

Profile in leadership: Augustus Leon Collins

The Mississippi Link newspaper takes pride in calling “attention” and rendering a “hand salute” to a Mississippi-born and raised officer and leader of the highest distinction

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

In 2019, when accepting the Mississippi Center for Justice, Champions of Justice Honor, General Augustus Leon Collins spoke of growing up a country boy from

Booneville, Mississippi. He thanked his parents, Leroy and Deborah Williams, who he claimed “never gave up on me even though I was a handful. I grew up in an era when other parents in the neighborhood would grab me by the ear, pinch my thigh, or slap me

in the back of the head when they saw me doing wrong or not living up to my family’s expectations. They believed in me, and they encouraged me that I could become more

Collins
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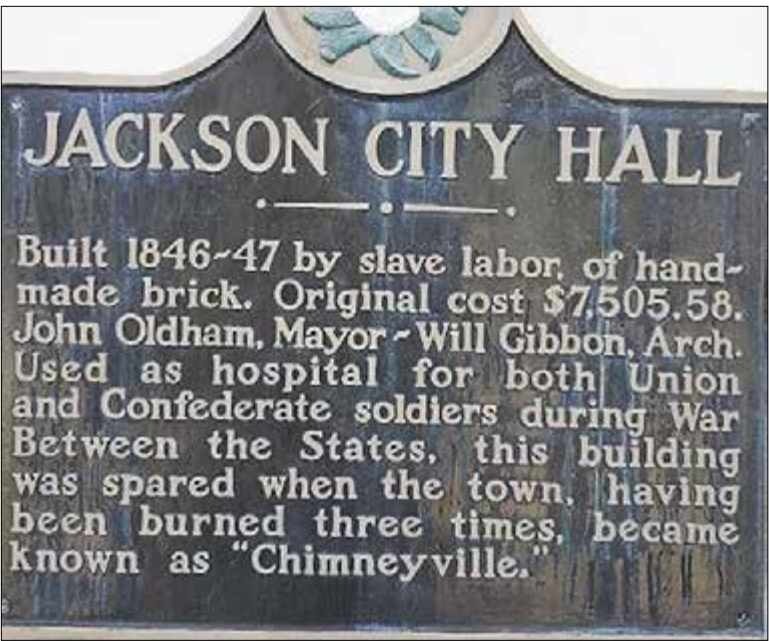


L-R, Through the years – Augustus L. Collins as a private, major general and chief executive officer

From court action to an agreement on trash contract



Special Judge H. David Clark, turned mediator PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG



Placard at front entrance of Jackson, MS City Hall – lest we forget.

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

In the span of seven hours the landscape shifted from loggerheads to compromise, finally.

On Monday, April 17, Special Judge H. David Clark, heard arguments from the City Council attorneys who had brought a suit against Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba over the contract for solid waste collections. They were effectively asking the court to allow the City Council (Legislative Branch) to negotiate a contract thereby performing the

duties of the mayor (Executive Branch), in this cause in Hinds County Chancery Court styled as G2023-103.

At the onset, a supplemental motion to stay proceedings by the mayor in his official capacity, was denied. This motion questioned whether the City Council has the legal authority to bring a lawsuit against the mayor, and whether the City Council has the authority to pay independent counsel.

Judge Clark heard arguments from both sides over the course

of ninety minutes before a recess was called. He referred to the overall situation as a “travesty, a great example of failed leadership all the way around – when leaders won’t talk to each other and compromise.” When attorneys for the City Council conceded the suit was political in nature, he scolded them for bringing the matter to court. “What you have here is the city suing the city,” stated Clark. “Why are we even here, you can’t sue yourself.”

The judge cited the first two sections of the Mississippi Con-

stitution from memory, then stated, “What you are asking for is the authority to perform executive functions, and I don’t think we can amend the constitution this morning.”

City Council attorney John Scanlon indicated that “we are in a unique and very unfortunate situation today. We are asking for these powers in a very limited way, when the mayor fails to act, then the City Council can take action.” It didn’t appear to

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Family of 16-year-old shot in alleged “Wrong House” incident retain Attorneys Ben Crump and Lee Merritt



The engagement of Attorneys Lee Merritt (left) and Ben Crump confirm that the Yarl case is likely to gain national media attention. PHOTO OF LEE MERRITT COUTESY OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY. PHOTO OF BEN CRUMP BY LORIE SHAULL

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A story broken by the *Kansas City Defender*, a family is claiming that their 16-year-old son, Ralph Yarl, was shot twice at the front door of a man after appearing at the wrong home as he attempted to pick up his siblings.

According to news reports, Ralph Yarl, who is black, was shot twice by a white man in North Kansas City. The man who shot Yarl was later questioned and released by police. The reaction that has followed after reports of Yarl’s shooting by the *Kansas City Defender* has been strong and pointed.

“This was not an ‘error,’ this was a hate crime. You don’t shoot a child in the head because he rang your doorbell. The fact that the police said it was an ‘error’ is why America is the way it

is,” Dr. Faith Spoonmorethe told the *Kansas City Defender*. Spoonmorethe is an aunt of Yarl.

“There can be no excuse for the release of this armed and dangerous suspect after admitting to shooting an unarmed, non-threatening and defenseless teenager that rang his doorbell. Our offices have been retained to seek justice for Ralph Yarl. We demand immediate action,” wrote attorney Lee Merritt of Texas on social media April 16.

“We’ve been retained by Ralph Yarl and his family following the unjustifiable shooting of the 16-year old by an unidentified white male assailant. Lee Merritt and our legal team demand Clay County prosecutors and law enforcement swiftly identify, arrest and prosecute the man responsible,” wrote attorney Ben Crump on the

MCTLC hosts 19th annual literary luncheon

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Mary Church Terrell Literary Club (MCTLC) hosted its’ 19th Annual Literary Luncheon at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson, April 15, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. The theme for the occasion, “Why Fiction.”

MCTLC was formed in 1912 and has been a champion for literacy, community service and scholarships. Three years ago, the luncheon was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Greetings were extended by Chris Tanner-Watkins, MCTLC president, and Mary Collier, state president, Mississippi Federation of Colored Women Clubs, Inc. & Youth Affairs.

Music for the occasion was



Top (l-r) Leona Bishop, Felicia Brookins, Chris T. Watkins, Annie Archie, Seated, Dr. Marian Talley, Dr. Candice Love Jackson

provided by Tougaloo College Jazz Ensemble, Jessie Primer, director.

“What a blessing it was to

see so many beautiful and familiar faces across the room,” were the sentiments shared by co-chair, Leona Bishop, during

her introduction of the guest speaker, four time-award winning author, Felicia Brookins.

Brookins expounded on the theme, “Why Fiction,” which she said provided her an escape and refuge as she survived generational trauma.

Attendees were moved by her presentation and purchased autographed copies of her Christian fiction novels, “Sister Nadeen’s Ways” and “Reprobate Ways.”

During the luncheon, the MCTLC Woman of the Year was recognized for outstanding service and contributions towards club endeavors. Dr. Candice Love Jackson, 1st vice-president and co-chair for the luncheon was stunned by

Luncheon
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Yarl, a 16-year-old African American, was shot after accidentally ringing the doorbell of the wrong home while attempting to pick up his sibling.

Yarl
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Women's Council for Philanthropy pays tribute to former JSU administrators at special luncheon

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Jackson State University Women's Council for Philanthropy held a special luncheon April 10 in honor of four outstanding former JSU administrators for their outstanding contribution to the university.

The 11:30 a.m. luncheon, held at the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson, spotlighted the achievements of Betty Ward Fletcher, Ph.D., Curtina Moreland-Young, Ph.D., Gwendolyn Spencer Prater, Ph.D. and Dora Scruggs Washington, Ph.D.

Gaila Porter, vice president of the Women's Council for Philanthropy served as Mistress of Ceremony and Rhea Williams, chair of the organization, extended a welcome and gave the occasion. Williams stated that this was the first luncheon held by the organization since the COVID pandemic.

A special video presentation featured each of the honorees, followed by a special performance tribute from JSU's MADDRAMA, led by Dr. Mark Henderson.

Betty Graves, Ph.D. and Judge Patricia D. Wise, both members of Women's Council for Philanthropy, recognized each of the honorees for their achievements and praised them for the impact they had at JSU and be-



Acting JSU President Elayne Anthony (center) and honorees (l-r) Curtina Moreland Young, Dora Scurggs Washington, Gwendolyn Spencer Prater and Betty Ward Fletcher PHOTO BY CHARLES A. SMITH/UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

yond. A few of their achievements are listed as follows:

Dr. Fletcher, a Rankin County, Mississippi native, holds a distinguished 32-year career as an academician, researcher and university administrator. At JSU, she ascended the academic ladder from a grant-funded staff position to interim president. She became the first African American woman to lead a 4-year public university in Mississippi. Fletcher is a prolific writer, speaker and community activist. At this juncture in her life her focus is

on being significant rather than successful.

Dr. Moreland-Young began her professional career at Jackson State in 1978, as an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science. Among her many professional achievements, Moreland-Young helped revive the master's program in political science and assisted in acquiring the accreditation for the Master of Public Policy and Administration degree (MPPA). She has achieved many professional milestones in her



Dr. Mark Henderson and MADDRAMA PERFORMERS PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

field. Three of these fellowships include The WK Kellogg Foundation Fellowship, the Rockefeller Research Fellowship and White House Fellowship (Regional Finalist, National Alternate.)

Dr. Washington began her teaching career at Jackson State College in 1957 as an instructor of speech and English and director of the Dunbar Dramatic Guild in what was then known as the Language Arts Division. She was also a founding member of JSU's Department of Speech and

Dramatic Art in 1963. In 1973, she began developing an undergraduate program in communicative disorders and later became the first director of the Speech and Hearing Center. After a productive forty-two years of service Dr. Washington retired in 1999 as vice president of Academic Affairs and Professor Emeritus of Speech and Communicative Disorders.

Dr. Prater is Dean Emerita, School of Social Work at JSU. She is the

*Luncheon
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Luncheon

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founding Dean of the School of Social Work and Founding Dean of the former College of Public Service at Jackson State. During her tenure, she served in major leadership positions on national professional boards and educational councils, published in refereed journals and contributed book chapters to various texts, and served on editorial boards of numerous professional journals. Dr. Prater was elected first vice president of the National Association of Social Workers, chaired the National Program Committee, and served on the National Finance Committee

Founded in 2007, the Women’s Council for Philanthropy was created to increase student scholarship opportunities and provide them with the added support of career mentors and support to prepare them for leadership roles in their chosen profession.

A \$500 JSU-endowed scholarship was given to various organizations in the name of each honoree; the event brought in a total of \$43,325, also earmarked for student scholarships at JSU.

JSU Senior Class President Kayla Hudson said being a recipient of a student scholarship was very beneficial to her. It made the difference between being able to live on campus and possibly not being able to live on campus. She stated, “I am the sister of a commuter student who didn’t have all the opportunities to interact with other students on campus, or attend as many events, because she didn’t have the benefit of living on campus.” Hudson said her parents did not want to cover the cost of living on-campus so she began applying for academic scholarships and was able to have the experience of campus-living.

Closing remarks were made by JSU Acting President, Dr. Elayne Anthony. She stated that each of the honorees held a distinct place in her heart because of the contributions they made to the university. She said, “Throughout their careers and tenure, they have been distinguished women, they have been outstanding women, and they have been women of integrity. They have led the path for so many of us to follow, and I want each one of them to know how much I appreciate them.”

Luncheon entertainment was supplied by the Dowell Taylor Trio. Gold sponsors for the event were C Spire Foundation, The Kirkland Group and W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Silver sponsors included Brian Johnson, Dr. Rhea Williams Bishop, Strategic Systems, Inc. and Brown, Ewing & Co., D.A. CPA’s.

The JSU Women’s Council of Philanthropy raised over \$43,000 for student scholarships. Photo by Charles A. Smith/University Communications)



Judge Patricia D. Wise recognizes honorees. PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON



Betty Graves, Ph.D. recognizes honorees. PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON



Rhea Williams-Bishop extends welcome to luncheon guests. Photo by Jackie Hampton



Forward Table: L-R) Evelyn Lockhart, Acting JSU President Elayne H. Anthony, Ph.D., Gloria Shields (Anthony’s sister), Lorna Thomas, Dr. Juanyce Taylor, Ph.D. and Mississippi Link Publisher Jackie Hampton. PHOTO BY LEMIA THOMPSON, PH.D.



