

The other side of unemployment in Mississippi

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Do you hear the coded language, always part of the talking points of our state leaders, about unemployment? Our Governor always finds a way to slip the words “working Mississippians”

into his comments and press releases. Lt. Governor Hosemann shared an opinion piece with the *Daily Journal*, December 24th, ending with this sentence, “We are going to end this term with the same conservatism, energy and work ethic with which

we started it – all in the endless pursuit of making our state an even better place for our children and grandchildren.”

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics states that the average unemployment rate in the country was 5.3% for

2021. In the Table shown there is also unemployment data including race, for 2022, provided by the Economic Policy Institute.

In 2019, Valerie Wilson, director of the Economic

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Southern Red States	2021 rates of Unemployed	National ranking	2022 rates of Unemployed	Black	Hispanic	AAPI	White
Mississippi	5.6%	35th	3.9%	5.7%	4.7%	3.5%	2.9%
Alabama	3.4%	5th	2.7	4.5	3.2	2.4	2.1
Georgia	3.9%	15th	3.0	4.5	3.0	2.7	2.4
S. Carolina	4.0%	17th	3.3	5.6	3.9	2.9	2.5
Louisiana	5.5%	34th	4.0	6.9	4.0	3.6	2.7
Tennessee	4.3%	20th	3.3	6.5	3.8	2.9	2.6
Arkansas	4.0%	17th	3.2	4.6	3.8	2.9	2.9

Joint Effort: Cleanup Day and giving to the homeless and needy in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Approximately 250 people flocked to Ineva May-Pittman Park (825 W. Capitol Street, Jackson, Miss.) Monday, January 15, 2023, in honor of the legacy and life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. No matter their identity or background, they came to beautify the park by planting a maple tree in honor of the late Ineva May-Pittman, removing litter, planting flowers, cleaning and sanitizing the pavilion. On the day of service, they also removed the illegal dumping at the Old Atmos Energy Building.

“The ultimate goal is to beautify the area and work to prevent future occurrences,” surmised Executive Director of Keep Jackson Beautiful, Alicia Crudup.

The joint effort of Keep Jackson Beautiful and the Junior League of Jackson is “to ignite the spark for our citizens to be encouraged to clean their communities. Dr. King once said, ‘Everyone can be great because everyone can serve.’ It is all our responsibility to assist with the



Girl and Boy Scouts at Ineva May-Pittman Park on Clean Up Day.

cleanliness of our capital city. What better way to honor Mrs. Ineva May-Pittman by serving around a park of her namesake. Mrs. Ineva May-Pittman who recently passed in a house fire, was a staple of the community in the City of Jackson and State of Mississippi,” Crudup noted.

Community involvement included the City of Jackson; Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; Hinds County Board of Supervisors; MDOT Commissioner and staff; elected officials; Jackson Redevelopment Authority; AmeriCorps; Word of Life Church; AMR; Entergy of Mississippi; and Virden Addition Cleanup Crew.

Cleaning enthusiasts reigned with enthusiasm at the event

which started at 9:30 a.m. and ended at 12 p.m.

A number commented about the service they rendered. Among them was Frankie Grant and her son, Israel, who moved to Jackson last September from Florida. “Moving here, we heard so many negative things about Jackson...

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Democrat Sheila Jackson Lee introduces Anti-White Supremacy Bill, then schools Republican Boebert on hate

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

That’s enough of racism and bigotry, says Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee.

The Democratic representative from Texas has introduced House Resolution 61, which would amend Title 18 of the United States Code to broaden the definition of hate crimes, with the goal of preventing and prosecuting hate crimes motivated by white supremacy and conspiracy to commit such crimes.

The text of the bill reads as follows: “A person commits a white supremacy inspired hate crime when white supremacist ideology has motivated the planning, development, preparation, or perpetration of actions that constituted a crime or were undertaken in furtherance of activity that, if effectuated, would have constituted a crime.”

With respect to any informa-



Lee

tion or evidence obtained by the Department of Justice of any unlawful action specified in Jackson-Lee’s bill, the DOJ shall have the authority to conduct operations and activities pursuant to such crimes.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) would also be authorized to conduct investigations, intervene, and take any other measures it deems necessary and

appropriate to prevent, mitigate, or stop any potentially violent action.

The Department of Justice’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program would keep track of white supremacist-inspired hate crimes and other related actions, and Justice Department officials would have the authority to prosecute those responsible for them.

Jackson Lee has requested that

the DOJ report its findings annually to the relevant Congressional committees.

Rep. Lauren Boebert, a Republican from Colorado, claimed the legislation “makes a mockery of the First Amendment.” While Boebert, a right-wing leader, misrepresented the legislation after reading a misleading news article, Jackson Lee schooled her on Twitter.

“First of all, it took me about 32 seconds of reading the article you cited to understand that none of you know what you are talking about,” Jackson Lee scolded.

To be convicted of a hate crime in some jurisdictions, “H.R. 61 simply deals with adding white supremacy to a list of reasons,” the Texas Democrat explained. She elaborated:

“So, when the article states that ‘only white people can be

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Amid Mississippi water woes, proposal could unseat mayors

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

As Mississippi’s capital city of Jackson struggles with water problems and its Democratic mayor clashes with the Republican governor, lawmakers debated a proposal Wednesday that would allow recall elections for municipal officials in the state.

Rep. Shanda Yates, an independent from Jackson who sponsored the legislation, told reporters some constituents had asked whether there is a process for removing a city leader from office.

Mississippi law currently allows recall elections for county officials but not city officials.

Under Yates’ proposal, a recall election for a mayor would be held if at least 30% of a city’s registered voters sign a petition saying the mayor has failed to fulfill obligations of the job. The governor would then appoint three municipal judges from other cities to determine whether “there is a substantial basis for a removal election.” If the judges find there is, a recall election would be held.

For the recall to be successful, at least half of the qualified voters in the city must take part in the election _ and a majority of those casting ballots would have to vote to remove the mayor.

The House debated the proposal, House Bill 370, Wednesday before Yates had it set aside without members voting on it. She said she did so at the request of House leaders, who are Republicans. The bill could come up for more debate, and a possible vote, before a Feb. 9 deadline.

Yates was sharply questioned by Democrats during the debate who said the bill appears aimed at Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, a Democrat who was first elected in 2017.

Democratic Rep. Ed Blackmon asked her: “It is the city of Jackson that we’re after?”

Yates said recall elections could provide accountability if people think city officials are willfully failing to do their jobs.

Yates was elected in 2019 as a Democrat, narrowly defeating a longtime Republican lawmaker. She announced in January 2022 that she was dropping the party label. Yates

is white, and her district includes mostly white areas in Jackson, a city where more than 80% of residents are Black. Lumumba is Black, as all Jackson mayors have been since the 1997 election.

“It’s no point in us pretending we don’t know that just about everybody in this city who is white would ... sign a petition and say, ‘We want to get rid of that mayor,’” said Democratic Rep. Robert Johnson, who is Black.

Yates responded: “I don’t think so. We haven’t had 30% of the people in Jackson vote in a mayoral election, maybe ever. So I don’t know that we could get 30% of anybody to sign anything.”

Johnson said House members who have complained about the mayor of Jackson are all white.

“This is about the African-American mayor of Jackson who has taken on the governor of this state, and we’re going to let the governor appoint a three-judge panel and come in here and have 30%, a minority of the population, sign a petition to say, ‘We need to have an election to see if you need to go,’” Johnson said.

Jackson has had water system problems for years, and most of the city’s 150,000 residents lost water service for several days in August and September after flooding of the Pearl River exacerbated problems in the city’s main water treatment plant. A cold snap in late December again left much of the city without running water as pipes froze or broke.

In a federal complaint Sept. 27, the NAACP said Mississippi officials “all but assured” a drinking water calamity by depriving Jackson of badly needed funds to upgrade its infrastructure. The EPA announced Oct. 20 that it was investigating whether Mississippi state agencies discriminated against the city by refusing to fund improvements to the water system.

A \$1.7 trillion federal spending bill that President Joe Biden signed in late December includes \$600 million for the Jackson water system. The spending will be overseen by a third-party administrator who was appointed, at the request of the U.S. Justice Department, to oversee improvements to the system.

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100th birthday celebration honored Catherlene Williams for living the abundant life

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

Surrounded by love within LeFleur Haven Apartments (161 Briarwood Dr., Jackson, Miss.), 100-year-old Catherlene Williams (a 25+ year resident) listened from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. to what her well-wishers came to say on her birthday, Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

Williams' retinue included officials, family and friends from Washington, D.C. to Jackson, Miss. They reflected that for 100 years the birthday honoree had produced a wealth of knowledge, service and love.

Hinds County Tax Collector Eddie Fair told attendants that Williams was a founding member of several gospel groups. He then presented a proclamation which referred to Williams as a woman of wisdom. In essence, her nobility has been noticeable among persons from various walks of life. "She is," according to Fair, "a valuable part of our community and a great example of God's amazing love."

Jackson Councilwoman Angelina Lee (Ward 2) read a letter from Supervisor Robert Graham who stated that the birthday celebration was "a wonderful occasion for you, your family and friends...May you continue to be



Family members sharing proclamation with birthday honoree Catherlene Williams
PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

surrounded by loved ones in making this world a better place for progress."

In a proclamation from Congressman Bennie Thompson, he explained Williams' fortitude throughout her years. "You have demonstrated what could be accomplished through dedication and hard work," said Thomp-

son.

A proclamation from Mayor Chokwe Lumumba honored Williams for her love of family and community: "[We] wish you many more and hope that your family and friends celebrate with you."

Even Former President Barack



Hinds County Tax Collector Eddie Fair gives Williams high marks as a Jackson resident.

Obama and President Joe Biden got into the act and sent greeting cards that spoke of Williams' contributions to humanity.

Reacting to the birthday celebration expressions in honor of his mother, John Arthur Williams (oldest of 5 siblings) stated the following: "This

is a prestigious and honorable thing. God has blessed us to still have six of her children living today, and we can share those happy tears of joy and elation." Of LeFleur Haven Apartments, he remarked, "I've been here many occasions, and they have always provided exemplary support over the years, not only for my mom, but [for] all the residents."

Following the high moment, Bertha Garrett-Frazier (Regional Housing Director Clinton, Miss. – United Church Homes, Inc. – Jackson State University, mentioned that Williams would occasionally check on residents and offer them a helping hand.

For ten decades Williams gave love, caring and wisdom down through generations. She demonstrated love by her long-life walk. She worked inside her home. She worked with many for the building of a better community. She walked and road for breast cancer events. In the fight against heart attacks, she became queen for the month of February.

To sum it up, family and friends of Catherlene Williams would perhaps agree with Eleanor Roosevelt when she said years ago, "Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art."

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Volunteers

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College Hill Baptist Church Girl and Boy Scout volunteers
PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL VINCENT



Scouts and leaders packing bags at College Hill. Pictured far right, leaders Jackie Hampton, Marcus Franklin and Mary Fisher
PHOTO COURTESY OF GIRL SCOUT TROOP 5351

I'm so happy to see people coming together to do the work. If we put on more events like this, others will join in. Somebody has to take the initiative," said Frankie. "All the hard work pays off. I am really glad to [be here]. I see some beauty in the abandoned buildings," Israel added.

Word of Life Church members were present. "We're glad to be here to help clean up the City of Jackson and to represent Dr. King in the way that he served. We do a lot of outreach for the City of Jackson," said Theresa Mosley.

"It's vital to do our part here," commented Paige Kimble of AmeriCorps. She continued, "I'm impressed at how many people came to make the scene more beautiful."

Andres Reyes-Martinez of AmeriCorps put it this way, "Seeing all the people come together is wonderful because like our ancestors, we have to come together to produce the change we want to see."

