



Former President Donald Trump is now criminal defendant Donald Trump.

Donald Trump arrested, ex-prez is officially an accused felon

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

For at least several moments on Tuesday, April 4, Trump was placed under arrest. His Miranda rights read, and fingerprints taken, but authorities spared him a mugshot and customary perp walk. Still, as he headed to the 15th floor courtroom at 100 Centre Street downtown,

Trump joined the nearly 8,000 other non-violent felony defendants who have been arraigned in Manhattan so far in 2023.

Shortly before 2 p.m. EST, Trump became the first former U.S. President arrested and criminally charged. This after becoming the first to have been impeached twice. “Can’t believe this is happening,”

Trump posted as he headed into a courtroom where he found, perhaps for the first time in his adult life, that he wasn’t in control of the proceedings in front of him.

It’s an ironic, if not predictable, fall for a man who campaigned in 2016 by mercilessly leading chants of “Lock her up,” against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

And as unprecedented and surreal as the arrest, the charges leveled against the bombastic MAGA leader reveal what prosecutors claim is a man who operated as if he were above the law for a long time – including when he ruled the Oval Office.

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Council vote results in no trash collection

What’s more important to Jackson City Council – being anti-mayor or being pro-residents?

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Listening to tape of and discussing with a colleague who was there – the Special Jackson City Council meeting Saturday, April 1, 2023 was no April Fool’s Day joke, it was downright embarrassing. The agenda had one item:

“1. ORDER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT AND RELATED DOCUMENTS WITH RICHARD’S DISPOSAL, INC. TO PROVIDE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND HAULING SERVICES FOR A SIX (6) YEAR TERM COMMENCING APRIL 1, 2023 WITH FOUR (4) ONE (1) YEAR EXTENSION OPTIONS (ALL WARDS).”

The vote on the agenda item was 3-3-1. Councilmembers Angelique Lee, Dr. Brian Grizzell and Virgi Lindsay voted in favor. Councilmembers Ashby Foote, Vernon Hartley and Aaron Banks voted against. Councilmember Kenneth Stokes abstained. The vote tally leaves our city with no contract, emergency or otherwise, and trash is now starting to pile



Trash piling up on Quinn Street in the Belhaven area.

PHOTO BY CHRIS YOUNG

up.

So this is where we are, over eighteen months into the Request for Proposals (RFP) process, initiated by our mayor, Chokwe Antar Lumumba.

Waste Management had the contract for decades, and the taxpayers were paying dearly. A new RFP process would allow compe-

titution, almost always leading to better pricing.

Numerous iterations followed, three cycles of RFPs, but in the end it was apparent that the majority of councilmembers wanted to stay with Waste Management, which meant them ignoring or deciding to overlook, the millions in savings that was revealed in a

blind-bidding process during the most recent RFP. The mayor responded by ordering Richard’s Disposal to go to work for a one-year period on April 1, 2022, and the city council sued the mayor, and he sued right back, each costing the city still untold hundreds

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Jackson takeover legislation enroute to governor

HB1020 and SB2343 steal municipality power in broad daylight

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

You’re black and we’re white, and we will take what we want to take. That is the inescapable reality of the final engrossed House Bill 1020 and Senate Bill 2343. According to Politico interactive maps in 2021, 29% of state legislators in Mississippi are non-white. Black legislators, vastly Democrats, must settle for crumbs of legislation, because their white colleagues easily outnumber them – by a super-majority – and they are gunning for control of Jackson.

Last Thursday the upper chamber passed HB1020 by a vote of 31-15 with 4 Republican abstentions. One hundred percent of Democrats voted against the bill. One hundred percent of Republicans either voted for the



Representative Edward Blackmon, Jr.
PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION

bill or abstained. None of the abstentions were from Hinds County.

The following day, the lower chamber passed HB1020 by a vote of 73-41 with 7 abstaining (four Republicans and three Democrats). Three Democrats



Rep. John Thomas Lamar III.
PHOTO: MS LEG. WEBSITE

and one Independent voted for this bill, including African Americans Cedric Burnett and Angela Cockerham and European American Shanda Yates who represents Hinds/Madison. Of the three Democrats who abstained, one was Afri-

can American (Kenneth Walker whose district includes Madison). None were from Hinds County. The bill now goes to the governor where there is every expectation that he will sign it into law. If it becomes law it will go into effect July 1, 2023 – 86 days from now.

From reviewing the engrossed texts of HB1020, what it does, is the following:

- Creates a separate Judicial District for the Capitol Complex Improvement District (CCID)
- Codifies separate law enforcement – Capitol Police – for the CCID
- Four special judges will be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court and they will serve through

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California Governor Gavin Newsom and family, Jackson Mayor Lumumba and family join College Hill in celebrating 116th church anniversary

Pastor Stanley Smith delivers message



Governor Newsom and Jennifer Newsom, Ebony Lumumba and Mayor Lumumba with their children (seated) in College Hill Family Life Center prior to dinner being served PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

College Hill M. B. Church had its humble beginning in 1907, where it was established under an oak tree about 100 yards from its current location at 1600 Florence Avenue in Jackson.

This historical church celebrated its 116th church anniversary Sunday, April 2, 2023. Heads turned in the sanctuary when unexpected guests of church members entered the roped off pews after College Hill usher Denise Griffin-Whittington escorted the smiling faces of Governor Gavin Newsom of California and Mayor Choke Lumumba and their family to the reserved seating.

After the call to worship by Pastor Jordan, Rev. Andrew Lewis, Minister of Music, directed the mass choir, as they lead the congregational hymn, “We’ve Come This Far by

Faith.”

During the church service two members were presented with special awards for their service to the church family. Deacon Reginald Knight received the MVP (Most Valuable Player) award and Deacon Samuel Lake received the MOY (Member of the year award.)

Pastor Jordan introduced the speaker by first stating that Stanley Smith is no guest to the College Hill family, because he remains a member. He thanked Smith for agreeing to bring the preached word.

Pastor Smith shared his history of attending College Hill and how so many older members influenced his life to become a minister. He said those members made him feel so special. “They made a man out of a boy,” he said.

Pastor Smith delivered a powerful sermon entitled



Pastor Stanley Smith and Stephanie Smith and Dr. Lashanda Jordan and Pastor Chauncy L. Jordan, Sr.
PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

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Mayors

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“Keep Your Light On” using Matthew 75: 14-16 verses as his background scripture. He reminded the listeners that somebody is always watching them and that they are not only lights of the community but also are lights of the world. Based on the scripture reading he said, “Let your light shine before men that they might see your good works.”

Smith received many hand claps throughout his message and a standing ovation as he closed.

Pastor Jordan thanked Pastor Smith for such a meaningful sermon and said he was ‘peacock proud’ when five joined the College Hill family.

He stated that he was so appreciative of everyone that had played a part in helping College Hill, the church on the corner of Florence Avenue, to be a light for the community, the city, the state and the nation – all for the glory of God.

Audrey Wiley, church anniversary chair, gave remarks and stated she was thankful to Smith for his message and said she was flooded with a sense of happiness that the planning committee’s prayers had been answered for a successful service. She thanked everyone on program for the roll they played in the success of the anniversary service and invited everyone to remain for dinner which was being served in the Family Life Center.

When *The Mississippi Link* asked Governor Newsom after service what brought him and his family to Jackson he stated, “It was out of my deep concern for the anxiety I saw was going on in Jackson with some of the recent actions by the governor of this state toward the city, and when I

saw the mayor on a national interview, I felt compelled to come and offer my support to do what I could for the community.” He said he told his children who were on spring break, “We are going to Jackson, MS.”

Mayor Lumumba told *The Mississippi Link*, “I loved the service today.”

Rev. Stanley Smith made an appeal during his message to all churches to help with the challenges the mayor and the city of Jackson were facing. The mayor thought the appeal was right on time. He said, “We don’t battle with flesh and blood but with principalities, and having people of God to make a statement through love instead of hate is precisely what we need.”

The mayor stated that he was so happy to worship with College Hill on its 116th anniversary and is so grateful for Governor Newsom for coming all the way to Jackson with his family to show love and support for the community.



Audrey Wiley, Anniversary Chair



Jackson Mayor Chokwe Lumumba



College Hill Mass Choir



Rev. Dr. Stanley Smith, speaker



Kayla D. Mozee, extends welcome



Lee Collins, historical reflections



(l-r) Lois Davis, Rev. Stanley Smith, Barbara Moaton and Kelvin Hayes



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Trash

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of thousands of dollars, and going all the way to the Supreme Court of Mississippi, who ruled that the mayor does not have the authority to override/veto and negative action/no action of the council.

God knows it was rocky at the start for Richard’s Disposal, the black-owned firm from New Orleans, and *The Mississippi Link* newspaper has written extensively about all the details.

While complaints are not unusual in the garbage collection business, with more time on the job in Jackson, it’s rare to hear about them anymore. Additionally, of the 82 workers that Richard’s has in Jackson, 80 live in Jackson and are part of our community and our economy. They are paid a living wage. When speaking to various workers over

time, it is clear they have pride in their work and in their company. Now, without any form of contract or agreement to collect trash, they continue to be paid by their employer.

Working Together Jackson is a broad-based coalition of institutions committed to collaborative strategies to help solve problems facing Jackson. Their organizations cross all racial, religious and economic lines. From the very beginning of the trash debacle, they have been involved and showing up, endeavoring to broker solutions. On Tuesday, April 4, 2023, many of their members took to the streets in Ward 3, accompanied by many Richard’s workers. They provided contractor-grade trash bags, a comprehensive fact sheet and encouragement to call

their councilmember, Kenneth Stokes.

Many of the workers reside in Ward 3, as trash has begun piling up there too. There have been reports of residents coming out of their homes to speak with not only Working Together Jackson, but with the Richard’s workers that were walking the neighborhood right alongside them – and that these residents overwhelmingly support Richard’s Disposal to pick up their trash.

Richard’s employees have showed up in large numbers at the last two Special City Council meetings. These are hard workers, doing the hardest of jobs – collecting our trash – who are now fighting for their jobs in Jackson.

Most of the council refused to pay the company for its first six

months – then under pressure, conceded, and began paying the owed back-pay, but on an incremental basis. Think that one through.