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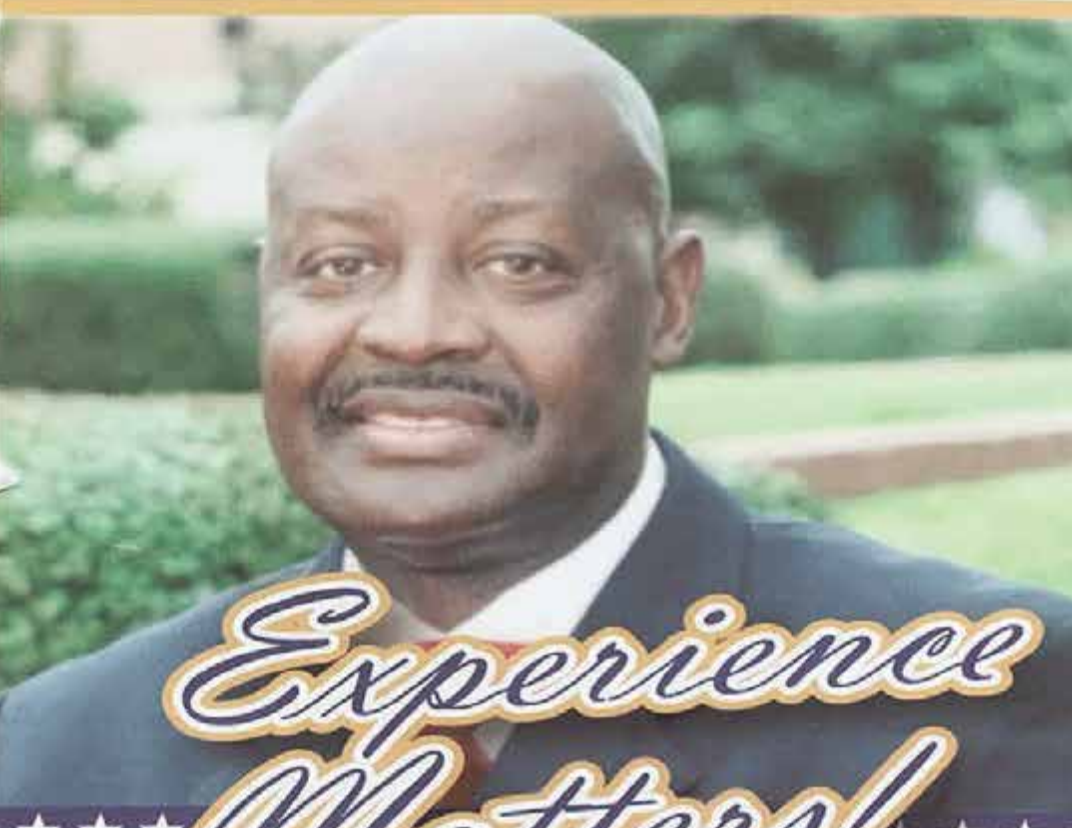
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Trash

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go over well.

Judge Clark heard from the mayor’s attorney, Felicia Perkins, and from City Attorney Catoria Martin to clear up the overall timeline.

“We’re not going to fix this in court, we’re going to ultimately fix it at the ballot box, to be honest with you. This case should not be here. This should be a compromise, cooperating, looking out for the best interests of the citizens of Jackson,” the judge said.

After a 15-minute recess that became 45 minutes, Judge Clark said, “We are in the process of discussing several legal issues, several factual issues, and the bottom line is – several practi-

cal issues to see what we can do to right the ship here. I’m going to spend time now and this afternoon discussing these issues, and so we are going to recess until 9 a.m., (next day) and that is subject to what transpires this afternoon.”

But before 9 a.m. could ever come, an agreement was hammered out for a one-year emergency contract with Richard’s Disposal, Inc. and the lawsuit by the City Council, and the countersuit by the mayor were dismissed.

At press briefings on Monday afternoon, the mayor said, “We’re pleased, but what is most important is that we express gratitude that the resident’s trash

will no longer be on the ground.”

Current council president, Ashby Foote, indicated “the council was able to reduce the cost by about \$160,000 a month from what they had presented to us last week.” He also indicated that he was sorry for these past seventeen days and appreciated the trauma they have gone through.

Ward 6 Councilman Aaron Banks said, “We knew that the best thing to do was to compromise, and as my colleague Grizzell stated – and he had said to me a couple of times – put the people in the front of your mind and let’s figure a way out of this,” per WLBT.

According to WAPT Channel

16 news, Ward 7 Councilwoman Virgi Lindsay said, “I just want to take a moment to thank my fellow colleagues. This has been a very long day. I mean, none of us have had breakfast or lunch. We were really at the courthouse today rolling up our sleeves and trying to come up with a solution.”

For the last eighteen months compromise was too much of a challenge for a majority of City Council members, making it painfully obvious to Jackson’s residents that these elected leaders were placing their own personal agendas above the welfare of the city. It took a retired judge to get their attention in a meaningful way, with trash piling up

in the streets for seventeen days.

The council voted 4-2 to approve an emergency one-year contract with Richard’s Disposal on Tuesday afternoon, with Councilmember Kenneth Stokes absent. After all this time, it was just Councilman Banks, who had long been opposed to anyone but Waste Management, that changed his vote allowing the contract to be approved. Councilmember Foote, despite his contradictory public comments above, was joined by Councilmember Hartley in continuing to vote against the agreement.

In a nakedly bold twist just prior to the vote, Foote asked that Councilman Hartley lead the pledge of allegiance. Typi-

cally, this is not done at special meetings of the City Council.

They have had no allegiance to the residents of Jackson; wasting tax dollars on legal expenses, doing everything in their power to have Waste Management continue to charge us exorbitant prices. Countless hours were spent that could have been applied to other pressing issues in the city while trying to keep a black contractor from picking up trash in a majority black city. Residents and businesses had no garbage pick up for seventeen days.

According to this writer, allegiance to themselves has been the status quo and the citizens of Jackson will not forget.

Luncheon

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Members of the Mary Church Terrell Literary Club, Jackson, MS PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

the announcement that she had been chosen, and shared this statement: “After a three-year absence, the community’s overwhelming support of our annual luncheon acknowledges the impact and legacy of service provided by Mary Church Terrell Literary Club in the Jackson and surrounding area.”

Club President Chris Tanner Watkins, dur-

ing her remarks, added, “We humbly thank the greater Jackson community for the support shown as we continue our financial contributions to deserving high school seniors and other community projects. Without you, we could not accomplish our mission.”

Yarl

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evening of April 16.

The Yarl shooting happens as the country is gripped in debate about the rise in gun homicides. The number of mass shootings has also risen over the last two years.

“Ralph Yarl, 16, was shot twice by a white man in Kansas City after accidentally ringing the doorbell of the wrong home. The man shot Ralph in the head through his glass door, and then when Yarl was already bleeding out on the ground, shot him again,” wrote Moms Demand Action founder Shannon Watts.

“My goodness...let’s be for justice, which is a continuum. That means the man who did this should be charged and we need to work for the legislative and heart change to prevent these tragedies,” wrote Bernice King, the daughter of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Protest events are scheduled in support of Ralph Yarl in the community to demand justice.

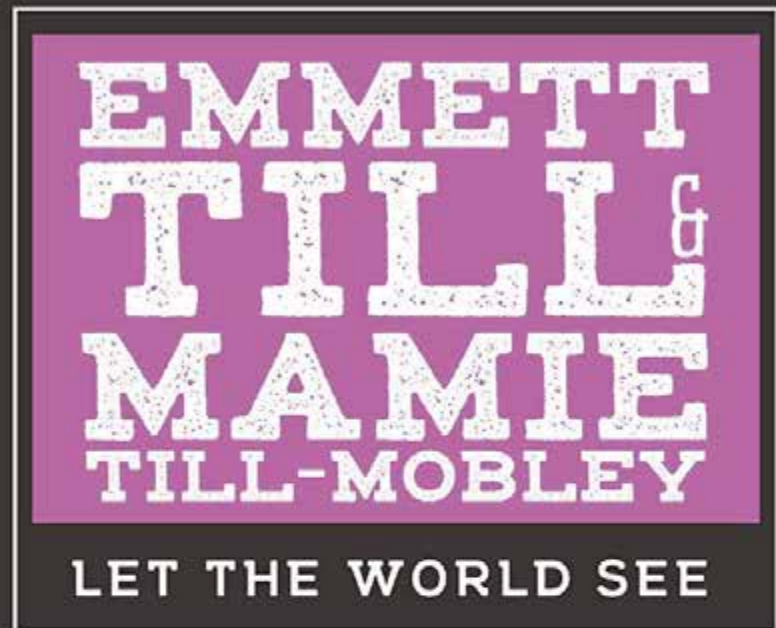
“The Yarl family is urging supporters to help spread awareness about the case and bring attention to the issue of racial violence in America,” reports the *Kansas City Defender*.

The engagement of Attorneys Ben Crump and Lee Merritt confirm that the Yarl case is likely to gain national media attention.

Crump rose to national prominence in 2012 when he represented the family of Trayvon Martin, who was murdered by a self-proclaimed “neighborhood watch” volunteer in Sanford, Florida. Crump’s advocacy helped bring attention to the case and led to the indictment of Martin’s killer – George Zimmerman.

Since then, Crump has continued to represent families of victims of police brutality and other civil rights violations, including the families of Michael Brown, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd. He has also been involved in advocacy efforts to reform the criminal justice system and end police brutality.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE and the founder of Black Virginia News. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke



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Lord, hear our prayer



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRAYSCRIPTURE.ORG

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Being raised in the Catholic brand of Christianity, speaking the words “Lord, hear our prayer” at Mass was inescapable. A component of intercessory prayer – prayer for others – delivered with the deepest heartfelt sincerity, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

The earth has fully orbited the sun, and once again we find ourselves in the month of April. Many things happen in the month of April such as recognitions, remembrances, acknowledgements, Holy Days and the list is exhaustive. Just to name a few more: Easter, Passover, Earth Day, Administrative Professionals Day, Arbor Day, National School Librarian Day, World Autism Day, National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day.

One other day in April, the 3rd, is called National Inspiring Joy Day. Wow, who knew? It surely has a nice ring to it. Here in Mississippi though, on April 3rd, instead of inspiring joy, the Governor inspired more hurt and pain when he again proclaimed April as Confederate Heritage Month. He goes above and beyond by doing so – a matter of choice on his part – as technically, by statute, only the final day of April is deemed Confederate Memorial Day in Mississippi, per reporting by *The Clarion Ledger*.

How can a governor, a Christian, a family man, father of three daughters, do such a thing? He can do it because he has the power to do so, and importantly, there is a large appetite for this thinking and behavior in Mississippi – that’s why.

What can we do? We can pray for him. Yes, you heard right. There is so much that we cannot do, but we always need to remember to do what we can, what we are able to do, otherwise our silence makes us complicit.

We pray Lord for Governor Reeves, as the highest elected

COMMENTARY

leader of our state, that his eyes be opened to the God-given value and dignity of all Mississippians – “Lord, hear our prayer.”

We pray Lord for his eyes and heart to see the poor and downtrodden on the streets searching for pennies and dimes on the ground as he passes by them under police escort to the mansion, where he meets with those more fortunate in their suits and ties and fine dresses – “Lord, hear our prayer.”

We pray Lord for his acknowledgment that mental illness is a disease, not a moral failing, and to use his powers and his strong Christian spirit to truly advocate for these people who are sick, not bad – just as he surely would for a sick family member or relative – “Lord, hear our prayer.”

We pray Lord for his eyes to see the gross inequity of a legal system in our state that incarcerates more men and women than any other state in the nation, and consequently the entire world, and the discrimination that is alive when 38% of our state’s population is African American, yet 62% of inmates are African American, and to use his power and influence to initiate constructive change – “Lord, hear our prayer.”

We pray Lord for Governor Reeves to specifically seek out minorities to serve in the highest levels of the Mississippi government where currently 94% of agency heads are white, in the blackest state in the country. Let him see their skills and abilities first-hand, so that they stop being invisible to him, and so that he can listen to what they have to say so that he can better govern for all– “Lord, hear our prayer.”

