

# Faith leaders unite to end HIV epidemic

By Jackie Hampton  
*Publisher*

The Mississippi Faith in Action is a coalition of faith leaders across the city of Jackson and the state of MS that are leading the charge on health disparities among the state, particularly HIV. Last Thursday they, along with experts from Brown University

School of Public Health and the University of Mississippi Medical Center, gathered at Tougaloo College at 11 a.m. in the Bennie G. Thompson Center Auditorium and announced a new city wide initiative to increase awareness of HIV and hoping to end the epidemic in Mississippi. Jackson ranks no. six in the country.

The event was moderated by Othor Cain, director of Strategic Programs and Media Operations for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central MS.

Local pastors, ministers, bishops, members of the media and other community leaders were in the audience to hear and support this initiative.

Speakers included Bishop Ronnie Crudup, senior pastor, New Horizon Church International, Dr. Amy Nunn, professor of Behavior and Social Sciences, Brown University School of Public Health, Pastor



Crudup  
PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Biard

*HIV  
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# Jackson City Council special meeting - All kinds of trash, Part 1



Councilmembers Lee, Stokes, Grizzell and Lindsay remained seated after fellow Councilmembers Banks, Foote anf Hartley walked out. PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG



Alvin Richards is standing center against wall.

By Christopher Young  
*Contributing Writer*

The agenda for the special meeting of the Jackson City Council, April 10, 2023 at 3 p.m. was simple enough with just two items in short-hand: 1) Order authorizing the mayor to execute the contract with Richard’s Disposal for six years commencing April 10, 2023 with four one-year extension options (All Wards, Lee & Lumumba), and 2) Order the City Council to instruct special legal council to immediately file a motion to dismiss, without prejudice, the current case the City Council has in Chancery Court which seeks to

allow the council to negotiate for a trash collection contract, and to curtail the legal services of John P Scanlon and Deshun Martin to be terminated if and when said dismissal is granted (Lindsay, Lee, Grizzell).

The second item was brought forth and Councilmember Lindsay, said, “This was prepared and thought about over the weekend at great length with a bit of optimism in mind, because if we were by chance to pass item #1 today, then item #2 would have been the natural progression.” She went on to say, “If nothing else, it will introduce the opportunity for there to

be some discussion among council members with the mayor, so perhaps, at the very least we can reach some sort of conclusion and settlement among ourselves, before this matter has to go to the judge.”

Councilmember Grizzell asked the clerk about the legal expenditures thus far and received an answer indicating that one invoice had been paid, covering the cost of the two attorneys that comes to \$200,210.85. The clerk having done some research, then indicated that there is now \$400 left in the legal expense account.

Councilmember Lee indicated that when the council first sought

the injunction against the mayor it was because they thought the mayor had not acted, but since then we have found that the mayor did act, communicating with all three vendors to see if they would honor their pricing moving forward.

The vote on item #2 was called and failed 3-4, with Councilmembers Lee, Grizzell and Lindsay in favor and Foote, Stokes, Hartley and Banks opposed.

Then six minutes into the meeting was when the chaos started, which ultimately led to Foote adjourning the meeting abruptly, and

*Part 1  
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# Council votes to return Justin Pearson to Tennessee State House

By Stacy M. Brown  
*NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent*

After Justin Pearson led thousands in a March from the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis to the Shelby County Administration Building, the Board of Commissioners voted to send the ousted Democrat back to the Tennessee State House of Representatives.

The reinstatement comes two days after a Nashville Metropolitan Council vote to re-seat fellow Democratic State Rep. Justin Jones, and more than a week after Republicans expelled the duo for protesting gun violence.

“It’s a victory, but the fight continues,” Pearson declared to the throng of marchers and a large media contingent in Memphis.

Board members in Memphis remained concerned about GOP backlash, some fearing the state Republicans will react by taking funding from the city. In Nashville, the Metropolitan Council, which unanimously voted to re-seat Jones, continues to face an assault from state Republicans.

This week, a panel of judges ruled that Republican lawmakers cannot cut in half the 40 seats

**Pearson**

on the primarily Democrat body. The GOP’s attempt appears to be a retaliation for the council’s refusal to allow Nashville to host the 2024 Republican National Convention.

Despite the combined city-county government system of 40 council members being in effect for roughly 60 years, the GOP wants Nashville to create new council districts, which many say would usurp the power of black leaders.

“There is a compelling public interest in preserving the integrity of the Metro election process that is already underway,” three state court justices wrote, rebuffing the GOP’s attempt to wrest control. The judges represented Nashville, Shelby County and Athens.

“The Court finds the implementation of the Act and its reduction provisions at this late date results in an upheaval of the election process, risks voter con-

fusion, and potentially comprises the integrity of Davidson County’s August 3, 2023, general election,” the judges continued.

Separately, the Federal Aviation Administration has halted a Republican plan to have the GOP takeover Metro Nashville Airport Authority board appointments.

The state Senate has supported chiefly the move in SB1326, and the House was scheduled to hear a similar measure this week.

Reportedly, the FAA Office of Airport Compliance and Management Analysis Director Kevin C. Willis said the agency “has questions regarding the potential impact of transferring the appointment authority of all board members from the mayor of the local community to state-appointed officials.”

Currently, Nashville’s Democratic mayor appoints board members to the airport, but the GOP wants to take that power from him.

Shelby County Commission Chairman Mickell Lowery, told the local newspaper, *The Commercial Appeal*, that some of

*Tennessee  
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# Jackson City Council special meeting - All kinds of trash, Part 2

Second Special Council Meeting this week comes and goes with no progress made



Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba and Council VP Lee. PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG

By Christopher Young  
*Contributing Writer*

Part 1 of this article focused on the special meeting of the Jackson City Council on April 10, which, within five or six minutes was abruptly adjourned and then became a press conference.

A second special meeting of Jackson City Council was scheduled just two days later, on April 12 at 1 p.m., hence Part 2 of the article.

Agenda item #5, added at the last minute, was a repeat of agenda item #2 from two days prior – an order instructing special legal counsel to file a motion to dismiss the council’s lawsuit against the mayor, scheduled to be heard Monday by special judge H. David Clark II, with a goal of asking the judge to give the city council negotiating authority for a trash contract. This item failed with a 3-3 vote, with Councilmembers Lee, Grizzell and Lindsay voting for approval and Foote, Hartley and Banks voting against it.

city for nearly two weeks, they don’t view it as an emergency. This viewpoint does not appear to reflect the distress being felt by residents across all wards, as well as businesses and even Jackson Public Schools, whose dumpsters are being filled by residents looking for the closest place they can find to get rid of their trash.

Agenda item #4, an order approving an emergency solid waste collection and hauling agreement with Richard’s Disposal, Inc. for a term of one year, was halted to go into closed session. The closed session lasted for 35-40 minutes before the press and public were invited back into the chamber. The vote failed 3-3, with Councilmembers Lee, Grizzell and Lindsay voting for the order, and Foote, Hartley and Banks voting against it.

Ward 3 Councilmember Stokes did not show up for work today, despite the two resolutions mentioned earlier bearing his name, in addition to those of Foote, Hartley and Banks.

As with the special council meeting two days earlier, the chamber and the lobby were packed with residents, community organization members, television and print press, and an estimated fifty Richard’s employees. Plenty of Jackson police were on hand as well.

The disdain for some of the comments made by Councilmembers Hartley and Banks were heard many times during the meeting. Conversely, applause was heard many times for Councilmembers Lee, Grizzell and Lindsay for their efforts to cease the infighting on the council and get our city’s trash picked up.

Alvin Richards was present again at this meeting, as he was on April 10. During the

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JSU's Spring Game this Saturday

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Fever in the Heartland

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# Justice On Trial Broadway Production, an evening affair, set to draw a packed house and to electrify theater goers

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

It features a multicultural cast-Black; White; Hispanic – of local and national voices. Familiar faces like Monique B. Montgomery playing one of the civil rights attorneys and the Reverend Wendell Paris playing Medgar Evers are among the cast. It depicts what each culture thinks and believes in one way or another. It also depicts and acts out the truth. Coated with a blend of musical talent and comedy, the Justice on Trial Broadway Production, pruned to shake up your mind, throw your hands up and move you to your feet, promotes lessons that are educational and inspirational.

“I think this production is needed now more than ever being that many white lawmakers are trying to abolish Black History teachings in our schools and in our country. We as black people must continue to tell our



Chad Lawson Cooper, exec. producer

stories and legacies about our own race.” That is what Chad Lawson Cooper, one of two executive producers, said during an online interview

Tuesday. The Justice on Trial event is slated for Thursday, May 13, 2023, in Jackson State University’s Rose E. McCoy Building (1400 John R. Lynch Street, Jackson, Miss) at 6:30 p.m.

Cooper’s co-executive producer, Harry Lennix, was unavailable for the interview. The interviewee, nevertheless, made it clear that Justice on Trial Broadway is “educational, motivational and inspirational.” At the same time, it has merit for all ages.

“Justice on Trial is an off-Broadway play depicting two civil rights attorneys who sue the U. S. for reparations and ongoing systemic damages within the African-American diaspora while bringing back time traveler witnesses like Harriet Tubman, Medgar Evers, Emmett Till and Dr. W. E. B. DuBois to testify to a multicultural jury of Blacks, Whites and Hispanics as they deliberate their stories and deliberate current events within our country,” explained Cooper. He indicated that

the production has merit for Jackson, Miss. because it is “grown zero” when it comes to social justice issues and systemic racism due to the assassinations of Medgar Evers in Jackson, Emmett Till near Money, and [James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman near Philadelphia in Neshoba County].

Cooper noted that the production has been traveling since 2020. It touches on various groups like Black Lives Matter and the NAACP. “Medgar Evers, the first national officer of the NAACP was assassinated by Byron de la Beckwith and the witness of Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, [a co-founder of the NAACP]. The DuBois character will be played by his blood grandson, Jeffrey Peck.”

Maintaining that Justice on Trial is ready for deliverance, Cooper is calling for the Jackson community and those who love drama, to come claim “your” seats. Come into the


knowledge of your being, and bring forth your light of social justice. Let the brightness of the light shine as you behold the majesty of life, despite harassment, pain, torture and death. Open your mind to the freedom that’s embedded there because of the learned teachings you will find in Justice on Trial.

In addition to the production, different community leaders will be honored. “Congressman Bennie Thompson; Derrick Johnson; Reverend Dr. Jerry Young; Dr. Marilyn Johnson Lockett; Dr. Flonzie Brown Wright; Lannie Spann-McBride; Bill Washington; and Hezekiah Watkins, just to name a few, will receive the President Joe Biden Lifetime Achievement Award for their work and social justice,” said Cooper.

For discounted tickets, call 212-786-6460 or go online @www.thechadcoopercompanyonbroadway.com.



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## Part 1

Continued from page 1

leaving along with Hartley and Banks in tow.

When City Attorney Catoria Martin attempted to make a statement, Councilmember Banks called a point of order, claiming there was nothing on the floor to be discussed. Mayor Lumumba then said, “We are pulling item one and our City Attorney will explain why we are pulling item one. Banks again invoked a point of order, and indicating words to the effect that if they are pulling the item, then he moves to add an item for discussion for future garbage collection to the agenda as an emergency item. He said, “That discussion is just not right, and we’ve just got to abide by what’s right.”

When Foote began to facilitate the motion by Banks, the mayor indicated that he did have discussion on that, saying, “This is not an effort to create anymore conflict or strife – trust me, you want to hear what I have to say.” Back and forth ensued with the mayor stating that he wants to inform the council and the city why the item is being pulled. City Attorney Martin indicated that items are pulled all the time, and we are simply explaining why we are pulling the item.

At that point Foote abruptly adjourned the meeting.

City Attorney Martin then stated, “To the public, Richard’s Disposal has made the determination that they are filing suit against the City of Jackson, they are appealing this decision of the city council, and therefore that is why I am recommending to the administration and the city council that we pull that item from the agenda.”

There was an outpouring of disdain from the packed council chamber. Comments included: they are pathetic; we need to cut their check; all

ya’ll got to go; I’m just telling the truth; make sure you tell them about your long-standing relationship with Waste Management; Aaron Banks got to go; all the ones that left need to go; they playing games; don’t give Stokes no pass now, he could have saved it last week, he got to go too.

The mayor gained a degree of order in the chamber and indicated that he would do his best to answer questions. He began stating that since the time that he announced that he was going to put that six-year contract on the agenda, Richard’s Disposal has now filed a suit against the City of Jackson. “They informed us, immediately before this meeting they are filing suit today for our denial of their rightful bid,” said the mayor.

He stressed that everyone was informed that the current situation at Metrocenter and in Byram is imperfect. “Over the weekend MDEQ informed us that it is insufficient, and we are meeting with them on Wednesday,” said the mayor.

Questions from residents included being reimbursed for the purchase of dumpsters by homeowners’ associations. Representative Stephanie Foster, homeowners’ association president for Western Hills subdivision – 216 houses – asked how long will this last; this punishing of the citizens of Jackson? Another citizen, from Ward 4, commented that it’s just a sad day here in the City of Jackson that no one came to a solution. They got up and walked out and it’s not fair to the citizens and it’s disrespectful.