Councilmembers Angelique Lee and Dr. Brian Grizzell have always held the line for a change in solid waste collection vendor, seemingly based on price. Councilwoman Lindsay initially voted in favor of what became known as the Richard’s bid, but then reversed course and voted against the change. Councilmembers Foote, Stokes, Hartley, Sr., and Banks have been steadfast in their resistance to changing vendors.

There certainly have been questions as to why these councilmembers are so opposed to Richard’s Disposal becoming our new trash collection provider, saving

the city millions per year. And they are still doing so, even after this company has clearly demonstrated its ability to do the job.

And so, it is obvious now – even more strongly than before – that these folks want to preserve the status quo, which means keeping Waste Management. It ends up begging the question, even before the trash began to pile up in our city, are these four councilmembers more anti-Mayor (and the improvements he tries to bring), or are they more pro-residents of Jackson? These four councilmembers know the true answer, and with each passing day their constituents do too.

On April 4, Ross Adams of WAPT provided footage of Stokes honoring the anniversary of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr assassination on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis – 55 years ago – in Memphis to support the rights of sanitation workers. And God bless Stokes for his efforts remembering our beloved Dr. King. The irony though, is unavoidable – Stokes, a black man, has spent the last eighteen plus months doing everything in his power to resist a black contractor coming into our black city to collect our trash.

Just today I was reminded by a new friend of the words of Ella Baker – strong people don’t need strong leaders – and so it’s on us Jackson. In the most foul-smelling way, we have some councilmembers who are serving themselves far more than those they were elected to serve.

Takeover

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- Department of Public Safety, who oversees Capitol Police will be able to send misdemeanor cases that carry jail time to prison, instead of jail.
- Capitol Police has primary jurisdiction within the CCID and secondary jurisdiction throughout the entire City of Jackson

Per Mississippi Today, when responding to Representative Thomas Lamar’s comments about being unfairly labeled a racist, black lawmaker, Representative Edward Blackmon, Jr. of Canton said, “When you take away the right of people to elect their officials who have traditionally been elected, how else are they going to see it? “The right to vote may not mean much to some of you, but when you look at history that got us to where we are today, when it took so long and lost so many lives...gentleman, you have not been beaten for asking for the right to vote. You have not been locked up for asking for that. I have. Yes, I am sensitive to that.”

When he asked why additional funds could not be transferred to Jackson for additional police officers, Lamar of Senatobia stated, “that Jackson has shown incompetence, and cited water, sewer,

and garbage.

And further from the same source, “While the city is more than 80% African American, Blackmon pointed out the demographics of the Capital Complex District will be close to 50-50.”

Last Thursday the upper chamber passed SB2343 by a vote of 29-14 with 6 Republicans and 1 Democrat (Juan Bennett) abstaining. Senator Bennett is African American and his district includes Forrest, Jasper, and Jones counties. None of the abstainers were from Hinds County.

The following day, the lower chamber passed SB2343 by a vote of 74-41 with 6 abstaining (three Republicans and three Democrats). In this case though, one African American Democrat (Cedric Burnett of Coahoma, Tunica and Tate), one African American Independent (Angela Cockerham of Adams and Pike), and two European American Democrats voted for this takeover legislation. One is Rep Shanda Yates who does represent Hinds and Madison counties.

Of the two Democrats who abstained, one is African American (Kenneth Walker – Madison) and one is European American (Tom Miles – Rankin/Scott). None of the abstainers are from

Hinds County. The bill now goes to the governor where there is every expectation that he will sign it into law. If it becomes law it will go into effect January 1, 2024.

Senate Bill 2343 is what is referred to as a companion bill to HB1020, and you will easily see why. Here’s what it does:

- Department of Public Safety (DPS), through the Office of Capitol Police will have jurisdiction to enforce state laws on any properties that are in any way connected to the State doing business
- DPS will be able to contract for security at the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning building at Ridgewood & Lakeland Drive...Department of Agriculture, farmers market, fairgrounds complex, Department of Revenue, and Alcoholic Beverage Control buildings
- DPS will have jurisdiction within the boundaries of the CCID and (underlined in the Bill) within the boundaries of the City of Jackson
- Requires written authorization of the Capitol Police Chief or Commissioner prior to approval of any event taking place on any street or sidewalk immediately adjacent to State property

- DPS can contract with any county for county to take custody of misdemeanor offenders arrested

- All forms of accrued leave transfers with an employee that transfers from Department of Finance and Accounting to DPS

Well, there you have it. The deed is done, more or less in the broad light of day. Casting a vote matters – remember Vernon Dahmer, “If you don’t vote – you don’t count.” A total of 24 abstentions connected to these two Bills. And why would two African Americans, both from outside Hinds County/Jackson break solidarity with their African American colleagues? Why would they not support them? The die is cast with these two bills, and it’s no longer a Trojan Horse entering Hinds/Jackson, it’s plainly visible white conservative Christian Republicans from outside, one signature away from firm entrenchment in our city, usurping our autonomy for voting rights, policing, and assembling unencumbered.

No other black City in America suffers this oppression and racism like Jackson. And, for God’s sake, there isn’t even a permit required to assemble or demonstrate outside of The White House.



Devasia Spires,
NMLS #53891



John Michael Wilson,
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Candlelight vigil for victims of Parade Day shooting

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Upwards of three hundred family, friends, co-workers and others gathered Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 6 p.m. on Jefferson Street at the Agriculture Commission parking lot to remember the two victims of the Parade Day killing just five days earlier at the same location.

The Mal's St. Paddy's Parade had already kicked off when Joshua Spann and Auden Jubilee Simpkins attempted to intervene when they witnessed a man abusing a woman in a vehicle. The intervention failed, and they paid for their efforts with their lives.

Spann, 27, and Simpkins, 23, were well respected in the community by numerous accounts, and solidified by the outpouring of attendees at the vigil. They were fatally shot from behind, in the midst of scores of people, and law enforcement presence for Parade Day. Jordan Kyle Cummins, the alleged shooter, was denied bond two days later, on two murder charges, in Judge Johnnie McDaniel's courtroom.

A memorial had been set up at the location two days prior to the vigil, and was added to as people arrived. People were supporting each other, some clearly having not seen each other in some time. They shared the shock, sadness, numbness and raw grief of relatives and friends, and heartfelt discussions between strangers, as well.

One woman, who asked not to be identified, shared, "This right here, this is the real Jackson. It's not about race. Our people care about each other. This is the real Jackson. I'm telling you."

The law enforcement presence for the event was massive, following reports of chatter on social media leading up to the event, that the vigil itself would be shot up. From Commerce Street and down the hill to Jefferson Street, and all the way up Jefferson to High Street was locked down, including access from mite, Mississippi, and College Streets to ensure the event was safe.

Capital Police appeared to have the highest numbers, but other law enforcement were present at the vigil as well, and pat-downs of several people were observed as they arrived – for whatever reason, having gained the interest of law enforcement.

The tall observation tower in the fairgrounds parking lot, just 30 yards from Jefferson Street, had two officers scanning with binoculars and armed with rifles. Officers were also scanning the area from the vantage point of the Pearl



Memorial for murder victims Joshua Spann and Auden Jubilee Simpkins



Balloon release during March 30, 2023 candle light vigil on Jefferson St.



Hundreds gather for candlelight vigil March 30, 2023. PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG



Candles being lit for the final phase of the evening on Jefferson St.

Street bridge, overlooking Jefferson.

Spann's nickname was "Pout." His cousin Sharon spoke fondly of him while clearly grieving his loss – "look what he did, he took him from us." She wound up meeting another cousin she had never met before this evening, and eventually had to leave to get back to work.

Numerous members of Country Life, a trail riding group in Holmes County, wore matching tee shirts in their support for Auden. A friend of Spann, Dan, said he has worked in bars for seventeen years and can remember when Josh showed up on the scene, and what a good guy he was, and how excited he was when he began working as a fire-

fighter. "He was my friend; we would go fishing together. I'm going to miss that. He didn't deserve to go like this, but he was a hero – he was a protector – that's who he was."

Shantell Johnson was observed embracing family and friends. She is a force for good and for transparency in the community, and especially in the growing community of mothers losing sons. She lost her own son, Christopher, to gun violence in Jackson – he was the #109 homicide in 2021. In sharing about the pain that never goes away, she said, "You just learn how to bear it, and helping others helps you do that."

Large posterboards were provided for folks to express their sentiments for

Joshua and Auden, who most people referred to as Jubilee or her nickname – JuJu. Some people spoke at the gathering, including Kelly Simpkins, JuJu's father. Hundreds of balloons were released, many fouling in the power lines – perhaps symbolizing the difficulty of accepting this tragic and senseless loss.

Expressions of love and mutual consolation are the norm at events like this, but somehow these particular losses – these two vibrant young lives, revered in our community – seems unbearable. The lighting of a single candle followed, and then multiplied rapidly throughout the gathering, just as the sun began to set.

The services for Auden Jubilee Simp-

kins will be at Redeemer Church, 640 East Northside Drive, in Jackson. Visitation will be held Friday, April 7, from 5-7 p.m. and on Saturday, April 8, from 10-11 a.m. with the celebration immediately following. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Grant Me Justice at www.grantmejustice.org.

A memorial service for Joshua Spann Service will be held at Dean Memorial Funeral Home, 745 Highway MS-468, Brandon, MS, 39042 on Apr. 7, 2023, from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. The funeral service will be held Saturday, April 8, 2023 at 2 p.m. at the Greater New Friendship M. B. Church, 755 Shiloh Rd, Brandon, MS 39042.

Jackson Fire Department Citizen's Fire Academy graduates

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

Smiling faces, feisty steps, memory flashbacks and honorable accolades flooded the commencement room at Jackson Fire Department Citizen's Fire

Academy (1240 South Gallatin Street in Jackson) Monday, April 3, 2023, at 6 p.m.

Two-hour daily class sessions held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – along with a Saturday three-hour session –

proved beneficial for nine Jackson adults who endured the one-week Citizen's Fire Academy for fire and injury prevention. The students sought to become more involved with fire safety.

During their commencement,

graduates shared their delight in having taken advantage of the opportunity to receive training.

All acknowledged that the fire fighters were a great team. They worked well together. The training taught them to learn while performing various tasks. Observing how the firemen communicated with each other was commendable.

