

# Mississippi Legislature adopts Resolution 37 honoring Attorney Constance Slaughter-Harvey

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

During the 2023 Regular Mississippi Legislature Session Monday, March 6, House Resolution 37 was adopted by the House honoring Attorney Constance Slaughter-Harvey.

The Resolution was sponsored by Reps. Tom Miles and Earle Banks. Miles began by reading the first paragraph of the resolution.

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND HONORING THE AMAZING LIFE AND IMPRESSIVE LEGACY OF ATTORNEY CONSTANCE SLAUGHTER-HARVEY FOR BEING A HISTORIC TRAILBLAZING ATTORNEY, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, COMMUNITY LEADER, AND TREASURED MENTOR WHO HAS INSPIRED COUNTLESS WOMEN AND MEN.”

The resolution stated that Slaughter-Harvey’s historic relevance lauds her alongside other dynamic, aspirational female history makers, such as Fannie Lou Hamer and Evelyn Gandy.

Attorney Slaughter-Harvey was the first African-American female to earn a law degree from the Uni-



Friends and family surrounding honoree (l-r) Charles and Deloise Jones, Dr. Greta P. Terry, Eugene and Alma Fisher, Dr. Constance Burwell, Hon. Judge Constance Slaughter-Harvey, Esq., Tre' Burwell III, James Burwell II, Rep. Tom Miles, Hon. Judge Denise Sweet-Owens and Worth Thomas

versity of Mississippi during a tortuous time in Mississippi History and the first African-American judge in Mississippi. When Civil Rights Activist Medgar Evers, who was a friend of hers was murdered in 1963, Slaughter-

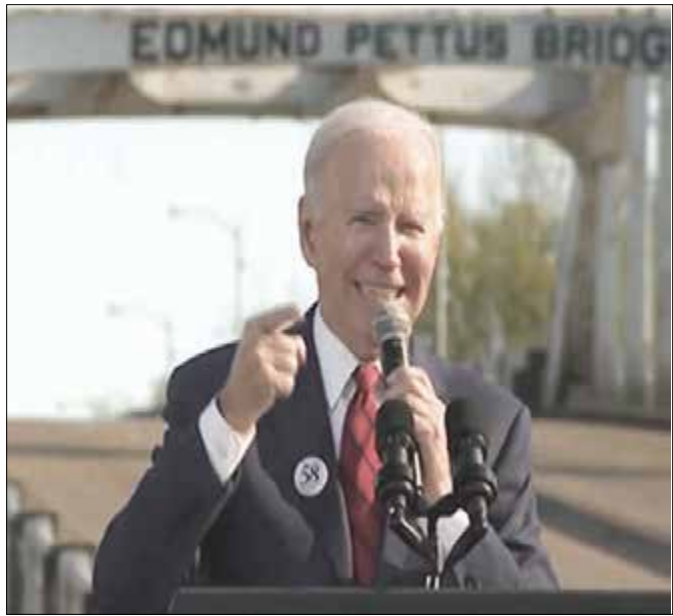
Harvey decided to join the Civil Rights Movement.

When *The Mississippi Link* asked her daughter, Constance Harvey-Burwell, EdD how she felt about the honor being bestowed upon her mother, she re-

plied: “I felt relieved to see her appreciated for all the sleepless nights that she has dedicated to ensure that freedom in Mississippi is not a priviledge but a right,

*Harvey*  
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## On the anniversary of Bloody Sunday Biden and Harris vow continued push for voting rights



President Biden speaks on infamous Edmond Pettus Bridge.

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

To protect one of America’s most precious liberties – the right to vote – 600 courageous people marched out of Selma, Alabama 58 years ago; however, their peaceful demonstration on the Edmund Pettus Bridge was met with brutality.

John Lewis, a young civil rights leader, and congressman, was beaten and had his skull fractured on the bridge at age 25.

“Those brave marchers were pushed back, but they continued to march forward,” Vice President Kamala Harris stated ahead of the March 5 commemoration ceremony at the foot of the famous bridge. Harris said the courage of those civil rights marchers and their sacrifice inspired many to join the fight to put an end

to poll taxes, literacy tests and other forms of discrimination that blocked black Americans’ access to the ballot box.

“They achieved passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965, which enshrined critical protections for voting rights in federal law,” the vice president stated.

But the Shelby County Supreme Court decision in 2013 undermined the Voting Rights Act, making it more difficult to prevent discrimination. Harris argued that this has led to a renewed attack on the right to vote in the United States in recent years. “Extremists have worked to dismantle the voting protections that generations of civil rights leaders and advocates fought tirelessly to win,” Harris said. “They have

*Bloody Sunday*  
Continued on page 3

## Elayne Hayes-Anthony, Ph.D. chosen as temporary acting president of Jackson State University

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) named Elayne Hayes-Anthony, Ph.D. as temporary acting president of JSU, March 3, 2023, after placing current president, Thomas Hudson, Ph.D., on paid administrative leave.

The board that governs Mississippi’s eight universities did not disclose why Hudson, who has served as president of the university since November 2020, was placed on leave.

Tom Duff, president of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, said in a statement Thursday that the board is grateful Hayes-Anthony agreed to be acting president. “As alumnus and long-time administrator and faculty member at the university, she understands the campus, its students, its challenges and opportunities,” Duff said.

Anthony, is a native of Jackson, Mississippi graduate of Jackson State University. She received the Ph.D. degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. She was the first African-American female anchor, producer and reporter for WJTV-TV12.

After receiving her doctorate, she returned to JSU and served



Hayes-Anthony

as Head of the Department of Mass Communication.

After ten years at the university she was appointed assistant superintendent of Public Information, pupil placement, staff development and spokesperson for the Board of Trustees for the Jackson Public School District.

She served as professor of communications and chair of the Department of Communications at Belhaven College for 17 years prior to returning to JSU as chair of the Journalism and Media Studies Department. While in this current capacity,

Hayes-Anthony received a call asking if she would serve as temporary president of JSU.

In an interview with *The Mississippi Link*, Anthony stated she was at the Medgar Evers Wiley Airport returning from Washington, DC Wednesday, when she received the call asking her to serve as temporary acting president of JSU. She stated she was surprised that she was asked to serve in this capacity and that after accepting it has been a whirlwind of an experience.

She stated she has had several meetings with staff and advisors and so far things are moving along.

Wednesday was JSU Day at the capitol and it was at this event that Hayes-Anthony said she reunited with so many people that she knew from so many walks of life. She said, “Students, alumni, staff, faculty, athletes, and members of the community offered me their support and their prayers and I appreciate that so much.”

When asked about her immediate goal while serving as temporary president she said, “I want to insure that the students have the necessary resources they need in the classroom.” She stated getting the needed resources will help with that goal.

She stated her challenge and her desire in addition to getting needed resources is that they allpursue excellence in all the things that they do.

“There is no job that is more important than another job. We must all contribute to the university in pursuit of excellence,” said Hayes-Anthony.

She hopes that the students understand their main priority is to get a quality education and that everyone associated with the university will assist in any way they can by standing by the students as they move toward their goals. She said this includes, faculty and staff and alumni.

She ended the interview by saying, “I’m looking at Jackson State and hoping that it’s a new day.”

Her plans include having town hall meetings with alumni all across the nation and listening to what they have to say.

In inclusion she said, “I don’t claim to know everything or have all the answers. You can learn a lot from listening to others.”

Though she was asked to serve in a temporary capacity as president of JSU, Hayes-Anthony is very appreciative of IHL for trusting her to lead one of the best HBCUs in the world.

## Hurting Jackson hurts all of Mississippi

Need for improving state and local relationships – with a very special ending

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

When we see and feel the harsh treatment of the City of Jackson by the Governor and most republican state legislators we are seeing and feeling these elected officials actually harm the whole state, too. Mississippi can ill afford to be harmed further than it already is, but in their zealouslyness to stomp down black leadership, that is exactly what they do.

A recent Brookings Institution Report highlights both the grave costs of ineffective state and local relationships, but also the steep economic and social benefits in store when collaboration does occur. The report can be accessed at [https://www.brookings.edu/essay/why-state-and-local-relationships-matter-to-national-](https://www.brookings.edu/essay/why-state-and-local-relationships-matter-to-national-prosperity)

*prosperity* and begins with us, our Jackson water crisis.

The report reads, “The next month (that would have been March 2021), backed by the city council, Mayor Lumumba requested \$47 million in state and federal funding from Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves to fix the city’s water treatment facilities. But Jackson received just \$4.6 million out of the \$356 million being doled out during that round of statewide capital projects – a mere 1.3% for a capital city comprising 5.2% of the state’s population and anchoring a metro area that contributes 24% of the state’s economic output.”

It goes on to say, “Even as the state’s business commu-

*Jackson*  
Continued on page 3





# Daughters of Deborah, Inc. presents 19th Annual Women Empowering Women Conference

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

Daughters of Deborah, Inc. (DOD) serves as a mission and outreach organization for the community in respect to kingdom work. Members and friends of surrounding communities attended the DOD 19th Annual Women Empowering Women Conference at the Westin Jackson (407 S. Congress Street, Jackson, Miss.) Saturday, March 4, 2023.

The conference's challenge was the theme, "Better Than I Was." The well-attended setting yielded workshops and a luncheon that featured First Lady Karen Clark-Sheard (four-time Grammy Award-winner and multiple Stellar and GMA Dove Award winner) as speaker.

Workshops were conducted by women and men. Women dealt with the following: Youth Entrepreneurship (9th – 12 grades) by Dr. DeJonnelle King, President CEO, Advanced Environmental Consultants, Inc.; Woman 2 Woman: Winning the Battle of the Mind by La Toya Richards Moore, Department Chair and Professor, Medical Laboratory Science, UMMC; and Stacy Hull



Gail Grass Fulgham, founder, Daughters of Deborah, Inc. speaking.  
PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL VINCENT

Nance, professor, Dept. of Medical Laboratory Science, UMMC (co-owners Phoenix Laboratory Consulting and Testing).

Men, on the other hand, handled the following: Men at Work: For Men Only (Roy Caston, facilitator, Department Chair, Math Department, Hinds Community College; Protecting Your Family and Your Church, Sheriff Tyree Jones, Hinds County; Digital Discipleship, Chris Coleman (owner, I Think for You Consulting Company); and Mentoring Black Men, We Determine

Our Own Path, Brian Reynolds (Recruiting and Outreach Coordinator, Minority Male Initiative [M2M] Hinds Community College).

National recording artist Janis Johnson Durr addressed workshop participants with inspirational points. "If God inspired you, He'll keep you. The Lord inspired me with a vision." Delving into aspects of the prophet Deborah's life and leaning on Jeremiah 32:29, the speaker proclaimed, "Somebody needs you to stand in the gap for [her/him].

Deborah, one of the most influential women in the Bible, heard the voice of God. Israel as a result, had 40 years of peace. You and I have the same power, the same authority in us," she maintained.

Durr asserted that the listeners needed to have faith in God and themselves. They needed to have friends who share their beliefs. They should look to God who would send friends. They should seek God's favor via prayer on a consistent basis.

Clark-Sheard posed to the luncheon audience to realize that they needed to know God for themselves. She reached to Exodus 1:15-17. "The midwives feared God and rejected the king's command to kill the Hebrew boys during the birthing process...If it weren't for mother, grandma and nana...who did not compromise...for me to have my way [I would not be where I am today]."

The First Lady of The Church of God in Christ admonished the audience to surround themselves with positive people. "Carry children in your hearts. Remind our young women, 'don't lower your standards. Make sure that

God gets the glory.'" To the mothers, she said, "Stop sitting in the church acting like you're Miss Goody Two Shoes. You've got to learn how to plead the blood of Jesus on your children. You have to say 'no' to the enemy. Get on your knees and pray every day that the world will not have our children."

In closing, Clark-Sheard appealed to the women: "We have to do better sisters. Stop hating and congratulate. We've got to stick together because when women come together, we create organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Drivers and Daughters of Deborah."

2023 Mission Project (Roxanne Johnson) and Business Pitch Competition Awards (DeJonnelle King) were presented to Jala Friday (first place, \$300; Kaitlyn Gaylor (second place, \$150; and Reyunna Oatis (third place, \$50). Winners also received certificates of achievement.

