

# Entertainment Icon & Human Rights Activist Harry Belafonte dies at 96

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Renowned singer, actor, producer and legendary civil rights trailblazer Harry Belafonte has died at the age of 96.

His publicist confirmed that the beloved icon died of congestive heart failure at his home in

New York, Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

In addition to his children Adrienne Belafonte Biesemeyer, Shari Belafonte, Gina Belafonte, David Belafonte and two step-children Sarah Frank and Lindsey Frank, Belafonte leaves behind eight grandchildren: Rachel

Blue Biesemeyer, Brian Biesemeyer, Maria Belafonte McCray, Sarafina Belafonte, Amadeus Belafonte, Mateo Frank, Olive Scanga, and Zoe Frank.

Known globally for both his artistic ingenuity and humanitarian ideals, Belafonte became an early, vocal supporter of the

Civil Rights Movement, a confidant of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and financial backer of countless historic political and social causes and events, including the anti-Apartheid Movement, equal rights for women, juvenile justice, climate change and the decolonization of Africa.

He was one of the organizers of the 1963 March on Washington and led a delegation of Hollywood luminaries including his best friend Sidney Poitier, as well as Paul Newman, Sammy Davis, Jr, Marlon Brando, Rita

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Belafonte

# Good Morning America visits Rolling Fork after EF-4 tornado hit the area over one month ago

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Reporting live, Robert Robert's, co-anchor from Good Morning America (GMA), rolled into Rolling Fork, MS early Wednesday morning after spending the night in Vicksburg, MS and toured the area that had been devastated by the March 24 EF-4 tornado that hit several counties in Mississippi.

Roberts, who is a native of Pass Christian, Mississippi, said GMA was there to support the citizens of Rolling Fork and this was the first phase of their initiative to help this community re-build.

She referred to the initiative as the 3 R's – 'the removal, the re-building and the re-opening of Rolling Fork.' She reported on how neighbors were helping neighbors in the community and how others from around the country were there to help with the clean-up as a result of the devastation that claimed the lives of 13 people in the community. The ma-

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Robin Roberts seen here with Rolling Fork Police Chief Michael Myles and wife Becky PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

# Working Together Jackson

## WTJ: Refounding Convention and City-wide Assembly

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

Per the Working Together Jackson website, <https://workingtogetherjackson.org>, it was founded in 2012. WTJ is a broad-based coalition of institutions committed to collaborative strategies that solve many of the problems facing Jackson. Their institutions cross racial, religious and economic lines within the city. On Sunday, April 23 at 3 p.m., a solid 500 people filled New Horizon Church International for their 10-year Refounding Convention and City-Wide Assembly.

The main purpose of this meeting was to launch a robust community engagement campaign that included institutional house meetings and neighborhood walks. Training for this will begin on Thursday, June 8 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, June 17, from 2-4 p.m. at Greater Mt. Bethel Church. All are invited to participate in the campaign.

While the majority of attendees live in Jackson, there were also attendees and partners from across Mississippi, and as far away as Baltimore, MD and



New Horizon Church International Praise Team & Choir

Brooklyn, N.Y.

The WTJ mission is to rebuild Jackson through institutional leadership development as well as pragmatic and cooperative community problem-solving. They do that by working with community leaders, organizations and institutions to address problems within Jackson and to create solutions to those issues.

Festivities began with two selections from the New Horizon Church International praise team and choir. Bishop Glake Hill (Southern Diocese, Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A. and

Julianne Tharp (Fondren Presbyterian Church) served as MCs for the event which raised over \$62,000 from its member organizations in checks and pledges. Bishop Ronnie Crudup (NHCI), Reverend Lorenzo Neal (New Bethel AME), and Rhoda Yoder (Open Door Mennonite Church) shared perceptions about the disinvestment in Jackson, civic segregation and failure of leadership.

They were clear and concise with their examples, and absolutely not shy on speaking the truth – from the garbage con-

tract, attempts to takeover Jackson Public Schools, 1% sales tax, partnership with Hinds Community College workforce training program to expand their programs to include over 500 people, water crisis, contracting disparities, and the anti-Jackson legislative session that just adjourned.

Prior to the introduction of the keynote speaker, Bishop Glake Hill reminded that both WTJ and Working Together Mississippi (led by Perry Perkins) are

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# Listening sessions produced IHL Board of Trustees to seek qualified candidates for the next president of JSU

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

Several listening sessions were held on the Jackson State University campus among the faculty, staff, students, alumni and community Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Institutions of Higher Learning board members heard those who voiced their concerns regarding preferred qualifications of the next president of JSU.

Within the last twelve years, the JSU family has had three different presidents who, as they stressed, had hindered the growth of the university. A number of persons indicated that increasingly low morale is a result of failed leadership.

Carolyn Meyers (Ph.D.) resigned as president of Norfolk State University on June 30, 2010. An article by the *Virginian-Pilot* revealed on January 9, 2010, that "issues of leadership, judgment and vision" which labeled Meyers "ill-suited for the president's chair brought her to doom. Then on November 22, 2010, IHL appointed her as president of JSU. She took the position in January, 2011 and resigned on November 1, 2016 amid financial questions after the college board hired a CPA firm to examine JSU's finances because of the rapidly diminishing university cash reserves.

William Bynum (Ph.D.) was appointed president of JSU in the summer of 2017 after serving four years as president of Mississippi State University. Faculty, staff and students publicly stated their disapproval of the board's decision. Bynum resigned in February, 2020, after having been found guilty of charges stemming from a prostitution sting by a Clinton judge.

On the same day, the IHL board named Thomas K. Hudson, a JSU alumnus, (J.D. and Bynum's former assistant) the interim president. The following November, Hudson was appointed president of JSU. Hudson received a no-confidence vote from faculty senate in January, 2023. IHL, however, placed him on administrative leave but offered no rationale for their decision.

Alumni, in the midst of

their frustrations, stood at the mic and called for a president to be a changemaker who launches excellence for JSU in character and conduct in an effort to push the institution to its utopia.

[The leader should be] "a visionary. We have black leadership with the board now. Exercise it. I'm not saying do anything special. Just do the right thing," appealed Donna Antoine LaVigne.

Carrine Bishop (Ph.D.) explained the need for "someone who is accountable, sensible and transparent." [She/He should be] committed to this institution, have the experience and knows the history of the community. Stop hiring your friends. We need to vet every individual."

Ivory Phillips (Ph.D.), mentioned that the JSU family "does not feel that this board has been giving [the institution] its best attention. I think a good president is one who has a real, strong vision for developing a Historically Black University into a first-rate university."

Sophia Leggette (MPH, Ph.D.) called for the board to "be sincere and intentional" in their selection of the next JSU president to move the university upward, rather than channeling students, faculty and staff into a slope of decline, thereby impeding the university's thriving. She mentioned the need to lift the university because "we have been down so long."

Associate professor in criminal justice, Etta Morgan (Ph.D.), informed board members that faculty morale is at an "all-time low." She claimed that the university is being destroyed from the inside out. Referencing insubordination, she stated, "Students have gotten to the point where they are cursing you out in the classroom. You write them up, nothing gets done."

LaKeisha Crye, instructor and 2004 graduate, told board members that her daughters would be in danger on the JSU campus and that she would spend "more money" for them on "a safer campus."

Student Jason Johnson called for a heightened sense

**JSU**  
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# Student participants in ‘Choose to grow’ after-school program show off their entrepreneur skills while assisting with disaster relief

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

‘Choose to Grow’ afterschool program students became successful entrepreneurs during A-TEAAM & ESTEEM (Engaging Scholars through Empowerment Education and Mentoring) Market Day held in Jackson at the City Plaza Sat., April 22nd from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

More than 30 students from Blackburn, Brinkley and Powell Middle Schools in Jackson, Milam Elementary School in Tupelo and In His Steps Ministries in Canton set up booths and gave their business pitch to sell their products to people from the community.

Students, with the assistance of their mentors had designed and created bracelets, hair bows, decorative photo frames, action figures, aprons, lip balm, hot wing sauce, book marks, bird houses, bird feeders, pens that pop, artwork, and much, much more. The community members were supportive and each student left with profits of \$100 to more than \$600.

A charter bus brought more than 60 children and families who had been affected by the tornado in Rolling

Fork to have a day of fun and relief. The children from Rolling Fork stood side-by-side with the Choose to Grow Entrepreneurs and helped them sell their products. They received 10% of the Choose to Grow youth’s sales and their families received needed personal items along with sturdy totes to store these products in their hotel rooms. The families received more than \$3,000 in Walmart gift cards to purchase other items needed upon their return to their hotels.

The JSD (Juanita Sims Doty) Foundation partnered with many community organizations to provide disaster relief efforts to 30 families during Market Day.

Senator John Horhn provided fresh “Delta’ farm raised fried catfish for the families and students. The Beta Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity grilled hotdogs and hamburgers. Line dancing was led by Aaron Honeysuckle with music by DJ Educator.

Karla McCullough from the JSD Foundation said, “. It was so heartwarming to see the Rolling Fork students feel comfortable enough to stand right in as entrepreneurs, and



Tamiya Stovall and Ziya Bunzy purchasing items from the young entrepreneurs

to see the Choose to Grow students so open to sharing their spaces with them. “The goal was for them to reprieve from the reality of the disaster they’ve experienced.”

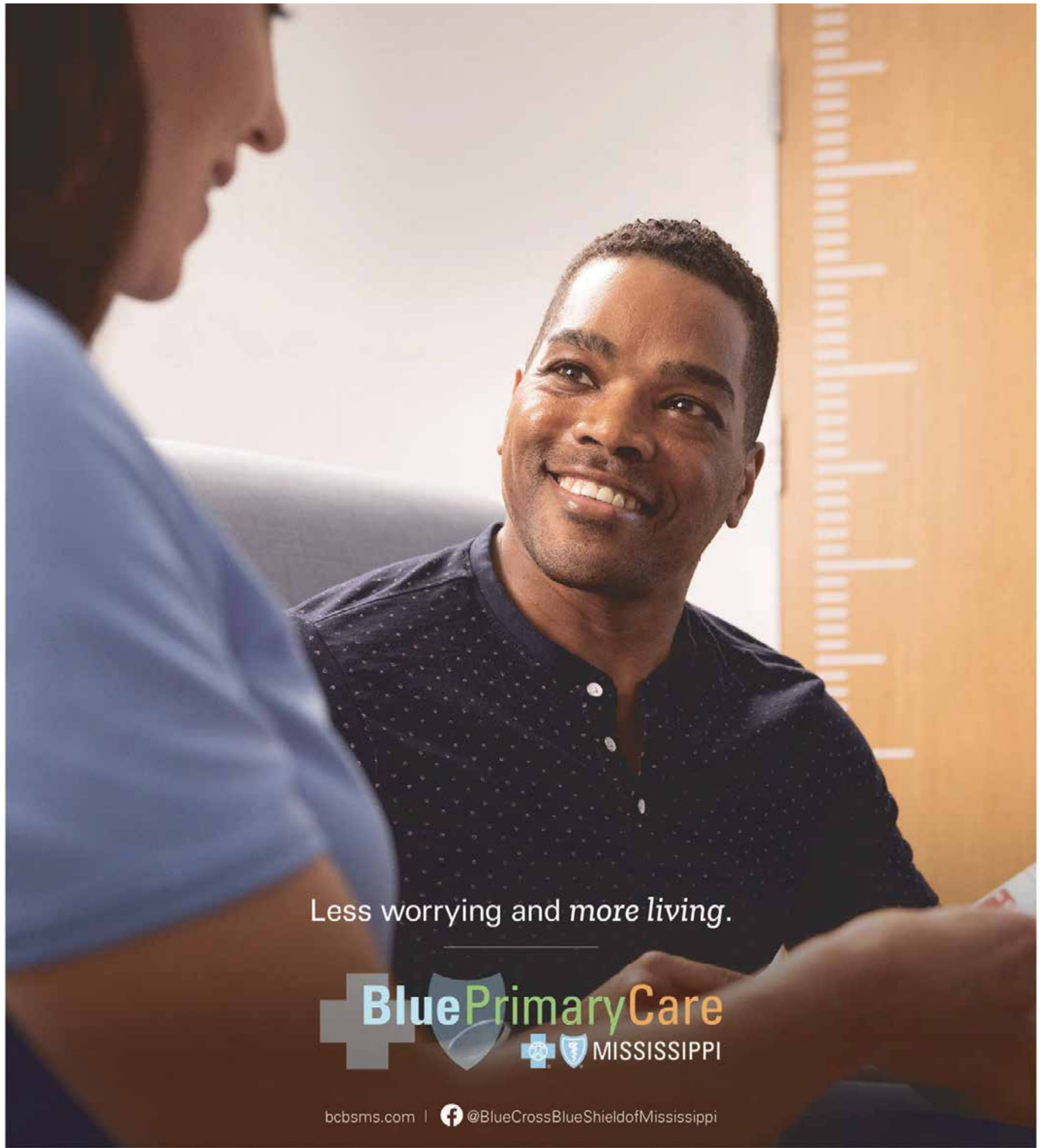
When asked by The Mississippi Link if she thought any of the students would one day wish to start businesses of their own Juanita Sims Doty said, “Based on the success of the Choose to Grow Market Day there are going to be some very successful business owners

coming out of this group.” She said there were at least four to five entrepreneurs who received future orders from customers and their artist had several requests to draw and create more artwork. She added, “A bride-to-be asked one of our entrepreneurs to make bracelets as gifts for her bridesmaids and she would pay double what she was selling them for at Market Day; so their busi-