Lucille Green, 82, a resident of Jackson since 1960, indicated that she was concerned and disappointed by what she saw. “We have to work together...according to scripture, united we stand and divided we fall...

we’re looking bad in Jackson and that hurts my heart...I’ve seen the good, I’ve seen the bad, and I’ve seen the ugly, and today is ugly. We can do better than this.”

Ernest McBride of *The Jackson Advocate* asked the mayor if he has any reason to suspect or make any kind of conclusions about why is it that three black democrats are following the lead of one white republican. McBride said, “The party has pledged through Delbert Hosemann and more recently through Shanda Yates to dismantle the city government of Jackson, and you have black democrats including Mr. Stokes.”

Another round of upheaval began when Stokes brought in someone from his Ward who spoke about runoff from Hawkins Field that is harming his land and adjacent area.

Apparently, the rehearsal was not thorough enough because it was later learned from Bartley Brash that he is very satisfied with the service that Richard’s Disposal has been providing. Councilmember Lee also thanked Richards for all he has done for the city.

The special council meeting, turned press conference, went on for another thirty minutes. Richards, his top staff, and no fewer than fifty Richard’s Disposal workers were on hand. As always, Working Together Jackson was well represented.

Numerous Jackson Police Department officers entered the chamber when decorum deteriorated upon the abrupt departure of Foote, Hartley and Banks.

Suffice to say that the stalemate continues as we close in on two weeks with no trash collection in our capital city.

## Part 2

Continued from page 1



The six Jackson City Council members present for April 12 meeting

closed session he was called in by the council, but it was learned afterwards that there had been no real negotiating going on.

The next step in this saga is the hearing at 8 a.m., Monday, April 17, 2023, in the Hinds County Chancery Court building.

These lawsuits that the city can ill afford, become evidence that a majority of our elected city council members do not possess the skill and character to compromise and work together for

the betterment of our city, nor do several of them want to endorse anything brought forward by the mayor, or even to seriously attempt to work with him.

Often times it seems that they never even mention the very people who elected them, but instead talk about themselves and their feelings – as our trash piles up in driveways and streets, and as the white republican establishment intent on dismantling Jackson is left smiling from ear to ear.

## Tennessee

Continued from page 1

those fears stem from the city and county’s past with the state.

The newspaper said he pointed to 2018, when the state stripped Memphis of \$250,000 in funding for its bicentennial celebration. Several news outlets quoted State Rep. Steve McDaniel saying that was in retaliation for Memphis taking down Confederate statues the year before.

During a recent reception for Pearson, Memphis City Councilman JB Smiley Jr. asked Pearson about the alleged threats by the state. Pearson

reportedly said the state has no right “to subvert that democratic process that’s within our constitution by withholding resources that they know we want and/or need.”

“The second thing, can we be bought?” Pearson asked. “Can our democracy be bought? Can our voice be bought and our power be bought? I don’t think there’s any county commissioner that says there’s a price the governor or state legislature can pay for us to not do what we know is in the will and interests of the people.”

## HIV

Continued from page 1

Jennifer Biard, senior pastor, Jackson Revival Center Church and Dr. Thomas Dobbs, Medical Director of Crossroads, Dean of John D. Bower School of Population Health, University of Mississippi Center. Dr. Maxine Bolden, Tougaloo College chaplain, brought greetings on behalf of President Carmen J. Walters and students, teachers and staff of Tougaloo.

Bishop Crudup stated he has been involved in the fight against HIV for over 25 years. He said it all started when he found out a friend had contracted HIV and later a church member also contracted HIV. At that time, he told himself, “This is a fight I need to be involved in.” He spoke of Jesus Christ being a strong advocate of health for all people. He said, “I pride myself in being a loving person and you should go to the rescue of people no matter where they are in order to help them.”

Cain introduced Dr. Nunn as the the brainchild behind the Mississippi Faith in Action Coalition. She has worked with black clergy in Mississippi for over a decade helping with issues regarding HIV awareness. She spoke of how important it is for everyone in all walks of life to be tested. There is a one-a-day safe pill that one can take and live a healthy life style if you are HIV positive and there is also a pill one can take daily for prevention of HIV.

Cain introduced Dr. Dobbs as one that was extremely helpful in leading the state through COVID. Dobbs spoke of the importance of being tested because it can take as long as 3, 5 or even 10 years before a person experience symptoms of HIV AIDs and knowing early can enable you to receive treatment early. He also said if you are vulnerable, be tested often. He spoke of the one-a-day pill that can help you live a normal life with HIV and also a pill that can prevent HIV. He said there are no side effects of the pill.

Cain introduced Pastor Biard as one that is doing amazing things at Jackson Revival Center. She said in 2014 she was shocked to learn that Jackson, MS was leading the nation in HIV cases and since then has made it an important part of their Health & Wellness Ministry and by speaking about it from the pulpit. Individuals have felt more comfortable speaking to her about their needs. She acknowledged faith leaders in the audience that are now doing amazing work toward HIV awareness. She said, “For so long many pastors were silent on this issue.”

Pat Smith, whom Cain referred to as one who does a lot of work with HIV and a gifted singer, received a standing ovation after singing “A Change is Gonna Come.” Cain said, “Together everyone in lock step can bring an end to HIV.”

Closing the session was Dr. Nunn who simply said, “YES WE CAN.”



Dobbs



Nunn



Cain



Smith



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# The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley: Let The World See Exhibit sparks generational interests

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

In August, 1955, 14-year-old Emmett Till was visiting relatives near Money, Mississippi from his home in Chicago when he was abducted, tortured and lynched for allegedly whistling at a white woman named Carolyn Bryant. Since racial violence struck him, the world has been reminded of his tragic death.

Emmett's mother – Mamie Till-Mobley – refused to be muted in her determination to tell the world what she had learned. "Let the world see what they did to my boy," she said.

Never brought to justice, Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam severely beat Emmett, gouged out his eyes, made him drag a large metal fan to the Tallahatchie River, shot him dead with a single gun shot, tied the fan around his corpse, then dumped his corpse into the river. Mamie insisted on an open-casket funeral for her son.

The Two Mississippi Museums (222 North Street, Jackson, Miss.) was the site where the tour guide – Olivia Williams – welcomed curiosity seekers Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 11 a.m. She painted a vivid picture of Mississippi's history of lynching which created a climate in which Emmett could be murdered.

Williams mentioned that the traveling exhibit launched April 1, 2023, approximately 110 miles south of where Emmett's body was found. The display's narrative has five key elements: (1) Emmett's personal story; (2) how the brave actions of Mamie Till-Mobley fueled the Civil Rights Movement; (3) how a community and



Olivia Williams, tour guide, gives historical perspective of the Emmett Till And Mamie Till-Mobley saga. PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

family haveworked to keep Emmett's memory alive; (4) how the vandalized historical marker connects to us today; and (5) how we can commit to social justice in our own communities.

"Emmett's mother spoke at events around the country. Many joined in protests. Rosa Parks thought of Emmett when she refused to give up her seat on the bus. Bobby Rush sponsored the Emmett Till Anti-lynching Act. The Emmett Till Interpretive

Center and others are still fighting while others are trying to erase the Till incident. We shouldn't have to worry about white supremacists. Mothers in this room, and all the other women have a generation of murders all our own. Black and brown people shouldn't have to continue to endure these murders," stated Williams.

Referencing Critical Race Theory, Autry K. Richmond, Jackson native and retired Middle School Mathemat-

ics teacher of the Dallas, Texas School System, injected, "All the children should be taught the history of America. It doesn't matter where you come from and what you look like, we're going to continue to fight for the true history of America."

Williams responded, "It's still a problem. We aim to put American history in the classroom. We aim to reveal the honest truth about the history."

Georgia State University doctoral student in Educational Policy Studies – Andrea Dziengue – was concerned about whether or not the State of Mississippi had censored certain words used in the classroom by teachers. She asserted, "Georgia House Bill 1084 seeks to ban the teaching of what some lawmakers deem divisive language, like Critical Race Theory, racism and other race-related topics. I believe it is incumbent upon museum educators whose jobs may not be at risk, like public school educators, to tell the true history of America. Children should be exposed to books like Carter G. Woodson's The Miseducation of the Negro and other books related to endemic racism in this country. [From such books they can] gain an understanding of the reality of inequality that exists and possibly, what they can do as young people and their place in the world, and their obligation to create the change they want to see."

The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley: Let the World See Exhibit was developed by the Till family, Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Institute, Emmett Till Interpretive Center and Children's Museum of Indianapolis. It is recommended for ages ten and up. It runs through Sunday, May 14, 2023, at the Two Mississippi Museums.

Sponsors include the Maddox Foundation; the Institute of Museum and Library Services; the National Endowment for the Humanities; Democracy Demands Wisdom and the Historic Preservation Fund.

For further inquiry, call 601-576-6850, or email [info@mdah.ms.gov](mailto:info@mdah.ms.gov).



Viewers' attentiveness to Andrea Dziengue's concerns about Critical Race Theory and southern lawmakers' imposition into public schools' curricula.

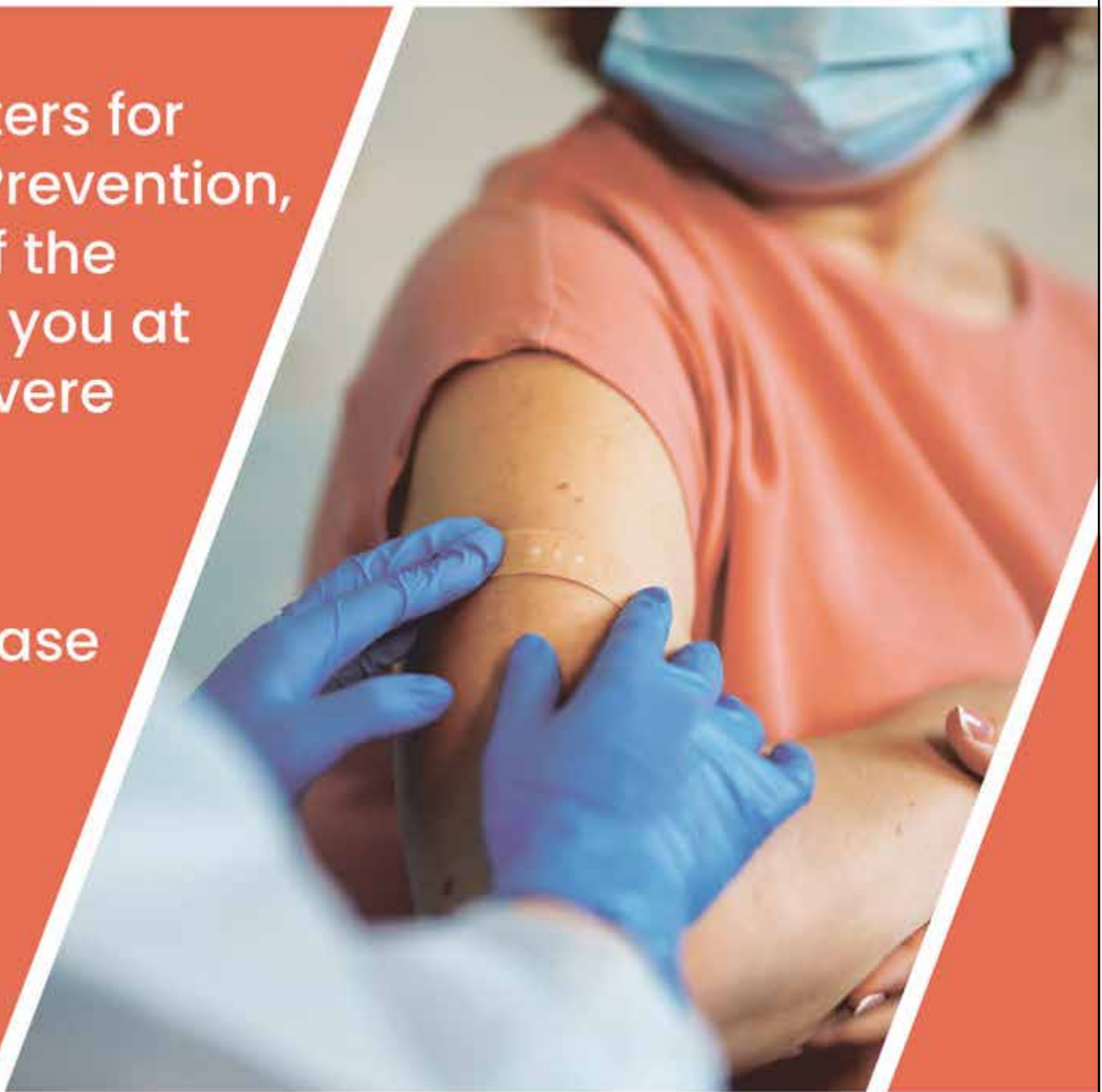


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# International award-winning artist Lisa Whittington discusses portrayal of Emmett Till: How She Sent Him and How She Got Him Back, at Two Mississippi Museums

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

Harlem, New York native and Georgia resident Lisa Whittington is an expressionist artist, a muse and an Art educator who speaks on artist intention. She represents unheard perspectives in the traditional art market.

Whittington admits that New York instilled in her a rich sense of art, culture, experience and drive. It taught her to dream and hustle while making her desires a reality.

An intuitive and perceptive child, the artist could always feel the vibrations of the city and perceive the people that made her soul dance. She recalls, like it was yesterday, that New York City was the city that sculpted and formed her character.