We pray Lord for him to do a complete turn-around in attitude and actions toward the City of Jackson, our state Capital, and not only cease the oppressive denial of funding, but

to embrace our city in every respect, contributing to a deeply needed revitalization of The City with Soul; a win-win dynamic rather than the dynamic where others win while Jackson loses – “Lord, hear our prayer.”

We pray Lord for him to be freed from presiding over the state with the lowest life expectancy in the entire nation. We pray that he uses his powers to aide in eliminating health disparities, that he grasps the critical importance of all Mississippians being able to see a doctor and to receive the services they need to lead healthier lives, and raise healthier children – “Lord, hear our prayer.”

We pray Lord for him to understand that by fortifying and growing only certain aspects of our economy, that our state will always be last in many areas, but by investing in all aspects of our economy we will grow and thrive, and the people will say – if the leadership found a way to change in Mississippi, then anyone can change – “Lord, hear our prayer.”

We pray Lord for his rejection of racism, for him to be able and eager to embrace and love all people, regardless of their skin color, just as Jesus does. And to use his powerful voice in Mississippi – the incinerator of inequality – to bring about fairness and equality for all Mississippians and to revoke the painful reminder of slavery and oppression inherent in declaring April Confederate Heritage Month – “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Prayer is indeed something that we can do, action versus inaction. Prayer is often referred to as a critical component of our walk with the Lord. In this month, especially in this month of The Resurrection, let’s not be led down the paths of frustration and despair, let’s always remember to pray – a daily channel of our faith – and let’s offer intercessory prayer for those who need it the very most.

Rolling Fork, Mississippi faces tough road rebuilding after tornado

By Michael Goldberg
Associated Press/Report for America

The scent of the Mississippi Delta’s soil took hold of Charlie Weissinger’s psyche at an early age, and he has chased it ever since.

Weissinger, 37, works at a bank to support his farming addiction in Rolling Fork, where his family has grown cotton, corn, soybeans, rice or wheat since 1902.

“It’s something about the lifestyle, of being able to watch something that you’re able to create from start to finish,” he said. “It’s so strange that you can do everything right, and then Mother Nature can take it away. And so it’s a constant battle of man’s will versus Mother Nature, of trying to see how well you can do in the face of adversity.”

Weissinger’s farm was mostly spared when a deadly tornado tore through Rolling Fork last month as it carved a path of destruction through parts of western and northern Mississippi. But many in the predominantly black farming community weren’t as fortunate.

The twister killed 13 of Rolling Fork’s roughly 1,700 residents, destroyed about 300 homes and businesses and laid waste to entire blocks, leaving many to wonder whether their small-town bonds and shared heritage will be enough to convince one another to stay and try to rebuild.

Rolling Fork has a proud history, claiming blues legend Muddy Waters as a native son and a role in the invention of the teddy bear, after President Theodore Roosevelt refused to shoot a restrained bear during a 1902 hunting trip.

But the city and surrounding Sharkey County are in one of the country’s poorest regions and were already facing tough economic challenges before the March 24 tornado lashed the community with 200 mph (320 kph) winds, closing down nearly every local business. Volatile agricultural markets and a lack of jobs and new industry have kept Sharkey’s poverty rate at around 35%, nearly double Mississippi’s roughly 19% rate and triple the nation’s nearly 12% rate.

“We want to keep our Blues heritage. We still want to see some Rolling Fork when it’s rebuilt,” local Travis Gully said as he walked down a hard-hit street near the roughly 135-year-old Rolling Fork Methodist Church a few days after the tornado hit. “We are the home of Muddy Waters. We are the home of the ted-

dy bear. We want to see the bottle trees in our yards to remind people of our rich heritage.”

The destruction can seem unquantifiable to weary residents who have been working alongside a network of volunteers every day since the tornado to sort through mounds of rubble. Some homes were lifted off the ground by their foundations. A bear statue commemorating Roosevelt’s visit still stands in the heart of downtown, but the twister left its mark on hundreds of structures, including schools, clinics and the local hospital.

The community has pulled together, but the tornado stacked longstanding challenges on top of newer ones, such as high inflation and rising interest rates. In a rebuilt Rolling Fork, residents want more jobs, better infrastructure and a fighting chance to keep people from fleeing.

“What in the hell are we going to do? That’s all I can think,” Willard Miller, a 73-year-old lifelong resident, said from his driveway as he looked out on his mangled neighborhood. “There’s a lot of young people, they ain’t coming back. And they have no reason to other than this is their hometown and their parents are probably here.”

Jerry Stevens owned the Cloverfield Laundromat in downtown Rolling Fork for 20 years. Its walls were blown away, but its 26 washers and dryers remain planted to the ground. Even if he rebuilds, he isn’t sure if many of his old customers will follow suit.

“I’m scared a lot of the building won’t come because inflation is so high right now,” Stevens said. “Interest rates on loans are really high. I’m thinking when they get their insurance checks, they may just go somewhere else and buy a house that is already standing.”

Rolling Fork has been tested by the elements before. The effects of economic stagnation have been compounded by repeated bouts of heavy rainfall that turn tame backwaters into flooded terrain. In a wet season, water can overtop levees and spill onto fertile soil, swallowing whatever ill-fated crops lie beneath.

In 2019, the worst flooding in the area since 1973 drove some from their homes. But the city now faces a rebuilding effort unlike any it has undertaken.

President Joe Biden, who toured the devastation, approved a disaster declaration for the state, freeing up federal funds for temporary housing, home repairs and loans to cover unin-

sured property losses. But there is concern about how the aid will be spent.

“The citizens have lost everything,” said Calvin Stewart, a five-term alderman representing the city’s first ward. “With all the funds people are trying to bring into the city, I need to make sure those funds get to the most impacted folks.”

The influx of federal funds comes with Mississippi embroiled in its largest-ever corruption case. A welfare scandal has exposed how millions of dollars intended for the state’s neediest people were instead diverted to the rich and powerful.

Amid a current of distrust, communities that have strong social and civic institutions before disasters strike do a better job of allocating relief funds and retaining residents, said David Peters, a professor of rural sociology at Iowa State University.

“When natural disasters like tornadoes or floods hit, communities take two different trajectories,” Peters said. “Communities where there’s strong social capital are fairly resilient. The problem is, those rural communities are fairly rare. In communities that have an absence of social capital, federal monies are mismanaged. And most often, people leave.”

Tasmin Bee, a teacher, is among those who plan to stay, even though the storm blew the roof off the home she bought in August. With Rolling Fork’s schools closed, she said she has to take her five children out of town to keep them busy.

“There is nothing here for kids. You don’t even have a YMCA,” Bee said. They got a city pool, but it’s small. They had a baseball park. If you want to take the kids to the arcade or something like to have a good time, you’ve got to travel. “

When Charlie Weissinger, the banker-farmer, needs a place to take his two sons, he brings them to the patch of farmland that has had its hooks in him for as long as he can remember.

“My boys can decide to go anywhere in the world they want to,” Weissinger said. “But I get them down here, and they get a smell of the dirt. It will follow them for the rest of their lives.”

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

Mississippi to require consumption-based water billing

By Michael Goldberg
Associated Press/Report for America

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves signed legislation Friday requiring localities to base water bills on personal consumption, blocking a proposed reform by the federally appointed manager of the troubled water system in the state’s capital city.

The Republican governor signed House Bill 698 months after Ted Henifin, who was appointed in November by a federal court to help improve Jackson’s water infrastructure, released a proposal calling for billing water based on property values rather than personal use.

Henifin said the new billing model would be a more equitable method of pricing water in a city where roughly 25% of residents live in poverty.

It would be unfair to charge people for water based on factors unrelated to how much they consume, Reeves said in a statement on Friday.

“Water bills based on property values squeeze the middle class,” Reeves said. “They can’t afford to pay more for the home they already own. Water bills will continue to be based off personal consumption – just like what is being done throughout the rest of the country.”

Rep. Shanda Yates, an independent from Jackson, introduced the legislation, which passed with bipartisan support. Several Jackson-area lawmakers opposed the bill.

In January, Henifin released a proposal calling for a monthly cap on water fees for homes and commercial properties. The pro-

posed solution was a response to the loss of revenue Jackson has experienced as its tax base eroded over the past few decades. It also would reduce the system’s dependence on city water meters, which have been mired in problems, Henifin said.

“We are fundamentally flawed in the United States in that we price water only to burden that lower end of the economic spectrum, and we don’t even attempt to get more revenue from the upper end,” Henifin said in a December interview with The Associated Press. “If you look at property values as a surrogate for income, we could generate more than enough revenue to actually own and operate and maintain the system.”

The new law takes effect July 1.

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The State of Black America reveals how hate continues to rise in the U.S.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The National Urban League's 2023 State of Black America report concluded that an uptick in police brutality, specifically against black Americans, is no coincidence. Across the nation, white supremacist groups and domestic terror cells have infiltrated law enforcement and the military ranks, posing a threat to homeland security and the public.

The report highlights five topics revealed as troubling threats:

1. A hate manifesto: The Rise in Violent Hate Crimes Across America.
2. Tracking parental rights' movement rooted in racism: the threat within education.
3. Hate in the nation: The threat within America's political system.
4. A threat to national security: Hate within law enforcement and the military.
5. The divided state of America: A surge of divisive policies.

The State of Black America,



National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial

which also drew from information from the Brennan Center, noted that the FBI reported that white supremacists posed a "persistent threat of lethal violence" that has produced more fatalities than any other category of domestic terrorists since 2000. "And FBI policy

documents have also warned agents assigned to domestic terrorism cases that the white supremacist and anti-government militia groups they investigate often have 'active links' to law enforcement officials," the National Urban League's report stated.

"Countries around the world have been destabilized by military and law enforcement coups led by extremists holding right-wing ideologies. To protect our communities and our democracy, we must take this threat seriously."

The authors of the report

said that groups of state and federal lawmakers working with shady political operatives and violent extremists are dangerously close to destroying American democracy and replacing it with autocratic rule.

The 2023 report titled, "Democracy in Peril: Confronting the Threat Within," sounds the alarm about extremist ideas taking root in classrooms, law enforcement, the military and the halls of Congress.

"The mainstreaming of extremist ideology is an existential threat to American democracy, the rule of law, and decades of hard-won progress toward an equitable, inclusive, and more perfect union," National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial said.

"No longer limited to passing out mimeographed leaflets on street corners or huddling in corners of the dark web, conspiracy-mongers and white nationalists openly spew their bile across social media and cable television," he continued.

"They weave it into the

public policy they impose on their constituents. It corrodes the trust between police, the military, and the communities they are sworn to protect and serve."

The report also draws on data and analysis from the Southern Poverty Law Center, ADL, and UCLA Law.

The State of Black America reveals how deeply extremist ideas have crept into America's most important institutions, leading to a rising tide of deadly violence, harsh laws, and racial tensions being used as weapons.

A special section of the report talks about Morial's 20 years as president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League. This section shows how his leadership has changed over the last two decades.

A special section of the report called "A Climate in Crisis," made in partnership with the American Council on Renewable Energy, makes a case for equal economic opportunity and environmental justice.

Report: Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas violated ethics laws with multiple super yacht cruises with Republican donor

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

For more than two decades, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has accepted luxury trips virtually every year from Dallas businessman and Republican mega donor Harlan Crow without disclosing them, a bombshell new report from ProPublica has revealed.

Citing documents and inter-

views, the nonprofit and Pulitzer Prize winning legal news organization said Thomas who has a salary of \$285,000, has vacationed on Crow's super yacht around the globe.

Had Thomas footed the bill himself, one trip on Crow's yacht would have set him back a cool half-million dollars. What's more, the controversial

conservative justice often flies on Crow's Bombardier Global 5000 jet. That's a \$70,000 trip.

Justices are required to report all gifts of \$415 or more that are "anything of value" and not fully reimbursed. There's no record of Thomas reporting the gifts or reimbursing anyone for the trips.