Juanita S. Doty and Karla McCullough of JSD Foundation


ness is already taking off from Market Day. They now have to ‘go to work’ to make more products.”



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**WTJ**

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A photograph showing three individuals standing behind a dark wooden podium. On the left, a man in a light-colored suit and glasses is speaking into a microphone. In the center, a man in a dark suit and glasses stands with his hands clasped. On the right, a woman in a red and black patterned jacket looks towards the speaker. The background is a plain, light-colored wall with a wooden door visible behind the man in the center.

The vision for a better and stronger Jackson was a constant theme throughout the ninety-minute event. There was a true sense of community despite our many challenges here in The City with Soul, and a feeling of a gathering optimism about our own beloved city.

**JSU**

A white mobile food trailer is parked on a grassy area. The trailer has a large window on the left side. On the side of the trailer, there is a red and white sign that reads "Chuck's" in a stylized font, with "THE HAPPY LONESOME &amp; HEARTY" written above it and "MIDDLEBURY REGION" written below it. The trailer is parked in front of a large tree.

A group of people, including a man in a red jacket and a woman in a green jacket, smiling and posing for a photo outdoors. The man in the foreground is wearing a red jacket, glasses, and a black cap. The woman next to him is wearing a green jacket. They are surrounded by other people in a crowd, suggesting a public event or gathering.

Media includes (back l-r) Photographer Jay Johnson; Robin Roberts, co-anchor GMA; Troy Johnson, WAPT reporter; (front l-r) Madeline Nolan, WAPT reporter; and James Foster, WAPT photographer.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES FOSTER

of awareness. "The only thing we want here in our next president is really... communication." He justified his statement by indicating that the things students often hear never surface among the student body.

In his mic space, Elijah Karriem – senior and secretary of the university’s NAACP chapter – explained that he did not care for the president’s administration to read from papers when they hold meetings. Instead, they “should be well-prepared when communicating at town hall meetings.”

Christi Madison Fortson (senior psychology major) complained about lack of repairs for accessibility of working bathroom stalls in the Dollye M. E. Robinson Liberal Arts Building. Transparency from administration and other buildings needing attention were also mentioned. Fortson further commented that the board should do “an extensive background check” for JSU’s next president.

American politician and democratic member of the Mississippi Senate, Senator Hillman Frazier is a representative of parts of the Jackson community. He made it clear that lawmakers cite JSU's turbulent leadership which gives them reasons to not provide more financial support to the institution.

“The only thing that we really ask is you give us a slate of candidates, not put someone in front of us and tell us that’s who is going to lead the

# Belafonte

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Moreno, Tony Curtis, James Baldwin, Burt Lancaster, Joanne Woodward, Diahann Carrol, Bob Dylan, Mahalia Jackson, Peter, Paul and Mary and Joan Baez, Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis and Tony Curtis.

The following is from Belafonte's bio on the HistoryMakers:

Born to immigrant parents in Harlem on March 1, 1927, Harry Belafonte spent much of his youth in his mother's home country of Jamaica.

Though difficult, life in Jamaica was full of rich cultural experiences that influenced Belafonte's art. At the beginning of World War II, Belafonte returned to Harlem with his mother and brother. He had trouble integrating into the new environment and later dropped out of high school to join the U.S. Navy.

After Belafonte was honorably discharged, he went back to New York, where he worked odd jobs until two free tickets to the American Negro Theatre (A.N.T.) changed his life.

Belafonte auditioned for the A.N.T. and earned his first leading role in *Juno and the Paycock*. In 1953, he made his film debut opposite Dorothy Dandridge in *Bright Road*. He won a Tony in 1954 for his performance in *Almanac*.

At the same time, Belafonte developed his singing talents, having parlayed a series of nightclub performances into a record contract.

His third album, *Calypso*, topped the charts for thirty-one consecutive weeks and was the first record to sell more than 1 million copies.

university," firmly stated Patrease Edwards, president of the alumni association.

Steven Cunningham (M.D.), a JSU alumnus, heads the IHL board's search committee. He responded that he, too, "wants a good president" and said that the search committee would do a national search. Asserting that it may take several months before a new president is in place, Cunningham noted that the listening sessions are essential.

Following the listening sessions at JSU, The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning met and appointed the members of the search committee for the Jackson State University President Search: Steven Cunningham (Chair); Ormella Cummings (Ph.D.); Bruce Martin; Gee Ogletree; and Hal Parker.

Since Hudson's resignation, Elayne Hayes-Anthony (Ph.D.) has been serving as interim and desires to become the next JSU president. A JSU alumnus, she has served in a number of leadership capacities, including Chairwoman of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies; Assistant Superintendent of Public Information; Staff Development and Pupil Placement for JPS; Professor and Communications Chair of the Department of Communications at Belhaven University; and Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Mass Communications at JSU. Hayes-Anthony is a national figure who heads a number of boards.

his hour-long special, *Tonight with Belafonte*, which won him an Emmy.

He became the first African American TV producer and his company, HarBel, went on to produce one Emmy nominee after another.

In the early 1950s, Belafonte developed a strong relationship with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Belafonte worked tirelessly to mobilize artists in support of the civil rights movement.

In 1985, he again rallied the global artistic community to raise awareness of the famines, wars and droughts plaguing many African nations.

USA for Africa raised more than \$60 million for this cause with “We Are the World” and Hands Across America.

A longtime anti-apartheid activist, Belafonte hosted former South African President Nelson Mandela on his triumphant visit to the United States.

Belafonte maintained his commitment to service as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador.

“The lifelong commitment, courage, global leadership, and legacy of The Honorable Harry Belafonte will always be cherished and remembered by billions of people throughout the world,” said NNPA President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. “Belafonte was a gifted, talented and transformative freedom fighter for all of humanity. The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) salutes the memory of Harry Belafonte and recommits to the struggle for freedom, justice and equality that Belafonte so boldly epitomized and embodied.”





# We knew he would, and he did – takeover bills now law

## The Governor who claims to govern for all Mississippians signs oppressive bills into law

**By Christopher Young**  
*Contributing Writer*

Honestly, is anyone surprised? Governor Reeves signed House Bill 1020 and its sidekick Senate Bill 2343 into law Friday, April 21, 2023. It was only a matter of time, after all, the state is still in litigation trying to take over the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport. Then there was the attempt to take over our Jackson Public Schools and the attempt to take over the City of Jackson Water system. They simply cannot tolerate black citizens and even black elected officials – elected by the people – having power. It goes against their ironclad beliefs that black people are different, and therefore inferior to them – a definition of white supremacy.

This is the governor who steadfastly refuses to expand Medicaid, keeping hundreds of thousands of poor Mississippians without health insurance in the poorest and unhealthiest state in the country. This is the governor who, despite claiming his allegiance to a culture of life, never advocated for a carve-out for new poor mothers to get the benefit of insurance coverage beyond 60 days post-partum – and new mothers died – culture of life...please! He only signed that bill this year due to his desire to be reelected in 2024. This is the governor of the state with the highest African-American population per capita in the nation, who refuses to embrace Black History Month, while annually declaring April as Confederate Heritage Month. No, we're not surprised that he signed these oppressive bills into law.

HB1020 and SB2343 were fed to him by votes in the Senate of 31-15, with four republicans abstaining; then the following day in the lower chamber by a vote of 73-41, respectively. Not one republican senator voted against either bill in either chamber. There were seven abstentions in the lower chamber vote, four republicans and three democrats. The Caucasian American Republican super-majority need not compromise, they know it and we know it. It reminds us of the famous quote by African-American NFL head coach Dennis Green, "They are who we thought they were."

In this case, it was Jackson and Hinds County outsiders who carried the water. HB1020 was authored by John Thomas Lamar III of Senatobia, 160 miles from Jackson. SB2343 was authored by Joey Fillingane of Sumrall, 75 miles from Jackson. I wonder what type of reception our African-American Hinds County legislators would receive if they attempted to grossly change the way folks do business in Senatobia and Sumrall?

The HB1020 takeover creates a separate and distinct judicial district within the Capitol Complex Improvement District (CCID) with four judges being appointed by the Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, unlike anywhere else in the entire state where judges are elected by the people, per the Constitution. It doubles the size of the CCID itself, from 8.7 square miles to 17.5 square miles. It codifies the entire CCID as being under the primary jurisdiction of state law enforcement – under the authority of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety (DPS). It allows DPS to send misdemeanor cases to prison as opposed to jail. It states that jurisdiction will be concurrent with the Jackson Police Department – but we shall see.

The SB2343 takeover gives DPS and its underling CCID Capitol Police the authority to enforce all state laws in any areas where state properties are connected to the state's business. It allows for the contracting of security personnel for big state agencies like Institutions of Higher Learning, Department of Agriculture (including the farmers market and fairgrounds), Alcoholic Beverage Control at their buildings and spaces. It requires written permission of the Capitol Police Chief or his boss, the DPS Commissioner, before any event can take place on any sidewalk or street immediately adjacent to state property.

The takeover is like an invasion of our black city by white people in positions of power. They are carving out their own district from our city – expanding into the area that by many reports' houses 50+% of the white residents of Jackson. They are usurping the will of our people; setting a new precedent, as this blatantly racist behavior is occurring no where else in Mississippi. They are creating new laws to reduce black autonomy. This is shameful behavior that turns a blind eye to love thy neighbor in the most church-attending state in the country.

Immediately upon the signing of these takeover laws, on last Friday, the NAACP filed suit – "These laws target Jackson's majority-black residents on the basis of race for a separate and unequal policing structure and criminal justice system to which no other residents of the state are subjected," says the lawsuit.

When signing the bills, Governor Reeves said in part, "As long as I'm governor, the state will keep fighting for safer streets for every Mississippian no matter their politics, race, creed, or religion – regardless of how we're portrayed by liberal activists or in the national media," per Mississippi Today." How in the world can you keep a straight face when listening to him?

Also per Mississippi Today, on Monday, just three days after the bills were signed into law, "another lawsuit was filed, this time in Hinds County Chancery Court on behalf of three Jackson citizens, by the Mississippi Center for Justice, the ACLU of Mississippi, the MacArthur Justice Center and Legal Defense Fund."

These new laws are set to go into effect July 1, 2023. Both lawsuits seek to remind the state of two documents – the Mississippi Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.