Whittington lives by her motto, “Destiny is not a matter of chance and no child of coincidence.” During her youth she lived in a tenement home full of conflict and trials. She escaped by looking out of the window at the busy streets when she was not in school. She read art books and had teachers who planted the seed of the artist she would become.

The artist believed she could, so she did it. Her life is her art.

“We are artists because God is. I live in Queendom, ruled by



Rachel Myers, deputy director, Two Mississippi Museums PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT, PH.D.

a womb-iverse,” she once said.

Whittington was inspired to create her first painting of Emmett “How She Sent Him and How She Got Him Back” in 2012. She had seen a picture of his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, receiving the body of her son at an Illinois terminal after he was murdered. It was only logical, then, to give her 2012 painting its title. The painting stayed in

her home many years before she introduced it to the public.

“My painting commemorates his life and memorializes his death. I remember creating this work and getting angry, feeling emotional, sad, crying and throwing my paintbrush across the room because it was such an ordeal. Creating the picture was like having to watch him being brutalized and only be-

ing able to defend him with my paintbrush. It was frustrating to try to envision this nightmare in your mind and have to translate it to the canvas,” Whittington said to the exhibit viewers.

Whittington explained that she created the painting to let Emmett know that she cared about his life and what happened to him. She vowed to never forget him and to make

sure people would remember him as a bright, teenage black boy who was kidnapped and died a gory death as punishment for speaking to a white woman. The artist further noted that it was because of Mamie’s strength to reveal to the world what hatred did to her son, and as a responsible African American and artist, she had a duty to remind the world through her artwork not to forget what happened to Emmett.

Drawn by Whittington’s Emmett Till: How She Sent Him and How She Got Him Back, Reggie (Rock) Bythewood who created the hit Apple TV + series Swagger, shows a diverse authentic depiction of life for young black kids growing up in America.

Actress Jordan Rice of Atlanta who is in the series commented that Whittington’s painted face of Emmett, “sets the color palette for season one of the series. The painting is split in two, one side filled with a vibrant blue and yellow. Bythewood named those colors Emmett Blue and Emmett Yellow, and they are the base for the show.”

Rice continued with the interpretation of Whittington’s painting when she told viewers that while one half of his face represents life, hope and the potential for Till’s future had he lived to see it; the other rep-

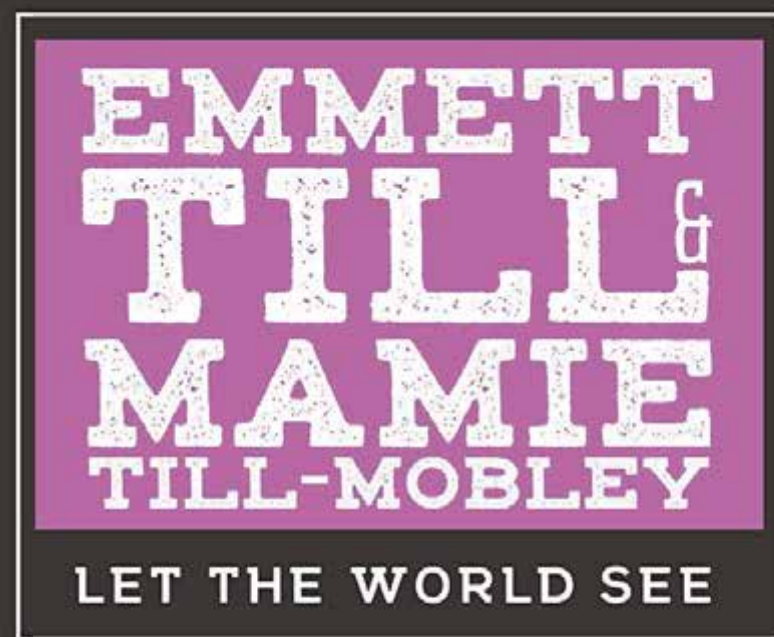
resents Till’s body after he was beaten and murdered.

“During filming, Bythewood discussed the connection between Till, the painting and the show with the entire cast. It was on us to carry the mission of Mamie and Emmett Till, and tell a story that was bigger than ourselves.”

“My job is to make the public aware that Emmett Till was a human being. Something told me, ‘This doesn’t belong to you.’ I was just a vehicle...In the art world black artists’ stories don’t get told. I didn’t feel that I should make money, but it was my responsibility to make sure the art got to the right place – The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. I didn’t want Emmett to come to a place where he would be persecuted. I needed to make sure he was going to be taken care of, so we have people here who are going to educate,” Whittington said confidently.

The visionary ended her talk with an appeal to the listeners. She explained that classrooms are now being censored, and some of our history is now being suppressed.

“The museum should pick up with a curriculum. We have to now start using our social media platform as a classroom because there is so much history yet to learn,” Whittington concluded.



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**April 1 - May 14, 2023**

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# 'Classic Game Day' is planned for the children of Methodist Children's Home in Jackson



Paula with her late husband Darryl Bass  
PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULA BASS

By Keri Davis  
Originally published on Our Mississippi Home

Creating this event featuring classic games was conceptualized by Paula Bass, founder of the non-profit From Widows to Winner Project International. "Classic Game Day" will be held later in April, also National Child Abuse Prevention Month, to show kids in the foster care system how important they are and how much people care.

The event for foster children is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, and will include an ice cream sundae party and playtime. Local community volunteers are stepping up to make the day special for the kids, including Simon Marks, local juggler and CPA from Brandon.

Finding ways to include volunteers' special talents in events is one of Paula's strengths.

In 1986, after 17 years of marriage, Paula lost her husband Darryl, to a sudden brain aneurysm. As she navigated raising four young children and the grieving process, Paula clung to a desire to serve as an instrument of support for orphans and widows. Being called into full-time ministry, she spent 10 years as the Missions director with Antioch Missions International and 12 years as the founder and direc-

tor of From Widow To Winner Project International.

"The reason I called it Classic Game Day is to help kids get off the couch, away from screens, where they don't learn to relate to each other. We will be playing classic games like double dutch, marbles and jacks," Paula said.

"These classic games require you to react with each other and build community. They give you a chance to re-

ally get to know each other through play and begin friendships. I think it is so important to show kids from foster care how important they are, and how much people really care about who they are. They are going from post to post, family to family, and need a chance to connect."

If you are interested in getting involved or learning more about From Widow to Winner call 757-667-0056.

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P R E S E R V E D

# Valuable imperfections

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“Perfect is boring. Be imperfectly you.” When I saw this phrase on a t-shirt over the Christmas holiday a few years ago, I could not resist it. I had to buy it and not just because it was on sale. The underlying message of the shirt that imperfections were what made us more interesting (and unique) seemed to make a lot of sense to me at the time. It wasn’t until recently that I realized that the shirt was also an interesting reminder about graciously handling the imperfections of ourselves and others.

One of the areas of personal spiritual growth that God continues to challenge me is regarding how to respond to my imperfections as well as what I perceive as the others. For example, how do you take a more

gracious approach when looking at imperfections?

As a college English professor, I deal with this question often when grading papers. Over the years, I’ve worked very hard at finding ways to offer constructive criticism without completely crushing the esteem of students. It is not easy because sometimes I struggle to find a few good things in a paper where there may be 15 other things done ineffectively. Sometimes it works and sometimes I totally fail at it... but I keep trying to figure out a way to make students see those things that others may label as “wrong” as valuable opportunities for growth.

2 Timothy 2:20-21, (MSG) says “In a well-furnished kitchen there are not only crystal goblets and silver platters, but waste cans and compost buckets – some containers used to serve fine meals, others to take out the garbage. Become the kind of container God can

use to present any and every kind of gift to his guests for their blessing.” This scripture could be seen as a reminder that people who we perceive as having less value may actually have the most value. For example, after a fine meal, which is more valuable: the goblet that was used to drink out of or the trash can that was used to take out the trash? At the end of the meal, some would say that it is the trash can that has more value because it helps keep the kitchen clean.

Maybe we should try to think of deficiencies in others like imperfections in gemstones. According to the website, [www.gemselect.com](http://www.gemselect.com), the value of certain gemstones increases because of internal imperfections or inclusions in the gemstone. For example, rubies and sapphires that have certain internal inclusions are seen as more unique and considered much more valuable than those that are man-made and seem-

ingly perfect.

So, instead of judging someone for what they may have done, good, bad, criminal or otherwise, we should choose to see those life experiences as what makes them graciously unique. By doing this, it may be easier for us to see that through God’s grace the value of others is actually increased by what they experienced (which may look like an imperfection) but is actually an example of how valuable they are because of what they survived.

*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).*

# Sin is bondage, sin is a prison

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



dom is very limited.

Then there are countries where the people have some freedom in certain areas of life but not in other areas. I think, I am safe in saying that everyone would like to live in freedom. However, I am sure there are various ideas of freedom.

Sin is bondage, sin is a prison, and sin brings separation between man and God which means spiritual death. Adam and Eve were created spiritually in the image of God. They were pure and holy in heart. They had spiritual life as well as physical.

Since they had a free will, they had the responsibility of choosing whether they would obey or disobey God’s command not to eat the fruit of one of the trees in the Garden of Eden. They chose to disobey and thus lost the image of God, including their spiritual life and freedom. They became servants of sin.

Ancient Egypt is a type of sin. Jacob and his family chose to go into Egypt, and his people became slaves. They had cruel taskmasters who beat them with rods

and caused them to work every day of the week.

When individuals come to the knowledge of right and wrong in the sight of God and choose sin, they become servants to sin. They die a spiritual death. The children of Israel finally cried unto God for deliverance, and God sent Moses back to Egypt to lead them out.

Before the tenth plague, they had to slay a perfect lamb and put the blood on the door post. Then they had to go in the house, eat the lamb with bitters herbs, and stay in the house until the death angel passed over the land.

The lamb was a type of Christ – the Lamb of God. Jesus made it possible for every sinner to be delivered out of bondage.

Isaiah, the prophet wrote, “The spirit of the Lord is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn” (Isaiah 61:1,2).

Jesus came to open the prison house and to let the captive go free – that is true freedom!

*Simeon R. Green, III, First Church of God, 6517 Walmsley Blvd. Richmond, Virginia 23224*



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# Lawsuit against Favre should be dismissed, attorneys argue

By Michael Goldberg  
*Associated Press/Report for America*

Attorneys for retired NFL quarterback Brett Favre argued in a new court filing last Monday that a civil lawsuit against him seeking to recover mis-spent welfare money in Mississippi’s largest ever corruption case should be dismissed because the state Department of Human Services lacks evidence and is attempting to deflect from its own culpability. Millions of federal welfare dollars intended to help low-income Mississippi residents – some of the poorest people in the country – were instead squandered on projects supported by wealthy or well-connected people, including projects backed by Favre, between 2016 and 2019, prosecutors say. In a response to the department’s statements that a judge should ignore Favre’s request to be removed from the lawsuit, Favre’s attorneys wrote there is “no legal, factual, or moral basis” for the agency’s claims. “It is plain that, as it did in its original complaint, MDHS – which itself carried out the allegedly wrongful transfer of funds to another state entity, a transfer approved by, among others, Mississippi’s Attorney General – continues to sue Favre solely to attract publicity for improper political purposes,” Favre’s attorneys wrote. Last year, the Department

of Human Services sued Favre and more than three dozen other people or businesses. The suit says federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families money was misspent, including \$5 million that went to a volleyball arena that Favre supported at his alma mater, the University of Southern Mississippi – where his daughter also played the sport – and \$1.7 million toward the development of a concussion treatment drug by a company in which Favre was an investor. Kaytie Pickett, an attorney for the department, wrote in March court papers that Favre’s attorneys failed to provide solid legal arguments to get their client out of the lawsuit. Calling the attorneys’ motion to dismiss “a long press release,” she said the court should “disregard Favre’s diatribe.” “MDHS deems Favre’s motion a ‘long press release,’ but the shoe is on the other foot,” Favre’s attorneys countered Monday. They say Favre and his wife fulfilled commitments they made in a written pledge – months after the transfers that form the basis of MDHS’s claims – to raise funds to construct the volleyball facility. Pickett declined to comment Tuesday on the new filings. No criminal charges have been brought against the NFL Hall of Famer, although other people have pleaded guilty to

their part in the misspending. Those who have pleaded guilty to criminal charges include John Davis, a former director of the Mississippi Department of Human Services; and Nancy New, the director of a nonprofit organization who had ties to Favre and the concussion drug and volleyball projects. As Favre has attempted to get out of the lawsuit, he has also filed three defamation lawsuits against Mississippi State Auditor Shad White and two former NFL players, Pat McAfee and Shannon Sharpe, who have sharply criticized Favre in their roles as national sportscasters. “My hope is that the state can recover as much misspent welfare money – whether it’s from Mr. Favre or anyone else who bears responsibility – as possible,” White told The Associated Press Tuesday. “We are the auditors, not the lawyers who try these cases in court, but my team stands ready to provide the audit evidence for the criminal and civil cases as they proceed.” *Michael Goldberg is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a non-profit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under covered issues. Follow him on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/mikergoldberg>.*

# Historical marker documents significance of Hinds CC Utica Campus

*Special to the Mississippi Link*

As part of the March 23 annual Founder’s Day celebration, Hinds Community College’s Utica Campus unveiled a state-approved historical marker near the iconic Bell Tower. “The state of Mississippi officially recognizes the history of the Utica Campus,” said William “Brother” Rogers, Mississippi Department of Archives and History Director of Programs and Communication. “Congratulations on getting a historical marker because it is not easy to get a historical marker. You have to prove that your history is significant. And your history is significant. “One of the things Mississippi has not really done a good job of over the years is recognizing African-American history,” Rogers said. “Long after all of us are gone, long after these students are gone, this marker is actually still going to be here as a reminder to everybody that comes through here about the history that has been made here.” William H. Holtzclaw founded the Utica Institute in 1903 to educate black students. The campus was moved to the current location in 1910. The college merged with Hinds Community College in 1983 and became the Utica Campus. “This is another example of how we are trying to maintain and preserve the history of our campus,” said Hinds President



Unveiling the new Utica Campus historic marker near the iconic Bell Tower on March 23 were, from left, Brother Rogers, representing the Mississippi Department of Archives and History; Instructor Dan Fuller and retiree Jean Greene, co-directors of the Utica Institute Museum; Vice President Sherry Bellmon and President Dr. Stephen Vacik.