"He has gone with Crow to

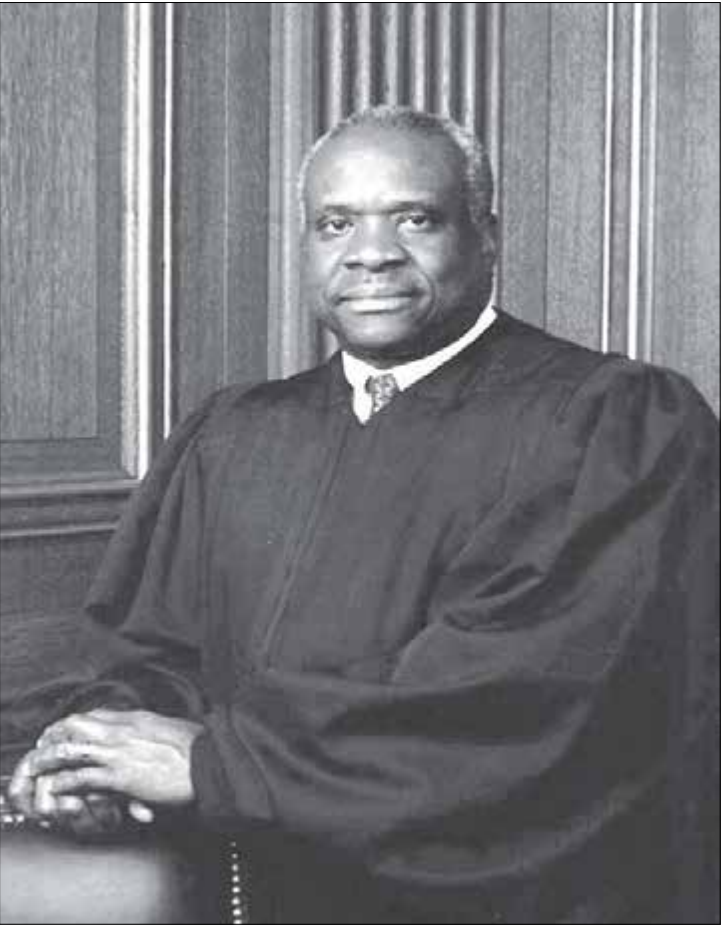
the Bohemian Grove, the exclusive California all-male retreat, and to Crow's sprawling ranch in East Texas," the legal news site reported Thursday, April 6. "And Thomas typically spends about a week every summer at Crow's private resort in the Adirondacks."

The extent and frequency of Crow's apparent gifts to Thomas have no modern precedent in the history of the U.S. Supreme Court, and ProPublica further notes that the trips appeared nowhere on Thomas' financial disclosures.

"His failure to report the flights appears to violate a law passed after Watergate that requires justices, judges, members of Congress and federal officials to disclose most gifts," the site reported, citing two ethics law experts. Thomas, the experts said, also should have disclosed his trips on the yacht.

"It's incomprehensible to me that someone would do this," Nancy Gertner, a retired federal judge appointed by President Bill Clinton, told ProPublica. When she was on the bench, Gertner said, she was so cautious about appearances that she wouldn't mention her title when making dinner reservations: "It was a question of not wanting to use the office for anything other than what it was intended."

Virginia Canter, a former government ethics lawyer who served in administrations of both parties, said Thomas "seems to have completely disregarded his higher ethical obligations." "When a justice's lifestyle is being subsidized by the rich and famous, it absolutely corrodes public trust," said Canter, now at the



Thomas

watchdog group CREW. "Quite frankly, it makes my heart sink."

As ProPublica noted, federal judges sit in a unique position of public trust. Each justice enjoys lifetime tenure, which is supposed to inoculate them from feeling any temptation toward corruption.

Intentionally, a code of conduct for federal judges below the Supreme Court requires them to avoid even the "appearance of impropriety." Members of the high court, Chief Justice John Roberts has written, "consult" that code for guidance.

However, the Supreme Court is left almost entirely to police itself.

And many opine that Thomas has exploited that privilege and, along with his wife Ginny, have thumbed their noses at Democracy. "The most glaring example of the Supreme Court's ethical vacuum is Clarence Thomas," political columnist Jonathan Chait wrote for *New*

York Magazine.

"The right-wing justice has operated, in conjunction with his wife, in the center of a network of conservative activists whose project is indistinguishable from his legal work."

Meanwhile, ProPublica reported evidence that Thomas has taken even more trips on the super yacht. The report noted that Crow often gave his guests custom polo shirts commemorating their vacations.

ProPublica found photographs of Thomas wearing at least two of those shirts. In one, he wears a blue polo shirt embroidered with the Michaela Rose's logo and the words "March 2007" and "Greek Islands."

"Thomas didn't report any of the trips ProPublica identified on his annual financial disclosures," the outlet noted. "Ethics experts said the law clearly requires disclosure for private jet flights and Thomas appears to have violated it."

CHOOSE TO GROW A-TEAAM & 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!

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You got questions? I have answers

By Vince Faust
Tips to be Fit

Q & A
You got questions? I got answers. I can't answer all of your questions in this column. But, I do get back to everyone that writes me. Most of my article ideas come from your questions. So, keep them coming.

Vitamin C
“How can I get in more Vitamin C?”
John B
New York, NY

Vegetables and fruits provide us with the vitamin C we need, but we lose much of it when we handle our food. Vitamin C, which is also known as ascorbic acid, is a water-soluble vitamin that is found in fruits and vegetables. Vitamin C plays a major role in healing wounds, burns, red blood production, formation of connective tissue, fighting infections and preventing hemorrhaging.

This vitamin is destroyed easily when foods containing the vitamin are stored or cooked. Vitamin C is sensitive to light, heat and air. Smoking, excessive drinking, antibiotics, cortisone, aspirin pain killers, excessive amounts of water, cooking in copper utensils and sulfa drugs can reduce the body's ability to absorb vitamin C.

You should store vitamin C as little as possible. When you do store foods containing vitamin C you should keep them refrigerated. When cooking foods containing vitamin C you should cook them as little as possible. Steaming and



“You got questions, I got answers,” said Faust.

microwaving them in a small amount of water for short cooking time helps to insure you will get the most of the vitamin C found in the food.

Losing weight by dieting alone
“What is the difference between losing weight by dieting alone and losing weight by exercising?”

Janet S
Chicago, IL

Dieting alone to lose weight will lead to a muscle mass loss of around 50% and a fat and water loss of around 50%. Weight loss through proper diet and exercise will result in a fat loss of around 98% and lean muscle mass may increase. The loss of lean muscle will weaken the muscles and organs.

When you lose weight by dieting alone, your metabolism decreases and

your body will burn calories at a slower rate. When you quit dieting your body continues to burn calories slowly. When you start eating you eventually gain back the weight you lost and sometimes more because your metabolism is burning food calories so slowly.

The bottom line is exercise tones muscle, burns fat and increases your metabolism, dieting doesn't. Eating stimulates your body to burn calories because the digestion process uses a lot of energy. Eat small low fat meals three to six times a day to keep your energy level constant. Include plenty of fruits, vegetables, beans, whole grain breads, cereals pasta, brown rice and only lean cuts of meat in your diet. Make sure you consume between 12 to 15 calories per pound of body weight daily.

Instead of starving your body to lose weight workout for 30-60 minutes 3-5 times a week. Walking is great for the beginner and jogging can become addictive. You'll also want to do toning exercises for each part of the body such as weight training or calisthenics.

Depending on your interest you may also want to join a karate class, a dance class, take aerobic dance, swim, skate or bicycle to get in a workout. Experiment with different exercises and find something you enjoy. Cross training (doing several types of exercises throughout the week) can help keep you interested in exercising.

So, which do you want muscle or flab? Work that body and tighten up that diet while you tighten up those buns.

The egg
“I like eggs. Do I have to give up eggs because they have a lot of the cholesterol and fat?”

Jan H
Bensalem, PA

Eggs are an economical form of protein and they're not only for breakfast. They can be part of a great low fat, low cholesterol protein meal. Eggs have two edible parts, the yolk which has almost all the fat and cholesterol and the whites which has 3/4 of the protein, and only a trace of fat and no cholesterol. Eggs also contain the vitamins and minerals A, B2, D, E niacin, copper, iron, phosphorus and unsaturated fats.

I limit my intake of cholesterol by having one egg yolk for every 3 to 4

egg whites. This combination contains about 25 grams of protein and 150 mg. of cholesterol. This will also give you 80 to 100 calories per serving. Add diced green peppers, onions and a little Italian seasoning, you have a high protein, low fat dish that taste good and is good for you.

Eggs should be kept refrigerated until you use them. The internal temperature of your refrigerator should be no less than 45 degrees. Big temperature changes can cause the whites of the egg to thin. Eggs retain their freshness and quality best if they are stored with the large end up in the original carton.

Raw eggs should not be consumed because the whites contain a protein called avidin, which can be harmful to the body if ingested over a long period of time. Avidin can be deactivated by heat.

If you want a quick nutritious egg dish, try this microwave recipe. Mix 5 egg whites with two egg yolks. Add a mixture of chopped onion, green pepper and Italian seasoning. Cook in a microwave on high for one minute, stir the mixture, then cook on high for another 60 seconds or until it's cooked to your taste. You can add cheese, but you increase the fat and cholesterol. Be creative and come up with your own egg dish and let us know how they turn out.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

What older adults should know after a doctor's visit

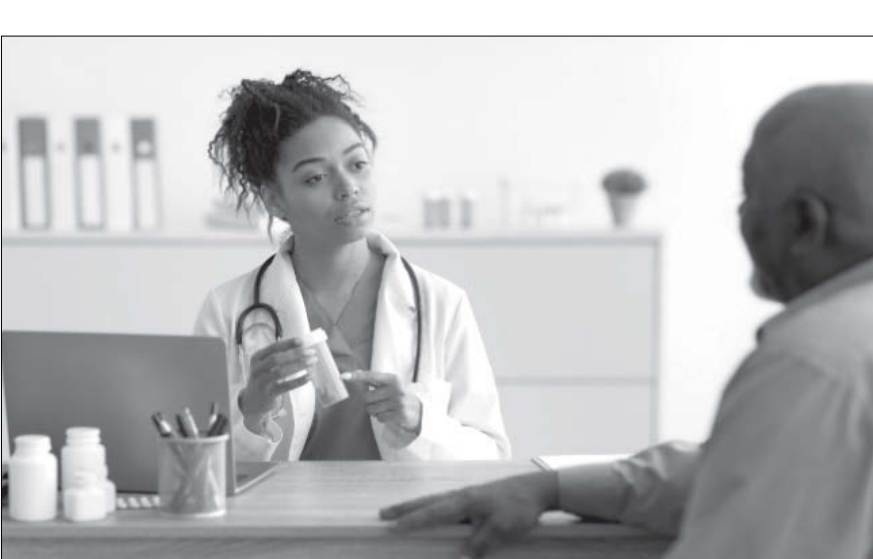
StatePoint

You know how important regular check-ups are and that consulting your healthcare provider when you have a concern is smart. But what happens after the visit is just as essential to maintaining good health.

Unfortunately, some people don't follow their provider's advice. Maybe they don't take their prescriptions as written or forego recommended preventive screenings and immunizations. This can be costly, both for individuals and the health care system. Case in point: More than 125,000 people die each year because of prescription medication non-adherence, according to the National Council for Patient Information and Education.

Following a doctor's recommended care plan can be challenging, according to Dr. J.B. Sobel, chief medical officer with Cigna Healthcare's Medicare business. There are multiple reasons why older patients can have difficulty following their provider's instructions – including managing multiple medications at different times of day – or trouble accessing or affording care.

Thankfully, there are some processes and resources that can help you faithfully



fully follow your healthcare provider's advice.

Get organized. More than half of adults 65 and older take four or more prescription drugs, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. With more medications, it can be difficult to know what to take, when to take it, and in what dosage. A low-cost pill organizer, available at drug stores and retail outlets, can help you stay organized. You may also want to automate your medication by

taking it at the same time every day if directions allow that. The key is to find a system that works for you and stick with it.

Communicate with your provider or pharmacist. If your medication doesn't seem to be working or is causing undesirable side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist about adjusting your dosage or switching to an alternative. Likewise, discuss any concerns about screenings or tests with your provider.

Having a good rapport with your doctor helps. Take notes at your appointment or bring a loved one with you to help with questions. And don't be afraid to ask if there's anything you don't understand.

Connect your providers. Make sure your various doctors share information. For example, if you have an unexpected hospital visit, notify your primary care provider so they can review any new medications or diagnoses from the hospital and help you fit them into your current care plan. This can also help protect you from unnecessary or duplicate procedures.