"I feel like every little piece of plastic and metal that I can pick up gives some self-respect. Governor Tate Reeves has not done enough. Our streets still have potholes. We have a huge outpouring of homeless people who mostly stay in the City of Jackson. Everyone wants the same thing that I do, except we need more resources, and we need the State to [do its part]. This is more than just volunteering on MLK Day. This is a statement of the whole in assisting the homeless," charged former Connecticut resident Heidi Cannon – Entergy who lives in Jackson.

The Nelson family from Madison acknowledged that they were glad to spend the day giving back to the community. Susan, from Madison Central High School claimed, "It's beautiful to see everyone." Thristonn of Madison Elementary Station said he was happy to be at May-Pittman Park on his time away from school.

"I'm really impressed, and I've always been interested in joining up with this team. People are so careless, throwing paper out everywhere. I got to know Mrs. Ineva May-Pittman as an amazing person. She organized a picketing session in Jackson. She attended the City Council meetings. It's great to see this concern for our community," noted Lynn Wade, Jackson resident.

Those of the homeless populace had their say. "This park has been going through a lot. These people are cleaning it up. I'm 61 and retired. A lot of people in this area are going through a transition. Seeing the people from all over rests well with my soul," said Tony Smith.

Tony Edwards commented, "I've been a Jackson resident for 23 years. It's amazing to see all these people. I've asked God to open the doors. I'm a retired, disabled truck driver. I live in the abandoned Gas company building. My wife and baby are in the Fondren. They want me to come home, but I'm on drugs and have to get myself together. Everything happens for a reason. God puts you in a position. Sometimes the guys and women have to leave their families. Most men would like to be with their families. I'm going to get it together."

College Hill Baptist Church's



Jackson resident Lynn Wade joins the MLK Day cleanup for the first time. PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL VINCENT



Tony Smith delighted to receive love shown by citizens. PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL VINCENT



Liz Brister, vice president, Keep Jackson Beautiful PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL VINCENT



Volunteer poses at one site of trash pickup. PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL VINCENT

Girl and Boy Scout troops packed and distributed to the homeless care packages which contained socks, toiletries, face towels, sanitizers, water, juice, canned goods and a variety of snacks. Their's is a history of celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s holiday by serving the community.

"Over the years the Girl Scouts along with the Boy Scouts have done clean-up projects to include stopping by senior members of the church and cleaning their homes as well as a deep cleaning of the church inside and out," said Jackie Hampton, who along with Mary Fisher, serves as Girl Scout troop leader at College Hill.

This is the second year the scouts gave out care packages at Ineva May-Pittman Park. They filled bags at College Hill at 9:30 a.m. Monday containing socks, toiletries, face towels, sanitizers, water, juice, canned goods and a variety of snacks and delivered and distributed them at the park with help from parents and other volunteers. The Boy Scout leader at College Hill is Marcus Franklin.

"I can't think of a better way to do something to make our city beautiful. People gave their day off to come make our city better, and that's what works. Love your city, and it will love you back," stated Liz Brister, vice president of Keep Jackson Beautiful.

Unemployment

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Policy Institute Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy gave a keynote address to the Federal Reserve Symposium on Racism and the Economy. Her remarks included, "As silly as that sounds, when we consider the origins of race as a social construct, the racial disparities we observe across any number of economic outcomes should come as no surprise. Since this nation's inception, race has been used to systematically exclude, marginalize, exploit and generate unequal economic outcomes, while also being used to justify and normalize those unequal outcomes."

"Black workers are far more likely to be unemployed than white workers – typically twice as likely. Even at the historically low rates of unemployment reached in 2019, this was the case overall and at nearly every level of education. In practical terms, this means that black workers are not just twice as likely to be unemployed as similarly educated white workers but are often more likely to be unemployed than less-educated white workers."

Even as unemployment rates in Mississippi have dropped, the coded language persists. It leaves one to wonder what their real motivation is. By viewing the data through the lens of race, it is likely that this is just one more mechanism by which to divide Mississippians, to trot out the old stereotype that black people are lazy and don't want to work. However false this thinking is, and always has been, it's music to the ears of the white Mississippians who still live in the past.

The most ironic aspect of this variety of dog whistle is that the people blowing them know full and well that this state was built on slave labor. They know in most cases it was their own ancestors – behaving as racist captors, oppressors and terrorists – that oversaw the process while reveling in their white supremacy. Remaining beholden to the mindset that black Mississippians are beneath them, and must be kept beneath them, requires both ignorance and willfulness.

Broadly, our country has moved forward to embracing higher levels of equity and fairness for all people, and away from racism and bigotry; not nearly as much so, in Mississippi. Part and parcel of our state being ranked at the bottom is this clinging to the past – a past that embraces inequality. For each person who endeavors to embrace racial equality here, it's evident that there are two others steadfast in their claim to remain behind or lack the fortitude to take a stand for righteousness.

Here, our elected legislators have to lie to their own eyes when they issue their "hard working Mississippians" dog whistles. Every day there are hundreds of black Mississippians hard at work in the Capitol building itself. There are state agencies around the state filled with non-white workers, where the nearly all-white agency heads rely on the work being produced to hone decision-making and accomplish agency objectives.

The idea that black people don't want to work in Mississippi is a cruel

fallacy.

On any given week of the year, just ask yourself how many black Mississippians are turned down when seeking employment across the state? Often, Help Wanted comes with the unspoken caveat of race. How many times are job seekers strung along? We are never able to see all the attempts made to seek employment, nor are records kept of all the times when those attempts are rebuffed simply because of race.

Recently we had the example of large financial settlements being reached out of court by massive Delta farming operations after getting caught replacing their black farm workers with white ones who had obtained fraudulent H-2A visas from South Africa, as reported by multiple sources including The Mississippi Center for Justice and Mississippi Today. White people, many times without necessary skills, flown into Mississippi, and paid more than experienced black workers. Stunning discrimination. Stunning disregard. Have you heard a peep about it from our elected leaders, our Governor, our Lt. Governor – you know, the ones who claim to govern for all of Mississippi?

When we see black unemployment rates typically double those of white unemployment rates, it is simply another vivid example of Mississippi's backwardness, aided and abetted by a majority of its' elected leaders – a reflection not on our black population at all, but on an unreconstructed state that won't see its way to justice.

Supremacy

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charged with' this crime, that's flagrantly false. "Your argument assumes that only white people can hold white supremacist views and that only certain groups of people can perpetrate

violence motivated by white supremacy.

"I would hope now that your argument would not shift to 'why is white supremacy being added to this law?'

That would be egregious.

"Yes, white supremacy should be added to this law. Why? Because as Director Wray testified, it's a major domestic terrorist threat."

MVSU Mass Communication welcomes National Entertainment Executive Johnnie Walker

Walker shares MLK experience during visit

By Zapouria Wadley
MVSU Mass Communication Student

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, National Entertainment Executive Johnnie Walker was the featured presenter of the Mississippi Valley State Department of Mass Communication Speakers Series.

"The series exposes students to communication industry professionals in an effort to enhance their learning experience," said Dr. Carolyn L. Gordon, acting chair of the department. Gordon said the department is elated to have Walker volunteer her time to share with the students.

Walker started her career from humble beginnings as a country music radio personality in Grenada, Miss. She shared how she started out as a receptionist at the station but was persistent in trying to convince the manager that she could succeed on-air. Her opportunity came when someone called in sick, and the station could not find a replacement. Thus, she became the first black on-air personality for that Grenada radio station.

Over the years, Walker worked her way up in the entertainment industry, becoming nationally recognized as a successful black female entertainment executive, music consultant and subject matter expert.

Walker has received several awards and made many notable achievements. She is the founder and CEO of the National Association of Black Female Executives in Music & Entertainment, Inc (NABFEME). This organization is dedicated to supporting and empowering women in recorded music, media & technology, sports, film & television, fashion and related disciplines.

During Walker's visit at MVSU, she met with students, faculty and staff to discuss her unique career path. One of Walker's most memorable takeaways was her "Five F's (Fixed, Focus, Fight, Fanatic,



Johnnie Walker receives certificate from Carolyn Gordon, PhD. PHOTOS BY AL WHITE



Mass Communication students, faculty and others with Johnnie Walker

Faith)." Walker explained that these five words helped her to stay focused and ultimately succeed in her career.



Walker also played an integral role in the integration of Grenada Public Schools. Her high school class was the first class to integrate Grenada Public Schools following the Civil Rights Act of 1964. She actually witnessed many of her friends who were beaten as they tried to integrate the schools. "Dr. Martin Luther King would come at various times to walk to school with us," she shared with the students.

Speaking of Dr. Martin Luther King, Walker was honored by her hometown of Grenada yesterday as

she served as the Grand Marshal for the city's Martin Luther King Day Parade, Monday, Jan. 16. "Oh, it was overwhelming and such an honor," she told the students.

Students say they were inspired by Walker's presentation. "I am most looking forward to learning more about Ms. Johnnie Walker's work in Memphis, since that's my hometown," said Tahj Bradley, a junior communications scholar at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU).

Following the event, Walker shared in an exclusive interview her personal motto for life: "Work the job. Don't let the job work you."



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Dr. C.J. Rhodes II appointed chair of Mission Mississippi

Alcorn State University newswire

The Rev. Dr. C. Edward Rhodes was selected as Mission Mississippi chairperson. Mission Mississippi leads the way in racial reconciliation in Mississippi. The organization’s model is to bring people together to build relationships across racial lines so they can work together to better their communities.

Rhodes previously served as vice chair before his current role. In addition, he serves Alcorn as director for Religious and Spiritual Life and the Hiram Rhodes Revels Institute for Ethical Leadership. He also serves as interim director for the university’s Honors Curriculum Program.

Rhodes is excited to join a team that has served Mississippi for three decades.

“I am honored to serve as chair of Mission Mississippi’s board of directors as the organization celebrates 30 years of statewide reconciliation ministry,” said Rhodes.

Accepting the role is significant for Rhodes, as he bridges the generational gap as the youngest member of the organization’s board. The opportunity also brings him back to the place that offered him his first job after graduate school.

“I am a millennial and



Rhodes

the youngest person on the board. This signals a generational shift in the life of Mission Mississippi. My first job after earning a Master of Divinity from Duke University’s Divinity School was at Mission Mississippi in 2009. This is a full-circle moment for me.”

Some of Rhodes’s goals include overcoming challenges caused by the pandemic and attracting and recruiting younger individuals to join the organization.

“As the organization looks towards life and leadership in 2023 and beyond, I hope to help our organization dare to confront the challenges all nonprofits and ministries face after the pandemic. We must also intensify our work to

reach my generation and Gen Z.”

Another priority for Rhodes is learning how the organization plans to be at the forefront of mitigating racial issues in the state.

“As director of Alcorn’s Hiram Rhodes Revels Institute for Ethical Leadership, I’m intrigued by how Mission Mississippi could provide ethical leadership to the enduring racial issues that challenge our beloved state’s potential.”

Rhodes hopes to bring generations together to serve God and the community.

“Beyond meeting, greeting and eating, we have an awesome opportunity to provide intergenerational servant leadership for the glory of God.”

Black Caucus pushes to revive initiatives, expand Medicaid

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

The Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus will push this year to revive an initiative process, ease the restoration of voting rights for former inmates, expand Medicaid, provide oversight for welfare spending and ensure that all parts of the state have access to high-speed internet and safe drinking water, the group’s chairwoman said Wednesday.

“We want to improve the quality of life for everyday Mississippians,” Sen. Angela Turner Ford said as she was backed by other caucus members during a Capitol news conference.

The caucus has 14 members in the 52-person Senate and 39 in the 122-person House, with one vacant seat in a majority-black House district. Most of the caucus members are Democrats, and Republicans hold a wide majority in both chambers.

Several Mississippi hospitals are struggling to remain open because of financial problems. Turner Ford, a Democrat from West Point, said expanding Medicaid would bring money into the healthcare system.