# Hinds CC retired baseball coach McQuitter named to MACJC SHOF



Retired baseball Coach George McQuitter, right, was inducted into the Mississippi Community and Junior Colleges Sports Hall of Fame on April 25. Congratulating him is Hinds President Dr. Stephen Vacik.



Retired baseball Coach George McQuitter, center, was inducted into the Mississippi Community and Junior Colleges Sports Hall of Fame on April 25. With him are friends and family members who were on hand to celebrate with him.

### Special to The Mississippi Link

Retired Hinds Community College baseball coach George McQuitter of Jackson was inducted into the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Sports Hall of Fame on April 25.

McQuitter coached baseball with much success as head coach at what is now the Utica Campus for nine years and as associate head coach for two years when the two programs merged

on the Raymond Campus.

After earning his bachelor's degree in mass communication in 1976 and master's degree in educational technology in 1980 from Jackson State University, McQuitter was named the head coach of the Utica Junior College team in 1980, inheriting a team that went 0-21 the year before his arrival.

In just his second season (1981), McQuitter led his team to a district championship, which was followed by two more district titles in 1982 and 1984,

marking a notable turn-around in the program. McQuitter's 1985 team posted a remarkable 49-9 record, winning a South Division Championship with a 27-1 South Division record. These seasons were just highlights of his stint with the Utica team as he posted an impressive 284-145 record in nine seasons.

McQuitter saw 24 of his players go on to play professional baseball with three of those players being drafted in the first round of the Major League

Baseball (MLB) draft and three players making it all the way to the highest stage of the MLB. Additionally, 70 of his players moved on to play at four-year universities. He was also selected to coach the 1984 and 1988 Junior College All-Star Games.

After the two baseball teams at Raymond and Utica merged into one in 1989, McQuitter coached alongside Rick Clarke at the Raymond Campus. As associate head coach in 1989, McQuitter helped coach the Eagles to a

State, Region 23 and Eastern District championship as well as a Junior College World Series appearance in Grand Junction, Colo., the first Junior College World Series appearance in school and state history.

Until 2022, the 1989 team remained the only team to have won a state, regional and district championship and play in the Junior College World Series in the same season.

McQuitter was inducted into the Hinds Sports Hall of Fame in 2018.



# Former wrestler charged in Mississippi welfare fraud case

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

Companies run by a former professional wrestler received “sham contracts” in Mississippi and misspent millions of dollars of welfare money that was supposed to help some of the neediest people in the U.S., according to a new federal indictment.

The indictment of former wrestler Ted “Teddy” DiBiase Jr., 40, of Madison, Mississippi, was unsealed Thursday, two days after it was issued by a grand jury in Jackson. During a brief court appearance Thursday, he pleaded not guilty.

“Jesus loves you, brother. God bless you, man,” DiBiase told a WAPT-TV reporter outside the federal courthouse.

The indictment is the latest development in a sprawling Mississippi corruption case involving wealthy and well-connected people receiving contracts from the state Department of Human Services from 2016 to 2019.

DiBiase was a WWE wrestler in the 2000s and 2010s. The indictment accuses him and co-conspirators, including former Mississippi Department of Human Services director John Davis, of fraudulently obtaining federal money and using it for their own benefit.

According to the indictment, Davis directed funds from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to two non-profit organizations – Family Resource Center of North Mississippi Inc., directed by Christi Webb, and Mississippi Community Education Center, directed by Nancy New. Webb and New have both pleaded guilty in the welfare fraud scandal.



Ted “Teddy” DiBiase Jr.

Davis told Webb and New to award contracts in 2017 and 2018 to DiBiase’s companies, Priceless Ventures LLC and Familiae Orientem LLC, for social services that the companies did not provide, the indictment said.

“DiBiase allegedly used these federal funds to buy a vehicle and a boat, and for the down payment on the purchase of a house, among other expenditures,” the Justice Department said in a news release Thursday.

DiBiase’s attorney, Scott Gilbert, said in a statement that Thursday was a good day for his client.

“After being forced to sit quietly for nearly three years while opportunists took unabated swings at Teddy and his family, Teddy now has the opportunity to fight back publicly,” Gilbert said. “As much as every one of us have the right to decide for ourselves whether our government is effective or prudent in the way it carries out its functions, criminalizing what, in hindsight, may be fairly characterized as poor fiscal management by the executive branch of state government is a dangerous and worrisome precedent.”

DiBiase is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and to commit theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, six counts of wire fraud, two counts of theft concerning programs receiving federal

funds and four counts of money laundering.

If convicted, he would face up to five years in prison for the conspiracy count, up to 20 years for each wire fraud count and up to 10 years for each count of theft concerning programs receiving federal funds and for each count of money laundering, the Justice Department said.

Brett DiBiase has pleaded guilty to state and federal charges tied to the case.

The welfare misspending scandal has ensnared high-profile figures, including retired NFL quarterback Brett Favre, who is not facing criminal charges but is among more than three dozen defendants in a civil lawsuit that the current Human Services director filed last year to try to recover some of the welfare money wasted while Davis was in charge.

Teddy DiBiase, Brett DiBiase and their father, former pro wrestler Ted DiBiase Sr. are also defendants in the civil lawsuit. Ted DiBiase Sr. was known as the “The Million Dollar Man” while wrestling. He is a Christian evangelist and motivational speaker, and he ran Heart of David Ministries Inc., which received \$1.7 million in welfare grant money in 2017 and 2018 for mentorship, marketing and other services, according to the lawsuit.

Mississippi has ranked among the poorest states in the U.S. for decades, but only a fraction of its federal welfare money has been going toward direct aid to families. Instead, the Mississippi Department of Human Services allowed well-connected people to fritter away tens of millions of welfare dollars from 2016 to 2019, according to the state auditor and state and federal prosecutors.

# A reminder about ALEC

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), per their website <https://alec.org>, “With over 2,000 members, ALEC is the nation’s largest non-partisan, individual membership association of state legislators.

ALEC is one of America’s most dynamic public-private partnerships with nearly 300 corporate and private foundation members. ALEC provides its public and private sector members with a unique opportunity to work together to develop policies and programs that effectively promote the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism, and individual liberty.”

Not everyone agrees with what ALEC claims to be. Common-cause.org says the “American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is a corporate lobbying group that brings together corporate lobbyists and politicians to draft and vote – as equals and behind closed doors – on “model bills” that often benefit the corporations’ bottom line. These model bills, drafted without public input, are then introduced in state legislatures across the country, usually with ALEC’s involvement concealed.”

Due to ALEC’s status as a 501(c) (3) “Common Cause has filed a “whistleblower” complaint against ALEC with the Internal Revenue Service, including evidence that the group has violated its tax-exempt status by operating as a lobby while claiming to be a charity. ALEC’s tax exemption allows its corporate supporters to take tax deductions on the millions spent each year to support ALEC’s activities – in effect, taking advantage of a taxpayer subsidy for its lobbying.”

Common Cause states on their website, “Some of ALEC’s largest corporate members and sponsors include Altria, Koch Industries, UPS, FedEx, Pfizer, Duke Energy, Charter Communications, Comcast, and Anheuser-Busch, and that due to controversies about ALEC’s secretive operations, controversial agenda, and public pressure from Common Cause and our allies, more than 100 major companies have

left ALEC since 2011, including Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Procter & Gamble, Kraft, Johnson & Johnson, McDonalds, Walmart, Amazon, Bank of America, General Motors, Visa, Sprint, Microsoft, Google, Facebook, Yahoo, eBay, BP, T-Mobile, ExxonMobil, Verizon, and AT&T.”

So why does all this matter to us? It matters because Mississippi legislators have been ALEC members for many years. Long embedded in ALEC, Philip Gunn was their 2020 National chair. On August 22, 2023 Gunn was interviewed by conservative talk show host, Hugh Hewitt – <https://alec.org/article/alec-on-hugh-hewitt-show-no-downside-to-letting-people-keep-more-of-their-hard-earned-money>.

Among other things, Gunn said this: “Next up in Mississippi, we will be looking at how we can free our kids from public schools.” Classist and racist thinking, alive and well in Mississippi, where governing for all Mississippians is a punchline, not reality. Gunn has announced he will not seek reelection. Good riddance.

Mississippi Senator Josh Harkins (R-20) is also a member of ALEC’s Board of Directors, a board with 23 people, not surprisingly comprised of 18 white men and five white women. The ALEC website also lists MS Representative Beckie Currie (R-92) as a state chair. She still has the old stars and bars flag on her ALEC bio page; again, not surprisingly as she was a firm no-vote to changing the Mississippi State flag.

With ALEC, basic principles are manipulated to increase power for the powerful. Major corporations and industries can write their own legislation with the help of ALEC. In 2016, the *Jackson Free Press* wrote, “ALEC creates and distributes legislative templates to state legislatures through its members – state lawmakers – in order to further its national political goals.”

Major areas of focus of ALEC bills are reducing regulations, reducing individual and corporate taxation, loosening environmental regulations, tightening voter identification rules, weakening labor unions, tightening immi-

gration, and opposing gun control.

Regardless of what you might think about these issues, it must be noted that typically 90% of ALEC bills are introduced in state legislatures by republican legislators, by an all-Caucasian American organization often referred to as a bill-mill located in a massive office building on Crystal Drive in Arlington, Virginia – some of the most expensive office space in the country, right under our noses.

The website <https://alecattacks.org> says, “Advocates, activists, and movements seeking to push back against its corporate-first, racist agenda can take meaningful action to resist ALEC’s influence over law and policy-making and reclaim the people’s right to self-determination.”

They suggest:

- Call elected officials and corporations and demand they cut ties with ALEC.

- Fight the bills at the committee level, informing the press throughout the process.

- Demand the state attorney general not view these laws as legitimate or enforceable since they were not originated by the will of the people.

- Demand Open Meetings laws and policies be reviewed to ensure the highest transparency.

- Pressure lawmakers to make Public Records Requests easier to obtain, more timely, and less expensive, i.e. if a taxpayer wants to know how much money was spent by Capitol Police on fuel in the month of February 2023, they should be able to obtain that information within 14 days and at a nominal cost.

White supremacy, by its very nature, holds that non-white people are different and inferior. The browning of America is terrifying for some and very troubling for even more, and White Supremacists are bound and determined to do something about it.

This is what the White Nationalist agenda is all about – anti-abortion, anti-immigration, voter suppression, public funding for classist school alternatives, resisting labor unions, and with guns everywhere.

Their agenda and ALEC’s agenda are one in the same.

# Lawsuit: Mississippi violates rights by appointing judges

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

Mississippi is violating its own constitution with a new law that requires some judges to be appointed rather than elected in the state’s capital city and its surrounding county, civil rights groups said in a lawsuit filed Monday.

It is the second lawsuit since Republican Gov. Tate Reeves signed bills Friday to expand state policing in Jackson, to establish a lower court with an appointed judge and to authorize four appointed judges to work alongside the four elected circuit court judges in Hinds County, which is home to Jack-

son.

About 83% of residents in Jackson and 74% in Hinds County are black, and both the city and the county are governed by Democrats. The new laws were passed by the majority-white and Republican-controlled state House and Senate over the objections of most

Jackson lawmakers and many local residents.

The new lawsuit was filed Monday in Hinds County Chancery Court on behalf of three residents by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Mississippi Center for Justice, the ACLU of Mississippi and the MacArthur Justice Center. It says the Mississippi Constitution requires most judges to be elected.

“State lawmakers have said that this takeover of our judicial system is for our own good, for our own safety, and that is deeply offensive to me,” one of the plaintiffs, Ann Saunders, said in a statement. “African Americans in Mississippi died so that we could vote. How does weakening the right to self-governance make us safer?”

Stuart Naifeh, the Legal Defense Fund’s redistricting project manager, said the requirement for appointed judges “is a blatant power grab by the legislature to further silence voters and assert control over a majority-black county.”

