hosemann with special tokens of appreciation from MVSU.

Several attending agreed that the event was a prime example of “One Goal, One Team, One Valley, In Motion.”

Jackson-Hinds MVSU Chapter President Della Weddington also contributed to this article.



Alumni and Friends enjoying the luncheon
PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY



Della Weddington and Maggie Wade pause for a photo op



Alumni and Friends enjoying the luncheon



Mister MVSU Emmanuel Asuquo bringing greetings



MVSU SGA President brings greetings

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make it harder for
people to successfully
live and thrive.

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~~felon~~
~~offender~~
~~inmate~~
~~convict~~

DROP THE HARMFUL LABELS.
PUT #PEOPLEFIRST.

U.S. Small Business Administration’s landmark collaboration with historically black fraternities and sororities

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

IMS Engineers, Inc., located at 126 E Amite Street in Jackson, Miss., hosted a small business roundtable between the U.S. Small Business Administration Mississippi District Office and chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. from 12:30-2 p.m. Wednesday, November 30, 2022. The chapters are Alpha Epsilon Lambda; Delta Phi; Omicron Gamma and Rho Xi Lambda. The roundtable referenced a new, national initiative brought forth by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

This first of its kind alliance between the SBA and the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)’s Council of Presidents, comprised of nine historically black fraternities and sororities, sometimes called the Divine Nine, focuses on improving financial literacy within traditionally underserved, disadvantaged communities.

The initiative expands the Federal Government Agency’s outreach and introduces black entrepreneurs to the SBA’s suite of tools and resources to start and grow their businesses, including access to capital, government contracting opportunities and counseling.

The Divine Nine are the following organizations: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

The agreement resulted from Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman’s signed Strategic Alliance Memorandum (SAM) –



Small Business Roundtable speakers (L-r): Rhonda Fisher (SBA – Supervisory Lender Relations specialist); Ashlei Donerson (SBA – deputy district director); Korey Adams (president & Ceo - Distinction, LLC); Rickey Jones (Jackson State University SBDC director); Janita R. Stewart (SBA – district director); Allen Thomas (SRA regional administrator)



Listener raises concerns regarding collaborative stages of his project.

an authority unique to the SBA among federal agencies – with President Reuben A. Shelton III, Esq. and Chair of the Council of Presidents of the NPHC and Grand Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Guzman heads the U.S. ABA and is the voice for America’s 32.5 million small businesses in President Joe Biden’s Cabinet.

“This agreement was composed for the Divine Nine to have unit knowledge and access to government contracts, get training and walk through these programs for eligibility,” mentioned Allen Thomas, regional administrator (Southeast Region). The Biden appointee acknowledged further

that this year’s objective is to launch the Southern, Midwestern and Eastern regions.

“I want to encourage creativity. There’s no limit to what we can do,” he disclosed to discussants.

Janita R. Stewart, SBA Mississippi district director, asserted: “In accordance with the SBA’s Office of Advocacy, there are over 270,000 small businesses in Mississippi with about 73,000 that are black-owned.” “A key action point in addressing the wealth gap,” she continued, “is having the knowledge and awareness of the opportunities that are out there. This takes time, effort, energy, being persistent and consistent, along with exercising patience with



Allen Thomas, regional administrator from The Biden Administration, expresses excitement about overseeing SBA programs, offices and operations in the Southeastern Region. PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT



Alphas pensively engaged as listener reflects on speakers’ comments.

what you are trying to achieve and not giving up.”

Often represented on thousands of university campuses, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), with members in leadership roles across civic and business organizations and the faith community, the NPHC boasts over 2.5 million active members and scores of alumni members. These engaged leaders are critical allies in helping to build trust within key communities and introducing small business owners to critical resources to bolster their business outcomes while seeking closure to the wealth gap.

“The National Pan Hellenic

Council and its affiliate organizations are very excited about this opportunity with the U.S. Small Business Administration. This collaboration will give NPHC members critical access to information that will promote small business growth and create jobs in all sectors of our economy,” stated Shelton.

“Small businesses didn’t have anyone to teach them how to navigate. Jackson State University’s program has been around 40 years. We have programs at USM, Hinds [and other institutions]. We can assist you with your vision to help you articulate your needs, said Rickey Jones (Small Business Development Center direc-

tor, JSU).


Jones advised listeners to write proposals for negotiation, in order to be well-prepared when they go to banks to engage in negotiation. “It matters to sit down and have the conversation,” he said.

“For financing, we recommend that you approach that bank with your business plans. The bank will then work with you based on your needs,” highlighted Rhonda Fisher (Supervisory Lender Relations Specialist, SBA Mississippi).


Ashlei Donerson (deputy district director, SBA Mississippi) advised discussants to be knowledgeable of the market for profit and to know who their competitors are for their businesses. “Money is out there,” she stated. “But you have to venture out to see what works for your company. We want to increase fair opportunities and to get you on the road for applying for certificates.”

In deepening its engagement and support of African-American, black and historically disadvantaged small business owners, the SBA has expanded the number of Women’s Business Centers (WBCs) under Guzman’s leadership. The complete listing includes: Miles College, Fairfield, AL; Savannah State University, Savannah, GA; Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland; Bowie State University, Bowie, Maryland; Jackson State University, Jackson, Miss.; Alcorn State University, Lorman, Miss.; Bennett College, Greensboro, NC; Winston-Salem State University, Winston Salem, NC; Benedict College, Columbia, SC and Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA.

For further information contact Janita R. Stewart at 601-965-5371 or Rickey Jones at 601-979-1100.



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DOJ appointee eyes one-year window for Jackson water upgrades

By Michael Goldberg
Associated Press/Report for America

The manager appointed by the U.S. Department of Justice to oversee reforms to the beleaguered water system in Mississippi's capital city said he hopes to wrap up work in one year or less.

Ted Henifin outlined his intended time frame during a news conference Monday, echoing the Justice Department's order appointing him as interim manager of the Jackson water system. The order sets 12 months for Henifin to implement 13 projects for improving the system's near-term stability.

Henifin's work began after the Justice Department won a federal judge's approval last week to carry out a rare intervention to fix Jackson's water system, which nearly collapsed in late summer and continues to struggle.

For days last August, people waited in lines for water to drink, bathe, cook and flush toilets in Jackson, a majority-black city of about 150,000. The partial failure of the water system followed torrential rains and flooding of the Pearl River, which exacerbated problems at one of the city's two treatment plants.

Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, who appeared alongside Henifin at the news conference, added that he saw the city's work with the federal government to improve the water sys-

tem as an effort that would take longer than one year.

"We're going to try to keep Ted as long as we can, but from a negotiating standpoint, the city has looked at trying to have a longer-term understanding of the various components of what needs to be accomplished with our water treatment facility," Lumumba said. "We anticipate a working relationship with the federal government that is beyond one year."

Henifin's work is meant to be an interim step while the federal government, the city of Jackson and the Mississippi State Department of Health negotiate a court-enforced consent decree to mandate upgrades to the water system.

The negotiations stem from a complaint the Justice Department filed on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency against Jackson, alleging that the city has failed to provide drinking water that is reliably compliant with the Safe Drinking Water Act. That litigation will be put on hold for six months.

The work Henifin will oversee includes a winterization project to make the water system less vulnerable and a plan to increase staffing at the city's treatment plants, which have suffered from a dearth of skilled workers.

Henifin first arrived in Jackson Sept. 14 at the request of the US Water Alliance, a Washing-

ton-based nonprofit that works on sustainability and water management. He stayed for over two weeks and returned again in October and November to learn more about the water system and the city.

Henifin spent 15 years as general manager of the Hampton Roads Sanitation District in Virginia before retiring in February. He will be paid \$400,000 including travel and living expenses to run Jackson's water system. The City of Jackson will not pay for Henifin's work, a condition Henifin said he demanded of the Justice Department before accepting the interim manager position.

"DOJ wanted to argue that it is sort of (Jackson) taxpayer's fault," Henifin said. "C'mon now. Yeah, everyone pays it, the U.S. tax(payers, the treasury, but it's not coming out of the City of Jackson's revenue."

Lumumba and Henifin will host a town hall meeting Wednesday to discuss the city's agreement with the Justice Department and EPA over plans to fix the water system.

Henifin said the EPA is still testing Jackson water on a regular basis.

"I tell everybody this is the most tested water in America right now," Henifin said. "So if you're worried about drinking water, come to Jackson because this water is really high quality, and it's very well tested."

Mississippi paroling fewer inmates despite more eligibility

The Associated Press

Mississippi is paroling fewer inmates now than it did before expanding parole eligibility in 2021. The state Parole Board chairman told lawmakers Tuesday the board is more closely examining inmates' prison records.