Dr. Stephen Vacik. Also as part of Founder’s Day, retired Dean of Career-Technical Education Dr. Jesse Killingsworth received the annual William H. Holtzclaw Award given to the person who exemplifies the commitment to the students of the Utica Campus. The Founder’s Day theme was “120 Years of Jubilee.” Keynote speaker Dr. Mitchell Shears, a Utica Campus alumnus and former employee whose family has deep roots at the campus, noted that Dr. Holtzclaw came to Utica to fulfill a dream. “It’s important to understand that he had a dream and not a desire. There is a difference. A dream is what we build for a group,” Dr. Shears said. “But a desire is what we aspire to build only for ourselves. Mr. Holtzclaw had a dream. This man wanted to build something for a group. “We’ve got to continue the quality and length of this man’s jubilee. This man lived by what he gave. This man gave us life. He gave some of us a job. He gave many of us an education.” Vice President Sherry Bellmon said the purpose of the celebration was to highlight the campus’ distinguished history. “Many times we don’t tell our own story but today it was told,” she said. With six campuses in central Mississippi, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills.



## ARE YOU AN UNPAID CAREGIVER IN NEED OF A BREAK?

### RESPITE VOUCHER PROGRAM

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Respite care is available for anyone who is providing unpaid care for a dependent person of any age with a significant disability or chronic illness requiring 24/7 care.

#### HOW DO I APPLY?

Call the Mississippi Access to Care (MAC) Center at 1-844-822-4622 and speak to a resource specialist to receive assistance with completing an application or to request an application from your local office.

#### HOW DOES THE RESPITE VOUCHER PROGRAM WORK?

These vouchers may be used to pay an in-home care agency, an Adult Day Center, or a private individual to provide care to the dependent person while the caregiver is away.

#### A CAREGIVER CAN BE REIMBURSED UP TO \$590 ONE-TIME REIMBURSEMENT.

This voucher program is intended to assist families and individuals who identify with having a critical need for relief from caregiving. This publication/project was supported by Grant Number 90LRU0037-01-00 from Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Should you have any questions about MAC Center please feel free to call 1-844-822-4622

Caregivers are encouraged to choose care providers who have the skills necessary to manage the special care needs of family members. Each family is responsible for choosing a care provider. If you need assistance to locate a respite care provider in your area, please call toll-free to reach a MAC Center Specialist near you (1-844-822-4622).

#### Each Provider:

- Cannot reside in the same household as care recipient
- Cannot receive payment before respite services are provided

#### Respite care can be provided in the following places:

- The caregiver’s home or approved site by caregiver (examples: parks, restaurants, movies)
- A licensed care center

Vouchers can only be used to pay for breaks (respite) for caregivers. They may NOT be used to:

- Pay the family caregiver directly for the care they are providing.
- Pay for care that occurred before the voucher was issued.
- Pay medical bills or purchase medical supplies.
- Offset the cost of paid care already in place.



To find your local MAC Center

SCAN HERE

This publication/project was supported by Grant Number 90LRU0037-01-00 from Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Should you have any questions about MAC Center please feel free to call 1-844-822-4622



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PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Jackson is seeking submission of proposals from qualified professional firms for professional assistance with the following project: A Hotel and Parking Garage Feasibility/Market Analysis in the Central Business District of Downtown Jackson, Mississippi. Services needed include Inventory and Analysis of Existing Conditions, Conceptual Site Plans, and Market Feasibility reports of general uses.

Detailed information pertaining to the submission of a response to this request for proposals may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Development, Suite 229, Warren Hood Building: 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, or by contacting Chloe Dotson at 601-960-1993 or email: [cdotson@city.jackson.ms.us](mailto:cdotson@city.jackson.ms.us).

One (1) original and eight (8) signed copies of the proposal must be received no later than 3:30 P. M., on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at the City Clerk's Office, 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Mailed proposals should be addressed to the Office of the City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205-0017. Packets should be sealed and clearly marked "Proposal for The Hotel and Parking Garage Feasibility/Market Analysis in the Central Business District of Downtown Jackson, Mississippi."

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 BUPD. MURP., Director  
Department of Planning and Development  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

3/30/2023, 4/6/2023, 4/13/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY –  
Land Parcels 437-2-1 & 437-3

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25th, 2023, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcels 437-2-1 and 437-3 located in the 800 block of Northside Drive (old Tisdale Library) in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$60,000.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail [vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us](mailto:vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us).

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201). The outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel numbers being bid on along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, April 25th, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

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

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

4/6/2023, 4/13/2023, 4/20/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, May 02, 2023 at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

75077-050223 Twenty-Four Month Supply of Clay Gravel and Wash Gravel

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

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

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

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

4/13/2023, 4/20/2023

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PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Jackson is seeking to employ an Architectural /Engineering (A/E) consulting firm for the rehabilitation of the old Fire Station (presently located at 201 South President Street). The Vendor may offer any additional or related services that may complement the core Vendor Services.

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: [cdotsonjacksonms.gov](mailto:cdotsonjacksonms.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 May 2, 2023. Each Architectural / Engineering firms interested in providing these services may so indicate by furnishing the City of Jackson seven (7) copies of a Statement of Qualification. 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.  
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Chloe Dotson,  
Director Department of Planning and Development  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

4/13/2023, 4/20/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, May 02, 2023, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

75077-050223 Twenty-Four Month Supply of #610 Limestone

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT [WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV](http://WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV)

Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com),bids are also available at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com) or for assist call 225-810-4814.

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

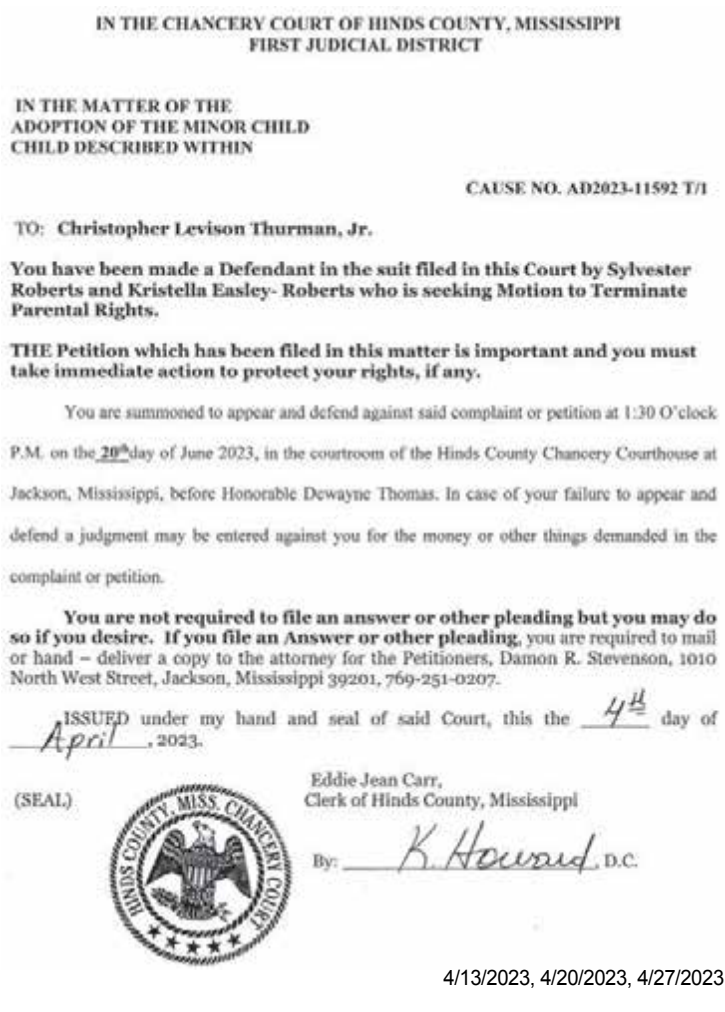
The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall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

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

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

4/13/2023, 4/20/2023

LEGAL



LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25th, 2023, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 817-270 located in the 1200 block of Zephyr Road in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$250.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail [vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us](mailto:vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us).

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201). The outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel numbers being bid on along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, April 25th, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

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

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

4/6/2023, 4/13/2023, 4/20/2023

LEGAL

INVITATION FOR BIDS  
PLANETARIUM RENOVATION  
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Sealed bids will be received by the Municipal Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201, until 3:30 PM local time on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

Planetarium Renovation  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished and sealed and deposited with Municipal Clerk prior to the hour and date above designated. A copy of the construction documents (plans and/or specifications) for the construction being sought has been filed with the Municipal Clerk of Jackson, MS. Official bid Documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic bids can be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814. Questions regarding plan clarifications or requests for information should be directed to the architect as follows:

CDFL Architects + Engineers PA  
601-366-3110  
Attention: Daniel Zegel  
Email: [dzegel@cdfi.com](mailto:dzegel@cdfi.com)

The plans and specifications for the Work are being made available via digital and original paper copy. Plan holders may register and order documents from the Jackson Blueprint Plan Room website (<http://planroom.jaxblue.com>). There is no charge for registration or to view the documents online. Documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. A printed bid set is \$50.00 plus \$20.00 shipping and applicable sales tax, and an electronic downloadable set is \$25.00 plus applicable sales tax. Bid Documents may be picked up or shipped to the person making the request. Documents will not be distributed or mailed until payment is received. For questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Jackson Blueprint & Supply at (601)353-5803. A copy of the plans and specifications for the Work will be available for review at the office of the Municipal Clerk at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

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

The City of Jackson 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 Application, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provisions 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 of the

Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program, as attached, are available at 200 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

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.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities in respect to any bid submitted or to accept any proposal which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.

A PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD – NON-MANDATORY

All Contractors who intend to submit bids are encouraged to attend a pre-bid conference to be held at 2:00 pm on April 24, 2023, onsite at 201 East Pascagoula Street.

Robert Lee, P.E.  
City Engineer & Interim Director

4/13/2023, 4/20/2023, 4/27/2023

4/13/2023, 4/20/2023



LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
ADOPTION OF THE MINOR CHILD  
CHILD DESCRIBED WITHIN

CAUSE NO. AD2023-11592 T/I

TO: De'Yahna Monae' Jones

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Sylvester Roberts and Kristella Easley- Roberts who is seeking Motion to Terminate Parental Rights.

THE Petition which has been filed in this matter is important and you must take immediate action to protect your rights, if any.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint or petition at 1:30 O'clock P.M. on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023, in the courtroom of the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse at Jackson, Mississippi, before Honorable Dewayne Thomas. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment may be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire. If you file an Answer or other pleading, you are required to mail or hand – deliver a copy to the attorney for the Petitioners, Damon R. Stevenson, 1010 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, 769-251-0207.

ISSUED under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

(SEAL) Eddie Jean Carr,  
Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi  
By: K. Howard, D.C.

4/13/2023, 4/20/203, 4/27/2023,

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
BARNEY J. MOFFETT, DECEASED

CAUSE NO: P2021-253 M/L

RULE 4 SUMMONS

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS:

Any and all persons or parties who are interested in or claim any right, title or interest as a wrongful death beneficiary of Barney J. Moffett, deceased, including, but not limited to, the unknown wrongful death beneficiaries of Barney J. Moffett, if they be living and not to be found therein after diligent search and inquiry and whose places of residence, post office, and street and house addresses are unknown after diligent street search and inquiry to ascertain the same, and if dead, their unknown descendants, devisees, executors, administrators or legal representatives are not to be found after diligent search and inquiry, and whose places of residence, post offices, and street and house addresses are unknown after diligent search and inquiry to ascertain the same. You have been made Defendants in the lawsuit filed in the Court by Jackie Moffett to establish the wrongful death beneficiaries of Barney J. Moffett, deceased. The only Respondents other than you are Jackie Moffett, Paulette Myers, Jammie Moffett, and Tamonica Head.

You are required to mail or hand deliver a written response to the Complaint filed against you in this action to R. Paul Williams, III, Attorney for Petitioner, whose post office address is Post Office Box 23785, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, and whose street address is 129B, South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201.

YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2023, WHICH IS THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS SUMMONS. IF YOUR RESPONSE IS NOT SO MAILED OR DELIVERED, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT.