Linda Taylor mentioned her appreciation to the staff while her spouse (Alexander Taylor) explained that he was impressed with the fire fighters and their work. "You know what you're doing. Stay on the rock. Don't come down," he said.

Patricia Coleman asked the graduates and loved ones to "stand for the best fire fighter." Through social facilitation, all stood and applauded.

"Thank you," said Yancy Kenney to the fire fighters. "I've not been feeling well, [but I learned a lot]."

Margie Thompson stated that she was pleased to have received "firsthand experience" from a team of experts.

"We didn't take this class lightly. I'm going to tell everybody I know about it," Autry Richmond shared.

The overall goals of the citizen's academy are: (1) to educate citizens about the basic tactics and strategies of fire-fighting and rescue operations;



Fire Chief Willie Owens (L standing), graduates and staff of Citizen's Fire Academy
PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

(2) to promote fire safety; (3) to encourage academy participants to return to their families and neighborhoods to share their knowledge and experiences for safety consciousness and knowledge and (4) to provide an enjoyable, interactive atmosphere in which fire members and citizens can share information and concerns.

Learning experiences within the academy include: (1) introduction of the Jackson Fire Department and Command Staff; (2) fire safety education; (3) basic first aid; (4) proper use of a fire extinguisher; (5) touring fire stations; (6) becoming familiar with fire equipment, fire vehicles and their use; (7) visit to the public safety communications center and (8) hands on activities and more.

Fire Chief Willie Owens explained that the Jackson Fire Department Citizen's Fire Academy began around 2013 and has continued since that time. "This is the first for this year. We an-

ticipate another one some time this summer. We're looking for more people to participate, and we have a capacity for 25 people. Students should be comfortably dressed and have a tablet and pen for notes. Students will teach others and encourage others to enroll," stated the leader.

Citizens must be at least 18 years of age to participate in the citizen's academy and expected to attend 80% of the class to receive a certificate for graduation. Applications can be emailed to csanders@jacksonms.gov. Persons not accepted into the immediate class will have applications placed on file to be considered for the next class.

Owens has a first responders' program on WMPR 9.1 on the first, second and fifth Thursdays at 9 a.m. He discusses accomplishments, hiring and citizens' concerns.

To learn more about Jackson Fire Department Citizen's Fire Academy, contact 601-960-1399.

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Vicksburg National Military Park begins national cemetery stabilization project following weather-related erosion



The Mississippi Link Newswire

In mid-April, the National Park Service (NPS) will begin a multi-year, multi-phase project to stabilize portions of Vicksburg National Cemetery in Vicksburg National Military Park to address grave disturbances and erosion caused by severe weather events in 2020 and 2021.

Beginning in January 2020, unprecedented rainfall caused extreme erosion, road loss, sinkholes and severe landslides at Vicksburg National Military Park and the National Cemetery. This weather event impacted historically significant landscapes, including burial sites in the national cemetery. Additional storm activity in 2021 contributed to further impacts.

The park will begin the stabilization project by temporarily relocating approximately 50-80 endangered burials through this summer and constructing a soldier pile and lagging wall early next year to prevent further erosion. Once stabilization is complete, the park will conduct a respectful reinterment process and complete other mitigation measures. The NPS has committed approximately \$4.686 million for the first two phases of this project.

“This project affirms our commitment to commemorate

the fallen and protect one of the nation’s most sacred landscapes,” said Carrie Mardorf, acting superintendent, Vicksburg National Military Park.

“Several of the impacted burials are unknown United States Colored Troops. Throughout this process, we are engaging with several communities, organizations and leaders to provide the soldiers their due honor and help give voice to under told stories.”

All remains previously recovered, as well as those yet to be disinterred, will continue to be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. Burials must be disinterred to ensure they are protected and secured during the stabilization and construction process.

A specialized facility was built within the park for the temporary care of recovered remains, burial objects and grave markers until the items can be respectfully reinterred.

Future mitigation measures for the project will include additional research about the role of United States Colored Troops (USCT) and local African American community contributions to the cemetery.

This is an opportunity to bring co-stewardship into the forefront concerning our collective histories of USCTs at Vicksburg and across the region. This effort also restores

awareness of Vicksburg’s national significance during the Civil War and Reconstruction era.

Future mitigation measures will also include further exploration of the Native American and Spanish colonial eras and their significance within Vicksburg National Military Park.

The largest Union cemetery in the nation, Vicksburg National Cemetery sits on 40 acres overlooking the Yazoo River Diversion Canal. It was established in 1866 to serve as the final resting place for United States soldiers. After its inception, the War Department led an effort throughout the South to locate the graves of Union soldiers who died during the Civil War so they could be reinterred in the national cemetery. More than 17,000 troops – 13,000 of which are unknown soldiers – are buried in Vicksburg National Cemetery. These burials include the final resting place of more than 5,500 USCTs that served with distinction in the Civil War.

Please visit the project page on the park website Vicksburg National Cemetery Stabilization Project - Vicksburg National Military Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov) and social media for more information and regular project updates.

Statement from Senator David Blount on voting ‘No’ on House Bill 1020

The Mississippi Link Newswire

“The Senate and House of Representatives have passed House Bill No. 1020. I voted No. The bill now heads to the Governor for his signature.

This infamous bill is well known in Jackson. While it is not as offensive as it was originally (thanks to the efforts of many inside and outside of the Capitol), it is still a bad bill that creates separate and unequal access to justice and public safety within the City of Jackson.

There are two primary problems with the legislation:

It creates a new court system to serve only part of the City of Jackson. The judge, prosecutors, and staff for this court would be appointed by people who do not live in Jackson and those serving in these positions would not be required to live in Jackson. Everyone in every



Blount

neighborhood in Jackson deserves access to the same justice system accountable to the voters of the city.

It creates a new state-funded 911 system exclusively for Jacksonians living within the Capitol Improvement Complex District (CCID). Every Jacksonian deserves access to a responsive 911 system. This system provides fundamentally different

access to public safety depending on where you live in Jackson.

These two provisions provide unequal protection under the law.

In addition to these flaws, the bill provides for appointed judges separate from the elected judges of Hinds County (7th Circuit Court District) that would last 3½ years. The Hinds County delegation has repeatedly asked for the immediate addition of another elected judge to handle cases.

Those of us who live in Jackson recognize we have a problem with crime. We ask for an equal partnership with state leadership where we work together to address it. House Bill No. 1020 is not it.”

Senator David Blount represents District 29 (Hinds Co.). He is vice chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

Mississippi session: Yes to moms’ Medicaid, no to tax cuts

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

During the three-month session that ended early Saturday, Mississippi lawmakers guaranteed a year of Medicaid coverage for women after birth but ignored broader Medicaid expansion for working people whose jobs don’t provide health insurance.

The majority-white and Republican-controlled Legislature voted for a larger state police presence in the capital city of Jackson starting in July 2024, despite objections from black lawmakers who called it a power grab over the majority-black city governed by Democrats. Supporters of Capitol Police expansion said they are trying to reduce crime in the city of nearly 150,000 residents, which had more than 100 homicides each of the past three years.

Here’s a look other issues:

Taxes: Republican House Speaker Philip Gunn isn’t seeking reelection this year, and one of his main goals was to phase out the state income tax. He said doing so would make Mississippi more competitive with fast-growing Texas and Florida, which don’t tax income. Op-

ponents of the tax elimination cautioned that Mississippi should not jeopardize its ability to pay for schools and other services. Although legislators enacted a the state’s largest-ever tax cut in 2022, Gunn’s proposal died with little discussion this year.

Elections: Republican Gov. Tate Reeves signed a law setting tighter restrictions on absentee ballots. The law, starting July 1, sets a short list of people who can “collect and transmit” a ballot mailed to another person. That list includes employees of the U.S. Postal Service or other mail carriers, plus any “family member, household member or caregiver of the person to whom the ballot was mailed.” Reeves said this will prevent fraud by political operatives. Opponents said the new restrictions could hurt nursing home employees or others who make good-faith efforts to help people obtain and mail absentee ballots.

Education: Republican Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and other Senate leaders sought to revise and fully fund the Mississippi Adequate Education Program, a budget formula designed to give schools enough money to meet

midlevel academic standards. MAEP was put into law in 1997 but has been fully funded only two years. House leaders rejected the Senate proposal. Legislators voted to increase education spending by more than \$100 million during the year that begins July 1, but they still left MAEP short of full funding.

Initiatives: Legislators did not revive an initiative process to let people petition to put issues on statewide ballots. Mississippi allowed initiatives for about 30 years, but the state Supreme Court ruled in May 2021 that the process was invalid because it required people to gather signatures from five outdated congressional districts rather than four districts the state has had since the early 2000s. The House voted this session to allow initiatives on many issues but not for proposing changes to abortion laws. That proposal died in the Senate, where Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency Committee Chairman John Polk said he liked the abortion restriction but wanted to significantly increase the number of signatures over what the previous initiative process required.

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‘Unapologetically black’ Angel Reese got her ring and the world got another dose of racism

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

LSU’s Angel Reese’s post-game gesture has sparked a conversation about double standards in basketball.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock in LSU’s dominating 102-85 victory over Iowa, Reese waved her hand in front of her face, stared at Iowa guard Caitlin Clark, and pointed towards her ring finger.

Reese made it clear; she was the one going home with the championship ring.

For all the trash-talking and lack of sportsmanship on Clark’s part, Reese received the backlash.

Commentators, including longtime sportscaster and former MSNBC anchor Keith Olbermann, said the response was telling. Olbermann called Reese a “f-ing idiot,” while others called her a hood rat.

Shaquille O’Neil, the NBA hall of famer who played for LSU’s men’s basketball team in the 1990s, told Olbermann to shut up.

Reese, the black superstar, was taking to task on social media for lacking grace in victory.

After the game, and to her credit, Reese remained unapologetic. “All year, I was critiqued for who I was. I don’t fit the narrative,” Reese explained. “I’m too ‘hood. I’m too ghetto. Y’all told me that all year.”

As many have noted, there remains a divide between white and African-American women over opportunities and perception.



Reese, Women’s NCAA tournament’s most outstanding player

White players are considered tough and fundamentally sound, while black players are seen as flashy brawlers, noted sports columnist William Rhoden observed. In this case, the focus was on double standards.