Jeffrey Belk told a legislative committee the board is not seeking to release a particular percentage of applicants, the *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal* reported.

"We do pay attention to the numbers, and they're important," Belk told the newspaper. "But we don't let that drive our decisions."

Senate Corrections Vice Chairman Daniel Sparks, a Republican from Belmont, told Belk he was concerned about the decreased parole rate because the prison population could increase over time.

Mississippi has one of the highest incarceration rates in the U.S. and the Department of Justice has described the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman as unsafe because of low staffing levels.

Criminal justice advocates have criticized the new Parole Board for the decreasing parole rate.

Belk became chairman in January. He said Tuesday that previous Parole Board members were not reviewing cases thoroughly.

"If you've got a high parole rate and you don't have parole members present, there's no way you can be fully looking at and vetting each case that comes before you," Belk said.

He referenced a report from PEER, a legislative watchdog committee, which found that during one work week in 2020, all five members of the board were never fully in attendance or at the office for parole hearings. The board at the time objected to PEER's findings, arguing that board members work full time, often until 6:30 p.m.

Belk said roughly 40% of the eligible inmates who come before the board now are granted parole.

Mississippi law requires people convicted of nonviolent crimes and nonhabitual drug offenses to serve either

25% of their sentence or 10 years before becoming parole eligible.

People convicted of a violent crime must serve half the sentence or 20 years, and those convicted of robbery with a deadly weapon must serve 60% or 25 years.

Belk said he wants to streamline the process through presumptive parole. State law allows qualifying offenders to be granted parole without a hearing, provided criteria are met.

Prison staff develop a plan for inmates to complete before release. The plan includes education and job training. If prisoners complete the plan, have no violations on their prison record in the last six months and local law enforcement does not object to presumptive parole, then the board can allow release without a hearing.

The process would still allow the board to review cases but would reduce the number of hearings.

PEER's 2021 report noted presumptive parole had largely been ignored.



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The Mississippi Link™

Volume 29 • Number 8

December 8 - 14, 2022

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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton

Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett

Sports EditorTim Ward

Graphics.....Marcus Johnson

Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: publisher@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster: Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link, P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307. Advertising: For all advertising information, please call (601) 896-0084.

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Member:



Racist sentenced to life in prison for Buffalo mass killing of African Americans

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A white man who traveled to a Buffalo grocery store in May and killed 10 African Americans, including Black Press writer Katherine Massey, pled guilty to 25 criminal counts Monday and will spend the rest of his life in prison.

A grand jury previously indicted Payton Gendron, 19, on domestic terrorism, first-degree murder, attempted murder, hate crimes and weapons possession.

A single domestic terrorism motivated by hate charge carries an automatic life sentence upon conviction.

Prosecutors said Gendron acknowledged that he committed the heinous crimes “for the future of the white race.”

A lawyer for the victims indicated relief that the state’s case didn’t go to trial.

“It avoids a lengthy trial that they believe would be very difficult for the families,” said Terrence Connors, an attorney representing the victims’ families.

“I think it was pretty clear they had no real defense.”

The self-described white supremacist, Gendron, previously pled not guilty to federal hate crime charges. Federal law allows for the death penalty in those cases.

He still faces 27 federal counts, including ten counts of hate crimes resulting in deaths, three counts of hate crimes involving an attempt to kill, and 13 counts of using, carrying, or discharging a firearm related to a hate crime.

Prosecutors said Gendron possessed a 180-page manifesto that revealed troubling perceptions the self-avowed white supremacist had.

He complained of the dwindling size of the white population and included his fears of ethnic and cultural replacement of white people.

Gendron described himself as a fascist, a white supremacist, and an anti-Semite.

His live-streamed shooting spree has left at least ten dead and several



Prosecutors said Payton Gendron, 19, acknowledged that he committed the heinous crimes “for the future of the white race.”

more wounded.

Unlike the many unarmed black people killed during encounters with law enforcement, the white racist is alive to plead not guilty in court.

“While past violent white supremacist attacks seem to have factored into this heinous act, we must acknowledge that extremist rhetoric espoused by some media and political leaders on the right promoting theories that vilify or dehumanize segments of our society like ‘the great replacement theory’ is a factor too,” wrote U.S. House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson in an earlier statement.

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) National Deputy Director Edward Ahmed Mitchell added that the organization condemns the white supremacist terrorist attack targeting black men and women in Buffalo and the racist rhetoric that has sparked such violence.

“The constant repetition of white supremacist conspiracy theories on social media and even mainstream media outlets has led to horrific violence in places as distant as Christ-

church, El Paso, Oslo and Charleston,” Mitchell asserted earlier.

“Those who promote racism, white supremacy, antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of bigotry must be held accountable for the violence they inspire.”

Mitchell added that CAIR has often spoken against those who promote the “great replacement” and other racist conspiracy theories.

Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown told National Newspaper Publishers Association’s live daily morning show, Let It Be Known, that Gendron surveilled both the community and the grocery store as part of the attack’s planning.

Brown said the teen surveilled the area for several days and targeted a busy place in an area predominantly populated by black people.

Gendron’s manifesto noted, “Zip code 14208 in Buffalo has the highest black percentage that is close enough to where I live.”

According to the U.S. Census, the zip code is 78 percent black and among the top 2 percent of zip codes nationwide with the highest percentage of the black population. In addition, it has the highest rate

of the black population of any zip code in upstate New York.

“Well, this manifesto tells everything to us. And that is what’s so bone-chilling about it is that there is the ability for people to write and subscribe to such philosophies filled with hate,” New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said after the shootings.

“The white supremacist acts of terrorism that are being fermented on social media and to know that what this one individual did has been shared with the rest of the world as well as the live-streaming of this military-style execution that occurred in the streets of my hometown.”

Massey, one of Gendron’s victims, spent her life trying to clean up and help her community. While she retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Massey, 72, remained active in her community as the Cherry Street block club president and as a columnist for the *Buffalo Challenger*, an NNPA member newspaper.

“She was the greatest person you will ever meet in your life,” her nephew, Demetrius Massey, told reporters.

Lawsuit alleges U.S. Government discriminated against black veterans for decades



This lawsuit seeks to hold the VA accountable for years of discriminatory conduct.

NNPA Newswire

A new lawsuit against the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) alleges that the U.S. government discriminated against black veterans for decades.

On November 28, the suit was filed by Yale Law School’s Veterans Legal Services Clinic (VLSC) on behalf of Vietnam War veteran Conley Monk Jr, whose applications for education, housing and disability benefits have been denied since he returned home from the war, per The Hill.

According to the suit, discrimination by the VA has left black veterans without benefits more frequently than their white counterparts.

Yale’s VLSC said the lawsuit could “provide a legal pathway for black veterans to seek reparations from the VA.”

“This lawsuit seeks to hold the VA accountable for years of discriminatory conduct,” Adam Henderson, a law student working with the VLSC on the case, said in a statement, per the Hill.

“VA leaders knew, or should have known, that they were administering benefits in a discriminatory manner, yet they failed to address this unlawful bias,” Henderson added. “Mr. Monk, and thousands of black veterans like him, deserve redress for the harms caused by these negligently administered programs.”

According to internal VA data obtained by the Washington Post, black applicants seeking disability benefits were denied 30 percent of the time from 2002 to 2020. White applicants were denied 24 percent of the time.

VA press secretary Terrence Hayes said the agency is working to combat “institutional racism.”

“Throughout history, there have been unacceptable disparities in both VA benefits decisions and military discharge status due to racism, which have wrongly left black veterans without access to VA care and benefits,” Hayes said. “We are actively working to right these wrongs.”

Small Arkansas city elects youngest black mayor in U.S. history

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

At 18, Jaylen Smith recognizes the need for civic involvement. He believes his small city of Earle, Arkansas, would benefit from improved public safety measures and less blight.

Smith will now have the chance to implement those improvements after becoming the youngest black mayor in America. He earned that distinction by defeating his friend, Nemi Matthews Sr., who works as the city’s street superintendent.

“I’m your newly elected mayor, and it’s time to build,” Smith declared following his Dec. 6 election victory. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Earle is a small city of 2,164 residents just 28 miles west of Memphis, Tennessee.

According to the Encyclopedia of Arkansas, Earle was named after English-born Josiah Francis Earle, who had land holdings in the area. Earle had served in the Mexican War and with the Arkansas militia and regular Confederate cavalry during the Civil War.

Following the war, Earle became active in the Ku Klux Klan, and on one occasion in Memphis, he was rescued by Klansmen before he could be executed by hanging.

Earle died in 1884 and left his considerable holdings to his wife and four children. When the railroad through Earle was built in 1888, Earle’s widow constructed a small depot to encourage trains to stop there; she named it for her late husband.

