

THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

CELEBRATES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Honoring Alyce Griffin Clarke and Bennie Thompson

A BLACK HISTORY SPOTLIGHT:

The Bolton, Miss. native who led the U.S. House Select Committee on the Jan. 6 Attack

‘I ain’t taking off my pin. I ain’t getting on the floor!’

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

While most people, including elected officials, were enjoying their Super Bowl Sunday evening, U.S. House of Representative Bennie Gordon Thompson, D-Miss., was keeping his commitment to *The Mississippi Link* newspaper for a face-to-face Black History interview.

Thompson sat down in his Bolton, MS office with Gail Brown, James Hampton, Jay Johnson and Jackie Hampton for an interview/conversation which lasted almost three hours.

“Congressman Thompson has made so many historical achievements in his career that we felt it would be fitting to feature him in our Black History issue,” said Jackie Hampton, Mississippi Link publisher.

She added, “Spotlighting Thompson is especially noteworthy given that he, an African-American Bolton, Miss. native was chosen in July 2021 by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to chair the United States House Select Committee on the January 6 Attack on our nation’s capitol.”

According to Thompson’s congressional biography, as Se-



Bennie Thompson is a U.S. Representative for Mississippi’s 2nd Congressional District, serving since 1993, and the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security since 2011. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

lect Committee chair, he had “the sole authority to sign and issue a subpoena.”

**Thompson applauds the committee’s work**

“We were able to put a good team of lawyers and investigators together,” Thompson said.

“We sent people all around the world looking for connections

to what went on. Fast forward, 90 percent of our witnesses were Republicans, so it was not a partisan ‘witch hunt’ because these were people who worked for the former administration.”

He explained that they found nothing illegal about the conduct of the election.

“We produced an 850-page report,” he said. He explained that based on the exhibits and the footnotes, “the evidence is there.

“Understand, we were not a criminal body. We were a legislative body. And so, we have determined by our recommendation that Donald Trump was and should be charged for criminal activities that led to January 6.”

While Thompson applauded the work of the committee, Mississippi Attorney John Walker applauds Thompson. “His leadership as the chairman of The January 6 Commission was unprecedented and remarkable,” said Walker.

“When the committee was created, the pundits said that Trump and the MAG gang would stonewall the commission and it would accomplish very little.

**Thompson**  
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Legendary

State Legislator

Representative

Alyce Griffin Clarke



State Representative Alyce Griffin Clarke

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

*The Mississippi Link* is proud to honor our very own Mississippi State Representative – The Honorable Alyce Griffin Clarke, who has represented House District 69, Hinds County, since 1985 and has recently announced that she will retire later this year. I visited with her in her home on what is known popularly as President’s Day, of course in Mississippi, it’s referred to as Washington’s Birthday, making sure to keep President Lincoln out of the picture.

Clarke was born in Yazoo City, because there was no hospital open to black women in Belzoni. From picking cotton in Belzoni to her face on a mural right next to Fannie Lou Hamer, her path has been truly significant.

She earned a bachelor’s degree from Alcorn State University and a master’s degree from Tuskegee Institute. Additionally, she has attended Thee I Love Jackson State University as well as Mississippi College.

Clarke has the distinction of being the first black woman elected to the Mississippi Legislature. Today, of the thirteen women in the House of Representatives where she serves, seven are black.

Clarke has held many committee memberships during her tenure in the legislature. Currently she serves on Appropriations, Banking

and Financial Services, Drug Policy, Education, Gaming, Universities and Colleges, and Youth and Family Affairs. She was a member of the Black Legislative Caucus and Hinds County Democratic Legislative Caucus when they were formed. She is affiliated with Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alcorn Alumni, Jack & Jill of America, Inc., MS Public Health Association, Regional Association of Drug Free Schools and Communities and State PTA.

She has introduced over 1500 bills, and even now, in her final legislative session, she is sponsoring 25 bills. Clarke introduced the Born Free Act in 1986 which came out of her work with women, infants and children; mandating drug testing for newborns and providing services for mothers, now being operated as Born Free/New Beginnings by Catholic Charities.

She authored the bill creating Mississippi’s International Baccalaureate Diploma Program – today there seven IB programs in Mississippi; the first of which was at Jim Hill High School in Jackson – still thriving today. In 2003, after years of effort and advocacy, providing for a more comprehensive rehabilitative approach for criminal defendants who committed crimes while under the influence of

**Clarke**  
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Mississippi House Bill 1020 brazenly resurrects Jim Crow

sizzling racial oppression: Mississippi is still burning

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

Nearly two years a resident of Mississippi now, it no longer shocks me when native white Mississippians try to explain the racism in the state. One line is more consistent than all the others combined, “Well, it’s complicated in the South.” Is it really? Their explanation sure seems like an effort to put lipstick on the proverbial pig.

Today especially with, but not limited to, House Bill 1020, no explanation is needed – a blind person could see the sizzling truth. Not only is there no interest in atonement for ongoing smoldering deeds so obvious to the righteous, but the supermajority of our white Christian Republican legislators are going hog-wild – resurrecting the blatant oppression of Jim Crow.

These folks elected by the vot-

ers in their districts and across the state, will not stand for black leadership. The City of Jackson has been either slighted or starved of infrastructure resources from the state for decades.

Only last September we were reminded by *The Clarion Ledger* of our governor speaking with conservative radio personality Paul Gallo in June 2011 about the State Bond Commission, of which Reeves was a member when he was state treasurer, not voting on water and sewer infrastructure bond requests by the City of Jackson. “I’ve never voted against that because it’s never gotten to the Bond Commission. We are talking to the City of Jackson,” Reeves said. “If we are not comfortable, we never bring it up for a vote.” A great summary of Reeves character

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Jackson Mayor, Lumumba

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Candace Mayes

wins Business

Woman of the year



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## *A Life Well Lived*

# Robert Earl Dow, Sr.

*September 19, 1931 – February 13, 2023*



Dow

Robert Earl Dow, Sr. was born in Jackson, Mississippi, September 19, 1931. The youngest of ten siblings, he was born to John and Eddie Smith Dow. After a vibrant and full life, Robert peacefully moved from his earthly home into eternity Monday, February 13, 2023, at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi.

Robert grew up attending College Hill Baptist Church with his family who were members of College Hill. After he became an adult, he was converted to Christ and was baptized at College Hill June 18, 1961. Dow loved life. He loved the Lord, his church, his pastors, the brethren and sisters. Dow served as a committed member of the Laymen Ministry, Outreach Ministry, Mass Choir and Male Chorus. He also served as a member of the maintenance team, repairing, painting, decorating, etc.

Dow met Malena Winfrey in February 1954. Six months later, they united in Holy matrimony on August 3, 1954. God blessed this union of sixty-eight years and six months with two sons: Robert, Jr. and Broderick; three grandchildren: Aaron Robert, Brigitte Diane and Robyn Danielle; and two great grands: Eden and Ethan.

Dow attended Jackson Public Schools and Jackson State College Trade School, where he became proficient in brick masonry, concrete finishing, carpentry and painting. A veteran of the Korean Conflict, Dow was employed by Presto Manufacturing Co. as a machinist/mechanic and retired after 38 years with the company.

Dow loved sports, watching movies, reading newspapers, exploring and repairing. His

favorite pastime included gardening plants, flowers, vegetables and shrubbery, feeding and watching fish and birds. Gifted and multi-talented, he was an inspiration to his family and friends. He was blessed with an iron-clad memory and a keen sense of humor, a strong work ethic and sought to serve wherever needed.

Dow was honored as College Hill Personality of the Month in October 2000 and Man of the Year in 2001.

The last of his generation, Dow was preceded in death by his parents, five sisters: Amanda Allen, Cornelia Cantrell, Laura Lee Thomas, Marguerite McKinney and Katherine Lee, and four brothers: John Jr., Willie Charles, Joseph and James.

The memory of Robert E. Dow, Sr. will be cherished by his loving wife Malena, his sons Robert Jr. (Debra), Baton Rouge, LA; Broderick (Velma), Tarzana, CA; grandchildren: Aaron Robert Miller (Tia), Atlanta, GA; Brigitte, Tarzana, CA; Robyn, Baton Rouge, LA; great grandchildren: Eden and Ethan Miller, Atlanta, GA; brother-in-law, Ishmael Winfrey, Chicago, IL; nieces, nephews, countless cousins, his College Hill Family and friends.

Homegoing service will be held Friday, Feb. 24, 2023, 11 a.m., at College Hill Baptist Church.


A large advertisement for Blue Primary Care Mississippi. It features a man in a blue denim shirt and dark jeans playing with a young girl in a green tutu and black leggings in a grassy yard. The man is leaning back with his arms outstretched, and the girl is holding onto a metal frame. The background shows a brick wall and trees.

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# Thompson

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Not only did the committee uncover evidence that the Justice Department had not discovered, but almost all of the witnesses who testified were Republicans who worked in the House with Trump. Further, the committee operated without any drama or conflict among the committee members.”

## Jan. 6: Thompson’s refusal to remove his congressional pin

*The Mississippi Link* reminded Thompson of the photo that went viral of him sitting firmly in the gallery while others were on the floor. What was going through your mind at that point as protesters tried to force their way into the House Chamber?

“Well, to be honest with you, it was anger. It was frustration. But it was also me never giving in to that element,” Thompson said.

“We heard them (the protesters) beating on the doors above us. That’s when we were told to ‘take off your pins because they are going to try to hurt congressmen when they break in.’ Every member of congress has a pin. So, they told us, ‘Take off your pin.’ I said, I ain’t taking off my pin; I ain’t getting on the floor.

He expressed that too many folks fought and died for his opportunity as an African American to wear that Congressional pin.

He recalled sitting near where the protesters would have to break in. “If I’m on the floor, I’ve got to get off the floor to deal with them,” he said. “In my mind, they’ve already won if I’ve got to get on the floor. So, I said [to myself] the first one that gets in is going over that balcony.

Fortunately, the nation’s lawmakers were eventually taken through a tunnel to an adjacent facility in a safer area to shelter in place. He said it was about 400 of them in that one room, and COVID was high during that time. He recalled many were later diagnosed with COVID. Thompson said the ordeal began around 1 p.m., and they had to shelter until about 9 p.m.

## Thompson’s education and historic public servant career

Thompson, a proud Tougaloo College alumni, has served Mississippi’s Second Congressional District in Washington since 1993. He is the longest serving African American elected official in the state of Mississippi. He graduated from Tougaloo in 1968 with a Bachelor of Arts in political science.

“I never had a white teacher until I got to Tougaloo,” Thompson said. Growing up, he attended the Bolton Colored School.

“There were no interaction with white kids in Bolton,” he said.

Thompson pointed out that Tougaloo played a very active role in the civil rights movement.

According to a Feb. 1, 2015 *Clarion-Ledger* report, “It was Tougaloo students in 1961 who led a protest to integrate the public library in Jackson, an effort credited with jump-starting the movement in the state.”

While at Tougaloo, Thompson was a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and he volunteered to serve on the famed civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer’s congressional campaign. According to his biography, although Hamer did not win, it was “her example and the experience of registering African Americans in southern voting drives [that] inspired Thompson to pursue a career in politics.”

This May will mark his 55th year as a Tougaloo graduate.

Before pursuing a political career, Thompson initially followed in his mother, Annie L. Thompson Jeffreys’ footsteps and worked as a public-school teacher. He taught in Madison, Miss.

During that time, he was elected a Bolton alderman in 1969, and “white officials challenged the election in court and forced Thompson to resign his teaching position. The courts upheld the election results and Thompson served as a town alderman from 1969 to 1973” (Black Americans in Congress, p. 736).

Thompson became Bolton’s first African-American mayor in 1969. As mayor, he made improvements and repairs to the infrastructure, water systems, dilapidated houses, and more.

“He got Bolton our first fire truck,” said Lovie Robinson, a longtime friend and schoolmate. “I have known the congressman all of this life which is 70-plus years. “We went from Bolton Colored School all the way to Tougaloo



U.S. House January 6th Select Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., voted with the committee’s eight other members to refer ex-President Donald Trump to the U.S. Justice Department for prosecution on four criminal charges, including incitement of insurrection. Thompson, top right, sat in the House gallery on Jan. 6 where he and fellow members sheltered while rioters attempted to break into the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol. AP PHOTO/ANDREW HARNIK

College.”

Asked what she thinks of his service as a public servant, Robinson replied: “Like the song, “He Has Done Great Things for Me,” he has done great things for Mississippi. He has helped schools in his congressional district from elementary to college. He has helped other aspiring Mississippi lawmakers run for office and contributed to change.”

Thompson also served as the first African-American on the Hinds County Board of Supervisors from 1980 to 1993. He shared with *The Mississippi Link* what led to his supervisor position: “Henry Kirksey (the now late Sen. Henry Kirksey) and I sued to redistrict the county. Hinds County was about 40 percent black at the time but all five of the supervisors were white. It took us seven years in court to win. We won in 1979. So, folks said, ‘you know you got to run.’ I said, I’m good; I’m out here in the country. So, I did.”

He has and still serves on a number of key committees in Washington. Thompson served on the Agriculture, Budget and Small Business Committees before assuming the top Democratic position on Homeland Security in 2005. Soon after, his colleagues promoted Thompson to serve as the first ever Democratic chairman of the Homeland Security Committee.

He continued his education and earned his Master of Science in educational administration from Jackson State University and later pursued doctoral work in public administration at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

## A man of many adjectives

Many close to Thompson have many descriptions of him. His longtime friend and former Washington County, Miss. Supervisor Alfred “Al” Rankins, Sr. said Thompson is accessible and accountable. “He has an open-door policy. He has an office here in Greenville. He is accountable because if he tells you he is going to do something, he is going to do it. And, he is transparent.”

Rankins said when he was aspiring to become supervisor in the 1990’s, Thompson came to Greenville to help him with his campaign. Introduced by a mutual civil rights friend, “Bennie and I have been friends ever since,” Rankins said. “We believed in the same thing: trying to make things better for our people. So, we just jelled.”

Rankins still applauds Thompson for the federal funds he helped get to improve the town of Metcalfe, Miss.’s water-sewer situation.

Robinson described him as self determined, a born leader and consistent. “I say self-determined because he has always set goals for himself that led him to further success. A born leader because he has always had a natural ability to lead, and finally, consistent because his success has not changed him.”