You must also file the original of your Response with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time afterward.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court at Jackson, Mississippi, this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2023.



EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK  
HINDS COUNTY CHANCERY COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

BY: P. Watkins, D.C.

3/30/2023, 4/6/203, 4/13/2023,

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
BARNEY J. MOFFETT, DECEASED

CAUSE NO: P2021-253 M/L

RULE 81 SUMMONS

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS:

Any and all persons or parties who are interested in or claim any right, title or interest as heirs-at-law of Barney J. Moffett, deceased, including, but not limited to, the unknown heirs-at-law of Barney J. Moffett, if they be living and not to be found therein after diligent search and inquiry and whose places of residence, post office, and street and house addresses are unknown after diligent street search and inquiry to ascertain the same, and if dead, their unknown devisees, executors, administrators or legal representatives are not to be found after diligent search and inquiry, and whose places of residence, post offices, and street and house addresses are unknown after diligent search and inquiry to ascertain the same. You have been made Defendants in the lawsuit filed in the Court by Jackie Moffett to establish the heirs-at-law of Barney J. Moffett, deceased.

IF TO BE FOUND IN THIS COUNTY, to be and appear before the Honorable Crystal Wise Martin of the Chancery Court of Hinds County, at the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., next, then and there to show cause, if any they can why Jackie Moffett, Paulette Myers, Jammie Moffett, and Tamonica Head should not be declared the only heirs-at-law of Barney J. Moffett, deceased, according to law, and further to do and suffer such things as shall be considered and ordered by the Court aforesaid in the premises, and have then and there this, with an endorsement thereon to the manner in which you shall have served.

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO APPEAR and defend against the Petition filed against you in this action on the date and time as set forth herein above before the Honorable Crystal Wise Martin in Jackson, Mississippi; and in case of your failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition. You are not required to file answer or other pleadings, but you may do so if you desire.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court at Hinds County, Mississippi, this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2023.



EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK  
HINDS COUNTY CHANCERY COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

BY: P. Watkins, D.C.

3/30/2023, 4/6/203, 4/13/2023,

# MCAN

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Week of April 9, 2023

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# Shingles and Stroke

**By Vince Faust**  
*Tips to be Fit*

Just when I thought I could stop thinking about Shingles I read an article that said I was at greater risk for a stroke. I found out I'm at a 31% greater risk to have a stroke for the next 12 years. And that's if I don't get shingles again. If I do the clock starts over again. Researchers have suspected that shingles can lead to stroke or coronary heart disease. They have also found that the association between shingles and cardiovascular events is more significant than previously thought.

Another study, of over 200,000 U.S. adults, found that those who'd had shingles were up to 38% more likely to suffer a stroke in the next 12 years, versus those who'd remained shingles-free. The risk of heart disease, which includes heart attack, was up to 25% higher.

Shingles develop from the varicella zoster virus, which is the same virus, that causes chickenpox. The virus that is hiding in your nerves becomes reactivate at a time when a per-

son's immune function is reduced. The shingles risk rises as you age because your immune system gradually declines.

The virus follows a nerve path that leads out from the spine, travels around one side of your body and surfacing at nerve endings in your skin. The inflamed nerves become extremely painful and the affected skin erupt in clusters of fluid filled blisters that take a while to crust over and heal. Shingles on the face can affect the eye and cause vision loss.

Shingles may cause inflammation of the brain (encephalitis), facial paralysis, or problems with hearing or balance. Shingles can cause an increase in blood clotting in your arteries. The risks of both stroke and heart attack were highest in the first year after the onset of shingles.

Shingles can affect your eyes, ears, nervous system, throat, stomach, lungs, and brain. Internal shingles can cause symptoms such as persistent pain, abdominal pain, weakness in facial muscles (Bell's palsy),

hearing loss or pain in the ear (Ramsay Hunt syndrome) and headache.

You can develop shingles internally. With internal shingles, doctors have to rely on blood test to confirm the presence of internal shingles. If your doctor suspects you have internal shingles, they will use a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) saliva test to check for the presence of viral DNA.

Shingles can cause fatigue. You can also feel fatigued even after the shingles rash has disappeared. Fatigue happens indirectly due to PHN, which is a complication of shingles that involves lingering pain. Many people with PHN experience insomnia.

Symptoms of shingles can include:

- A red rash that begins a few days after the pain.
- Fluid-filled blisters that break open and crust over.
- Itching.
- Pain, burning or tingling.
- Sensitivity to touch.
- If you have possible symptoms of shingles see your physician immediately.

A prescription of an antiviral drug such as acyclovir (Zovirax), famciclovir (Famvir) or valacyclovir (Valtrex) can lessen the severity of shingles and significantly reduce postherpetic neuralgia (PHN).

To help prevent shingles get vaccinated. The shingles vaccine can reduce the shingles risk by an estimate 70%. Vaccinated people who do develop shingles typically experience a milder outbreak and maybe less vulnerable to reoccurrence than unvaccinated people.

Get the shingles vaccine even if you already had shingles, because you can get the disease more than once. Your risk of shingles and complications increases as you age. You need 2 doses of the shingles vaccine. Get the second dose 2 to 6 months after you get the first dose.

- Your risk of spreading shingles is low if your rash is covered. People with shingles should keep the rash covered, not touch or scratch your rash, and wash their hands often to

prevent the spread of shingles. The shingles virus can also be spread by direct contact by touching any dressings, sheets or clothes soiled with discharge. Once your rash has developed a crust, you are no longer contagious.

- As long as your lesions can be covered, you don't have to stay home from work or school. If you are a healthcare worker working with high-risk individuals you should remain home from work until your blisters have scabbed over.

- You should avoid prolonged sun exposure if you have shingles. The area of skin affected by the shingles rash is already tender and fragile, so excessive ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure, such as sunshine, can damage your skin.

- The shingles vaccine won't cause shingles. The shingles vaccine contains only a small part of the varicella zoster virus that causes shingles. The shingles vaccine does not contain any live varicella zoster virus.

- Medications, such as acyclovir, valacyclovir, and famciclovir, can help treat shingles and severity of the illness. These drugs can help speed up skin healing, reduce pain and reduce potential complications. These medications are most effective if a person starts taking them as soon as possible after the rash appears.

- If you think you could have shingles, you should see a board-certified dermatologist or other healthcare provider within 3 days of getting the rash. When you start within 3 days, treatment can prevent possible complications, such as long lasting nerve pain. Studies show your immune responses to the shingles virus last for up to 9 years after immunization. There is no current recommendation for a booster dose of the shingles vaccine. If you develop neurological complications from shingles you should consult a neurologist. They can identify your issues and provide treatment.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

## Tips to be Fit Q & A

**By Vince Faust**  
*Tips to be Fit*

From time to time I get question from readers. Here are a few of them.

### Caffeine Habit

"I want to break my caffeine habit. How do I start?"

Vivian

Atlanta, GA

Caffeine is a psychoactive stimulant. It will increase alertness, decrease fatigue, cause euphoria and elevate your mood. The bad affects of caffeine can include sleeplessness, irritability, anxiety and depression. A person can suffer the bad affects from one or two cups of coffee a day.

If you drink more than 250 mgs of caffeine a day, which is about two and a half cups, you can suffer from caffeine intoxication. The symptoms include restlessness, nervousness, excitement, excessive urination, insomnia, heartburn, muscle twitching and rambling thought and speech.

It's not easy to break the caffeine habit, but you can with a little help.

There are some withdrawal symptoms when you try to break the caffeine habit. They can include depression, constipation, runny nose, nausea, headaches and a craving for caffeine. To quit it's best to gradually reduce your caffeine intake. Try to reduce your daily intake of caffeine by 100 mgs each week. One hundred mgs is about one cup of coffee. Continue decreasing your

consumption until you're down to a safe level, which is about one cup a day. Your plan should also include relaxation, stress reduction, good nutrition and exercise.

### Vegetarian Menu

"Are vegetarian diets safe? Will I get in all the nutrients I need?"

Regina

Phila., PA

A vegetarian diet has to be carefully planned if you're going to get in the nutrients you need. For breakfast have some fruit juice and a fresh fruit salad. Later in the morning have a seven-grain bun with and a cup of tea. At lunch, have a large bowl of black bean soup garnished with celery and scallions. Include a 1/2 cup of spinach, 1/2 cup of carrots and a 1/2 cup of brown rice on the side and you'll have a great meal. For a between meal pick-up have unsalted popcorn or a bran muffin. For dinner have a veggie burger on a seven-grain bun with alfalfa sprouts and salsa with a dish of steamed broccoli and a large salad. For a late snack have a salad with a baked potato.

During the day you should also have 2 servings of a dairy product.

If you want the recipe for the black bean soup just write me.

### Fatigue

"Although modern technology has made daily life less physically demanding doctors are seeing more people who complain of fatigue. Why are

so many people suffering from fatigue?"

Lois

New York, NY

Fatigue can be brought on by physical or emotional factors. Generally, if the cause is physical, the fatigue is worse in the evening and relieved by sleep. If the cause is emotional, fatigue is usually worse in the morning and let's up toward evening.

Possible physical causes include poor eating and sleeping habits, an imbalance in electrolytes, anemia, lingering cold or flu symptoms, underlying infectious diseases and endocrine or neurologic disorders.

Possible emotional causes include burnout, boredom, major changes in life such as divorce or unemployment and depression.

Some tips that can help increase your energy level whether the cause is physical or emotional include eating a healthy diet, making sure you get enough rest and sleep, changing your routine so that you add something interesting to your day and doing exercise. Exercise acts as an energizer when you feel sluggish and a tranquilizer if you're weary or anxious.

### Getting Older

"Are older people doomed to lose their strength, get weak and is lifting weights dangerous for older people?"

Larry

Chicago, IL

Recent studies show you lose strength and muscle because people become less active as

they get older. Several studies suggest that resistance-training exercises help maintain and in some cases increase muscle strength, as we get older. When muscle biopsies of men over 50 who lifted weights were compared to 20-year-old men the biopsies looked the same. When biopsies of older men who did not exercise were compared with those of the same 20-year-old men their biopsies showed typical age related changes.

For older but wiser beginners changes in strength and stamina can be seen within three weeks after starting a training program. So what are you waiting for? Use it or lose it!

### Sweat

"Why do I perspire more after I finish my workout than I do when I'm working out?"

Tina B.

Jackson, MS

Tina, the body sends blood to various systems in our body. Exercising causes blood to be shunted from the skin to the working muscle, which causes a build up of heat. Exercises such as running, walking or biking will allow sweat to evaporate during your workout. When you stop exercising, the body sends more blood to the skin causing you to perspire and release excess heat. Cessation of sweating after a workout is a good way to gage whether or not you have spent enough time cooling down.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

## Improving minority health in Mississippi

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



Mississippi ranks last, or close to last, in almost every leading health outcome. In Mississippi, health disparities are significantly worse for those who have systematically faced obstacles to health due to their socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, geographic location, and other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.

Health disparities not only affect the groups facing health inequities, but limit overall improvements in the quality of care, and the health status for the broader population, and result in unnecessary costs. As we consider strategies for reducing health disparities, we can't ignore the impact of structural and systemic racism on the health outcomes of minority communities.

Racism, both interpersonal and structural, negatively affects the mental and physical health of minority communities within the country, preventing them from attaining their highest level of health. The impact of racism is pervasive and deeply embedded in our society – affecting where one lives, learns, works, wor-

ships, and plays and creating inequities in access to a range of social and economic benefits, such as housing, education, wealth, and employment. These conditions are key drivers of health inequities within minority communities, placing those within these populations at greater risk for poor health outcomes.

The social determinants of health – where we live, worship, work and play – determine our ability to lead healthy, productive lives. Poverty, access to health care, quality of health care, housing and employment are all examples of factors that influence health.

All these things are worsened by systemic and structural racism. Systemic and structural racism are normalized and legitimized by the policies, institutions and systems that govern our society (e.g., in housing, education, employment, healthcare, criminal justice, etc.).

To really make a difference and improve health outcomes for minorities, disadvantaged and underserved individuals in this state, programs, and policies need to be implemented that promote health equity and specifically address the policies that perpetuate and facilitate the development of health disparities in minority, disadvantaged and underserved communities.

## Wear contacts? Here are 5 tips to elevate your routine

*StatePoint*

If you're one of the 45 million Americans who wear contact lenses, you know what a great choice they can be, whether you play sports, want to avoid the nuisance of foggy glasses or simply find yourself feeling more confident in them. However, it may be time to give your contact lens care routine a makeover, particularly if your lenses feel dry or uncomfortable.

Unfortunately, one in five contact lens wearers find lenses to be less comfortable by the end of the day. Consider the following tips for all-day comfort:

1. Practice healthy tech habits: Long hours on screens can be

a contributing factor to eye discomfort, mainly because of less blinking; however, making a few adjustments can help.

The experts at Bausch + Lomb recommend following the 20-20-20 rule. For every 20 minutes of screen time, take a 20 second break to look at something 20 feet away. If you work with computers all day, you should also remember to blink regularly. Finally, adjust the brightness and text size on your devices to reduce eye strain and optimize comfort.