Black players are vilified for doing the same things white players are praised for doing. Clark’s trash talk gestures had been lauded throughout the NCAA tournament, Rhoden continued. Clark repeatedly made the “you can’t see me”

gesture during Iowa’s win over Louisville in the Elite Eight.

She was heralded as confident and brash.

Clark followed up her “you can’t see me” gesture Friday against South Carolina fresh-

man guard Raven Johnson. Rhoden noted that Clark finally got her comeuppance when Reese lit her up for 15 points and 10 boards, eventually earning the women’s NCAA tournament’s most outstanding player.

Reese played brilliantly in an overall team effort that frustrated Clark, who was called at least twice for pushing off the ball and picked up four fouls. Clark claimed afterward that she didn’t see Reese’s gesture, and Iowa’s head coach Lisa Bluder gave a near muted response, saying “We’re all different people, and we all have different ways to show our emotion.”

In other words, it was fine when her player – a white athlete – gestured, but not-so-cool when the winning player – a black champion – gave a little back.

“Ultimately, the conversation around Reese’s gesture is not just about trash talk; it’s about how black players are perceived differently than white players,” Rhoden stated. “Reese’s gesture was an unapologetic response to the criticism she has faced all year.”

And, as white commentators like Olbermann continued their rhetoric and race-baiting, black sportscasters like Rhoden, ESPN’s Stephen A. Smith, and FS1’s Shannon Sharpe, stepped up to back Reese.

“We see it two different ways... when Caitlin Clark did the John Cena it was considered ‘swag,’” Sharpe remarked. “Angela Reese

does the same gestured it’s considered ‘classless.’ “It’s funny how America – society sees black and white.” Sharpe wasn’t done.

“Angel Reese said ‘unapologetically me.’ She meant unapologetically black. It’s ... it’s so obvious what this is. This is not about anything other than race.” He continued:

“One is a celebration and is celebrated. The other is condemned. And why? Only because a black did the exact same gesture that a white female did 48 hours earlier.

“Trash talk is a part of the game. But white trash talk and black trash talk is viewed entirely different and we know why.” On his First Take show, Smith also went in on the race issue.

“We all know that there’s a white-black issue here, because the fact of that matter is when Caitlin did it, people were celebrating it. And they were talking about nothing but her greatness,” Smith railed.

“But, the second a sister stepped up and threw it back in her face, now you’ve got half the basketball world saying ‘Well, you know what, that’s not the classiest thing to do.” Smith continued:

“Clark kind of instigated this and the fact that hasn’t been brought up tells us a lot about our society as a whole. You know exactly what the hell you’re doing as people when you want to bring up how Angel Reese acted, but you don’t want to bring up how Caitlin Clark acted. That’s the inconsistency. That’s the story.”

Marcus T. Coleman Jr. of the Biden-Harris Administration’s DHS Center, announces disastrous relief for survivors of the March storms

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

Mississippians who fell prey to the March storms are receiving attention and gaining support from members of the Biden-Harris Administration. Most residents lost everything or have little. Disaster Recovery Centers have been established for residents of Carroll, Humphreys, Monroe and Sharkey counties.

“There are whole communities working with the US Department of Agriculture to make sure the whole community is included in our commitment from FEMA. Throughout the recovery process, we are working with local leaders, pastors and faith base organizations. No matter how long it takes, the Biden-Harris Administration is [in it for the long haul].” That message was delivered during a recent telephone interview with Marcus Coleman, director, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Partnerships Center.

In keeping with FEMA’s mission (helping people before, during and after disasters), Coleman mentioned that disastrous survivor assistance exists



Marcus Coleman, director of Homeland Security.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DHS

to meet their needs. “We have people on the ground to go directly to the neighborhoods,”

commented the Center’s director.

Coleman leads the linkage of

houses of worship, faith-based organizations and non-governmental organizations with DHS components to promote equitable access to resilience, preparedness and safety and security.

“President Biden could not have appointed a better prepared and more capable leader than Marcus Coleman to direct the DHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. The country and the president will be well served by Marcus’ years of experience at the center, his expertise in emergency preparedness and his robust network of trusted relationships with faith-based, civic and government partners,” said David L. Myers (former DHS Partnerships Center Director – 2009-2017) and advisor to FEMA Administration Craig Fugate.

Several Individual Assistance programs designed to support disaster survivors are in place by FEMA. Disaster survivors can apply online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disasterassistance).

The following types of assistance to determine what best suits their needs are: (Individual and Households Program

Assistance; (2) Mass Care and Emergency Assistance; (3) Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program; (4) Disaster Case Management; (5) Disaster Legal Services; (6) Voluntary Agency Coordination; (7) Referral Lists; and (8) Additional Resources.

It is essential to note that FEMA’s Individual Assistance program is designed to help disaster survivors with basic, critical needs such as a safe, sanitary and functional place to live while survivors look for a long-term or permanent housing solution. Not designed to make survivors whole, it is not a substitute for insurance coverage. Furthermore, individual assistance cannot duplicate other sources of assistance.

All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), religion, national origin, age and disabilities. Persons with uninsured or underinsured losses should contact FEMA online at [disasterassistancecenter.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disasterassistance), download the FEMA app and register on their smartphone or tablet (if applicable).

In addition to applying for

temporary lodging, basic home repairs, personal property losses and other uninsured expenses, survivors can request financial assistance at 1-800-621-3362.

FEMA comes loaded with other survivor resources. Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.fema.gov) to help prepare a disaster or get support, including (1) Find Family and Friends; (2) Pets and Animals; (3) Emergency Alerts; (4) Coping with Disasters; (5) Find Open Shelters; (6) FEMA Mobile App; and (7) Get Involved.

Originally from Tucson, Arizona, Coleman has served at the intersection of building public private partnerships with faith-based and non-profit organizations for more than 15 years. His office is an active partner of the DHS Blue Campaign, an effort designed to educate the public, law enforcement and other partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases.

Coleman is an alum of Howard University, American University, Harvard University National Preparedness Leadership Initiative and the Obama for America Campaign.

Mississippi closer to more state police in mostly black city

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Tensions erupted Friday as the majority-white and Republican-controlled Mississippi House passed the final version of a bill to expand the territory of a state-run police department inside the capital city of Jackson, which is majority-Black and governed by Democrats.

Supporters say the proposal is intended to increase safety in the city of nearly 150,000 residents, which has had more than 100 homicides each of the past three years.

Opponents say the plan, which also would create a new court with an appointed judge, would stomp on local governance and create unequal sys-

tems of justice. About 83% of Jackson residents are Black - the largest percentage of Black residents of any major U.S. city.

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

During the House debate Friday, Democratic Rep. Zakiya Summers said many black parents already talk to their children about being careful around police. She said her biggest fear is that her three sons – Marvin, Mason and Mathis – will be

treated with hostility.

“While they’re traveling around the city of Jackson and they get pulled over, they’re going to have to keep their hands on 10 and 2. They’re not going to be able to say a doggone thing to that police officer,” Summers said. “The only thing that they’re going to have to do is pray and hope that they can make it back home safely.”

Since the bill was filed in January, critics have compared the proposal to past efforts to suppress black people’s rights in Mississippi.

“Mississippi has always been first in racism,” Democratic Rep. Solomon Osborne of Greenwood said Friday.

The bill’s sponsor, Republican

Rep. Trey Lamar, who is white, has said repeatedly that race is not a factor in his proposal. He said he’s trying to help Jackson become more welcoming for residents and visitors.

“You talk about being offended. I’m offended, as well,” Lamar said Friday after listening to several lawmakers denounce the bill. “If I have to stand here and listen to being called a racist because I’m trying to do the right thing, we’re going to talk about the color that matters - and that’s the red that flows in my veins and yours alike.”

The bill passed the majority-white and Republican-controlled House on a 72-41 vote. The support came from Republicans and two independents.

The opposition came from Democrats and three Republicans.

Senators had passed the final version of the bill Thursday, with 31 Republicans voting yes and 15 Democrats voting no.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves has not said whether he will sign the measure into law, but he has often said Jackson has a crime problem.

The proposal for state control has angered Jackson residents who don’t want their voices diminished in local government, and it is the latest example of the long-running tensions between the Republican-run state government and the Democratic-run capital city.

The plan would create a tem-

porary court within a Capitol Complex Improvement District inside a portion of Jackson. The judge would not be required to live in Jackson and would be appointed by the Mississippi Supreme Court chief justice. The current chief justice is a conservative white man. The court would 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. An earlier version of the bill would have created a court with broader powers similar to courts with elected judges.

Public Event Announcement

Hinds County Human Resource Agency will host its next monthly Board of Directors meeting Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 7 p.m. at HCHRA Central Office located at 258 Maddox Road in Jackson, Mississippi. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call 601-923-1838 or email vick-eyw@hchra.org.



ARE YOU AN UNPAID CAREGIVER IN NEED OF A BREAK?

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

HOW DO I APPLY?

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

HOW DOES THE RESPITE VOUCHER PROGRAM WORK?

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

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

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

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

Each Provider:

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

Respite care can be provided in the following places:

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

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

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



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



President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden visit Rolling Fork, MS after it was hit by a tornado

By Jackie Hampton
Jackie Hampton

Last week there were over 21 lives lost as a result of the March 24 tornado that hit Rolling Fork and other nearby towns. There were roughly 300 homes and businesses destroyed and thousands more badly damaged throughout several counties.

Prior to visiting the area, Biden announced that the federal government will cover the total cost of the state’s emergency measures for the next 30 days, including overtime for first responders and debris cleanup. He also announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will open disaster recovery centers in storm ravaged counties to help residents access the resources available to them.

The president and first lady surveyed the damage, met with homeowners impacted by the storms and first responders. They were joined by Congressman Bennie Thompson, Gov. Tate Reeves, Senator Cindy Hyde Smith, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell and HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge.

In a statement after the tornado, Biden pledged that the federal government would “do everything we can to help.”

Trump

Continued from page 1

Indeed, the freshly unsealed indictment brought by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg included 34 criminal charges – all felonies related to falsifying business records, including several relating to allegedly making hush money payments to porn star Stormy Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal. Judge Juan Merchan, a former prosecutor with 16 years on the bench, unsealed Indictment No. 71543-23, after Trump’s team reviewed them.