Reacting to the conference was 43-year-old Tiffany Sanders, a Jackson resident. "I have enjoyed it, and it has been enlightening. Listening to the different perspectives on how to deal with

life's issues has been gratifying and rewarding. It's okay to not be okay. [Now] I know that I don't have to always be perfect."

Two committees made up the 2023 conference. The planning committee included Katricia Lewis (conference coordinator); Gail Grass Fulgham (DOD's founder/executive director); Clara Chapman (president); Shirley Richardson; and Matthew Donaldson. The conference committee included Jennifer Armon; Iris Barnes; Melissa Davis; Jasmine Hardy; Kena Span; Virginia Jamison; Jamaica Johnson; Roxanne Johnson; Sandra Judge; Cassie McDuffey; Bridget Tyler; Delores Watkins; Jackie Williams; Denise Thaggard; and Shunta Lewis.

Sponsors included: Xpress Tax, Inc.; G & A Associates; Miracle Temple COGIC; Porter's Insurance; Liberal Trinity COGIC; Lisa Lucas; Alternative Ministries; H'Gaerc Inc.; Katrica Lewis; Elder C. J. Bolton; Luxy Life, LLC; CEOF COGIC; Grass Family. Patron – Alliance Primary Care Plus, Stephanie Thompson.

Daughters of Deborah can be contacted at <https://dodinc.org>.

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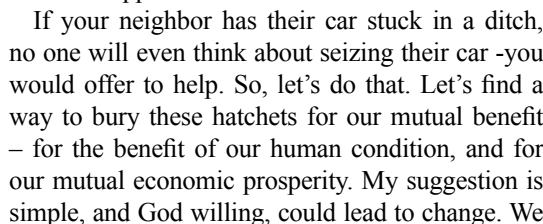
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In 2020, the Bureau of Economic Analysis Statistics reported that Mississippi is ranked #46 in the nation in percent of Gross Domestic Product derived from its metro areas, at 52.8%. There are

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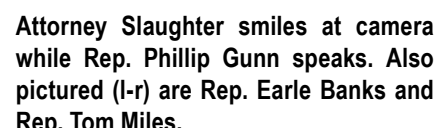


“And we will continue to implement the President’s Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting, which enhances the federal government’s efforts to advance voter participation,” Harris stated. “If we are to truly honor the legacy of those who marched in Selma on Bloody Sunday, we must continue to fight to secure and safeguard the freedom to vote.”

And the Governor hears the words, "Yes, today is a new day, just name the place and time and I'll be there."

## Continued from page 1

Burnell said, "I remain amazed at how much compassion and fight she has in her to leave a legacy of love, leadership and legal excellence."



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# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

**Raymond Elementary School has been very busy working with the community and the work has paid off.**



The winners of the Library Scavenger Hunt during a field trip to our local library. Students from left to right are Jayden Allen, Cambre Franklin and Noah Roberts. Not pictured is Zayden Strickland. Let's keep up the great work.



The winners of the art contest when partnered with the local library. From left to right: Gideon Werremeyer, Josie McLendon, Karen Ellis, Lillian Balderas and Emari James.



2 RES alumni who came and donated clear backpacks for students who needed them. Alumni teachers from left to right are Karen Sims and Angie Abbott. Also on the far left of the photo is our PTO president Julie Seaton.

## Raymond High School Band

The Raymond High School Band students (pictured) participated in the Raymond Solo & Ensemble Festival Saturday, January 21, here at Raymond High School. They performed their solo and/or ensemble (duet, trio, or quartet) for a college music professor. We are super proud of how they represented Raymond High and our band program. Of these 12 students, 11 performed solos and 5 performed in ensembles. They brought home 14 medals for earning 1st division ratings (9 for solos and 5 for ensembles).

They are: Christopher Rae, Aaron Harvey, Michael Fields, Clara Jennings, Skyla Burns, Akira Sanders, Audrey Jennings, Makayla Crutch, Eric Rivas-Perez, I'mani Thomas, Charles Higgins III and Xavier Conley.





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# Anti-black mindset in MS government

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer



Nine months ago, *The Mississippi Link* newspaper highlighted the vast racial disparity in the leaders of Mississippi's state agencies in an article titled, "Mississippi Government Agency Directory," June 2, 2022. Today we are revisiting information in that article and adding new information on racial disparities that are equally disturbing.

Information on the gender and race of individuals appointed to state agencies, boards and commissions is not readily available to the public in Mississippi. One hundred and thirty nine entities are listed on the state website — [www.ms.gov/agency-directory](http://www.ms.gov/agency-directory) — but it just lists the agency name, address, and sometimes a working telephone number, and sometimes a link to the agency's website if one exists.

Analysis to determine the head of the agencies, as well as their gender and race, is a time-consuming process. As reported previously, 94% are headed up by white people. Only eight non-white people in our state are agency heads. Does that mean we don't have more black people in Mississippi with the knowledge, skills and abilities to lead an agency in Mississippi, or could there be more to it?

Based on the most recent Census, 51.3% of Mississippi's population is female, yet only 28.4% of state agencies are led by women — 24.3% are white women and 4.1% are black women. 71.5% of agencies are led by men in Mississippi — 69.1% are white men and 2.4% are black men.

Once again this begs the question of why, in the most heavily African American populated state in the country, can we not have a higher percentage of black leadership? The people who make the appointments to agencies, boards and commissions are the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House. Overwhelmingly these people do not value black leadership. If they did, it would be reflected in their appointments. If they did, their appointments would better reflect the demographics of The Hospitality State.

More recently, at the request of Senator John Horhn (D-26), the Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) provided a PEER Staff Legislative Assistance Memo, which addressed Horhn's questions about gender and race of appointees. In terms of a disclaimer, the memo makes clear that the product is not an "Official PEER Report" and that this data is based on "Limited Composition Analysis." Nonetheless, it provides yet another window by which we can all see the anti-black mindset so prevalent in our state.

The memo reveals that in the last four years, 276 individuals have been appointed to 88 different state agencies, boards and commissions. The data is derived from background check reports requested by the Senate for individuals whose appointed position would require their advice and consent.

There were 80 female appointees — 65 white (81.25%), 13 black (16.25%), and 2 with no ethnicity reported. There were 196 male appointees — 174 white (88.7%), 20 black

## COMMENTARY

(10.2%), and again 2 with no ethnicity reported.

The folks doing the appointing all claim to govern — to lead — for all Mississippians, yet we know this is not true. These folks hate being called racist, but their blatantly discriminatory behavior reveals their true colors. Everything in Mississippi is about race.

These same folks bemoan Mississippi's brain-drain. They bemoan Mississippi being ranked at the bottom of nearly every meaningful societal measure — but they do things like this each day that contribute to maintaining the status quo of inequality.

Younger people, new college graduates, leave Mississippi in droves. They want to move forward in their lives, not backward. They don't want to live and work in a culture of inequality where white people are given baked-in advantage and black people must fight for scraps, fight for opportunity. They want to live, advance and raise a family where people are fair, equitable, and love their neighbor — and where decision-making is righteous and transparent, not hidden from the public.

Our State Auditor, Shadrack White, who may well be governor himself one day, issues reports constantly. He can commission a report on the cost of Mississippi's backwardness. He can commission a report on the cost of the blatant discrimination practiced daily by the trio at the top of our state government who can't see the value of black leadership in a state where black population

hovers near 40%. He can commission a report on the cost of the anti-black mindset of the Mississippi government itself by eliciting staffing and hiring practices over the past five years, from all agency heads. There is no doubt that clawing back millions of embezzled dollars is admirable work, and surely the taxpayers are grateful. Yet applying heat to the anti-black mindset in our state government could help bring about crucial change.

White must be familiar with the adage — "most people don't change because they see the light, they change because they feel the heat." When will White bring that to bear on the government of Mississippi itself?

After reflecting on the data, the PEER website [www.peer.ms.gov](http://www.peer.ms.gov) was reviewed. The first thing you see is a statement that includes: "PEER analyzes state agency programs and operations and helps the Legislature make state government more effective, efficient and accountable." Sounds like quite a responsibility.

The committee itself has fourteen members, seven senators and seven representatives. Eleven of the members are white (78.57%) and three are black (21.43%). They also have a staff of twenty, of which half were able to be identified — 80% white, 20% black.

We never have to look too far to see the anti-black mindset in Mississippi government, even from the very body charged with helping the Legislature to be more accountable.

# Mississippi passes bill restricting electric car dealerships

By Michael Goldberg  
*Associated Press/Report for America*

The Mississippi Senate gave final approval Thursday to a bill to restrict electric car manufacturers from opening new brick-and-mortar dealerships in the state unless they comply with the same laws traditional carmakers follow.

The legislation, introduced in the House by Republican Rep. Trey Lamar of Senatobia, now heads to Republican Gov. Tate Reeves, who has not indicated whether he will sign it. On the Senate floor Thursday, the bill sparked an intraparty debate among GOP lawmakers.

Opponents said it would betray conservative principles by setting a government policy that interferes with the automobile market and would stop electric carmakers from bringing new technology and jobs to the state. Proponents said the law would ensure all car manufacturers, regardless of their business model, play by the same rules.

Tesla sells vehicles in person at one facility in Mississippi

that is classified as a store, not a dealership. The distinction allows the company to operate outside state laws governing franchise businesses. This exception, and the prospect of other electric companies taking advantage of it, gives these manufacturers special privileges that traditional automakers don't enjoy, according to Republican Sen. Daniel Sparks of Belmont.

"We're saying if you choose to have a brick-and-mortar dealership, you have to follow the same laws that everyone else has to follow," Sparks said. "Please don't tell me Tesla's car doesn't identify as a car."

Sen. Brice Wiggins, a Republican from Pascagoula, said the "protectionist" bill came from traditional car dealers threatened by competition from electric carmakers.

Republican Sen. Joey Fillingane of Sumrall said the bill could cause Mississippi to fall behind other states in the race to attract investment from electric car companies.

"Maybe we just like being last all the time. Maybe it's a badge of honor — we're the last ones to change," Fillingane said. "If we're not careful, ... we could deprive our citizens of opportunities they really ought not to be deprived of."

The Biden administration has incentivized the purchase of electric vehicles. That, on top of an exception to regulations under state franchise laws, allows electric carmakers to operate by a different set of rules, Sparks said.

The bill does not restrict the direct sale of electric cars, as people can buy them online. But if they want to buy an electric car in person, they would have to drive to the state's only Tesla store in Pearl, which would be allowed to remain open under the proposed new law. Tesla or any other electric car company could not open a new brick-and-mortar location to sell cars unless they enter a franchise agreement.

The bill passed in a bipartisan 39-13 vote.

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# Angela Bassett, Oscar nominee, is just doing her thing

By Leslie Ambriz  
Associated Press

Angela Bassett has a presence that feels warm and inviting but also demands your respect. The actor moves like true Hollywood royalty, knowing her worth, dedicated to her craft and remaining confident yet humble throughout a decades-spanning, award-winning career.

On a Tuesday in January, Bassett would wake up just before 3:45 a.m., unable to fall back asleep. In just two hours, she would hear Riz Ahmed announce her name as a best supporting actress Oscar nominee for her performance as Queen Ramonda in “Black Panther; Wakanda Forever.”

Bassett remembers turning to wake up her husband, actor Courtney B. Vance (“I couldn’t experience that alone and then tell him about it later,” she said), and immediately receiving a text from fellow Oscar nominee and award-winning costume designer Ruth E. Carter.

“It was the first nomination and the first name,” she recalled. “I gasped, and that was a shock, that sort of ‘Whoa! Already? You know, give a girl a minute.’”

Carter and Bassett have worked together at least five times on various projects and are longtime friends.

“I was glad to be there for her,” Bassett said of the “brilliant and undeniable” Carter, who won an Oscar in 2019 for the first “Black Panther” movie.

Carter shared the same sentiment about Bassett, saying she’s beyond happy to see her friend celebrated on such a large scale.

“Well, I am beyond happy for her. I remember when I received the Oscar. She came right up, and she was so full of joy and happiness for me,” said Carter at the African American Film Critics Association Awards March 1.