The most recent train depot was built in 1922 and was abandoned when passenger and freight stops were discontinued in the 1960s; the old depot now operates as the Crittenden County Museum.

Today, the city has an unemployment rate (5.8%) below the national average and enjoys recent job growth. The cost of living in the predominantly Democratic city is nearly 27% lower than the national average, and the median home cost is \$68,400.

Additionally, Earle Public Schools spend \$13,778 per student, about \$1,300 more than the average school expenditure in the United States.

“It’s time to build a better chapter of Earle, Arkansas,” Smith declared. He said he intends to improve public safety, tear down abandoned houses, and open a new grocery store.

“You’re never too young to want to make a difference in your community,” Smith asserted.

Jan. 6 House Select Committee to recommend criminal charges to DOJ



PHOTO: CREATOR: FRANK SCHULENBURG / COPYRIGHT: CC BY-SA 4.0

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The January 6 House Select Committee has decided to make criminal referrals to the Department of Justice.

Based upon the mountain of damning testimony and evidence compiled against Donald Trump, it’s believed that the committee will push for the unprecedented prosecution of a former president.

Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Mississippi) told reporters that the committee had not narrowed down all those who they may recommend for prosecution.

He hinted that some of the witnesses committed perjury when they were called to testify.



Smith

PTSD and serious illness

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

When most people think of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) we think of a soldier returning from combat. PTSD can happen to anyone, especially if you’ve had a serious medical experience. We will all get sick at some point in our lives. It can be as simple as a cold or something as traumatic as cancer or COVID-19. These events can cause big emotional problems.

When you have recurrent, unwanted distressing memories of an illness or relive your illness as if it were happening again you might have PTSD. If you have upsetting dreams or nightmares about your illness you may have PTSD. If you have severe emotional distress or physical reactions to something that reminds you of your illness you may have PTSD. If you have severe fear, anxiety, depression or unable to form close or satisfying relationships you may have PTSD.

Ways to cope with PTSD:

1. Learn about trauma and PTSD – The more you know about your condition will reduce your anxiety. The unknown will increase your stress. Talk to your doctor until you understand what is happening to you. You can also look up your condition. You should learn everything you can.



Exercise is key to maintaining healthy cholesterol levels.

2. Join a PTSD support group – Connecting with people through a support group helps you cope while gaining informative insight and reduce isolation.

3. Practice relaxation techniques – Numerous studies have suggested that meditation can reduce the symptoms of PTSD. Meditation reduces stress hormones by calming the sympathetic nervous system, which is responsible for our ‘fight-or-flight’ responses to danger.

4. Exercise – Physical activity significantly reduced depressive PTSD symptoms. We know that exercise has a host of benefits for physical health. Research is now showing that mental health is affected by exercise. A complete workout should include exercises for each body

part. I strongly recommend that you have a professional show you what to include in your routine and that you get an OK from your physician before you start.

5. Confide in a person you trust – Share more about yourself with a close trusted friend. You can also make small connections with others. Sharing the details of your life with others shows vulnerability, which will foster a deep connection and help minimize PTSD.

6. Spend time with positive people – Research suggests that healthy, positive relationships can lay a foundation for coping with PTSD. A recent study in 2019 found that people with higher levels of perceived social support experi-

enced less intense symptoms of PTSD. If you find that a friend is not being supportive stop the association.

7. Avoid alcohol and drugs – Alcohol and drug use can increase some PTSD symptoms. Alcohol and drug can numb your emotions and cut you off from others. Substance abuse does not lead to re-traumatization, but it can worsen your symptoms of PTSD. Attempting to self-medicate yourself can be a cause of why people with PTSD also abuse substances. The idea is that by abusing substances, a person with PTSD, will null or avoid PTSD symptoms. Don’t drink alcohol or do drugs when you have PTSD

8. Get a pet – Consider getting a pet they can be more than company. These are real connections. If you don’t have time to care for a pet full-time consider sharing a pet. There are several sites that’ll help you to meet people near you who are interested in doing this. You can also volunteer at your local animal shelter. Both of these activities are a great way to connect with animals and animal lovers.

9. Eat right – You need 2 servings of protein, 4 to 6 servings of vegetables, 3 to 6 servings of fruit, 2 to 4 servings of grain, and 2 servings of dairy products everyday. Using this servings guide you’ll have a plan that is low in

fat, sodium and sugar. If you don’t add the fat, sodium and sugar, they won’t be part of your menu. Use herbs and other vegetables, such as onions, bell peppers and celery to season your food.

10. Get enough sleep – The amount of sleep needed each night varies among people. Research has shown that when healthy adults are allowed to sleep unrestricted, the average time slept is 8 to 9 hours.

11. Avoid tobacco – Smoking is associated with depression and psychological stress.

12. Be part of something big – Meaningful activities will bring you in contact with like-minded people. Volunteer in a hospital, volunteer at a food pantry, tutor a child who is struggling in school or join a gardening group. Whatever activity you choose stay involve for several weeks and if you’re not feeling more connected by the end of that time, then look for something else that might be more to your liking.

When you have PTSD you have lots of options for your treatment.

If you think you have PTSD talk with someone who cares about you. Consider making an appointment with a professional. You may be going through a momentary depressive mood or something more serious. You don’t want to take any chances.

When your friends do not understand your mental health

By Stan Popovich
Houston Forward Times Contributor

Do you struggle with your mental health and have a difficult time in getting the people you know to be more understanding?

In some cases, your colleagues might give you a hard time regarding your anxieties and depression.

As a result, here are seven suggestions on how to deal with the people you know regarding your mental health issues:

1. Listen to the professionals and not your friends: Your peers may mean well, but when it comes down to it, the professionals are aware of your circumstances more than anyone. A counselor knows what you are going through and can help you deal with your problems. When you have questions about your mental health, consult with a therapist.

2. Don’t argue with others: It is important that you do not get into arguments with those who are giving you a rough time. Your number one priority is to get relief from your anxieties. It is not your job to worry about how others may view your circumstances. Your health is more important than what other people may think.

3. Your goal is to get better: Concentrate on how you can face your fears and anxieties. Don’t waste your time arguing with your colleagues who are giving you a difficult time. This isn’t a public relations event where you need to get approval from everyone. This is your life and you are the one suffering. Your main focus is to get better.

4. Tell your friends to learn about your situation: Explain



Talk to a professional who can help relieve your depression and anxieties. They will be able to provide you with suggestions and insights on how to deal with your current problem.

to your peers that the best way for them to help you is to learn about your mental health issues. They could talk to a counselor, read some good books, or join a support group to better understand your situation. If your friends won’t make an effort, then stay away from them because they will only make things worse.

5. Distance yourself from those who give you a difficult time: Distance yourself from those who won’t make an effort to help understand what you are going through. You need to surround yourself with positive and supportive people. If you have problems or issues with a particular person, you can always ask a counselor for advice.

6. You are not alone: It can be very frustrating to manage your fear-related issues when the people you know are on your case. Remember, you are not alone. There are millions of people around the world who struggle with their fears, anx-

ieties, and depression. The key is to find those people who can relate to you through various organizations in your area.

7. Join a local mental health support group: There are many mental health awareness support groups in your area. Many hospitals, churches, and counselors in your area will be able to provide you with a list of these organizations. These groups will be aware of your situation and can give you additional advice regarding your problems. In addition, talk to a professional who can help relieve your depression and anxieties. They will be able to provide you with suggestions and insights on how to deal with your current problem.

Stan Popovich is the author of the popular managing fear book, “A Layman’s Guide to Managing Fear.” For more information about Stan’s book and to get some more free mental health advice, please visit Stan’s website at <http://www.managingfear.com>.

Why you should step up your self-care game during the holiday season

StatePoint

While the holiday season is full of fun, festivities and meaningful time spent with family and friends, it’s often accompanied by work and school deadlines, tedious to-do lists and shopping stress. Here are a few reasons to step up your self-care routine during this busy period so you can usher in the new year, happily and healthily:

Catch Some Zs

The holidays come on the heels of the end of Daylight Saving Time, and your body may still be adjusting to the time change. Plus, with all the commitments of the season, you may be more likely to be pulling early mornings and late nights. These factors combined could be leaving you feeling drowsy during the day. Even more concerning, lack of sleep over time can contribute to a number of chronic health issues. Set yourself up for greater alertness and better health this winter by carving out time for sufficient, high-quality sleep. Having trouble nodding off? Check out sleep aid apps that offer soundtracks, guided meditation and breathing exercises.

Gain smile confidence

According to a 2020 Cigna Dental Report, smile satisfaction is one of the top three drivers of self confidence among U.S. adults. So while practicing good oral care and maintaining a solid beauty and self-care routine is always important, it’s especially so during a time of year when you may be eating extra sweets and smiling more for the camera.