Bragg alleged that Trump falsified business records to hide other crimes, including illegally pumping up his presidential campaign with ill-gotten cash. Specifically, the indictment alleges that Trump conspired with others to undermine the integrity of the 2016 election, a contest in which Trump defeated Clinton.

Prosecutors alleged that Trump took part in an unlawful “catch and kill” scheme that included an illegal \$130,000 payment he ordered to suppress information that would hurt his presidential campaign.

Trump allegedly violated state and local election laws, making the



Rolling Fork Mayor Eldridge Walker expresses gratitude to President Biden and all other government officials for their help and support. He is seen here with President Biden, Dr. Jill Biden, Congressman Bennie Thompson and HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge. PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

“We will be there as long as it takes,” he said. “We will work together to deliver the support you need to recover.”

FEMA administrator Deanne Criswell said some of the damage to the area’s infrastructure will take much time to repair and that the administration will help in rebuilding key facilities to be “more resilient” to withstand future natural disasters.

Biden approved a disaster declaration for the state, which frees up federal funds for temporary housing, home repairs and loans to cover uninsured property losses.



Trey Baker, White House Senior advisor with Cong. Thompson in Rolling Fork, MS.

charges a felony.

The charges potentially carry a four-year prison sentence, which could mean that Trump, the current GOP 2024 presidential frontrunner, has entered a race that could end with him either in the White House or in prison. Despite an apparent somber mood displayed by Trump which signaled just how weighty the proceedings were, his campaign released a fundraising email seeking contributions of at least \$47 for a T-shirt that contained a fake mugshot of the ex-president emblazoned with the words “Not Guilty.”

Reportedly, Trump has raised more than \$8 million since word of an indictment spread.

With security a big issue in the ex-president’s arraignment, prosecutors in Atlanta and Washington continue to investigate Trump, which could also lead to criminal charges, were provided the ability of witnessing how New York handles a case involving a divisive former commander in chief in a safe and drama-free way could be a critical test case.

The potential cases against Trump

in Atlanta and Washington relate to the former president’s interference in the 2020 presidential election in Georgia and the January 6 insurrection on Capitol Hill that left several people dead.

Many top Republicans, including some of Trump’s potential rivals in next year’s GOP presidential primary, have criticized the case against him. President Joe Biden, who has yet to announce that he’s seeking reelection next year, and other leading Democrats have primarily had little to say about it.

Trump is scheduled to return to Manhattan for a second court date in December. Prosecutors insist their case against Trump has nothing to do with politics.

“Manhattan is home to the country’s most significant business market,” Bragg stated. “We cannot allow New York businesses to manipulate their records to cover up criminal conduct. As this office has done time and time again, we today uphold our solemn responsibility to ensure that everyone stands equal before the law.”

P R E S E R V E D

A Prayerful Resurrection

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



"I can't believe I'm wide awake!" This has been my thought on more than one occasion recently as I found myself awake in the middle of the night. After slowly opening my eyes, I realize that I was wide awake once again very early in the morning. Because I am still a little tired, I hesitate to look at my alarm clock. I know that it was early, but I don't want to see how early it was just yet.

I finally I turn my head and squint my eyes trying to make out the fuzzy blue numbers on the digital alarm clock. 3:07 a.m. was staring back at me; I groaned because I actually still had 1 full hour before I had to get ready for work. I know God speaks to us and wants us to speak to him at all times of the day, but I thought, "Can I

just get a few more minutes of sleep and talk to you while I'm driving to work?"

I'd been through this enough times to know that even expecting an answer to that was ridiculous and I was better off praying than trying to get back to sleep. These early morning prayer wake-up calls seem to happen more during times of spiritual introspection like the Holy Week leading up to Good Friday and Easter/Resurrection Sunday.

For example, during Lent, traditionally a time of a deepening spiritual intimacy and connection with God, the emphasis on personal sacrifice has made me see prayer less as a 10 minute "now I lay me down to sleep" ritual and more of a natural extension of who I am as a Christian. For me, in particular, prayer has become a more frequent part of my morning routine.

Since I normally pray before I go to bed at the end of the day,

waking up with prayer is a big change.

Even though I'm praying more frequently (in the morning and at night), I notice one thing about those prayers. Sometimes, I'm not necessarily praying what I consider new prayers. I find myself repeating prayers about previously issues which goes against what I was taught years ago about prayer.

The idea was that God hears the prayer the first time and to pray it again means that we didn't mean it the first time. Right or wrong, I eventually got in the habit of praying "thank you for the manifestation" but not the original prayer.

Now though, I'm starting to see that God urging me to repeat the prayer isn't necessarily a sign that I prayed it "wrong" like James 4:3: "And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure."

At first, I thought God was waking me up early so I could correct some "wrong" prayers. However, over time, I see that time as peacefully refreshing time of fellowship with God. The repetition of prayer isn't necessarily a sign that the prayer wasn't prayed right the first time. Repeating the prayer could also be a reminder of the promise that God will answer the prayer and a sign that God wants to keep open the lines of communication.

Have a blessed Resurrection Sunday!

Shewanda Riley (Aunt Wanda), PhD, is a Fort Worth-based author of "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email preservedby-purpose@gmail.com or follow on Twitter @shewanda. Her new podcast is "The Chocolate Auntie Podcast" at www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com.

No nation is stronger than its homes

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



Our homes have been under attack for generations. What makes a home? Beloved, people shacking together under the same roof does not make a home. Yes, America needs to return to the righteousness that built her up. Marriage is still an honorable thing, and marriage is the beginning of a properly constituted home. There needs to be commitment in marriage, there needs to be love and devotion one toward another, and there needs to be fidelity in marriage.

Some of our modern thinkers tell us that at times it is good and wholesome for a relationship to be unfaithful to the others. They don't know what they're talking about when they say those things. Sin is a reproach to any people I don't care how much education they have obtained. Adultery is not a wholesome act. No, it is sin, and it destroys.

We want to turn to the Word of God, Proverbs 14:34, a very familiar scripture which says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." What we need to do as American citizens are to realize how much we need the favor of God. We cannot be what we ought to be without God's help.

One reason why America is so great, and has been through the years, is because God had a place

in America; but as time goes on, it seems that the American people are becoming self-sufficient in their thinking, and less and less dependent on God. If we look into our history as Americans, we will see that our forefathers, generally speaking, had a respect for Almighty God, and the principles based on the Word of God. That is one reason God has blessed American so abundantly and why America is great.

Young people, please listen to me, there is such a thing as virtue; there is such a thing as right; and there is such a thing as being clean and pure. I'm not going to tell you that you have to commit sin, no. What I am going to tell you is that righteousness not only exalts a nation, but it exalts an individual, and you can live right and do right. You can resist temptation if you will yield yourself to God.

There is great power in serving God. The reason our nation has fallen into disarray, and has gone so deep into sin and evil, is because men have turned away from God. We need God. He will take care of us. We are told in Titus 2:11 and 12 that the grace of God teaches us something, and it teaches us that "we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

The world needs God. I need God. You need God. This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.

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



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Dr. King gave his life for the struggle

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



This week in 1968, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated leading a bold effort to teach America an urgent lesson: Racism is not just the boot on the neck of people of color, it is also the great wedge that divides Americans. And everyone who gets divided loses.

On Dec. 4, 1967, King announced a multiracial “Poor People’s Campaign” that would march on Washington, DC, that summer.

The idea gained traction as groups of poor Whites, Asian Americans, Latinos, and Indigenous People joined the campaign being organized by King and Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

In promoting it, King would decry the “idle industries of Appalachia” in the same breath as the “empty stomachs of Mississippi.” The reality, King made clear, is the economic value of poor whites’ labor had been depressed since the days of slavery by the forced labor and continuing oppression of black people. The divided get conquered.

That idea that working people of all races had common interests to fight for threatened – as it still does today – the old colonial system of divide and conquer that allowed King George and every would-be American oligarch since to extract massive wealth by enforcing massive poverty.

Four months to the day after he announced his Poor People’s Campaign – 55 years ago this week – King was assassinated on a balcony at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, where he had traveled to stand with striking sanitation workers fighting for decent working conditions.

It’s telling that after all he had been through fighting Jim Crow and segregation – the bus boycott, the first March on Washington, passage of the Civil Rights Act – King was murdered fighting to unite working people across racial lines.

He wasn’t alone. Robert F. Kennedy was gunned down not long after as he ran for president on a similar platform.

Even before King and Kennedy, Harry Moore and his wife were blown up in their home on Christmas 1951 by the Klan. The Florida NAACP leader was organizing the Progressive Voters League seeking to unite Floridians across racial lines and had just led an effort that registered 1 million new voters. Even Malcolm X was assassinated after he returned from Mecca and said unity across racial lines was possible.

Killing those who would unite us is an American tradition older than our nation itself. The first revolt by American colonists was in Gloucester, Virginia, more than 100 years before the Declaration of Independence. Indentured Europeans and enslaved Africans organized to rise up against cruel Virginia plantation owners. The organizers were hanged.

Two years to the day after King announced the Poor People’s Campaign, Black Panther Fred Hampton was leading a “Rainbow Coalition” of Blacks, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and poor Whites in Chicago when he was murdered – premeditated and carried out with military precision – by local police.

As in 1968, it’s true today that there are almost twice as many whites trapped in poverty as blacks. The fact that the nation’s news media render the white poor invisible doesn’t change the facts.

That so many of us still tolerate millions of Americans of every color being trapped in poverty is a factor in the toxic tensions that threaten our domestic tranquility. It is also proof we never actually learned the lesson Dr. King gave his life trying to teach us.

If you ever forget the logic of King’s final strategy, just pull out a \$1 bill and turn it over. It’s right there in the Great Seal of the United States, albeit in Latin. E Pluribus Unum. Out of many, one.

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

Is your marriage in trouble? Part II

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
Guest Writer



Is my marriage in trouble? In many instances, it is somewhat easy to admit when one is having financial troubles, trouble with children, job trouble, and even health troubles but it’s hard for many to admit that their marriage is in trouble. Many find it difficult to admit that their blissful union is in crumbles or is on the verge of breaking up. Further, some are simply in denial, while others are pretending as if their marriage couldn’t be any better – I call this the Front Porch Marriage versus the Back-Porch Marriage.