Walker described him as relentless, transformational, tireless and selfless. “Once he undertakes a project/campaign of any type, he will stay on task until it is completed despite events/ persons attempting to prevent him from succeeding,” Walker said.

“His involvement in the Jackson Water Crisis is an example of transforming positively the role of a U.S. congressman. Since being

elected to Congress in 1993, he has taken positions, requested investigations, and been heavily involved in local issues in his Congressional district and outside his district.

“He is tireless in that he comes to Mississippi practically every week” since in office. When he does not come, he will go to a meeting or event at which he is speaking.

“He is selfless in that he will fly into Jackson and have a slate of scheduled meetings in the Bolton Office Saturday and Sunday with anyone requesting a meeting – for example, the meeting with *The Mississippi Link* he had on Super Bowl Sunday.”

## Bolton, his home and safe haven

“He is very proud of his upbringing and where he is from,” Robinson said.

Thompson said, “To me, Bolton is a safe haven because I was born here. And here, I don’t have to be anything other than Bennie.”

He also shared that his mother and father were good people.

“My daddy, Will Thompson, was an auto mechanic. My mama taught him how to write his name because black boys couldn’t go to school back then. My daddy died when I was in the 10th grade, never being a registered voter,” Thompson reflected.

“My mama was the first black librarian for the Hinds County School District.”

He explained that after his father died, he was embraced by the Bolton community, his church, teachers, coaches, band director and others. His hometown still embraces him today. “My Sunday School Superintendent became one of the surrogate fathers for me. He took me to the civil rights meetings held at Mt. Beulah in Edwards,” he said.

Thompson is married to his college sweetheart London Johnson Thompson, a Mound Bayou, Miss. native. They have one daughter and two grandchildren. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and a lifetime member of Asbury United Methodist Church of Bolton.

He urges everyone to study their history (good and bad). Stay knowledgeable on what’s happening. “If we don’t study the history, they’re coming back,” he said.

When asked what he wants his legacy to be, he said he wants people to remember that he never changed. “Sure, I have been fortunate but I’m still the same guy.”



Thompson on the street in his hometown.



Thompson at the Bolton Police Department. PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

# Bill 1020

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and about how he feels about black leadership in our Black City.

Ignoring the Mississippi State Constitution and the U.S. Constitution, House Bill 1020 is just a takeover, plain and simple. And it’s not just a takeover, but a takeover of the Black City of Jackson by white Christian Republican legislators voting in lockstep.

Recently having a chance to talk to a handful of them, I got it straight from the horse’s mouth. None of the five live anywhere near Jackson. Two of the five conceded they didn’t read the bill before voting for it, while two others just grinned when I asked. Four of the five stated what must be the newly distributed talking points – “this is my capital too.” When I indicated that since you say it’s your capital too, where were you during the last two years at the height of the water crisis in Jackson, the faces became even more stonelike. This was at a music venue and spirits were flowing so I won’t mention names, but their names were all in the Yeas column when the Bill passed 76-38 on February 7, 2023. Not a single Republican voted against the takeover. Five Democrats joined them, per <https://legiscan.com/MS/rollcall/HB1020/id/1245192>, Cedric Burnett (D-09), Angela Cockerham(D-96), Michael Evans (D-45), Johnathan Lancaster (D-22), and Shanda Yates (D-64).

“I know of no other community in this State where a legislature would file and approve bills when they have not talked to the local elected officials about what they think of the deal. But unfortunately, Jim Crow and a lot of other bad actors appear every now and then. I now have friends calling me saying – I thought things had changed, you know you changed your flag, you’re doing better with your school systems, but when I read what’s happening to Jackson it looks like you’re going in the opposite direction – and I can’t really tell them we are not, because I agree it’s the wrong direction,” per U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson (D-2) during a recent Mississippi Public Broadcasting interview.

In a Democracy Docket article on February 15, 2023, the subheadings provide good summary, <https://www.democracydocket.com/analysis/mississippi-continues-to-deny-black-americans-political-power>. 1) Mississippi Republicans want to create a Court that is unaccountable to Black voters, 2) H.B. 1020 is just the latest in a long line of measures designed to reduce Black political power, 3) The drama in the Magnolia State underscores the fight for equal representation is far from over.

The National Newspaper Publishers Associations (NNPA), otherwise known as The Black Press, aired a Let It Be Known Special Report featuring Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba February 17, 2023. It can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIsHmgpovI4>. Host Stacy Brown said to Lumumba that HB1020 looks like they are coming for your city with guns a blazing and it has Jim Crow written all over it. Lumumba responded, “Well, it is a concerted effort to attack Black leadership and it is part and parcel to a lot of bills over successive years and residents are infuriated...I’m putting everyone on notice that this is not going to go quietly, and we will not allow such a draconian bill to be imposed on our City. Jackson, by its demographics is considered the Blackest City in the nation and this proposed district composes the most densely population white portion of the city – approximately 86% of the white population is encompassed within this proposed district.”

The American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi tweeted February 18, 2003, HB 1020 increases policing, strips voting and political power away from the majority Black citizens of Jackson and diverts tax dollars away from communities in need. This bill is a direct threat to the freedom of the Capital City and a parallel to Jim Crow era political schemes.

Just taking in the potential impact of HB1020 (create new court, expand CCID, expand Capitol Police jurisdiction) which has been opposed unanimously by Jackson City Council, Hinds County Board of Supervisors, sixteen judges that currently preside in Hinds County Courts, and numerous others, is hard enough – but it doesn’t stop there. HB1168 usurps the autonomy of Jackson to use it’s 1% sales tax revenues as it sees fit. SB2889 directly takes over Jackson’s water/sewer system and turns it over to appointees. SB2343 further expands Capitol Police jurisdiction to the entire boundaries of the City of Jackson, and HB1094 fines Jackson \$1 million for any instance deemed by MDEQ of improper disposal of wastewater. This bill clearly targeting Jackson’s broken water system has since been amended to include all municipalities.

Nearly sixty years ago, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and while every word is an appeal to the conscience of our nation, a short excerpt bears repeating today... “I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.” And just two sentences later... “I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice...I have a dream today.”



Thompson speaking to the Mississippi Link in the conference room of his Bolton office.



## Clarke

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alcohol/drugs, as opposed to the purely punitive approach -The Alyce Griffin Clarke Drug Court Act. After nineteen years of trying, The Alyce G. Clarke Mississippi Lottery Law was signed into law in 2018 – the first \$80 million in annual lottery proceeds goes to infrastructure and anything beyond that goes to education in our state.

A tireless servant leader – Clarke’s reputation and reach extends far beyond Hinds County. One example is the Anything Is Possible organization’s partnering with The Las Vegas Stars providing scholarships in her name to HBCU students in the five southern states of Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Arkansas. The concept centers on Motown-themed tribute shows travelling to various cities raising funds for the scholarships. It started in 2018 and has become the #1 Motown-themed Show in Vegas and hopefully will be visiting Jackson very soon.

In 1981 she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis; a potentially disabling disease of the central nervous system – stop her it would not. Just three short years later she was elected by the people of Hinds County, becoming a trailblazer for women in politics and having received more accolades than could ever be detailed in this ar-



Clarke (left) depicted on the mural on the COFU Civil Rights Education Bldg, 1017 John R. Lynch St.

ticle. Her profound example, and her impact on the lives of women, children and families is difficult to grasp in its totality, and will be felt for generations to come. Yet surely, it didn’t come without overcoming adversity, without paying dues.

On the racial side – she was a member of the House of Representatives for three years before she discovered there was a female restroom on the second floor of the Capitol. Her white female colleagues never mentioned it to her, nor did the Speaker of The House. Of her time in the state

legislature, she says “it’s been interesting – I had no idea what I was getting into in the beginning. I had no idea that things were as bad as they were. There would be meetings before the meetings, and by the time I got there they would have already had the meeting and decided what they were going to do, and so I soon learned that those kinds of things were going on. You learn that if it’s a black person’s bill coming up it’s probably going to die in committee. But overall, everyone was very nice and cordial and kind, but they were still doing things underneath, and you just have to be there to know that is what’s going on – it wasn’t easy.” She said she learned over time that using the approach of ‘I need your help with this’ was very productive, “quite often I found people that, if they felt they were helping you with something, they would go out of their way to help, rather than always being against everything you were trying to do.”

On the personal side, her husband of 32 years, Lee William Clarke, who was her number one cheerleader – and a wonderful cook too – was part of the Bloody Sunday March from Selma to Montgomery, passed away in 2004. They had one child together, DeMarquis Clarke; a psy-

chologist currently practicing in Pittsburgh, who she refers to as “a jewel.”

For 34 years she served as an usher at Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church on Ridgeway Street in Jackson. The Lady from Hinds, as she is referred to at The Capitol, surely has a nickname – “Relatives and close friends call me Myrt, it’s short for my middle name,” she adds with a warm smile.

When Clarke’s eyes fix upon you – you become captive to her lifetime of knowledge and experiences. She may not control what actions you take, but make no mistake, she knows who you really are and what you are up to.

This tribute could have been much shorter, after all, it’s her strikingly beautiful face beside Fannie Lou Hamer, Bob Moses, Rose Elizabeth Howard Robinson, Louise Marshall and Albert Powell on Sabrina Howard’s stunning mural on the side of the COFU Civil Rights Education Center building.

In closing our visit she shared, “My prayer of course always is Lord, if I can just help somebody along the way then my labor will not have been in vain.” A modest reminder to us all, from a woman of the highest distinction.



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# Six fatally shot in small Mississippi town, suspect in custody

By Michael Goldberg and Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

A lone gunman killed six people including his ex-wife and stepfather Friday at multiple locations in a tiny rural community in northern Mississippi, the sheriff said, leaving investigators searching for clues to what motivated the shocking rampage.

Armed with a shotgun and two handguns, 52-year-old Richard Dale Crum opened fire at about 11 a.m. and killed a man in the driver's seat of a pickup truck parked outside a convenience store in Arkabutla, near the Tennessee state line, Tate County Sheriff Brad Lane said.

Deputies were working the crime scene when a second 911 call alerted authorities to another shooting a few miles away. After arriving at a home, they found a woman, whom the sheriff identified as Crum's ex-wife, shot dead and her current husband wounded.

Lane said deputies caught up with Crum outside his own home and arrested him. Behind the residence they found two handymen slain by gunfire – one in the road, another in an SUV. Inside a neighboring home, they discovered the bodies of Crum's stepfather and his stepfather's sister.

"Everybody has crime, and from time to time we have violent crime, but certainly nothing of this magnitude," Lane said in an interview. He added: "Without being able to say what triggered this, that's the scary part."



Crum

Crum was jailed without bond on a single charge of capital murder, and Lane said investigators were working to bring additional charges. It was not immediately known if Crum had an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

That initial murder charge was for the killing of Chris Eugene Boyce, 59, the man who was shot outside the store. He had a Florida driver's license in his wallet, the sheriff said. Boyce's brother was in the truck with him and fled when Crum attacked, Lane said, and he escaped unharmed.

"I heard the gunshot from inside my house," Ethan Cash, who lives near the store, told WREG-TV. "I had just woken up and I look back here, and I see a dude walking back here with a shotgun."

Cash said he went to the scene and found one person who had been shot. He said he checked for a pulse but found none.

The killings stunned residents of Arkabutla, home to 285 people and located about 30 miles (50 kilometers) south of Memphis, Tennessee. It's the hometown of

famed actor James Earl Jones, and nearby Arkabutla Lake is a popular fishing and recreational destination.

An elementary school and a high school in nearby Coldwater both went on lockdown while the suspect was being sought, according to the Coldwater Elementary School Facebook page. A short time later, a second post on the page said the lockdown had been lifted and "all students and staff are safe."

April Wade, who lives in Arkabutla and grew up in Coldwater, said both are small communities where most people know each other, "but if you don't, you know somebody who knows somebody."

"I think it's crazy," Wade said. "You do not expect something like that to happen so close to home."

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said its agents were providing assistance to the sheriff's department and state investigators. Lane said one of their top priorities was to determine a motive.

The sheriff, who has lived in the area his entire life and served in law enforcement for 25 years, said he could recall no prior problems with Crum.

The shootings are the first mass killing in the U.S. since Jan. 23, which saw the last of six in a three-week period, according to an Associated Press/USA Today database. It defines a mass killing as four or more people dead, not including the perpetrator.

The Mississippi Link™  
Volume 29 • Number 17  
February 23 - 29, 2023  
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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton  
Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett  
Sports Editor .....Tim Ward  
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson  
Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

Member:



The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: publisher@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.  
Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

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

Postmaster:  
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# Biden takes new steps to address racial inequality in government

By Josh Boak and Darlene Superville  
Associated Press

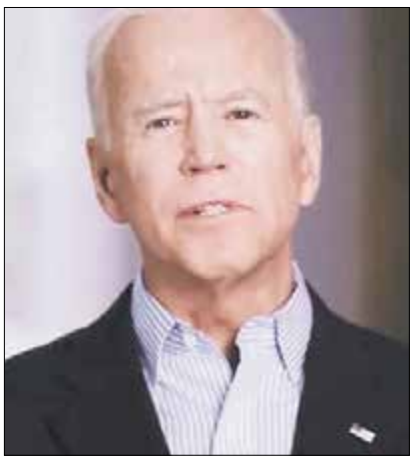
President Joe Biden Thursday ordered the federal government to do more to address racial inequality as the challenges and complexities of systemic racism are again drawing the public’s attention.

The order, signed during Black History Month, requires that an initial review into long-standing disparities in government services and treatment that he ordered on his first day in office become an annual requirement for federal agencies. The reviews are aimed at increasing access to federal programs, services and activities for disadvantaged communities. The new order also directs federal agencies to have equity teams and name senior leaders who would be accountable for increasing equity and addressing bias.

“My Administration has embedded a focus on equity into the fabric of Federal policymaking and service delivery,” Biden wrote in the order, adding that, “By advancing equity, the Federal Government can support and empower all Americans, including the many communities in America that have been underserved, discriminated against, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.”

Last month, Tyre Nichols, a black man, died several days after he was severely beaten by five police officers following a traffic stop in Memphis, Tennessee. Nichols was one of several black men across the United States who died after encounters with police recently. The problem also extends to racial disparities in wealth, housing, crime and education that reflect decades of discriminatory policies.