“Boxing voters out from electing officials who will preside over criminal cases is shameful and undermines the checks and balances that hold Mississippi’s democracy together,” Naifeh said. “We will not rest until the legislature abides by the state constitution

and voters have a say in who runs their courtrooms.”

The NAACP filed a lawsuit late Friday in federal court saying that “separate and unequal policing” will return Jackson under a state-run police department.

The governor said last week that the Jackson Police Department is severely understaffed, and he believes the Capitol Police, a division of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, could provide stability. Jackson has nearly 150,000 residents and has had more than 100 homicides in each of the past three years.

“We can arrest all the violent criminals in the city, but if the judicial system puts them right back on the street – what have we really accomplished?” Reeves said in a statement Friday.

Capitol Police officers have been patrolling around state government buildings in and near downtown, and the Jackson Police Department patrols the entire city. Critics say Capitol Police are aggressive, and expanding the territory could endanger lives.

Debate since early this year over a larger state role in Jackson has angered residents who don’t want their voices diminished in local government.

One of the laws Reeves signed Friday will create a

court within a Capitol Complex Improvement District inside a portion of Jackson, and it will start work next January. The judge will be appointed by the Mississippi Supreme Court chief justice, who is a conservative white man.

The new court will have the same power as municipal courts, which handle misdemeanor cases, traffic violations and initial appearances for some criminal charges. Most municipal judges are appointed by city officials. Jackson has a black mayor and majority-black city council. The judge of the new court is not required to live in Jackson.

The lawsuit filed Monday says that the law does not specify how people can appeal decisions from the Capitol Complex court. People convicted of cases in the court would be housed in a state prison. In other courts, people convicted of misdemeanors would go to a county jail.

The appointed circuit court judges are to be chosen by early May and would not be required to live in Hinds County. In 2020 and 2022, Chief Justice Mike Randolph appointed retired judges from other parts of the state to help with a backlog of cases in Hinds County Circuit Court. The new appointed circuit judges would work through 2026.

## The Mississippi Link™

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# Army removing Confederate name of Virginia Fort to honor black heroes

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Fort Lee, Virginia, named in honor of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, will take on a new name that honors two black Army trailblazers.

The fort will honor Lt. Gen. Arthur Gregg and Lt. Col. Charity Adams, the U.S. Army said in a statement Tuesday, April 25.

A redesignation ceremony is planned for Thursday, April 27, honoring the two black officers whom officials said excelled in the field of sustainment and made significant marks in U.S. Army history.

Lt. Gen. Gregg rose from the rank of private to three-star general during his military logistics career, which began just after WWII and spanned nearly 36 years, the release noted. Gregg, 94, will be the only living person in modern Army history to have an installation named after him.

Lt. Col. Adams was the first black officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps – later known as the Women's Army Corps – in World War II and led the first predominately black WAC unit to serve overseas: the storied 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

"We are deeply honored to have Lt. Gen. Arthur Gregg and Lt. Col. Charity Adams as the new namesakes for our installation," Maj. Gen. Mark Simerly, commanding general of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command and senior commander of Fort Lee, stated in the release.

Officials said the post is one of nine Army installations being redesignated in accordance with Defense Department-



A redesignation ceremony is planned for Thursday, April 27, honoring the two black officers whom officials said excelled in the field of sustainment and made significant marks in U.S. Army history.

endorsed recommendations from the congressional Naming Commission to remove the names, symbols, displays, monuments, and paraphernalia that commemorate the Confederate States of America or those who voluntarily served under the C.S.A.

Congress directed the formation of the Naming Commission in the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act and charged it with providing these recommendations.

The Commission issued its

three-part report to Congress in the summer of 2022.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III accepted all the Commission's recommendations that September.

On Jan. 5, 2023, William A. LaPlante, the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, directed all Department of Defense organizations to begin implementing those recommendations.

"The Naming Commission sought to recommend names that are 'inspirational to the

soldiers and civilians who serve on our Army posts, and to the communities who support them,'" Simerly stated.

"They delivered exactly that with these two inspiring leaders and their tremendous accomplishments – from World War II through the Cold War – speak to the important history of this installation and to the courage, dignity, and devotion to duty that we strive to instill in every soldier training here at the home of the Army Sustainment."

## Lemon fired from CNN after divisive morning show run



Lemon

By David Bauder  
AP Media Writer

CNN fired longtime host Don Lemon Monday following his short and disastrous run as a morning show host, a little over two months after he apologized for on-air comments about Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley being past her prime.

The move quickly turned nasty. While CNN chairman and CEO Chris Licht announced, after Lemon had co-hosted the show Monday, that they had "parted ways," Lemon characterized it as a firing and said it was surprise to him.

"After 17 years at CNN I would have thought someone in management would have the decency to tell me directly," Lemon said. CNN said that Lemon was given the opportunity to meet with management but released a statement on Twitter instead.

CNN offered no public explanation for Lemon's dismissal.

During a February discussion on "CNN This Morning" with co-hosts Poppy Harlow and Kaitlan Collins about the ages of politicians, he said that the 51-year-old Haley was not "in her prime." A woman, he said, was considered in her prime "in her 20s, 30s and maybe her 40s."

Harlow challenged Lemon, trying to clarify what he was referencing: "I think we need to qualify. Are you talking about prime for childbearing or are you talking about prime for being president?"

"Don't shoot the messenger, I'm just saying what the facts are," Lemon responded.

Lemon issued a statement the same day saying he regretted his "inartful and irrelevant" comments. He was subsequently absent from the show for three days, returning the following week with a tweeted apology but no mention of the episode on air.

Haley, who had criticized Lemon's statements as sexist and used the incident to fundraise in February, took to Twitter Monday to call Lemon's ouster "a great day for women everywhere," linking to the beverage sleeves

emblazoned with "Past my prime? Hold my beer."

Lemon used to host the prime-time "Don Lemon Tonight" but moved when the network launched "CNN This Morning" last November, just before the U.S. midterm elections, as one of the first major programming moves under Licht.

He attracted negative attention last fall by saying that the U.S. men's soccer team should be paid more than the women's team, saying that the men were "more interesting to watch."

Lemon had a well-publicized on-air tiff with Collins last December, when he accused her of trying to interrupt him.

Lemon also had a tense on-air interview last week with Republican presidential contender Vivek Ramaswamy where Lemon, who is black, disputed Ramaswamy's interpretation of racial history.

It's all a bad look for a morning news show, where the audience is primarily women and casts try to depict themselves as a big happy family. The show has made little headway in the ratings against the more popular "Fox & Friends" and "Morning Joe" on cable news competitors.

The lousy vibes were beginning to cost CNN advertising sales and some potential guests were becoming reluctant to appear on "CNN This Morning," said a CNN staff member familiar with the decision to oust Lemon but not authorized to speak publicly.

Some people close to Lemon have suggested that the morning job was essentially a demotion for him, and he was given little support to succeed.

Lemon said he learned of his firing from his agent.

"At no time was I ever given any indication that I would not be able to continue to do the work I have loved at the network," he said.

Associated Press Writer Meg Kinnard contributed reporting from Columbia, South Carolina.

# The cop who killed Breonna Taylor is back in law enforcement

TriceEdneyWire.com

Myles Cosgrove, the former Louisville police officer, who murdered Breonna Taylor during a raid in her and her boyfriend's apartment, has gotten another job in law enforcement.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Office has hired Cosgrove. The county is about an hour northeast of downtown Louisville.

He was one of three officers who fired their weapons during the raid; he fired his gun 16 times.

Despite his termination, Cosgrove has not faced any criminal charges related to her death.

Carroll County's Chief Deputy Robert Miller pointed to this fact about Cosgrove's hiring. A protest in Carroll County has already been planned on Monday in response to his hiring.



Taylor



Cosgrove



# Chiropractor Jeremy Coleman offers an alternative approach outside of the traditional medical field

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

Healing communities aligned with wellness have chosen not to empower health issues by being attentive to a particular ailment. Thus, persons who use the term dis-ease rather than disease, emphasize the natural state of “ease” being imbalanced or disrupted.

Licensed chiropractors in clinical settings have spent many years of training on examination and correction of the spine. In this regard, they are considered to be the most qualified professionals to perform spinal adjustments.

Chiropractors set out to adjust the spine to restore proper motion, improve spinal function and remove interference from the nervous system. They use a variety of adjustment techniques. The client’s chiropractor, however, will determine what techniques are appropriate for her/him.

Dr. Jeremy Coleman of Adjusted Life Chiropractic (5295 Galaxie Dr., Jackson, Miss.) has been practicing chiropractic since 2018 and was recently interviewed about his profession. Chiropractic, he said, is “a philosophy, science and art of things natural that include a system for adjusting the segments of the spinal column



Dr. Jeremy Coleman

by hand only for the correction of the cause of dis-ease. This includes treatment of most musculoskeletal issues through proper diagnosis, ad-

ministering a safe and corrective adjustment to the area in an effort to make a meaningful correction to allow the body to heal itself.”

Chiropractors do not consider themselves medical doctors. “In fact, we are on the opposite ends of the healthcare industry,” stated Coleman. He explained that although medical doctors and chiropractors are knowledgeable of the same material, their approaches in treating clients are different.

Claiming not to speak much on the medical profession, Coleman asserted that chiropractors diagnose and treat musculoskeletal issues. During the process, they administer a safe and corrective adjustment to the area with meaningful correction to enable the body to heal itself.

The different kinds of chiropractic are pediatric, general, geriatric and sports.

“The profession covers a wide range of musculoskeletal issues for all ages ranging from the common neck pains, back pains, knee pains, shoulder pains, headaches, etc., but that’s just scratching the surface. We also help with internal issues due to pressure being put on nerves causing a wide variety of symptoms,” stated the interviewee.

When asked if medications were used in the practice, Coleman stood firm that medicine is a hindrance to the body’s healing. “Medicines trick the body

into thinking the pain or condition is better than what we feel, therefore actually making you think you’re fine when in reality, it’s masking the symptoms. Symptoms are the body’s way of letting you know if something on the inside is going wrong,” Coleman claimed.

The chiropractor used an analogy when he compared the human body to a car. “Imagine if your car never had a light to indicate that it needs gas, or you need an oil change, or you need maintenance. That could end up in a major disaster. This is exactly what the medicines do to your internal system. They trick your body into numbing the pain, and once the pain cannot become numb any more, the pain is more intensified, and in most cases, permanent and unable to be corrected.”

Coleman suggested that persons who have never tried chiropractic but are undergoing pain should try this natural approach to healing. They should think of getting their bodies adjusted without the use of chemicals.

He cited a seven-year statistical study that revealed that those who chose chiropractic as their primary source of health care prior to medication experienced 60% less hospital

admission; 59% less hospitalization; 62% less outpatient surgeries; and 85% less pharmaceutical cost. Further, other benefits are better quality of sleep; better quality of life; better range of motion within joints; and an overall improvement of health due to health blood flow.

Dr. Coleman started out practicing in Mississippi due to the lack of holistic approach to healthcare. From Life University in Marietta, GA, he earned his Doctor of Chiropractic Degree. Prior to obtaining the doctorate, he was granted a Master of Sports Science with a minor concentration of Sport Chiropractic also from said university. Within his profession, Coleman considers his clients as “family” and calls them “members.” The membership cards that they receive “equate them to becoming members of our practice,” he said.

To learn more about the mission to advance the health of the community through specific understanding of chiropractic adjustments, visit the website [www.Adjustedlifejxn.com](http://www.Adjustedlifejxn.com). Visit Instagram @Adjustedlifejxn, Facebook at Adjusted Life Chiropractic Jackson, MS. Call 769-524-4735, or email [Adjustedlifechirol@gmail.com](mailto:Adjustedlifechirol@gmail.com).

