

‘Black in Law’ Trailblazers Celebration



Woodworth Chapel at Historic Tougaloo College

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

A special celebration of Black in Law Trailblazers, presented by Tougaloo College Reuben V. Anderson Institute for Social Justice in conjunction with The Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Society, was held on the hallowed ground of Woodworth Chapel on the campus of the historic Tougaloo College



Mississippi Freedom Trail Marker at Tougaloo

PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG

on March 8, 2023 at 6 p.m.. Current Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Society scholars, alumni and administrators’ presentation not only showcased a reverence for the five honorees but also revealed an academic society functioning at an exceptionally high level, enjoying partnerships with major institutions, and annually graduating scholars who go on to

study at American, Tufts, Brown and Harvard, to name a few. The evening opened with remarks by the co-founder and director of the Reuben V. Anderson Institute for Social Justice and the Pre-Law program, attorney Julian D. Miller, followed by greetings from Pre-Law Society member Nayla McClure, a prayer by Pre-Law Society Chaplain Sharon

Jimerson, remarks by Pre-Law Scholar Walter Townsend, and an inspirational rendition of Irving Berlin and Roger Emerson’s “Blues Skies”—made most famous by the incomparable Ella Fitzgerald—sung by Naleah Moore. Video introductions by each presenter preceded more formal introduc-

*Trailblazers
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Connecting the Dots Foundation, Inc. celebrates Women Storytellers for Women’s History Month

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

It was a night to remember. It was a time for reflection. It was a moment of appreciation. It was an occasion of encouragement. Those gathered at Connecting the Dots Foundation’s 6th Annual National Women’s History Month Celebration paused to spend time with family, friends, acquaintances, honorees, scholars and artists at the downtown Jackson Convention Complex (105 E. Pascagoula Street, Jackson, Miss.) Saturday, March 11, 2023, at 6 p.m. The theme was Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories. WLBT’s Maggie Wade Dixon and Walt Grayson hosted the affair.

Deference was given to six women who have contributed to the Jackson community, national and international locales. While Grammy Music Educator quarterfinalist 2022, Kurtina Cyntel Maholmes, serenaded the honorees and other diners with her musical arrangements—He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands and Summer Time—the duo trainees from Ballet Magnificat!, Julian Dean and Sarah Hom, wooed them with Amazing Grace and Marvelous Light.

Minister Hugh Davis (award winning musician, director, educator, national workshop clinician), on the other hand, comforted the crowd with his throw-back medley of songs on the keyboard, encompassing a variety of genres



Top row: Connecting the Dots Foundation, Inc. board members & honorees. Bottom: scholarship recipients

(Misty; What a Wonderful World; My Girl; I Feel Good). The maestro then played a medley of Caribbean tunes on the Trinidadian Steel Pan (Three Little Birds; Don’t Worry Be Happy and Day O). Alice Thomas-Tisdale, recipient of numerous awards, is publisher emeritus of Mississippi’s oldest black newspaper—*The Jackson Advocate*. The Racine, Wisconsin native received her education from Washington State University and has reported on important world issues in places that include Zimbabwe, Africa; Sudan, Africa; Japan; Kazakhstan; Barcelona, Spain; Bang-

kok, Thailand; Toronto, Canada; and France. She is also a Metlife Fellow, HIV/AIDS advocate, and has extensive training in health journalism, including Families USA and New America Media. Melanie Christopher, an American news journalist, is a news anchor for WJTV news. Her coverage has entailed key issues like Pauline Rodgers’ 35-year-dedication to change Mississippi parole laws for transitioning incarcerated women; Hinds Community College and the City of Vicksburg advocating a future workforce for the State of Mississippi; and the weekly show, Friday Fur Babies, featur-

ing adorable animals needing a forever home. The Oglethorpe University (Georgia) graduate has won multiple Associated Press awards. Mississippi resident—Lorena Quiroz—was born in Ecuador, by way of New York. The 22-year health leader served as State Director of Community and Stakeholder Engagement at the Office of Health Disparities Elimination. When the Trump Administration’s 2019 immigration raids directly impacted the lives of 680 Indigenous and Latinx immigrant poultry plant workers,

*Dots
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‘I See You... I Hear You... The Time Is Now’

Attorney Darla Mannery Palmer, candidate for Hinds County D.A.



Palmer

Special to The Mississippi Link

“I was born and raised in Jackson, I am an Independent candidate and I am running for Hinds County District Attorney,” said Attorney Darla Mannery Palmer in a statement to *The Mississippi Link*. She went on to say, “I am a native of Jackson, for nearly fifty-six (56) years and I won’t pretend that I am not concerned about the level of violent crime in MY HOME-TOWN and county. We are in a CRISIS.”