2. Insert and remove contacts with care: The order of steps you follow as you insert and remove your contacts matters. In the morning or as you're getting

ready to go out, insert contact lenses with clean hands before applying makeup. Before bed, wash your hands, remove your contacts and clean your lenses before going to sleep. One-third of contact lens wearers have fallen asleep in their lenses, but doing so increases the risk of infection.

3. Follow lens care directions: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 40-90% of contact lens wearers do not properly follow their contact lenses' care instructions. It is recommended to follow the complete recommended lens rubbing and rinsing times in the product labeling to adequately disinfect your lenses and reduce the risk of con-

tact lens contamination. Reduced rubbing or rinsing time may not adequately clean your lenses. And never "top off" or reuse solution. Fill the lens case with fresh solution every time you store your lenses – don't cut corners.

4. Clean and moisturize: One in three contact lens wearers experiences dry lenses, and one in five find lenses to be less comfortable by the end of the day. Show your eyes some love by using a contact lens solution recommended by board-certified optometrists, one that is uniquely-formulated for dry, uncomfortable contact lenses. Biotrue Hydration Plus Multi-Purpose Solution not only offers exceptional cleaning and disinfection

and dissolves protein build-up, it's also formulated with your eyes' biology in mind to promote all-day comfort. It contains naturally-inspired ingredients found in tears such as hyaluronan, a moisturizer, and potassium, an electrolyte. It keeps more moisture on your contacts (for 12 hours compared to original Biotrue Multi-Purpose Solution, based on a laboratory study) as well as provides up to 20 hours of moisture (based on a laboratory study). For more information and complete use instructions, visit <https://www.biotrue.com>.

5. Recycle: While not directly related to the comfort of your eyes, you can sport your contacts

with more ease knowing you're doing so with the environment in mind. You're likely already recycling contact solution bottles and eye care product cartons through curbside recycling. Now, thanks to a collaboration between Bausch + Lomb and TerraCycle, there's a way to properly recycle the smaller plastic components within these products. Pop off the caps of your solution and eye drop bottles and place them in any shipping box, along with old lens cases, empty eye drop bottles and single dose eye drop vials. When the box is full, print the prepaid label and mail it to TerraCycle.

To learn more, visit [terracycle.com/biotrue](https://www.terracycle.com/biotrue).



# Ensuring our right to invest in the next generation's future

By Ben Jealous  
*People For the American Way*



If a public opinion poll done last month is right, more than half of you won't know what I mean by the initials "ESG," and fewer than one in 10 will understand what they mean for financial markets. But listening to some self-interested politicians, many of whom have ties to our dirtiest industries, you'd think ESG was a significant threat to the American way of life.

For the record, ESG refers to responsible investing that considers companies' environmental, social and governance practices. That's actually something most Americans support.

More than half of us think financial managers should be allowed to consider environmental factors, climate threats, and the risk involved in fossil fuels' future and that states should invest public retirement funds in clean energy. More than eight in 10 of us who invest for ourselves want sustainable options for our savings, Morgan Stanley reported.

In economics class, we called that demand.

In his 2022 annual letter to CEOs, Larry Fink, chairman of the world's largest investment adviser BlackRock, called it "stakeholder" capitalism. "It is capitalism, driven by mutually beneficial relationships between you and the employees, customers, suppliers, and communities your company relies on to prosper. This is the power of capitalism," he wrote, adding, "We focus on sustainability not because we're environmentalists, but because we are capitalists and fiduciaries to our clients. That requires understanding how companies are adjusting their businesses for the massive changes the economy is undergoing."

Perversely, Fink has been pilloried by right-wing politicians as a green ideologue when his firm claims to be the largest single investor in fossil fuel companies on the planet. These same politicians are trying to prohibit this kind of responsible investing through state and federal laws.

They argue they are fighting for free market capitalism when really they are limiting investors' freedom to choose

and the information that they need to make decisions. It's not free markets, it's political pressure.

The costs of these mistaken and misrepresented policies are real. Economists from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania determined that within eight months of Texas passing a law that prevented local governments from using five of the largest bond underwriters taxpayers would pay \$300-\$500 million more on \$31.8 billion those governments wanted to borrow. That amounts to about a 1 percent tax on that debt. Not to mention the banks cut out of the Texas market have Texas employees whose companies can no longer compete in their state.

Fortunately, some public officials are insisting that they be allowed to shape portfolios in ways that are fiscally sound precisely because they consider environmental impacts. I was in New York City last week for an announcement by city Comptroller Brad Lander and the trustees of the New York City Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System of their plan to reach net zero pollution from emissions in their investment portfolios by 2040.

"If the cynical war of political distraction waged by red-state politicians at the behest of their fossil-fuel donors deters us," Lander predicted, "We will sacrifice our opportunity to maximize long-term investment returns along with millions of lives and trillions of dollars of global investment."

Opponents of this responsible approach to investing derisively label it "woke" because they know that term creates confusion and for some fear. So it's a perfect wedge to divide us. If anything, they need to wake up to the idea that Americans want to pass on a safer, healthier planet powered by abundant energy to our children and our grandchildren.

We want to put our money where our aspirations are.

*Ben Jealous is executive director of the Sierra Club, the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. He is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and author of "Never Forget Our People Were Always Free," published in January.*

# 'I do' is a daily choice

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.  
*Guest Writer*



Many couples easily recite marriage vows and say, "I do," on the day of their marriage whether it is traditional or non-traditional. The recited vows and the I dos reflect aspirations of remaining married to one another until death do you part. Furthermore, many decide as Luther Vandross once sang, Here and Now, I promise to love faithfully. Further, many express their I dos earnestly with sincerity, immense emotions, and almost a sense of urgency. In fact, many couples on their wedding day feel that nothing or no one will ever make them contemplate not spending the rest of their lives with their spouses.

However, as the I dos (wedding day) passes, the honeymoon ends, work schedules prevail, children come, consistent marriage ups and downs, etc., the I dos, becomes a bleak memory of the past and a perplexing question for the now and future.

Many of you have discovered that after being married two years, five years, twelve years, nineteen years, thirty years, less and longer etc. the idea of marriage and staying married to your imperfect spouse becomes a daily choice. In some instances, the decision to stay married is a difficult decision and some-

times it is a non-challenging decision.

Do marriage vows and expressing, "I do," guarantee that you and your spouse will be married until death do you part? No, it does not, at least it doesn't in many instances. Vows don't keep marriages together – the decision to stay married keeps marriages together. How often should spouses decide to stay married – is it once on the wedding day or when vow renewals take place? The answer is – spouses should decide every day to stay married if it is a healthy marriage. In other words, spouses must say and think, "I do" daily.

"I do," looks like the following:

- Saying statements, like, I love you, thank you, I appreciate you, I look forward to spending the rest of my life with you, forgive me, you are forgiven, let's go out – date/have fun, you are beautiful, you are fine, you are handsome, etc.
- Communicating with one another
- Dating one another
- Exploring new adventures with one another
- Having intentional fun with one another.
- Laughing together
- Displaying affection privately and publicly – holding hands – slapping that...
- Letting go – forgiveness – forgiving the bad, ugly and the worse
- Praying together

- Commitment during sick days
- Having empathy
- Having patience when spouse is challenging your nerves (trying to word it in a respectful manner)
- Compromising
- Being present and available
- Communicating
- Listening when you otherwise want to tune your soulmate out
- Working together
- Losing a child
- Losing a parent
- Losing a limb
- Tackling Financial difficulties together
- Achieving financial goals
- Standing by one another during children (especially teens) crises
- When family don't agree or disagree about your family dynamics
- When the cooked meals are tasteless or blackened (burned)
- No cooked meals
- House is clean or not clean
- Hot breath or fresh breath
- Moods, attitudes and nagging
- In heated arguments/debates
- Little sex or no sex (arguments might stem from the lack of sex...hmmm)
- Forgetting to acknowledge the little and big things
- Celebrating spouse youth and the aging process – black hair to grey hair (dye is an option – just saying), etc.

In conclusion, there are so many factors (some mentioned

above) that could play an integral role in separating you and your spouse, but if you truly love one another – your top priority should be to stay married and fight for your marriage. The decision of staying married is not always an easy choice on some days, but it is the first step in helping have a healthy and happy marriage or saving your marriage.

When one makes the decision (decide to check out the marriage) to not remain married, especially for the wrong reasons like emotional and physical affairs, etc. it can inevitably lead to unimaginable devastation that can't be irreversible.

Matthew 19:6 states (NJKV):... "therefore what God has joined together, let no man separate." I believe that God even understood that marriage would not be easy but He clearly instructs spouses to let nothing or no one separate them. Therefore, it is imperative for both spouses to make a choice of saying, "I do," in their hearts, souls and minds daily. "I do" is a daily choice in marriage.

*Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.) on Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-874-6176.*

# We the people are seeing former President Trump's political embarrassment play out

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



It is always easier to kick the can down the road and let someone else worry about it. Following a path or making a new path? Most of us have had to answer that question over our lifetime.

Doing something about a problem is always challenging and at times unpopular. The status quo is always the preferred alternative.

Being called a trouble-maker or a malcontent are terms that we hear frequently these days. Let us add whistle-blower to that list as well.

Trying to curb the power of corrupt men and women is not easy. They have been getting away with this vile and sometimes clandestine behavior for so long they believe they are invincible.

Cheating and telling lies

don't seem to bother them but it bothers us. Yet we remain silent in too many instances. To use a popular term today, we have "normalized" it.

How can wrongdoing at any level be something that we just accept? What is happening to us and our sense of standards?

Last week, the 45th president of this country was indicted on 34 felony counts. A grand jury in New York city chose to indict Donald Trump. The charges were presented to the grand jury by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

Trump has entered a plea of not guilty which is not surprising given that he believes he did nothing wrong.

It is my opinion that from the beginning he has held on to the belief that he can do and say whatever he wants to without any consequence.

The record will show that he is the first president in our nation to be indicted yet his supporters simply walk and talk

in lock step with him. Nothing is wrong they say.

For example, Senator Mitt Romney has now become a Trump enthusiast as he believes it is some type of witch hunt. This is the same Mitt Romney who denounced Trump after January 6th. Sad for Romney as it appears he has transitioned to the dark side.

The judge in the case, Juan Manuel Merchan, told all parties last week to tone down the divisive rhetoric. This mandate didn't last long with Trump as he was critical of both the judge and the district attorney at an event held hours after he left New York.

The trial date has not been set yet by Judge Merchan. The prosecution wants the trial to begin in January while the defense wants it to begin in the Spring of next year. We will just have to wait and see.

Popular opinion has Bragg trying this case. As we know, he was elected in 2021 and be-

came the first African American to hold that office.

Between now and the trial date, the former president's lawyers will be busy trying to prove innocence out of guilt. They will try to prove evil wins out over good. Good luck with that assertion as it won't work. That is my opinion.

Trump's allies are calling the case weak and without merit. Is there some good in paying off people who have the goods on you? Is there honor in cheating and creating false records?

You and I know there is no honor in his schemes and poor judgements. He has hurt and harmed those around him who had confidence in him. It is my thinking that his political parachute is on the way down.

We the people are seeing Trump's political embarrassment play out right in front of our eyes. He is being shamed with each passing day. History books and historians will not be kind to him.

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## Hundreds attend the JPS Parent and Family Engagement Summit

Jackson Public Schools Newswire

JPS hosted the Parent and Family Engagement Summit March 30 at Cardozo Middle School. Hundreds of parents, family members, staff and scholars attended to learn more about what the district has to offer to help scholars achieve.

The theme for this year's event was "Engaging Families: A Path to Excellence."

The summit began with a registration fair where attendees visited an array of informational booths representing departments across the district, including the Career Development Center (CDC), JPS Human Resources, Advanced Academics and more. A brief ceremony followed that included remarks from Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene

and JPS Parent of the Year Dr. Kerry Lowe.

Dr. McDuffy-Oatis introduced the Summer Reading Book Fashion Show where scholars dressed up to represent their respective books. Watch D.O.G.S. Coordinator Micah Briggs was the master of ceremony.

Immediately following the general session, parents and scholars participated in breakout sessions across Cardozo that covered topics ranging from college and career readiness to Active Parent. Staff members facilitated over 20 breakout sessions for attendees.

Evidence shows that when families, communities and schools work together, scholars are more successful, and the entire community benefits.