# Want to quit smoking?

By Vince Faust  
Tips to be Fit

Cigarette smoking is responsible for a half million deaths per year in the United States. 50,000 people die from secondhand smoke exposure. That’s about one in five deaths annually or 1,300 deaths every day. On average, smokers die 10 years earlier than nonsmokers.

Smokers often feel like everything is fine until they experience the difference as a former smoker. I hear people talk about how much easier it is to breathe after they quit smoking and how much they can’t stand the smell of cigarettes all the time.

Quitting smoking cigarettes can be challenging. Nicotine addiction, withdrawal symptoms and habits developed over time can make it difficult to break your addiction to smoking. A commitment and the right strategies can make it possible to quit smoking and improve your overall health.

To get started:  
**Identify your reasons for quitting:**

The first step in quitting smoking is to identify your reasons for quitting. Do you want to improve your health? Save money? Be a role model for your children? Whatever your reasons may be, write them down and keep them in a visible place. These reasons can serve as a reminder for why you want to quit and can help you stay motivated.

**Choose a quitting method:**

There are a lot of quitting methods. You can go cold turkey, nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), prescription medications or behavioral therapy. Cold turkey involves quitting smoking abruptly. NRT involves the use of patches, gum or lozenges to gradually reduce your nicotine intake. Prescription medications like bupropion or varenicline can also be effective in reducing cravings and withdrawal symptoms. Behavioral therapy can help individuals identify and change your thoughts and behaviors that trigger your smoking.



## Prepare for quit day:

Once you’ve chosen your quitting method you need to prepare for your quit day. Set a date and get rid of all smoking-related items, such as cigarettes, lighters and ashtrays. You may also want to avoid places, people and things that trigger your smoking habit. You should also stock up on healthy snacks and drinks to help curb cravings.

## Manage your withdrawal symptoms:

You will have withdrawal symptoms. Withdrawal symptoms are common when you quit smoking. They can include cravings, irritability, anxiety and difficulty concentrating. Prepare for withdrawal symptoms by having a plan in place to cope with them. To manage your symptoms try deep breathing exercises, meditation or physical activity such as yoga, walking or lifting weights. NRT can also help alleviate withdrawal symptoms.

## Get support:

Having a support system can make quitting smoking easier. This can include family, friends or a support group. It’s important to surround yourself with individuals who will encourage and support you throughout the quitting process. You may also want to consider seeking the help of a healthcare professional such as a doctor or counselor.

## Keep Yourself Motivated:

Staying motivated is a must if you want to quit smoking. Remind yourself of your reasons for quitting and celebrate your small victories along the way. Consider treating yourself to a reward for each achievement with a new book or a movie ticket. Make sure you stay positive and focused on your goal of becoming smoke-free.

## If you relapse:

Relapse is a part of recovery sometimes. Relapse can happen. It’s important that you not give up. Learn from your relapse. Use it as an opportunity to develop better strategies to avoid any future setbacks. Quitting smoking is a journey and setbacks are a normal part of your quest.

## Take care of yourself:

When you quit smoking it can be stressful. It’s important to take care of yourself. You should make sure you get enough sleep, eat healthy meals and exercise. This will help reduce your stress levels and improve your overall health.

## Don’t let triggers stop you:

Triggers can cause a person to crave cigarettes. It’s important to identify your triggers and develop a plan to avoid and manage them. For example, if stress is a trigger, you may want to try meditation when you feel stressed.

## Develop healthy habits:

You need to replace your smoking with healthy behavioral habits. They can include activities such as reading, painting, crossword puzzles, Sudoku or sewing. Take on projects like washing the car, gardening, drawing or writing letters. Visit non-smoking places like libraries, museums and theaters. Make a list of other things you can do to keep from smoking and choose from it when the urge is strong. Try to find something that you enjoy that can distract you from smoking.

## Stay positive:

Quitting smoking can be a challenging task, but you should stay positive. Don’t forget why you decided to quit smoking. You should focus on the benefits of being smoke-free. It’s important to stay committed to your goal of quitting smoking, even if it takes you several attempts.

## Life after cigarettes:

As an ex-smoker you will find yourself in situations that trigger your urge to smoke. When this happens don’t tell yourself one cigarette won’t hurt, it will. There are no “buts” about it you have to think of yourself as a non-smoker. Three days after you’ve quit your body will not need the nicotine. The psychological need will be the obstacle to overcome at this point but it will become easier to resist with time.

As difficult as it may be to quit, remember it’s never too late. Immediately after you quit you will begin to reverse the damage done to your body and reduce your risk for disease. Ten years after cessation an ex-smoker’s risk for heart disease approaches that of a non-smoker and the same applies to lung cancer fifteen years after cessation.

As an added bonus you will no longer have to worry about having enough cigarettes to last through the day, a party, a meeting or a weekend trip.

There are times when quitters do win. Be a winner QUIT.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

# Community leader, Melanie Morgan, to chair American Heart Association’s initiative to improve women’s heart health

Mississippi Link Newswire

The American Heart Association, the world’s leading nonprofit organization devoted to world of healthier lives for all, announces Melanie Morgan, SVP at Trustmark as the community volunteer chair of the 2023 Metro Jackson Go Red for Women movement.

Go Red for Women is a worldwide initiative of the American Heart Association designed to increase women’s heart health awareness and serve as a catalyst for change to improve the lives of women locally, nationally and globally.

Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women in the United States, claiming more lives each year than all forms of cancer combined.

Cardiovascular disease continues to be a woman’s greatest health threat, taking the life of one in every three women.

“I see remarkable stories of adversity and recovery every day in Mississippi,” said Morgan. “Seeing firsthand how the work of the American Heart Association affects the lives of local women is what inspired me to chair the Go Red Movement this year, and I know we can take our message of self-care and prevention to even more women than ever this year.”

“We are thrilled to have Melanie’s experience, conviction, and passion help to drive Go Red in for Women.” Together, we know that we will have a positive impact on the lives of women in our community, and the families that depend on them,” said Jennifer Hopping, Executive Director, American Heart Association Metro Jackson.

Returning for a second year is



Morgan

the Women of Impact initiative. Women and teens are nominated by their peers to participate. The nominees will recruit champions from their networks to form a fundraising team and have a direct impact on women’s health and the Go Red for Women vision of creating a passionate community dedicated to addressing health issues unique to women.

The nominee whose team makes the largest impact in each market will be named the local Woman of Impact Award Winner or Teen of Impact Award Winner.

This year’s Go Red for Women movement and its local achievements will be celebrated Wednesday, May 3 at the 2023 Go Red for Women Luncheon at the Sheraton The Refuge Hotel and Conference (2200 Refugee Blvd.) in Flowood.

The Health Expo begins at 10:30 a.m. with lunch following at 12 p.m.

For more information about Go Red for Women visit [metro-jacksongored@heart.org](mailto:metro-jacksongored@heart.org) or call the Go Red Director, Katherine Byrd, at 601.906.8596.



P R E S E R V E D

# Unexpected blessings

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“Remember, what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.” That sums up the advice that most people

gave me when they found out I’d be spending part of my 2011 Christmas vacation in Las Vegas. I got great tips on where to shop and sightsee. Since I’m not a big shopper and was on a budget, I was just planning on window shopping in one of the local malls. Even though folks recommended this mall as the place to shop, I was really not very impressed with what I saw. Most of the stores looked like the same ones I’d seen at malls in Texas. I turned one corner and saw it: a “Final Blowout” sign inside a well-lit store full of colorful racks of shirts, pants and jackets. My first thought was that there had to be some-

thing wrong with the clothes. Because I had time and was curious about what was being sold, I stepped into the store and was greeted quickly.

Initially I was just going to casually browse thinking that the clothes had to have something wrong with them since they were discounted so much. Then, my curiosity led me to begin looking through the racks for clothes in my size.

One of the salesclerks saw me looking and cheerily shared, “Everything is \$9.00 or less. Plus, there’s 20% off.” I started to shake my head as I continued browsing. I asked her ‘what was wrong with them’ as I touched the soft sleeve of a burnt orange wool tunic. She shook her head and replied, “Nothing. These clothes are just fresh from the outlet stores. There’s nothing wrong with them; they just didn’t sell. This store is the last place they’ll be on sale.”

The more I walked around the store, the more I couldn’t believe the bargains. They had true designer clothes for less than \$10!!!! I bought just a few things, not sure of how much my suitcase would hold. However, I went back the next day expecting to find less...but instead I found more bargains including full length leather coats that I bought for myself and others as Christmas gifts.

Had I done as I have in the past, I would have judged the quality of clothes on the fact that they were on sale. In this case, I was judging the quality of clothes.

However, I’ll be the first to admit that I also have a problem of mistakenly judging others. I’ve noticed that I seem to connect more with people who’d mistakenly judged, and I thought I had nothing in common with. And those who I thought I had so much in common with there was little connection.

I’ve known for years the truth of Luke 6:37 which says “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” But I still had to admit how God showed me through different experiences (like clothes shopping) that I’d unfairly judged others.

What that taught me is just because it may not be what you expected doesn’t mean it’s bad for you. In some cases, it’s exactly what you need. I’ve also learned to never pass by a good sale on clothes because I still wear that leather coat.

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](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

P A R T 2

# Christianity is a wonderful life

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



David said, “The Lord is my Shepherd! I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” (Psalm 23).

The theme is to remind the Christian body to guard their experience with all due diligence as their greatest possession. We will leave all those little knick-knacks in our china cabinets. All the jewelry that people have hoarded up will be left behind. Guard your salvation as your greatest possession.

Don’t worry about people talking and scoffing at you. Keep on going.

My beloved friends, keep on going. The theme is to magnify the power and the grace of God to a frustrated and confused world. I tell my people (Church) all the time that he/she who winneth souls is wise. He who keepeth them is wiser. Let me tell you, this is a real world that we’re living in. This is no fun.

When trying to get people interested in the conservative Church of God movement, it is not easy. Those of you who are not in the fold, this life is the best thing you could ever possess. Get in the sheepfold. Jesus is the Shepherd. Jesus is the Head of the sheepfold. He’s the Door. The door is the front of this church building. Jesus said, “I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” (John 10:9).

The theme is to remind ourselves of the role of the church to continue to fight against the powers of darkness by God’s help. The old Church of God is still marching on. She’s sailing on through rough and stormy seas, but she’s still sailing. This old ship of Zion is still going on.

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



**New Horizon Church**  
INTERNATIONAL  
A place of love and victory.

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1750 Ellis Avenue • Jackson, MS 39204  
OFFICE: 601-371-1427 • FAX: 601-371-8282

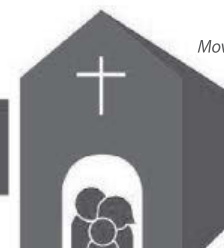
[www.nhcms.org](http://www.nhcms.org)

**SUNDAY**  
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Services

**WEDNESDAY**  
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class

**TV BROADCAST**  
8:00 a.m. - Channel 14 (Comcast)

Prayer Everyday: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.




Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

1600 Florence Avenue  
Jackson, Mississippi 39204  
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[www.collegehillchurch.org](http://www.collegehillchurch.org)  
[Chmbc@collegehillchurch.org](mailto:Chmbc@collegehillchurch.org)

**COLLEGE HILL**  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**SUNDAY**  
Worship Services  
9 a.m. Sunday School  
10 a.m. in person

Or you may worship with us via  
Facebook or our YouTube  
channel at CHMBC



Pastor  
Chauncy L. Jordan

**New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church**

Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Live Radio Broadcast  
WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



*“A Church Preparing for a Home Not Built by Man”*

**New Bethel M. B. Church • 450 Culberston Ave. • Jackson, MS 39209**  
601-969-3481/969-3482 • Fax # 601-969-1957 • E-Mail: [Serenitynbc@aol.com](mailto:Serenitynbc@aol.com)

**True Light Baptist Church**  
224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202  
Phone: 601.398.0915  
[WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG](http://WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG)

**THE Light Line PRAYER**

**JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 6:00 AM**  
**CALL: 559-671-2546**


VIRTUAL SERVICES AVAILABLE  
SMALL GROUP STUDY 9:00 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE | SUNDAY 10:30 AM  
BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM



REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR

[@TRUELIGHTMBCHURCH](https://www.facebook.com/TRUELIGHTMBCHURCH)  
[TRUE LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH](https://www.youtube.com/TRUELIGHTBAPTISTCHURCH)

**Crossroads Church of God**  
Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



**Sunday Morning Fellowship:** 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Sch: 10 a.m.

**Sunday Worship Service:** 11:15 a.m.  
(Fellowship following worship service 1st Sundays)

**Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study:** 7 p.m.

Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor  
231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046  
Church: 601-859-2858

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# Why settle for a side when you have the whole meal?