Chiraag Bains, the president’s



Biden

deputy assistant for racial justice and equity, said that the new order shows Biden is “doubling down” on the commitment he made on his first day as president “to put equity at the center of how this government operates.”

The order institutionalizes Biden’s pledge that government be open and accessible to all and “is a recognition that achieving equity is not a one- or a two-year project. It’s a generational commitment,” Bains told The Associated Press.

Federal agencies would need to improve the quality and frequency of their engagement with communities that have faced systemic discrimination. And it formalizes Biden’s goal of a 50% bump in federal procurement dollars that go to small and disadvantaged businesses by 2025.

Under the order, agencies must also focus on new civil rights threats, such as discrimination in automated technology and access for people with disabilities and for those who speak languages other than English. It also includes a push to improve the collection, transparency and analysis of data to help improve equity.

# Unhinged Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene says quiet part out loud

She wants pre-civil war United States where whites dominated enslaved black people

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene has said the quiet part out loud. The Georgia congresswoman, like some of her peers, doesn’t want to live anywhere near people of color.

Greene has called for the U.S. to be separated by red and blue states and for a shrinking of the federal government in a tweet on President’s Day, the two-term congresswoman’s latest in a string of controversial statements.

“We need a national divorce. We need to separate by red states and blue states and shrink the federal government,” said Greene, R-Ga, in the tweet. “Everyone I talk to says this. From the sick and disgusting woke culture issues shoved down our throats to the Democrat’s traitorous America Last policies, we are done.”

The racially-charged tone-deaf tweet does not take into account, among other things, that the United States fought a civil war in the 1860s after a group of southern states tried to secede from America. Greene’s tweet received thousands of responses on her timeline, most of which called her out for her racism.

“And what you are requesting in only to get dumb people riled up,” sports card enthusiast Tony Posnanski responded to Greene. “You aren’t even a joke because jokes are funny. You are just trash.”

Added strategist and former Democratic Chair Chris Jackson, “If someone would have said something like this



Greene

15 years ago, they would be deemed unstable and laughed out of politics. Today, it is embraced by the Speaker of the House. That says it all.”

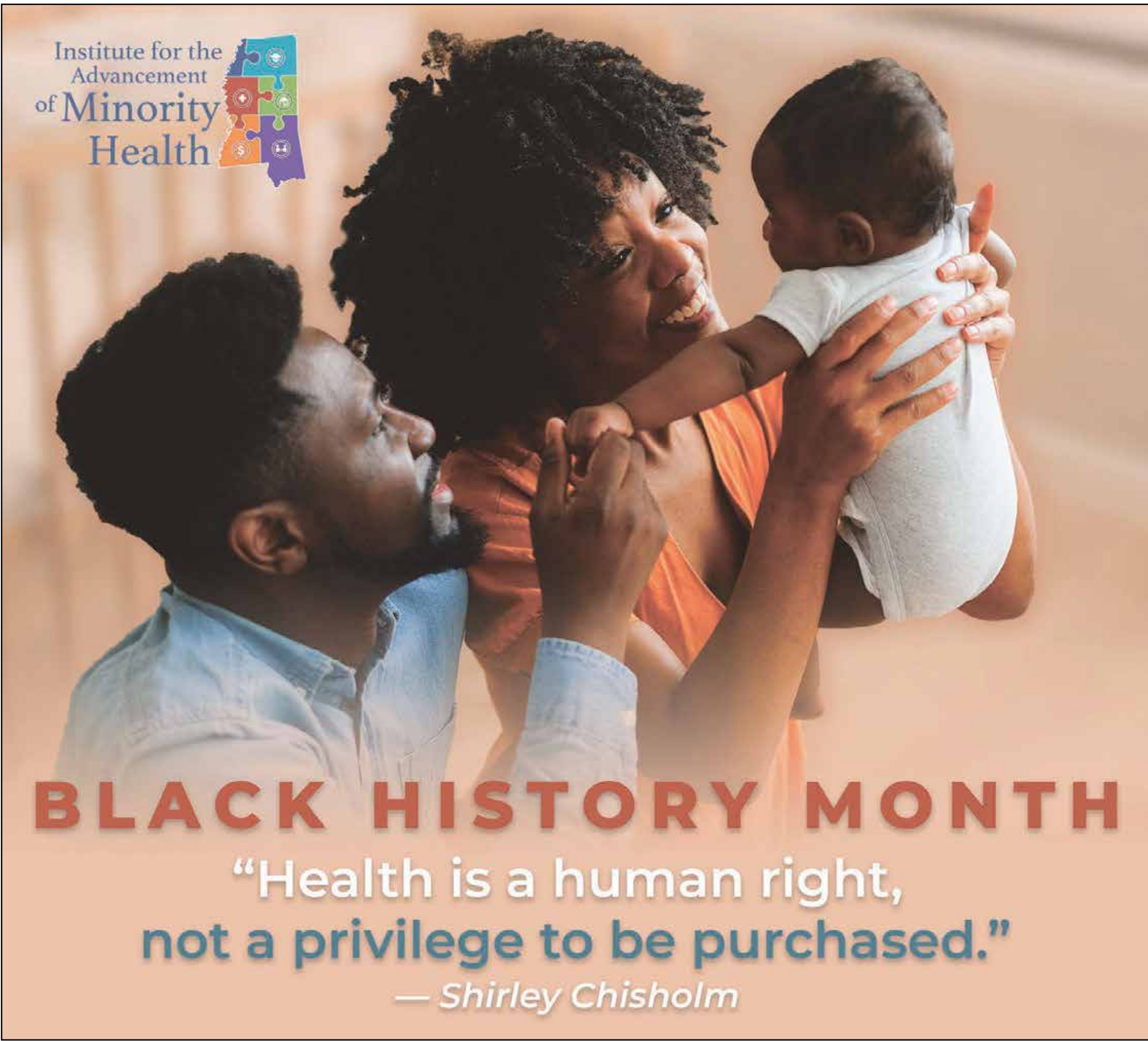
Still, others noted how Greene and all members of Congress swore under oath that they “do solemnly swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that [they] will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that [they] take this obligation freely.”

Greene continues to openly support the insurrectionists from the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol and American Democracy. As NBC News noted, many know Greene for her controversial statements.

For example, she has said that Jewish space lasers could start wildfires if they were put into the right place. She has also said that Muslim congresswomen could not be sworn in properly. But she has been trying to rebrand herself as someone who can bridge the divides in her party as she angles to be Donald Trump’s 2024 running mate, NBC News reported last month.

Green is not the first Republican to call for a line of succession, and support for a separate country has been growing since the 2020 elections. A June 2021 poll by Bright Line Watch and YouGov found that 66% of Southern Republicans supported leaving the U.S. and forming a new country. Support was also high among Democrats in the West, where 47% supported a division.

“Please cease from calling for a ‘Civil War’ under the guise of ‘National Divorce,’” attorney and activist Gerald Griggs wrote to Greene. “You swore an oath to the United States of America and the state of Georgia to represent us. Please represent all the people.”



Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

“Health is a human right, not a privilege to be purchased.”

— Shirley Chisholm





## Oral cancer, a few more facts

By Vince Faust  
*Tips to Be Fit*

We don't know what causes all oral cancers. There are no vaccines to guard against it. We can only reduce our risk. Education is a big risk reduction measure. The more you understand, the more you can reduce your risk.

You should try to get your information from a good source. The internet is not your best source for factual information. Doctors, organizations that fight diseases and some support groups are your best sources. There is a lot of information about cancer everywhere. You should ask yourself if the information is supported by evidence.

What to look for:  
Oral cancer has 5 stages, stage 0 followed by stages 1 to 4. The stages 1 to 4 are written in Ro-

man numerals I, II, III and IV. The higher the stage number, the more the cancer has spread. You should talk to your doctor if you have questions about your staging.

Stage 0: Stage 0 cancer means your cancer is at a very early stage. Doctors usually call this pre cancer. You have cancer cells but they are all contained within the lining of the mouth. The cancer cells have not spread.

Stage I: Your tumor is less than 2cm or smaller. Your lymph nodes contain no cancer cells. None of your nodes are larger than 6cm. (T1, N0, M0)

Stage II: Your tumor is larger than 2 cm, and the depth of invasion is between 5 and 10 mm. The tumor is larger than 2 cm but not larger than 4 cm, and the depth of invasion is 10 mm or less. The cancer has not spread

to lymph nodes or other parts of the body (T2, N0, M0).

Stage III: Your tumor is at least 4 cm across and cancer cells can be present in nearby structures, lymph nodes or distant sites. (T3, N1, M1)

Stage IV: Stage IV means the cancer is advanced. The cancer has spread to other parts of the body such as the lungs. (T4, N3, M1)

What are the Ts, Ns and Ms?  
T (Tumor)  
T describes the size of the tumor (area of cancer).

T1 means the tumor is 2cm or smaller.

T2 means the tumor is larger than 2cm, but no larger than 4cm.

T3 means one of the following: the cancer is larger than 4cm, the cancer has spread into the flap of tissue (epiglottis) at the top of the voice box (larynx).

T4 means the cancer has spread into nearby areas, such as the voice box (larynx), the jawbone (mandible), or muscles connecting the tongue to the jawbone (extrinsic muscles).

N (Node)  
N refers to your lymph nodes. These are a network of glands throughout the body, for example in your armpits and neck. They drain away waste fluid, waste products and damaged cells and contain cells that fight infection.

N0 means the lymph nodes don't contain cancer cells.

N1 means that one or more lymph node contains cancer cells on the same side of the neck as the cancer. None of the nodes are larger than 6cm.

N2 means there are cancer cells in lymph nodes on the opposite side of your neck or on both sides. None of these nodes

are larger than 6cm.

N3 means at least one lymph node is bigger than 6cm.

M (Metastasis)  
M describes whether the cancer has spread to a different part of the body.

There are 2 main stages – M0 and M1.

M0 means the cancer has not spread to other parts of the body.

M1 means cancer has spread to other parts of the body such as the lungs.

We don't know what causes all oral cancers but we do know that oral cancer is not an immediate death sentence but it is life-threatening if not diagnosed and treated early. If oral cancer is diagnosed in its early stages, the survival rate is promising. But, most are found in their late stages, which result in death.

One of the most over looked

risk for oral cancer is excess sun exposure. You want to avoid excessive sun exposure to your lips everyday. Protect the skin on your lips from the sun by staying in the shade when possible. Wear a broad-brimmed hat that effectively shades your entire face, including your mouth. You want to apply sunscreen as part of your routine sun protection.

You should always make an appointment with your doctor if you have any persistent signs and symptoms that bother you and they last more than two weeks. Your doctor will likely investigate other more common causes for your signs and symptoms first. Be persistent if your questions or conditions are not addressed.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

## Mothers' lives in the balance: The American Heart Association urges decision makers to act

*American Heart Association advocates for twelve-month postpartum care*

Mississippi Link Newswire

The American Heart Association is calling on state leaders to extend Medicaid postpartum healthcare coverage to save the lives of Mississippi mothers. The American Heart Association, the world's leading non-profit organization focused on heart and brain health for all, says providing mothers with one full year of healthcare coverage will ensure new moms have continuous, uninterrupted access to care to help address their ongoing health needs, including physical, social and mental health during the postpartum period.

Severe pregnancy health issues have increased by 200% in the last 20 years. Mississippi consistently ranks near last for maternal mortality and last for infant mortality and has a pregnancy-related maternal mortality rate of 36 per 100,000 lives.

Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women, claiming more women's lives than all forms of cancer combined, and it is the number one cause of maternal death.

"Heart disease and stroke account for an estimated one in three deaths during pregnancy and birth," said Sen. Kevin Blackwell (R-District 19). "That is shocking. And 82.4% of pregnancy-related deaths occurred 61 to 365 days postpartum. We need to act to protect the health of women before, during and after their pregnancy, both for themselves and their babies."



American Heart Association®

Today, the American Heart Association alongside 63 organizations continue to call on state leadership to extend Medicaid postpartum healthcare coverage from 60 days to 365 days. There are multiple viable methods available including a legislative budget appropriation and a state plan amendment through the Division of Medicaid, or the passage of SB2212 into law. Mississippi moms deserve to have the lifesaving care they need to be healthy for their babies and their families.

Women in their 30s and 40s are more than two times as likely to die from cardiovascular disease than breast cancer. According to the association, women experience unique stages through their lives which affect both overall health and cardiovascular health.

Pregnancy can lead to cardiovascular conditions (including peripartum cardiomyopathy, stroke, heart attack) as well as adverse pregnancy outcomes (gestational hypertension,

preeclampsia and gestational diabetes) that can increase a woman's risk for cardiovascular disease later in life.

"The health of mothers and infants is not inherently a political issue, but state leaders made it one," said Laken Camp, State Government Relations Director for the association. "This is about saving moms and babies from preventable death. It is about the livelihood of families across Mississippi. Passing formal legislation is one of multiple routes that would allow for the extension of postpartum healthcare coverage through Medicaid. This legislation would impact the entire state, and we are grateful for the support of Sen. Kevin Blackwell for speaking out and prioritizing care for women in their reproductive years by introducing SB2212."

The American Heart Association recommends policy solutions that are sustainable and impactful for preventing maternal death and ensuring all mothers can live healthy lives. Mississippi is the only state in

the Southeast that has not extended postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 365 days.

In 2021, Republican leaders in our neighboring non-expansion states have displayed their understanding and empathy for the lives of moms and babies throughout their states by utilizing a provision in the American Rescue Plan Act that gave states the option to extend postpartum coverage through Medicaid by state plan amendment. Since then, Alabama and 31 other states passed measures to save mom's lives. Mississippi moms deserve the same protection.

Organizations asking lawmakers to support policies to improve maternal health include:

Mississippi Economic Council

Mississippi Section, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists

Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians

Mississippi Medical and Surgical Association

Mississippi State Medical Association

Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

University of Mississippi Medical Center

The American Heart Association

The American Lung Association in Mississippi

The Mississippi Kidney Foundation

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

Coastal Family Health Center

Mississippi Association of Nurse Practitioners

Mississippi Hospital Association

Jobs to Move America

Converge Partners in Access

Community Health Center Association of Mississippi

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi

National Association of Social Workers Mississippi Chapter

Magnolia Medical Foundation

American Cancer Society

Cancer Action Network

Mississippi Urban League

Mississippi Youth Voice

Plan A Health

League of Women Voters of Mississippi

ACLU of Mississippi

Mississippi State Conference of NAACP

Mississippi Center for Justice

The Lighthouse | Black Girl Projects

One Voice

Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable

Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund

Six Dimensions, LLC.