“Mississippi ranks last or close to last in almost every leading health outcome,” she said. “That is not good.”

Mississippi is among 11 states that have not ex-

panded Medicaid to people who work in low-wage jobs that don’t provide health insurance. Expansion is an option under the healthcare overhaul signed into law in 2010 by then-President Barack Obama in 2010.

Gov. Tate Reeves and many other Republican officials in Mississippi say they don’t want to put more people on a government-funded program.

The Mississippi Supreme Court ruled in May 2021 that the state’s initiative process, which allowed people to petition to put issues on the ballot, was invalid. The process was added to the state constitution in the 1990s, requiring petitioners to gather one-fifth of signatures from each congressional district. Mississippi had five congressional districts at the time, but it dropped to four districts after the 2000 Census. Language dealing with the initiative process was never updated.

House Speaker Philip Gunn and Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann, both Republicans, said last week that they want to revive an initiative process. The House and Senate need to agree on how many signatures would be required.

Mississippi strips voting rights from people convicted of certain felonies, including forgery, arson and bigamy. Black Caucus members and other Demo-

cratic lawmakers have tried for years to automatically restore voting rights after people convicted of disenfranchising crimes have finished serving their sentences. To regain voting rights in Mississippi now, a person must receive a governor’s pardon or must win permission from two-thirds of the state House and Senate. Legislators have restored the rights to only a few people in the past several years.

Turner Ford said Wednesday that the Black Caucus wants greater accountability about how the Mississippi Department of Human Services spends money that is intended to help some of the neediest people in the U.S. A former director of the department is among the people who have pleaded guilty to mispending money through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

State Auditor Shad White, a Republican, told reporters at a school near Jackson Wednesday that the state has failed to track the results of how TANF recipients are affected by the way the state spends that money.

“We have to do a better job as a country of asking state agencies that are handling welfare dollars to tell us how many people are being helped with these dollars and how are they being helped,” White said.

State Auditor White stuck on fatherlessness

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Looks like we are in for quite a ride with Shadrack White, as he is showing signs of doubling down on his August 2022 report titled: Dads Matter: The Taxpayer Cost of Fatherlessness.

Readers can see the report via this link: https://www.osa.ms.gov/documents/Special_Reports/2022-Fatherlessness%20Report.pdf

Last week he took his show on the road, per a posting on the website of the State Auditor, having a panel discussion on the Importance of Present Fathers, at Germantown High School, alongside Lynn Hosemann and Jack Brewer – head of the Jack Brewer Foundation, and also the chair of the Center for Opportunity Now and vice chair of the Center for 1776 at the America First Policy Institute (AFPI), according to their website.

At the panel, White contended that “Mississippi being ranked 50th in this and 50th in that, we’re going to see that some of the root causes are right here in homes when those homes are not made whole,” as reported by WLBT Holly Emery January 12, 2023.

He indicates that there are 250,000 households in Mississippi without an engaged dad, and this ends up connecting to two areas of low ranking in Mississippi; education (43rd) and economy (49th). His evi-



White

dence appears to be data indicating that children from fatherless homes don’t go as far in school, have more health problems, have higher percentages of males being incarcerated and a higher percentage of teenage mothers; derived from multiple sources including the Census, Family Research Council, the Heritage Foundation and the

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

There has been significant push-back on White’s report, despite other states, with the help of AFPI, highlighting their own fatherlessness initiatives, including Florida and Arizona. This approach – focusing so much attention on fatherlessness as a root cause of young

people struggling in school, having babies as teens, and being connected to higher incarceration rates for young males, and the high cost of it all – is very careful to avoid discussing race, and seems suspect.

White has taken it upon himself to be the conductor of this train in Mississippi and either doesn’t seem to respond well to criticism or perhaps just insists on controlling the narrative. The month after his report was released, two academics; Christine Dickason and Kaitlyn Barton published a scathing article in several newspapers calling his report misleading and manipulative – a dog whistle. He quickly published a pointed response and used the opportunity to indicate that President Obama said some of the very same things that he said in his report, and that there was no outcry then. Of course, there is truth in what White says there, but there is far more to it knowing how well the name Obama plays in our deep red State – like tossing a bone to the salivating oppressors. His response is dated September 13, 2022 and can be viewed with this link: <https://www2.osa.ms.gov/news/response-to-fatherlessness-report-is-telling>.

White is big on facts, and he ought to be as a Harvard educated attorney turned Rankin County special prosecutor turned state auditor. But when

you take leads from the hard-right Heritage Foundation and the Family Research Council – labeled by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group – he should full-well expect criticism.

Bill Crawford chimed in early last September with a piece in *The Meridian Star*, titled “State could do more to reduce fatherlessness,” and called the expansion of JROTC that White offered as a solution, feeble. He went on to say in part: “So long as single-parent moms are better off under means-tested social welfare than living in low-income two parent settings, fatherless homes will persist... the fix to put fathers back into homes and break the cycle of dependency requires changing means-tested programs so that they encourage, rather than penalize, two-parent families. One of those is Medicaid. A non-working mom with young children is covered in Mississippi. Add in a husband making minimum wage and neither parent is covered. Another is the much-abused TANF program. Means limits are higher for SNAP, Section 8 housing subsidies, and other programs but still penalize two-parent families. Even Federal Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Care Credit programs, which encourage and enable poor families to work, have marriage penalties.”

None of those truths were in

White’s report.

Mississippi State Representative (MS 68) Zakiya Summers weighed in on White’s report in *The Mississippi Link* newspaper in last August last year, and part of her remarks bear repeating now. “What would happen if children woke up in homes with sound utilities and food on the table, went to high quality schools with teachers and counselors that have everything they need instead of police patrols meeting them at the door; lived in communities that have access to resources, good jobs, higher wages for working families, and in a state that refuses to put politics over people and perpetuate a biased narrative? Would we be talking about the problems this report cites? Would Mississippi still be the worst state to raise a family? Now that women have no autonomy over their own reproductive health, will we see an increase in fatherless homes? This report and this idea prevent us from reckoning with what’s real and what can be done about it.”

This is the larger picture that doesn’t get addressed by White’s report, despite its facts and figures. We’re going to weather this storm. We see what’s going on. We know that when you care about all people, it doesn’t cost anything to be fair and equitable – the real root cause of Mississippi’s bottom-dwelling.

Mississippi bill filings: Medicaid, initiatives, elections

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi legislators had a light workload the first two weeks of their three-month session, but they are about to get busy debating proposals that could affect health care, voting rights and other issues.

Monday was the deadline to file general bills. House and Senate committees face a Jan. 31 deadline to consider bills filed in their own chamber. Bills that survive will then face a Feb. 9 deadline for consideration in the full House or Senate. Then the two chambers will exchange bills for more work.

Legislators face deadlines later in the session for bills dealing with budgets, taxes and borrowing.

Here’s a look at some of the general bills:

Hospitals – Multiple bills seek to help financially struggling hospitals by creating grant programs or tax credits.

MEDICAID – Multiple bills seek expansion of Medicaid to people who work low-wage jobs that don’t provide private health insurance. A 2010 federal health care law allowed expansion, and Mississippi is among 11 states that have not taken the option. Other bills – including House Bill 426, which has bipartisan support – would allow extension of Medicaid coverage from 60 days to one year after a woman has given birth.

Initiatives – Multiple resolutions would revive a process for people to circulate petitions to put issues on the statewide ballot. Mississippi had an initiative process for decades, but the state Supreme Court ruled in 2021 that the process was inval-

id because it required an equal number of signatures from five congressional districts and the state had dropped to four districts after the 2000 Census.

Early Voting – Multiple bills would allow people to cast ballots before Election Day. Mississippi currently allows early voting for people who will be out of town on Election Day and for those who have a disability or are 65 or older.

Restoration Of Voting Rights – House Bill 342, by Democratic Rep. Jeffery Harness of Fayette, would automatically restore voting rights to any person who has completed a sentence for conviction on a disenfranchising crime. The current process for restoration of voting rights is for a person to seek permission of legislators and the governor, and only a few people have received this permission in recent years.

Pregnancy Center Tax Credits – House Bill 468 would expand tax credits for people or businesses that donate money to crisis pregnancy centers, which try to dissuade women from having abortions and provide supplies such as diapers and baby clothing. A law enacted in 2022 allowed up to \$3.5 million in these tax credits. House Speaker Philip Gunn, a Republican, sponsored this year’s bill, which would allow up to \$10 million in credits statewide.

Pregnant Workers – Senate Bill 2114, by Democratic Sen. Angela Turner Ford of West Point, would require employers to make “reasonable accommodations” for employees who are pregnant or recovering from childbirth, such as more

frequent breaks, temporary transfer to a less strenuous or hazardous position or non-bathroom space for expressing breast milk.

Gender Reassignment – House Bill 456, by Republican Rep. Steve Massengill of Hickory Flat, would authorize child abuse charges against any parent who consents to or helps a child take puberty suppressing drugs or who allows a child to undergo medical procedures for gender reassignment; an exception would be allowed for drugs or surgery for an intersex child born without clear male or female physical characteristics.

U.S. Capitol Statues – Senate Bill 2005, by Sen. John Horn of Jackson, would create a commission to consider which two historical figures Mississippi should honor with statues inside the U.S. Capitol. Since 1931, the state’s statues have been Confederate president Jefferson Davis and James Zachariah George, a slave owner who signed the Mississippi declaration of secession before the Civil War and who later pushed to disenfranchise black people as part of the state’s 1890 constitutional convention and then served in the U.S. Senate. House Concurrent Resolution 12, by Democratic Rep. Robert Johnson of Natchez, would replace the existing statues with figures of Hiram Revels, who in 1870 became the first black person to serve in the U.S. Senate; and civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer. House Concurrent Resolution 13, by Democratic Rep. Earle Banks of Jackson, would replace the Davis statue with one of either B.B. King or Elvis Presley.

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Shirley Weber sworn in as California's first elected black Secretary of State

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

On Jan. 9, with the sound of African drumming in the background, Shirley Weber was sworn in as the first elected black Secretary of State (SOS) of California and the 32nd person to hold the position.

The ceremony was conducted at the SOS' auditorium in downtown Sacramento, one block south of the State Capitol.

Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins (D-San Diego) administered the oath of office in front of Weber's grandsons Kadir and Jalil Gakunga.

"I want to thank all of those who work so hard to make this position, the Secretary of State – and all of those wonderful things that come with it – possible, and for being in my life," Weber said. "I have been blessed beyond imagination with all of the good things California has to give."

The daughter of a sharecropper from Hope, Arkansas, Weber said she is "not supposed to be here" as the state's chief clerk, overseeing a department of 500-plus employees.

Weber grew up in a two-room, "clapboard house" in Arkansas with her parents and five other



Shirley Weber sworn in as California's first elected black Secretary of State by Toni G. Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore, as Weber grandsons Kadir and Jalil Gakunga look on Jan. 9.

siblings before the family relocated to Los Angeles where they lived in Pueblo Del Rio, a housing project known as the "pue-blos."

Weber said the "data" projected that she would not have a bright future. Still, she went on to graduate from UCLA with a PhD, serve on the San Diego Board of Education, teach African American Studies at San Diego State University, and successfully run for California State

Assembly in November 2012.

"My father came from Hope, Arkansas, because there was no hope in Hope," Weber said. "He came to California because he wanted his children to have a better chance and a better life."

When Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Alex Padilla the state's junior U.S. Senator in January 2021, he nominated Weber as SOS. Padilla filled in for Sen. Kamala Harris, who had been elected U.S. Vice President.

Weber was officially installed as SOS in April 2021.

Weber's plan after serving in the Legislature was to move to Ghana, Africa, and "build a house up in the hills." But that all changed when Newsom called.