Find alternative access to care. If you have difficulty getting around or live far from where care is rendered, there are programs to help. Your provider may offer virtual visits. You may be able to have prescriptions safely delivered to your home in a 90-day supply, perhaps at a lower cost, and with reminders for refills. If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, you may be eligible for rides to your provider or pharmacy at no extra cost. Learn more about Cigna Healthcare's Medicare Advantage plans at www.cigna.com/medicare.

Seek help with costs. “Extra Help” is a

federal program providing prescription drug cost support to those who qualify. Many pharmaceutical manufacturers help customers afford medications. You could also ask your healthcare provider about generic medications, which typically cost less but are equally effective.

Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans pay for many preventive procedures with no extra cost to you.

“If keeping up with your health care feels overwhelming, please don't get discouraged,” said Dr. Sobel, who oversees a team of clinicians that contact Cigna Healthcare's Medicare Advantage customers whose prescriptions have lapsed or not been refilled. “Seek help from a doctor, a pharmacy or a loved one. They want to help you. Keep in mind that it's easier to maintain good health than it is to recapture your health following a preventable crisis.”

The information contained in this article is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health care provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition or treatment and before undertaking a new health care regimen.

Rising inflation is impacting mental health

How the country is coping

StatePoint

It's no secret that the country is feeling the pinch from inflation and the rising costs of goods and services, with 48% of Americans struggling to make ends meet financially, according to the latest data from Dynata's Global Consumer Trends survey. That's up from 34% in August of last year.

These circumstances are having a significant impact on wellness, with 53% of respondents attributing financial difficulties as being an extremely or very important contributing factor to their worsening mental health since before the pandemic. Women are feeling the impacts most. Nearly six in 10 women – 57% – say financial difficulties are the largest contributor to a decline in

their mental health vs. 44% of men who say the same.

Many Americans however are finding new ways to ease the burden on their mental health. Here are a few of the habits and attitudes that have helped those who report having better mental health now than they did pre-pandemic:

- **Exercise.** Getting more exercise has helped 78% of respondents achieve better mental health during this time of financial uncertainty.

- **Spending more time with hobbies and interests.** Seventy-four percent of respondents have seen an improvement in their mental health by spending more time and focus on their hobbies and industries. Whether it's knitting, playing a sport or bird-watching, taking on a new hobby can be an effective

way to better your mental health.

- **Spending time with loved ones.** The pandemic was a long period of separation for many, but with life back to normal, spending time with loved ones has been a proven way to boost mental health, with 74% of respondents seeing an improvement.

- **Rest.** Now is a great time to sit back and take some time to relax, as 73% reported an improvement in their mental health from just taking time to rest.

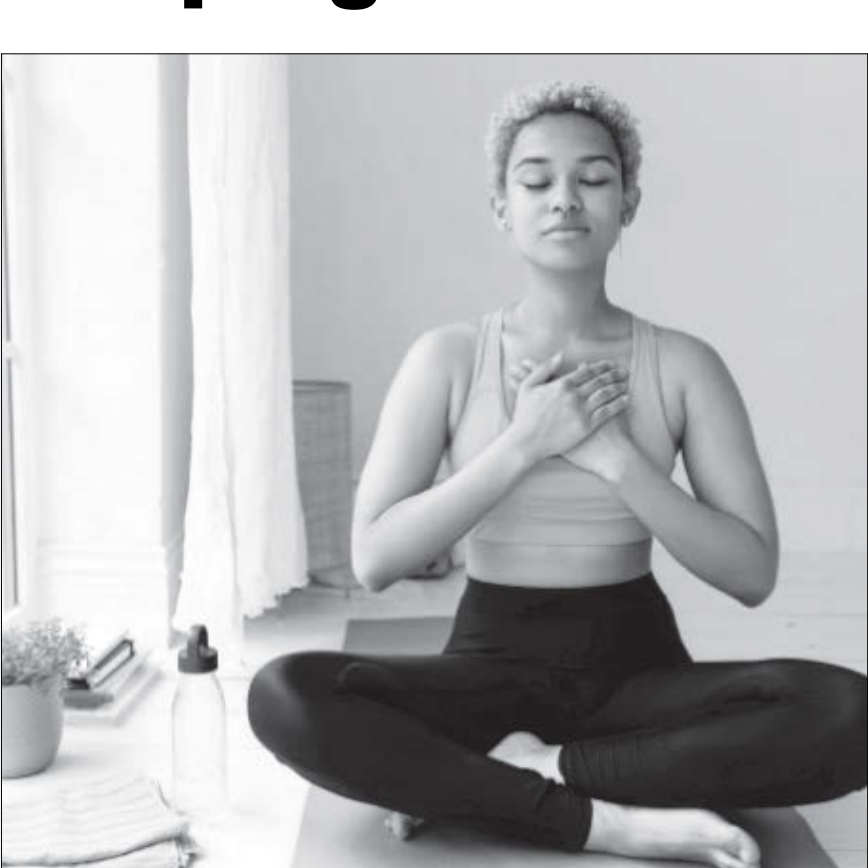
- **Cooking and healthy eating.** The pandemic gave many a chance to spend more time in the kitchen cooking their favorite meals. Seventy-two percent of respondents attribute cooking and healthy eating to helping improve

their mental health. During these difficult financial times, spending more time in the kitchen can be a great way to help ease stress, save money on meals and of course, reap the physical and mental benefits of a good, balanced meal.

- **Work-life balance.** This has been a stressful time for employees, with news of layoffs coming almost daily, on top of the already existing financial stressors. However, 72% of respondents attribute achieving a better work-life balance to lowering stress levels and improving their mental health.

While many Americans are feeling the pinch right now, the good news is that proven coping strategies can help lighten the mental load.

For full survey results, visit <https://www.dynata.com>.



P R E S E R V E D

Peacemakers not Peacetakers

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



One the hardest things to do is to accept someone else's apology when you believe they've done you wrong. An even harder thing to do is to choose to make peace with someone who has offended you. Why? Sometimes, it's a lot more comforting to hold onto a grudge than let go of the offense and extend grace instead. I learned this lesson a few years ago during a tense time with a close friend who came to me for moral support during a difficult situation in her marriage.

As I listened to my friend talk about her very troubling problems, I had to admit that there was a small part of me that thought about how quick-

ly things had changed from just a few weeks earlier when she'd called me to state very adamantly that out of loyalty to her husband she was ending our nearly 20-year-old friendship. How ironic, I thought that now I was the one that she was turning to for help when her "man" was wounding her.

But surprisingly, instead of me stating this to her, I found myself just listening to her as she poured out the pain in her heart caused by the person who a few weeks ago I saw as trying to drive a wedge between our friendship.

She even made a statement about how she realized that he was trying to drive all of her friends away but that she was not going to let him do so. When I hung up the phone with her nearly two hours later, I then realized that I'd learned a very important lesson. It went beyond the les-

son of humility and the importance of taming my sharp tongue. The situation reminded me of James 3:18: "Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

It seems as though the important lesson centered around my honestly answering the question: Is it more important to be right or to have a relationship? I mean, is the value of the friendship worth more than the value of being able to say I'm right?

Another thing that I have to admit is that because of my pride and arrogance, it used to be not so long ago, that I was more concerned with being right. Foolishly, I was willing to sacrifice relationships with the excuse that if the person couldn't handle being told they were wrong, then maybe I didn't need them to be in my circle of friends.

But thank God for growth, change and deliverance. No longer do I think that way and I've learned to better treasure the friendships that God blesses me with. I've learned by reassessing myself and my friendships that they are not about what others can add to my life, but for what things of value that I can add to my friends' lives. I also learned that being "right" may seem to add to my life, but often times it adds nothing to the lives of others. After all, it is by building and rebuilding relationships that we can be healed.

Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

P A R T 1

Christianity is a wonderful life

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



With all that's going on in the world today, it is terrible. I can't believe what I'm seeing and reading in the news. The Church of God today is caught between holding a standard and surviving. It is not an easy task as you think it is in today's world, but God has promised to be faithful to His people.

What we need is more wisdom, more understanding, more love, more determination, more feeling, and more compassion, so that we may be able to deal with those who do not see what we see.

Will we be present when the roll is called? We sing this song all the time: "When the trumpet is called up yonder" – When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more. And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair; when the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore, and the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there. (Thank God, you can raise

your hand, yes raise it.)

Thank God for the place we're going. That's hope for us. There's an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll. Through these stormy times, will your anchor hold? It is a fact that we are in stormy times. Paul said that we are living in perilous times. He said in 2 Timothy 3:1, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." Perilous means, "dangerous." We are living in dangerous times; we're living in perilous times.

This is real. This is not a myth. Don't let anyone fool you about it. Living for the Lord is a real life. The old people would often say, "Where there's a will, there's a way." Anything we want to do, we can do. We can live for the Lord. Remember, that it's worse out in the world than when we left it. Oh yes. There are a lot of materials things, worldliness, secularism, and other things. All kinds of things are in the world today.

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



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The Tennessee Three

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



The Tennessee General Assembly’s expulsion of two African American lawmakers duly elected by their constituents, while sparing a third who happened not to be African American, signifies a dangerous subversion of our representative democracy, the most precious thing we have in this country. With this action, Tennessee Republicans attempted to silence the voices of nearly 140,000 voters who chose these two lawmakers to make informed legislative decisions on their behalf.

Representatives Justin Pearson (D-Memphis), Justin Jones (D-Nashville), and Gloria Johnson (D-Knoxville) took to the Tennessee House floor to stand in solidarity with school and community activists protesting legislative inaction on guns after the tragic mass shooting at a Christian school in Nashville. Instead of focusing on how to protect innocent children from gun violence, Tennessee Republicans mobilized to remove those who had the audacity to step forward and demand a change.

Just before the vote to remove Representative Pearson, Tennessee House Representative Andrew Farmer (R-Sevierville) chided him on the floor of the General Assembly, saying: “That’s why you’re standing there – for that temper tantrum that day. For that yearning to have attention. That’s what you wanted. Well, you’re getting it now.”

When I heard this rant by Representative Farmer, the author of one of the resolutions for removal, I thought of my own experiences in South Carolina. His coded and condescending lecture was not unlike those I heard as a 20-year-old protester in the 1960s.

Those of us who marched and were arrested for demanding equal opportunity and fair treatment under the law know what it is like to be subjected to such disrespect.

The actions of Tennessee Republicans are reminiscent of those of Southern white officials during and post-Reconstruction. I also thought about lessons I learned as a student and former teacher of history. Philosopher George Santayana once

wrote, “Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it.”

The ending of the Civil War and establishment of the Reconstruction era in 1865 precipitated honest and honorable attempts to include African Americans in the political process. However, there were resisters, and Tennessee led the way then as it seems to be doing again.

The Ku Klux Klan was founded in Tennessee in 1865 and in the same year, Mississippi and South Carolina enacted “Black Codes,” a series of laws designed to restrict the social, economic, and political autonomy of African Americans. Just one decade later in 1875, “Red Shirts” ran rampant across the South, intimidating and assassinating black leaders and suppressing black voters’ access to the ballot box. And in 1877, Republican President Rutherford B. Hayes removed all troops from the South and left black citizens up to the creative devices of Jim Crow laws and practices.

Long before the massacres of Tulsa (Oklahoma) and Rosewood (Florida) were the massacres of Memphis and Pulaski. Google the “Original 33” and discover how 33 African American men got duly elected to the Georgia legislature in 1868 and were subsequently expelled. People protested and at least 12 of those who protested were killed. Dozens more were injured. The tragedy would later become known as the Camilla massacre.

Tragically, violent voter suppression ultimately succeeded in ending democracy in the South for decades. Black Codes, the Ku Klux Klan, the Red Shirts and their ally, the 19th President of the United States, ushered in a wave of new post-Reconstruction state constitutions that eliminated any meaningful African American political participation until the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This ugly history is what the Tennessee General Assembly has chosen to honor with the removal of Representatives Pearson and Jones. By failing to be vigilant and exercise diligence, the Tennessee state legislature has set us on a path toward reliving chapters of our not-so-pleasant history.

For the sake of our democracy, we must learn from the lessons of our past and do everything we can to support the Tennessee Three.