The good news is that you can give yourself the gift of a healthy, beautiful smile



you can feel confident about, starting at an affordable price with the new Oral-B iO4 + iO5 electric toothbrush series. Multiple brushing modes offer a personalized clean, and when you brush for 2 minutes, which is what the American Dental Association recommends, the brush lights up to celebrate the accomplishment. What’s more, the iO Series 5 provides you with real-time tracking and coaching via the Oral-B app, helping you commit to better oral care throughout the holidays and beyond.

The many innovative features of an Oral-B iO toothbrush, which include a pressure sensor that helps guide optimal brushing to protect gums and teeth, will help ensure you get a purifying, clean feel like you just left the dentist. In fact, 96% of Oral-B

iO users feel more confident about their oral health when using an iO brush. *To learn more, visit oralb.com.*

Reduce stress

The holidays are supposed to be fun, and yet, stress often creeps its way into the festivities. To be more present for all the joyful moments the season has to offer, keep your stress levels in check by prioritizing a bit of “me time” each day. Whether you use that time to take a brisk walk around the neighborhood, check out that fitness class you’ve been wanting to try or to curl up with a good book, you’ll be giving your mind and spirit the mental refresh that it needs.

During the season of giving, don’t neglect your own needs. For greater health and happiness, give your beauty and self-care routine a tune-up over the holidays.

P R E S E R V E D

The truth of “The Light We Carry”

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Comments like “I know that’s right” echoed throughout the Fox Theater in Atlanta the first weekend of December as the sold-out audience responded to the insightful statement “Fear keeps you safe, but it also keeps you stuck” made by forever First Lady Michelle Obama as part of the tour for her book *The Light We Carry*. Laughter and affirmation filled the theater as Obama offered insights about love and life as she enthralled a sold-out audience in a conversation that was moderated by billionaire entertainment mogul Tyler Perry.

Keeping with the honesty that she offered in her first memoir ‘Becoming, Obama’ shared even more insights from her latest book on many topics including how she’s adjusted to life after The White House. Part of that

adjustment was dealing with uncertainty as a result the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide shutdown. In discussing the effects of the pandemic, Obama admitted that like so many others, she suffered from low grade depression which made her reevaluat areas of her life.

When asked by Perry what she thought the root cause was of the depression, she indicated that it was due in part to the realization that despite how hard she tried to do well as First Lady, for some it would never be enough. “You think that you showing up right will matter. For some it never will,” she explained. Those lingering thoughts as well as the pandemic shutdown made her question many things.

For example, the isolation made her reflect on her responses to fear. As pictures of her as a child were projected to the audience, Obama shared how her mother made her walk to elementary school by herself when she was five years old. “Is she

crazy?” was what she first thought when her mother told her that. Moreover, she recalled being afraid and feeling uncomfortable. However, she had to face those feelings and she acknowledged that confronting those feelings became a familiar way of life for her. When her father’s Multiple Sclerosis became progressively worse, she had to deal with similar feelings. Even more so, when those feelings resurfaced during the pandemic, she realized one important thing: having dealt with those feelings as a young child gave her the skills to successfully deal with the uncertainty of her father’s health and could help her in dealing with emotional swings caused by the pandemic.

In describing that period of her life, she explained that despite the sometimes uncomfortable feelings, uncertainty was the rocket fuel that can keep you going despite challenges. Most significantly, she added that she learned not to crumble when

difficulties happened.

As the attendees streamed out of the auditorium some were overheard expressing joy in hearing Obama boldly share her truth. Even though First Lady Obama didn’t quote chapter and verse of scripture as part of her presentation, she exemplified the powerful biblical wisdom of the truth setting you free. Sharing these truths about her life illustrates John 8:32 “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Freedom comes in both sharing and hearing truth.

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 preserved-bypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda. Find out more about her new podcast “The Chocolate Auntie Podcast” at www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com.

P A R T 2

Sin destroys unity

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



In the days of Jesus, there was a banding together of every faction. There were the Sadducees and the Pharisees. They did not have real fellowship because one group could not stand the other. There were also the Scribes and the Elders. Although they did not get along well, they laid aside their differences long enough to oppose or come against Jesus Christ. There is a banding together today in the ranks of religion called the World Council of Churches, but it is not composed of true Bible unity. Some members do not believe in being born again Unity begins at the Cross of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul asked these questions in 1 Corinthians 1:13, “Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?” Sectism, by their division, says that Christ is divided but to have unity, all must be born again and must live free from sin. Paul, writing to the Corinthians, addressed them as brethren. Those who have unity must be brothers and sisters in Christ. Psalms 133:1 says, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. All must unite

for the same purpose, and each one must be a member of God’s family, the Church of God.

There can be no substitute for salvation when it comes to unity. Having a good personality will not replace it, good works will not replace it, and self-righteousness will not replace it.

Unity must start with God, and all who have unity must live holy lives. You must walk in all the light that God has revealed to your soul. Sin destroys unity. Sin in the heart of Cain caused him to turn against his own fleshly brother and kill him. Covetousness got hold of Judas, and he became a traitor to Jesus Christ.

Sin is a destroyer. It will destroy what the Psalmist said is good and pleasant. Darkness destroys unity. It will cause one to work against those who are trying to help the work of God to prosper.

When unity prevails in a congregation, all the members have the same purpose in mind, and that one purpose is to build up the Kingdom of God and to see the Kingdom flourish. The main purpose is not just to increase in number, but to get people delivered from sin and brought into the oneness of God’s people.

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

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Coach Prime Sanders heads to Colorado

Bravo, congratulations and hurrah

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
Contributing Writer

Certain personalities and events bequeath everlasting impacts, and memorable legacies on peoples' minds, and yes lives. They touch, influence and stir humans as only a few legends do. They move, shake and lead often with efficiency and proficiency.

Deion Sanders' sojourn and accomplishments as Jackson State University's football coach for the past two years is one of such extraordinary feats. He bequeathed amazing legacies in the school and community which will take time to emulate and surpass. He made history. Cheers to this star legend.

A colorful showman who came to the university with pomp, panoply and pageantry, Sanders has left a record in the school's contemporary history. Like the achiever that he is, Sanders set laudable goals and objectives which he gallantly upheld during his historic stay.

Sanders' resounding output and productivity, which attracted the local, national and international news media, is simply magnificent. The Jackson State Tigers' score this year is 11 and zero. That is inspiringly phenomenal. They did not lose a single game.

Like the celebrated historian, Sanders came, saw and conquered with remarkable excellence and braggadocio. He definitely goes into the annals of Jackson State history books for reviving its football proficiency after a dead period of about four decades. During his short, but sweet, tenure, he infused new life into the capital city and indeed the entire community and state.

Having fulfilled his mission with unimpeachable integrity, achievement and dignity, Sanders leaves Jackson as a larger than life figure best honored as a legend. That indeed he is. His performance attracted calls from other institutions who will love to see him generate such a success story as he did in Jackson. Colorado came calling and he is leaving.

But whatever the case, let us congratulate and salute Coach Sanders, the team, Jackson State University authority and leaders as well as the staff, students and entire Jackson community. Their relentless quest for support enhanced his mission and vision. He came to the university with a plan and the authorities embraced and worked with him to assure its success.

Congratulations Coach Sanders. Having left indelible imprints in Jackson State University, it is time you move on with fortitude. Bravo and cheers to all those who inspired and supported Sanders to forge ahead with bravery and courage. Victory is all ours.

Colorado is a different setting with its own politics, economics, culture and expectations. The forces at play will definitely be novel. However, with his characteristic hard work, devotion, dedication, mission and vision, success will crown his endeavors.

As he cheerfully leaves for a new assignment in Colorado let him keep the faith, prepare for obstructions and map out winning strategies as he did at Jackson State. Most of all, I hope he continues charting fame's avenue with my best wishes in all his pursuits.

When Jackson State University's history of this era is written, a chapter must charm, glow and glitter in the annals for Sanders' manifold football accomplishments. That is admirable.

Congratulations and farewell Coach Sanders. We wish you a smashing success in your next pursuit.

Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob, is a graduate of E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University, Athens-Ohio. He currently teaches Communication at Alcorn State University, Lorman, Mississippi. He has taught several courses at the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria; The University of Northern Iowa, Long Island University, Brentwood Community College, Fordham University, Rutgers University and Alcorn State University. A journalist, photographer, poet and researcher, he is currently working on two projects. His latest publications are Communication, Culture & Human Rights and Positive Vibration. You may contact him at domatobj@gmail.com.

Talking about race openly keeps America moving forward

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



I don't know Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas Cowboys. What I do know is that he has a lot of money and is revered among fellow National Football League owners.