"It was hard for me to think about becoming Secretary of State because I was so content in the Assembly," Weber said. "When I was asked to be Secretary of State, I thought hard

and long about it. I realized that everything about the Secretary of State was central to my life. I thought to myself that I am always the one taking the hard challenges. I said who better than a kid of sharecropper, who never had a chance to vote, who could fight for the rights of voters."

The Secretary of State is the chief elections officer of the state, responsible for overseeing and certifying elections, as well as testing and certifying voting equipment for use in California. Weber's duties also include overseeing the state's archives division and registry of businesses.

In her remarks, Atkins praised Weber's "leadership" and "morality" and called her "a tireless champion of democracy," adding that those characteristics are integral to performing the duties of Secretary of State.

Atkins told guests that she first met Weber when she was 24 years old and that Weber helped her run for State Assembly.

For the first time in its history, California has three black constitutional officers; the others are Controller Malia M. Cohen and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond.

"You know, our constitutional officers are unique, and I give credit to our Governor (Gavin Newsom) and the people of California."

"There is no other list of constitutional officers like this? Where do you have a list of constitutional officers where it only has one white male in it? That is unheard of. The diversity (and) the fact that women are constitutional officers in California is historic."

Weber's daughter, Assemblymember Akilah Weber (D-San Diego) was the ceremony's emcee while Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena) provided the invocation. David Bauman's African drumming and musical selections by Dr. Tecoy Porter, pastor of Genesis Church Sacramento and president of the National Action Network Sacramento Chapter and his Genesis Church choir provided the entertainment. Weber's son Akil Weber provided the closing statements.

"Words cannot express how truly proud I am of what my mother has done, what she will continue to do, the door she has opened, the legacy she is creating," Assemblymember Akilah Weber said of her mother.

San Francisco committee recommends massive reparations payout for black residents

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Each black inhabitant of San Francisco, including those arrested during the racist war on drugs, should receive a one-time, lump-sum payment of \$5 million from the African American Reparations Advisory Committee.

Assuming the City Council approves the proposal, it would be the largest payment of reparations in American history.

In a study released this week, members of the San Francisco African American Reparations Advisory Committee noted, "We have ultimately established that the repercussions of numerous programmatic and policy actions by San Francisco's administration have been generational and overlapping."

Committee members asserted that the most prominent period that illustrates how the city and county of San Francisco as an institution contributed to the depletion of black wealth and the forced relocation of its black inhabitants was the period of urban renewal.

Further, the committee concluded that "public and private entities facilitated and coddled the conditions that created near-exclusive black communities within the city, limited political participation and representation, disinvested from academic and cultural institutions, and intentionally displaced black communities from San Francisco through targeted, sometimes violent actions"

San Francisco's African American population grew rapidly between 1940 and 1963.

To address what the *San Francisco Chronicle* calls "a national racial reckoning," the Board of Supervisors established the AARAC committee in December 2020.



According to the *Chronicle*, what happens next "will demonstrate whether San Francisco lawmakers are serious about tackling the city's checkered past or are merely pretending to be."

The committee's investigation determined that segregation, structural oppression, and racial prejudice developed from the institution of slavery had a tremendous impact on the development of the city, even though California was never formally a slave state.

Throughout the 20th century, the *Chronicle* reported, "San Francisco was a Ku Klux Klan stronghold, prohibited black people from residing in particular districts, kept them out of city employment, and bulldozed the Fillmore," a historically black neighborhood and commercial center.

AARAC chair Eric McDonnell told the newspaper, "Centuries of devastation and destruction of black lives, black bodies, and black communities should be met with centuries of restoration."

A tale of two cities emerges when one examines San Francisco, as one observer put it.

This committee's actions are consistent with those of other jurisdictions, where similar bodies have advocated for reparations for African Americans.

Residents must have self-

identified as black or African American on public documents for a minimum of ten years and be at least 18 years old when the committee's plan is approved to receive the compensation.

Additionally, individuals may be required to show that they were born in San Francisco between 1940 and 1996, have been residents of the city for at least 13 years, and are either a former inmate themselves or a direct descendant of a former inmate who served time during the war on drugs.

The *Chronicle* said that "to put that in context," the state reparations task panel believes black Californians may be awarded \$569 billion for housing discrimination alone between 1933 and 1977.

Evanston, Illinois, voted to pay \$400,000 to select African Americans as part of the city's vow to spend \$10 million over a decade on reparations payments shortly after the San Francisco committee was founded.

The government of St. Paul, Minnesota, has apologized for its role in institutional and structural racism and formed a committee to investigate reparations.

A report detailing the committee's proposed financial compensation for African Americans was subsequently made public.

A reparations task committee was established by the state of

California last year, and its report from that year detailed the incalculable harm that slavery had caused to African Americans.

After George Floyd was murdered, the District of Columbia City Council announced it would create a task team to investigate compensation.

Legislators in both Maryland and Virginia have expressed an interest in researching reparations.

Meanwhile, there has been no movement on a federal level on a bill by Texas Democrat Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee to establish a committee to investigate reparations.

The San Francisco committee recommended that low-income African Americans get an annual payment equivalent to the region median for at least 250 years, on top of the \$5 million payout.

As an added measure, the city would establish a public bank framework and provide citizens with extensive financial education to ensure that those without bank accounts have access to equal opportunities, including increased access to credit, loans, financing and other means of managing their money.

The committee also seeks to pay for a broad debt cancellation plan that wipes out all types of debt including student loans, personal loans, credit card debt and payday loans.

"Given the history of financial institutions preying on under-banked communities – and especially given the vulnerability of subsets of this population such as seniors and youth – this body recommends putting legal parameters and structures in place to ensure access to funds and to mitigate speculative harm done by others," the committee concluded.

Barbara Lee, other House Dems, prepare to enter Calif. Senate race



By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Rep. Barbara Lee plans to run for the Senate, a decision that comes despite fellow Democrat and incumbent Sen. Dianne Feinstein having yet to announce her intentions.

According to Politico, the 76-year-old Lee told her colleagues about her plan in a closed-door Congressional Black Caucus meeting.

Asked later about her plans, Lee said in a brief interview she'd officially announce, "when it's appropriate."

"Right now, in respect to [Sen.] Dianne Feinstein and the floods and what I'm doing, I'm doing my work. And we'll let them know when I intend to go to the next step. But now's the time not to talk about that," she said, according to Politico.

Lee's office didn't return messages from the Black Press.

However, Politico reported that Lee declined to say whether she'd run against 89-year-old Feinstein if the California senator chose to run again rather than retire.

"I'm not really doing anything except letting colleagues know that there'll be a time to talk about the Senate race," she said.

Lee's decision to run comes a day after Rep. Katie Porter (D-Calif.) also announced a bid for the seat currently held by Feinstein (D-Calif.).

Politico further noted that Lee was widely seen as leading the list of potential Feinstein replacements if she were to retire early and Gov. Gavin Newsom were to choose a successor, though there's no indication Feinstein would do so.

The outlet reported that the governor vetted Lee when then-Sen. Kamala Harris departed for the vice presidency, and he publicly committed to choosing a black woman if he had the chance to make another appointment.

Some other House members had emerged as potential contenders, but Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.) isn't expected to seek the seat. Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.) has said he would defer a decision for a few months.

A blood test could save your life

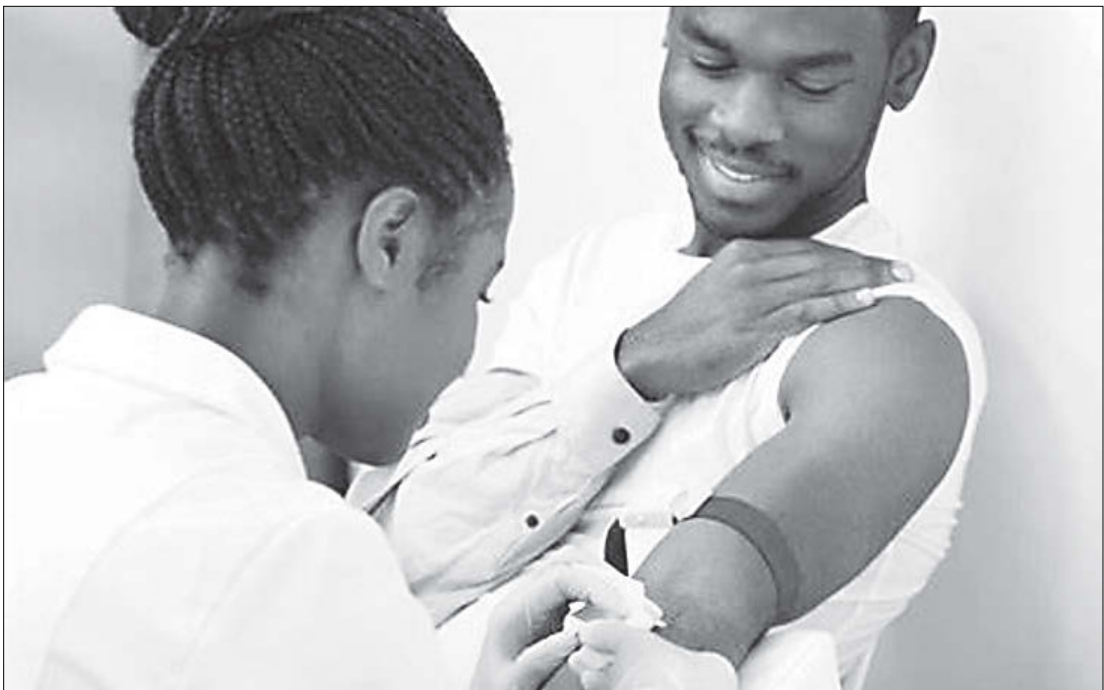
By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Most of us don't give much thought to the blood test that we get periodically. Standard blood test and certain other blood test that you may request from your doctor can offer valuable and even life-saving clues about your health. This can include explanations for such vexing conditions as short-term memory loss and fatigue.

Doctors need to give a real analysis of our blood test. If your doctor says that your blood tests are normal is it the same as optimal or even good? If your total cholesterol reading is 200 mg/dL it's considered normal even though the risk of developing heart disease is sometimes higher at this level than it would be if your numbers were lower. You should ask your doctor what your target should be.

Blood test results that you should definitely take note of:

- Low potassium (hypokalemia) can be dangerous because it could cause fatigue, constipation and general weakness. Hypokalemia can also cause heart palpitations. An imbalance of your hormone insulin will cause low potassium. It can be due to problems with your



adrenal glands or loss of fluid from vomiting or diarrhea. A magnesium deficiency or a high sodium diet can lead to low potassium also.

Hypokalemia is also a common side effect of some medications. A normal potassium level is 3.6 mEq/L to 5.2 mEq/L. An optimal potassium level is 4.5 mEq/L to 5.2 mEq/L. If your potassium is not optimal, your doctor should recommend that you eat more potassium rich foods such as bananas, oranges,

cantaloupes, tomatoes, sweet potatoes and whole grains. You should also reduce your sodium intake to less than two 1200mg daily. High levels of sodium will deplete your potassium levels.

Also, keep your stress level low. Chronic stress can lead to high level of hormone cortisol. Let's not get overwhelmed. This can also lead to low potassium.

- Know your glucose number. Most of us know that high

blood glucose is 126 mg/DL or above. High blood glucose is a warning sign for diabetes. You should also be aware that a slight increase in blood sugar, even when it's still within the so-called normal range, could put you at greater risk.

A study of 46,000 people who were tracked for 10 years for every one point rise in fasting blood glucose over 84 mg/ DL showed they were at a greater risk of developing diabetes by 6%. Vascular and kidney dam-

age may begin when glucose levels reach 90 mg/ DL. This level is within normal range.