Front Porch Marriage is what some couples want one to perceive about their marriages from the outside versus what is really happening on the back porch (behind the scenes). Furthermore, Front Porch Marriages, especially on Social Media outlets, are designed to create falsified images of perfect and flawless relationships. Moreover, Front Porch Marriage depicts happiness, harmony, unity, success, commitment, but in reality, their lives are filled with misery, hopelessness, separation, and contemplations of divorce.

Yes, I know every marriage is not in trouble and no, I am not being a hater; but I am suggesting that the sad reality is that more

marriages are in trouble than we realize.

I promise, someone you know or someone who knows someone you know marriage is in trouble – includes short and long-term marriages. However, troubled marriages are often a secret to the outside – spouses don’t talk about it because it was taught that what’s happening inside your house, stays inside.

Unfortunately, and devastatingly, many spouses don’t communicate with each other about their troubled marriages. Some don’t talk because it forces them to admit there is a problem; hoping things will eventually change for the better; ignoring it will prevent further issues. Some don’t care, and some don’t talk about it due to the fear of what could be revealed and what it could lead to. Is your marriage in trouble?

Signs that your marriage is in trouble can include any of the following:

- You can feel and sense it
- Sadness – you feel sad most of the time especially in the presence of your spouse
- Little to no communication
- Arguing more frequently
- No arguments
- Gaslighting becomes the norm
- Silence – lose the desire to talk to your spouse about anything and everything
- Loneliness
- Little to no dating
- Find ways to avoid being

around one another

- Sleep in separate spaces/beds
- Plan without considering your spouse
- Begin not to care about your spouse or the marriage
- Marriage is about convenience
- Fantasize life solo or with someone else
- Emotional and physical affairs begin
- Diminished sex life or no sex life
- Hopelessness
- Cartoons and the music are speaking to you
- Find yourself googling, is my marriage in trouble.

If you are having signs and symptoms of a heart attack – would you just sit day after day, week after week and do absolutely nothing about it? You more than likely would seek immediate medical attention if you felt that you were really sick or could be dying. Clearing my throat, hey you, husbands, wives... if you are experiencing any of the signs above, seek immediate help for your marriage today before it is too late. Divorce doesn’t have to be your final solution but I support whatever you feel is best.

James 5:16: “Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed...” The word “confess,” is the Greek word ekzomologeō, a word that means to declare, to say loud, to exclaim, to divulge, or to blurt.”

Did you read that? Confession + prayer = healing. I am not the best in math but I do know how to add. God uses James to emphasize the importance of communicating (talk & talk) with one another – one another should be you two first and perhaps a marriage counselor, pastor, etc.

If you feel that your marriage is in trouble and you and your spouse desire help or if you know a couple that is struggling in their marriage and want help – contact our Church Marriage Ministry today (call, text, and/or email) – The Restoration Church, 3931 Hanging Moss Road, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206. You will be given helpful tools and Godly counsel. There is nothing too hard for God to do even in your troubled marriage. God saved my marriage, so I know He can save your marriage too.

Is your marriage in trouble? If you and your spouse are willing to fight for your marriage – your marriage doesn’t have to remain in trouble.

Dr. LaShunda Calvert is available for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, 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

The Nashville shootings have caused America pain and sadness

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



Recently, I watched the movie The Color Purple. I know every line and every scene because I have viewed it so many times.

One scene that has stayed with me over time is when Shug Avery comes into her father’s church singing the lyrics, “God’s trying to tell you something.”

There is a battle with guns and over guns in the United States of America. We are in a crisis and in my mind, it is getting worse.

Now instead of talking about how we can solve the problem, we use guns to solve the problem. Lives are being lost almost daily in some part of our nation. What is happening to us? Is God trying to tell you something? I believe He is.

Back in the day, guns were not the end all cure all. In fact, in most of our communities, we didn’t see guns or talk about

having them.

When we went to the corner store, we were not afraid of getting shot. When we went to shop downtown, we didn’t fear for our lives. Going to school and going to church were normal activities that didn’t require second guessing as to whether we should go.

Today, we fear for our lives when we step outside of our homes. Stray bullets have found our fellow citizens on highways and in shopping malls.

We are defenseless and taken off guard. Our situation is dire and desperate. Living has become perilous, and we have become pensive because we may not see tomorrow. It is my opinion that this type of living is not sustainable.

If you are a parent or a love provider, you worry about your children going to school. When did going to school threaten a child’s life?

There are parents and loved ones who are grieving in Nashville, Tennessee. When children at The Covenant School went to bed on March 26th, they were

full of joy and happiness. Now, 3 classmates and 3 adults are dead because of a shooting. This is almost unimaginable. Kids and their dreams of a full life are gone. Parents are left helpless and almost hopeless. God is trying to tell you something.

Audrey Hale was the shooter and was fatally shot by the police. She was 28 years of age and a former student at The Covenant School. She was mentally troubled and owned 7 guns and used 3 of them on March 27th to kill 6 innocent victims.

Nashville police and other law enforcement officials are left now searching for a motive. It is my opinion that we won’t know a motive because Hale is dead so the police can only speculate with no definitive answers.

We know that she purchased her guns legally. In some states, minimum checking is done.

President Biden has called again for stronger gun control laws. Will there be? You can draw your own conclusion about it.

Reports indicate that 74 people have been killed or injured

at American schools this year. Will there be more? Sadly, we know the answer to that question.

While President Biden has voiced his opinion, others have a different view. House Republican Representative Tim Burgett from Tennessee said, “I don’t think you’re going to stop the gun violence. You’ve got to change hearts.”

Yes, Congressman Burnett, changing hearts is a part of the solution. The bigger solution will be stronger gun laws. Until these laws are enacted, the problem of easy access to guns will continue.

According to Gun Violence Archive, there have been 130 mass shootings this year. America is the home of the brave and the home of guns.

We cannot wait until the next shooting at a school or anywhere for that matter. Contact your lawmakers because a change is needed.

I believe there must be a healing in this country. Are you ready? God is trying to tell you something.

Remembering the assassination of Dr. King

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



Fifty five years ago this week, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated at the age of 39. His death rocked the world and America’s African American community in particular which responded with riots and destruction in our cities and

streets. During the years since, we have seen many of his dreams for a better America come to pass. But what Dr. King said he had seen “going to the mountain top” the night before his death, has still not materialized in part.

Yes, we have had our first Black President of the United States and our first Black Vice President who happens to be a talented black woman who was a United States Senator and former Attorney General of the State

of California, but equality still eludes us as Black and African Americans continue to lag behind White America in life expectancy, income, home ownership and just about every other area.

As we celebrate Dr. King’s Birthday each year with what is now a national holiday, let us remember why and how he died as a sacrifice for all of us and the benefits so many enjoy today.

We keep his death from being in vain by continuing the fight

against poverty, discrimination and the “Insufficient Fund” check he said Black America had been given instead of equality, freedom from segregation and a second class citizenship so many of us have been forced to live with.

Let us remember some of his most important statements like “give us the ballot and we will elect people with a moral righteousness about the fairness we are most concerned about.” But what good is the ballot, if we don’t

vote and won’t vote; what good is Civil Rights and Voting Rights Laws if our only concern is about ourselves instead of the collective that Dr. King fought and died for.

Today, our cities are not burning as they were 55 years ago when we learned of the death of Dr. King. Instead of crying out in righteous indignation, too many become tranquilized with the wine of “just enough,” no longer having the passion or concern for the struggle we still live with 55

years after his death.

Let’s remind ourselves and others that Dr. King did not die in vain. Let’s rise up and fight voter suppression, the gutting of the Voting Rights Act, police murders in and out of custody and the war of real black history in America.

As the song says “...wake up everybody, no more sleeping in bed.”

Time to join the struggle in remembering why Dr. King died.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4207

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

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

Parcel 22-18
A part of Five Acre Lot No. 10 North Jackson according to the official map of said city made by J.C. Daniel in the year 1875 and more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

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

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

Parcel 22-17
Beginning the a point on the East line of Jefferson Street which point is 160.75 feet measured northerly along the East line of Jefferson Street from the Intersection of the East line of Jefferson Street with the North line of Oldham (Harding) Street; run thence northerly along the East line of Jefferson Street 60.75 feet; run thence easterly and parallel with Oldham (Harding) Street 234 feet; run thence southerly and parallel with Jefferson Street 60.75 feet; run thence westerly and parallel with Oldham (Harding) Street 234 feet to the point of beginning.

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

Parcel 23-16
That part of 5-acre Lot 7 North, in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, indicated on the map of said City made by H.C. Daniels in 1875, more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

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

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

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

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

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

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

LEGAL

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

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

FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE PROPERTY FORMERLY OWNED BY JUDGE COOK, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:

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

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

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

Parcels 25-4, 25-7 & 25-7-1
Beginning at a point on the south side of Harding Street, formerly Oldham Street, in the said City of Jackson, which point is 246 (248 measured) feet cast of the intersection of the east line of North Jefferson Street with the south line of said Harding Street as said streets are now laid out and improved in the said City of Jackson and run thence 120 feet to a point; thence run cast 52 feet to the point of beginning; said property being a part of the East Half of Lots Number Two (2) and Number Three (3) of Patton Subdivision of Five Acre Lot Number Eleven (11) North, as shown by plat recorded in Surveyor's Record Book "B" at Page 31 thereof in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, and the west half of a twenty-foot alley lying east of and adjacent to the property hereinabove described.