Jones graduated from high school in Arkansas, and I graduated from high school in North Carolina. Jones is white, and I am black. We both saw segregation and racial unrest. Both Arkansas and North Carolina were hotbeds for the mistreatment of black people.

Signs that signaled racial separation were prominent in my hometown of Winston-Salem N.C. Similar signs were in North Little Rock Arkansas. For example, the K&W cafeteria was off limits if you paid a skin tax like me.

When we went to the Carolina Theater, we had to sit in the balcony. To this day, I don't like German Shepherd dogs because the police

used them to intimidate us during our protests for equal rights.

Jones on the other hand didn't have to experience segregation because of the color of his skin. He was free to move about the country roads and city streets in his city and in his state, day or night. His color created a shield of protection for him, and my color created trouble for me.

If you are in the 4th quarter of your life, raised in the South, black or white, you have similar analogies to make. Life gives you experiences and if you are blessed, you gain a modicum of wisdom along the way.

Because of academics and athletics, I have interacted with many people who don't look like me. These experiences have helped to shape my views about race. I am comfortable and confident around men and women who don't share my skin color.

When Jones was a teenager, he was photographed at the scene of racial unrest. He was 14 years old and in 1957 was at North Little

Rock High School where 6 black students were attempting to be admitted.

This was 3 years after the US Supreme Court ended school segregation with the Brown v. Board of Education decision. There have been questions about Jones' presence there since that pictured surfaced last week.

Strangely, the press has remained largely silent as though they don't want to ask any questions about it.

LeBron James wondered why he wasn't asked about it since they peppered him with questions about anti-Semitic comments and posts by Kyrie Irving and Kanye West.

Why has Jones seemingly received a pass not to discuss it? Was the subject of race too delicate or were reporters afraid to ask him? These are appropriate questions, however, answers won't be forthcoming.

Jones has been queried about not hiring an African-American head coach. You know they are available. He points to the number of black coaches on the staff includ-

ing his strength and conditioning personnel. I don't know who those answers satisfy yet he has managed to keep the critics at arm's length. However, in my judgement, it's still a problem.

I believe the operative word in "head coach" is head. There is an emotional and psychological block he has when it comes to putting a black man in charge. This is my opinion.

There are many leaders who talk endlessly about diversity, equity and inclusion yet their organizations remain virtually unchanged. When you push topics of action, they push back with rhetoric.

It is important for us to listen to each other and to have the genuine patience to do so. Our experiences are different thus learning about them can help us to understand each other better.

I believe Jerry Jones should tell us about his experiences during that time. However, it does take courage and humility.

We could and should learn from Georgia voting

By Dr. John Warren
San Diego Voice and
Viewpoint/NNPA Member



As of the first day of voting in the Georgia runoff election between Senator Warnock and candidate Walker, over 239,000 people stood in long lines, some for hours, waiting to cast their vote. These are the same people who two years ago stood in line and elected a black man and a Jewish man to the U.S. Senate, giving President Biden and Vice President Harris control of the U.S. Senate.

Although Georgia lawmakers have

enacted such voter suppression laws as prohibitions against giving people food or water in lines waiting to vote, reduced ballot pickup boxes and efforts to stop churches from assisting voting on Sundays, and the failure to elect a black woman as governor for the second time, the people, black and white, continue to vote.

The "Black Votes Matter" campaign has not let up but appears determined to overcome any suppression efforts put in front of them.

In the recent midterm elections, we still had too few people bother to vote. In Uvalde, Texas, where a gunman killed students and teachers and the governor refused to take actions

against assault weapons like the one used in that massacre, at least 45 percent of those residents did not vote to remove the governor when they had a strong anti-gun alternative for governor on the ballot.

What we learn from the state of Georgia is that we must focus more on motivating and activating the strength of our numbers and not focus on what is being done against us. Georgia has implemented what Dr. King said in May of 1957. As a reminder, Dr. King said, "Give us the ballot" and we will elect judges and legislators who will pass laws for us. Isn't it time that the rest of us follow the Georgia example and get about

the business of making Dr. King's statement a reality where we live, just as the people of Georgia are doing?

While the elections are over, our issues and challenges are not, and some would have us accept the results and not keep working and planning for the next two years. Clearly, the people of Georgia and those areas where we did have wins like Pennsylvania sending its first black woman to Congress, or Maryland electing its first black governor, are reminders of what we can do and should be doing.

Let's not get away from the business of planning for the next election now. We too can demonstrate that all votes matter.

I forgive my spouse, but I still want a divorce

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
Guest Writer



Historically, many married couples have been advised for decades that if you make your bed hard, you must lie in it. Meaning if you get married, especially if it was not approved by parents or a religious leader, you must stay committed to the marriage despite any and all consequences. In addition, whether your bed is comfortable or uncomfortable, hard or soft, with covers or not covers, the bottom line is to take responsibility and lie in what you made. In other words, don't avoid your bed, don't run away from your bed, claim your bed, embrace your bed, don't trade your bed, don't exchange your bed, but gladly settle with your bed (marriage). For this reason many are married today, not out of love, but out of obligation.

Can you forgive your spouse and still pursue a divorce? The answer is absolutely yes. However, this yes must be thought out cautiously and carefully.

Ultimately, there are some things that spouses have done that, although you have forgiven, you cannot continue the marriage. For example, many spouses have forgiven infidelity, love child from infidelity, physical and mental abuse, spouse abandonment, financial issues, and addiction resulting in divorce being the only and best option for many.

America has witnessed increasing numbers of divorce since the 1960s and 1970s and although, some reports reflect that divorce rates are slightly decreasing; between 40 and 50 per-

cent of married couples are filing for divorce. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, divorce rates in Mississippi, based on provisional counts per 1,000 total population, is 3.3.

While divorce is a final solution for many, and some celebrate it with divorce parties (a ceremony that celebrates the end of a marriage or civil union), divorce comes with ugly attributes, which can be long term, like health issues. For instance, a Psychology Today study reports that the mortality rate for divorced men is nearly 250% greater than for married men and women have an increased risk of heart attacks after a divorce. Divorces also involve the following: major expenses, increased poverty, broken children (some never heal), broken marriages and homes, broken neighborhoods, broken communities, broken cities and states.

Again, when contemplating divorce, it must be thought out cautiously and carefully. Ask yourself the following questions, have you exhausted every option before filing for divorce? Do you and your spouse communicate about the good and bad? Is the spouse willing to try long-term counseling? Did you and your spouse start counseling and quit? Have you prayed without ceasing for your marriage? Have you truly forgiven your spouse? Can you see yourself living without your spouse? Can you and your spouse heal from this? Is the spouse who is causing most of the hurt and pain willing to change and hold themselves accountable for their actions? Do you and your spouse have a non-bias support group? Is your spouse willing to fight for your marriage? Are

you willing to fight for your marriage? Are you both willing to fight for your marriage? Is there any hope for your marriage?

Today, right now, many couples are separated (in the home and outside of the home), contemplating divorce, have filed for divorce, and are almost divorced. We can be confident that many couples have fantasized about divorcing, including the perfectly married couples (sorry they do not exist) we often look up to. However, divorce does not have to be your final decision, especially if both people are willing to fight for your marriage daily.

Me and my husband's marriage died several years ago. I mean it died, no life line, no signs of life; it rotted and decayed. I filed for divorce due to my husband committing adultery. It was a heart throbbing, emotional, painful, stressful, bittersweet, sickening and dreadful roller-coaster journey for me, our children and him (for sure him at the time). We were negotiating spousal support, child custody arrangements, residential arrangements and additional financial arrangements. It was a nightmare. We both wanted our marriage to be over. But, God did not want our marriage to end.

As matter of fact, I learned throughout this 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).

I began praying, fasting, devoting my life to God, examined my faults and wrongs (I want to make it clear – I did not make my husband cheat – not my fault at all), forgave myself, forgave my husband (transitioned from him to husband), prayed for my husband, prayed for our marriage and children, and I prayed, prayed, prayed, prayed, prayed, and I'm still praying.

The divorce was stopped and we have been on a healing journey of ups and downs, but God restored and is restoring us. Believe it or not, I would not change anything that happened in our marriage because I gained a closer (intimate) relationship with God. Our marriage is now full of life, and I have a deep, passionate desire like non-other to help other married couples stay happily married.

I am trusting God that my marriage is healing. My husband and I are renewing our vows during our pastor's appreciation program, Sunday, December 11, 2022, for our seventeenth anniversary with a Christmas themed fairy-tale ceremony, entitled, "When Loves Rules: The True Christmas Spirit Can Abide," (message inspired by my mother), similar to our Christmas themed wedding seventeen years ago. We are thrilled because our children, church members, family and friends will witness that God can raise the dead. (Please contact our church at 601 573-4231 if you are interested in attending.)