High blood glucose usually occurs when your body cells become resistant to the hormone insulin or your pancreas doesn't produce enough insulin. Obesity and genetic factors are among the main causes. A normal glucose is 65 mg/ DL to 99 mg/ DL. An optimal glucose is 70 mg/ DL to 84 mg/ DL. Regular exercise, weight loss and healthier diet are steps you can take to improve your glucose levels.

- High homocysteine. Most doctors recommend homocysteine tests only for patients with existing heart problems. Everyone should test for high homocysteine levels. High homocysteine levels could damage your arteries and increase your risk for heart disease and stroke.

Some causes for high homocysteine is not enough B complex vitamins or if you're unable to properly metabolize methionine, an amino acid.

Methionine is found in meat, fish and dairy. Vegetarians seem to have a high homocysteine levels. Other causes include a lack of exercise, chronic stress, smoking and too much caffeine.

To control homocysteine plan your meals to make sure you are getting all of your nutrients. Get at least 30 minutes of exercise everyday. Normal homocysteine is less than 15 umol/L.

- Low DHEA can cause health issues. This hormone is used by the body to manufacture both testosterone and estrogen. DHEA is also an anti-oxidant that supports your immune system, increases your insulin sensitivity and the body's ability to metabolize fat. DHEA is not unusual tested with standard blood test. All adults should request that their levels be tested. Low DHEA is a common cause for fatigue, weight gain, depression and decrease libido in men and women of all ages. Overtime low DHEA can damage the hippocampus, which is the "memory center" of your brain.

DHEA levels decrease with age and peaks in your 20s. Normal DHEA is 200 mgs/DL to 270 mgs/DL for men and 120 mgs/DL to 180 mgs/DL for women.

To stabilize your DHEA levels reduce your stress levels, get at least eight hours of sleep every night, exercise everyday for about 30 minutes and practice relaxation techniques.

Doctor: Healthcare access 'scary' in parts of Miss.

By Michael Goldberg
Associated Press

Mississippi doesn't have the medical workforce to address a wide range of poor health outcomes, from high rates of maternal and infant mortality to severe cases of diabetes that require the amputation of limbs, the state's top health officer said.

Dr. Daniel Edney, who leads the Mississippi State Department of Health, told lawmakers Thursday that the state health department is short 150 nurses and low health care access in the state's impoverished Delta region is becoming "scary." The challenges have placed Mississippi near the bottom of national rankings that track the performance of state healthcare systems.

"We may be at the bottom today, but we don't have to stay there," Edney said. "I'm just begging for partners to help us ... because we have too many Mississippians who are dying prematurely. We have too many who are aging with poor health and we have too many people struggling for access to care."

Edney appeared before the lawmakers at a budget hearing to request an additional \$14.6 million in state general funds for the year that begins July 1, which would be a 42% increase from the general funds for the current fiscal year. About \$9.2 million in new funds would be used to hire an additional 100 nurses to work in county health departments across the state, according to a health department budget document.

A nurse shortage accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic and the exodus has added further strain on the healthcare system in Mississippi. A spokesperson for the health department, Liz Sharlot, said 54% of rural hospitals are in danger of closure or downgrading existing services.

The Greenwood Leflore Hospital in the Delta has been teetering on the edge of permanent closure for months, in part because it can't pay competitive wages to retain experienced nurses. Its potential closure threatens access to maternal health care just as the state is expecting more births each year as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court decision

last year that eliminated nationwide legal protections for abortion.

Nursing shortages have not been limited to Mississippi, but the state has the nation's highest fetal mortality rate, highest infant mortality rate, highest pre-term birth rate and is among the worst for maternal mortality. Black women are nearly three times more likely to die due to pregnancy-related illness than white women in Mississippi, according to the Center for Mississippi Health Policy.

Edney said the agency is shifting its attention from COVID-19 response back to its "core responsibilities."

He outlined three issues in need of more attention: maternal mortality, diabetes and the opioid crisis.

Half of diabetics in Mississippi don't know they have it, and the Delta has one of the highest amputation rates in the country. An increase in diabetes screening would help reverse the trend, Edney said. For maternal care, the department needs more funds to start up a new at-home nursing program for mothers. But these efforts require more skilled health workers.

"I can't do it with my current workforce," Edney said. "I don't have enough." He said county departments have borne the brunt of the state's health challenges.

"Honestly, I'm shocked to hear you say this," said Sen. Angela Hill, a Republican from Picayune. "I think part of it is people don't know where to go for services."

About 80% of the department's funding is federal, but those dollars are more inflexible than state dollars.

"That's why the state appropriations for us is precious," Edney said. "The very modest ask that we have is not to expand the agency, but it is to strengthen the safety net."

Legislators are supposed to complete a state budget by late March.

Michael Goldberg is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/mikergoldberg.

Mississippi nursing schools turn away students amid shortage

By Michael Goldberg
Associated Press

Amid a nursing shortage that is worsening poor health outcomes in Mississippi, nursing programs at the state's public universities are turning away hundreds of potential students every year because of insufficient faculty sizes.

Alfred Rankins Jr., Mississippi's commissioner of Higher Education, said nursing programs have struggled to retain faculty members because of the state's lower-than-average salaries for public university employees.

"Unfortunately, our nursing programs must turn away approximately 300 qualified nursing applicants each year because of limited faculty numbers," said Rankins.

The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning is requesting a \$5 million increase in state funds for the fiscal year that begins July 1 to beef up nursing faculties at public universities, which Rankins said will help alleviate the shortage. About 73% of nursing graduates in Mississippi still work in the state after five years, according to the agency.

Dr. Daniel Edney, Mississippi's top health officer, told lawmakers in January that the State Health Department is short 150 nurses. The shortage is hampering the department's ability to address a wide range of poor health outcomes, from high rates of maternal and infant mortality to severe cases of diabetes that require amputations.

While Mississippi has struggled to build up its medical workforce for years, a nationwide nursing shortage during the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated staffing issues. Some Mississippi's hospitals



Alfred Rankin, Jr. BY ROGER V. SOLLIS /AP SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTOS

responded by adopting new incentives, such as bonus pay and loan repayments.

Rankins said faculty at Mississippi's public four year institutions have lower average salaries than their peers in neighboring states. The salaries in Mississippi are below the regional average measured by the Southern Regional Education Board, which collects data on public education in 16 states. "It would take several years of increases to close the current gap," Rankins said.

States that neighbor Mississippi – Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana and Arkansas – also charge residents higher tuition.

The challenge to retain faculty has been complicated by inflationary pressure on university budgets. Increases in the price of energy, food and construction have

made it more costly to operate a university. Guarding against digital threats is another that priority that would require additional resources, Rankins said.

Since 2000, the state's general fund has grown by 82% overall while the IHL's appropriations from the fund have only grown by 8%, according to figures presented by agency.

Legislators are supposed to complete a state budget by late March.

Michael Goldberg is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/mikergoldberg.

P R E S E R V E D

Miracles in the desert

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Fear and uncertainty are the two most common emotions that are expressed when people share how the new year makes them feel. We are still dealing with the lingering effects of the deadly pandemic. Despite the use of masks and vaccines, thousands are still getting infected and dying every week.

In addition, with an increase in acts of racial violence, others say that our country is going in the wrong direction and that we are in desert of despair. However, what I've learned over the years is that sometimes God will place us in a situation that is out of our control so that we will see the miracles he can perform.

By definition, miracles are positive circumstances that

come out of the impossible. However, being in a desert can also be a place of miracles.

Deserts can be uncomfortable places for a number of reasons. First, a desert can be a place of isolation. Second, the isolation that you feel in the desert may influence you to do desperate things. For example, if you are in a relationship desert, you may begin a relationship with someone even if they really don't offer you what you want.

Yet, God seems to do his best work in the desert.

The desert is a place where you can hear God without distraction and know that he is concerned about you. Genesis 16:7 says that "The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur." Hagar was depressed and fled to the desert to escape Sarai's mistreatment of her. However, the angel of the

Lord found her and spoke to her about the child that she was carrying and his future destiny.

Moreover, the desert is a place of isolation but being there can also be the first step in fulfilling even a greater purpose.

Genesis 37:22 shares part of the story of Joseph and how his brothers faked his death out of jealousy: "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don't lay a hand on him." This was the first unfortunate step that eventually led to him being one of the great leaders of Egypt. It took him a few years to reach the place that God had shown him through dreams as a teenager, but God's favor and protection were with him every step of the way.

In another example Deuteronomy 8:2 states, "Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble

you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands." The children of Israel needed to be reminded that their years in the desert had a purpose.

Rather than complain about our desert places, know that it is in desert places that God is really setting us up to receive his miracles. Whether emotional, physical or spiritual, desert places show us that God is with us, is faithful and full of mercy.

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

Every eye shall see Him

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



There is no teaching in God's Bible of two separate resurrections. When Jesus returns in the clouds, He is not going to come down to this earth. He is not going to climb on a white horse and ride it down main street with blood up to the horse's bridle. His foot is not going to touch this terra firma again. He has already fulfilled that calling. When He lived here for about thirty-three and a half years that was the only time Jesus needed to touch this earth.

The Bible says He will come in the clouds and every eye shall see Him. Those who are dead in Christ shall be raised up, and those who are alive in Him will be caught up together with Him. Where? They will meet Him in the air, not in Jerusalem, not in the governments of this earth, where Jesus now has power.

Why would people think such a thought when the Bible says that God still rules in the kingdom of men? If God already rules in the kingdom of men, why would He need to come back and gain rule over it again?

Jesus already professed this when the devil came to tempt Him after He had fasted for forty days. The devil said if He would bow down and worship him, he would

make Him ruler over all of this. Jesus did not need the devil to give it to Him. He already owned it, and He still does.

Both classes of people, the good and the bad, or the just and the unjust, will be at the Judgment and get their eternal rewards at the same time. There will not be any thousand years space in between. There will not be any reign in between. They are both going to be at the Judgment at the same time. Again, they are both going to receive their rewards at the same time.

We read in Matthew 25:31, Jesus stated, "When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory." That is going to be a mighty host.

Did you know that God gave angels to watch over us? People sometimes say flippantly that we have guardian angels, but we really do have angels to watch over us. If God has angels to watch over all people throughout the world, that is a mighty host of angels. When Elijah said to his servant, "Lord, open his eyes," he looked up and saw a mighty host surrounding all the Syrian army. He said, "I perceive there are more with us than with them." We still have the world outnumbered. When Jesus returns, He is not coming alone. Be ready when He comes.

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



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Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



Sunday Morning Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Sch: 10 a.m.	Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m. (Fellowship following worship service 1st Sundays)	Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.
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Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor
231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046
Church: 601-859-2858

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MLK Day reminds us of our past and keeps our hope for the future

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



Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

We honored and lifted high the name of this great Civil Rights leader. Our America has marched and demonstrated for equal rights over the years. This call for equality has not stopped and will not stop until the shackles of injustice have been taken off.

The road to equity and fairness has been littered with potholes and pitfalls. The King holiday which we honor each year happened because we the people made it happen. Our insistence and persistence served as catalysts for this memorable day of service.

We know the mantra “Make it a day on, not a day off” rings true as we help people and agencies in their time of need. Dr. King was a servant leader before the term came to be. He led marches and demonstrations yet he served the people as well.

The first King holiday was observed January 20, 1986 and is now observed in all 50 states.

Those of us who are back in the day senior citizens can see the changes in our society today. There are several areas that Dr. King and other Civil Rights leaders orchestrated that improved our lives as citizens.

Jobs and positions of leadership now give us equal footing on the economic landscape. In turn, we are giving others those same chances for success.

It does no good for us to covet power and authority because if we do, the people we meet on the way up, we will trip over when we fall back down.

Our political savvy is probably the best that it has ever been. Men and women of color at all levels of government are showing their ability to lead and to create poli-

cies that are sustainable and measurable.

Life for us overall has substantially improved as we have gained more clout and more awareness about what we must do to get ahead.