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.  
Guest Writer



One of my favorite ways to spend alone time with my husband is dining out. I absolutely love dining out especially at new restaurants. I look forward to anticipating what the services will be like and verifying if it will be a new potential spot for us to dine at frequently. The following is what I admire about dining out with my husband: I love the fact that of course, my husband is going to take care of the ticket, I love watching an influx of various customers come in (especially married couples), I love deciphering the décor and atmosphere, but more than anything, I love viewing the menu. Based on my dining out experience, most restaurants give their customers an option of purchasing a side only. Some individuals order sides only because it is cheaper in some instances, diet restrictions, etc. Although, some sides alone are quite delicious and appetizing; I choose not to settle for a side when I have an option of ordering an entire meal. Why settle for a side when you have the whole meal?

One of the leading causes of high divorce rates in America is infidelity – that’s one of the fancy terms used to describe unfaithfulness, extramarital relationships, affairs, cheating, messing around, adultery, etc. I think you get the point.

In other words, a major contributor to the breakup of happy homes and just homes are due to a spouse settling for a side – side piece. A side piece is the other woman or man in addition to your spouse.

Today, let’s focus on the OW. The OW can be your best friend, fiend, classmate, church member, cousin, sister, sorority sister, neighbor, colleague – ladies, it’s not always the one you are fearful of, sometimes the OW or the potential OW can be right under your nose and you not have a clue.

Many men, such as, married men including pastors, ministers, politicians (local and national), law enforcers, physicians, lawyers, teachers, professors, athletes, maintenance workers, landscapers, etc. engage in affairs. According to Proverbs, side pieces have taken down strong men, brought them to breadcrumbs, and have led many husbands to destruction and premature death.

Proverbs 7: 26-27 (NIV):  
26 Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng (strong men). 27 Her house is a highway to the grave, lead-

ing down to the chambers of death.

Proverbs 6:26 (NIV):  
For a prostitute can be had for a loaf of bread, but another man’s wife preys on your very life.

Side pieces prey on married men for two main reasons. First, many side pieces are only interested in accessing what you and your wives have worked hard for, like your money, some even want your churches (they desire to be the first lady, not the second lady), the side piece desires your established businesses, they desire your homes, vehicles, property, vacation homes, benefits, and even your last name. If you don’t believe it, go broke and not be able to pay their bills, spoil them with trips and money, etc. see what will happen.

Husbands, will side pieces truly be there like your wives have proven to be? Will your side piece be patient, loving and supportive if you experience any of the following: getting an education, unemployment, loss of vehicle/home, bankruptcy, sickness, disabling injuries from a car accident, low testosterone, etc. I believe the answer has been no and is no in most instances.

However, many wives have stood by your side when they could have or maybe should have walked away. Secondly, some side pieces prey on married men just to hurt the wife. Yes, husbands for the most part, it has nothing to do about the, “do,” (they probably doing the, “do,” with someone else anyway) – they desire to bring an ultimate hurt to your wife by describing and revealing every little detail about your folly relationship.

Husbands, you have the whole meal, your wife, who has been your cheerleader, prayer warrior, chef, comforter, a good mother to your children, lover, friend in the ups and downs, etc. No, your wives are not perfect and no marriage is easy but God gave you your wife. God did not give you a side piece.

Husbands, pursuing a side piece only sets you up for a downfall that can ultimately lead to divorce, broken and hurt children, poverty, and your destruction.

Husbands, please read this cautiously – the side piece is not worth it. Why settle for a side, when you have the whole meal?

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

# Mississippi: You cannot be the home of hospitality and hate

By Waikinya Clanton  
Mississippi State Director for the Southern Poverty Law Center



There is so much you are shielded from and exposed to growing up in Mississippi. In Canton, where I was raised, a city that has affectionately become known as the City of Lights, was no exception.

Imagine growing up watching movies like Roots and Mississippi Burning to only realize that in modern day we aren’t too far from some of those same harsh realities.

Imagine, being a young kid in the 90s, witnessing what you had only seen on television – a parade of white pointed hoods cascading down your town’s square. For me, I need not imagine – I was just a young girl, when news of the Klan taking to the square made its way around town. The talk at that time was to just ignore them and they would just go away – but in Mississippi, those types of things never die.

As traumatizing as that scene in my hometown was, what is even more disturbing is what’s happening right now, in 2023, state leaders insist on forcing Mississippi deeper into a den of divisiveness and detestation

– one masked in heritage and riddled in hate.

Recently, Governor Tate Reeves declared April as Confederate Heritage Month, the same month as Genocide Awareness Month. To add insult to injury our state will celebrate Confederate Memorial Day on April 24. This grave contradiction is both an assault on and an insult to the people of Mississippi, who deserve a state of unity, civility and appreciation for our individual humanity.

Nearly 40 percent of the people in Mississippi are black, yet slavery was not officially outlawed until 1865, it took more than 150 years post-Civil War for the state to adopt and fly a flag that wasn’t adorned with the bars and stars of Confederacy.

And in 2023, the state’s largest, blackest city is fighting back against becoming a police state in a place that disproportionately incarcerates black and brown people, subjects them to inhumane prison conditions, and disenfranchises many of them from their constitutional right to vote.

At a time when so many Mississippians need clean and safe water, sustainable infrastructure, access to the ballot box and expansion of healthcare, it is unfortunate that elected

leaders choose to glorify the Confederacy – especially after the historic victory to remove the Confederate battle emblem from the state flag in 2020.

The idea of the Confederacy was built on the system of slavery and sadly, more than 2,000 memorials in the United States are dedicated to that idea. Today, more than 150 Confederate memorials remain in Mississippi including 72 roadways, 48 monuments and eight schools.

The acknowledgment and celebration of the vitriol and heinous acts committed against black people in a state with one of the largest black populations per capita is a nod to a racially segregated social order that has no place in Mississippi, and unwelcomely, positions the state as a breeding ground for hate, discrimination and disintegration in a way that makes it almost impossible for its people to heal, and the people of Mississippi deserve to heal.

Instead of commemorating days, statues and symbols of propaganda meant to terrorize and marginalize black communities, leaders of Mississippi should instead set their sights on remedying the real ills of the state, its 20% poverty rate.

After spending 13 years advising some of the top political leaders in this country, I understand the seriousness of the is-

ssues facing our state and they require leadership that is committed to putting the needs of the people first, not theatrics that honor long-gone relics of the past.

Instead of perpetuating narratives of hatred in the name of “keeping history for our youth... that defend the Confederate cause” how about the Governor stop banning books that tell the full and accurate history of our country, our state and the people that reside in them?

A month dedicated to hatred will not move this great state forward. We must invest in Mississippi and the people who call it home. And we must advocate for leadership that builds, not divides and a government that heals, not promotes hate.

Let’s work to continue to preserve Mississippi as the home of hospitality, and not a repository of hate. It can’t be both.

Waikinya Clanton is the Mississippi state director for the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). She leads the SPLC Advocacy Institute and is an Eric Holder Public Policy Fellow at the Reuben V. Anderson Institute for Social Justice at Tougaloo College and was named as one of the Top 100 African Americans of 2022 by The Root.

# Being African American and knocking on the wrong door could be dangerous

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



I have knocked on a lot of doors over my lifetime as a child and now as an adult. My knocking has never been met with hostility.

Quite honestly, I have never given much thought to anything bad happening. My most interesting experience knocking on doors was when I was a census taker in college.

Now knocking on doors may be hazardous to your health. In plain and simple language, you may lose your life especially if you are black like me.

How can knocking on a door possibly be so life changing? It could be, especially if you knock on the wrong door.

Crime and shootings have become commonplace these days. We are filled with apprehension and fear each time we must leave our home. For example, getting out of our cars

could result in a bad outcome.

Yet is our first line of defense to shoot someone? Why not just call the police?

Andrew Lester of Kansas City, Missouri must have thought this was his only alternative. He allegedly shot Ralph Yarl, a teenager, April 13, when he went to the wrong house to pick up his brothers.

There are some interesting dynamics to this case. Lester is an 84-year-old white man and Yarl is a 16-year-old African American male. Does race matter? Yes, it does.

Lester will face two felony charges according to Clay County Prosecuting Attorney, Zachary Thompson. The charges are assault in the first degree and armed criminal action.

What about race? Was this a hate crime? Attorney Thompson said, “I can tell you there was a racial component to this case.”

Ben Crump who represents the family said, “Nobody can tell us if the roles were re-

versed, and you had a black man shoot a white 16 year-old for merely ringing his doorbell that he would not be arrested. This citizen went home and slept in his bed the night after shooting that young black kid.”

The man with the gun, Lester told police that he was scared to death. Was he scared to death because someone was at his door or was, he scared to death because someone black was at his door?

I believe we know the answer to that question. Reports say that Lester’s ex-wife and his grandson both said that he had a problem with black people. It is not surprising that he took out his aversion to use on Yarl.

The mayor of Kansas City, Quinton Lucas, said, “I think that this has everything to do with race, the defendant’s fear of black people, black men, black boys. I think if the young man wasn’t black, we wouldn’t be here today.”

Lester is now out of jail and cannot own a weapon and cannot have any contact with the

young man. Demonstrations have now begun, and the city will be on high alert.

It does raise the question as to how many white people are so terrified by African Americans that they will shoot with no questions asked or statements made. That was the case with Lester. He simply shot the teen without saying a word.

Driving while black, walking while black and now knocking on the wrong door while black should be added to the list of ways we get shot, sometimes to death.

Yarl has now been released from the hospital and is now resting at home. His family says that he is young and strong.

Now in the coming weeks, Lester will stand trial for this shooting. Let’s hope the jury sees the compelling evidence and uses it accordingly.

Black boys are already at risk from birth. These intentional shootings only make it more difficult for them to lead successful lives.



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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

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

PIETER TEEUWISSEN, MSB# 8777  
SIMON & TEEUWISSEN, 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

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 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023, in the courtroom of the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse at Jackson, Mississippi, before Honorable Dewayne Thomas. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment may be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

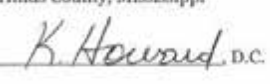
You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire. If you file an Answer or other pleading, you are required to mail or hand – deliver a copy to the attorney for the Petitioners, Damon R. Stevenson, 1010 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, 769-251-0207.

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

(SEAL)



Eddie Jean Carr,  
Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi

By:  D.C.

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

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

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 16, 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:

74567-051623 - Asphalt Pavement Milling of Streets W/Cleaning in Jackson—12 Month

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE CITY OF JACKSON'S WEBSITE, WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV and WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM

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

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

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

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

4/27/2023, 5/4/2023

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 16, 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:

74507-051623 – Twelve Month Supply of Asphaltic Pavement Materials

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

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

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

4/27/2023, 5/4/2023

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 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023, in the courtroom of the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse at Jackson, Mississippi, before Honorable Dewayne Thomas. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment may be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

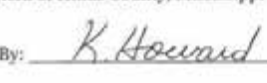
You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire. If you file an Answer or other pleading, you are required to mail or hand – deliver a copy to the attorney for the Petitioners, Damon R. Stevenson, 1010 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, 769-251-0207.