Concluding, I realize that every person's story is different and you have to make the choice that is best for you. If you have forgiven your spouse and still want a divorce; I support you 100%.

LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-62 OF THE JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES.

WHEREAS, Section 2-62 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances establishes locations and schedules of the **a b** n City Council meetings and

WHEREAS, the current guidelines and requirements establishing locations and schedules of the Jackson City Council meetings, as set forth in Section 2-62 of the City of **a b** n Code of Ordinance s is as follows

(a) Place of meetings. Unless notice to the contrary is given, all meetings of the city council shall be held in the council chamber. Certified, sworn law enforcement officers **b** all be present at the public entry doors of the council chamber before, during, and after regular and special called meetings of the council to ensure the safety of all in attendance. Attendane of individuals at regular and special called meetings of the council shall be limited to 20 persons, with the exception of council members, as well as members of the administration, members of the office of the clerk of council, and/or city staff.

(b) Regular meetings Regular meetings of the council shall be held on every other Tuesday. The regular meeting times shall alternate with the first regular city council meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m., with the second regular city council meeting of the month to be held at 6:00 p.m., and the next regular city council meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. Any additional regular city council meetings in the month shall also follow the alternating time schedule. At 4:00 p.m. on each Monday preceding a regular Tuesday council meeting the council will also hold a planning session to discuss the business to be considered at the following regular Tuesday council meeting. The planning session shall be limited to one and one-half hours.

(c) Zoning meetings Zoning sessions to be considered by the council shall be heard 42 days after the planning board makes its recommendation to the city council.

(d) Special meetings Special meetings of the council may be called at any time by the mayor or a majority of the members of the council. A notification of such meeting shall be reduced to writing and posted in a public place in City Hall. When possible, special meetings are to be held on those Mondays that do not precede a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday. Such notice shall include the time, place and general subject matter of such meetings. Members of the council shall be notified in the most expedient manner available, whether in writing or not; provided, however, that where possible the clerk shall give council members 24 hours' notice of such meetings. The 24-hour notice may be waived by the council when the council deems that an adequate notice has been given and when a quorum is present at the special meeting.

(e) Committee meetings Committee meetings may be called at any time by the chair of the committee, upon 48 hours' notice of the same to all council committee members. A notification of such meeting shall be reduced to writing and posted in a public place in city hall.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED BY THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL that Section 2-62 of the City of **a b** n Code of Ordinance shall be amended to establish the locations and schedules for meetings of the **a b** n City Council as follows

(a) Place of meetings. Unless notice to the contrary is given, all meetings of the city council shall be held in the council chamber. Certified, sworn law enforcement officers **b** all be present at the public entry doors of the council chamber before, during, and after regular and special called meetings of the council to ensure the safety of all in attendance. Attendane of individuals at regular and special called meetings of the council shall be limited to 20 persons, with the exception of council members, as well as members of the administration, members of the office of the clerk of council, and/or city staff.

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(e) Committee meetings Committee meetings may be called at any time by the chair of the committee, upon 48 hours' notice of the same to all council committee members. A notification of such meeting shall be reduced to writing and posted in a public place in city hall.

(f) Citizens Agenda Meetings will be held on the last Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the council chamber. At this time, the council will entertain public comments unrelated to items found on the regular council agenda, proclamations, special presentations or recommendations and resolutions honoring individuals businesses groups or organizations. The council may also call a Citizens Agenda Meeting on dates and at times and locations set by a majority of the members of the council. During this Citizens Agenda Meeting, members of the public may be permitted to give comment or input within the prescribed time limit of three (3) minutes per speaker. Proponents at this special called meeting must register with the clerk of council no later than 12 noon on the business day immediately preceding the special called meeting, and shall provide, in writing, his name, his address, and the number of the agenda item with reference to which he desires to speak. At any Citizens Agenda Meeting, the council may take action as is appropriate under the circumstances on any matter found on the agenda for that meeting. The agenda for the Citizens Agenda Meeting shall give notice that official action may be taken on matters found on the agenda.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL that this Ordinance Amending Section 2-62 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances shall become effective in accordance with the provisions of Section 21-13-11 of the Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), as amended.

Council Member Banks moved adoption; Council Member Linda yes needed.

Yeas – Banks Foote, Grizzle, Hartley, Lee and Linda y.
Nays – None.
Absent – Stokes

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of **a b** n, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting November 8, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6W, Pgs. 147-149".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 8th day of December, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

12/8/2022

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CITY OF JACKSON

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

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

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

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

The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: www.jacksonms.gov and may be picked up at the City of Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Services located at 1000 Metrocenter Drive Suite 101, Jackson MS

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

12/8/2022, 12/15/2022

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
City of Jackson Colonial Circle Bridge Replacement Project
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, January 10, 2023, at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of City of Jackson Colonial Circle Bridge Replacement Project. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

Contract time for this contract shall be 90 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 Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1638. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 218 South President Street, 2nd Floor, 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.

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: "City of Jackson Colonial Circle Bridge Replacement Project" Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal.

Bids and EBO 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.centralbidding.com. For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810.4814.

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

Each Bidder must deposit with his bid a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent of his 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.

Plans, specifications and contract documents are on file and open to public inspection at the Office of CIVILTech, Inc., 5420 Executive Place, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206. One (1) copy of the Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents may be procured upon payment of \$100.00 (by check, made payable to ("CIVILTech, Inc.."). All technical questions should be directed to Tony Lewis, (601) 713-1713, email: (tlewis@civiltechinc.net). The payment is non-refundable.

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.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Dec. 14, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. local time, in the 1st floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

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

Robert Lee, PE
City Engineer

12/1/2022, 12/8/2022

LEGAL

Banking Services-Depository Bid

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

City of **a b** n, Mississippi
Attention: Municipal Clerk
219 South President Street
Jackson, MS 39201

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

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

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

12/8/2022, 12/15/2022

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

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) Monday, January 17, 2023, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Restroom Improvements for Whitten Middle School will be held at 210 Daniel Lake Blvd, Jackson, MS 39212 on December 20, 2022 at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date

LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-71(c) OF THE CITY OF JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES.

WHEREAS, Section 2-71(c) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances establishes guidelines and requirements regarding speaking limitations public comments and council chamber conduct during meetings of the **a b** n City Council; and

WHEREAS, the current guidelines and requirements regarding speaking limitations public comments and council chamber conduct during meetings as set forth in Section 2-71 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances, is as follows:

(a) No member of the council shall be permitted to speak more than once on any subject, until all members desiring to speak have spoken. A member may not speak more than five minutes without obtaining the consent of the council, by majority vote.

(b) Any person desiring to address the council with reference to any item on the agenda for that meeting must register with the clerk prior to the regular meeting time and shall provide, in writing, his name, his address and the number of the agenda item with reference to which he desires to speak. When requested by the president, a member may speak only once with reference to any agenda item and for a portion of the time not to exceed three minutes unless a period of time is extended by a majority vote of the council. Sub public comments will be received prior to the consideration of ordinance orders or resolutions.

(c) Any person desiring to address the council with reference to any matter which is not on the agenda must register with the clerk prior to the regular meeting time and shall provide, in writing, his name, his address and the subject matter with reference to which he wishes to address the council. When requested by the president, a member may speak only once with reference to a matter and for a period of time not to exceed three minutes unless a period of time is extended by a majority vote of the council. Sub public comments will be received by the council immediately prior to its adjournment and at the conclusion of all other city business.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provisions, no person shall address the council with reference to any personnel matter during any open meeting of the council.

(e) No derogatory remarks concerning councilmembers or anyone present in the council chamber shall be permitted. The president shall suspend irrelevant speaking. A majority of the members of the council have the right to suspend irrelevant speaking at any council meeting.

(f) Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, or who uses abusive, vulgar, or profane language, or who shall become boisterous while addressing the council shall be forthwith, by the presiding officer or the clerk of council, barred from further audience before the council, unless permission to continue be granted by a majority vote of the council.

(g) The usage of cellular phones and paging devices shall be prohibited within the council chambers during council meetings. All speakers within the council chambers shall be placed on silent or vibrator mode during council meetings. The clerk shall place signs within city hall notifying the public of this rule. Any person violating this rule shall first receive a verbal warning from the presiding officer; upon any additional violations, the presiding officer may bar the person from the remainder of the council meeting for which he is in violation, and the person shall be required to place all cellular phones and paging devices with city hall security prior to entering any council meeting.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED BY THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL that Section 2-71 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances shall be amended to establish the speaking limitations public comments and council chamber conduct for meetings of the **a b** n City Council as follows

(a) No member of the council shall be permitted to speak more than once on any subject, until all members desiring to speak have spoken. A member may not speak more than five minutes without obtaining the consent of the council, by majority vote.