“And I feel the same way for her,” Carter continued. “Having seen her



Bassett FROM WIKIPEDIA

journey for over 25 years and having had started with her on ‘What’s Love Got to Do with It’ and how committed she is to her craft, I think that she is due for her flowers, and I’m so excited to be here with her to witness it and share in the love.”

As Queen Ramonda, Bassett played the mother of Chadwick Boseman’s T’challa. She called working with him the “highlight of her career.” She also made history as her Oscar nomination is Marvel’s first in an acting category.

“I’m absolutely thrilled about it. I didn’t know that – that was something that I learned just a couple of weeks ago,” Bassett said at February’s Oscar nominees luncheon. “So, you know, firsts are always nice and hopefully it’s the first of many more.”

Bassett has appeared in cult classic and tentpole films alike, including the late John Singleton’s “Boyz n the Hood” and Forest Whitaker’s “Waiting to Exhale.”

While attending the Santa Barbara Film Festival earlier this year, Bassett said that her time as Katherine Jackson in the 1992 series “The Jacksons: An American Dream” prepared her to portray Tina Turner. Her turn as the singer in “What’s Love Got to Do With It” net-

ted the actor her first Oscar nomination, for best actress.

Nearly 30 years later, Bassett has been engulfed in a whirlwind of award shows and press junkets in preparation for the Oscars. Bassett says she’s “holding on” amid the quick pace of awards season and has a sound machine that lulls her “off to peaceful dreams” as she crosses the town from one red carpet to the next.

Earlier this year, she won the Golden Globe for best supporting actress. She’s also become a viral meme thanks to Ariana DeBose proclaiming that “Angela Bassett did the thing!” in a BAFTA performance.

While Bassett is excited about her Oscar nomination, she acknowledges the Academy’s failure to include more artists of color and women in their list of nominees. She advises that Academy members should expand their frame of reference when considering films and performances.

“But I would say first and foremost, see an array of movies. Whether you think you can relate to it or not, or it looks like you or not, or the stories seem intriguing or not, give all a chance because it’s – well, it’s easy, and it’s possible to miss very, very fine performances,” Bassett told the AP. “But frame of reference is everything. So, have a wide and open frame of reference.”

As March 12 approaches, Bassett’s supporters wait to see if this is the year that she becomes forever known as Academy Award-winning actor Angela Bassett. But where would she display her Oscar if that moment does arrive?

“You know, something like that looks good anywhere,” Bassett said. “Maybe it’ll have to take a little tour, see where it wants to land. Right in my hand, near my heart.”

For more on this year’s Oscars, visit: <https://apnews.com/hub/academy-awards>

# Federal investigators find Louisville police routinely call black people ‘boy,’ ‘animal’ and ‘monkeys’

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A review of the Louisville police department by the U.S. Department of Justice found that officers conducted searches based on invalid warrants and illegally carried out raids without knocking and making an announcement.

In a lengthy report, which the DOJ issued Wednesday, March 8, noted that for years, the Louisville police department “has practiced an aggressive style of policing that it deploys selectively, especially against black people, but also against vulnerable people throughout the city.”

“Some officers have videotaped themselves throwing drinks at pedestrians from their cars; insulted people with disabilities; and called black people ‘monkeys,’ ‘animal’ and ‘boy,’” the DOJ investigation revealed.

Further, federal investigators discovered that police officers routinely and illegally stopped and arrested suspects while primarily discriminating against African Americans. The department also showed little kindness to those with behavioral health disabilities, notably when dealing with a crisis.

“This conduct erodes community trust, and the unlawful practices of LMPD and Louisville Metro undermine public safety,” DOJ investigators wrote.

The review comes after two years of a DOJ investigation sparked by the shooting death of Breonna Taylor, an unarmed black woman whom police shot and killed in 2020 after entering a her apartment in a botched and unannounced raid. Last year, the DOJ charged four officers with federal civil rights violations and perjury.

Former detective Kelly Goodlett pleaded guilty to federal conspiracy charges, while the Louisville department fired Sgt. Kyle Meany.

A jury acquitted officer Brett

Hankinson, the only cop who discharged his weapon, on state charges, but he’s still facing a federal case. Former detective Joshua Jaynes also faces charges of conspiring to deprive Taylor of her civil rights.

The DOJ found that one high-ranking department official lamented that Taylor’s killing “was a symptom of problems that we have had for years.”

“The findings are deeply troubling and sobering, and they compromise LMPD’s ability to serve and protect the people of Louisville,” said Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta.

“We are committed to working with Louisville on a path forward to constitutional policing and stronger police-community trust. Although police reform won’t happen overnight, focused effort and sustained commitment will bring us closer to transformed relationships, safe communities, and this nation’s promise of justice and equality under the law.”

Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division added that people in Louisville deserve policing that’s constitutional, fair, and non-discriminatory. “Our investigation found that the police department and city government failed to adequately protect and serve the people of Louisville, breached the public’s trust, and discriminated against Black people through unjustified stops, searches, and arrests,” Clarke stated. “The police used excessive force, subjecting people to unlawful strikes, tasings, and canine bites.

“The police sought search warrants without justification and carried out no-knock warrants unlawfully, evading the constitution, defying federal law, and putting ordinary citizens in harm’s way. “Today marks a new day and a new chapter for the people of Louisville.”

# DOJ Court brief hints at possible Federal indictment of Donald Trump

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Officials from the U.S. Department of Justice have stated that inciting imminent private violence is not part of a president’s official responsibilities, the strongest indication yet that criminal charges are being considered against former President Donald Trump.

In a case involving police officers who want to sue Trump, the federal appellate court in the District of Columbia asked the Department of Justice to weigh in on the matter.

“Such incitement of imminent private violence would not be within the outer perimeter of the Office of the President of the United States,” the DOJ wrote in a memo to the court.

Trump asserted that he can’t be sued for his role in organizing his supporters’ attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021. Lawmakers and Capitol Police officers have filed a lawsuit claiming that Trump incited the attack by falsely claiming in a speech that the 2020 election had been stolen and urging his supporters to march on the Capitol.

The civil division of the Department of Justice filed a 23-page brief with the court of appeals, requesting that the court allow the lawsuit to move



Trump supporters and rioters attacking capitol in Washington, DC on January, 6, 2021.

forward.

The DOJ said Trump’s incitement of the deadly insurrection fell outside the scope of his presidential powers and therefore disqualifies any immunity argument.

The U.S. Supreme Court has previously decided that the Constitution protects presidents from being sued for their official actions.

“The District Court correctly rejected Trump’s categorical assertion ‘that whenever and

wherever a President speaks on a matter of public concern he is immune from a civil suit,” the DOJ insisted. “Speaking to the public on matters of public concern is a traditional function of the Presidency, and the outer perimeter of the President’s office includes a vast realm of such speech.

“But that traditional function is one of public communication. It does not include incitement of imminent private violence of the sort the district

court found that the plaintiff’s complaints have plausibly alleged here.”

The lawsuits allege that Trump’s speech was responsible for inciting the attack, which the DOJ said begs the question of whether it is within the scope of his presidency to update his supporters on the results of the 2020 election.

In a ruling made last year, Federal District Court Judge Amit P. Mehta allowed the lawsuits against the former

president to proceed. The judge concluded that Trump’s various communications leading up to and including January 6 amounted to a “call to action” and that he urged his supporters should “fight like hell” to prevent Congress from certifying President Joe Biden’s election victory.

Trump’s attorneys have appealed that ruling to the D.C. Circuit. They claimed presidents have always been protected from legal action for

statements made in the course of their official duties because such statements are considered “speech on matters of public concern.”

Several Democratic lawmakers and Capitol Police officers have joined forces to file a lawsuit against Trump over the attack on January 6. Other groups not involved in the appeal, such as the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers, are also named as defendants in the lawsuits.

By its very nature, “such conduct plainly falls outside the President’s constitutional and statutory duties,” the DOJ wrote. As such, it cannot be squared with the President’s customary role of addressing the nation on vital issues, they argued.

The President has “extraordinary power to speak to his fellow citizens and on their behalf” in his role as the nation’s leader and head of state. “But that traditional function is one of public communication and persuasion, not incitement of imminent private violence,” the DOJ continued.

“To extend immunity to such incitement would contradict the ‘constitutional heritage and structure’ that have informed and justified the doctrine of presidential immunity.”



# Are swimming pools bad for our lungs?

By Vince Faust  
*Tips to Be Fit*

In a few months most of us will be looking for a pool to cool off. But if you're like me I can't use a swimming pool because I'm chlorine sensitive. I get pressure in my nasal cavity, pressure behind my eyes and fatigue. This ended any hope I had of being an Olympic diver. I enjoyed diving. I didn't enjoy the side affects.

Everyone understands that chlorinated pools kill germs that can cause sickness. Chlorinated pools help reduce swimmers' risk of waterborne illnesses, such as diarrhea, swimmer's ear and various skin infections.

Long-term effects of chlorine exposure can include "chlorine cough." Most swimmers have developed a "chlorine cough" which is a dry cough. A short, single exposure to a high concentration of chlorine can cause immediate lung damage, which could be irreparable. The most alarming issue for me is blurred vision. Let's not forget premature wrinkles.

Swimming in pools disinfected with chlorine could increase your child's odds of developing asthma or allergies. New research suggests in a study published in Pediatric that teenagers who spent more than 1000 hours swimming in chlorinated water either indoors or outdoors have more than eight times the risk of having asthma and then swimming pools using copper silver as a disinfectant.



When used properly chlorine is an effective and safe disinfectant for swimming pools. Too much chlorine added to water or the build up in the air of an indoor pool is often unavoidable. Swimming in an indoor or outdoor pool will irritate the organs of the breather. There is now increased evidence that these irritating effects may be detrimental to the airways of regular swimmers, especially children. Children are the most vulnerable and are the most frequently attendees of chlorinated pools.

More than 17 million people in United States, have asthma

according to the American Academy of Allergies Asthma and Immunology. Symptoms of the disease include wheezing, shortness of breath and coughing. This airways disease can be triggered by number factors, such as cold air or chemical irritant. Chlorine has long been known to be an airway irritant and a potential trigger for asthma. Chlorine can be harmful to your eyes, hair, nails, lungs and your skin.

Chlorinated pool water can also cause numerous health problems. These include hormone disruption and intestinal issues.

One study included teenagers between the ages of 13 and 18. All had attended an indoor or outdoor swimming pool, but at various rates of attendance. One hundred and four mainly attended a pool they were kept clean with a copper silver disinfect. The remainder went to pools disinfected with chlorine.

The number of children who ever had asthma went up in proportion to their chlorinated pool exposure. Teens who swam for 100 to 500 hours in a chlorinated pool had an 80% increase the risk of having asthma while those who swam

500 to 1000 hours had just over twice the risk.

When teens spent more than 1000 hours swimming in chlorinated pool the risk of ever having had asthma nearly quadrupled. The risk of having asthma was more than eight times higher in groups with more than 1000 hours in a chlorinated pool compared with those who were rarely in chlorinated water.

The risk of allergies also increases significantly when adolescents spent more than 100 hour swimming in chlorinated pool. The risk of hay fever and other allergies more than

double with chlorinated pool exposure.

Most doctors don't advise parents to stop their children from swimming even if they have asthma. If your child has asthma and you know chlorine is a trigger for them you should talk to your doctor. It's a good idea to try to limit their exposure but you can't exclude your child from everything and every potential trigger. You have to let them be kids.

If you know, your child is bothered by chlorine exposure and he has an event such as a pool party and they really want to attend discuss it with your doctor to find out the best way to manage the exposure.

Remember chlorine does not immediately kill germs. The process can take from a few seconds to several minutes.

Swimmers should try to avoid swallowing pool water. No amount of our sanitizing measures will completely clean out a public pool. Despite our attempts to disinfect our pools, pathogens can still live in our pools.

If you have a backyard pool, you should use as little chlorine as you can to safely disinfect your pool. Many people over chlorinate the pool to get the clear blue water but you have to remember chlorine is a disinfectant not a cleaning agent.

It's a good idea to shower after you get out of the pool. Showering will help get rid of the chlorine and any other foreign agents you may have picked up in your pool.

# Have a bump on your foot? Don't ignore it

Have a lump or bump on your foot? Whether it's painful or not, it could potentially signal a serious condition. Foot and ankle surgeons warn it's important to have it checked out, no matter its size or location on your foot.