We own more now than ever before from businesses to homes, yet we cannot stop now. Reports say that the homeownership rate for African Americans is between 42% and 45%.

While we have made progress in some areas, we have challenges in other areas.

Education is an attainable goal for all of us so we must pursue it. I have long been an advocate for education and training. Without it, our capacity to earn is limited.

Voting must stay on our high priority list as it gives us a voice in how our government is run and who the elected officials will be. Be mindful that there are those out here who would like to stifle and stop us from voting so we must be steadfast and unshakeable when it comes to our right to vote. Dr. King understood that it would be a powerful tool in our quest for rights and privileges.

Let us continue to do more each day to encourage people to register and to vote. It is not enough just to register to vote, we must go to the polls and vote in all elections.

At the start of this new year with the King holiday behind us, we must pledge to treat one another better. Our children and grandchildren watch the way we treat each other and talk to each other as we are role models for them daily.

Let us celebrate Dr. King’s legacy of non-violence and empowerment throughout the year.

He said, “Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Even a superficial look at history reveals that no social advances roll in on the wheels of inevitability. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle.”

This column is dedicated to our grandchildren AJ and Makoy who represent the future of this country.

Pursuing Martin Luther King Jr.’s beloved community

By Rep. James E. Clyburn
D-S.C., Chairman, Democratic Faith Working Group



According to Dr. King, the creation of a beloved community would require the American people to address three great evils of society: racism, poverty and militarism. My friend and former colleague, the late John R. Lewis, arguably Dr. King’s most ardent disciple, often invoked the concept to buttress his calls for a “just society.” John was committed to the pursuit, but I always wondered if such were possible until recently.

The Biden-Harris Administration has begun to address the racial inequities in our healthcare system. My father often said that if you don’t have your health, you don’t have anything.

President Biden signed the PACT Act to make it easier for veterans suffering side effects from the contaminated water, burn pits, and toxins they were exposed to at war to receive the care and benefits they deserve. Considering roughly 43 percent of active-duty military are people of color, this will help our black veterans and their loved ones receive equitable health care.

Reducing poverty, King’s second great evil, is a priority for the Biden-Harris Administration. The American Rescue Plan, the Infrastructure bill and the Inflation Reduction Act, have created millions of opportunities for the American people to achieve upward economic mobility. President Biden’s targeting of student loan debt relief will relieve the disproportionate economic burden of student loan debt from the shoulders of



According to Dr. King, the creation of a beloved community would require the American people to address three great evils of society: racism, poverty and militarism. Photo: President Lyndon B. Johnson meets with Martin Luther King, Jr. in the White House Cabinet Room, 18 March 1966. Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum. Image Serial Number: A2134-2A.

In their efforts to confront racism directly, the Biden-Harris Administration has begun to address the racial inequities in our healthcare system. My father often said that if you don’t have your health, you don’t have anything.

President Biden signed the PACT Act to make it easier for veterans suffering side effects from the contaminated water, burn pits, and toxins they were exposed to at war to receive the care and benefits they deserve. Considering roughly 43 percent of active-duty military are people of color, this will help our black veterans and their loved ones receive equitable health care.

Reducing poverty, King’s second great evil, is a priority for the Biden-Harris Administration. The American Rescue Plan, the Infrastructure bill and the Inflation Reduction Act, have created millions of opportunities for the American people to achieve upward economic mobility. President Biden’s targeting of student loan debt relief will relieve the disproportionate economic burden of student loan debt from the shoulders of

over 1.6 million vulnerable borrowers. It will also restructure repayment plans to make them borrower friendly.

Homeownership is one of the quickest and sustainable ways out of poverty. President Biden’s Housing Supply Action Plan is designed to help close the housing supply shortfall in 5 years by increasing the supply and preserving the existence of affordable housing across the country. There is an extreme mismatch between the supply of and demand for affordable homes. Closing this gap will create more affordable rental units and purchase options for low – and moderate – income families.

Dr. King’s third evil, militarism, has not gone un-responded to by the Biden-Harris administration. No one can forget the images of police outfitted with military-grade equipment in cities across the country during recent racial justice protests. The militarization of police is a phenomenon that endangers everyday citizens and precipitates violent policing.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities law reforms policing by investing in violence inter-

ruption funding and children and family mental health services. The law provides over \$250 million for community-based violence prevention programs, empowering communities to interrupt the cycle of violence by intervening on behalf of those most likely to commit offenses that require police attention. Similarly, bolstering programs and organizations that can help prevent and respond to emergency calls instead of armed police officers could stop incidents from ending in police violence.

In 2022, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety. This order mandates the reporting of police misconduct and use-of-force incidents and orders all federal law enforcement agencies to revise their use-of-force policies. Now Federal agencies cannot transfer or sell military equipment to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, cutting down on the militarization of our local police departments.

For us to continue our pursuit of a more perfect union, we must embrace Dr. King’s vision of a blessed community and confront the injustices that have stymied that pursuit for centuries. It is our solemn duty as Members of Congress to put forth legislation that advances liberty and justice for all.

But for all our successes, much remains to be done as we pause to commemorate and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hopefully, as we move beyond this year’s celebration, we will revisit this idea of a beloved community and recommit ourselves to making his dream, the American Dream, a reality.

Tell me something good

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
Guest Writer



One of my favorite aspects of getting dressed, especially for a date night, is anticipating my husband’s compliments. I look forward to hearing his praises and approbation. It never fails for him to positively express what he feels and thinks about me. However, there are a few occasions where his praises were shared later than I expected.

For instance, for a recent date night, I wore a pair of skinny jeans, a bright sweater, matching bright leather jacket, had on matching boots with 3½ inch heels (somewhat regretful of the heels later), and my hair was flowing, etc.

I had the “Drip.” Our teen children often describe the Drip as looking fashionably good. I had the sauce, in other words. I had received compliments from family, our children (our teen daughter approved of my fashion choices, because she approved, I knew I was on point) and strangers but when my husband finally saw me, he did not utter a word until we walked under our garage (ten minutes later) and then he expressed, “You look really nice.”

Yes, on rare occasions, there are times when he does not say anything. However, I have reasoned that maybe his silence is due to being overtaken by my beauty...really, I know. Ultimately, spouses desire frequently for their spouses to genuinely tell them something good. “Tell Me

Something Good,” was a song recorded well before my time, yet a song that resonates then and today. “Tell Me Something Good,” was released by a group called, Rufus in 1974 on an album entitled, “Rags to Rufus,” and it’s featured artist (main singer) was Chaka Khan. Although Stevie Wonder wrote this song and passed it to Rufus for their lead singer – Chaka; Chaka Khan gets more recognition for its funky, raspy and soulful sound.

The song served as the first hit for Rufus, and it was a hit in the United States. “Tell Me Something Good,” was just that, meaning, tell me, talk to me, communicate with me what and how you feel about me.

There are many spouses singing this tune like Chaka Khan every day with a tone of frustration, anxiety, and doubt – they desire for their spouses to tell them something good. Nevertheless, there are many married couples that never hear anything good from their spouses – never. Some spouses don’t remember the last time their spouses said anything good to them and about them, even down to saying, “I love you.” Please tell your spouse something good.

Why should spouses tell their spouses something good often? The answer is simple, it is a reassurance symbol of love to your spouse. Please do not get me wrong, yes, we as individuals should have enough confidence about ourselves where if a spouse never tells you something good, you should still embrace and celebrate you.

However, married couples should have some confidence in knowing what and how their spouses feel about them too. What you share about one another, must be genuine – must be real. Of course, most spouses will be able to determine if the good you tell them is genuine, sincere and real. In other words, don’t just make it a habit of saying something good to your spouse without meaning it; might as well not say anything at all. Tell your spouse something good only if you mean it.

Spouses must commit to sincerely telling their spouses something good often for the following reasons:

- Life is short
 - Can promote happy and healthy marriages
 - Can reduce disappointments, frustrations.
 - Can reduce emotional and physical affairs (don’t get me wrong not all affairs are inspired by the lack of positive affirmation and attention from a spouse)
 - Can reduce separations and divorces
 - Someone else will – read this good – there are women and men lurking for their next man or woman; married or not married.
- The following are examples of sincerely telling your spouse something good daily, not occasionally:
- I love you
 - I love (blank) about you
 - I like (blank) about you
 - Compliments – You are beautiful, you smell good, you are handsome, you are sexy, you cooked a great meal (even if they didn’t), you did a good job cutting

the grass, you have an adorable smile, you rock, etc.

- Expressing your attraction for them
- Consistently thanking them for helping you in whatever ways they have – ex. filling up your vehicle with gas, etc.
- Verbally and physically expressing your appreciation for them
- Express what you enjoy about them
- Express what you enjoy about intimacy
- Romantic gestures
- Showing affection in private and public.

In conclusion, many married couples go out of their way at times to tell their spouses something bad about one another whether it is hurtful or offensive. In fact, some spouses get more pleasure in expressing what they don’t like or enjoy about their spouse than they do in telling them something good.

It does not matter how long you have been married, commit to **genuinely** telling your spouse something good. Many wives and believe it or not, many husbands, **crave**, positive attention and positive recognition from **you**. Furthermore, many crave for you to tell them something good consistently.

I admire receiving compliments from family, friends and even strangers, but it is something quite special when my husband tells me something good about me.

Spouses should genuinely tell one another something good often, in my opinion, daily.

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REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR PUBLIC RESTROOM RENOVATIONS AT JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JAN) JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 006-23

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is requesting Statement of Qualifications and Expressions of Interest (each, a "Statement of Qualifications") to provide architectural and related services (the "Services") to JMAA in connection with Architectural Services for Public Restroom Renovations at JAN JMAA Project No. 006-23 at JAN.

JMAA will receive sealed electronic or printed submissions only. All submissions of Statement of Qualifications to perform the Services will be accepted until Wednesday, March 01, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on (the "Deadline"). RFQ shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows: Email: bids@imaa.com

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

JMAA will not consider any Statement of Qualifications received after Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Statement of Qualifications ("RFQ") is on file and open for the public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFQ, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents, and Criteria for Selection.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Mr. Marvin Buckhalter, JMAA, Director of Procurement, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
Attn: Marvin Buckhalter
Director of Procurement
100 International Drive, Suite 300
Jackson, MS 39208
Telephone: (601) 664-3516
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713
Email: mbuckhalter@jmaa.com

or JMAA's website at [https://Procurement | JAN \(jmaa.com\)](https://Procurement|JAN(jmaa.com))

<https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement>.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Video Conference on Wednesday, February 01, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. (CST) using the following login information:

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095
Passcode: 520966

Attendance at the Pre-Submission Video Conference is not mandatory for all those submitting Statement of Qualifications as a Prime Consultant for the Services.

After evaluation in accordance with the criteria set forth in the RFQ, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent marked first on the list. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement, in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent. In that event, JMAA will follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.

JMAA reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Statement of Qualifications, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services, and (2) waive any and all informalities and irregularities in the selection process.

JMAA has established a DBE contract goal of 0.00% for the Services solicited by this RFQ.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY DATE: January 11, 2023

John Means, (Acting) Chief Operations Officer

1/12/2023 1/19/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING ZONING CASE NO. 4198

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 Caroline Reed has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1A (Single-Family) Residential District to R-2 (Single-Family & Two-Family) Residential District to allow for the construction of a duplex for the property located at 1860 Meadowbrook Rd. (Parcel #584-180) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot 1, Block J, Part 3, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 12 at Page 13 reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO January 18, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 28th day of December 2022.

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

1/5/2023, 1/19/2023

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Advertisement for RFQ 2023-01

RFQ 2023-01 Energy Savings Performance Contracting Services

Electronic RFQ proposals for the above RFQ will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), January 31, 2023, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all RFQs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any RFQ if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFQs are opened.