I wanna dance with somebody who loves me

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
Guest Writer



Many couples engage in various activities to spend alone time with one another and create special memories.

Some couples pursue activities together like exercising, tennis, swimming, etc. Further, some couples explore recreational activities such as, yoga, basketball, cycling, aquatics, horseback riding, etc.

Furthermore, some couples enjoy outdoor adventures like walks in the park, observing the stars, fishing, hunting, gardening, camping, boat rides, etc. Also, some couples simply enjoy dining out, tasting new wines, going to the movies, and short getaways to the beach, Smoky Mountains (both are some of my favorites), etc.

Although, these are good ways to spend time with your spouse, dancing with your spouse can also be a special way to bond and create memories with your significant other. As one of the greatest singers once sang, “I Wanna Dance with Somebody Who Loves Me!”

It is imperative that couples (both spouses) go out of their way to enjoy one another often if not daily. Couples need to have fun together. Moreover,

couples need to become intentional about planning dates, engaging with one another, and pursuing new activities and adventures together.

One of the most inexpensive ways to enjoy time with your spouse is dancing with one another. Think about it; it doesn’t require a lot of money to dance – all you need is the both of you and a good song to get your feet, legs, arms, heads, etc. moving. Due to technological advancements, one can easily use a smart device to find a song, Bluetooth connections, Music Apps, and if you are Old School – pull out your radios, Boomboxes, CD Players, cassette tape players, and even your old record players (modern ones are sold today).

I know I took it back but I’m trying to suggest doing whatever works best for you – just dance. Believe it or not, according to some experts there are several positive benefits of dancing with your spouse.

According to the Supadance Website Benefits of Dancing with your Spouse are as follows:

1. Spend quality time together
2. Improves communication
3. Improves health and promotes good exercise
4. Re-light the spark in your relationship
5. De-stress together

6. Socialize with your spouse
7. See your spouse in a whole new light

Also, dancing with one another can help you sleep better. Dancing can also increase one’s confidence about dancing, enhances your dancing skills, ignites a connection of you looking into each other’s eyes, touching, and making intimate bodily connections.

According to some experts, dancing can help lead to a better sex life. Yes, you read that correctly – the same effort put into dancing is the same effort that can be put in romancing one another in the bedroom (I will let you determine how this best works for you and your boo).

In conclusion, I absolutely love dancing. My husband and I use to dance frequently within the privacy of our home – children would even participate but as married life progressed, we began to dance less. However, this recently changed after me and my husband took a cruise to the Bahamas celebrating our anniversary and renewal of vows in December, 2022. I promise, we had a blast.

My husband and I recently reflected on how we danced the night away on the cruise, therefore, we decided to recreate the moment. We pulled out our stereo player that had been snugged away for some time

in our family room, moved it to our bedroom, made the Bluetooth connection and played some Luther Vandross, Musiq Soul Child, Mali, and we closed our bedroom door. I am telling you we had a blast at least until the power went off unexpectedly due to a shortage. (Yikes – we just started it over – currently anticipating buying a new one.) We smiled, we laughed, we were on beat, off beat at times; my husband spun me around and around like spinners on a clean ride. We slowed danced, and we even dropped it a little.

If you do not know how to dance, watch YouTube videos, order a DVD teaching you how to dance, try getting dance lessons from a local dance studio, or maybe you can ask my five-year-old niece, who is a mean dancing machine to teach you – I really don’t think she has bones.

Please make every effort to dance with your spouse. Don’t you wanna dance with somebody who loves you?

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

Mourning in Louisville because of guns and talking about guns at NRA Convention in Indianapolis

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



During this past week, a common point of reference in two cities was guns. I suspect citizens in the cities of Louisville,

Kentucky and Indianapolis, Indiana were talking a lot about guns and gun legislation.

Guns are being carried and bought at an alarming rate these days. Will this trend stop anytime soon? The answer to that question is no. This is my opinion.

As America knows by now, another mass shooting took place Monday, April 10, at the Old National Bank in Louisville KY. This time, 5 people were killed and 8 others were injured.

Sadly, going to the bank has now become dangerous for us. Cashing or depositing a check may cause us to lose our life. How can that be?

Bank robberies, if you have watched enough cowboy mov-

ies, were pretty much commonplace in the old west. Thieves would get the money and injure the employees. The goal was to get the money not to kill the people.

What is happening in today’s business and educational scenes is that the assailants are not taking the money or records, they are killing innocent people.

The shooter at the bank was Connor Sturgeon who was a bank employee. He started his work there in 2021. Prior to that, he was their intern for three consecutive years.

However, he was recently told that he would be terminated. Sturgeon was 25 years of age. Being fired was an affront to him so he reacted by going into the bank and killing innocent bystanders. These were citizens who on April 9 didn’t realize that it would be their last day on earth. That is a harrowing thought as the relatives of the victims are looking back at this incident with pain and anguish.

According to Louisville In-

terim Police Chief, Jacquelyn Gwinn-Villaroel, Sturgeon was livestreaming his attack on Instagram. He also left his parents a note about the murders he was about to commit. Sturgeon was shot and killed by the police.

Sturgeon’s brain will be tested for chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). He had a series of concussions while playing high school football and had some mental health problems.

It is my thinking that knowing that he would be let go was the tipping point which led to his meltdown and this mass shooting.

It will take you 1 hour and 52 minutes to drive from Louisville to Indianapolis. That will put about 115 miles on your odometer. The National Rifle Association (NRA) Convention was held there last week. In fact, it was the 152nd meeting of this pro-gun group.

It is arguably one of the most powerful and influential organizations in this country. That is my opinion and I believe it is shared by many people.

Speakers at this year’s convention included former president Donald Trump and his former vice president Mike Pence. One wants to be president and the other one doesn’t know what he wants.

There were protests at the NRA Convention and they were not favorable to the attendees.

Mary Tuttle, a resident of Indianapolis and a parent said, “I don’t want to take your guns. What we want is for the NRA to stop keeping us from passing any legislation that helps keep people safe.”

Last year, there were 1,600 children killed by guns. That number is staggering and shameful. We the people are suffering, and our America is hurting.

Pass legislation that will halt this onslaught of killing.

NRA members, our lives are on the line. We need your help. What will it take to have a reasonable and productive conversation about gun violence?

That is a question that a lot of us are asking.

GET YOUR CURRENT NEWS AND WATCH AP VIDEOS ONLINE AT:

www.mississippilink.com

LEGAL

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
JOSEPHINE H. KING, DECEASED

CAUSE NUMBER: 1:15-PR-00409

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 12th day of October, 2015, by the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County [MEC.] 5 to the undersigned Carlos King as Administrator of the Estate of Josephine H. King, notice is hereby given, pursuant to MISSISSIPPI CODE ANN. §91-7-145 (1972) to all persons having claims against the Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court. Failure to have a claim probated and registered by the Clerk of the Court granting Letters within ninety (90) days from the first publication of the Notice to Creditors will bar such claim as provided by MISSISSIPPI CODE ANN. §91-7-157 (1972).

This the 15th day of April, 2023.


CARLOS KING, ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE ESTATE OF
JOSEPHINE H. KING, DECEASED

PIETER TREUWISSEN, MSB# 8777
SIMON & TREUWISSEN, PLLC
621 Northside Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39206
Telephone: 601-362-8400

COUNSEL FOR THE ESTATE

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

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.

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:

757078-050223 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, 4/27/2023

LEGAL

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: cdotson@jacksonms.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. Electronic responses can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic response process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

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

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:

757077-050223 Twenty-Four Month Supply of #610 Limestone

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV

Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com,bids are also available at 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

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/1

TO: Christopher Levison Thurman, Jr.

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 29th 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 4th day of April, 2023.

(SEAL)



Eddie Jean Carr,
Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi

By: K. Howard, D.C.

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 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.

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. Electronic bids can be submitted at 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: dzegele@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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4207

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Jennifer Welch DBA Vesica Real Estate has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District for the properties located at 804, 814, 818 & 823 N. Jefferson St. (Parcels #22-19, 22-18, 22-17, 23-16), 920, 924, 927, 928, 935, 937 Harding St. (Parcels #22-20, 22-21, 25-4, 22-22, 25-7, 25-8) and Parcels 25-7-1 & 25-49 Harding St. (Parcel #640-428 with a Use Permit for Parcel 22-19 to allow for accessory parking for businesses located at 730, 750 and 752 N. Jefferson St. in addition to the Oaks House Museum and Urban Foxes at 833 N. Jefferson St. & duplex at 818 N. Jefferson in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Parcel 22-19

100 FT E/S N JEFFERSON ST X 184 FT N/S HARDING ST IN 5 A LOT 10 NJ *CITY OF JACKSON LOT CLEANUP ASSESSMENT* PARCEL NO.: 22-19 HINDS COUNTY, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

Parcel 22-18

A part of Five Acre Lot No. 10 North Jackson according to the official map of said city made by J.C. Daniel in the year 1875 and more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

Beginning at a point on the East side of North Jefferson Street 100 feet North of the intersection of the North line of Harding Street (formerly called Oldham Street), with the East line of North Jefferson Street; thence running from said point of beginning East and parallel with the North line of Harding Street 234 feet; thence North and parallel with North Jefferson Street 60 feet 9 inches; thence West parallel with Harding Street 234 feet to the East line of North Jefferson Street; thence South along the east line of North Jefferson Street 60 feet 9 inches to the point of beginning; the said lot having a frontage on North Jefferson Street of 60 feet 9 inches and running back between parallel lines 234 feet.

And being the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 7183 at Page 4722.

Parcel 22-17

Beginning the a point on the East line of Jefferson Street which point is 160.75 feet measured northerly along the East line of Jefferson Street from the Intersection of the East line of Jefferson Street with the North line of Oldham (Harding) Street; run thence northerly along the East line of Jefferson Street 60.75 feet; run thence easterly and parallel with Oldham (Harding) Street 234 feet; run thence southerly and parallel with Jefferson Street 60.75 feet; run thence westerly and parallel with Oldham (Harding) Street 234 feet to the point of beginning.

And being the same property as described in Quitclaim Deed recorded in Book 7130 at Page 1750 and Warranty Deed recorded in Book 5850 at Page 200.

Parcel 23-16

That part of 5-acre Lot 7 North, in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, indicated on the map of said City made by H.C. Daniels in 1875, more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

For a point of beginning, commence at a point on the West line of N. Jefferson Street 414.3 feet measured southerly along the West line of N. Jefferson Street from the intersection of the West line of N. Jefferson Street with the South line of Boyd Street as both streets are now laid out and improved, said point of beginning being the north-east corner of the property hereby conveyed which is known as the Mary E. McGill property; thence run southerly along the West line of N. Jefferson street for a distance of 151.3 feet to the Spann property; thence westerly along the North line of the Spann property 157 feet, more or less, to the southeast corner of that certain property sold to Miss Mary E McGill and Richard F. McGill to James T. Canizaro on or about July 25, 1945; thence run in a northerly direction along the East line of the Canizaro property 49.92 feet to a point; thence run westwardly along the Canizaro property for 7 feet to a point; thence northwardly along the East line of the Canizaro property and along the East line of J. J. Neal property for 106 feet more or less to the northeast corner of the said J. J. Neal property and the northwest corner of the lands hereby conveyed; thence easterly in a straight line 163.5 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning on N. Jefferson Street.

There is also conveyed hereby all rights in and to a certain sewer line running across the Canizaro property to North Street, as amended by agreement of record in Deed Book 408, page 101 in the Chancery Clerk's office at Jackson, Mississippi, which rights were reserved in the deed afore-said to Canizaro of record in said Clerk's office in Deed Book 404, page 396 et.seq., reference to which deed and to the recitations therein and to the affidavits attached there-to is hereby made for greater certainty of deraignment of title to the lands hereby conveyed.

Parcel 22-20

Part of Five-acre Lot No. 10 North Jackson in said City particularly described as: Commencing at a point on the North line of Oldham or Harding Street, which point is 184 feet East of the intersection of said street with North Jefferson Street; run thence North parallel with Jefferson Street 92 ½ feet; thence East 50 feet; thence South 92 ½ feet; thence West 50 feet to the Point of Beginning, and being the same lot conveyed to David T. Flanagan by deed recorded in Book 323 at Page 10 of the land deed records of Hinds County, Mississippi.