As a criminal trial lawyer for over half her life, namely 25 years, Palmer said she sees the behavior of the accused who are often African American, and she hears the voices of the victims who also are often African American, but having no choice in the decisions made by the accused. She stated, “Unfortunately, Hinds County, we are all affected,” she writes.

In 2019, Palmer ran as a Democratic candidate for district attorney. A few weeks after she qualified to run, her father, Herman L. Mannery, died. She said it was difficult to continue. “Yet, my gracious support of over 12,000 votes, made me realize that the position of district attorney is not about a political party; it’s about the unification of Hinds County behind a committed, experienced, person of integrity. Party doesn’t matter in this job. Everyone in Hinds County should know the qualifications of and what their district attorney stands for and then vote for that person in November 2023. That’s why I run now in 2023 as an Independent,” she stated.

Palmer was educated in the Jackson Public System, graduating from Callaway High School, number ten in her class. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and an M.B.A. from Jackson State University. She received a law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law and has been li-

censed to practice law in the state of MS since September 30, 1997. Palmer went on to state, “I am a highly experienced trial and courtroom attorney having worked as a prosecutor for the Town of Edwards, represented the State of MS Child Support Enforcement Division of the MS Department of Human Services, represented the City of Jackson in the City Attorney’s Office, represented private clients, and acted as a Ranking County Public Defender; owner of the Mississippi Expungement Center. She said, if elected, she plans to: 1. Bring back respect for doing what’s right in Hinds County 2. Prioritize the prosecution of violent crime like homicides, armed robberies, kidnappings and aggravated assaults in Hinds County 3. Go to the school systems throughout Hinds County and explain the punishment for committing crimes 4. Treat every case fairly regardless of the person’s position in the community 5. Move the hundreds of cases of people who are sitting in the Hinds County Detention Center 6. Bring law enforcement throughout the county on the same page as the District Attorney’s Office 7. Create alternative sentences for first offenders, drug offenders and the mentally ill in Hinds County. “Hinds County, the time is now to stop the violence and it starts with the Hinds County District Attorney’s Office. This office sets the tone for crime in our county and it is responsible for bringing together law enforcement, the prosecutors and the judges all on one accord to protect our citizens. I thank my previous supporters of 2019 and I look forward to going to every corner of Hinds County in 2023 to spread the message of unity,” said Palmer.





Amos

Mrs. Pinkie Smith Amos was born January 13, 1926, in Crystal Springs, Mississippi, to Premo and Sezzie Powell. She was one of thirteen children born into a loving and Christian family. She celebrated her 97th birthday on January 13, with her children.

For 48 years she was a loving, devoted and faithful wife to the late Rev. D.D. Smith, a Baptist minister. Rev. Smith pastored numerous churches calling each home, to his family. They later chose to have their membership at Morning Star Baptist Church. To this union seven children were born, six daughters and one son.

She worked hard alongside her husband to provide a Christian home and education for all seven of their children. At no time was there ever a doubt of the importance of education. On many nights, her older kids sat around the fire

as she and Rev. Smith read to and listened to the children read. The expectation was always that the older children help the younger ones with reading and other homework. A very fond memory of her helping with homework was when one of the girls was concerned about moving to the 6th grade and was afraid of being expected to do fractions. No problem. She excelled in mathematics and had that little frightened child more than prepared for fractions when the next school year began.

After her long and loving marriage to Rev. Smith, he made his heavenly transition. She later married Elder Willie B. Amos, Sr., a Methodist minister and became a member of Lynch St. CME Church. While in the last few years she could not go to church due to COVID and illness, she remained a committed and devoted member of Lynch Street CME Church. Thanks to technology, she was able to watch church service. As a member of Lynch Street, she was very actively involved in the church.

She served as president of Stewardess Board D for over 20 years. She was a faithful member of North Beebe Missionary Circle, a member of Sunday School class number 6, and was Stewardess Board Emeritus. She also participated in the Ministers' Spouses of the MS South Region.

Smith Amos demonstrated the importance of hard work. Her work ethic was never questioned. Included in her work experiences were private duty nursing, work at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi and many years in the nursing department at Baptist Hospital.

She believed in being fashionable, which meant dressing up every day whether at home, in the hospital or rehabilitation. She absolutely loathed the hospital linen and gowns. No matter the pain, she wanted her lipstick and blush on. Pretty hats, pretty dresses/suits, jewelry, groomed hair, and a made-up face were her trademarks. The day before she passed, she was wearing her pearl necklace, earrings and rings.

Smith Amos' parents passed on their beliefs in prayer and hard work to their children. She was a firm believer in prayer and how it changes things. Several times when people called or came to see her, she would often pray for them before they could pray for her. During family gatherings, everyone held hands as she offered prayer before the meal. Though the family circle was broken several times over the last few years and now with her passing, the family will continue to hold hands and remember how she loved her family and emphasized the importance of loving and supporting each other and clinging to God's unchanging hands.