"Whether your bump or lump is pea-sized or golf ball-sized, it should not go ignored. A proper diagnosis is key to proper treatment," says Michael Coyer, DPM, FACFAS, a board-certified foot and ankle surgeon and a Fellow Member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS).

According to ACFAS, here's what to know about some of the more common types of lumps found in the foot:

## Ganglionic Cysts

This soft, fluid-filled sac is a non-cancerous bump that experts believe may arise from single or repetitive trauma. A ganglionic cyst can be caused by a leaking of jelly-like fluid from the "capsule" surrounding a joint or tendon and may be located on the top of the foot, near an ankle joint or even on the side of the foot. While the lump itself is often the only symptom experienced, you may feel tingling or burning if it's touching a nerve, or a dull ache if it's pressing against a tendon or joint. Often, ganglionic cysts cause irritation, making it difficult to wear shoes. Such cysts generally will not go away on their own and may return, even after being drained. Surgical removal by a foot and ankle surgeon can help prevent recurrence. However, if the cyst is not causing pain and doesn't interfere with walking, your surgeon may simply monitor it over time.

## Plantar Fibromas

Plantar fibromas are benign, fibrous, hard nodules found within the ligament of the foot and are especially common in the arch area on the bottom of the foot. These bumps



tend to be less than an inch in diameter but can get larger over time. They can cause pain when shoes push against them or when you're walking or standing barefoot. Steroid injections, physical therapy or orthotic devices may help relieve associated discomfort but will not make the fibroma disappear. While surgical removal is an option if pain persists following nonsurgical approaches, it's important to know that recurrence can occur post-surgery, as can complications, such as a flattening of the arch or the development of hammertoes.

## Haglund's Deformity

Haglund's deformity, sometimes called a "pump bump," is a bony enlargement on the back of the heel. When it rubs against shoes – from high-heeled pumps to running shoes – the soft tissue near the Achilles tendon can become irritated. This often leads to painful bursitis, an inflammation of the fluid-filled sac between the tendon and bone. While certain

foot structures are more prone to Haglund's deformity, you can treat the condition and help prevent recurrence with appropriate footwear, arch supports, orthotic devices and stretching exercises. Physical therapy, icing and NSAIDs can also reduce inflammation.

Sometimes, Dr. Coyer notes, a bump is suspected of being cancerous. In this case, your foot and ankle surgeon will perform a biopsy and if it is indeed cancer, will perform surgery to remove the mass, working in tandem with an oncologist for cancer treatment.

"Remember, the sooner we're able to properly evaluate your bump, the sooner you can have peace of mind and move forward with treatment," says Dr. Coyer.

For more information on foot bumps or to find a foot and ankle surgeon near you, visit [FootHealthFacts.org](http://FootHealthFacts.org), the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeon's patient education website.

# 'Stay Well HBCU Tour' brings COVID-19 vaccines to six campuses

By Paula Penebaker  
*CMRignite*

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have been a pillar in the black community dating back to the 19th century. These institutions have helped black Americans pursue professional careers and advance their education.

In addition to education, HBCUs have also stepped up during the pandemic to help provide vaccine access and equity. For example, the Stay Well HBCU Campus Tour, which cut through the noise to educate black communities about COVID-19 vaccines, are a vital part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services "We Can Do This" COVID-19 Public Education Campaign.

Between October and December of last year, the tour stopped at six college events, including the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship and The Celebration Bowl and happenings at Texas Southern University, Grambling State University, Alabama State University and South Carolina State University.

With the help of local vaccine providers and radio stations, the HBCU Campus Tour offered mobile vaccine stations and educational information about COVID, and nearly 200 people decided to get their COVID-19 vaccinations.

The popularity of HBCU football played a huge role in bringing lots of people of all ages out to tour stops. The football games are highly anticipated all-around entertainment, including the popular Battle of the Bands competition. The sport brought national attention to HBCUs when it was announced Deion Sanders will

coach Jackson State University's team.

"The COVID-19 pandemic changed many things on and across HBCU campuses since 2020," said Kenneth Washington, who served as sports marketing coordinator for the HBCU Campus Tour. "Campus events and gatherings are just starting to become a norm again."

Regional radio and social media helped draw people to the tour. There were 563,003 social media impressions and in-person outreach with 32,466 total onsite engagements. Each of the touchpoints can be attributed to the HBCU Campus Tour.

"Most HBCU campuses' response to the pandemic and vaccinations was second to none," Washington added. "The We Can Do This HBCU Tour aimed to amplify those efforts across campuses and the HBCU communities and campuses we touched."

Events like the HBCU Campus Tour amplify the importance of partnerships and the effectiveness of connecting with the black community in an authentic way. As the saying goes: "When you know better, you do better," and being intentional about providing access to health information, resources and vaccinations has helped protect the health of the black community and saved countless lives.

Updated COVID vaccines are currently free and widely available. To find a vaccine location, visit [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov).

Paula Penebaker is a writer at CMRignite, a strategic marketing agency and a partner of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services We Can Do This COVID-19 Public Education Campaign.



P R E S E R V E D

# Change of plans

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



I admit that I haven't always adjusted to change well. Sometimes I fight it...and lose. As I've gotten older, I've learned it's best to go with and not fight against change. Once, I was traveling and learned this important lesson when I had to deal with an unexpected change.

I was at an airport in North Carolina and flying back to DFW. "Great," I thought as I looked at my watch. "I'm one hour from my boarding time which leaves me plenty of time to go through security and relax before my flight. I started the fairly easy check-in process when a message I wasn't expecting flashed on the self-check in kiosk: "Your itinerary has changed. Press continue to view details."

I hesitated before I pressed

"continue" not sure of what the "change" might be. After a few seconds of deliberating, I pressed the screen and viewed with mild irritation my new itinerary. My cancelled flight had been replaced with an afternoon flight for the next day that would have gotten me home nearly 24 hours later.

I blinked hoping that my original itinerary would reappear. When it didn't, I waited in line and spoke to the ticket agent in my nicest, non-panicked voice. On the inside, I was screaming, "I've got to get back to Dallas tonight!"

The ticket agent smiled at me when I told her my name and she was able to pull up the flights. I smiled back because I was trying to not let the frustration show in my face or voice. Silently, though, I was praying for God to help me. I stood as patiently as I could and prayed that I would get a seat. Just as quickly as I prayed it, she said, "You're

in luck. Another airline has some seats available. Let me call and get you one."

As she handed me my ticket and directed me to the other airline, she restated that I was lucky. I couldn't resist turning around and telling her that it wasn't luck but God's favor.

Even though I was headed home, I'll admit that I wasn't too happy about the change. The thought of having to switch terminals to find my car at DFW Airport wasn't my idea of fun for a Sunday night, but I soon realized it was a blessing in disguise.

The new flight left a half hour later than the original flight, but it got me back to Dallas 1 hour earlier. I had to switch terminals and wait for my checked baggage, but I was still home sooner than the original flight.

It was a mild inconvenience a number of years ago that I have since repeated a number of times when I have traveled.

You plan your life only to have things change when you least expect or want them. Do you give God an attitude or do you trust that he knows what's best? I reminded myself of Proverbs 16:9, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."

Not only with that trip but also with other areas of my life, I've found that going with instead of resisting the change (especially when it comes to God's plans) is the best way to go.

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 [preservedbypurpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow on Twitter @shewanda. Her new podcast is "The Chocolate Auntie Podcast" at [www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com](http://www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com).

## Be sober, be vigilan

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



The Word of God tells us that there is a devil, and it tells us some things about him. The Word of God warns us of this very wicked one. First Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober be vigilant." To be sober, to be vigilant means "to be serious watchful and alert; especially to guard against danger difficulties or errors." When it comes to the devil, there is danger, difficulties and error. We are told to be watchful and alert because the devil is going about seeking whom he may devour.

Devour means "to destroy something rapidly and completely." The devil is out to destroy every life, and every soul he possibly can. This enemy is my enemy. This enemy is your enemy. He is the enemy of all mankind. An enemy is "one who hates or seeks to harm; one that fights against another in combat or battle; hostile power or force." An enemy feels hatred toward, intends injury to, and opposes the interests of another. There are so many today who are being overcome by this enemy. We don't have to look very far to see the many lives that are being affected.

When it comes to the devil, we need to be watchful and alert. We will not be able to avoid the danger, difficulties or errors, if we are

indifferent, unconcerned, careless or disbelieving.

Ephesians 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high place." When it comes to the enemy of our soul, we wrestle not against flesh and blood. We are not in a physical battle, but a spiritual battle, a battle against powers, evil powers from an evil spirit.

This enemy has some power but God has all power, all power in heaven and earth. God has all power over this enemy. That is why we must have God in our lives to be able to overcome the power of the enemy.

We are not able of ourselves to overcome this enemy. We must enlist in God's army and fight the good fight of faith. Matthew 16:24 says, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

Jesus is the leader of His army. He always leads the right way, and He always leads to victory. He and He alone leads to heaven. We read in Ephesians 6:11, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

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



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# Hearing the right things across the country

By Ben Jealous  
People For the American Way



As a lifelong organizer, I know that you grow movements by listening first, so that’s how I’ve spent the last month. As I started a new job as executive director of the Sierra Club, I’ve traveled more than 15,000 miles, crisscrossing the country from the Deep South to New England to the Pacific Northwest to listen.

Our organization is the oldest and most influential grassroots environmental group in the country with chapters in every state and more than 1 million members and supporters. We believe in building coalitions, for example to shut down hundreds of coal-fired power plants that pollute the air and neighborhoods where 11 million Americans, most of them black and brown and poor, live and raise families.

What I’ve seen in the last month is that during a time of great peril for our country, Americans still believe that we have things in common worth fighting for. Poor or rich, black or white, I met with activists who want nothing more than to come together and work side by side even as the voices promoting division seem to be the loudest.

In New York City, I met two women who with three others on their team have written more than 300 letters to the editor in the last year on issues from buildings’ electrification to cleaner public transportation. In Mobile, I met with descendants of 32 West Africans thought to be the last shipment of enslaved people brought to the United States who with other leaders are fighting to save the Africatown community founded by their ancestors. They are waging a lopsided battle against special interests who are displacing residents to build plants that dirty the air and water. Descendants of those who enslaved Africans own many companies involved.

These activists understand that, as in the civil rights movement, change always comes from the bottom up, that it is not the politicians who launch change. On the toughest challenges, people lead and politicians follow. The people I met want to grow movements, whether by fundraising, legislative advocacy or lawsuits.

We need this kind of enthusiasm and commitment right now across many issues, and I believe it is there. The struggles over everything from women’s health to voting rights to environmental protection are all intertwined and will play out state by state. We need activists and advocates in every single one.

An example is the once-in-a-generation investment this nation will make over the next decade to improve infrastructure and create jobs in ways that have environmental repair and renewal at their core. We will spend more than \$700 billion, more than double what we spent to make good on President Kennedy’s pledge to send a man to the moon. While President Biden and Congress have committed that money, the decisions on exactly how it will be spent will happen in cities, counties and states. We need to ensure the money is spent effectively and not hijacked by special interests. We need to be watchful to win.

The hard truth is that all the self-interested need to do to win is to drive a wedge between us. That’s a much easier task to accomplish than the unity I’ve seen. It just takes a little disinformation mixed with some concocted grievance.

The folks I met show that we’re smarter and stronger than that. We can’t let special interests make us appear more divided than we really are, putting our republic and our planet at even greater risk.

Based on what I’ve heard, I’m convinced that many of us are ready to stay vigilant and to oppose those who want nothing more than to profit from dividing us, whether it’s politically or financially.

Ben Jealous is executive director of the Sierra Club. He is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and author of “Never Forget Our People Were Always Free,” published in January.

# Foreplay begins before going to the bedroom

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.  
Guest Writer



Can we woo, woo, woo? Many husbands typically complain the most about the lack of sex in marriages. However, they

don’t realize that sex, especially good sex, involves a process before love making. Good sex requires good foreplay. Good foreplay is a process of strategies/factors which can lead to mind blowing, intense and deep passionate love making.

Foreplay does not only involve physical touching. Foreplay begins before any of the physical touching proceeds. Yes, you read correctly, foreplay begins before going to the bedroom, kitchen, washroom, closet, etc.