Parcels 22-21 & 22-22

PARCEL A:

A CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, FRONTING 45 FEET ON THE NORTH

LINE OF HARDING STREET (FORMERLY OLDHAM STREET) AND RUNNING BACK NORTHERLY BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES FOR A DISTANCE OF 220 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE PROPERTY FORMERLY OWNED BY JUDGE COOK, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:

BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF HARDING STREET 279 FEET MEASURED EASTERLY ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF HARDING STREET FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH THE EAST LINE OF NORTH JEFFERSON STREET, AS BOTH STREETS ARE NOW LAID OUT AND IMPROVED IN THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, RUNNING THENCE EASTERLY ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF HARDING STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 45 FEET; THENCE TURNING TO THE LEFT THROUGH AN ANGLE OF 89 DEGREES 26 SECONDS, RUN NORTHERLY FOR A DISTANCE OF 220 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE COOK PROPERTY; THENCE WESTERLY AND PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF HARDING STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 45 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE 220 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND BEING A PART OF 5 ACRE LOT 10, NORTH JACKSON.

PARCEL B:

A PART OF 5-ACRE LOT TEN (10) NORTH ACCORDING TO H. C. DANIELS'S MAP OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:

BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF HARDING STREET WHICH POINT IS 279 FEET MEASURED EASTERLY ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF HARDING STREET FROM THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTH LINE OF HARDING STREET WITH THE EAST LINE OF NORTH JEFFERSON STREET AS BOTH STREETS ARE NOW LAID OUT AND IMPROVED IN THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI; RUN THENCE WESTERLY ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF HARDING STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 45 FEET; THENCE TURNING TTO THE RIGHT THROUGH AN ANGLE OF 90 DEGREES 24 SECONDS RUN NORTHERLY 220 FEET; RUN THENCE EASTERLY AND PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF HARDING STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 45 FEET; RUN THENCE SOUTHERLY 220 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Parcels 25-4, 25-7 & 25-7-1

Beginning at a point on the south side of Harding Street, formerly Oldham Street, in the said City of Jackson, which point is 246 (248 measured) feet east of the intersection of the east line of North Jefferson Street with the south line of said Harding Street as said streets are now laid out and improved in the said City of Jackson and run thence 120 feet to a point; thence run cast 52 feet to the point of beginning; said property being a part of the East Half of Lots Number Two (2) and Number Three (3) of Patton Subdivision of Five Acre Lot Number Eleven (11) North, as shown by plat recorded in Surveyor's Record Book "B" at Page 31 thereof in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, and the west half of a twenty-foot alley lying east of and adjacent to the property hereinabove described.

And being the same property as described in Quitclaim Deed recorded in Book 5318 at Page 134.

Fifty feet wide across and off the West side of Lot 4 of Pattons Subdivision of said City, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hands County, Mississippi, in Plat Book B at Page 31, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description and the East Half of a twenty-foot alley lying West of and adjacent to the property herein above described.

And being the same property as described in Quitclaim Deed recorded in Book 5314 at Page 510.

Parcel 25-8

10 feet off the East side of Lot 4 and 40 feet off the West side of Lot 5 of Pattons Subdivision, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book B at Page 31, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 25-49

20 FT E/S LOT 5 & 30 FT W/S LOT 6 PATTONS SUBN 5 A LOT 11 NJ

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

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

WITNESS my signature this 30th day of March 2023.
/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

4/6/2023, 4/20/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bid
Bid 3235 ESSER III Renovations for Shirley Elementary School

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) May 16, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Shirley Elementary will be held at 330 Judy Street, Jackson, MS 39212 on May 05, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at jpsdmsprojects.com. A \$200.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Cody Farris at Duvall Decker Architects, Phone: 601- 713-1128, Email: cnf@duvalldecker.com

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

Also, until further notice, all opening will be recorded and uploaded to the JPSP web site at www.jackson.k12.ms.us at YouTube: /JPSITV for public viewing due to covid 19. Vendors will not be allowed to sit in on the bid openings.

4/20/2023, 4/27/2023

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/1

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 20th 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 4th 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,

Cooperative Energy

Cooperative Energy currently identifying vendors for the following services during an emergency:

- Lodging Facilities
- Catering Services
- Laundry Services
- Debris Services

Please contact akeene@cooperativeenergy.com by no later than May 12, 2023 if you wish to be considered as a potential vendor.

4/20/2023, 4/27/2023, 5/4/2023

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
BY THE
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY MARKETING AGENCY
AT THE
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 015-23

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is requesting Statement of Qualifications and Expressions of Interest (each, a "Statement of Qualifications") to provide marketing and related services (the "Services") to JMAA in connection with the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority Marketing Agency at JMAA Project No. 015-23 at JAN.

JMAA will receive sealed electronically or printed submissions only. All submissions of Statement of Qualifications to perform the Services will be accepted until Monday, May 29, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on (the "Deadline"). RFQ shall be accepted electronically, mail, or hand delivery as follows: electronically: jmaabids.com

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

JMAA will not consider any Statement of Qualifications received after Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this

Request for Statement of Qualifications ("RFQ") is on file and open for the public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFQ, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents, and Criteria for Selection.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Mr. Marvin Buckhalter, JMAA, Director of Procurement, as follows:
Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
Attn: Marvin Buckhalter
Director of Procurement
100 International Drive, Suite 300
Jackson, MS 39208
Telephone: (601) 664-3516
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713
Email: mbuckhalter@jmaa.com

or JMAA's website at https://jmaabids.com)
https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Video Conference on Wednesday, May 03, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. (CST) using the following login information:
Join Zoom Meeting

Link: https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/95968020095
Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095
Passcode: 520966

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

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

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

JMAA has established a DBE contract goal of 0% for the Services solicited by this RFQ.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
April 19, 2023

John Means, (Acting) Chief Executive Officer

4/20/2023

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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

			1					
	3			8				
		4			7	6		1
		8						3
			4	5		7		
	7	6			3		5	9
	4							
	5	9					4	6
3	1					5		

© Feature Exchange

Sudoku Solution

7	6	5	1	9	2	3	8	4
2	3	1	6	8	4	9	7	5
9	8	4	5	3	7	6	2	1
5	2	8	7	6	9	4	1	3
1	9	3	4	5	8	7	6	2
4	7	6	2	1	3	8	5	9
6	4	7	9	2	5	1	3	8
8	5	9	3	7	1	2	4	6
3	1	2	8	4	6	5	9	7

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DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
J & A FUEL STORES
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
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Northside Drive
MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
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5492 Watkins Drive

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Fortification and I-55
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
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Terry Rd (South Jackson)
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CANTON
A & I
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
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110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
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CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON
DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

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SERVICE STATION
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CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

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HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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RAYMOND CITY HALL
110 Courtyard Square, Raymond
RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

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Week of April 16, 2023



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JPS scholars pay homage to blues and jazz at 44th Elementary All-City Music Festival

The JPS Newswire

The 44th JPS Elementary All-City Music Festival was held April 5 at the Lee E. Williams Athletic and Assembly Center on the campus of Jackson State University. This year's theme was "Rhapsody in Blues and Jazz," celebrated these genres' contributions to the nation and the world. Scholars performed via song, dance and instrumentation.

"As we began our historical journey of Rhapsody in Blues and Jazz, we realized that there was so much more to explore in these genres," said Cassaundra Watkins, festival chair. "The blues markers that document the history of these genres are not limited to Jackson and Chicago. As a matter of fact, the blues markers can be found in Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, Wisconsin, Maine, and other states. Moreover, if you are planning a trip to Nahors, France or Notodden, Norway, be sure to stop by the blues markers in those countries."

Scholars performed renditions of classic songs by Ella Fitzgerald, B.B. King, Duke Ellington and Roger Emerson to name a few. This year's festival clinicians were Judy Thompson-Barthwell and Kimberly Collins.

Thompson-Barthwell grew up and still lives in Detroit. As a music educator of 44 years, she has taught general music, choir and dance K-12. She is now retired but stays involved by volunteering in music classrooms in the Detroit area and mentoring active music educators. She received the Michigan Music Educator of the Year Award in 2012 and the 2021 American Orff-Schulwerk Association Distinguished Service Award. Collins is a native of Cleveland,



(L to R) Clinician Kimberly Collins, JPS music educator Kurtina Maholmes, Clinician Judy Thompson-Barthwell and JPS Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene



Festival instrumentalists



Festival flag bearers



Festival instrumentalists



(L-R) JPS music educators Larry Weems and Michael Stephens



Festival dancers

Ohio, and is a National Board-Certified music educator living in Little Rock, Arkansas. Collins has taught general music, directed honor choirs and taught fine arts to elementary and middle-level students for 25 years. She specializes in the Orff Schulwerk approach to music education, which provides integrated learning and performance opportunities in music, drama and movement. She is currently an Orff Levels instructor, educational consultant and national workshop presenter.

Hinds CC Utica Campus recognizes student awardees



From left, Anahja Reed of Jackson, Stanley Reed of Utica, Destiny Oscar of Jackson, Kalundria MaGee of Utica, Omarion Luss of Clinton, Madelne Jones of Utica, Tiara Jackson of Terry, Joya Hughes of Jackson, Epiphany Hobbs of Southaven, Ezekiel Harris of Canton.

Special to the Mississippi Link

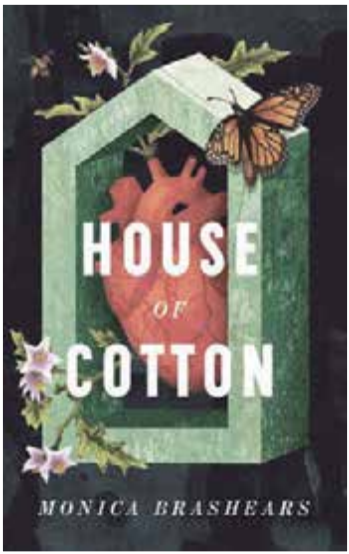
Hinds Community College's Utica Campus recognized students with the inaugural Walter Washington Achievement Awards. This award is earned by students who, like Dr. Walter Wash-

ington, strive for academic excellence, civic engagement and who are making a series of steps to lay the foundation for future Utica Campus students. Washington was the first African-American to receive a doctorate in

Mississippi. He was president of what was then Utica Junior College for 12 years, from 1957-1969, before serving as president of Alcorn State University from 1969-1994.



From left, Iayasha Evans of Utica, Shymaya Dixon of Utica, Isaiah Fultz of Hazlehurst, Lauren Gatlin of Jackson and Elizabeth Moss of Waynesboro.



BOOK REVIEW:

HOUSE OF COTTON

BY MONICA BRASHEARS

C.2023, FLATIRON BOOKS

\$27.99 • 304 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

The role is yours, if you want it.

You can play the part on a stage or in a film, but there are a few requirements: you have to be able to sing and dance and speak with an accent. Can you convince an audience that you’re someone you’re not? As in the new book, “House of Cotton” by Monica Brashears, can you play dead?

Mama Brown wouldn’t have liked all the praying and sing-

ing, not at all. Nineteen-year-old Magnolia knew that for sure. Also for sure, Mama’s funeral was the last time Magnolia would go to church. Wasn’t anything there for her anymore.

No, she’d just go to her overnight job at People’s Gas Station, and try to avoid her landlord, Sugar Foot, who offered to trade sex for rent. She’d try to keep homeless “Cigarette” Sammy from eating out of trash barrels. She’d swipe on Tinder and, using a pseudonym, she’d sleep with random men.

She’d try to forget that she was pregnant and alone.

And then one night, a well-dressed man came to the gas station and told Magnolia that she could be a model. Was it a come-on, a cliché that every almost-pretty girl hears? She couldn’t afford to ignore his offer and so she walked across Knoxville, walked across town, to a funeral home where her new job was ready for her.

Cotton was the man’s name; he said he was a seer and he’d inherited the business from his

uncle. Under his ownership, the funeral home was offering a new feature: for a fee, mourners who didn’t have closure over a loss could talk to Magnolia, who was made to look like their dearly departed, thanks to professional make-up and lighting.

For an hour of her time, Magnolia would earn more money than she would in a month at the gas station.

It was an easy job. Cotton didn’t charge her rent for living in the home. For once in her life, Magnolia had money. She also

had ghosts from the past, nudging her for her sins...