Women for Progress

Black Women Vote Coalition

Black Voters Matter

Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative

S.T.A.N.D Coalition Foundation Organizations:

American Association of University Women: Mississippi, Jackson, Starkville

Mary Church Terrell Literary Club

Nation Council of Negro Women

Rho Lambda Omega, Jackson Chapter Links, Inc.

Jackson Chapter of Black Social Workers

Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women

Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Jackson Alumnae

National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc.

Central Mississippi, Zeta Phi Beta

LeFleur Bluff Chapter, Links, Inc.

S.T.A.N.D Advisory Resource groups:

Children's Defense Fund

Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities

Commission on the Status of Women, MSU

Parents for Public Schools

Mississippi Association for Justice

Mississippi Center for Educational Innovation

Mississippi Association of Community & Junior Colleges

Mississippi Association of Black School Educators

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Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Clinics

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## “I Have a Dream” song celebrates Black History Month

Special to The Mississippi Link

Recently, at a program, organized by Nayana Hein and hosted by the Sri Chinmoy Centre at its headquarters in Queens, New York, Dr. Martin Luther King’s spirit of brotherhood, his life and his ongoing legacy were honored in a performance featuring a new arrangement of the “I Have a Dream” song.

The program was presented by a diverse group of Sri Chinmoy’s students from various parts of the globe, such as, the Caribbean (including Puerto Rico); Africa, South East Asia; Europe; and, of course, the USA. This group was representative of Dr. King’s dream of unity and equality for all.

Videos of the song are available at <https://youtu.be/kPk-5mDoVjJE>. Videos of the song plus talks are available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/etq156f775vila9/dream%20cut22.mov?dl=0>

In 1977, words from Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech were set to music by the philosopher, yogi, and ambassador-of-peace, Sri Chinmoy, who in 1970, at the invitation of U Thant, then Secretary General of the United Nations, began holding peace meditations for members and staff at the UN.

The group eventually became known as Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations. These meditations have been a source of inspiration-sponsoring events such as the 1977 program wherein the song first premiered, with Coretta Scott King as guest of honor and keynote speaker.

Dr. King’s visionary words along with Sri Chinmoy’s melody resonated with a unanimous



Dr. King’s Words are Sung

message of unity, togetherness and equality. During the ceremony Mrs. King noted of her husband, “...His religion was not really the religion of the West. He embraced Christianity, which is a [Middle] Eastern religion, and he took that religion seriously. He said, ‘I receive my inspiration from Christ and the techniques from Mahatma Gandhi,’ so that he was first of all a spiritual leader, and the movement that he led in America, in the South, was essentially a spiritual movement...We have different labels for our God, but when we discover love and embrace it, we’ve discovered God.”

In her closing remarks Coretta Scott King thanked Sri Chinmoy, The Peace Meditation at the United Nations, and the many ambassadors and UN officials who paid tribute to her husband:

“Your words have, indeed, been an inspiration to me. And to have heard what has been said by representatives of nations around the world, who have understood Martin Luther King, Jr.’s message and his great life

commitment, certainly inspires me personally to continue in the struggle, which we are all a part of here....I feel that I am also a citizen of the world, as Martin Luther King, Jr. was a citizen of the world.”

As noted by Dr. Ganapati John Coleman, Mrs. King’s remarks in 1977 reflected the centrality of spirituality in the success of the movement. The founding principles on which the movement was based were both Christian and Asian Indian i.e., Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain. These principles were the intertwining of love, truth, non-violence and civil-disobedience, to produce an American Gandhism.

Little known to many today, is the number of leaders of the movement who actually spent time in India studying Gandhi’s principles at the source. This includes Dr. Martin L. King, Coretta S. King, Rev. James Lawson, among others. It is also worth noting that Gandhi’s India was also to benefit from Black America through the correspondence between him and George Washington Carver, an Agricul-

turalist at Tuskegee Institute, who had developed techniques in crop rotation and other methods for increasing agricultural yield.

It is this unity, this togetherness, this sharing of knowledge and understanding that, like Gandhi and Carver, can bring us together and replace problems with solutions; for one person or one group does not have all of the answers. This is what great leaders aspire to achieve – unity toward mutual understanding – progress. Each culture, each group, has something to offer if we can just listen and seek out what brings us together as opposed to what tears us apart. A new interpretation and partial reimagining of Gandhi’s principles, based on the philosophy of Sri Chinmoy, are part of a new book to be published this year by his Black students and Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Ganapati John Coleman.

The book, “He Touched Our Hearts, He Touched Our Lives: An Exploration of the Philosophy of Sri Chinmoy as Applied to the Struggle for Freedom, Justice, and Equality in America



Corretta Scott King and Sri Chinmoy at the United Nations in NYC in 1977. Photos By Bhashwar Lloyd Hart of the Sri Chinmoy Center



President of Sri Chinmoy Centre, Ranjana Ghose speaking at performance of “I Have a Dream Song”

and Beyond” is a unique and insightful exploration of the possibilities unleashed through the blending of Eastern and Western thought and spirituality, that can help America in the process of reinventing itself, yet again.

Let us all celebrate Black His-

tory Month, together, with the poignant words of Dr. King and the soul-stirring melody of Sri Chinmoy’s, “I Have a Dream” song.

For more information contact Kovida Cruz, at (718) 877-7895, or kovida7@yahoo.com.

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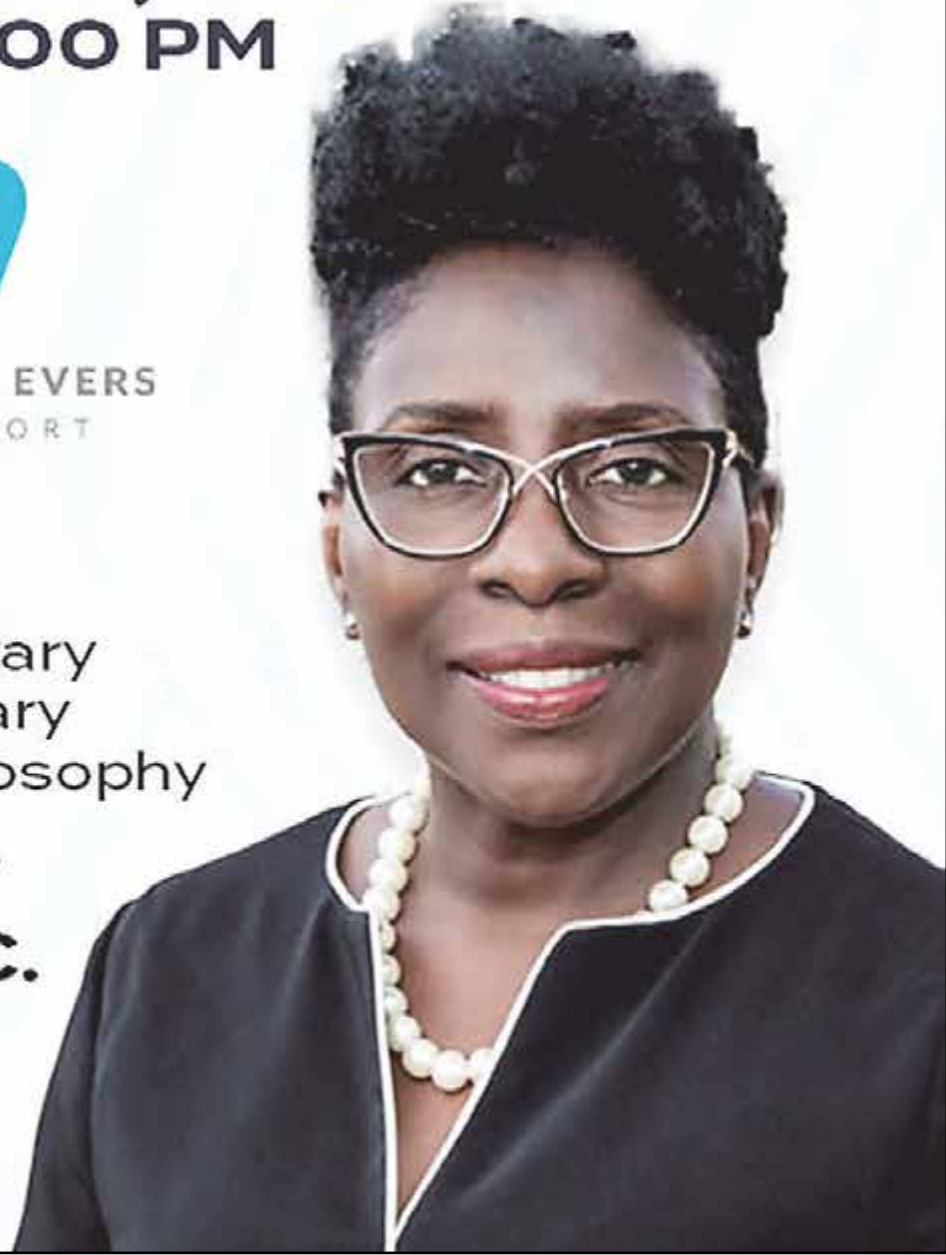
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# Rihanna, wealthiest Super Bowl entertainer ever



Rihanna at the Met Gala in 2017 / Danilo Lauria / Wikimedia Commons

By Joseph Green-Bishop  
*Texas Metro News Correspondent*

When Rihanna, the Barbadian-megastar and successful cosmetics and lingerie executive, took the Super Bowl LVII stage a week ago, approximately 100 million television viewers witnessed the wealthiest halftime performer in the history of the annual event.

With a net worth of \$1.7 billion, Rihanna, who was born Robyn Rihanna Fenty, sits at the pinnacle of a Super Bowl list that includes Dolly Parton, Jennifer Lopez, Bruce Springsteen, Diana Ross, Beyonce, Madonna, Bruno Mars, Katy Perry, Gloria Estefan, Alicia Keys, Bono, Dr. Dre, Billy

Joel, Garth Brooks and numerous other world-famous performers, according to Forbes.

Jay-Z, himself a billionaire entertainer, described Rihanna as a “generational talent who has exceeded all expectations in every instance. She is one of the industry’s most prominent artists,” he said.

This year’s 57th Super Bowl was played on February 12 in Glendale, AZ. The event, held at State Farm Stadium, was the first time that both teams were led by an African-American quarterback.

“It is awesome that Rhianna has accomplished so much at such a young age,” said Yolanda Frazier Gills, the founder

of Frazier Gills, a certified tax resolution firm in Dallas, a former chairperson of the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce. “She is an example of wealth building, and of controlling her own destiny. We need more role models like her.”

Apple Music partnered with the National Football League in producing the event, according to league officials.

“Rihanna has been a cultural force throughout her career,” said Seth Dudowsky, an awarding-winning music executive, who is also the director of music for the NFL.

“We are thrilled to welcome Rihanna to the Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime stage” Dudowsky said.

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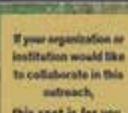
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# Feds open civil rights probe after deputies shoot black man

By Michael Goldberg  
Associated Press/Report for America

The U.S. Justice Department said Wednesday it is investigating possible civil rights violations by a Mississippi sheriff's department after a drug raid last month left a black man with a bullet wound to the face.

There is a stark discrepancy in how police say the Jan. 24 incident unfolded and what lawyers for the family of Michael Corey Jenkins say occurred. The lawyers claim it was a racially motivated attack while police say the shooting occurred after someone pointed a gun at deputies during the late-night raid at a home in Rankin County, just east of the state capital of Jackson.

Attorneys for Jenkins, 32, say he was critically injured by Rankin County deputies. Jenkins was released from the hospital Tuesday and attended a news conference Wednesday, where he nodded affirmatively when his lawyer, Malik Shabazz, asked if deputies had beaten him and shot him in the mouth.

"This is deliberate. This is drawn out. This is unheard of," Shabazz told reporters.

According to Shabazz, deputies never presented a warrant before forcing their way into the home. The deputies immediately subdued Jenkins and another man, Eddie

Terrell Parker, who counted six officers and described all of them as white. Neither Jenkins nor Parker resisted, he said.

Parker said he was sitting in his bedroom at about 10 p.m. that night when he heard loud talking coming from the home's living room. He said he opened his door and saw deputies in the hallway, and they immediately ordered him to get down on the floor.

Over the course of 90 minutes, Parker and Jenkins said, they were beaten, shocked with Tasers and ordered to lie on their backs as deputies poured milk over their faces. Parker said he struggled "to keep breathing and keep from drowning at the same time."

"There was milk coming out of my nose, my mouth," Parker told The Associated Press in an interview. "I've never been in that position and felt the way that I felt that night."

Jenkins, who has trouble speaking because of his injuries, told AP that he was on his knees at the end of the ordeal when one of the deputies stood over him. Shabazz said the deputy placed the barrel of a gun in Jenkins' mouth, it fired and the bullet exited behind one of Jenkins' ears.

The Justice Department released a statement following the news conference, saying its civil rights division, along with local FBI

agents and federal prosecutors in Mississippi, have opened a federal civil rights investigation.

Bailey Martin, a spokesperson for the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, said the state agency also is investigating the shooting. She declined further comment.

In a news release on Jan. 25, the bureau said the deputies were conducting a narcotics investigation when they entered the home. The bureau said the shooting occurred after someone pointed a gun toward the deputies. The statement does not say whether a weapon was recovered at the scene.

Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey said in a statement that he immediately sought a state investigation. The sheriff's office gave few details but said Jenkins was charged with assaulting an officer and drug possession. Parker has been charged with possession of paraphernalia and disorderly conduct.

"Rest assured, if any deputy or suspect involved in this incident is found to have broken the law, he will be held accountable in accordance with the law," the sheriff said.

Bailey did not respond to written questions about whether deputies had a warrant or if the deputies involved had been placed on administrative leave.

# African-American family honored as pioneers of Tenn. county

By Chris Gadd  
The Tennessean

The Hatcher family is officially a "Pioneer Family" in Williamson County.

That designation, bestowed by the county library after exhaustive research, means the family's roots stretch back to at least 1850. It's among the reasons the Hatchers have been honored in recent weeks.

Another is this: In less than a century, the descendants of Ned and Maria Hatcher – slaves to white landowner John Hatcher – transitioned from a background of enslavement to become the owners of almost 200 acres in the picturesque College Grove area of Williamson County.