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

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

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

Parcel 25-8
10 feet off the East side of Lot 4 and 40 feet off the West side of Lot 5 of Pattons Subdivision, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book B at Page 31, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 25-49
20 FT E/S LOT 5 & 30 FT W/S LOT 6 PATTONS SUBN 5 A LOT 11 NJ
Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

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

WITNESS my signature this 30th day of March 2023.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

4/6/2023, 4/20/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bids

Bid 3234 ESSER Projects Package A: Bates, Blackburn, Cardozo,
Forest Hill and Peeples Schools

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) May 01, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A pre-bid conference for Package A will be held at Bates Elementary School, 3180 McDowell Road Ext., Jackson, MS 39204 at 3:00 p.m. on April 11, 2023 and continue to Cardozo Middle School at 4:00 p.m. on April 11, 2023. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at jpsdmsprojects.com. A \$350.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact John Murray with Canizaro Cawthon Davis, Phone: 601-948-7337 ext. 229
Email: jmurray@ccdarchitects.com

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

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

3/30/2023, 4/6/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

CITY OF JACKSON

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

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

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

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

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

City reserves the right to reject any and all bids

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

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

LEGAL

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

CITY OF JACKSON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING GEOVON MARTIN A REZONING FROM 1-1 (LIGHT) INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT AND 1-2 (HEAVY) INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT & TO C-3 (GENERAL) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO ALLOW FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE PROPERTY TO A PERSONAL CARE/ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY WHICH EXCEEDS THIRTEEN (13) RESIDENTS FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 911 PALMYRA ST. (PARCEL 91-41-4), CASE NO. 4190.

WHEREAS, Geovon Martin has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 911 Palmyra St. (Parcel 91-41-4), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, from 1-1 (Light) Industrial District and 1-2 (Heavy) Industrial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District to allow for the conversion of the property to a personal care/assisted living facility which exceeds thirteen (13) residents; and WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council on December 19, 2022 after considering the matter, remanded the Case to the Jackson City Planning Board for the January 23, 2023 Planning Board +Hearing to allow for a community meeting to gather input from the residents and other stakeholders in addition to addressing concerns relative to the safety measures associated with the operation of the proposed facility; and WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the property from 1-1 (Light) Industrial District and 1-2 (Heavy) Industrial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District to allow for the conversion of the property to a personal care/assisted living facility which exceeds thirteen (13) residents; and WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, February 27, 2023 to consider said change, based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on October 27, 2022 and November 10, 2022 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on January 25, 2023, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described property from 1-1 (Light) Industrial District and 1-2 (Heavy) Industrial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District; and WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that such changes would be in keeping with sound land use practice and to the best interest of the City and that there has been a substantial change in the land use character of the surrounding area that justifies rezoning the property and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the request in said application since any previous Jackson City Council action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI: SECTION 1. That the property located in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, more particularly described as follows: Parcel 1A, Palmyra Street: Part of Block "H" of Glendale Subdivision in the City of Jackson, Mississippi and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a point on the West line of Palmyra Street (formerly called Sharkey and/or Stone Street) which point is a distance of 325 feet measured Southerly and along the West line of Palmyra Street from the intersection of the West line of Palmyra Street with the South line of Carnes Street as both streets were laid out and improved, November, 1959, in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, from this point of beginning run thence Southerly and along the West line of Palmyra Street for a distance of 75 feet; run thence Westerly and parallel with the South line of Carnes Street for a distance of 200 feet; run thence Northerly and parallel with the West line of Palmyra Street for a distance of 75 feet; run thence Easterly and parallel with the South line of Carnes Street for a distance of 200 feet to the point of beginning. Being the same tract of land conveyed to Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, Inc. By Deed recorded in Chancery Clerk's office in Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, at Book 1188 Page 83

Parcel 1 B, Palmyra Street: Part of 10.23 Acre Lot Four (4) of Block One (1) Mercerville Addition and a part of Glendale Subdivision in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a point on the West line of Palmyra Street (formerly called Sharkey Street and/or Stone Street) which point is a distance of 200 feet measured Southerly and along the West line of Palmyra Street from the intersection of the West line of Palmyra Street with the South line of Carnes Street, as both were laid out and improved in November, 1959, in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, said, point of beginning also being the Southeast corner of that certain lot or parcel of land conveyed to Wooley Bros., by deed dated June 4, 1959 and recorded in Deed Book 1130 at Page 221 in the office of the Hinds County Chancery Clerk at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to, which, is made in aid hereof; and from this point of beginning run thence Southerly and along the West line of Palmyra Street for a distance of 125 feet; run thence Westerly and parallel with the South line of Carnes Street for a distance of 200 feet; run thence Southerly and parallel with the West line of Palmyra Street for a distance of 75 feet; run thence Westerly and parallel with the South line of Carnes Street for a distance of 255 feet, more or less, to the West line of certain property as described in that conveyance of Anderson to Hobgood, June 17, 1955, as of record in Deed Book 920 at Page 375 in the office of the Rind's County Chancery Clerk at Jackson, Mississippi; run thence Northeasterly and along the West line of said property for a distance of 205 feet, more or less, to the Southwest corner of the aforesaid lot; thence Easterly, parallel with the South line of Carries Street and along the South

line of the aforesaid Wooley Bros. Lot for a distance of 410 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning. Being the same tract of land conveyed to Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, Inc. By Deed recorded in Hinds County, Mississippi, at Book 1 188 Page 83.

Parcel 2: Lots 5 and 7, Block "C" of Glendale Subdivision, as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 88 of the public records of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi: EXCEPTING THEREFROM a triangular shaped parcel of land located in the Southwest Corner of said Lot 7, measuring 10.00 feet along the West Lot Line and 5.00 feet along the South Lot Line.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the property located at 911 Palmyra St. (Parcel 91-41-4) from 1-1 (Light) Industrial District and 1-2 (Heavy) Industrial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District to allow for the conversion of the property to a personal care/assisted living facility which exceeds thirteen (13) residents. However, that before any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi. SECTION 2. That the cost of publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by the petitioner. SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its passage and after publication of same by the petitioner.

Vice President Lee moved adoption; Council Member Banks seconded.

Thereafter, President Foote called for a vote on said item:
Yeas — Banks, Foote, Lee and Lindsay.
Nays — None
Absent — Grizzell, Hartley and Stokes.

ATTEST:
Angela Harris Municipal Clerk
1, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Council Meeting February 27, 2023 and recorded in Minute Book "6W, Pgs. 669-671".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the day of March, 2023.

4/6/2023

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Sudoku

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

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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LEGAL

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

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

CAUSE NO: P2021-253 M/4

RULE 4 SUMMONS

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS:


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

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

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

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

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court at Jackson, Mississippi, this the 23 day of March, 2023.



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

BY: PW Atline, D.C.

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

LEGAL

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

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

CAUSE NO: P2021-253 M/4

RULE 81 SUMMONS


NOTICE BY PUBLICATION YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS:

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

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

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

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



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

BY: PW Atline, D.C.

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

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Week of March 26, 2023



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Hinds CC NAHC inducts spring 2023 PTK members

Special to the Mississippi Link

The Alpha Iota Kappa Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Hinds Community College's Nursing/Allied Health Center inducted new members March 24 for the spring 2023 semester.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for community and junior college students. Membership in Phi Theta Kappa is extended to students who have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average or above on 12 or more transferable credit hours. There are more than 1,285 Phi Theta Kappa chapters throughout the United States and abroad.

With six campuses in central Mississippi, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills.

Our Mission: Hinds Community College is committed to moving people and communities forward by helping develop their purpose, passion and profession.

Our Vision: Hinds Community College will be a catalyst to create a competitive economy and a compelling culture for Mississippi.

Our Values: Hinds Community College aspires to the following IDEALS: Integrity, Diversity, Excellence, Accountability, Leadership, Stewardship.

To learn more, visit www.hindscc.edu or call 1.800.HindsCC.



Newly inducted members include, (l to r), Emma Clare Gordon of Richland, Kelly Smith of Florence, Julea Coolman of Pearl, Santisha Coleman of New Hebron and Leyah Stephens of Jackson.

Hinds County School District joins Verizon Innovative Learning

In partnership with Digital Promise, Verizon Innovative Learning will welcome two schools in Hinds County School District for the 2023-24 school year

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Today, Hinds County School District joins Verizon Innovative Learning, Verizon's award-winning education initiative which addresses barriers to digital inclusion.

In partnership with Digital Promise, the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program equips every student and teacher at select middle and high schools across America with a device and up to a four-year data plan. In addition to free technology and access, schools receive extensive teacher training and support, along with the opportunity to engage in powerful teaching and learning that leverages technology in and out of the classroom.

Raymond High School and Terry High School are among the 32 new schools joining the 10th cohort of Verizon Innovative Learning Schools, bringing the program to nearly 600 middle and high schools nationwide.

In addition to free [tablets or laptops] with accompanying Verizon data plans for every student and teacher beginning in fall 2023, participating schools will be assigned a full-time coach to train teachers in effectively integrating technology into their lessons.

"Hinds County School District is proud to be the first and only district in the State of Mississippi selected to participate in this 1.1 initiative with Verizon. I believe that this partnership will yield great academic gains for our high school students who will now be able to extend their learning beyond the four walls of their classrooms using these internet ready devices in their homes to broaden the scope of their academic opportunities. The possibilities are endless and as a "B" level district striving to reach the "A" level, this will surely be a catalyst to bolster our efforts," said Dr. Delesicia Martin, HCSD superintendent.

"So many students across the nation lack the access to technology and resources they need to be successful in today's digital world," said Julie Smith, Verizon Government Affairs. "On behalf of Verizon, we are excited to help enable students in the Hinds County School District to develop the skills, knowledge and capabilities for a more promising future."

Verizon Innovative Learning is driving academic improvements. In fact, 78 percent of teachers reported that Verizon Innovative Learning enhanced their ability to differentiate instruction and 77 percent said the program enhanced student engagement.

These efforts to support digital inclusion are part of Citizen Verizon, Verizon's responsible business plan to move the world forward for all.

Learn more about the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program and how to apply at verizon.digitalpromise.org.

Rejection of black educator angers some Mississippi senators

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi's Republican-led Senate voted Wednesday against confirming veteran educator Robert P. Taylor as state superintendent of education, angering some black Democrats who said the rejection was at least partly because Taylor is black and wrote years ago about the state's racist history.

The state Board of Education — which has members chosen by the Republican governor, lieutenant governor and House speaker — conducted a nationwide search for a superintendent last year. Board members announced in November that their unanimous choice was Taylor, who had worked the past 30 years in North Carolina.

"This whole confirmation was a political process, and I knew that coming in," Taylor told The Associated Press Wednesday evening after the Senate vote. He said senators in the past have confirmed all previous nominees for state superintendent, and he is disappointed this group of senators did not confirm him.

"The fact that they didn't, that is what I have to live with," Taylor said. "I will always respect the process."