Sitting somewhere between fairy tales and a suspense novel, hovering around both an erotic tale and a humor story, it’s pretty safe to say that “House of Cotton” is unlike any other novel you’ve ever read. It’s weird, and it’s heartbreakingly beautiful.

Author Monica Brashears’ main character, Magnolia, is someone you want to reach into the pages and hug – if you weren’t sure she’d push you away for it. She’s just learning


how to be an adult, and not liking it; she’s smart, but innocent yet and that’s a bad combination in this great story. Once she finds a job with Cotton and his Aunt Eden, then, the book takes a dark, ominous turn, like a modern-day old-fashioned Gothic novel.

Readers shouldn’t be one bit surprised if they become nervous by then. It’s for good reason.

“House of Cotton” will surprise you. It’s not what you think it might be, and more; it’s a vacation read here for the packing, if you want it.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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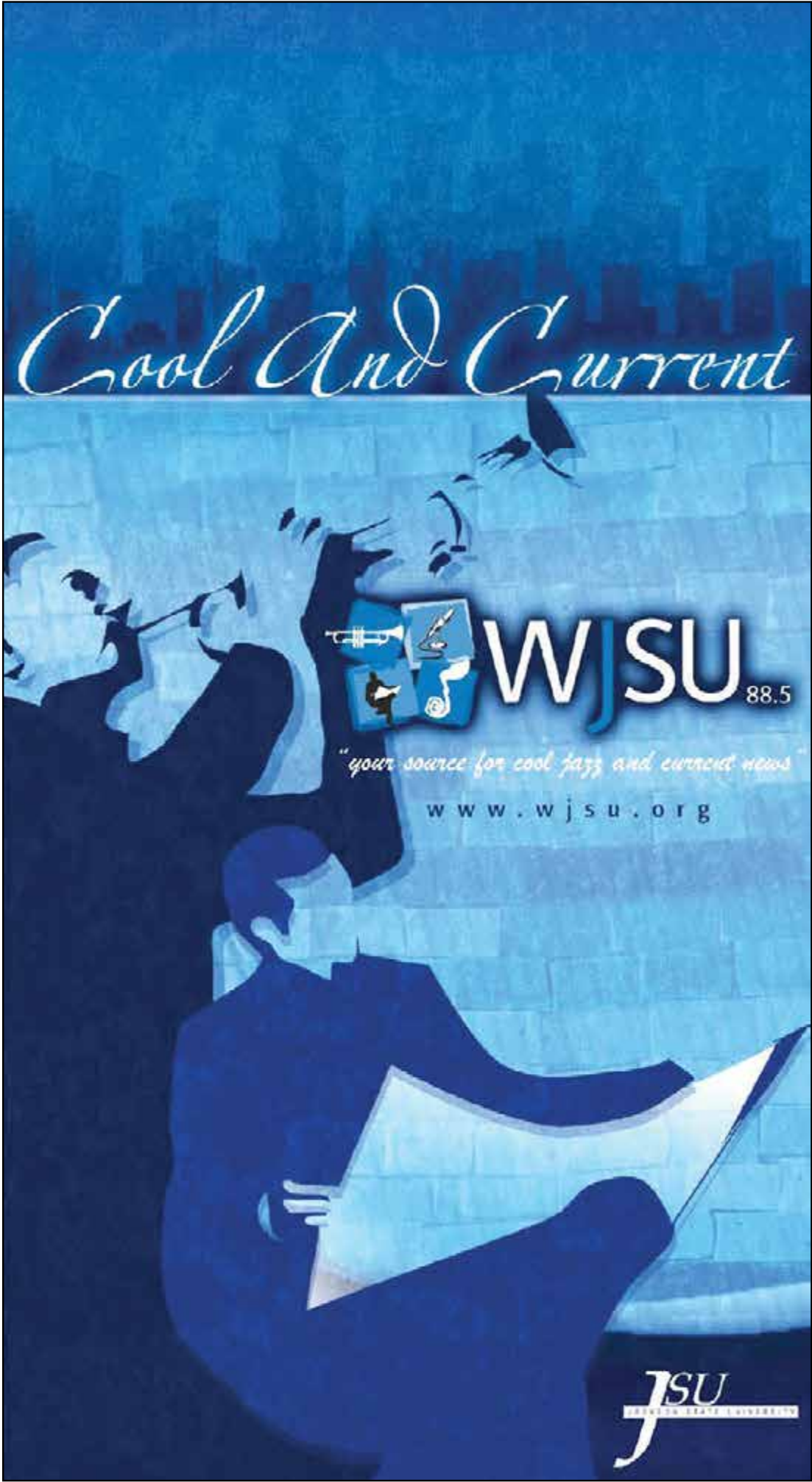
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Jackson State's Blue-White Game was a success

By Timothy Ward
Sports Writer

It wasn't the jam packed stadium or ESPN cameras from the previous year, but JSU held it's annual Spring game. The rainy weather affected a lot of people's decision to vacate the game. But of course, some die hard Tigers will show up rain, sleet or snow. Little over 5,000 fans were in attendance.

Life goes on even after Deion Sanders.

"We were Tigers before, we are Tigers after Coach Prime." Several JSU alumni posted this on social media since to turn the chapter another page.

Another checklist item for head coach TC Taylor; the Blue-White game. The goal is to evaluate the players individually while evaluating the team collectively. Staying healthy is also paramount.

One of the biggest questions, who will be the starting quarterback to replace Shadeur Sanders, who left for Colorado with his dad, Deion Sanders? If Saturday's game is any indication, the starting job appears to belong to Jason Brown.

Brown took most of the "important" plays during the game and drills. Brown was 5 for 9 for 120 yards with a touchdown pass and an interception.

"We wanted to see what he could do in this kind of situation," Taylor said of Brown. "We wanted to see what kind of leader he is. He's a veteran and he is a one-and-done guy. He has one year to go out there and kind of show us and the world what he can do on a big stage. We ask him to step up and be a leader, we expect him to grasp the offense, which he has done. He has been doing a good job."

With Brown appearing to be the week 1 starter, that means someone has to back him up. Phillip Short got the second most amount of playing time, going 4 for 10 for 26 yards and

sacked 4 times; not quite the debut he envisioned for himself. Short also fumbled twice.

Zy McDonald did not play due to a hamstring injury. Taylor said Zy got mental reps today.

Greyson Thompson was the final quarterback to play. Thompson took advantage of the opportunity. He went 5 for 6 for 87 yards with a 35 yard touchdown pass. While some feel Brown is the clear cut starter as of now, Thompson has not conceded just yet. "He's just been fighting for his time," Taylor said of Thompson.

"He comes and talks to me all of the time. I just tell him to be patient and when you get those opportunities get out there and take advantage of them and let it fly. I thought he made a great throw to Kobe Paul today for a touchdown," Taylor said.

The defense is still dominant. The SWAC needs to stay alarmed about the darkside defense. However, that is typical in spring games. Defense is usually ahead of the offense.

Taylor summed up Saturday this way. "This football team has done a good job of coming together this spring. Like I always say, it's a lot of new faces, but they came out for the most part and competed today. We saw some bright spots. J.D. Martin had a really good football game today. The defense looked phenomenal, and I'm very pleased with what I'm seeing with the defense. It's a lot of veteran guys that have played a lot of snaps. We've got to continue to add some depth on the (offensive) line. We need some more guys to get in here. There's some guys that we've signed that we're counting on to get in here. Overall, I thought it was a pretty good scrimmage, and I'm excited about what the future holds."

Jackson State's season opener is August 26th in Atlanta against South Carolina State.



Coach Taylor was pleased with Blue-White game.



Wilkerson officially entered the transfer portal.



Expect attendance to stay high this season. PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY WARD



Nyles Gaddy had a good Blue-White game Saturday.



Looking forward to seeing and hearing the Sonic Boom.

Collins

Continued from page 1

than a tractor driver. That he surely did. Rising from the rank of Private to Major General through the years, selected as Brigade Commander of the 155th Brigade Combat Team, deployed to Haswah, Iraq from 2004-2006 – becoming the first African American to attain the rank of General Officer in the history of the Mississippi National Guard. He commanded 4,500 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in the Iraqi Theatre of Operations, while most of Americans slept safely at home. His combat team captured over 1,500 terrorists, seized more than 28,000 weapons, and confiscated over 18,000 pounds of munitions during the twelve-month deployment.

Upon returning from Iraq, his final tour of duty was as Director of Mobilization at U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia – responsible for matters pertaining to mobilization and employment of Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve units and Soldiers and deployment of all Active-Duty Forces for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and serving as a principal advisor for Homeland Security.

Despite his decades of service to the United States and rising to the General Officer ranks, and retiring with over thirty years of service, the story hardly ends there. How could it? He has never forgotten those early lessons of instruction, correction, encouragement and humility. He exudes a genuineness not often observed in such an accomplished person, persistently giving credit for any success to those who came before him, those around him and to God. "It is God who has ordered my steps to be at the right place at the right time, and to always be mindful of what we leave for the next generation."

After his military service he went on to serve for three years as one of three commissioners for the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission, located in Jackson, MS. He had been appointed by Governor Haley Barbour. Then on to MINACT, Inc. as executive vice president for Strategic Planning. MINACT, Inc. is a privately owned and operated corporation for which an entire article could be written. They specialize in training and developing young adults, through eleven Job Corps Centers in numerous states.

Once again though, a Mississippi Governor came calling for Augustus Leon Collins. Recalled from

the retired rolls by Governor Phil Bryant to serve as Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard. As the top officer of the Mississippi Military Department, he commanded our Army and Air National Guard troops, nearly 13,000 soldiers and airmen, including a full-time workforce of 3,800 employees, and managing a budget exceeding \$750 million. Responsible for preparing individuals and units for global force requirements worldwide and disaster response within the Continental United States – ensuring Mississippi's military was ready to answer the call of either the State of Mississippi or National Command Authority, at any time.

General Collins served as Adjutant General for four years and eight months. He was promoted to Major General – two stars on his personal flag. He retired once again, in 2016, with over thirty-five years' service to the United States. Remember the beginning – "the country boy from Booneville, Mississippi."

The share of the U.S. population with military experience is declining. In 2018, about 7% of U.S. adults were veterans, down from 18% in 1980, according to the Census Bureau, and as reported by The Pew Research Center. General Collins is well familiar with these numbers, and so much more.

Adding critical perspective to his journey, in 2021, Helene Cooper, the Pulitzer Prize winning journalist published an article in *The New Times*, "African-Americans Are Highly Visible in the Military, but Almost Invisible at the Top." She reminds us that "some 43 percent of the 1.3 million men and women on active duty in the United States military are people of color, but of the 41 most senior commanders in the military – those with four-star rank in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard – only two are black." She writes, "Interviews with more than three dozen white, black and Hispanic service members and officers depict an entrenched and clubby system with near cement ceilings for minority groups."

Per MilitaryOneSource in 2021, nationwide, 90.9% of National Guard and Air National Guard General Officers are white males, and 5.4% are black males. Of the female General Officers in the National Guard and Air National Guard, 75% are white, and 8.3% are black. Traditionally in Missis-

issippi, General Officers in the Army National Guard and Air National Guard are white males, however, last year, Colonel Edward H. Evans, Chief of Staff for the Mississippi Air National Guard was promoted to Brigadier General.

While this is not an article about institutional racism, it would be incomplete to not illuminate that General Collins not only achieved the arduous task of rising from E1 to O-8 but did so against all odds – a man of the highest caliber.

Since late 2016, General Collins has served as CEO of MINACT, Inc. where he is responsible for

the day-to-day operations of a company whose annual revenues are in the multi-millions and a workforce of over 1000 individuals. Additionally, he serves on numerous national boards, and since 2020 has served as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Mississippi.

He is a son, husband, father, friend, colleague, general officer and chief executive; truly a man of distinction, who simply can't abide taking credit.

General Collins, we thank you for your service, we salute you, and we thank you for your time sitting down with *The Mississippi Link* newspaper.



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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

DEDICATED TO DR. DELESICIA MARTIN
Hinds County School District highlighted their fine arts program with a Fine Arts Festival at Raymond High School where all schools in the Hinds County School District performed their talent in the Arts and put their art on display. The entire festival was dedicated to Dr. Delesicia Martin, Superintendent of Hinds County School District in honor of her retirement this June. All of the performances were exceptional.