### Book Fashion Show Participants

#### Team 1 - Elementary Division

| School        | Scholar               | Book                         |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Baker         | Kennedi Christian     | Kindness Makes Us Strong     |
| Bates         | Titan Kirk            | Goodbye Friend, Hello Friend |
| Boyd          | Cameron Haynes        | March: Book One              |
| Casey         | London Ammons         | My Name is Yoon              |
| McWille       | Kyleigh Jones         | Lola Loves Stories           |
| North Jackson | Kyleigh Martin        | The Ember Stone              |
| Oak Forest    | Mason Vann            | A Boy Called Bat             |
| Obama Magnet  | Wesley Paige          | The Crossover                |
| Spann         | Fallon Russell        | The Ember Stone              |
| Walton        | Mylee Mobley Thompson | Wedgie & Gizmo               |
| Wells APAC    | Taylor Lacey          | The Water Dancer             |

#### Team 2 - Elementary Division

| School     | Scholar                        | Book                         |
|------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Clausell   | Jeremiah Hall                  | Crossover                    |
| Dawson     | LeMya Lindsey                  | Becoming Naomi Leon          |
| Green      | Anthony Tyner + Nyla Jefferson | Goodbye Friend, Hello Friend |
| Johnson    | Claire Harris                  | The Day You Begin            |
| Key        | Karrington Graham              | Me + Mama                    |
| Lake       | SYAsia Keyes                   | Becoming Naomi Leon          |
| Lester     | AjViah Vaughn                  | Me + Mama                    |
| Marshall   | Z/Emily Williams               | Me + Mama                    |
| McLeod     | Aniya Robertson                | Firegirl                     |
| Raines     | Madison Lee                    | The Day You Begin            |
| Shirley    | Sarah Bass                     | Jungle                       |
| Sykes      | Christian Ford                 | Daniel Finds a Poem          |
| Timberlawn | Palkyn Thomas                  | World of Wonders             |
| Van Winkle | Melody Geeter                  | Kindness Makes Us Strong     |
| Wildins    | Jayce Cumby                    | Firegirl                     |

#### Team 3 - Middle Division

| School    | Book                             | Scholar             |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Bailey    | Animal Farm                      | Omari Hart          |
| Blackburn | The Seventh Most Important Thing | Jordan Flowers      |
| Brinkley  | Clayton Byrd                     | Jeremiah Brinson    |
| Kirksey   | The Seventh Most Important Thing | Kyvin Edwards       |
| Northwest | Look Both Ways                   | Haliyan Lindsey     |
| Peeples   | March: Book One                  | Saniyah Tolliver    |
| Powell    | The Seventh Most Important Thing | Cedric Sanders      |
| Whiteen   | I am Malala                      | Marien Tovar Didado |

#### Team 4 - High School Division

| Schools     | Scholar                                               | Book                         |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Lanier      | Marshaun Brown<br>Christopher Moore<br>Aniya Latimore | All American Boys            |
| Forest Hill | Darrin Williams                                       | 1984                         |
| Jim Hill    | Cameron Kitchens                                      | Kindred                      |
| JTECH       | Toni Caldwell                                         | This is my America           |
|             | Arrianna Nicols                                       | Educated                     |
|             | Javious Spann                                         | The Water Dancer             |
|             | Nykenzie Tills                                        | Their Eyes Were Watching God |

### Alcorn State University elects Jordan Buck as first woman SGA president in 17 years

By BOTWC

Alcorn State University newswire

Jordan Buck is an agriculture business management major at Alcorn State University. An active student, she's served in a number of capacities at Alcorn working on various committees and serving this year as junior class president, spearheading student engagement, launching community service initiatives and finding ways to give gratitude to staff and faculty with events like "cafeteria workers appreciation day." Now Buck has made history, as the 2023-2024 Alcorn State Student Government Association president, the first woman SGA president elected in 17 years.

"It feels great to be a representative for my fellow student body. I campaigned all week, introducing myself and my platform to the student body. I hope that my delivery was received. I have many goals for the campus, but my main goal is to ensure the students... that their voice, questions and concerns matter," said Buck.

Her campaign, "L.E.A.D.I.N.G. A Path We Can All Follow," outlined Buck's plans to be a leader the student body can depend on, fostering relationships with her peers by listening, taking accountability and setting goals she plans to meet. Buck credits her time as junior class president with preparing her for this moment, hoping to continue her previous initiatives while also improving student engagements, healthy food options, providing monthly newsletters, collaborating with other HBCUs, implementing mental health days on campus and collaborating with campus safety to ensure safe and effective emergency plans.

"Serving as junior class president has truly prepared me for this position. I am not perfect, and things may not always go as planned, but I will strive to lead selflessly and to the best of my ability," Buck explained.

Former SGA president Christopher Epps congratulated Jordan on her newly elected appointment. He said he knows the "student body will be in good hands," for the next school year, saying that Buck "exemplifies what structured leadership is supposed to look like."

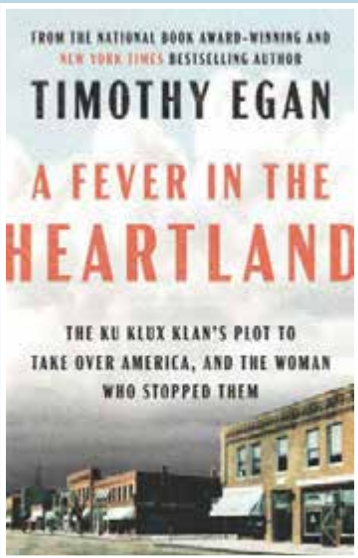
As the 66th SGA president, Buck hopes that she can inspire other young women to follow in her footsteps and really set a precedent for leadership that students can follow for years to come.

"It has been a while [since the last woman president], but I am dedicated and prepared. I have no doubts about my capabilities, but hearing '2023-2023 SGA President Elect' behind my name is an amazing feeling. My goal is to always lead by example and shine an inspirational light on myself, the student body, and the campus of Alcorn State University. Hopefully, the next female SGA president is inspired enough to know she does not have to wait ten-plus years to run for this position," Buck explained.



**Buck**  
PHOTO COURTESY OF  
ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY





BOOK REVIEW:

A FEVER IN THE HEARTLAND

THE KU KLUX KLAN'S PLOT TO TAKE OVER AMERICA, AND THE WOMAN WHO STOPPED THEM

BY TIMOTHY EGAN

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

Who’s in charge around here? That would be you, the person at the top of the chain, the head honcho, the Fearless Leader. Your desk is where the buck stops in your organization. Everything is in your hands and you’re in charge – but, as in the new book “A Fever in the Heartland” by Timothy Egan, don’t get too comfortable at that throne.

When the Ku Klux Klan first appeared, they came in the night

and people thought they were ghosts – which was the point. None of the six original founders, nor any of their subsequent followers wanted to be known as a member of the Klan in those post-Civil War years, and being ghost-like kept their secrets.

Then, the Klan was mostly in the South, although filmmaker D.W. Griffith and Washington politics weren’t against its spread. But by 1922, the Klan had slowly crept northward.

Up north, in Indiana, D.C. Stephenson, who went by the

name “Steve,” was a “young man on the make,” just starting a new life in Evansville, and he noticed what was happening. He knew the Klan had vowed to keep Evansville mostly white and Protestant, and that made him almost giddy. This was something Steve could sink his teeth into.

That spring, he ran for Congress on a platform that promised to fight for the Klan on behalf of every white person in Indiana. In short order, he’d worked his way up and was the leader of the

nation’s fastest-growing KKK chapter in the north.

One year later, though a handful of people quietly fought against what Steve was doing, he was a powerful man who did whatever he wanted to do, bragging that he was the law in Indiana. But his swagger hid something that few knew: Steve was a predator and an alcoholic, and before the spring of 1925 was out, he was also a murderer with a corpse as a witness.

That was when those against him knew it was time to take the

Klan down...


For readers who have no patience for laying out the long facts, “A Fever in the Heartland” can be a bit of frustration.

It starts off with a meeting that, despite good intentions, is clearly not going to end well at all. Author Timothy Egan then switches to a history of the Klan, which is informative and necessary and slides into a long, long horror story of the terrorism of an entire state by a man who gained power with frightening speed. The length of it


may numb you to the terror, and getting to the meat of the story – the subtitle’s promise – feels like forever.

The good news is that when it does, the frustration dissipates immediately and you’ll be turning pages like they’re on fire. Things happen quickly here, as you begin to see how “A Fever in the Heartland” might resonate for modern readers.

If you relish that kind of historical crime drama, look hard at your to-be-read pile and put this one on the top.



**ZACK WALLACE**  
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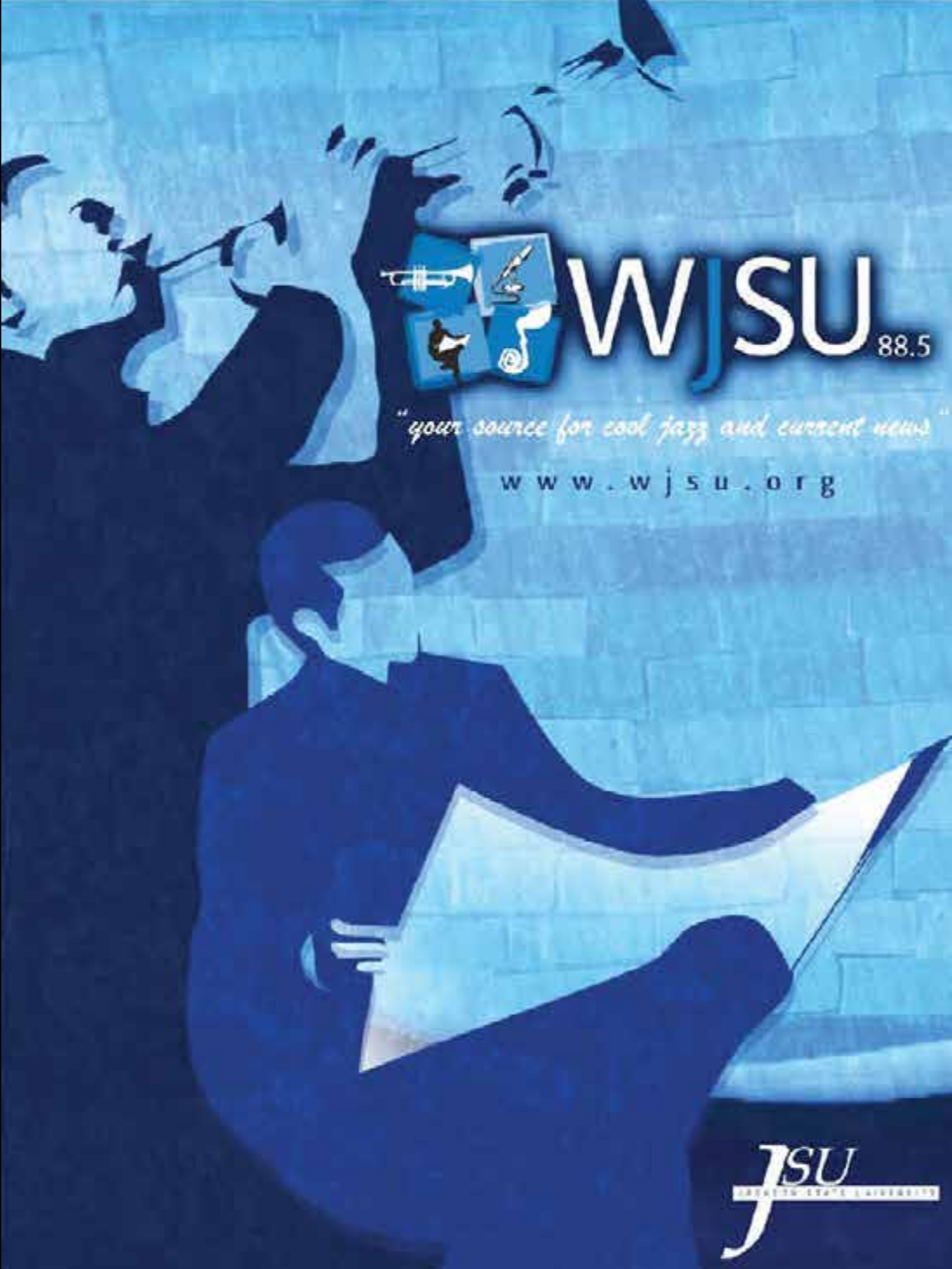
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# Gun death now leading cause of death for children

*The denial must end – our choices are evidence of how we value our children*

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

The Kaiser Family Foundation reported on July 8, 2022, and then partially updated on March 29, 2023, that in 2020 “30% of child and teen suicides are gun related, and the most common type of child and teen firearm death is due to violent assault – 65% of all child and teen firearm deaths are assault. The U.S. is the only country among its peers in which guns are the leading cause of death among children.”

CNN reported on March 29, 2023, that “firearms accounted for nearly 19% of childhood deaths (ages 1-18) in 2021, based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Wonder database. Nearly 3,600 children died in gun-related incidents that year. That’s about five children lost for every 100,000 children in the United States.”

Guns are the leading cause of death for US children and teens, since surpassing car accidents in 2020 – in the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

As reported by National Public Radio, August 13, 2019, we once had a ban on assault weapons in America. “The earlier ban was enacted as a subsection of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, an election-year package meant to show that Democrats were tough on crime. It prohibited the manufacture or sale for civilian use of certain semi-automatic weap-



Hearses outside Hillcrest Memorial Funeral Home, 424 Geraldine Street., Uvalde, TX. 78801  
PHOTO: HILLCREST WEBSITE

## COMMENTARY

ons. The act also banned magazines that could accommodate 10 rounds or more. To secure the votes needed for passage, a 10-year sunset provision was enacted, and the ban’s sponsors agreed to allow those who already had these guns to keep them.”

Fast forward to changing times in America – increasing racial divide, political polarization, different forms of nationalism, all of it wrapped in fear. We cannot ignore that the white population of the United States has steadily decreased from 88.6% in 1960, to 57.8% in 2020. It seems quite clear, as we see the unrest in our country, that certain people view America as “their” country, not

“our” country.

On May 25, 2022, NBC News reports that “Gun sales in the U.S. are rising. So are the deaths caused by those firearms. Whether it’s in child firearm deaths (which peaked in 2020), or active shooter incidents (which are also up), or gun manufacturing (which has doubled in recent years), these weapons exert a growing force on how we live – and, increasingly, how we die, data shows.