(b) Any person desiring to address the council with reference to any item on the agenda for that meeting must register with the clerk of council no later than 12 noon on the business day immediately preceding the regular council meeting, and shall provide, in writing, his name, his address and the number of the agenda item with reference to which he desires to speak. The number of inquiries allowed for public comment on an item on the agenda (whether by individuals organizations or other entities) during a regular or special called meeting of the Jackson City Council is limited to five (5), whether in-person or virtually. When recognized by the president, such person may speak only once with reference to any agenda item and for a portion of the time not to exceed three minutes unless a period of time is extended by a majority vote of the council. Sub public comments will be received prior to the consideration of ordinance orders or resolutions.

(c) Any person desiring to address the council with reference to any matter which is not on the agenda must register with the clerk of council no later than 12 noon on the business day immediately preceding a special called meeting referred to as a Citizens Agenda Meeting", to be held on the Thursday after the last Council meeting of the Month, and shall provide, in writing, his name, his address, and the subject matter with reference to which he wishes to address the council. The number of inquiries allowed for public comment on an item not on the agenda (whether by individuals organizations or other entities) during this special called meeting, is limited to five (5), whether in-person or virtually. When requested by the president, a member may speak only once with reference to a matter and for a period of time not to exceed three minutes unless a period of time is extended by a majority of the council. Sub public comments will be received by the council immediately prior to its adjournment and at the conclusion of all other city business.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provisions, no person shall address the council with reference to any personnel matter during any open meeting of the council.

(e) No derogatory remarks concerning councilmembers or anyone present in the council chamber shall be permitted. The president shall suspend irrelevant speaking. A majority of the members of the council have the right to suspend irrelevant speaking at any council meeting.

(f) Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, derogatory remarks concerning councilmembers or anyone present in the council chamber or who uses abusive, vulgar, or profane language, or who shall become boisterous while addressing the council shall be forthwith, by the presiding officer or the clerk of council, barred from further audience before the council and/or barred from council chambers unless permission to continue or stay be granted by a majority vote of the council.

(g) The usage of cellular phones and paging devices shall be prohibited within the council chambers during council meetings. All speakers within the council chambers shall be placed on silent or vibrator mode during council meetings. The clerk shall place signs within city hall notifying the public of this rule. Any person violating this rule shall first receive a verbal warning from the presiding officer; upon any additional violations, the presiding officer may bar the person from the remainder of the council meeting for which he is in violation, and the person shall be required to place all cellular phones and paging devices with city hall security prior to entering any council meeting.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL that this Ordinance Amending Section 2-71 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances shall become effective in accordance with the provisions of Section 21-13-11 of the Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), as amended.

Council Member Linda y moved adoption; Council Member Grizzle needed.

Yeas – Banks Foote, Grizzle, Hartley, Lee and Linda y.
Nays – None.
Absent – Stokes

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of **a b** n, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting November 8, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6W, Pgs. 150-152".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 8th day of December, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

12/8/2022, 12/15/2022

LEGAL

bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com.

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

12/8/2022, 12/15/2022



LEGAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

WITNESS my signature this 30th day of November 2022.

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

12/8/2022, 12/15/2022

LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-64 OF THE CITY OF JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECONCILING THE ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL WITH SECTION 2-71(B) AND SECTION 2-71(C) OF THE CITY OF JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES.

WHEREAS, Section 2-64 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances establishes the order of business for formulating the agenda for meetings of the Jackson City Council; and

WHEREAS, the current order of business set forth in Section 2-64 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinance is as follows:

- (1) Call to Order
 - (2) Invocation
 - (3) Pledge of Allegiance
 - (4) Public hearings
 - (5) Introductions
 - (6) Public Comments related to items appearing on the meeting agenda
 - (7) Consent agenda
 - (8) Introduction of ordinances and resolutions
 - (9) Adoption of ordinances and resolutions
 - (10) Regular agenda
 - (11) Proclamations, special presentations, commendations and resolutions honoring individuals, business groups or organizations
 - (12) Public comments on items unrelated to items appearing on the meeting agenda
 - (13) Announcements
 - (14) Adjournment
- and;

WHEREAS, Section 2-71(b) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances states that comments on items related to items on the agenda will be received prior to consideration of ordinance proposals or resolutions and

WHEREAS, Section 2-71(c) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances provides that comments unrelated to items on the agenda will be received prior to adjournment; and

WHEREAS, the order of business set forth in Section 2-64 of the Jackson Code of Ordinances distinguishes between public comments on items related to the agenda and items unrelated to the agenda, as well as includes proclamations, special presentations, commendations and resolutions honoring individuals, business group(s) or organizations and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Jackson City Council to remove the following from the current order of business for regular Council meetings and allow the following to be: (a) public comments on items unrelated to items appearing on the meeting agenda; and (2) proclamations, special presentations, commendations and resolutions honoring individuals, business groups or organizations

NOW BE IT ORDAINED BY THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL that Section 2-64 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinance shall be amended to establish the order of business for formulating the agenda for meetings of the Jackson City Council as follows:

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Invocation
- (3) Pledge of Allegiance
- (4) Public hearings
- (5) Introductions
- (6) Public comments related to items appearing on the meeting agenda
- (7) Consent agenda
- (8) Introduction of ordinances and resolutions
- (9) Adoption of ordinances and resolutions
- (10) Regular agenda
- (11) Reports from city council members, mayor or department directors
- (12) Announcements
- (13) Adjournment

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL that this Ordinance amending Section 2-64 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances shall become effective in accordance with the provisions of Section 21-13-11 of the Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), as amended.

Council Member Linda Young adopted; Council Member Hartley seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Griener, Hartley, Lee and Linda Young.
Nays – None.
Absent – Stokess

ATTEST:

Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting November 8, 2022 and recorded in Minute Book "6W, Pgs. 149-150".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 8th day of December, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

12/8/2022

CLASSIFIED

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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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
City of Jackson - McRaven Road Bridge Replacement Project
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, January 10, 2023 at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of City of Jackson McRaven Road Bridge Replacement Project. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

Contract time for this contract shall be 90 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 Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1638. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 218 South President Street, 2nd Floor, 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.

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: "City of Jackson McRaven Road Bridge Replacement Project" Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal.

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 inguire@jacksonms.gov.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that minority and women businesses 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

Bids and EBO 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.centralbidding.com. For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

Each Bidder must deposit with his bid a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent of his 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.

Plans, specifications and contract documents are on file and open to public inspection at the Office of CIVILTech, Inc., 5420 Executive Place, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206. One (1) copy of the Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents may be procured upon payment of \$100.00 (by check, made payable to ("CIVILTech, Inc.")). All technical questions should be directed to Tony Lewis, (601) 713-1713, email: tlewis@civiltchinc.net). The payment is non-refundable.

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.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on December 14, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. local time, in the 1st floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

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

Robert Lee, PE
City Engineer

12/11/2022, 12/8/2022

LEGAL

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

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

Principal items of work are as follows:

1. Standard Roadside Signs, Sheet Aluminum, 0.080" Thickness-1325 SF;
2. Square Tube Post, 1.75"x 1.75", 14 GA-6570 LF;
3. Square Tubc Post, 2"x 2", 12 GA-1767 LF

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bids, EBO and DBE plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date 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.centralbiddin2.com. Electronic Bids may be submitted at www.centralbiddine.com. For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Awarding public contracts to non-resident Bidders will be on the same basis as the non-resident bidder's state awards contracts to Mississippi Contractors bidding under similar circumstances. Current state law, Mississippi General Laws of 2010, Chapter 383, section 31-3-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, requires a non-resident bidder to attach to the bid a copy of the Bidder's resident state's current laws pertaining to such state's treatment of nonresident contractors. Non-resident bidders must attach to their bid a copy of any bid preference law of the state, city, county, parish, province, nation or political subdivision where they are domiciled. If there is no such law where they are domiciled, all non-resident bidders shall attach a letter to their bid stating that there is no bid preference law where they are domiciled. The bid of any non-resident bidder who fails to attach to its bid a copy of its domicile's bid preference law or a letter stating that its domicile has no sub bid preference law, which 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.