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

(SEAL)



Eddie Jean Carr,  
Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi

By:  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

Advertisement for RFP  
RFP 2023-12 Online and Blended Learning

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

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

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

Also, until further notice, all opening will be recorded and uploaded to the JPSP web site at https://www.youtube.com/jpsitv for public viewing due to covid 19. Vendors will not be allowed to sit in on the bid openings.

4/27/2023, 5/4/2023

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
PURCHASE DESIGNATED PROPERTIES OWNED BY  
THE JACKSON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Jackson Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority" or "JRA") is seeking proposals from qualified professional firms for the purchase all or part of certain Designated Properties Owned by the Jackson Redevelopment Authority (herein individually and collectively called the "Property" as referred to in Exhibit A. Submissions will be received by the Jackson Redevelopment Authority of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (the "Authority"), via the online portal at www.jrams.org until 5:00 o'clock P.M., May 24, 2023.

All proposals shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Request-for Proposals ("RFP"), copies of which are available for review, download at www.jrams.org. Consistent with requirements stated therein, proposals submitted in response to the RFP shall be made on or before 5:00 o'clock P.M., May 24,2023.

Thereafter, Notice of Request for Proposals by the Authority to purchase all or part of designated properties shall be monthly until all properties are sold, with the last Submission Deadline being 5:00 p.m. on December 20,2023. Interested parties may submit proposals to the Authority for the land pursuant to RFP issued April27, 2023, and/or any subsequent Notice of Publication.

RFP DATED: April 27,2023

4/27/23, 5/25/23, 06/22/23, 07/27/23, 08/24/23, 09/21/23, 10/26/23, 11/23/23, 12/21/23

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Proposals to lease space in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 will be received by the Jackson Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") via the online portal only at www.jrams.org, until 5:00 o'clock P.M., January 31, 2023, for any space available to be leased in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 (the "Facility"). The Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 is located in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, on the south side of Capitol Street, between Congress and President Streets, and space available for lease is located on the first floor of the Facility.

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

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

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

12/9/2022, 1/26/2023, 2/23/2023, 3/30/2023, 4/27/23, 5/25/23, 06/22/23, 07/27/23, 08/24/23, 09/21/23, 10/26/23, 11/30/23



LEGAL		LEGAL	
<p><b>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</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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: jmaa-bids.com</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Mr. Marvin Buckhalter, JMAA, Director of Procurement, as follows:</p> <p>Jackson Municipal Airport Authority Attn: Marvin Buckhalter Director of Procurement 100 International Drive, Suite 300</p>		<p><b>REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW TERMINAL FEASIBILITY STUDY AT THE JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 016-23</b></p> <p>The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is requesting Statement of Qualifications and Expressions of Interest (each, a "Statement of Qualifications") to provide architectural and related services (the "Services") to JMAA in connection with the New Terminal Feasibility Study Located at JAN JMAA Project No. 016-23 at JAN.</p> <p>JMAA will receive sealed electronic or printed submissions only. All submissions of Statement of Qualifications to perform the Services will be accepted until Monday, June 05, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on (the "Deadline"). RFQ shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows: Email: bids@jmaa.com</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Mr. Marvin Buckhalter, JMAA, Director of Procurement, as follows:</p> <p>Jackson Municipal Airport Authority Attn: Marvin Buckhalter Director of Procurement 100 International Drive, Suite 300</p>	
<p>Jackson, MS 39208 Telephone: (601) 664-3516 Facsimile: (601) 939-3713 Email: mbuckhalter@jmaa.com</p> <p>or JMAA's website at <a href="https://jmaabids.com">https://jmaabids.com</a> <a href="https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement">https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement</a>.</p> <p>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: <a href="https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/95968020095">https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/95968020095</a> Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095 Passcode: 520966</p> <p>Attendance at the Pre-Submission Video Conference is not mandatory for all those submitting Statement of Qualifications as a Prime Consultant for the Services.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>JMAA has established a DBE contract goal of 0% for the Services solicited by this RFQ.</p> <p>JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY April 19, 2023</p> <p>John Means, (Acting) Chief Executive Officer 4/20/2023, 4/27/2023</p>		<p>Jackson, MS 39208 Telephone: (601) 664-3516 Facsimile: (601) 939-3713 Email: mbuckhalter@jmaa.com</p> <p>or JMAA's website at <a href="https://jmaabids.com">https://jmaabids.com</a> <a href="https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement">https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement</a>.</p> <p>JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Video Conference on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. (CST) using the following login information: Join Zoom Meeting Link: <a href="https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/95968020095">https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/95968020095</a> Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095 Passcode: 520966</p> <p>Attendance at the Pre-Submission Video Conference is not mandatory for all those submitting Statement of Qualifications as a Prime Consultant for the Services.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>JMAA has established a DBE contract goal of 0% for the Services solicited by this RFQ.</p> <p>JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY APRIL 26, 2023</p> <p>John Means, (Acting) Chief Executive Officer 4/20/2023, 4/27/2023</p>	

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

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

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## JSU students traverse intersectionality, racial disparities during Dept. of English, Foreign Languages, and Speech Communications week

By William Kelly  
JSU newswire

Jackson State University’s Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Speech Communications (EFLSC) held its annual EFLSC Week titled “For THEE Culture,” March 27-March 31. The week hosted JSU students, faculty, staff and alums as they explored the JSU world of literature, including social injustices and more throughout Mississippi’s history and beyond.

Throughout the week, events promoted student-led discussions and various activities showcasing the students’ talents and academic discoveries for a spectrum of social, political, artistic and cultural experiences.

“EFLSC Week is a celebration of our department’s different disciplines and talents. It’s thrilling to witness students and colleagues participate in discussions, readings, performances, research, and more activities each day,” said Ebony Lumumba, Ph.D., chair of the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Speech Communications. “We aim to expose the campus and larger community to the excitement and innovation of English, Foreign Languages, & Speech Communication studies. We hope to inspire the next generation of creatives, thinkers, & professionals in our fields.”

“All Thee Stars” exposed guests to Mississippi writers, stories, and storytellers. Professor of English RaShell Smith-Spears, Ph.D., joined fellow Department of English colleagues in offering excerpts from self-published



Jeremy McDuffey emcees the Poetry Café event.

works inspired by the George Floyd tragedy and other renditions that displayed the perceived victimhood of Black mothers affected by police brutality and their eventual rise to empowerment inspired by loss and grief. The event also included a tear-jerking performance by JSU’s MADDRAMA Performance Troupe, who demonstrated a reenactment of the story and murder of Emmett Till.

Participants and guests could quickly find themselves in a room with passionate discussion about intersectionality, such as at the “Remember Who You Are: Identity and Intersectionality Student Panel” held Friday, March 31. The student-led panel featured seven JSU students who shared vital information about intersectionality with peers and even some ways they seek

to combat intersectionality upon graduating from JSU.

Freshman Kennedy Larkins sits on the “Remember Who You Are: Identity and Intersectionality” where she discussed her experience as a black woman studying dentistry. (William H. Kelly III/JSU University Communications)

“I’m going to become an oral surgeon. My dad’s already a successful dentist. So, seeing a black man with a successful business since I was born is inspirational because, as a black woman, I want to get to that level,” said freshman biology pre-dentistry major Kennedy Larkins. “You don’t see a lot of black dentists where I’m from, so I want to grow our legacy and inspire people in that field and who want to get into that field as well.”



Kennedy Larkins discusses her experience as a black woman studying dentistry.

Jeremy McDuffey, a graduate student in the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Speech Communications, emcees the Poetry Cafe event during the EFLSC Week. McDuffey also shared a poem of his own at the event. (William H. Kelly III/JSU University Communications)

In addition to student-led panels, the week also featured several other events, including panels with Department of English alums, karaoke to movies soundtracks and literature on the Gibbs-Green Plaza, an international fashion parade and cultural presentation, as well as a poetry and spoken word opportunity for JSU students, faculty and staff.

“We love involving our students, and I am so proud of our undergraduate and graduate students who pre-

sented panels on hot topics like linguistic justice and intersectionality, moderated and shared their poetry, modeled international fashions, and made THEE I Believe statements on self-determination, college education, and business ownership,” said Shanna L. Smith, Ph.D., interim assistant chair for the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Speech Communications.

This project was made possible by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this event do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the Mississippi Humanities Council.

## Ryan Tyler shares his story of success while living with autism

Alcorn State University newswire

Like the theme of the late Dr. Josephine Posey’s University history books, Alcorn State University alumnus Ryan Tyler is “Succeeding against great odds.”

Tyler, an administrative assistant for the Southwest Mississippi Center for Culture & Learning in Alcorn’s Belles Lettres Building, earned a bachelor’s degree in political science in 2019 and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in applied sciences & technology. He’s accomplished these feats while living with autism spectrum disorder, or ASD.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ASD is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. People with ASD often struggle with social communication and interaction and restricted or repetitive behaviors or interests. People with ASD may also have different ways of learning, moving, or paying attention.

Tyler was diagnosed as a toddler. As he grew, he noticed differences between him and his peers.

“I felt different because when I looked at my classmates, they seemed like normal children doing normal things,” said Tyler. “I felt like I was out of place when I saw my classmates play sports because I never was inter-



Tyler

ested in any of those things.”

Hearing discouraging words from doubters was one of Tyler’s challenges growing up.

“There were some who told me what I couldn’t do. Some people would call me names and look down on me. However, the people who are looked down on are the ones who rise to glory. I’ve learned that those who endure hardships are destined for greatness.”

Thanks to a loving support system, the noise from the cynics had little effect on Tyler. His family’s encouragement gave him the confidence to fulfill his vision of success.

“I was raised by my grandmother (Comolita Bailey). Although she’s overprotective, she did a fantastic job raising me. Her, my father (Freddie

Tyler), uncle (James Tyler), and God-mother (Rose Hammitte) never made me feel like I was different. They would remind me that it’s okay not to be interested in the same things as my classmates. They would tell me that it made me unique.

“My late great-grandmother (Lester Mackey) had a positive influence on my life. She would always tell my grandmother to let me grow up because she was overprotective of me. Although she understood where my grandmother was coming from, she also saw that I was growing into a unique person, which is something that I didn’t see at that time. My great-grandmother wanted me to be a normal child.”

Faith in God was given to Tyler by his family early in his life. Learning about faith and believing that God makes a way has helped Tyler navigate through life’s challenges. He’s thankful to his family for instilling faith in him early.

“Both of my grandmothers taught me to put my faith in God. They taught me that no matter what I’m going through, to surrender my issues to God, and He’ll take care of the rest. My other grandmother (Jessie Tyler) kept my siblings, cousins, and me in church every Sunday. She’s the reason why I’m an usher at my church.

She instilled in me to always give God time and stay connected to my faith.”

Equipped with more confidence, Tyler began his college education at Copiah-Lincoln Community College (Co-Lin) in Natchez, Mississippi, where he earned an associate’s degree in history in 2017. After completing his studies at Co-Lin, he enrolled at Alcorn to further his education.

Alcorn is where Tyler found himself.

“When I came to Alcorn, it was amazing. I felt that this was the place I wanted to be. My whole life, I knew that I wanted to attend college. Also, coming to Alcorn is a family tradition.”

Student life at the University taught Tyler life lessons he values and applies to his life.

“Being a student here helped me not only to understand college life but also helped me to understand how the world works. I realized that things aren’t handed to you; you have to work hard. Also, I learned that you won’t always have help, so you must learn to do things yourself because no one will hold your hand throughout life.”

Working at Alcorn has also been beneficial for Tyler. He credits his manager Teresa Busby, executive director for the Southwest Mississippi Center for Culture & Learning, for as-

sisting him and exposing him to new skills.