Taylor grew up in Laurel, Mississippi, and earned his bachelor's degree in



Taylor



Johnson



Jordan



Simmons

1990 at the University of Southern Mississippi. As an undergraduate, he wrote for a newsletter called *The Unheard Word*, which he said gave black students a voice that the campus newspaper often ignored.

A 2020 article on the university's Center for Black Studies website focused on the short-lived newsletter.

"The Unheard Word," in my opinion, recognized that The University of Southern Mississippi was in the most racist state in the Union, and that while historical focus has always been on the University of Mississippi, Southern Miss had a past that was tainted as well," Taylor told the Center for Black Studies.

Taylor told AP in a phone interview that it's important for people to read his words in context. He said the newsletter wrote, for example, about the history of Clyde Kennard, who sought to become the first black student at the university in the 1950s and was rejected because of his race. The Mississippi Sovereignty Commission, a state spy agency at the time, led efforts to block Kennard's enrollment.

The Senate vote on Taylor's nomination Wednesday was mostly along

party lines, 31 Republicans voting against. Of the 21 who voted for confirmation, five were Republicans and the others were Democrats.

"Because we reject him because of his race, we're rejecting God because God made him that way," said Democratic Sen. David Jordan, who is black.

Republican Sen. Chris Johnson of Hattiesburg, who is white, voted in favor of confirming Taylor. He said Taylor answered senators' questions in a straightforward manner during a confirmation hearing, including about what he had written about Mississippi's racist history.

"He answered that by saying, 'At that time, that's how I felt,'" Johnson told reporters Wednesday after the nomination failed.

The previous Mississippi superintendent of education, Carey Wright, retired June 30 after 8-1/2 years in the job. An interim superintendent started July 1 and served until Taylor arrived.

Senate Education Committee Chairman Dennis DeBar, a white Republican from Leaksville, said race had nothing to do with his vote against the nomination of Taylor. DeBar said he thinks Taylor is a good man and should

be respected.

"I think what really hurt Dr. Taylor the most ... is we have several low-performing schools in our state," DeBar said. "We would like to see someone with a better resume on improving low-performing schools."

Democratic Sen. Derrick Simmons of Greenville, who is Black, said Taylor should have been confirmed.

"Dr. Taylor did everything that we tell people in the state of Mississippi to do — get a good education, try to use that good education, go out and get your experience and then come back to the state of Mississippi and give Mississippi all of your educational talents and all of your educational experience and give back to the community that gave to you," Simmons said.

Hours after the Senate rejected Taylor's nomination, Democratic Sen. Barbara Blackmon of Canton, who is black, tried to amend other legislation to say Mississippi would only consider nominees who have never left the state — a way of expressing her anger about the rejection.

Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann said the amendment was not relevant, and senators did not vote on it.



BOOK REVIEW: POETRY BOOKS BY VARIOUS AUTHORS

BY LESTER W. THOMPSON
C.2023, AMISTAD, PENGUIN
\$16.99-\$18.99 • VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You have a story to tell. It’s not a long one, but you like to think of yourself as a person of few words anyhow. So why not see how others tell their tales in verse, in form, in total, and with great meaning. Take a look at these new poetry books...

Black culture and the women’s movement feature heavily in the poems of Anastacia-Reneé in her new collection, “Side Notes from the Archivist” (Amistad, \$16.99).

Beginning in the 1980s with “a badrillion girl bands & boy bands & big group bands,” this book looks at life in “retro-flect” from a middle-schooler’s point of view – which feels quite nostalgic, until the author reaches adulthood in her narrative. From there, the collection reads like a list of “episodes” of a TV show, tales of love of self and others, black queer life, and a surprisingly overwhelming sense of power to round up the book.

“Side Notes from the Archivist” is a book for older teens

and adults only.

When you pick up a copy of “No Sweet Without Brine” by Cynthia Manick (Amistad, \$16.99), you’ll see that the title tells you everything you need to know: this book will make you smile with bits of gentle poetry that’ll suddenly sneak up on you and smack you with the vinegar of reality.

In this random-not-random collection, you’ll find an “Ode to JET Magazine,” an out-loud musing on parental love, and a list of “Fears and Questions.” There’s advice for black girls

in this book; advice on living a good life despite disrespectful (and unnecessary) words from a doctor; musings on movies, celebrities, history; being a woman in today’s world; and dealing with racism that borders on ridiculousness.

Check it out first, but “No Sweet Without Brine” is a book that might fit for readers ages 15 to adult.

And finally, there’s no better time to introduce your 3-to-6-year-old to poetry than today, and “The Knowing” by Ani DiFranco (Penguin, \$18.99)

may be a great start.



This is a book about a very young girl who has a story to tell. She has color in her hair and skin but that’s not who she is. She has many favorite belongings, foods she prefers, games she loves to play, songs she likes to sing, a family, and a village she’s lived in all her life. What’s important is that she has “The Knowing,” which is “underneath all that I know,” she says.

This book takes a little getting used-to, but poetry lovers may cherish it. Young readers

are never exactly clued in on “The Knowing” but artwork by Julia Mathew gives them imagery that can help parents to spark imagination and spirituality.

If these poetry books don’t quite fit what you’re looking for, then get yourself to your favorite library or bookstore and let them find for you the book you need.

Rhyme, not rhyme all the time, that’s fine but not needed, not heeded, not conceited. Don’t you want to glory in a poem story?



ZACK WALLACE

Hinds County Circuit Clerk

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. BOX 327
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: (601) 968-6628
Fax: (601) 973-5547

Jury Duty Recording:
First Judicial District
(601) 969-0052

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 999
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: (601) 857-8038
Fax: (601) 857-0535

Jury Duty Recording:
Second Judicial District
(601) 857-8869

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

Services of the Clerk:

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

VOTER INFORMATION
Verify/Update your Registration Today

- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
 - o Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
 - o Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

Website: www.hindscountymys.com



HINDS COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCE AGENCY Project Head Start

Now Accepting Applications
for the 2023-2024 School Year!

- Preschool Education
 - Literacy
 - Leadership Development
 - Disability
- Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Limited Transportation
- Medical and Dental Screenings

**ALL AT NO COST
TO THE PARENTS!**

To enroll your child all you need is your child's Social Security number, proof of your child's age, family income, and residency.

Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP). Families of children with disabilities are encouraged to apply, regardless of income.

**SPACE IS LIMITED -
APPLY EARLY**



Helping Families.
Strengthening Communities.

To Qualify
your child must

- live in Hinds County
- be part of a low-income family
- be 3 or 4 on or before September 1st

For more information about
Early Head Start or Head Start call
(601) 923-3940

You can **APPLY NOW** by calling our 24 hour appointment line at
(601) 962-5935



WRTM

SMOOTH 100.5 FM

WRTM-FM 100.5 FM, JACKSON'S SOUL, RHYTHM AND BLUES AND SOUTHERN SOUL STATION PLAYING MORE VARIETY, LESS TALK AND THE MUSIC ADULTS WANT TO HEAR!

Strong emotions displayed at special-called City Council meeting

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

While many South Jackson residents on Saturday, April 1, were expecting garbage cans in front of their homes to be emptied and trash bags to be hauled away the Jackson City Council, in a special call meeting scheduled for 10 a.m., failed to approve an agreement for Richard's Disposal, Inc. to continue providing solid waste collection and hauling services to residents, by a vote of 3-3-1.

The temporary contract with Richard's expired March 30.

The special meeting was called because in a previously call-meeting, four city council members did not show up, which resulted in the lack of a quorum which is necessary for approval of a contract.

During the meeting, Councilman Kenneth Stokes, introduced an amendment to substitute Waste Management instead of Richard's Disposal as the vendor for the contract. His amendment to replace the vendor failed.

Residents showed anger and employees of Richard's Disposal showed disappointment and defeat, realizing, effective immediately, they were without a job.

Workers and supporters of Richards, prior to the vote, lined the walls inside and outside of chambers with signs saying "I AM JACKSON," hoping to appeal to city council members that they were being effected in more ways than not having their trash picked up. The city workers who were tax payers knew, they were at risk of

being without a pay check.

With strong emotions, the mayor said to the media that had gathered outside city hall, "This move was a decision against trash pick-up." He referenced that Richard's Disposal had picked up trash in Jackson for seven months without being paid, which in itself, was a signal to Richard's Disposal, "We are going to make it where you have to walk away, where you have to suffocate your workers." The mayor stated that the vote on Saturday signaled that, "We don't care about our babies and our city being filthy."

After the vote and the meeting adjourned angry residents pointed and shouted, "We voted y'all in and we can vote y'all out!" They touted, "You all are not working together and this is why everyone is looking down at us right now.... the whole nation is looking down at us." Someone else shouted, "You bunch of jerks." One lady shouted, "Stop talking trash about the mayor and work together."

The mayor, hearing the shouts, raised his fist and thanked everyone for being at the meeting and pledged, "We are not going to quit fighting."

Council members Angelique Lee, Brian Grizzell and Virgi Lindsay voted for the contract. Council members Ashby Foote, Vernon Hartley and Aaron Banks voted against the contract. Council member Kenneth Stokes abstained.

The result – trash is piling up all over the city. Residents in all wards are experiencing no pick ups.



Garbage left on curb since Monday in northeast Jackson.



Mayor Lumumba thanking community attendees.



Mayor speaks with media.



Council meeting slightly delayed, awaiting Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes



Trash placed on curve in Northeast Jackson for Monday pick-up still out on curve Wednesday morning PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON



Sherry Freeman and Katie Bennett holding signs. Bennett stated, "We voted y'all in and we can vote y'all out."



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, having one or more of the following factors puts you at high risk of getting severe COVID-19.

- Coronary Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- High Cholesterol
- Hypertension
- Smoking



(601) 362-5321



www.jhchc.org

Better Health Through Better Understanding.



April is National Minority Health Month



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District hosted the 2022-2023 District Science Fair at Gary Road Intermediate School for Grades K-12. Awards and Certificates were awarded to students for their presentations by Dr. Robert Sanders - Assistant Superintendent and Michelle Ray - Assistant Superintendent. The categories on display were Animal Science, Behavioral and Social Science, Biochemistry, Biomedical Health and Science, Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Plant Sciences, Robotics and Intelligent Design, and Earth and Environmental Science.