The land was owned by Meredith Hatcher, son of Ned and Maria. Meredith's grandson recalled the man, giving a glimpse into how he was able to achieve so much in the segregated South.

"At the time my grandfather Meredith Hatcher bought the farm, it was unusual for blacks to own their own farms," wrote grandson Elder Hatcher, noting Meredith bought the 183-acre farm for about \$25,000 in the 1920's. "So it was very unusual for a black to be able to purchase that much land and borrow that much money to purchase a farm."

Elder described Meredith as "good-hearted" and "hard-working" as well as "very tight."

"If he had a dollar, he would save half of that dollar," Elder said. "He always talked about being productive and saving and putting up things for the rainy day, as he would call it."

The Hatchers' land ownership is a success story amid a history of black families losing millions of acres of land within a few generations.

The Hatcher family was honored this



**Jasper G. Hatcher, Sr.**

month at the 22nd Annual Black Tie Affair, a Franklin fundraiser presented by the African American Heritage Society of Williamson County.

The county library also has a pictorial history display set up with the help of family and the library's special collections department.

The stated mission of the African American Heritage Society, established in 1997, is to "collect, preserve, and interpret artifacts pertaining to Williamson County's African American culture and increase understanding and appreciation of our heritage for future generations."

Annually, the African American Heritage Society researches and compiles records "without blame or malice" to tell the entire story, according to Alma McLeMore, the society's president. This year the spotlight was on the Hatcher family, which recently visited in groups at the Williamson County Public Library to see their family's honorary display.

Rev. Jasper Hatcher, Sr. bought more land in the 20th century, bringing his family's total land holdings to over 200 acres.

Jasper Hatcher was honored in September with a highway memorial on Murfreesboro Road in Arrington. The reverend talked about his family and their values before his 2020 death.

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# Ella Watson Robinson Memorial Grant for Youth Aging Out Of Foster Care



Ella's daughter, Paula and Dionne, granddaughter, with Marcus Ward signing contract for grant foundation at Alcorn State University for students attending university from foster care.

With the support of the Ella Louise Watson Robinson Aging Out Grant for education, these youth will realize the dream of receiving a great education and other training opportunities.

With the support of the aging out Grant, these youth will receive financial budgeting assistance.

With the support of the aging out Grant, these youth will receive a life coach and mentor to walk beside them along their journey to success.

Your generous support is needed now . All donations are fully deductible. The Grant falls under the accountability of the From Widow To Winner Projects International non-profit organization.

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**Isaiah 1:17**

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# Candace Mayes wins Business Woman of the year

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

The Mississippi Business Journal's 2023 Business Woman of the Year Luncheon was held February 16, 2023 at the Old Capitol Inn, downtown Jackson at 11:30 a.m. It was sponsored by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) and Regions Bank.

The event was well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy a delicious lunch. Vickie Powell of MEC gave a history of the 50 Women Program and Cathy Northington, COO of MEC and Lt. Col. Deidre Smith of the MS Army National Guard presented a 2023 Business Woman of the Year Video Introduction of the 50 finalists. After bios were shared with the attendees, Tami Jones, publisher, *Mississippi Business Journal*, presented awards to the finalists. Photos were taken as each were called alphabetically to receive their awards.

However, it was noticed that a few names were skipped and several of the finalists that were seated at their tables with family and friends felt uneasy. A few of the finalists felt that perhaps their bio had not been received.

Later it was revealed that the names of ten of the fifty finalists were omitted because they were in the top ten and these finalists received top ten awards.

Candace Mayes, owner of The Mayes Group, LLC, was omitted after the ten was called and she stated she was really getting upset and disappointed because she had been totally omitted. Tracey Dobbins, Maye's cousin, wondered if her cousin had omitted sending in her resume.

Everyone at her table seemed puzzled until it was announced that the winner of the 2023 Business Woman of the Year was Candace Mayes. Mayes, with a genuine look of shock made it to the front to receive her award and her table of guests along with other attendees stood and applauded.

The day after being chosen Mayes was again surprised when she walked into the Garrett Enterprise Office building where her office is located. Socrates Garrett asked her to come into the conference room for a brief meeting and when she arrived with pad and pen, tenants of the building, along with her staff, were there to offer their congratulations.

Socrates Garrett of Garrett Enterprises Consolidated is one of her clients and was very pleased



Mayes smiling while holding her award.

when it was announced she was selected Business Woman of the Year. He said, "Candace Mayes is an outstanding person with impeccable skills and a relenting drive to succeed. Her dedication to her craft is displayed daily." Mayes worked as an accountant for Garrett before going into business for herself.

DeLoise Buchanon, who is a member of "Living the Fit Life Group" of which Mayes has been their co-leader for over five years said, "Candace is a true inspiration to us all and deserves all the love and accolades she receives. Another member, "Ramonica Lewis Mayberry said, "I am so proud of Candace. She works so hard every day and is always willing to assist others."

Mayes, when asked to express her thoughts at the office surprise said, "I am so thankful and grateful and humble." She admitted she worked hard and when asked if this honor was affirmation that others knew of her hard work she responded, "Yes."



Table of guests: (L-R) Latranio Kennell, Tracey Dobbins, Candace Mayes, Clinton Mayes (father) Jimmie D. Bell, Kevin Mayes and Socrates Garrett PHOTOS BY TRACEY DOBBINS AND JACKIE HAMPTON



Mayes given surprise honors at Garrett Enterprise building with Publisher Jackie Hampton, her first client when starting her business.



Garrett and Mayes at luncheon



Mayes (4th from left) with "Living the Fit Life Group"

JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## CELEBRATE OUR BLACK HISTORY.

Black History Month is a time to pay tribute to the generations of African-Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve freedom and equality in American society.

This year, JPS celebrates its black history by highlighting the people and stories that trailblazed the path to where it is today - a successful school district in the heart of Mississippi.



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## JPS English Learner Parent and Community Spring Forum:

*Bringing together two languages in support of one outstanding educational system*

JPS Newswire

Hundreds of families participated in the JPS English Learner Parent and Community Spring Forum on February 9, at Bates Elementary School.

The forum was a great opportunity for our Spanish-speaking community to learn about the many JPS resources and programs available for their scholars. Scholars also received awards for their achievements on state assessments.

"I want to thank everybody here, the staff, the superintendent, the principals, everybody who came here today," said Jonathan Guzman, a Northwest

Jackson Middle School scholar. "I want to thank you, Team ELA. Even when I was low, they helped me get up. Thank you to the superintendent for helping out the schools with fundraisers and donations. Hopefully, in the future, we can do more with that."

Those who attended the forum were able to ask questions and learn about the JPS dual language program and the activities available to scholars. The event demonstrated the importance of bringing together two languages in support of one outstanding educational system.



## U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona visits Casey Elementary

JPS Newswire

United States Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona visited Casey Elementary Wednesday, February 15, for a roundtable discussion with JPS community partners on how the American Rescue Plan is impacting public schools. He also toured the building, visited a number of classrooms, and gladly participated in an art project, demonstrating his commitment to hands-on learning experiences.

"What I saw walking around the hallways, every student told me this is an arts-based program, or we use the arts, and you can tell the students were really engaged," said Cardona. "Part of the reason why we're visiting is we're highlighting the great work of using the American Rescue Plan dollars to give students additional support. When these dollars were made available to help rescue what we know our students lost during the pandemic, there are some examples that really shine

brighter than others and this is one of them."

Executive Director of Innovative Strategy Dr. Samecia Stokes and representatives from the district's afterschool programs, including the Greater Jackson Arts Council, the Mississippi Children's Museum and Bean Path discussed with Cardona and State Superintendent of Education Robert Taylor the programming they have created via federal pandemic relief funding.

Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Michael Cormack Jr., Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Grigsby and Casey Principal Anthony Moore, along with other school and district officials, welcomed Cardona to Casey and accompanied him on his tour and attended the panel discussion.

Secretary Cardona's visit to Casey Elementary School shined a positive light on Jackson Public Schools and the importance of providing all JPS scholars with opportunities to succeed.



Tour with Casey scholars and district officials



Art class at Casey

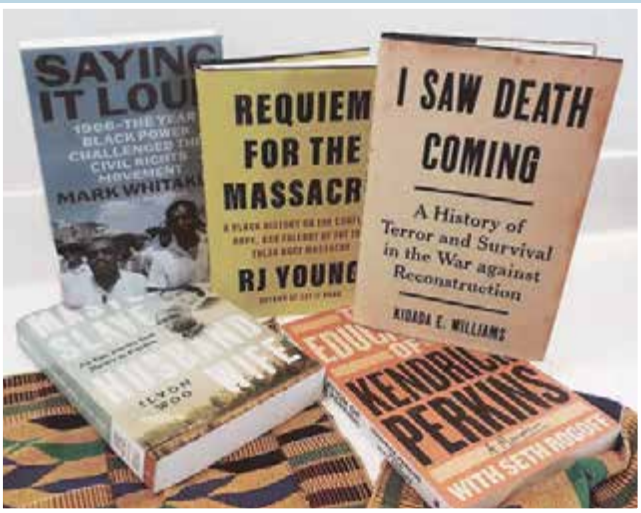


Secretary Cardona's panel discussion with JPS after-school programs and State Superintendent Robert Taylor.



Panelists: (left to right): Monica Ealey, Mississippi Children's Museum; Dr. Samecia Stokes, JPS Office of Innovative Strategy; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Grigsby; Amber May, MS Statewide Afterschool Network; Charlotte Smelser, Mississippi Arts Commission; Anik Kirkijan, The Bean Path; Silbrina Wright, Greater Jackson Arts Council





BOOK REVIEW:

# BLACK HISTORY BOOKS FOR ADULTS

C.2023, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS  
\$27.00-\$30.00 VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

The month of February has been whipped by so fast that you almost missed it.

It’s true that the month is short, as compared to the other months, but no worries. There’s still a lot remaining, surely enough left to catch one of these great Black History Month books...

It’s been more than a century since the Tulsa Race Massacre and it still seems like there’s much to learn about it. In “Requiem for the Massacre” by RJ

Young (Counterpoint, \$27), you’ll read about how descendants of survivors marked the centennial anniversary of that day in 1921, how officials are reckoning with what happened, and... what happened.

If you examine the decades between Rosa Parks’ refusal to give up her bus seat and Black Lives Matter, you can clearly see how activism has changed with the times. Author Mark Whitaker writes about one year of it in “Saying It Loud” (Bloomsbury, \$29.99). Set in 1966, this book shows how Black Power

changed the way young black Americans fought for Civil Rights, and what it means today. This reads like a novel, and it should be on your bookshelf.

Readers who love sports will want “The Education of Kendrick Perkins” by Kendrick Perkins with Seth Rogoff (St. Martin’s Press, \$29.99). Here’s Perkins’ story, from his childhood in Beaumont, Texas to his budding love of basketball, his NBA career and playing with the sport’s biggest and best-known games. This is a fan’s book, perfect for any season.



If a real-life thriller is more to your liking, then look for “Master Slave Husband Wife” by Ilyon Woo (Simon & Schuster, \$29.99). In 1848, Ellen and William Craft left the plantation on which they were enslaved, and they slipped away North. Here’s how: Ellen masqueraded as a rich white man during their flight, while her husband acted as the “man’s” slave. Needless to say, their audacious run was hailed by Frederick Douglass and other black luminaries of their day; most astoundingly, that’s not the end of this heart-

pounding story. You gotta read this book.

And speaking of freedom, “I Saw Death Coming” by Kidada E. Williams (Bloomsbury, \$30.00) is a book about the years after the Civil War and how Reconstruction affected the newly-freed and their families. Through genuine stories of several formerly enslaved people, both men and women, Williams shows how just getting by day-to-day was a struggle: with the rise of the Klan, merely existing was dangerous. And perhaps one of the most frightening things of

all might have been the dawning realization that the government was of limited help, if at all. This is a fascinating book, perfect for historians and Civil War buffs.

If these books are not enough for your pleasure or learning, be sure to ask your favorite librarian or bookseller for help. They can show you hundreds, if not thousands, of books that will enlighten, teach, entertain or shock you. These are books you need to read now, or soon – because knowing Black History requires more than just a month.