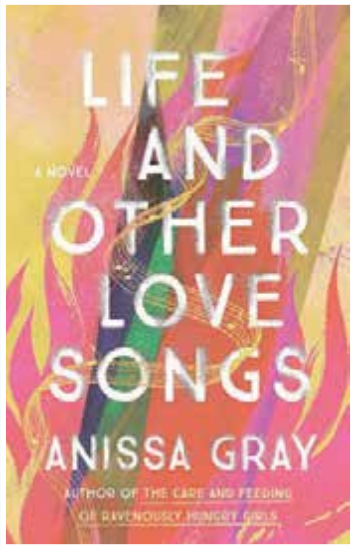
“I’ve gained many skills since joining the staff almost four years ago. One of my favorite new skills is planning events. Planning events keeps me going and makes me feel I’m doing something worthwhile. I appreciate Ms. Busby because she always teaches me new things and helps me whenever needed. She encourages me to grow and see more of the world. She’s helped me tremendously in gaining necessary professional skills.”

Tyler hopes to be a beacon of hope for others like him. He encourages those with autism to pursue their dreams without hesitation.

“Keep moving and striving, and don’t let others tear you down. There will be tough times, and people will doubt you but forget about those who have negative things to say about you. Don’t let any of those things stop you.”

The boy who felt out of place has become a man who feels he belongs. “I don’t feel out of place anymore. I embrace that I’m different. My goal is to influence students by showing them not to doubt themselves and that they can reach their goals. Also, don’t look down on others when you reach your goal. Remember where you come from and the tears and struggles you’ve gone through.”





BOOK REVIEW:

LIFE AND OTHER LOVE SONGS

BY ANISSA GRAY

C.2023, BERKLEY

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

If only you could wave a magic wand. All your troubles would disappear, poof. One wave, and you’d have the money you need, the job you want, the family you’ve dreamed about, the life you deserve. Wave a magic wand and go on vacation or – as in the new book “Life and Other Love Songs” by Anissa Gray – you could wave it and just disappear. Between the time she met him, and 1989, Deborah held two funerals for her husband, Daniel



Ozro Armstead Junior. He wasn’t at either one of them. The first was held not long after his thirty-seventh birthday, after Oz had lunch with his brother, then left the restaurant and vanished. The second funeral, some years later, was held after Oz was declared dead so that Deborah and her daughter, Trinity, could finally have closure. The first time Deborah saw him, Oz was standing all by himself at a rent party and she walked right up to him, just like that, right after she and her girl-

group appeared on the little stage they’d set up in a corner of the living room. Deborah promised him that one day, she’d appear on a real stage and he believed her. Oz loved her instantly, but he was intimidated. He’d never seen someone as beautiful as Deborah, or as sure of herself, but he, too, had plans. He kept them in a notebook that he carried everywhere with him and soon, his plans included finishing college, getting an office job, and taking care of Deborah and a family.

He’d keep applying for jobs that he’d never get. He’d refuse to discuss the trauma he shared with his brother, or their Alabama growing-up. He’d threaten a gay friend with public revelation and arrest to get his way. And Oz would lie to Deborah, again and again, knowing that she could get over some things but she could never know the truth. Crack open “Life and Other Love Songs,” and you may wonder what you got yourself into. Like a dropped cup full of beads,

the prologue scatters – but stick with it. The first full chapter, which comes quick enough, will pull you into the novel you want. Told with a fluid time-frame in three distinct voices, this story of secrets, trust, and the lack of it takes readers back sixty years before pulling them forward through the Civil Rights movement, the Women’s Movement, the Gay Rights movement, and its characters’ lives. Despite this huge decades-wide backdrop, author Anissa Gray holds the story tight by

keeping readers guessing on Oz’s background, the lies he’s told, and the colossal betrayals of trust he committed. Whether or not you’ll be satisfied at how this unfolds and what happens to the characters in the end will depend on how you like novels of treachery. This is a good choice for your book club, for vacation, or any time you want a tale with a hint of history in the background. Start “Life and Other Love Songs” and wave goodbye to your weekend.



**ZACK WALLACE**  
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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Circuit Clerk's Office  
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Circuit Clerk's Office  
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Raymond, MS 39154  
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(601) 857-8869

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
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(Except on legal holiday)

**Services of the Clerk:**

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

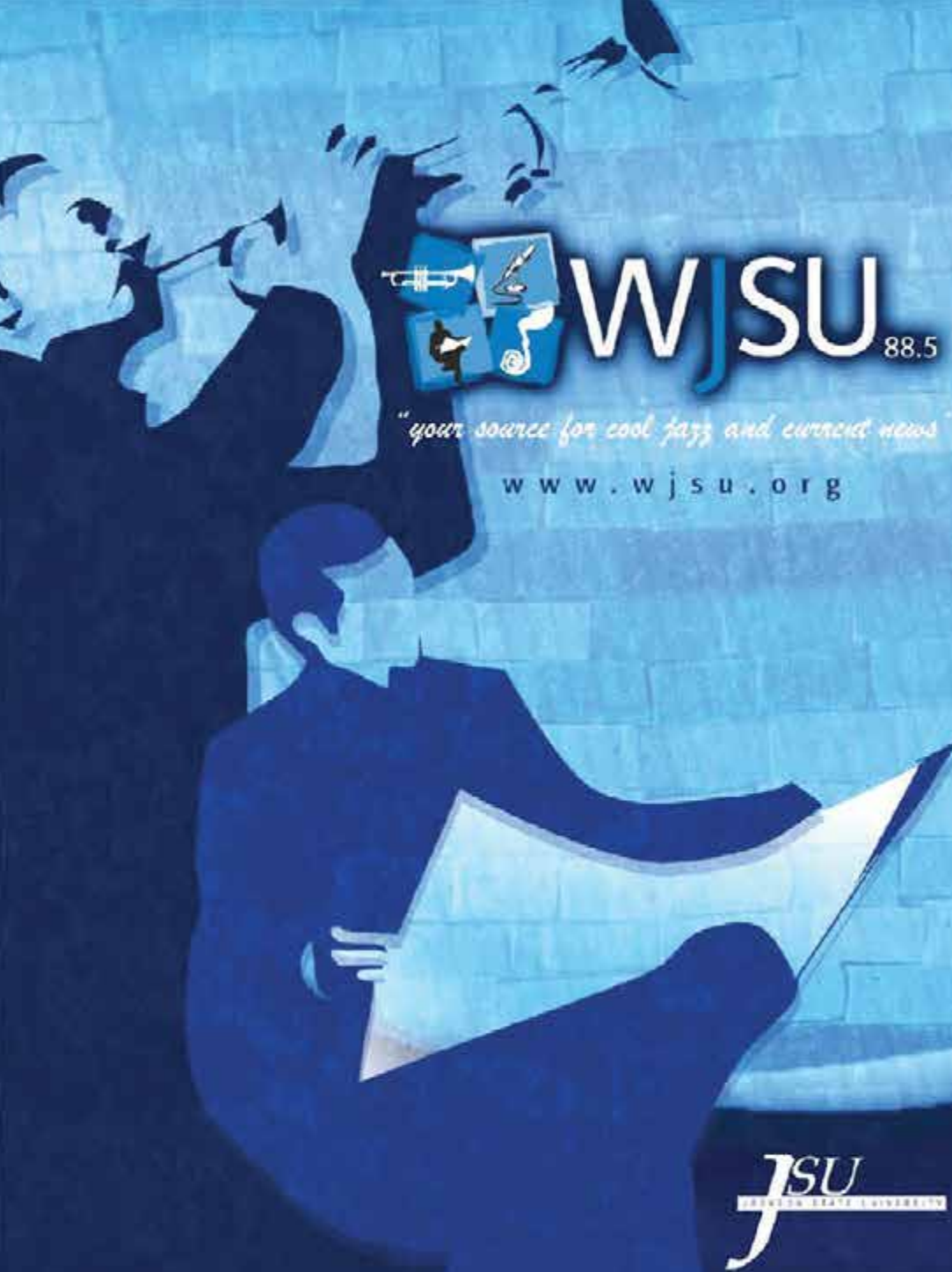

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# Daeshun Ruffin transferring to Jackson State

By Timothy Ward  
Sports Writer

One of the most prolific scorers in Callaway High School basketball history is transferring from Ole Miss to Jackson State. Daeshun Ruffin, a McDonald's All American player, announced on Instagram that he will be playing for JSU. Great recruit for Mo Williams.

Williams will be able to teach Ruffin the skills and things necessary to make it to the NBA. Williams played in the NBA for 13 seasons and won a championship with the Cleveland Cavaliers and LeBron James in 2016. Mo Williams also made the all-star team in 2009.

Williams played for the Milwaukee Bucks, Los Angeles Clippers, Portland Trailblazers, Minnesota Timberwolves, Charlotte Hornets and Cleveland Cavaliers. He retired in 2017.

At 6'1," Williams averaged 13.2 points and 4.9 assists for his NBA career.

Williams is a Jackson Public Schools graduate also. He starred at Murrah High School.

Upon graduation, Williams went to play for the University of Alabama. He led the team in scoring with 16.4 points a game with 3.8 assists. He entered the NBA draft and was picked in the second round by the Utah Jazz. Mo Williams was the 47th overall pick.

Daeshun Ruffin is 5'9," a couple inches shorter than his coach, but is explosive with the basketball in his hands. Ruffin was the #52 ranked overall prospect in the class of 2021; he was Ole Miss's second highest ranked signee in school history. 14 games into his freshman year, Ruffin, injured his knee. At that time, he was averaging 12.6 points and 3.4 assists per game. Rebel fans were excited at the potential this young dynamic guard was displaying.

Last season was a struggle for Ruffin. He played in 13 games before leaving the team to focus on his mental and physical health. He was averaging 9.5 points and 3.2 assists per game in the games played last season. For the 25 games, Ruffin played at Ole Miss, he



Daeshun Ruffin at Callaway High School.

averaged 11.2 points per game. Once Ole Miss fired Kermit Davis, the coach that recruited him, he entered the transfer portal. Coming back to Jackson could be just the thing for him, especially with a coach with recent NBA experience and a long successful career.

"Daeshun is a dynamic talent who has yet to show his full potential due to injuries and some other factors out of his control," said David Sanders, who coached Ruffin at Callaway and is now coaching at Copiah-Lincoln Community College. "When healthy, he is a program changer. Playing for coach Mo Williams gives him an opportunity to play for a guy who knows and had been where he desired to go. I believe this will be a revelation not only for JSU, but also for HBCU basketball and McDonald's All-Americans around the country."

Ruffin averaged 33.1 points, led Callaway to a 10-1 record and the Class 5A quarterfinals as a senior. Ruffin, rated as the No. 1 player in Mississippi and No. 7 point guard in the country, also averaged 3.2 rebounds, 2.8 steals, 2.0 assists for Callaway, which won 30 straight games against Mississippi teams until losing a 90-85, double overtime decision at



Mo Williams JSU head basketball coach



Mo Williams, a Murrah graduate, won a NBA championship in 2016.



Ruffin averaged 33 points his senior year at Cway

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## MARKET STREET FESTIVAL

Friday, May 5, 2023

Lowndes Soccer Complex

The Bouncing Betty 6:00pm-7:15pm

Dr. Zarr's Amazing Funk Monster 7:30pm-9:30pm

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Historic Downtown Columbus

**MAIN STAGE**

Located on Main Street between The Post Office & City Hall

10:00am-10:45am Revive Worship

11:15am-12:00pm Rust Bucket Roadies

12:30pm-1:15pm Hartle Road

1:45pm-2:30pm Brad Sims

3:00pm-4:00pm Artistik

Fun, Fun, Fun!

**LEADERSHIP PLAZA STAGE**

Located on the corner of College Street & 5th Street South

10:00am-11:00am Suzuki Strings

11:15am-12:15pm Valley Vagabonds

12:30pm-1:30pm T Marsh

1:45pm-2:45pm Honeyboy & Boots

3:00pm-4:00pm Keith & Margie

Music!

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**Saturday, April 22, 2023 • City Plaza - 2460 Terry Road, Jackson, MS • Photos by Jay Johnson**