There have been twice as many active shooter incidents in the last 11 years as there were in the 11 before, FBI data shows. And along the way, people have continued to buy more guns.” One chart included in this article showed how gun sales far outpaced the Stock Market the day after the Uvalde Texas school shooting. Gun man-

ufacturers refer to assault weapons as “sporting rifles.”

The Democrats passed the 2004 crime bill mentioned earlier and also had control of the Senate and The White House when the 1994 crime bill ended ten years later. From 2017-2019 the Republicans had a trifecta (control of House, Senate and The White House) as mass shootings were on the rise and spoke about pouring money into mental health, more school resource officers and arming teachers.

In 2019 Democrats regained control of the House and introduced a ban on assault weapons, which narrowly passed (217-213) on July 29, 2022. As a precursor to what would happen in the Senate, five House Democrats voted against the assault weapons ban,

and two Republicans voted for it, and this time it was the Democrats possessing a trifecta. The bill has never been able to muster the 60-vote threshold in a 50-50 Senate, to become law, and so both Republicans and Democrats have a hand in allowing America’s children, and many others, to die each year from mass shootings with assault rifles, as part of the broader firearm death totals.

Open Secrets, a nonpartisan, independent and nonprofit research group that tracks money in U.S. politics, now report the top ten US Senators who are accepting the most money from the National Rifle Association (NRA) through the 118th Congress (current) have amassed a total of \$39,833,215 million. Think that through. All Republicans, all claim to be conservative, all with pockets wide open for the NRA to fill include Romney (Utah), Thom Tillis (North Carolina), Ernst (Iowa), Rubio (Florida), Young (Indiana), Cassidy (Louisiana), Johnson (Wisconsin), Cotton (Arkansas), Budd (North Carolina), Hawley (Missouri). All are European Americans and Senator Rubio who is also Hispanic.

Is there any connection between taking money from the NRA and America’s children dying from firearms? Maybe not. Then again, maybe there is when we acknowledge that the NRA is said to be the most influential firearms-rights organization in the country and many of those

who oppose gun controls fill their campaign coffers with NRA money.

Do you think that our elected officials, Republican and Democrat, lose sleep at night over America’s children dying from firearms more than any other method? If the Senate cannot pass an assault weapon ban as part of broader gun controls, perhaps they would at least pass a law that requires any lawmaker who does accept money from the NRA to then set-aside an in-kind contribution in a special fund to divert the cost of our children’s caskets?; let’s say 20% of what they receive. That’s just one measly dollar of every five dollars they pocket.

So, for example, Mitt Romney of Utah, per Open Secrets, has amassed \$13,645,387 million from the NRA so he would contribute \$2,729,077 million of the NRA’s money to the Children’s Casket Fund. Toddler-sized caskets are assumed to be less expensive than teenager-sized caskets, but still, cumulatively these in-kind contributions would go a long way toward covering the financial cost of burying our nation’s children.

The families will never be the same, conceivably for generations, but at least they wouldn’t have to bear the financial burden of burying their children in the land of the free and the home of the brave, where everything is about those dollars.

# With women imprisonment rising, black females still feel the brunt of America’s mass incarceration

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

America imprisons many more of its citizens than any other developed nation, with men comprising most of the incarcerated.

But the rate of growth for female imprisonment has been twice as high as that of men since 1980, according to The Sentencing Project, which estimates that

976,000 women are currently under the supervision of the criminal justice system.

The nonprofit documented a 525% increase in women’s imprisonment in America between 1980 and 2021; the vast majority are black females.

“As this year marks fifty years since the United States began its dramatic increase in imprisonment, it is clearer

than ever that our criminal legal system is not working,” Amy Fetting, executive director of The Sentencing Project, said in a statement. “The continued overcriminalization of women and girls does nothing to improve public safety but needlessly destroys lives, families and communities.”

In 2021, the Sentencing Project reported that the imprisonment rate for

black women – at 62 per 100,000 – was 1.6 times the rate of imprisonment for white women – 38 per 100,000.

Latinx women were imprisoned 49 per 100,000 or 1.3 times the rate of white women.

Additionally, 58% of women in state prisons have a child under 18.

While the overall imprisonment for black and Latinx women has declined since 2000 and increased for white women over that same period, black and Native American girls remain more likely to face incarceration than white, Asian and Latinx girls.

Over one-third of incarcerated girls are held for status offenses, like truancy and curfew violations, or for violating probation.

The statistics compiled by The Sentencing Project arrive after several reports revealed mass incarceration’s heavy burden on black women in general.

“The war on drugs treated black women as if they were just collateral consequences,” Ashley McSwain, executive director of Community Family Life Services, which serves formerly incarcerated women, said during a panel discussion on mass incarceration.

“We were well into this war and this crisis before we realized that women were being affected at alarming rates,” McSwain asserted.

She continued: “When you arrest a woman, ... you got her, her three kids, her grandma, an aunt – everybody’s incarcerated when a woman goes to prison. “So, the impact is huge, and we never seem to talk about that.”

Three years ago, the National Black Women’s Justice Institute partnered with the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide and The Sentencing Project to co-lead the Alice Project, an initiative to end the extreme punishment of women in America and globally.

The group wanted to get advocates, researchers, activists, and academics to work together to get rid of gender bias in extreme sentences.

In an earlier interview, Shamika Wilson explained that her husband is serving a life sentence in a San Diego prison after recently being transferred from a prison much closer to home.

She said the facility didn’t allow for

overnight family visits.

“Financially, it’s hard all around. Before, he was no more than an hour or two away from home, but now it can be close to a ten-hour drive at times,” Wilson responded. “It can cost over \$1,000 to go see him. This is about cycles, and these cycles are going to continue. They don’t think he needs time with his kids to teach them not to go down the same path he did. Their regulations keep families apart.”

Wilson told NBC News that she suffers from diagnosed depression due to stress. She said the situation is taking a toll on the entire family.

“It affects my kids because they wake up crying, asking for their dad. Fifteen minutes [on the phone] is not enough time to read them a bedtime story or see how their school day went,” she said.

“We have to decide between things like using \$50 for a [pre-paid phone card] or saving it so that we can eventually go visit him.”

Black women – mothers, grandmothers, daughters, wives – often must choose between posting bail for their loved ones and missing important bills or allowing a loved one to languish in jail, Democratic Massachusetts Rep. Ayanna Pressley stated.

“Sometimes, when their romantic partner or co-parents behind bars, black women are forced to provide for their families alone,” she remarked after reading a study by the bipartisan criminal justice reform organization FWD.us and Cornell University.

Pressley said that with firsthand knowledge, one can speak truth to power, a fact that is not limited to legislators and politicians but includes the millions who understand the injustice of the prison-industrial complex intimately.

“There are 113 million Americans who know what it’s like to see their loved one behind bars – even more if we broaden the definition of family,” Pressley wrote on her website.

“Imagine if these millions of people voted as an entire bloc in 2020, demanding that their candidates – for President, Congress, state legislatures, and judges – were dedicated to passing comprehensive and bold criminal justice reform? Such a powerful movement would help to end the oppression and exploitation in our prison systems.”

**CHOOSE TO GROW  
A-TEAM & ESTEEM  
Market Day**

Middle school youth from the Choose to Grow afterschool program have worked hard all year. Now they are ready to show off their entrepreneur skills. With their mentors, they have designed and created different products to sell to the community. They keep all the profit! So come out and support them. It's going to be FUN!

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 22, 2023**

**11:00 AM – 03:00 PM**

**CITY PLAZA (OLD JACKSON SQUARE)  
2460 TERRY RD, JACKSON, MS 39204**

**HELP SUPPORT THESE YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS  
FROM ACROSS THE STATE**

Stalls featured: Fruit Shakes, Burgers, Milk Shakes.

Logos at the bottom: Franciscan Sisters of Original Adoration, MDHS, JSD Foundation.



# JSU's Spring Game this Saturday

By Timothy Ward  
Sports Writer

Saturday, April 15, 2023, 3 p.m., at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium, head coach TC Taylor will have his first spring game as head coach of Jackson State University.

The former standout player and coach was named head coach after the departure of Deion Sanders. Ever since, Taylor has hit the ground running. Dealing with players getting into the transfer portal, some players returning back, some players still making decision to play or not play for JSU, finalizing a coaching staff, and who will be the new starting quarterback for THEE I LOVE. Many things to deal with in a short period of time for a brand new head coach.

In one of the most hyped up spring games in years, Taylor is poised and focused on the mission at hand.

A good crowd is expected to see the “new” Tigers. Skeptics around SWAC predict JSU will fall off due to Sanders leaving with key players. However, Taylor has added some pretty good replacements for those players.

A few players who committed when Sanders were there, still came on to Jackson State. One of the questions so far has been will running back Sy’Veon Wilkinson play this season.

“He’s still part of our team for now,” Taylor said. “Sy’Veon is trying to figure some things out right now. He’s a part of this team until he tells us he’s not. We’ve got to focus on the guys that’s in here now.”

Wilkinson was the leading rusher for JSU last season.

With some of the new recruits Taylor has added on the offensive line, his preference is



DJ Stevens catches a pass in Celebration Bowl.

to play more smash mouth football. JD Davis and Des Moultrie have picked up the slack in practice and will be able to go when their numbers are called.

One of the biggest playmakers from last season was DJ Stevens at the tight end position. Stevens made the all SWAC second team. Stevens was a great outlet for Shadeur Sanders last season catching timely pass after timely pass. His biggest play of the season came during the homecoming game against Campbell. Stevens caught a short pass from Shadeur Sanders and raced down the sidelines for a 48 yard touchdown. The big man was motoring down the field outrunning several defensive players.

The importance of that play was, it was right after halftime and the game was tight, 9-7. Stevens’ touchdown gave the team a little breathing room, and took Tiger nation off the edge of their seats. Stevens caught 37 passes for 376 yards with 4 touchdowns last season.

There is a lot of excitement for the upcoming season for Stevens and the new offensive coordinator Maurice Harris. Harris coached under Hugh Freeze and Ole Miss and Liberty. Liberty last year was ranked in the top 25 nationally for passing yards. Tight ends play a major role in his offense.

Under his guidance, Harris has two former tight ends make it to the NFL. Evan Engram was a first round draft pick in 2017 by the New York Giants. Dawson Knox was a third round draft pick in 2019 by the Buffalo Bills. Both players are still currently playing and making an impact with their teams. Expect some great things from Stevens and the offense this season.

In the meantime, pull out your JSU shirts, pom poms, hats and signs, and take them to “The Vet” this Saturday. For the band fans, The Sonic Boom will be in attendance.

Rock The House with the Boom and show new head coach TC Taylor some love.



DJ Stevens scores on a 48 yard touchdown pass.



Good crowd is expected for the Spring Game.



Excitement is here.



Sonic Boom will be in attendance for the Spring Game.



Head Coach TC Taylor



# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

## Job Fair

Raymond High School hosted a job fair and brought several career choices to their students including Amazon, Nissan North America, Continental Tire, Mercedes, also Mississippi Highway Patrol, Jackson Fire Department, Army, Marines and Airforce etc. to the Raymond Campus.







Hope  
credit union

Custom Cuts & Styles, a barbershop pictured here, received a Hinds County Small Business COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency Program Loan & Grant

# HOPE for Businesses in Hinds County

Running a successful business isn't easy. Small businesses face unique hurdles, and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic continues for entities across Hinds County.

In response, Hope Credit Union (HOPE) partnered with Hinds County to launch the **Hinds County Small Business COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency Program** last fall.

After just six months, HOPE has provided more than \$4 million in financing to 93 businesses in Hinds County, already exceeding the program's two-year goal of financing 45 businesses.

While all the grant funds have been deployed, HOPE will continue to provide flexible financing to qualifying businesses affected by the pandemic. If you are a small business owner in need of financing for:<sup>1</sup>

- Payroll and benefits
- Costs to retain employees
- Mortgage, rent, utilities
- Building improvements
- Other operating costs

visit [www.hopecu.org/hcrrp](http://www.hopecu.org/hcrrp) or scan the QR Code below.



Get started with  
Hope Credit Union  
today!

## Custom Cuts & Styles Barbershop

Jackson, MS

Chris Paige, owner of Custom Cuts and Styles in Jackson, MS, said that his customer volume is still not back to pre-pandemic levels. "Some people never came back," he said. A customer, who also owns a business, told him about the program administered by HOPE and Hinds County. He received a \$25,000 loan and an additional \$25,000 that will become a grant when the loan is repaid after five years.

"It was much-needed for the business. Having the funds available would carry me to the point where we weren't hurting anymore," said Paige, who added that he was grateful that HOPE focuses on supporting local entrepreneurs who faced challenges in applying for other federal pandemic aid.

## Visit one of our Greater Jackson locations.

### Medical Mall Branch

350 Woodrow Wilson Avenue,  
Suite 370B  
Jackson, MS 39213  
(601)362-8050

### University Boulevard Branch

1748 University Boulevard  
Jackson, MS 39204  
(601)965-7100

### Utica, MS Branch

106 E Main Street  
Utica, MS 39175  
(601)991-3336

### Terry, MS Branch

109 W Cunningham Avenue  
Terry, MS 39170  
(601)878-0773

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<sup>1</sup>All loans are subject to credit approval.