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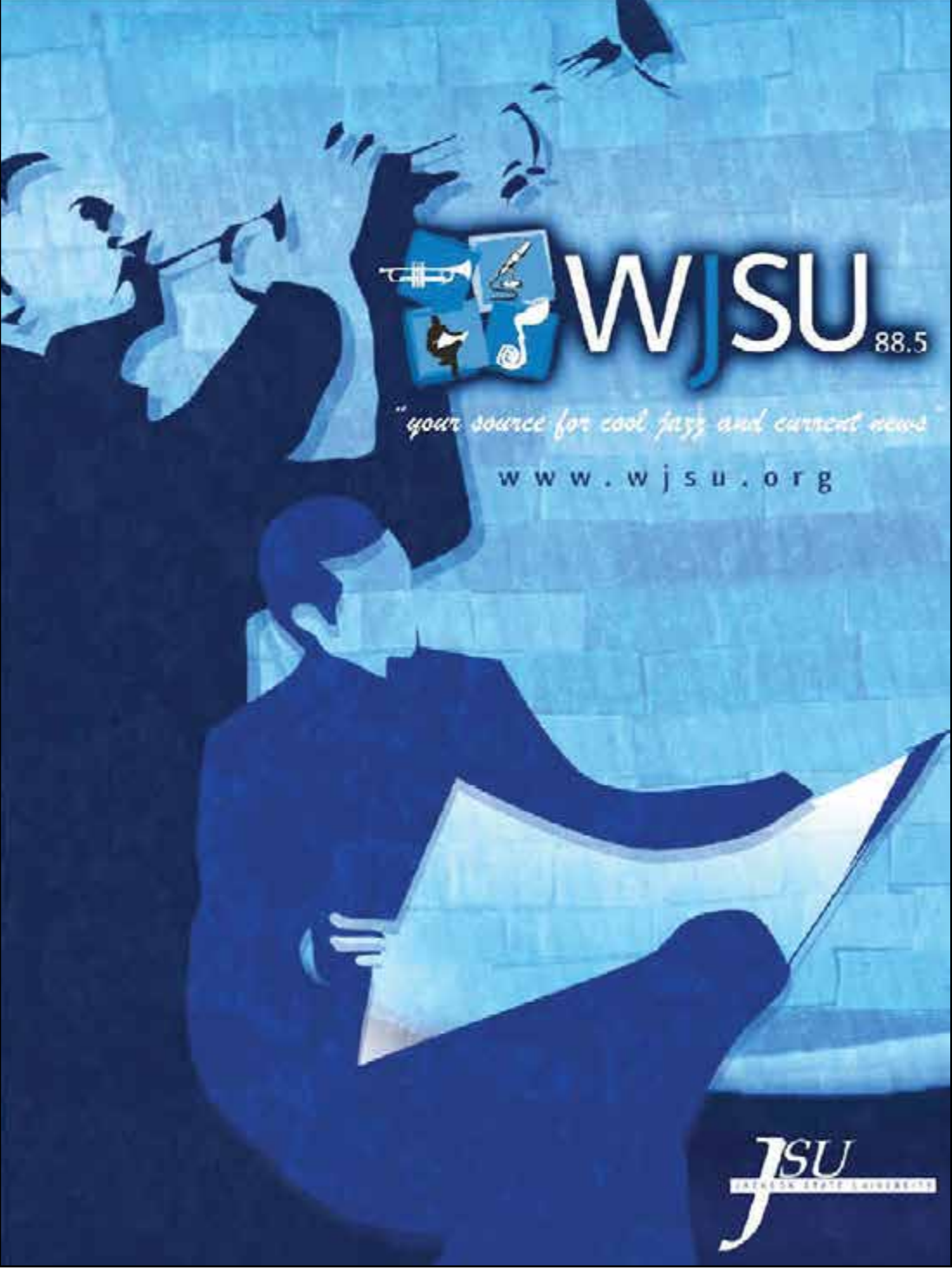
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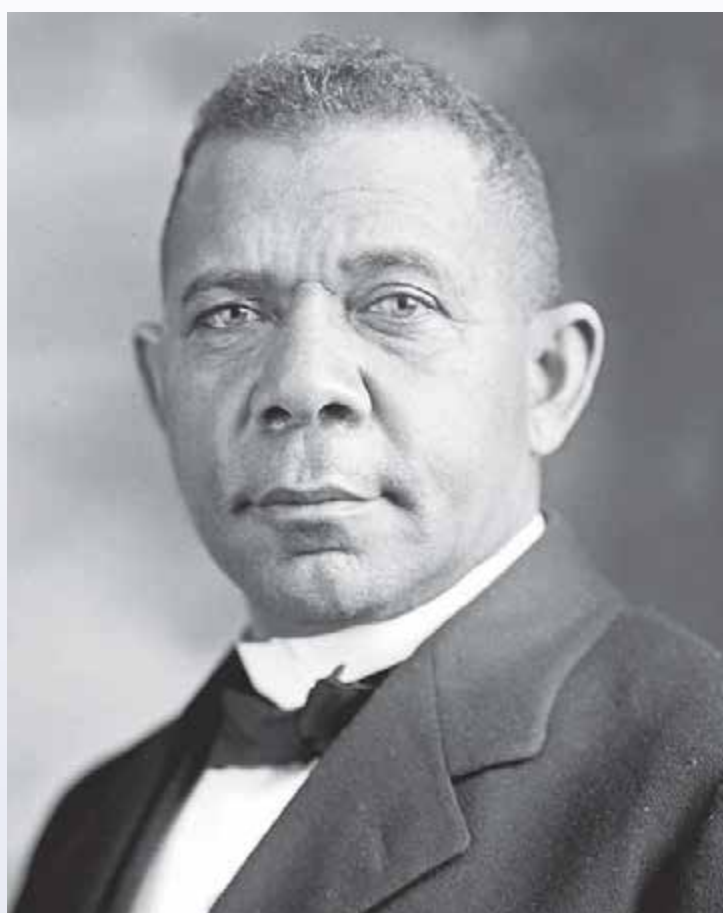


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—Booker T. Washington, 19th-century politician, author, and cofounder of Tuskegee Institute, a famous historically Black college

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# Honoring leaders giving back to their communities

During Black History Month, AARP recognizes leaders who help build up their communities.

Gwendolyn Spencer Prater, Ph.D., is State President of AARP Mississippi. Her illustrious career includes social work and academia. She became the founding Dean of the School of Social Work at Jackson State University in 1978. In 2003, she became the university's founding Dean of the College of Public Service, which encompassed the School of Social Work, the School of Health Sciences and the School of Policy and Planning. Since retiring, she has shared her experience and knowledge to help support Mississippi's 50-plus population.

AARP believes when our efforts drive change for the greater good, we thrive together.



**To find Black History Month  
events in your community,  
visit [aarp.org/local](https://aarp.org/local)**





# Exclusive: Chairman Thompson says classified tapes House Speaker turned over to Fox News has ‘serious national security implications’

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

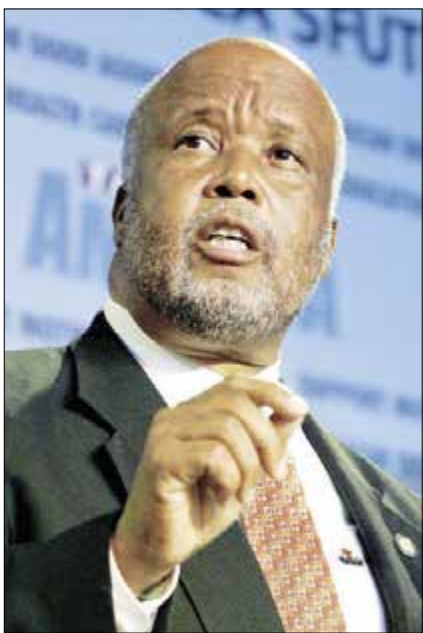
Mississippi Democratic Congressman Bennie Thompson revealed that some of the 41,000 hours of video footage from the January 6, 2021, insurrection that House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) turned over to Fox News included classified material that could threaten national security.

In an exclusive 65-minute interview with Let It Be Known, a live daily news show put on by the National Newspaper Publishers Association, Thompson, the head of the January 6 Commission, said he wanted to see what document McCarthy signed with Fox News to transfer the footage.

“There are serious national security implications, a lot of what we saw and did not share with the public as a committee,” Thompson said in a no-holds-barred discussion with Black Press reporters on the program. “There are safeguards in place, and some of this material is privileged,” he continued.

“You can’t just open the store and let someone come in and clean it out. We want to see what document was executed for that transfer of information. I chaired the [January 6] committee, and I can tell you that there is clearly information in there that we choose not to put in the public arena because of its sensitivity.”

The bold and unusual move by the House Speaker of handing over such information reportedly comes after McCarthy faced intense pressure



Thompson

from his right flank to relitigate the work of the House Select Committee.

While it took an unprecedented 15 rounds of voting for McCarthy to win the speakership, one of the reasons Republicans relented was because he vowed to hold hearings on the Capitol riot.

Thompson noted that the cause for alarm rose further when McCarthy gave the classified information to Carlson, the most outspoken Fox host, to promote the lie that the 2020 election was stolen from former President Donald Trump.

“You turn the tapes over to a guy who was the cheerleader of lies being

told, and even when he knew what he was saying was wrong, he kept saying it,” Thompson railed.

“I don’t know what it means from a journalistic standpoint, we can have differences of opinion, but when facts say something different and are irrefutable, and you try to promote alternate situations, that’s not journalism,” he continued.

“You turn this kind of information over to these people who have been proven in a court of law not to tell the truth about a subject they had already acknowledged in court. Fox News has turned this information over to the courts in a lawsuit, and now that same Fox News has access to information about January 6. The speaker should have said, ‘I can’t let you have this.’ But he did.”

While Thompson doesn’t expect McCarthy to pay the price for his action, he stated his belief that he, a Democrat and African American, most certainly would have it been him who turned over classified information.

“I, and every other member of Congress, take an oath that you are not supposed to release that kind of information,” Thompson declared. “If you do, you have violated the oath of office and broken the law.”

Thompson, who led the investigation into the January 6 insurrection, called it challenging to work with Republicans like McCarthy, Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, and others.

“I think Speaker McCarthy, because of his challenge to become speaker, made so many off-the-record commitments to become the speaker that he can’t say no to certain people,” Thompson asserted.

“He can’t say no to Marjorie Taylor Greene or some of those other folks. So it took him too long to become the speaker. Every time a vote was taken, they [negotiated, and ultimately McCarthy got the number he needed. Still, it’s clear that he had to give up all authority and power inherent in a traditional speakership to get [the job].

“So, I’m not surprised he gave this information to Fox News. They’ve been in his corner promoting an alternate reality, which is part of the pay-back to the Fox Network.”

Thompson said politics are far different today than in previous times. While many of his colleagues believe in the rule of law and that America is a nation of laws, Thompson said some in Congress differ substantially.

“Marjorie Taylor Greene tweeted that there should be a national divorce, but that’s the Civil War. That’s the 2.0 version of divide and conquer or us versus them,” Thompson insisted.

“What we try to do is based on facts and to promote the truth,” he continued. “I’ll celebrate 30 years in this institution in a couple of months, and I’ve never seen it this partisan, and I’ve never seen the lack of respect I see now for the institution.”

Thompson also revealed for the first time how challenging, and life-threatening serving on the January 6 Commission was. “Every member ended up with a security detail,” Thompson offered.

“The moment they landed in Washington, the Capitol police would meet them at the airport and be with them until they got back on the plane.

“When you went home, another detail would meet you and be at the house until you returned to Washington. Based on the threat level, they assessed and looked at social media postings. We had folks crazy enough to call the office. So, they gave everyone a detail. It was also what was being said. People were talking about family members. You can pick on Bennie Thompson but leave my wife, daughter, and grandchildren alone. It was a challenge.

“We had witnesses we wanted to talk to, but they were afraid. So for a couple who testified, we moved them out of their apartments before they testified and put them in undisclosed locations.

“We were concerned. After they testified, they left town the same day. It was something that the annals of history, over time, will tell you what we went through.

“But we told everyone that they were welcome to be a witness in public or in private, but under oath. If you lie to us, we will charge you with perjury.”

## Hinds County School District Weekly Update

### ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

#### NATIONAL SIGNING DAY AT TERRY HIGH SCHOOL

Terry High School had several seniors to sign contracts to play college ball in the future. It was the largest number of students Terry High has ever had and we are very proud of these young men who will further their education and compete to go further in their athletic career. We wish them the best!





# Davis Temple Headquarters holds World Missions Conference

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

Top community agencies met with approximately 100 Mississippi delegates at Davis Temple Church of God in Christ (1700 Dalton Street, Jackson, Miss.) and addressed engaging and service for the underserved Friday, February 17, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The World Missions Conference drew attention to the enhancement of church and community which comprised general sessions and breakout workshops. The scriptural verse used for the occasion was Proverbs 11:25 (NIV): “A generous person will prosper, and whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Shirley Richardson, outreach coordinator, noted that power rests within community partnership. It is essential, then, for persons to connect for the well-being of all parties involved. This includes persons who are in need of service and persons who are hired to provide service.

For instance, those with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes and heart disease, as well as those with no shelter, food, clothing, insurance, etc. can fare better when aware of mechanisms and places that address these matters.

In turn, agencies that are responsible for meeting the needs of citizens uphold their dignity when they inform the public of



**Bishop Daniel T. Littleton, Prelate, surrounded by COGIC World Missions leaders. PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL VINCENT**

their services and are accountable based upon their job-related responsibilities.

Mention was made of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and MEMA (Mississippi Emergency Management Agency) entities that bear responsibility of identifying and assisting senior citizens who are devastated by floods, tornadoes and other disasters. Evacuation, power outages, shelters and community specific information, transportation are among such. Senior citizens need to know who the representatives are in their areas.

Regional Managing Attorney of Mississippi Center for Legal Services, Tara Bryant Walker, mentioned services provided by the agency. Adult guardianship; consumer issues; advance health care; power of attorney; wills; housing; education and unemployment are included. “Take the time to write down who you want

to leave your belongings and name somebody who is going to carry out your wishes,” suggested Walker. “You don’t pay a dime for the will. Legal Services will work with you if you’re over 60,” she indicated.

Of the durable power of attorney, Walker explained that if a person becomes disabled, then the durable power of attorney can continue to work with him/her. “The [representative] may or may not be a family member but should be someone you trust to carry out your wishes,” Walker said. He went on to say that the decision to have a durable power of attorney is an individual matter, only if you feel the need for one.

Duane Odom, district head of security, advised delegates to identify persons for security management. He brought to the podium Laurel Fosselman (Mississippi Office of Homeland Security active shooter and train-



**Tara Bryant Walker explains what Mississippi Center For Legal Services offers to persons over 60.**

ing coordinator). The intent of security, she said, “is to secure the church inside and outside. [This] enhances the protection of soft targets and crowded places.” Churches were encouraged to apply for a \$150,000 grant and to follow instructions.

Founder of All Things New, Inc., Aubrey Pridgen, disclosed that he wound up in the Rankin County jail as a drunk driver who had hit two girls who were traveling home for Christmas in 1996. He served two years in prison and within a few years, married and started the outreach ministry. Learning from his drinking behavior, Pridgen finds solace in helping others.

The Celebrate Recovery workshop was handled by Chastity Walters. Prison, drugs and homelessness were the key points discussed. The prison system fosters rehabilitation and workforce development, offers drug and alcohol counseling and educational



**Shirley Richardson explains the significance of community.**

programs for inmates. Drug addiction treatment programs provide comprehensive care to persons struggling with substance use. Treatment can progress in a natural, comfortable way, thereby laying the foundation for a lasting recovery. Facilities exist to feed, clothe and shelter the homeless.

During this lifechanging workshop, visionary leader and licensed educator, Eldridge Henderson, cited three things to live for: self, family and community.

“There is not one black community where black citizens own their homes, their schools and their banks. If you don’t have these,” he said, “you don’t have a community. We don’t have enough services in the community for people to know about other than prayer, but prayer alone is not enough. You have to have knowledge, skills and follow instructions,” Henderson charged.

The speaker recommended



**Workshop conductor Eldridge Henderson encourages listeners to build community by getting 501(C) 3 nonprofit status.**

that listeners get a 501©3 nonprofit and apply for state funds.