How can foreplay begin before going into the bedroom or wherever your spot may be? Good foreplay, first begins with respect – a positive attitude goes a long way in marriage. Both spouses must be kind and sensitive to one another’s needs and desires, which begins with respect. Respect involves a daily process of acknowledging your spouse for who they are and loving them in your reactions and responses. Respect for one another promotes

comfort, trust, and oneness.

Secondly, good foreplay also involves helping one another with household chores. Sometimes, wives are simply too tired to have sex because they are drained from working and maintaining the home alone. Husbands put yourselves in their shoes. As a married woman and mother, I know how hard it is as a fulltime worker to balance work outside of the home, marriage, children, household chores, extracurricular activities, etc.

Although, I try my best to be superwoman; I have recently concluded that I can’t physically do it all. I need my husband’s help. Sometimes husbands choose not to help because they feel that household work is not masculine and it is the exclusive feminine responsibility of their wives to do it. However, I do have one question for men. Who would clean up if you were single and could not afford a maid?

Although, many wives appreciate your effort of putting out the trash, there’s more to household chores than just putting out the trash. Nothing says I love you like a man helping wash the dishes, vacuuming, mopping, sweeping and even dusting – turns us on.

Author Matt Johnson, an assistant professor of family ecology at

the University of Alberta stated: “If you’ve got two people employed full-time outside the home, it makes sense that both partners doing their fair share prevents feelings of bitterness from building up, creating an environment much more conducive for sexual encounters to unfold.”

Also, a University of Rochester study published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology in 2016 stated: “The more attentive a couple is to each other’s emotional needs outside the bedroom, the higher their sexual desire for each other.” In other words, husbands, assisting your wives with household chores can help put your wives in the mood for the woo, woo, woo.

Additionally, other foreplay practices that begin before going to the bedroom include the following: Thirdly, nothing says I love you and I am in love with you, like the way you communicate with one another; consistent, good tone and taking out time to talk to one another daily is essential in helping enhance your sexual relationship.

Fourth, spouses need to woo one another outside of the bedroom first. Wooing one another can involve going on dates, taking trips (cruise – sure will rock your boat), picnics, trying exotic foods

and learning new hobbies/adventures with one another can help enhance your sexual relationship.

Fifth, foreplay, of course, does involve affection/physical touching too; holding hands, hugging (do couples still hug?), kissing, holding one another, massaging one another, implementing chocolate sauce, applesauce, or whatever sauce you both like.

Sixth, acknowledge and reassure your spouse that you love them and appreciate everything they do, be specific. How often do you compliment your spouse? Do you make them feel special, desired and wanted?

In conclusion, I believe you will see a big difference in your sex life if you consistently apply the above foreplay strategies in your marriage. If I go to the store and multiple sauces are sold out – I will know that you understand the importance of incorporating sauces; foreplay in your marriage before going to the bedroom.

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

# Celebrating 196 years of The Black Press

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



This month, the African American community of these United States celebrates 196 years of the Black Press, historically referred to as “Negro Newspapers.” It was on March 17, 1827, at a meeting of “Freed Negroes” in New York City, that Samuel Cornish, a Presbyterian minister, and John Russwurn, the first Negro college graduate in the United States, established the Negro newspaper.

The Black Press has been called many things during this 196 years of evolution. Its initial publication declared “there ought to be some channel of communication between us and the public through which a single voice may

be heard in defense of five hundred thousand free people of color.” What these two men started, initially known as “Freedom’s Journal and the Rights of All,” has spun off to more than 500 black newspapers as many embraced the need to tell our story and not have someone else tell it for us.

Today, the number of black newspapers has dwindled to a little more than 200 with at least two, the *Philadelphia Tribune* at 130 years old, and the *Afro American Newspaper* in Baltimore at more than 125 years old, still owned by the families that founded it. At a time when few of us could read, these papers grew to be known nationally, long before the internet, social media and even the telephone itself. It was often the low-waged black railroad worker, like the porter handling the bags of traveling

white people, who threw out copies of the *Chicago Defender* as the trains passed through “no-stop” small Southern towns. Part of the success was that we all knew we were black thanks to “Jim Crow” segregation laws.

Today, thanks to the Black Press, we have histories we can read. The book and movie, “Hidden Figures,” about the black women math experts that made the space program work, were based in large part on articles written in the *Norfolk Journal and Guide* newspaper and kept in the paper’s archives. Graphic pictures and articles about black soldiers in World War I can be found at the *Afro American Newspaper* in Baltimore.

Today, with racist whites seeking to ban all knowledge of the black experience in America, we must protect and preserve the Black Press as our only “Trusted

Messenger.” While we must use the internet and social media, let us not lose our souls and our knowledge of who we are in the process.

It is the Black Press that has written about “the stony road we have trod”; helped us feel the pain on our backs and that of our ancestors when we speak of the “Chastening rod.” It is the Black Press that has provided the steady beat, so that our “weary feet have brought us to the place for which our fathers sighed.” It is the Black Press that will help some of us return to the place where we met God before so many became drunk with the ways and wine of the world, which James Weldon Johnson spoke of when writing the Negro National Anthem.

Let’s keep the Black Press where it belongs, in our heart and lives as our struggle for equality and fairness continues.

# Addressing the issues around public safety and policing

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



Following the murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in 2020 at the hands of law enforcement – two in a long line of avoidable tragedies – Democrats reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring that law enforcement truly protect the communities they serve.

House Democrats passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act to prevent police misconduct by improving law enforcement practices and enhancing accountability. Regrettably, the bill stalled in the Senate due to

Republican opposition.

Since taking office in 2021, President Joe Biden has restricted the transfer of military equipment to police departments and directed federal law enforcement agencies to end the use of chokeholds and no-knock warrants.

Now a renewed call for action has emerged as the country mourns the violent death of Tyre Nichols, yet another unarmed black citizen murdered by police. It has become undeniable that the culture of policing must improve.

To reform this violent culture, we must enact public safety reforms that address the lack of accountability and transparency in policing while increasing the standards for those who wear the badge.

Our communities deserve meaningful change in how they are policed, and increased accountability will further that goal. It is unconscionable that a police officer can be fired from their local department for misconduct only to find employment in another department without consequence. Lawyers, doctors, public school teachers, and nearly all other professionals, face accountability. Police officers have a sacred responsibility to protect the public – they should certainly not be immune from it.

Increased accountability goes hand in hand with increased transparency. Police department data, information and policies should be made available to the communities they serve.

There are more than 18,000 local police departments in the United States. However, there is no national requirement for collecting and sharing use-of-force data. Nor is there a nationwide database or registry that tracks problematic officers, preventing those who have been fired from moving on to another jurisdiction without accountability. The lack of transparency erodes public trust and allows dangerous actors to patrol our streets.

Increasing the professional standards for those who serve involves setting national practices and instituting mandatory trainings to ensure officers have the communication and de-escalation skills they need to better connect with their communities

and prevent the deadly escalation of force. Training officers in these areas would improve police conduct and help officers better serve their communities.

In his January 7, 2023, State of the Union Address, President Biden urged us to “rise to this moment. We can’t turn away. Let’s do what we know in our hearts we need to do. Let’s come together to finish the job on police reform.” It is time for us to enact the reforms necessary to save lives. I call on our colleagues across the aisle to join in this critical effort.

To those who have lost loved ones to police violence, know this: just because you’re not in the headlines doesn’t mean you’re absent from our hearts and minds.

South Carolina remembers

Walter Scott, who was shot in the back and killed by a North Charleston police officer the morning of April 4, 2015. His brother, Anthony Scott, was my guest for this year’s State of the Union Address. Together, we heard President Biden’s call for action, and I can assure you that I will do all within my power to answer that call.

2nd Chronicles 15:7 urges, “be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.”

The road to achieving police reform may be long, but we must not tire. Instead, we must press on in honor of those we have lost and to prevent more black men and women from falling victim to the same fate.



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

3/9/2023

LEGAL

Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for \$3,600 for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale. 2001 Ford Mustang GT, Vin #1FAPP45X81F193232

Date of Sale: March 21, 2023  
Place of Sale: Unlimited Cars and Accessories – 829 So. Gallatin St., Jackson, MS 39204  
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.  
Time: 10:00 A.M.

3/2/2023, 3/9/2023, 3/16/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bid  
Bid 3231 Renovations to McLeod Elementary

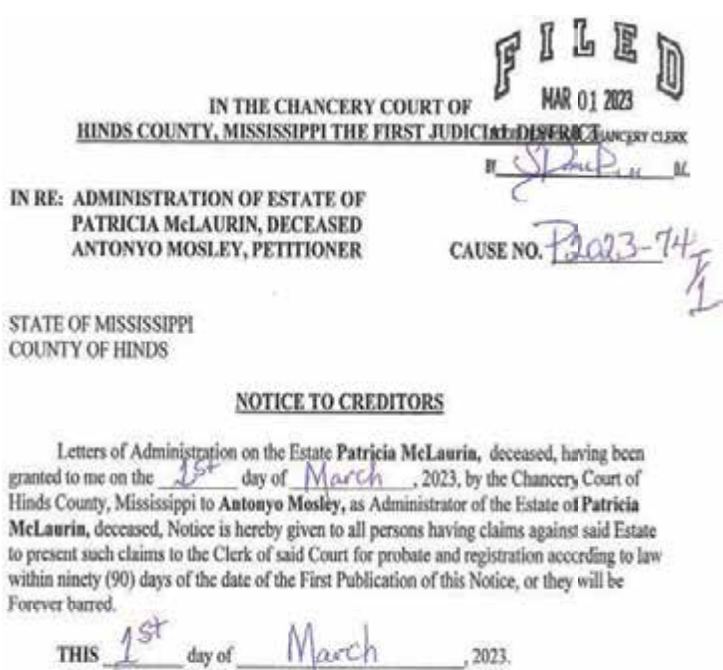
Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 18, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning this project will be held at 1616 Sandalwood Place, Jackson, MS 39211 on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at [www.jpds-projects.com](http://www.jpds-projects.com). A \$200.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Kali Blakeney at M3A Architecture, PLLC, Phone: 601-981-1227, or Email: [kblakeney@m3aarch.com](mailto:kblakeney@m3aarch.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.

3/9/2023, 3/16/2023

LEGAL



3/2/2023 3/9/2023 3/16/2023

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR INTEREST (RFI)  
PHASE II, FARISH STREET DEVELOPMENT OF FIVE (5) PROPERTIES  
LOCATED WITHIN THE 200 BLOCK  
“SOUL CITY MARKET”

The Jackson Redevelopment Authority (the “Authority” or “JRA”) is pleased to issue this Request for Interest (RFI) to solicit creative development responses from financially capable and experienced development teams interested in redeveloping the property referred to by the JRA as “Soul City Market”. The property includes five (5) buildings located at 202, 210, 214, 216 Farish Street and 106 E. Amite Street. Submissions will be received by the Authority via the online portal at [www.jrams.org](http://www.jrams.org) until 4:00 pm, April 13, 2023.