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

Special Notice

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

1/12/2023, 1/19/2023

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3215 Crawl Space Repairs at Wingfield High School

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) February 10, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conferences concerning this project will be held at 1985 Scanlon Drive, Jackson, MS 39204 on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsdm-projects.com. A \$150.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid 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 Jennifer Seymour at Eley Guild Hardy, Phone: 228-594-2323, or Email: jseymour@egh.ms.

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

1/12/2023, 1/19/2023

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

63066-020723 Eighteen-Month Supply of Traffic Paint

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV & WWW.CENTRAL-BIDDING.COM

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

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

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

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

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

1/12/2023 1/19/2023

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Jackson's Office of Housing and Community Development is accepting Applications and Proposals for an Environmentalist Contractor for the City of Jackson's Healthy Homes Production Program until 5:00 PM, CST on February 24, 2023. Applications are available on the City's website at www.jacksonms.gov or by emailing an application request to robbies@jacksonms.gov. The application must be filled out in its entirety and all required documentation must be attached at the time of application submission. The City of Jackson reserves the right to approve and terminate Environmentalist Contractors for the Healthy Homes Production Program at any time. Questions should be directed to:

Valerie Tucker, 601-960-4238 or email vtucker@city.jackson.ms.us; or

Dr. Robbie Smith, 601-960-1156 or email robbies@jacksonms.gov.

1/19/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT ZONING CASE NO. 4197

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 Surinder P. Kaur & Gurjeet Singh have 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 6080 Highway 18 West. (Parcel: #835-58), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 0.697 ACRES SITUATED IN THE SOUTH HALF OF SECTION 15, T4N-R1 W, JACKSON, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI AND BEING MORE PARTICULARY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF THE L.J. JACKSON PARTITION WITH THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY 18 AND RUN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH BOUNDARY FOR A DISTANCE OF 1502.93 FEET; LEAVING SAID SOUTH BOUNDARY, RUN THENSE SOUTH 50 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 323.15 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF A PROPOSED ROADWAY; THEN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID CENTERLINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 624.5 FEET; LEAVING SAID CENTERLINE, THENSE NORTH 60 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 234.23 FEET; CONTINUE THENSE NORTH 60 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 150.00 FEET; THENSE SOUTH 32 DEGREES 09 MINUTES AND 00 SECONDS EAST FOR A CONTINUE THENSE SOUTH 32 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 210.70 FEET TO THE NORTHERN RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY 18; 1 THENSE SOUTHWESTERLY, CLOCKWISE ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE ON SAID WESTERN RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 141.03 FEET, SAID CURVE HAVING A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 04 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 37 SECONDS, A RADIUS OF 1942.23 FEET AND A CHORD BEARING OF SOUTH 57 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 14 1.00 FEET; LEAVING SAID WESTERN RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, RUN THENCE NORTH 33 DEGREES 50 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 208.96 FEET; THENCE NORTH 56 DEGREES 3 1 MINUTES 50 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 147.17 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL IS THE SAME PROPERTY AS DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK PAGE 5926 AT PAGE 101. TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR SEWER FACILITES, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: A PARCEL OF LAND BEING SITUATED IN THE SOUTH HALF OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 5 NORTH, RANGE 1 WEST, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI AND BEING MORE PARTICULARY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH PROPERTY LINE OF THE L. J. JACKSON PARTITION WITH THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF MISSISSIPPI STATE HIGHWAY 18; THENCE RUN SOUTH 88 0 51 ' WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH L. J. JACKSON PROPERTY LINE A DISTANCE OF 1,502.93 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 50 0 31 ' EAST A DISTANCE OF 323.15 FEET TO A POINT ON THE CENTERLINE OF A 60' FOOT PROPOSED STREET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 0 26' WEST ALONG SAID CENTERLINE OF A PROPOSED STREET A DISTANCE OF 624.5 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 60 0 53' EAST A DISTANCE OF 234.23 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN NORTH 60 0 53' EAST A DISTANCE OF 150 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 32 0 09' EAST A DISTNACE OF 75 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 58 0 01 ' WEST A DISTANCE OF 147.31 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED EASEMENT FOR SWER FACILITIES; RUN THENCE NORTH 33 0 50' WEST A DISTANCE OF 25 FEET; RUN THENCE NORTH 58 0 01 ' EAST 40 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE EDGE OF THE EXISTING DIRECTION ALONG THE EDGE OF THE SAID PAVEMENT TO THE BOUNDARY LINE SEPARATING THE PROPERTY OF WILLIAM B. LAW AND RICKY ROBERTS FROM THE PROPERTY OF VICKSBURG LP-GAS COMPANY; RUN THENCE ALONG THE SAID BOUNDARY LINE, SOUTH 58 0 01 ' WEST TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO January 18, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 28th day of December 2022.

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

1/5/2023, 1/19/2023

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES RICHARD TREADWELL, DECEASED, GWENDOLNY S. TREADWELL, PETITIONER

CAUSE NO: 21-520 T/1

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

SUMMONS (By Publication)

RE: ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES RICHARD, TREADWELL, DECEASED, GWENDOLY S. TREADWELL, PETITIONER

TO: ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES RICHARD TREADWELL, DECEASED, OR ANY OTHER RESPONDENT IN THIS MATTER

You have been made a respondent in the Petition to Adjudicate / Designate the Heirs at Law and the Petition to Close Estate, Distribute Assets, Discharge the Executrix of the Estate of JAMES RICHARD TREADWELL, deceased.

You are Summoned to appear and defend against said Petition(s) filed herein before the Honorable Judge, Dewayne Thomas, on the 13th day of April 2023 at 1:30 o'clock P. M. at the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse, Jackson, Mississippi, 3165 S. President Street. And in case of failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered for the things requested in this Petition. You are not required to file any answers or other pleadings, but you may if you desire.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT this 13th day of January, 2023.

Eddie Jean Carr oftirro.
Hinds County Chancery Clerk
Jackson, Mississippi

1/19/2023 1/26/2023 2/2/2024

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, February 07, 2023, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

933440-020723— RFP Licensed Catering Services

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

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

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

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

1/12/2023 1/19/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3216 Renovations to Wells APAC

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) February 15, 2023, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conferences concerning this project will be held at 1120 Riverside Drive, Jackson, MS 39202 on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 3:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpsdm-projects.com. A \$200.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid 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 Kali Blakeney at M3A Architecture, PLLC, Phone: 601-981-1227, or Email: kblakeneyam3aarch.com.

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

1/19/2023 1/26/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3217 Brinkley Middle School ESSER Renovations

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) February 28, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conferences concerning this project will be held at 3535 Albermarle Road, Jackson, MS 39213 on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpsdm-projects.com. A \$200.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid 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 Charles Bunniran at Allen & Hoshall, Phone: 601-977-8993, or Email: cbunnirana.allenhoshall.com.

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

1/19/2023 1/26/2023

LEGAL

Public Notice

All interested public and private transit and paratransit operators within Hinds County, are hereby advised that the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation is applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Jackson, Mississippi, for a grant under Section 5310 of the Federal Public Transportation Act, as amended, to provide transportation services to elderly and disabled persons. These services will be beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Service is being provided within Hinds County. This program consists of existing services with no environmental impact, and no relocation resulting from the project.

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties, including transit

and paratransit operators, of the service being planned for providing transportation services for persons with disabilities within the area as described above, and to ensure that such a program would not represent a duplication of current or of proposed services provided by existing transit or paratransit operators in the area.

Comments either for or against this service will be received at any time beginning December 27, 2022, through January 22, 2023, from 8:00am to 5:00pm. All comments should be addressed to Mr. Primus Wheeler at the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation at 601-982-8467 or via email at pwheeler@jackson-medicalmall.org.

1/12/2023 1/19/2023

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Hinds CC recognizes IDEAList employees

By LaTunya Evans
Communications Specialist, MVSU

Hinds Community College has selected its first group of honorees in its new employee recognition program called IDEAList.

IDEALists can be nominated by anyone at the college or the community. They model the IDEALS as identified in the college values of Integrity, Diversity, Excellence, Accountability, Leadership and Stewardship.

In alphabetical order the honorees are as follows:

Tershuna Bass of Terry, instructional designer for eLearning, Raymond Campus. A Hinds graduate, she has been with the college for three years. She teaches, develops and redesigns courses and curriculums, and creates training materials and guides for employees, instructors and students.

Julie Clark of Brandon, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, Raymond Campus. She has worked at Hinds for 4½ years. She gives instructional support for faculty members, develops and redesigns courses and curriculums, and creates training materials and guides for employees, instructors and students.

Dana Harpole of Vicksburg, maintenance technician, Vicksburg-Warren Campus. A Hinds graduate, she has been with the college for 14½ years. She started to work at the college in 2008 and began taking classes in 2016, earning an electrical technology degree in 2019. She handles all maintenance requests and facility set-up for the campus.

Jackie Jackson of Raymond, admin-



Front from left, Julie Clark, Wendy Lingle, Jackie Jackson, Tershuna Bass, Dana Harpole; back, Brad Smith, Karen Mays, Jeffery Johnson, Renita Ragsdale, Emily Thomas

istrative assistant in the President's Office, Raymond Campus. A Hinds alumnus, she has been employed at the college for 22½ years. She handles phone calls, budgets, travel, booking the President's Conference Room as well as recording and maintaining minutes for the Board of Trustees and Executive Leadership Team meetings.

Jeffrey Johnson of Bolton, director of Physical Plant & Maintenance, Jackson Campus. A Hinds graduate,

he has been employed with the college for six years. He is in charge of the regular care and maintenance of the campus buildings and grounds "to ensure the campus is aesthetically pleasing, properly repaired, well-maintained and safe."

Wendy Lingle of Pearl, dean of nursing, Nursing/Allied Health Center. A Hinds graduate, she has been employed at the college for 10 years. She oversees nursing programs at NAHC,

Rankin and Vicksburg.

Karen Mays of Jackson, assessment lab coordinator, Jackson Campus. She has been employed at Hinds for 10 years. Her responsibilities include coordinating all assessment lab activities, monitoring the daily operation of the lab, and reporting test data as well as other assigned departmental duties.

Renita Ragsdale of Clinton, administrative assistant to the Dean of Technology, Utica Campus. A Hinds

graduate, she has been employed at the college for 14 years. In her role she performs tasks from creating purchase orders to building classes to compiling monthly highlights; in addition to teaching business office technology courses.

Brad Smith of Brandon, photographer/photo archivist, Raymond Campus. A Hinds graduate, he has been employed at the college for nearly two years. He photographs Hinds events at all six campuses, creates cover photography for *Hindsight* magazine, maintains equipment for the Community Relations Department and archives all photographs.

Emily Thomas of Richland, business services system analyst, Raymond Campus. A Hinds graduate, she has worked at Hinds for 8½ years. She troubleshoots and find solutions to issues or problems within Navigator and researches and tests improvements to the system.

With six campuses in central Mississippi, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills.

Our Mission: Hinds Community College is committed to moving people and communities forward by helping develop their purpose, passion and profession.

Our Vision: Hinds Community College will be a catalyst to create a competitive economy and a compelling culture for Mississippi.

JSU receives \$25,000 endowment honoring memory of IHL board member

By Rachel James-Terry
Jackson State University

Jackson State University is the recipient of a \$25,000 Karen Cummins Memorial Endowment in memory of the life of Cummins, a board member for the Institutions of Higher Learning, who passed away in 2017.

Then Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant appointed Cummins to the state College Board in 2012.

"Scholarships provide life-changing educational opportunities for our students and help give them a limitless future," said JSU President Thomas K. Hudson, J.D. "We are very grateful for the philanthropic efforts of Billy and

Karen Cummins, and this is a wonderful addition to Karen's legacy."

Cummins served as the vice president of Atmos Energy, overseeing the Southaven District, Delta region and Columbus and Tupelo areas. She began her career with Atmos as an office clerk in the 70s before elevating through administrative, marketing and operations positions.