“The executive director gets a salary, and the other grant money goes to the needed things for operation. Senior citizens can get a grant for \$6 million to teach young people about politics, communication, how to negotiate and how to work with people they don’t like. Church members, you should look at all the things you can do and put them in the form of a proposal. There are donors with millions of dollars, and they don’t know what to do with them,” said Henderson.

Others who powered within the community partnership were Bobbi Brown (Christian Sitters); LaBethani May (Hinds Behavioral Health Center); Vickey Williams (Hinds County Human Resource Agency); Joshua McClain (Affordable Insurance Services) and Yolanda Catchings (Human and Cultural Service – City of Jackson).



## Free, professional tax return help

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Saturday, February 25  
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You deserve every dollar of your tax refund. Our team of IRS-certified volunteers will help with the entire process – from identifying all available credits to submitting your paperwork.

Find out what documents to bring and more details at [entergy.com/freetaxhelp](https://entergy.com/freetaxhelp).



VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) is an IRS program that offers free tax preparation services for low-to-moderate income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speakers through various partner organizations. Learn more at [irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers](https://irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers).



## Bullying and other challenges that teenagers face these days

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



Becoming thirteen years of age back in the day was not an event of epic proportions. The start of my teen years was not the celebratory event that it is now.

When I went to elementary school after turning 13 years of age, my classmates treated me just like they did when I was twelve years of age. I do not recall having any more privileges.

My parents didn't give me an allowance so money was not a factor. I had a birthday party. Everybody had ice cream and cake and that was it. Don't get me wrong as I was happy about the occasion. It just wasn't overblown.

Being a teen in my Winston-Salem NC neighborhood was simply not a big deal. The rules we had to follow were still the same and the consequences for not following them were still the same.

The social ills teens confront today were not a part of our growing up. It begs the question as to why being a teenager is so different today. It is an easy answer.

Our society has changed and what happens in it has changed.

I believe we can point to several factors that prevent teens from enjoying this time. High atop the list is the bullying that has made life miserable for many of them.

Psychologist Clare Rowe says that bullying can have an extremely negative effect on your teenager. She has created a much-needed video on what signs to look for if you think your child is being bullied.

Keeping our children and grandchildren safe while in school should not be a problem but it is. Reports verify that in 2014 the Centers For Disease Control and Department of Education released the first federal definition of bullying.

It included three main elements, and they were: unwanted aggressive behavior, observed or perceived power imbalance and repetition of high likelihood of bullying behavior.

The most common places to experience bullying are in the classroom and in a hallway or stairwell. Cyber bullying is also a common threat to teens as well as they use the internet to hassle and to harass one another. This is what I call new age bad behavior. Sadly, many of these intimidating ploys lead to bad outcomes resulting in injuries and emotional trauma.

According to a 2023 report prepared by the Pew Research Center 46% of teens have been bullied or harassed via the internet.

Further the report says that over 50% of teenagers believe that online bullying is a big problem.

Parents can play an important role in helping teens to combat these problems on the web.

Some of the tips given by parents are never to share your password and to be very careful about what you post online.

The important element to the advice is to ensure teens actually follow the advice.

Much is happening in schools that suggest teens are struggling with their own social development. For example, tempers flare quickly over issues that are small when compared to life's bigger problems.

Clothing and hair are problems that create anger and emotion among teens. Now some school systems are having their students wear uniforms and are incorporating different hair styles.

School rules are constantly being reviewed and revised.

As older Americans, we cannot expect things to remain like they were when we were teenagers. Teens are different and the schools they attend are different.

Accepting these realities is not a betrayal of our ideals as it is more about adding new ways to assist young people in their journey to success.

Let us help where we can and when we can. It could well be with our gentle guidance and understanding that we could be that ram in the bush.

## Have you ever been diagnosed with boohurt?

*Excerpts from Dr. Calvert's book, "Boohurt"*

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.  
Guest Writer



There is absolutely nothing like boohurt. Boohurt is a torturing pain that doesn't involve a cut or wound in the physical flesh but it is a pain that is found within your heart, soul, and mind. Boohurt is a relentless, throbbing and aching pain that entangles and crushes one's heart. Moreover, boohurt is almost unbearable.

Unlike many diagnosis, boohurt has no immediate cure. Boohurt can be detrimental to one's health. In other words, like any physical or mental pain if it goes untreated it can result in producing a series of unhealthy conditions. Some of these unhealthy conditions include low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, bitterness, hate, anger, and torment which grips you in the abdomen, throat, and heart and won't let you go sometimes for days, months, and even years.

Boohurt does not discriminate against one's gender, age, color, religious preference, education status, employment status, economic status, six packs, two packs, no packs, big girls, skinny girls, thick girls, short, tall, perfect teeth, braces, no teeth, dentures, blonde hair, red heads, brunettes, natural hair, kinky hair, curly hair, short hair, long hair, dread locks, braids, Knotless Braids, Brazilian hair, cups sizes, big booty, flat booty, little booty, no booty, etc. — it does not matter. Boohurt has been around for centuries. It yields a pain that is excruciating, heart aching, distressing, and tormenting. It literally

feels like our hearts have been pulled, ripped, yanked, and snatched out suddenly with no warning, no memo, or notice. Moreover, it is also accompanied by shadows of darkness, self-pity, self-doubt, betrayal, sadness, desolation, suffering, destruction, discomfort, and despair. Boohurt penetrates and attacks our minds and hearts in the most devastating ways possible which provokes a continuous numbness.

Boohurt pollutes our concentration, thinking, and conversations. It steals our joy and identity. Further, it misleads, undermines, and it manipulates us into a disposition of believing that life couldn't get any worse. It aggravates us to the point that we contemplate isolating ourselves from the face of the earth, hoping to wake up and it all just be what we often refer to as just a bad nightmare.

Moreover, boohurt shakes and tosses our frail and delicate hearts back and forth like an unsettled sea does a frail boat in the midst of a storm, a tsunami to be exact. It offers no remorse, comfort, peace, and no immediate relief, none whatsoever. Simple enough, it is undeniably the most dreadful pain that an individual can experience in his or her life. In other words, boohurt sometimes makes you wish you wasn't born or that you were dead. Moreover, it puts you on your knees and causes you to forget everything you knew about yourself, reality, and even God.

So what is boohurt? It is simply defined as when your man or woman hurt and damage your heart either by infidelity (cheating, porn addictions, social meet-

ing sites, etc.) their derogatory words, lack of communication, or lack of disregard for your feelings.

However, I think we as women feel the impacts of boohurt more than most men because of our emotions. Most men tend to cope easier and faster than we can and do.

Many women experience the most boohurt once they learn that their boos have been unfaithful. It does not matter if it is a physical affair or an emotional affair — they both hurt like hell. Yes, I am admitting unlike many women that once a woman finds out that her boyfriend, significant other, husband, hero, king, big daddy, Cat Daddy, Sugar Daddy, hunk, or Boo has cheated on them, yes it has the potentials of flipping our worlds upside down.

Have you ever been diagnosed with Boohurt? Even if you have not, many have experienced boohurt. I, unfortunately, have experienced boohurt and I promise there is nothing like it.

As you are aware, many infections, illnesses, and diseases, have been given certain names, such as the Common Cold or Upper Respiratory Infection (URI); many names are derived from the symptoms alone. I wanted a name to describe what it feels like to be hurt by a boo that you are in love with. I looked for years, researched, asked people, and no one could give me one word that describes the symptoms following being hurt by your Boo, like, sadness, anguish, inability to focus, over eating, not eating, sleeping too much, not sleeping, the ripping and tearing of your heart, feeling that your heart could stop

beating, and listening to sad music, ("Bittersweet," by Fantasia — I love this song though), etc.

In conclusion, Boohurt is real. Sometimes, we wonder what is going on with ourselves and loved ones especially when we or they are not acting like ourselves; it may just very well be boohurt.

I finally came up with a word, BOOHURT! You have a word now to share with your besties, girlfriends, partners, spouses, family, and even your colleagues, etc. You can officially diagnose them now — tell them that they are experiencing Boohurt.

Do you ever heal from boohurt? Will you ever get over boohurt? The answers are yes and yes. In other words, the prognosis of healing from boohurt can occur, but it takes time; does not happen overnight. God, alone helped me heal 100 percent.

For additional information regarding the diagnosis of Boohurt, purchase my book today, entitled, "Boohurt." You can purchase it directly from me (I will personally autograph it) or from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Walmart.com, and lulu.com (still can autograph). Share this book with everyone you know. Also, feel free to contact me regarding any tea you want to share about Boohurt.

Contact: Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.) on Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email: letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com/ Contact # 769-206-3749

## Making Black History Month truly meaningful

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



It's not enough that Black History Month is the shortest month in the year; or that many capitalize on it with lip service and faint recognition. By this we mean the commercialization of "Black History Month" by some while others are attempting to erase us by banning books that speak to our history and struggle.

When we personally stop and reflect or read the accounts of what people like James Weldon Johnson and his brother did in writing the "Negro National Anthem" over 123 years ago; when we consider that this was done in the midst of a segregated society with much open race hatred, it's a testimony to the personal and family commitment to a people that you not only identify with, but are proud of.

To make Black History meaningful to us individually and to our people, we must first get acquainted with our history. For example,

it is embarrassing to be in a Black History program calling for the singing of "Lift Every Voice & Sing" (the Negro National Anthem) and watch people struggle to sing one verse or fumble while looking for the words in a program. The act of meaningful engagement with our history must be year round and based on a commitment to who we are collectively and how much we care for our own heritage.

Let's start by learning the words to the song and studying the meaning for what it tells us about those who came before us. Let's be able

to sing the song from our hearts just as the people of South Africa do with their national anthem. Because the South African people care and identify with their song, we can feel the depth of their emotions.

When we re-enter that space for ourselves, we will no longer have to be concerned about what others do or say about us. The words to the song will rekindle our desire to revisit what our ancestors have done both for us and this nation. Let's make Black History everyday.

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Alcorn State University supporters, officials and friends gathered at the Capitol Tuesday, February 21, 2023, for Alcorn Day at the Capitol. Senators Albert Butler, (second left), and Sarita Simmons, (second right), were among the many lawmakers who mingled with the crowd.





LEGAL

ShapeADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSAL FOR RENTAL CAR SERVICES AT JAN BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY PROJECT NO. 012-23

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (“JMAA”) is seeking electronic proposals (“Proposal”) for Rental Car Services at JAN.

Sealed Proposals to perform the services will be accepted at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Monday, April 17, 2023 (the “Proposal Deadline”). Proposal shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delive1y as follows:

Email: bids@jmaa.com

By mail or hand delivery:  
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport  
100 International Drive Ste 300s  
Jackson, Mississippi 39208

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) Attention: Marvin Buckhalter, Director of Procurement; (ii) the wording: “Rental Car Services at JAN, Project No. 012-23.” If the submission is submitted via email, the identification information must be provided in the email subject line. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, 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 Marvin Buckhalter, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority  
100 International Drive, Suite 300  
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109  
Attention: Marvin Buckhalter  
Telephone: (601) 664-3516  
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713  
Email: mbuckhalter@jmaa.com  
or from JMAA's website at https://j111aa.com/par11cr-with-us/procureme11t/.

Based on the Proposals received and the scoring of each proposal, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first. 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 and 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 will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on Tuesday, March 07, 2023, at 11:00am (CST) in the Community Room on the third (3rd) floor of the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport:

JMAA reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services.

JMAA has chosen to not establish a DBE participation goal for this RFP. However, twenty (20) points are potentially available to Respondents submitting an acceptable minority participation proposal for the Services.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
Date: February 22, 2023  
John Means, Acting Chief Executive Officer

2/23/2023 3/2/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed RFP's 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, March 21, 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:

84084-032123 36 Month Term RFP for SAFECITYCAM Surveillance Video Cameras & Installation

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV & WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM

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

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

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

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

2/23/2023, 3/2/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bids  
ESSER III Renovations for Clausell Elementary

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) March 24, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the projects for will be held at 3330 Harley Street, Jackson, MS 39209 on March 8, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. 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 josdmsoroi-ects.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 Cody Farris at Duvall Decker Architects, Phone: 601- 713-1128, Fax: Email: cnf@duvalldecker.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.

2/16/2023, 2/23/2023

HELP WANTED

Socrates Garrett Enterprises is looking for an experienced and passionate coffee roaster to join our team! This role requires at least two years of experience in roasting, sourcing green beans from overseas, creating unique blends of coffee, and managing the company website. If you have a passion for coffee and want to be part of something special - apply today! SGE, 2659 Livingston Rd, Jackson, MS 39213, Ph 601-896-0084 - #CoffeeLover #CoffeeRoaster

2/23/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

CASE NO. HPNC-22-36 thru HPNC-22-97  
LOCATION: LEONARD COURT REHABILITATION PROJECT  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: FARISH STREET NIEGBORHOOD HISTORIC  
DISTIRCT APPLICANT: STEPHANIE STEWART

REQUEST: Full exterior restoration including restoration of the existing original front window, remaining porch elements, original exterior siding, and roof overhang. New windows and front door will replace the existing non-original elements in the same location. Interior renovation includes new floor structure where required and finishes, wall finishes, ceiling finishes, new bathrooms, new kitchen, new laundry, and new mechanical/electrical/plumbing systems will be installed.

II. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

2/16/2023, 2/23/2023

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, March 21, 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:

05554-032123 Eighteen-Month Supply of Barlights, Electronic Sirens, Switch Boxes, Speakers, Communication Organizers and Security Screens.

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV & WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM

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

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

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

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

2/23/2023, 3/2/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bid  
Window Replacements for Boyd Elementary and Green Elementary Schools

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) March 27, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Boyd and Green Elementary will be held at 610 Forest Avenue, Jackson, MS 39206 on March 9, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. 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 JPSPDM-SPROJECTS.COM. A \$250.00 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. For 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 Architects, P.A., Phone: 228-594-2323, Email: jseymour@egh.ms.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 10:59 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.

2/16/2023, 2/23/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bid  
Window Replacements at Lake Elementary, Smith Elementary and Wingfield H S ESSER

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) March 29, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Lake Elementary, Smith Elementary and Wingfield H.S. will be held at 472 Mount Vernon Avenue, on March 09, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. 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 JPSPDM-SPROJECTS.COM. A \$250.00 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. For 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 Architects, P.A., Phone: 228-594-2323, Email: jseymour@egh.ms.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 10:59 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.