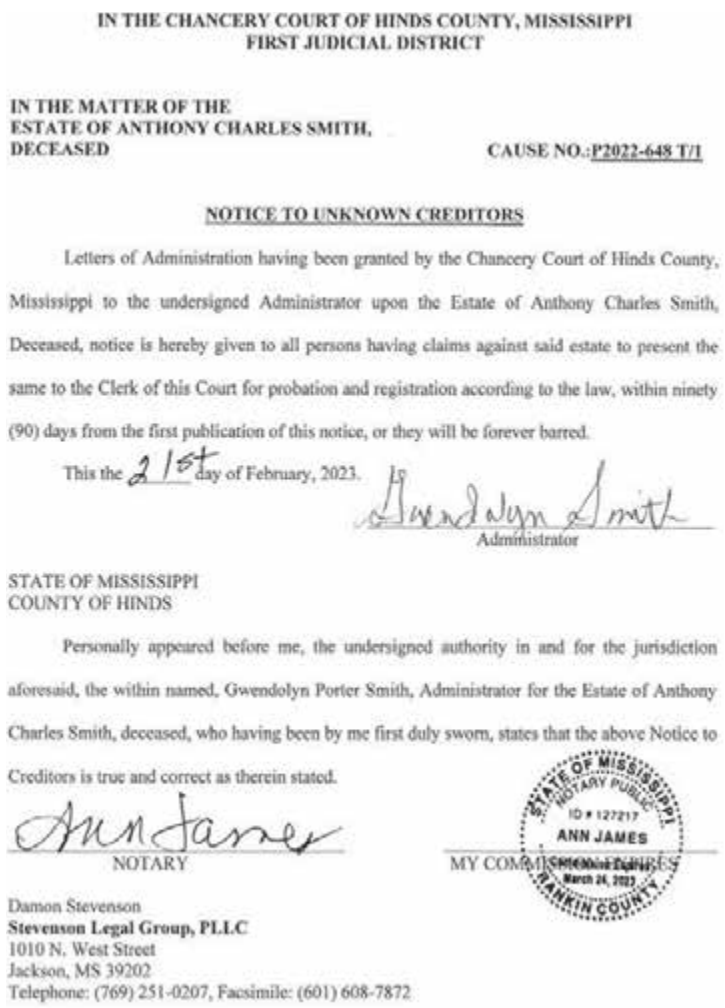
All submissions shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Request for Interest (“RFI”), copies of which are available for review, download, and submission at [www.jrams.org](http://www.jrams.org). Consistent with requirements stated therein, Proposals submitted in response to the RFI must be received by JRA no later than Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 4:00 pm. JRA reserves the right to cancel all solicitations and to accept or reject, in whole or in part, all proposals for any reason or to redevelop the project by other means at JRA’s sole discretion.

Submissions will be evaluated by an Evaluation Panel in May 2023. The Evaluation Panel will be comprised of JRA board members, consultants, staff, and community partners.

In May 2023, JRA (via the Evaluation Panel) anticipates announcing a short-list of RFI respondents who will be invited to respond to the Request for Offers (RFO).

3/9/2023

LEGAL



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

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30p.m., Tuesday, March 28, 2023. The City of Jackson, Mississippi requests proposals from art groups and other community development groups providing services to the citizens in the City of Jackson.

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

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

For the Request for Proposal packet, please contact Beverley Johnson-Durham at 601 960 0383. All proposal must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: Proposal for general funds Arts and Community Based Grants. Proposal packets must be received by the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall, 219 South President Street by 3:30pm on March 28, 2023.

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

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

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

3/9/2023, 3/16/2023, 3/23/2023

LEGAL

Jackson Redevelopment Authority  
Jackson, Mississippi  
Proposals For Contractor Services For Various J.R.A. Properties  
- Issued March 2023

INVITATION FOR BID

Sealed Bids will be received by the Jackson Redevelopment Authority (JRA) to provide the hourly rate that will be charged per person when a particular handyman type job is assigned. Bids will be received by JRA at the Porter Building, 218 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, 3rd Floor until 3:00pm on Thursday 6 April 2023, and thereby publicly opened and read.

Scope: At any time during the contract period when JRA shall request that the Contractor provide JRA with a proposal, the contractor shall provide details, fees, materials, equipment rentals, plus labor costs (based on hourly rate in bid), for the work to be performed. The listed costs shall be subject to approval by JRA before a Notice To Proceed is issued.

The majority, if not all, of these services will occur in the Downtown Jackson and Farish Street commercial areas, at JRA owned properties.

Separate sealed bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis, as indicated on the Bid Form.

Bidding Documents are available at the JRA offices at 218 S. President Street, 3rd Floor, Jackson, MS 39201, Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm. Contact Mary Ealey at (601) 960.1815 or [mealey@jacksonms.gov](mailto:mealey@jacksonms.gov).

JRA will hold a non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference at 3:00pm on Thursday 30 March 2023, in its 1st Floor Conference Room, located at 218 S. President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All visitors are urged to wear a face-covering to ensure protection against transmission of COVID-19 and practice social distancing at all times inside the building. The Owner will transmit to all prospective Bidders of record such Addenda as the Owner considers necessary in response to questions arising at the conference. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective.

3/2/2023, 3/9/2023

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP 2023-06  
K-8 and High School District Assessment Platform

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

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

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

3/9/2023, 3/16/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bids  
Bid 3227 ESSER Restroom and HVAC Upgrades for Green,  
Lake and Walton 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) April 12, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The pre-bid conference concerning the project for Green, Lake, and Walton Elementary Schools will be held at 3200 Bailey Avenue, Jackson, MS 39213 on March 23, 2023 at 1:30 P.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 [jpds-projects.com](http://jpds-projects.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. 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 Joey Crain, Eley Guild Hardy Architects, PA Phone: 228-594-2323, Email: [JCRAIN@EGH.MS](mailto:JCRAIN@EGH.MS)

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

3/9/2023, 3/16/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bid  
3229 ESSER Restroom and HVAC Upgrades for Wingfield High School

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 13, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The pre-bid conference concerning the project for Wingfield High School will be held at 1985 Scanlon Drive, Jackson, MS 39204 on March 28, 2023 at 1:30 P.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 [jpds-projects.com](http://jpds-projects.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. 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 Joey Crain, Eley Guild Hardy Architects, PA Phone: 228-594-2323, Email: [JCRAIN@EGH.MS](mailto:JCRAIN@EGH.MS)

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

3/9/2023, 3/16/2023

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Jackson (“City”) is seeking to complete a smart parking meter system complete with associated software, data, operational support, staff, programming management and maintenance. The Vendor may offer any additional or related services that may complement the core Vendor Services that are the purpose of this procurement process.

Detailed information pertaining to submission of a response to this request for proposals may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Development, Suite 201, Warren Hood Building: 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, or by contacting Chloe Dotson at 601-960-1172 or e-mail: [c\\_dotson@liacknms.gov](mailto:c_dotson@liacknms.gov).

Responses will be received by the City of Jackson, Office of the City Clerk at 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205 until 3:30 p.m., Central Standard Time on March 21, 2023. Each proposer must submit a signed original, six (6) printed copies and an electronic copy (thumb drive w/ pdf) of its proposal. Official proposal documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic responses can be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions relating to the electronic response process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting and professional services. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City.

Chloe Dotson, Director Department of Planning and Development City of Jackson, Mississippi

3/2/2023, 3/9/2023



LEGAL

Advertisement For Bids  
JTRAN JANITORIAL SERVICES AND SUPPLIES  
CITY PROJECT No. RFP#2023-01

Sealed bids will be received by the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, March 28, 2023, for janitorial services and supplies (as specified) necessary for REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP#2023-01.

- Principal items of work are as follows:
1. Janitorial Services for JTRAN Administrative Building (13,695 SF) six (6) days a week, 9:00am —6:00 pm;
  2. Janitorial Services for JTRAN Customer Service and Bathrooms (3,983 SF) three (3) days a week; 1 lam
  3. Restroom Supplies;

The term of the contract will be for five (5) years with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year periods by consent of both parties.

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

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

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

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

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for JTRAN JANITORIAL SERVICES AND SUPPLIES, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2023-01." Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal.

Bids, EBO and DBE plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Official Bid Documents, including the Contract Documents and Drawings can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

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

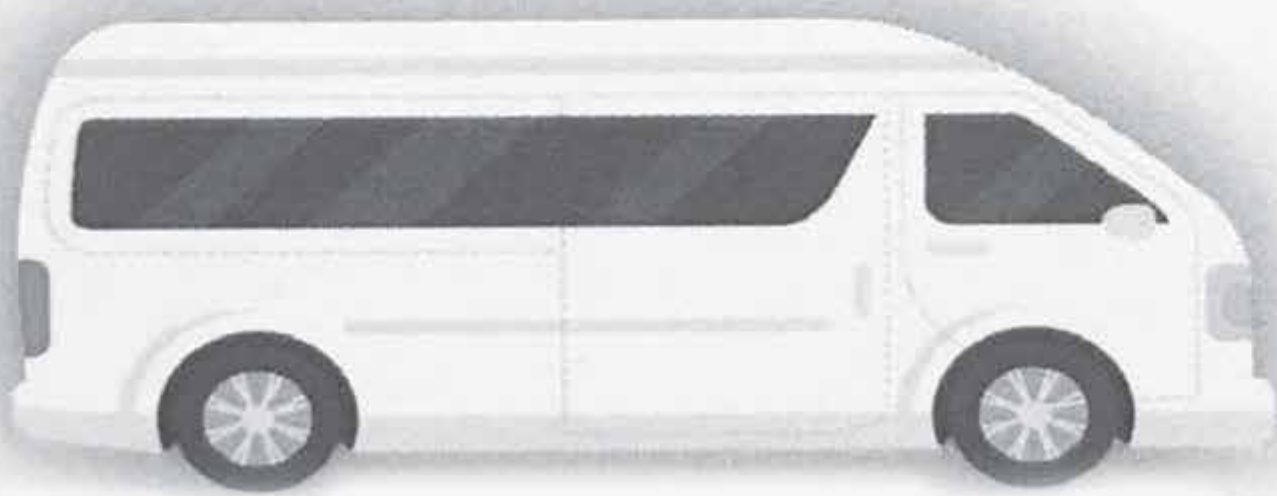
The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

Christine Welch, Deputy Director  
Office of Transportation

3/2/2023, 3/9/2023, 3/16/2023, 3/23/2023

# U-RENTAL

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3840 ROBINSON ROAD - JACKSON, MS 39209 - PHONE: 601-398-1162



## LEGAL

## Electronic Bidding

## Advertisement for Bid 3230

ESSER Renovations for Callaway H.S., Kirksey Middle School, North Jackson and McWillie 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) April 17, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A pre-bid conference for schools will be held at Kirksey Middle School, 5677 Highland Drive, Jackson, MS 39206 at 2:00 p.m. on March 30, 2023. Following the pre-bid conference, site visits will be conducted at North Jackson, Callaway, and McWillie schools. 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 [jpsdmsprojects.com](http://jpsdmsprojects.com). A \$350.00 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 John Murray with Canizaro Cawthon Davis at 601-948-7337 ext. 229 or at [jmurray@ccdarchitects.com](mailto:jmurray@ccdarchitects.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.

3/9/2023

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**Now's the Right Time**

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## Walton Elementary School shares communal achievements of African Americans at the 4th grade Wax Museum

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

Of cultural impact was the 4th Grade Wax Museum which was displayed at Walton Elementary School (3200 Bailey Avenue, Jackson, Miss. 39213) Tuesday, February 28, 2023, during time period shifts.

Sandra Johnson, fourth grade English, Language Arts, Reading and Writing (ELA) teacher, was assisted by interventionist, Tonia Johnson Rounds, who works with second and fifth graders in math.

Rather than using life-like wax figures, Johnson created an exhibit composed of 20 Walton Elementary students (ages 9 and 10) who were scattered throughout the auditorium. When persons who visited the exhibit tapped the buttons on the students' chests, they were amazed to learn from their recitations of the historical information dedicated to the preservation of African American history.

The purpose of exposing students to the wax museum "is to teach communication skills, including speaking, listening and self-discipline as they learn about familiar and unfamiliar African Americans," said Johnson. The organizer further noted that students learn to associate the names with the persons and their contributions.

(See the list of students and African Americans they portrayed above.)

According to Johnson, "The event was powerful for students who presented and those who transitioned from the museum. People in the community that the children hear about encourage them to [strive to be the best]."

Those in attendance stated that they had never seen or experienced anything like the wax museum at Walton Elementary School. Delores Kinnard has two granddaughters who participated. "The kids learned from it. I wish they could travel and take it to schools," she sighed.

"To witness [4th graders] portray famous African American people and tell their stories was such a joy. They were all staples in the black communities way before [these children] were born. [When I heard] them speak intellectually about them and keep their legacies present, it was breathtaking. These stories they will continue to tell," surmised Minnia Winters, a parent.