Construction plans were completed through the Office of Transportation, 1785 Highway 80 W, Jackson, MS 39204. For technical questions email mgmuice@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

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

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

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201). The outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, December 20th, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

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

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

12/11/2022, 12/8/2022, 12/15/2022

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DOLLAR GENERAL

4331 Highway 80W

DOLLAR GENERAL

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DOLLAR GENERAL

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B & B

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285 Peace Street - Canton, MS

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507 Church Street - Canton, MS

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110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS

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SOUL SET BARBER SHOP

257 Peace Street - Canton, MS

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HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE

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VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE

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CITY HALL

Terry Road

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RAYMOND

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Raymond, MS

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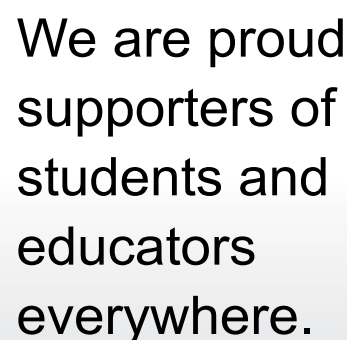
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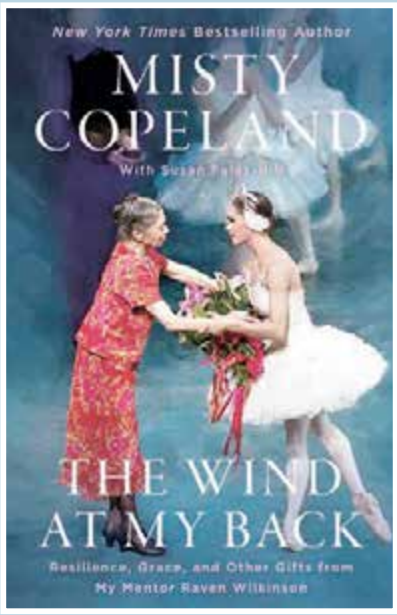
Week of December 4, 2022



Mass Communications Professor Toni Terrett with Dejena Sims

The Delta Delegation to Brazil was sponsored by hosts Toyó Bagoso, lead organizer of MDBF, and Fabiola Sartori, coordinator of UCS International.

2022 was the thirteenth year of the MDBF – Caxias do Sul, Brazil. Organizers are expanding the festival, with August 2022 featuring the first ever MDBF in Gramado, Brazil, and with the Rio de Janeiro edition approaching its second year.



BOOK REVIEW:

THE WIND AT MY BACK

BY MISTY COPELAND WITH SUSAN FALES-HILL

C.2022, GRAND CENTRAL PUBLISHING

\$29.00 • 240 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You don’t belong here. It’s a declaration that seems confusing, at first. Who says? Who’s in charge here? You don’t belong because... why? The answer is almost always as rude and hurtful as the statement itself, almost as unthinkable now as it was seventy years ago. But in “The Wind at My Back” by Misty Copeland with Susan Fales-Hill, those are four words that strengthen resolve.

For six years, the whole time she was a soloist at the Ameri-

can Ballet Theater, Misty Copeland was often the only black dancer on the stage. She got used to it, but never got comfortable with it. Racism is common in dance and most black dancers in American history were encouraged to stick with “modern” performances. That wasn’t the kind of dance Copeland had always dreamed of.

Still, she persevered. Just being with the ABT kept her in place for what the future might bring and besides, she felt like she was representing. Her presence there was encouraging to

black girls who were told they’d never be ballerinas.

And then Copeland met Raven Wilkinson.

Wilkinson was born in 1935 to educated, upper crust black parents and had set her sights on ballet when she was five years old, having experienced the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. She cried then at the emotion in the ballet, and she knew that she wanted to dance. Her parents enrolled her in the School of American Ballet and later, she was trained by Madame Swoboda, one of the Bolshoi Theatre’s premiere bal-

lerinas.

On the cusp of realizing her dream, however, Wilkinson was told that it was “never going to happen” because she was “Colored.”

And yet, she, too, persevered and she began touring with a professional troupe which took her to the American South where she fought for her dignity and she endured threats on her life. Still she danced, a pioneer, a professional, and a “first.” And when she met Copeland, she became a supportive, loving, wise, thoughtful, powerful mentor...

While it sure looks like a book and it feels like a book, “The Wind at My Back” isn’t really a book. No, it’s a love letter to an elder trailblazer with grace, both inside and out.

Copeland, somewhat of a pathfinder herself, weaves the story of her career in with that of Wilkinson, whose work was basically hidden in plain sight for decades.

In telling Wilkinson’s story, loudly and publicly, Copeland also writes of the friendship the two women had, and how Wilkinson pushed Copeland to

soar to greater heights, career-wise and in Copeland’s personal life. This gives the book an intimate feel, sometimes uncomfortably so, but the sense of gratitude and absolute love for a woman who ignored the word “no” when society repeated it overpowers any squirm you might feel.

A working knowledge of ballet will enhance your enjoyment of this book, but it’s not an absolute necessity. If you (or your teen) merely love a good double-biography, “The Wind at My Back” belongs on your bookshelf.

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Deion Sanders leads Jackson State to SWAC title

By Tanner Marlar
The Associated Press

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

Shedeur Sanders threw for four touchdowns and Jackson State routed Southern 43-24 Saturday in the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship, hours before Colorado hired father Deion Sanders away from the Tigers.

Colorado athletic director Rick George announced Saturday night that the school had hired Sanders as head coach after three seasons with the FCS program. Reports swirled before the game that Sanders would announce his departure after the game, following his acknowledgement earlier this week of an offer from the school and talks with other FBS programs about vacancies. Colorado's Board of Regents called a special meeting for Sunday but hadn't commented on any candidates taking over the Buffaloes until George's announcement.

Neither Sanders nor JSU players spoke to reporters afterward. A SWAC spokesman said the team had proceeded to go to campus for a team meeting, during which the coach told his team he had accepted the job at Colorado.

Sanders told players he would coach the Tigers in the Celebration Bowl, the championship for historically Black college football programs. He added, "I'm going to finish what we started, we're going to dominate and to that end and that conclusion, and we will move on."

Sanders said he would meet with some of his players to dissuade them from entering the transfer portal "and die in the portal. I don't want that to happen."

Southern University coach Eric Dooley spoke about what "Coach Prime" has done for the SWAC after the game and how appreciative he was of Sanders' efforts.

"I was able to shake his hand and hug Deion and tell him he had a good football team," said Dooley.

JSU (12-0) quashed any questions about Sanders' future being a distraction by completing the first unbeaten regular season in school history and claiming its second consecutive SWAC championship. The Tigers' top-ranked defense set the tone by quickly pouncing on the Jaguars for three turnovers in eight plays in the first quarter.

Aubrey Miller Jr., the SWAC defensive player of the year, led the defense to an exceptional effort as he totaled one sack and two tackles for loss.

The JSU came in as the top-rated defense in the FCS, and it showed exactly why by forcing five turnovers, one of which was a fumble that junior defensive back Antonio Doyle Jr. returned to the 1.

Shedeur Sanders, the Hall of Fame coach's son, and the Tigers easily converted takeaways into a 26-0 lead after 15 minutes, a run boosted by Sy'veon Wilkerson's 1-yard TD run two plays after Herman Smith III's 37-yard interception return. Two fumbles created chances for Sanders to hit Shane Hooks for TD passes of 14 and 40 yards and two-point conversions to Kevin Coleman Jr.

Sanders' 14-yard TD pass to Coleman made it 33-7 at halftime, but Southern (7-5) didn't quit and even got within 36-24 late in the third quarter on Glendon McDaniel's 42-yard TD run.

Sanders, the SWAC's offensive player of the year, completed 31 of 44 passes for 305 yards. Hooks caught five passes for 98 yards and Wilkerson rushed 15 times for 61 yards.

For their efforts, Sanders and Miller were awarded the offensive and defensive MVPs of the game.

McDaniel was 15 of 34 passing for 220 yards and a TD for Southern.

"I thought Glendon did some great things," Dooley said.

The two teams slugged it out on the offensive end in terms of total yardage. Jackson State racked up 445 total yards to Southern's 412.

The Tigers will face Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champion North Carolina Central in the Celebration Bowl.

The Tigers' victory improved Sanders to 27-5 as coach of the FCS program and came days after he was named SWAC coach of the year for the second consecutive season.

Up Next

Jackson State faces NCCU in the Celebration Bowl on Dec. 17 in Atlanta.



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

The Hinds County School District was blessed to have 3 ribbon cutting ceremonies for 3 new buildings on 3 different sites on the same day. These new facilities further advance the economic and educational value of the school district and offer state-of-the-art technology to 3 schools in the district. The first Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was at Byram Middle School at 10 a.m. where we opened a new football field house and football field. At 10:45 a.m. we opened a 14,000 sq ft gymnasium at Gary Road Elementary and at 11:30 a.m. we opened another 14,500 sq ft gymnasium and classroom additions to Gary Road Intermediate. The Hinds County School Board was in attendance along with local politicians, Hinds County Superintendent Dr. Delesicia Martin, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Robert Sanders and principals and staff of each school. It was a day of joy and accomplishment for the Hinds County School District.