2/16/2023, 2/23/2023

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, March 14, 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:

93440-031423- 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 pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1638. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

2/16/2023, 2/23/2023



LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY BENFORD DECEASED CAUSE NO.: P2022-31-M/4

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 25TH day of October, 2022 by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi, First Judicial District, to the undersigned Administrator of the Estate of Mary Benford, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this the 3rd day of February, 2023.

, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF MARY BENFORD, DECEASED

TERRANCE BENFORD

2/9/2023 2/16/2023 2/23/2023

LEGAL

Banking Services-Depository Bid

Depository Bids for 2023 and 2024 will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi on March 21, 2023 at 3:30 pm at City Hall, 219 South President Street. Please submit original and two (2) copies of sealed bids, marked "RFP#94629-032123 Depository Bid" to the following address prior to or on March 21, 2023 by 3:30pm.

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

Depository bids must be submitted in compliance with Mississippi Code Section 27-105-315 and related Mississippi Code Sections 27-105-305 and 27-105-353.

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

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

2/23/2023

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANTHONY CHARLES SMITH, DECEASED CAUSE NO.: P2022-648 T/1

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Administrator upon the Estate of Anthony Charles Smith, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 21st day of February, 2023.

Gwendolyn Porter Smith  
Administrator

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF HINDS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, Gwendolyn Porter Smith, Administrator for the Estate of Anthony Charles Smith, deceased, who having been by me first duly sworn, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.

Ann James  
NOTARY

Damon Stevenson  
Stevenson Legal Group, PLLC  
1010 N. West Street  
Jackson, MS 39202  
Telephone: (769) 251-0207, Facsimile: (601) 608-7872



2/23/2023 3/2/2023 3/9/2023

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE JACKSON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WILL RECEIVE PROPOSALS UNTIL 5:00 O'CLOCK P.M., JANUARY 31, 2023, FOR SPACE AVAILABLE TO BE LEASED IN THE MUNICIPAL PARKING FACILITY NO. 2

Proposals to lease space in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 will be received by the Jackson Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") via the online portal only at [www.jrams.org](http://www.jrams.org), until 5:00 o'clock P.M., January 31, 2023, for any space available to be leased in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 (the "Facility").

The Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 is located in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, on the south side of Capitol Street, between Congress and President Streets, and space available for lease is located on the first floor of the Facility.

All proposals shall be in accordance with all of the requirements of the Request for Proposals, copies of which are available for review via the online portal only at [www.jrams.org](http://www.jrams.org). Proposals shall be made by those interested on or before 5:00 o'clock P.M., January 31, 2023.

Thereafter, Notice of Request for Proposals by the Authority to lease any remaining available space in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 shall be published monthly until all space in the Facility is leased, with the last Submission Deadline being 5:00 p.m. on December 29, 2023. Interested parties may submit proposals to the Authority for any unleased available space pursuant to RFP issued and dated December 29, 2022, or subsequently.

Such further information as is available regarding lease space in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 may be obtained via the online portal only at [www.jrams.org](http://www.jrams.org).

2/23/2023

PICK UP  
The MISSISSIPPI LINK  
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON  
BULLY'S RESTAURANT

3118 Livingston Road  
CASH & CARRY  
Capitol Street and Monument Street  
CITY HALL

219 S President St  
GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX  
2659 Livingston Road  
DOLLAR GENERAL  
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL  
2030 N Siwell Rd  
DOLLAR GENERAL  
4331 Highway 80W  
DOLLAR GENERAL  
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd  
DOLLAR GENERAL  
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)  
DOLLAR GENERAL  
304 Briarwood Dr  
DOLLAR GENERAL  
2855 McDowell Rd  
DOLLAR GENERAL  
104 Terry Rd

J & A FUEL STORES  
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.  
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**Week of February 12, 2023**



P R E S E R V E D

# Surrendering all through consecration

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



A few years ago, I wrote about surrendering all to God. Since I wrote those words, God has continually challenged me to take surrender one step further and live a consecrated life. What I've learned over the years is that the consecrated life isn't just one of continual fasting and prayer. I used to think that the consecrated life was like a surrendered life. However, I wanted to be clear what the connection was between surrender and consecration. So, I found an article on [www.auburn.edu](http://www.auburn.edu) that explained it beautifully: "Submission is a strong word; consecration, one still stronger. Surrender is cessation of resistance; consecration, a

transfer of all we are and have to Christ for active service. It covers person and property, talents and opportunities, and accepts Christ as leader, manager, friend, and Savior-present, active, and efficient in all the details of life." After reading that explanation, I better understood the article's statement about the degrees of consecration and that it was progressive: "Consecration brings new relations, makes new demands, offers new privileges." We see this in the liturgical consecration services where leaders are elevated to offices of great spiritual authority like Bishops. Consecration means that whatever is set apart goes from being common to being sacred. During the 47-day holy season of Lent that starts this week, many of us strive to sacrifice worldly pleasures to have a more intimate relation-

ship with God. Some also see Lent as setting apart our lives for service to God; it becomes a time when our focus is not just on personal sacrifice but seeking ways to give back to God. The biblical story of Hannah is a good example of this. I Samuel 1 describes how a barren Hannah prayed earnestly for God to grant her a child. Once she had Samuel, she gave him back to God. Verse 26 says, "And she said to him, 'As surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD.'" Once he was born, she did just as she had prayed. Surprisingly, once we get our miracle or breakthrough, many of us have barely thanked God before we're asking for another.

Even as we focus on repentance, prayer and fasting during this season, we should also think about ways we can give back to God as part of the process of consecrating our miracles. One way we can give back to God is to pledge to return the miracles and blessings he gives to us back to him. God can understand that we want to have "miracles of consecration" but he might just want us to do like Hannah and consecrate not just our miracles but also our lives. Shewanda Riley (Aunt Wanda), PhD, is a Fort Worth-based author of "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email her at [preservedbypurpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda. You can also listen to her podcast at [www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com](http://www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com)

LUKE 6:27-31



"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them." (ESV)

*These are can challenging words from Christ Jesus. We may read them and cringe. Yet this is the point at which reconciliation, and the gospel, can have the most power in our lives. When we are in Christ, we are not to be as the rest of the world. One of the most startling aspects of this new life is the capacity to love those we once thought were unlovable. Mission Mississippi has 30 years of reconciliation and much more ahead. That means it has taught this teaching of Jesus: for lasting reconciliation to occur, we love, bless, and pray for those who have hurt us. When we do so, the world sees something different. The power of gospel reconciliation in Christ is at work. In addition, doing this helps us too. We grow in our ability to forgive, love, and witness for Christ. As hard as this teaching may be, Jesus taught it to bring healing, that we would carry not hate, animosity, or bitterness in our lives. We would release such things by His love for us.*

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# Jackson State's women dominate Alcorn State

By Timothy Ward  
*Sports Writer*

Before a packed house at home, the Lady Tigers extended their winning streak to 10 games with a 81 to 49 blowout of their rival Alcorn.

Jariyah Covington paced JSU with 22 points, 8 rebounds, with 4 assists. Former Lanier standout, Keshuna Luckett, scored 9 points and had 3 steals. Alcorn had a 4 point lead early in the first quarter before Jackson State went on a 7-0 run to take a 14 to 11 lead. From that point, they would never trail again. Stifling defense forced Alcorn into 16 turnovers, bad shots, and the inability to gain offensive rebounds.

Jackson State took a 40-23 lead into halftime. Coming out after the break, the Lady Tigers made sure there was no chance for the Lady Braves to retaliate. And at the end of the third quarter, JSU lead 63-37.

JSU head coach Tomekia Reed played most of her bench players in the fourth quarter. The bench contributed 29 points for the game.

Tyginæ Wright, paced the Lady Braves with 11 points and 2 assists. Despite losing the rebound battle overall, Destiny Brown lead Alcorn with 10 rebounds, 1 block, 1 steal and added 7 points as well.

Alcorn State falls to 6-8 in the SWAC and 10-15 overall. The Lady Braves host Prairie View in Lorman this Saturday.

Coming into the season, Jackson State's women are the reigning SWAC regular season champions as well as the SWAC tournament champions. Building off the success of the previous two seasons, the Lady Tigers currently sit atop the SWAC standings with a 13-1 record.



Freshman Laila Walker gets fouled and scores.  
PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY WARD



Head coach Tomekia Reed addresses her team.



Keshunna Luckett scored 9 points.



Jariyah Covington scored 22 points.

Prairie View defeated JSU 69-65 when the Lady Tigers

came to town on January 14, 2023. Alabama State sits in 2nd

place with a 11-4 record followed by Alabama A&M, Prairie View and Southern.

Next up is Texas Southern this Saturday at 3 p.m. at home.

Go out and support those first place, defending SWAC Women's champions.

# Jackson State falls to Alcorn at home

By Timothy Ward  
*Sports Writer*

With the Sonic Boom of the South in attendance and a packed crowd at Lee E. Williams Athletics & Assembly Center, JSU's mens team was hyped up. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough. First place Alcorn State won 75-60. Four players scored in double figures for the Braves. Dekedran Thorn, scored 19 points, added 5 rebounds and 4 assists. Jeremiah Kendall, scored 16 points. Oddyst Walker scored 13 points and Byron Joshua scored 11 points to round out the scoring attack.

Chase Adams paced the Tigers with 16 points, 6 rebounds and 2 steals. Former Forest Hill standout Ken Evans added 10 points and 2 assists.

Alcorn came out aggressive and on fire in the first half. Wide open shots fell consistently. Defensive intensity was also there forcing JSU to come out seemingly flat. Their shots were rushed. Offensive flow was non-existent.

Alcorn took a 42-25 lead into the half with momentum on their side. The second half mirrored the first half. Alcorn lead 75-51 in the fourth quarter before JSU ended the game on a 9-0 run.

Despite the loss, JSU remains in 4th place in the SWAC, only 1 game back from 3rd place and 2 games back from 2nd place. With 4 remaining SWAC games,



Chase Adams scored 16 points.



Head coach Mo Williams draws a play for his team.

JSU could move up in the standings, but could also drop if they lose. Alabama A&M, Texas Southern, and Prairie View are right on their heels. Jackson State is 8-6 in the SWAC and 9-18 overall.

Big game coming up this Saturday when JSU hosts Texas Southern at 5:30 p.m. Tiger Nation should pack the gym once again Saturday.

Alcorn State sits on top of the SWAC with a 12-2 record. Grambling is just 1 game behind the Braves for the top spot. Alcorn hosts Prairie View this Saturday.



Kari Hamilton and the Clinton Arrows look to 3 peat.

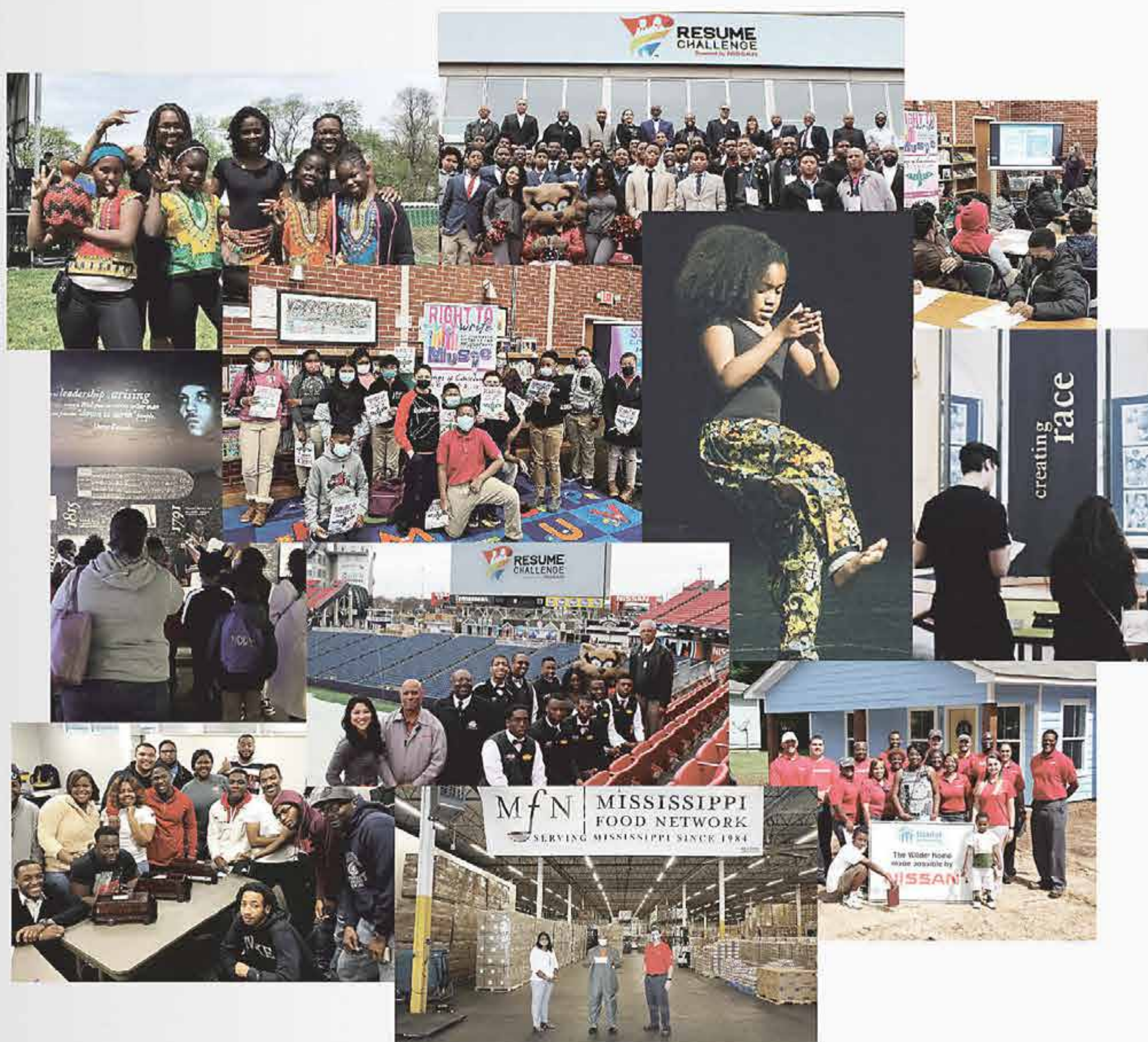


Ken Evans takes a jumpshot.





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