Jarret Benson, lead teacher (Galloway Elementary School) commented, "This group of scholars did [an amazing showcase] of the wax museum. I think it was a great idea for their teacher to highlight many African Americans who have paved the way and contributed so many great things in our

### Students

Rayne Hayes  
Janiya Winston  
Ja'Brielle Caldwell  
McKenzie Jordan  
KenDerrick Womack  
Tomarion Collins  
William Neal  
Mylee Mobley  
Jordan Winters  
Madalynn Jefferson  
Chelsea Southwell  
Kameron Forrest  
Mariah Townsend  
Mahssiah Watson  
Nivea McChriston  
Zoey Johnson  
Ayden Lewis  
Cabella Catchings  
Jai'Ira Cameron  
Aiden Thames  
Amy Thomas

### African American Achievers

Gabby Douglas  
Snoop Dog  
Kamala Harris  
Queen Latifa  
John Lewis  
Michael Jordan  
Deion Sanders  
Keke Palmer  
Angela Bassett  
Viola Davis  
Madam C J Walker  
Stevie Wonder  
Jennifer Hudson  
Kevin Hart  
Simone Biles  
Ice Cube  
Michael Jackson  
Maya Angelo  
Marva Collins  
Museum Usher  
Amy Thomas



Kameron Forrest posing as Stevie Wonder



Chelsea Southwell portraying Madam C.J. Walker



Sandra Johnson, 4th grade teacher, founded The Walton Elementary Wax Museum



Viewers visit The Walton Elementary Wax Museum PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL VINCENT

present-day society."

Assistant Principal Denise Thaggard injected that the student participants knew their lines from memory. Onlooking

students "had enthusiasm walking around pushing the buttons and seeing the scholars engaged with them. The students wanted to go back in a second time. I

told Mrs. Johnson that she did a phenomenal job, and it was portrayed throughout because the students knew exactly what to do."

## Celebrating the Music That Built the Nation: A Motown Revue at Walton Elementary School



Carrie Denton, the school's music teacher, directs the ABCs of black history month. PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

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

The Jackson community poured into Walton Elementary School Friday, March 3, 2023, to witness performances done by first-fifth grade scholars in celebration of Black History Month. The occasion's program guide was Denise Thaggard, assistant principal.

Following James Weldon Johnson's Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing, scholars remained true to the school's motto, "The Address of Excellence" throughout the duration of the program.

Unison prevailed among scholars who took the stage and demonstrated several months of rehearsals for their designated roles. Learned skills included behavioral flexibility; facial, hand and bodily expressions; speaking; singing; memorization; choreography and listening.

Pre-K and kindergarten scholars did a Black History Month rap. The ABC's of Black History Month, narrated by Bryce Torrey, was shared by first and second grade scholars.

The next phase of the program was brought forth by Skylar Moore who gave the history of Motown which became an irresistible force of social and cultural change. It made its mark on the music industry and society at large with a signature Motown Sound that has become one of the most significant musical accomplishments and stunning success stories of the 20th century.

Founded by Barry Gordy, Jr., Motown is an extended family of some of the most iconic and influential artists, musicians and songwriters of our time. Brought together by destiny through their love for making music, they found themselves making history.

Walton Elementary third and 5th grade scholars took the au-

dience back to the Motown Sound with Olivia Day and Landyn Reed portraying Marvin Gaye/Tammi Terrell (Ain't No Mountain High Enough); The Temptations (Ain't too Proud to Beg and My Girl) portrayed by A'javian Bennett; Natwonne Brent; Javien Fletcher; Marshun Magee and Markeem Williams; The Supremes (Stop in the Name of Love) portrayed by Caylee Johnson; Takenzie Lambert and Juliesha Sterling; and Jackson 5 (I Want you Back) portrayed by Jamari Collier; Ayden Davis; Jahlil Johnson; Jakobie Miller and Landyn Reed.

In addition, personnel also stepped up with merriment. Michael Robinson sang Al Green's Let's Stay Together, and Willie Ringo chimed Stevie Wonder's Ribbon in the Sky. Eddie Williams, Jr. calmed the audience with Smokey Robinson's Cruisin.

Other songsters included soloist Asher Brooks and the Walton Elementary choir's version of the song Grateful. Then along the way the student body rendered a dance presentation of Glory, (the theme song from the 2014 film Selma) by John Legend, Common and Rhymefest.

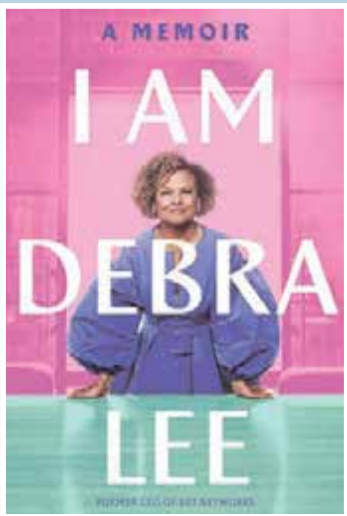
Special acknowledgements were granted to Tora Jones; Rachel Catchings; Lora James; Laroy Merrick; Vanessa Pinkston; Tamesha Ross; Eddie Williams, Jr.; Jerry Jenkins; Carrie Denton (Ph.D.); Shalonda Harris; Michael Robinson; Willie Ringo and Denise Thaggard.

In his closing remarks, Principal LaRoy Merrick commended Denton for joining forces with the faculty and staff. He stated that he was proud of the hard work done by the personnel to get the scholars to share their knowledge and skills in honor of Black History Month with their parents and community.



Dance presentation





BOOK REVIEW:

I AM DEBRA LEE: A MEMOIR

BY DEBRA LEE

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

Everybody’s looking at you. They’re wondering what you’re going to do next, because you often surprise them. They don’t know what you’re about to say because you’re never predictable. So stand up, throw your shoulders back, let them watch and learn a thing or two. As in the new memoir, “I Am Debra Lee” by Debra Lee, represent.

Back when she was still in grade school, little Debra Lee’s father decided that she would be

a lawyer someday – and so she was. Though she often pushed the envelope and was her own person, it was hard to even think of disappointing the Major, a man who always admonished Lee to be a “nice girl.”

Back then, Lee “lived and breathed black culture,” a feeling she carried through law school and into her first big job at a law firm that “treated its associates well,” and where she instinctively found a mentor who helped her in her niche. He passed along to her a few choice clients, which eventually

led Lee to a life-changing introduction to Bob Johnson, who was then the CEO of Black Entertainment Television, or BET.

It was a soul-searching time for Lee. Personally, she’d had a pregnancy she didn’t want, and an abortion, then a marriage that failed. Professionally, the law firm she worked for was no longer a good fit. Johnson offered her a job and a title but it involved a considerable salary cut, which was tough to take. Still, Lee looked at the long picture and leapt at the opportunity.

The job had its downsides, specifically, eternally long hours and an overwhelming work load with no work-life balance whatsoever but Lee was undaunted. She learned about the industry and herself, found her limits and sailed past them, and enjoyed the chance to befriend people whose names pepper the tabloids.

She never seriously considered reaching for the stars until she was named COO, with a public face to maintain, a reputation to uphold, and a list of things she’d never do.

And then she did one of them...


For readers who are unfamiliar with the whole story, let’s just say that you’ll want to be prepared. “I Am Debra Lee” contains a big ka-boom.


Leading up to that, though, is a treat: the inner mechanics of a media empire are told side-by-side here with the story of a long, exhausting journey and the personal sacrifices it demanded.

It isn’t presented as a burden, however; instead, author Debra Lee holds her tale with

a steely grip and no apologies, making sure that she’s clear on the extra work it took being a black woman in a mostly-man’s world. There’s not a single ounce of poor-me in that but rather, a series of subtle lessons to accompany the outright advice that Lee scatters about.

And then there’s that ka-boom. Read about it from this first-person point of view, and you won’t be sorry. If you’re ready for an absorbing, fascinating memoir that pulls no punches, “I Am Debra Lee” is absolutely worth a look.





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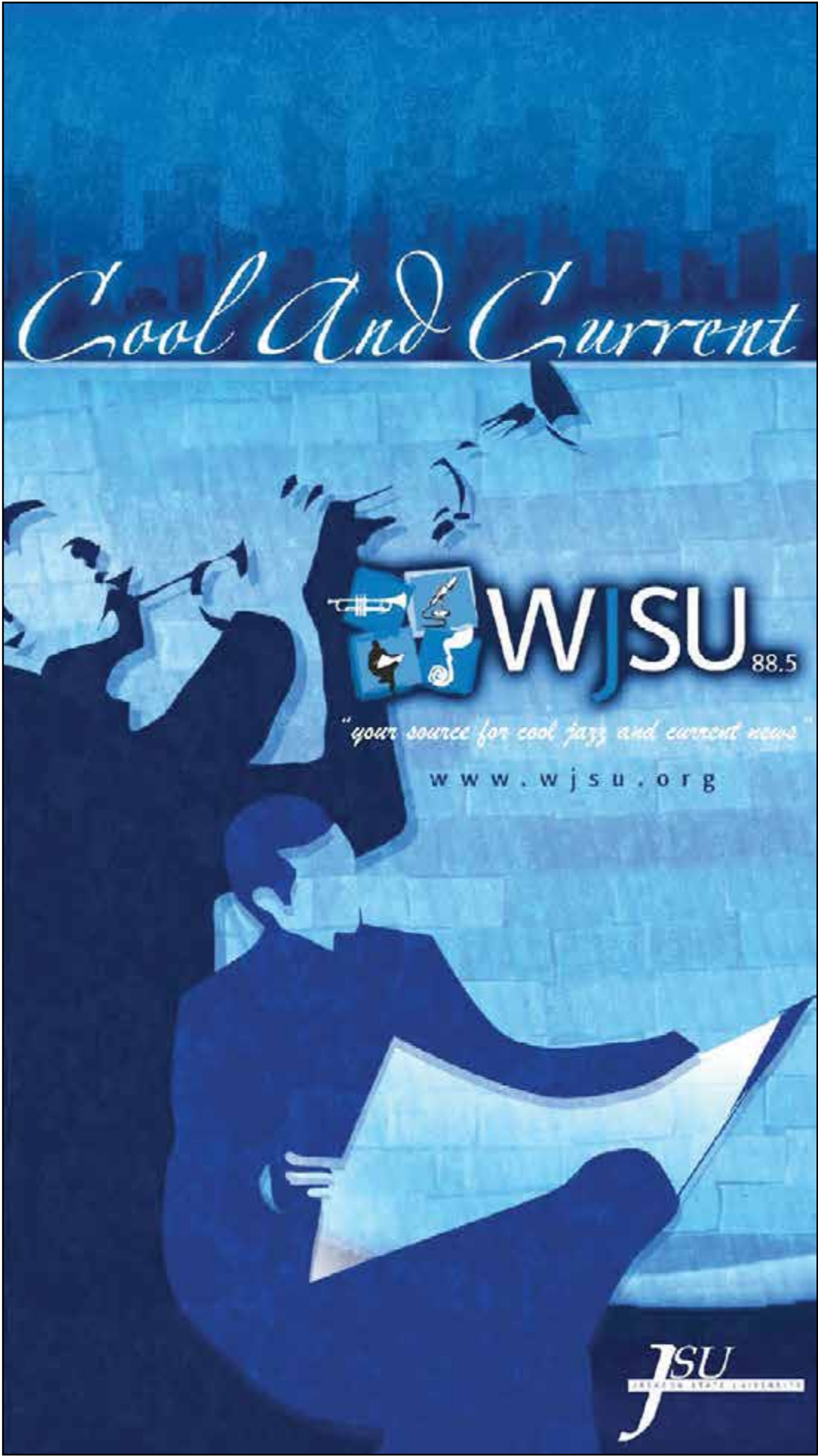
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# Historic droughts were ended at the Big House

By Timothy Ward  
Sports Writer

Normally, the “Big House” games would be two weeks worth of high school basketball with teams fighting feverishly for the gold ball. Modifications have been made to let other areas of the state become host sites for the quarterfinals. Mississippi Valley State, Itawamba Community College, Pearl River Community College, just to name a few, were host sites. But everyone knows the ultimate goal is in the Mississippi Coliseum, The “BIG HOUSE.”

It’s been 49 years since Hattiesburg’s boys have won a state championship; back to the days of former JSU standout and NBA player Purvis Short. Head coach Ernie Watson, who has 700 wins to his credit as a head coach, had 1 thing missing from his illustrious career, The Gold Ball.

The Tigers would jump out early and by as much as 14 points in the first half. All signs were pointing to snapping that 49 year drought. At halftime, Hattiesburg lead Picayune 29 to 21. Picayune came out on fire in the third quarter. Their offensive explosion coupled with defensive intensity, propelled them to the lead.