"She loved higher education," said Billy Cummins, Karen's husband, who established the endowment. "She's very happy. She's looking down on me, and she knows that I'm doing it for her and the betterment of education and trying to help people."

Cummins received an associate degree in business from Mississippi Delta Community College. She attained a bachelor's degree in education from Delta State University. She was born in Indianola, Mississippi, located in Sunflower County, but grew up in Inverness, Mississippi. Billy, was born in nearby Kosciusko, Mississippi.

Scholarship requirements include the children of Atmos Energy and Entergy Mississippi employees. If no one qualifies under that criteria, the scholarship is open to Sunflower or Attala County residents.

Billy emphasized that he wants every recipient of the

Karen Cummins endowment to know that "people do care."

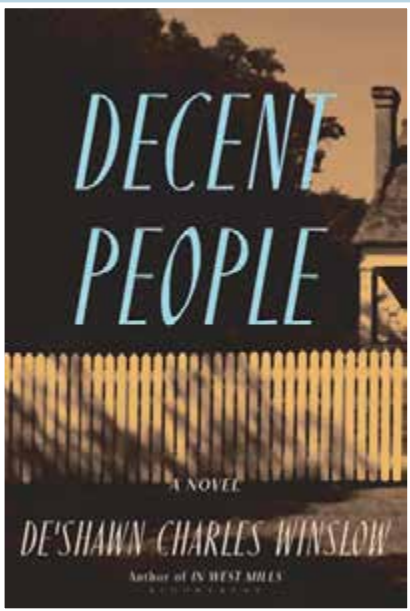
Moving to DeSoto County in the late 90s, Cummins was a past chairman of the DeSoto County Economic Development Council. She also served on the Community Advisory Board for Baptist Memorial Hospital, and her many memberships included the DeSoto County Business Women.

Cummins was a past board member of the Southaven Chamber of Commerce, the Southaven Main Street Association and the North Mississippi Homebuilders Association.

She also participated in a number of community service activities.



Pictured is Yolanda Owens, interim vice president of the Division of Institutional Advancement at JSU, Billy Cummins and JSU President Thomas K. Hudson, J.D. Photo by Charles A. Smith/JSU



BOOK REVIEW:

DECENT PEOPLE

BY DE'SHAWN CHARLES WINSLOW

C.2023, BLOOMSBURY

\$28.00 • 261 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

It's a small world, isn't it? Someone you're acquainted with knows your old roommate's former girlfriend who used to work in your building but is now married to your aunt's babysitter's brother in Tupelo. Yeah, it's complicated and in the new novel, "Decent People" by De'Shawn Charles Winslow, it's twice as hard to untangle.

Josephine Wright had been around the block a time or two. In her 60s, she'd been mar-

ried and divorced twice and she'd had her share of affairs but she never met a man quite like Olympus "Lymp" Seymore. She could see his heart, and Lymp was a good man. Yes, he could lose his temper, but he wasn't like that and there was no way he could have killed his half-sisters or his half-brother like folks say he did.

It was 1976, and Jo had just moved to the small town of West Mills, North Carolina. She didn't know a lot of people there, but she was about to. Somebody had to clear Lymp's

name, because the local sheriff sure wasn't going to do it.

Eunice Loving should have kept her mouth shut.

But no, she had to go and have an argument with Dr. Marian Harmon, whose idea of therapy for Eunice's son, La'Roy, was to have him beaten up by Savannah Russet's boys. All Eunice wanted was for La'Roy not to be gay, and Marian said she could fix him. Eunice had words with Marian and now Marian was dead. People said Lymp did that, and people liked to whisper.

Lovely blonde-haired Savannah Russet wanted to raise her boys in the town where she grew up but her racist father never stopped making that hard. He figured that Savannah's mistake was falling in love with a black man; having children by him was even worse. And so Ted Temple had written Savannah out of his will – partly because his mama insisted on it.

But few knew the truth: Ted had been sleeping with Marian Harmon for years....

At one point in this novel, author De'Shawn Charles

Winslow mentions that there are about a thousand people in the small town of West Mills. Seems like you meet them all.

But here's some help on that end: pay them no mind, most of them don't matter here.

"Decent People" is overpopulated but it's really mainly about a triple murder and a handful of characters, every one of which is a sleuth and any one of which could be the killer.


Still, this really isn't a mystery novel: while the stories revolve around the killing of

three siblings, the whodunit seems secondary, as the finger-pointing and crime-solving happen mostly through gossip.


And Winslow's characters do like their gossip.

And that's also where the fun lies: watching the small-town mechanics unfold with a bit of dark humor kind of almost makes you wish the book wasn't going to end.

Running out of pages in "Decent People" and having to leave West Mills feels like a let-down after immersing yourself in this wonderful small world.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



Services of the Clerk:

- Civil/Criminal Filings of Circuit and County Court
- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. BOX 327
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: (601) 968-6628
Fax: (601) 973-5547

Jury Duty Recording:

First Judicial District
(601) 969-0052

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 999
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: (601) 857-8038
Fax: (601) 857-0535

Jury Duty Recording:

Second Judicial District
(601) 857-8869

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
(Except on legal holiday)

VOTER INFORMATION

Verify/Update your Registration Today

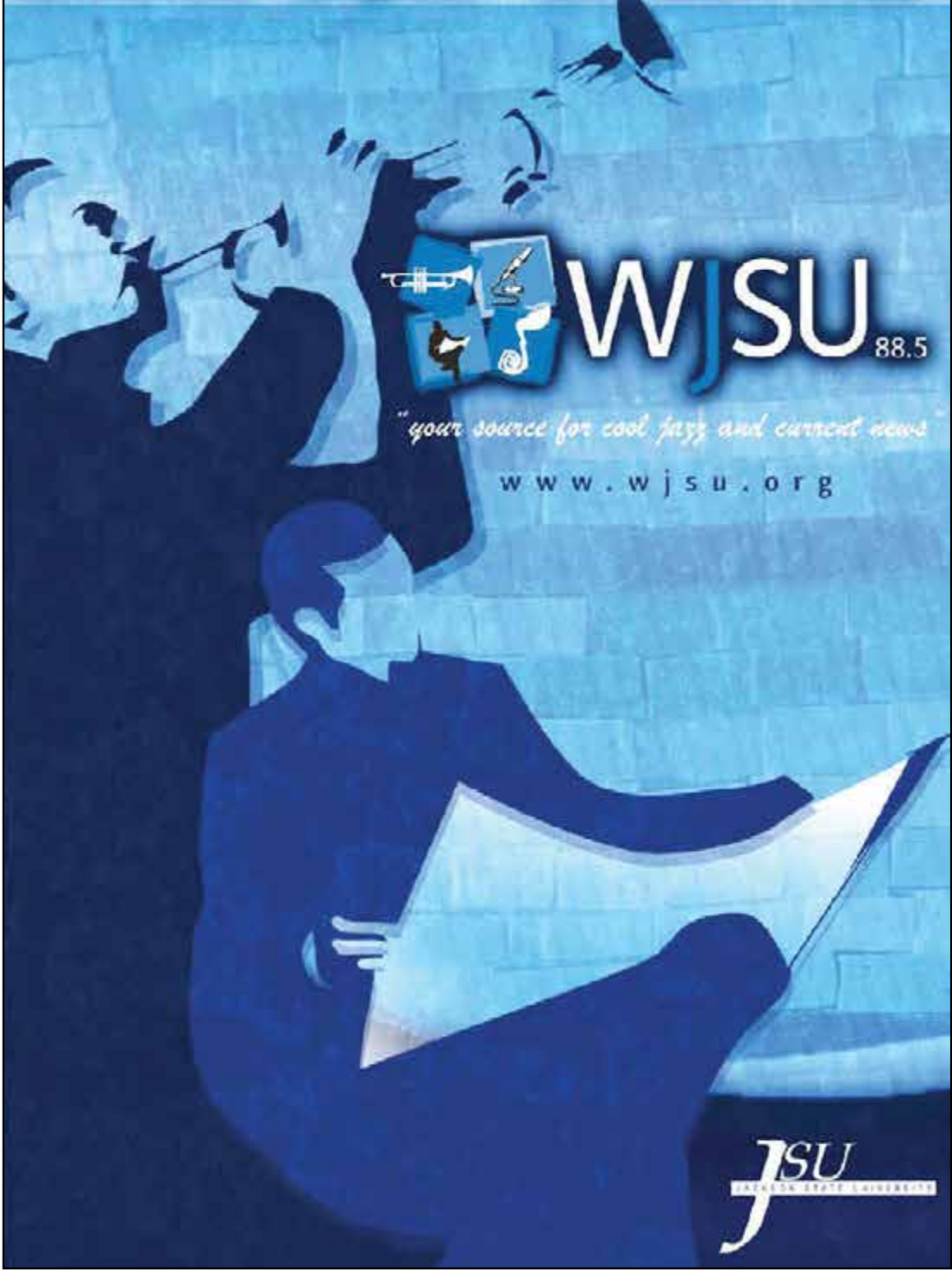
- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election


MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
 - o Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
 - o Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

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MLK Day: International Community Day of Service

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

There were 400 volunteers and more than 9,300 items collected by the JSD Foundation, Erick Dampier Foundation, Metro Jackson National PanHellenic Council and the Jackson Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. in observation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s national holiday on January 16, 2023 from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. at City Plaza, 2640 Terry Rd. in Jackson.

Juanita Doty, executive director of JSD Foundation told *The Mississippi Link*, "Today, I saw Dr. King's Dream in action as many community organizations and groups came together to serve 'side-by-side' with one goal in mind: providing food, warm coats and other items for our seniors, as they provided an example for our youth."

This combined group along with 400 volunteers collected 1,810 warm coats and accessories such as gloves, hats, blankets, throws, scarves and men's thermal underwear. They also collected 323 toiletry items, 3,050 paper goods and 4,150 canned goods.

Doty went on to say, "I saw the mentors and parents bring their children and overheard them explaining why today is so special and why it is important to help others. It was a phenomenal day of serving together, mentoring and training our youth and fostering stronger relationships in our community. Dr. King would be so proud."

These items were collected and distributed to Stewpot, Billy Brumfield Men's Shelter, Matt's House on the same day.



International Community Day of Service volunteers worked side by side with one goal - PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Gospel celebration at Medgar Evers Library

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

In tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Councilman Kenneth Stokes hosted a Community Gospel Celebration at the Medgar Evers Library on Dr. King's birthday January 15, 2023 at 3 p.m.

There was a "Stop the Violence" march and motorcade that preceded the gospel celebration which started at the home of Medgar Evers and ended at the Medgar Evers Library, located on Medgar Evers Drive.

The purpose of the march was to call attention to all the crime that is taking place, not only in Jackson, but across the country.

Members of the community gathered at the library and enjoyed food, music and the speakers. Anne Sanders, branch librarian, welcomed the guests and thanked them for being a part of the event.

Sanders told *The Mississippi Link*, "This MLK's Community Gospel event was very impactful on this community in particular. And it's definitely something that I will always remember and cherish."



PHOTOS BY ANNE SANDERS

Testimonial tributes were given by Representative William "Bo" Brown, Ethel Mangum, Ruby Harper and Rev. Dillon Dillard.

Closing remarks were given by Councilman Kenneth Stokes.

After the event, Anne Sanders, Branch Manager of the Library told *The Mississippi Link*, "This MLK's Community Gospel event was very impactful on this community in particular. And it's definitely something that I will always remember and cherish."



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District was happy to celebrate a ribbon cutting ceremony at Raymond Elementary combined with Carver Middle School opening a new gymnasium and classrooms. The Hinds County School Board was in attendance along with several administrators, principals, representatives and architects, who celebrated a new beginning at the Raymond Elementary/Carver Middle School.