Outscoring Hattiesburg 17 to 5 in the third quarter, gave them a 38 to 34 lead. The Maroon Tide kept the lead most of the fourth quarter. Hattiesburg trailed by 3 with a little over 3 minutes left in the game. Watson pacing the sidelines. Tiger crowd chanting defense. Stephen McCullon took over. McCullon kept pressure on Picayune’s defense; getting to the free throw line and making them count.

Hattiesburg regains the lead with clutch free throws. In the final seconds, Picayune is trying to get a 3 pointer off to tie the game, but commits a turnover.



Yazoo City wins 4a championship.

Darrion Johnson of Hattiesburg, gets a breakaway layup to seal the victory. Watson turns and kneels down, clearly emotional for **finally** getting that Gold Ball.

“It feels tremendous because I’ve been here 19 times with nothing or the second-place trophy,” Watson said. “This is the first time this team did it. I love this and I’ll remember this for the rest of my life. I love this group of young men, and they did an outstanding job of getting here and doing what they had to do.”

Hattiesburg finished the season 24-7. Picayune finished the season 20-16.

Yazoo City’s boys hadn’t hoisted a championship trophy in 27 years. One of their own came home to bring back a championship to “The City.”

One of the most accomplished coaches in Mississippi high school basketball history, is Anthony Carlyle. Coach Carlyle was the leader of the Velma Jackson dynasty winning 4 championships in 5 years. He would then move on to Columbus High School and immediately capture another championship; 5 Gold balls in 6 years.

After Columbus High School, he returned to Yazoo City. He



Stephen McCullon took over in the 4th quarter.

returned home and it’s where his coaching career began as an assistant coach under his dad, legendary head coach Archie Carlyle. Archie Carlyle won 7 championships as a head coach.

In order to win it, he would have to go through the reigning 4A boys champions, Raymond High School. The Rangers arrived to their seventh **consecutive** championship game; winners of 4 Gold Balls in the last 6 years.

Raymond’s EJ Paymon was named Mr. Basketball for Boys



Coach Ernie Watson gets emotional.

4A a few weeks ago. The first quarter was like a boxing match. Both teams feeling each other out, looking for ways to attack. By the second quarter, Yazoo City gained momentum with their defense, vaulting them to a 28-15 halftime lead.

Raymond came out in the third quarter displaying the heart of a champion. They battled back to within 5. But it just wasn’t to be this season. Yazoo City would hold them off to win, 53 to 43 with what looked like the “Sea of Red” that the Kansas Chiefs are

famous for. Indians fans packed the coliseum wearing their red shirts in support of their school and their city. Coach Carlyle brought a championship home like Lebron James and is 6-0 in Championships like Michael Jordan.

“We had taken over a team that only won eight games,” Carlyle said. “We wanted to build it from the ground up, and it’s been a grind for the last five years. But we finally reached what we’ve been trying to accomplish.

“My daddy challenged me to



Coach Anthony Carlyle has 6 Gold Balls.



Coach Ernie Watson gets his 1st Gold Ball.

come back home and try to turn this program around. He’s been ill, and I wish he was here. That’s why I’m a little emotional, but I told him that we were going to bring back the Gold Ball to him.”

Archie and Anthony Carlyle have combined to win 13 championships. Anthony is 6-0, but he says, “All 13 belong to him. No way I win without his blueprint and what he taught me.”

Yazoo City finished ranked number 1 in the state going 30-5. Raymond finished the season 27-7.

# Metro area teams reach basketball championship games

By Timothy Ward  
Sports Writer

Callaway’s Lady Chargers reached the championship game last Friday. The magical season had one more game left. Riding the momentum of their 68 to 37 win over Laurel in the semifinals, Callaway seemed ready to bring home the Gold Ball. West Jones entered the championship game with a 28-2 record, ranking 2nd in the state just behind Germantown. Aasia Wilson, scored 16 points and collected 9 rebounds leading West Jones to a 53 to 31 over Callaway.

“We’ve been knocking for several years,” coach Sharon Murray said. “Just everybody behind us, supporting us, to be able to make it happen this year is amazing. “I’m proud of these girls. They really dedicated themselves to defense, fighting and doing whatever it takes to finish with the championship this year.”

Despite the loss, Callaway fans openly showed their support for their Lady Chargers. 2nd year head coach and led by two sophomore guards, the Lady Chargers are positioned to be even better next year. Coach Ashli Sutton doubled her win total from her rookie season, received Coach of the Year for 5A Region 4, most wins in Lady Charger history,

and made it to the championship game. The young, energetic coach is on the road to a college or professional head coaching job.

Callaway finished last season 12-16, this year they finished 27-7 and ranked number 6 in the state.

Germantown battled Tupelo for the 6A Girls Championship. The Lady Mavericks have come close the past two seasons. This year, they would not be denied. All American, Texas signee, Madison Booker lead the Germantown Lady Mavericks to the 6A championship last Saturday. Booker scored 26 points and collected 12 rebounds in her final game in a Germantown jersey.

Germantown cruised to the 64-43 win and finished the season 29-2 and ranked 1 in the state.

The “Battle of Rankin” highlighted the 6A Boys Championship Game. Northwest Rankin vs Brandon. Brandon defeated Northwest Rankin in their previous two games. However, that was in November and December. Northwest Rankin had revenge and championship on their minds and it showed. At the end of the 1st quarter, Northwest Rankin led 20 to 8.

Brandon couldn’t overcome the deficit the rest of the game.

Brendan Brown scored 20 points and dished out 5 dimes,



Callaway Lady Chargers in the big house

guiding the Cougars to a 66 to 52 victory.

“This is the battle of Rankin County,” Brown said. “This is big. We own Rankin County.”

Northwest Rankin finished the season 26-8 and ranked number 2. Brandon finished the season 25-8 and ranked number 3.



Jahanna Wilson goes up for a tough layup.



All American Madison Booker

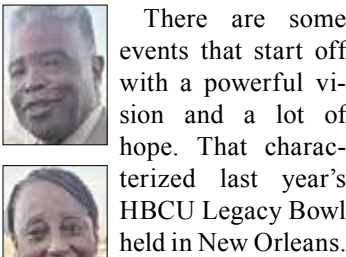


Callaway Lady Chargers



# The 2023 HBCU Legacy Bowl scored big on and off the field for student-athlete

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D. and Deborah L. Ewers MSW



There are some events that start off with a powerful vision and a lot of hope. That characterized last year’s HBCU Legacy Bowl held in New Orleans. The game was successful at all levels for players, coaches, fans and NFL scouts. Congratulations and applause to former star professional football players, James “Shack” Harris and Doug Williams for conceiving and believing in this idea. This year’s HBCU Legacy Bowl, held also in New Orleans Saturday, March 25, was even more successful in our opinion. The NFL Combine was held at the New Orleans Saints practice facility. There, approximately 30 NFL scouts gathered to see the HBCU all-stars. These young men had the rare opportunity to showcase their skills and talents to NFL decision-makers. Running, catching and throwing all made for some exciting times for this group of college players.



Because of the HBCU Legacy Bowl, some of these young men will have the chance to play on Sundays. According to reports, quarterback Jalen Fowler, from North Carolina A&T State University, made an impression at the combine. The Kansas City Chiefs, New York Giants and Detroit Lions were among the teams that came away enthusiastic

about his play. If all goes well, he will be invited for a try-out and will sign with one of those teams. Fowler has some impressive credentials as he was ranked sixth in the Big South Conference in total passing yards and threw for 1700 yards ranking him 61st in the nation. The HBCU Legacy Bowl had a good crowd on a warm day in the Crescent City and the half-

time entertainment was provided by the Alabama State University Marching Band. The honorary captains were Jameis Winston (New Orleans Saints) and Terron Armstead (Miami Dolphins)) The game was a defensive struggle as Team Robinson defeated Team Gaither 10-3. The most valuable players were Xavier Smith (offense) from Florida A&M Univer-

sity and Jason Dumas (defense) from Southern University. After the game, we spoke with A.J. Davis, running back from Florida A&M University and he is both confident and excited about the next chapter of his football life. He’s getting ready for some try-out opportunities and believes he can become a professional football player. It is clear to us that the HBCU Legacy Bowl has presented a golden parachute of possibilities for these aspiring professional athletes. Prior to the HBCU Legacy Bowl, the chances were rare that these athletes would be seen by professional scouts. We don’t know of any HBCUs that had pro days so that their players could be seen by talent scouts. For some, while the NFL might not be an option, the Canadian Football League (CFL), the United States Football League (USFL) and the XFL will be. Don’t forget about Warren Moon (Edmonton Eskimos), Raghib “Rocket” Ismail (Toronto Argonauts) and Joe Theismann (Toronto Argonauts) had great careers in both the

NFL and the CFL. Some players will get the chance while others played their last football game. That’s the reality of college sports. Most college players in all sports will see their playing days come to an end. The HBCU Legacy Bowl also featured workshops and a career fair where job offers were made by employers from the public and private sector. As a result, they will exchange a football uniform for a suit and will enter another world of competition where they will continue to use their communication and teamwork skills. Sports was an important part of their lives, but it is now time to move on to the next phase which will bring on new challenges and new goals. If you weren’t there like we were, make plans next year as the HBCU Legacy Bowl is here to stay and will become a part of America’s football landscape. *Deborah Ewers is a graduate of Dillard University in New Orleans and a retired educator and social worker. Dr. James Ewers is President Emeritus, Teen Mentoring Committee of Ohio.*

# Legendary basketball coach Ernie Watson leads Hattiesburg to Class 5A Boys State Championship

By Leon Williams Contributing Writer

After 41 years of coaching high school basketball in several states, on Saturday night, March 4, 2023, Hattiesburg basketball coach Ernie Watson finally captured a long-awaited, well-deserved and much overdue prize – the MH-SAA Class 5A State Boys Basketball Championship. Watson, a native of San Francisco, California, attended Balboa High School where he played basketball as a youth. He later attended The University of Southern Mississippi, graduating with a B.A. Degree in Athletic Administration & Coaching.

Hattiesburg High School had not won a boy’s basketball state championship since 1974. The victory, in front of a packed and boisterous Mississippi Coliseum crowd, elated friends and supporters who were ecstatic to see the 49-year drought finally come to an end. However, the conquest did not come easy. The Picayune basketball team provided their share of nail-biting moments to the very end of the contest, finally falling 55-50 to the victorious Hattiesburg Tigers. Watson, although thrilled with his team’s performance, views the victory as having multiple positive implications beyond what may customarily come to mind. When asked what he feels is his most significant contribution to players who are currently and have historically come under his tutelage, Watson’s response was, “My most satisfying thing over the years is seeing players start as boys; then watching them grow into men.” Watson has had prior teams come close to playing in the championship game on several occasions; only to come up short of the final prize. Nevertheless, Watson said he had a premonition that this time would be different. “When what I considered to be the top two teams in the tournament – Provine and Vicksburg High Schools – both fell, I knew this would be our moment.”



Watson’s 41-year coaching career has been spectacular, amassing 751 victories and only two losing seasons. He attributes much of his personal outlook and his skills as a coach and administrator to Lynn Moore, who he worked under as an assistant coach at Berwick High School in Berwick, LA. “Lynn taught me how critically important organizational skills are and the importance of taking pride in maintaining a pristine facility.” Watson also made a point of crediting Cheyenne Trussell, former Hattiesburg High School Athletic Director, with giving him the knowledge and ability to effectively interact with people. Coach Watson has not given much thought to whether a repeat performance is in the cards

for 2024. He feels the team has a good core, but for now he is savoring the moment. Watson presents a unique blend of professionalism and a caring personality. One of his core values is that “victories come and go, but relationships last forever.” Watson’s cousin, Cleophus Amerson III, had the following to say regarding the accomplishment: “His many years of hard work, dedication and leadership have paid off in an unforgettable victory...He has not only instilled in them (his team) a passion for the game, but also taught them the values of teamwork, perseverance and sportsmanship.” Amerson remarked that Watson “...and his mighty Tigers have made his family, school, community and state proud.”



Cleophus Amerson III, Willie Sizer, coach Ernie Watson, Kelvin Hayes and Randal Baker at the “Palace.”