As she begins her Holy transition to sing Amazing Grace with the angels, she will be joining father and mother, Premo Powell, Sr. and Sezzie Powell; spouses, Rev. D.D. Smith, Jr. and Rev. Willie B. Amos, Sr.; sisters and brothers, Premo Powell, Jr., John Powell, Walter Powell, Mary Galloway, Melinda Brown, Leroy Powell, Samuel Pow-

ell, and Phyllis Moncure Washington; grandsons, Isaiah Dotson, Jr. Robert Shuler Smith and Corey Duane Dotson; and stepsons, Charles Smith and Dr. Estus Smith.

She leaves to cherish her memory, daughters, Dr. Lou Alice (Royce, Sr.), Dr. Ruthie Stevenson, Ida Holloway, Francine (Matthew) Thomas, Annie Marie Smith and Lynn (Leon) Seals; son, Napoleon (Linda) Smith; stepson, Willie B. (Helen) Amos; sisters, Lucille Wade, Frankie Jean (Cecil) Terry; brothers, Monroe (Mae J.) Powell, Willis Powell; 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

You were tired and needed your rest, so God took you, so now you're taking your rest. You often said, "I am saved and have no fear of death." We miss you already, but your peace is our peace.

Homegoing services were held in Jackson, Friday, March 10, 2023 at 11 a.m. at Lynch Street CME Church where Rev. Dr. Jamie Capers is pastor.

Celebration of Life

Mrs. Pinkie Smith Amos

January 13, 1926 – March 6, 2023

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tions, before each inc

Pre-Law Society President Montae'l Williams presented the first honoree, Justice Reuben V. Anderson as a walking Tougaloos legend and evoked the words of Maya Angelou, "when you get...give, when you learn...teach, when you aspire...achieve, and when you dream...believe," indicating that Anderson is the personification of her words. He thanked Justice Anderson "for all he has given to us, and for his life story and all it continues to teach us, and for providing us with an example of black excellence and what it allows all of us to aspire to be, and for inculcating within us a dream and investing in that dream."

Pre-Law Scholar Carmen Washington presented Attorney Issac Bryd, Sr. after Attorney Miller commented that Byrd “is probably the most diligent and most prodigious and most decorated plaintiff attorney in the country. We are so honored to have him here.” Washington then shared that what she has learned is that Byrd “is most proud that he has never represented a corporation in any case against a human being seeking justice in a Mississippi court of law.” She went on to intone two Frederick Douglas quotes when referring to Byrd – “agitate, agitate, agitate... and freedom is a constant struggle.” He founded Byrd & Associates in Jackson in 1987.

Director Miller went on to discuss the transformative things going on at this college. He announced the formation of a Public Policy Program – a first in the 154-year history of the college – that has already



**L-R: Montae'l Williams, Justice Reuben V. Anderson,
Attorney Julian Miller**

formed partnerships with the Harvard-Kennedy School of government, and a \$6 million National Institutes of Health Grant, and partnership with Brown University. He highlighted the transformational leader of the initiative, Dr. Lauren Long – 33 new Public Policy students and 60 Pre-Law students we have now which represents a 600% enrollment growth over the past four years.”

Dr. Wanda McGowan, chair of the Political Science Department was lauded by Attorney Miller before making remarks which included “that I am grateful to God to be able to have the honor and privilege to be able to be here at Tougaloo at this time...to work with an amazing faculty, our trailblazers being honored tonight, and the most magnificent group of students I have ever seen...and let us all continue to work for that which is good and right and just – in this country, in this state, and at this college.”

This truly memorable evening concluded with a reception.



L-R: Malcolm Walker, Judge Tomie Green, Atty. Julian Miller



**L-R: Carmen Washington, Atty. Miller,
Atty Issac Byrd, Sr.**



L-R: Kyla Thurston, Judge Denise Owens, Atty. Miller



**L-R: Jada Pittman, Dean Patricia Bennett,
Atty. Miller**

Continued from page 1

she became the lead organizer for the emergency response coalition. Quiroz joined forces with queer Black and Indigenous women and founded the Immigrant Alliance for Justice and Equity (IAJE), an organization that purports to amplify the voices of marginalized, multi-racial and immigrant communities by active participation in civic engagement in deconstructing barriers that perpetuate racial, xenophobic, socio-economical and gender identity and sexuality disparities and oppression.

Megan West grew up idolizing news trailblazers like Barbara Walters, Katie Couric and Diane Sawyer. The Laurel, Miss. native is a graduate

of George Washington University (Washington, D.C.). After serving as a producer at the Hearst Television Washington News Bureau, she became anchor of the Hearst Station at WAPT where she's been for 17 years. The Mississippi Association of Broadcasters awarded West and her co-anchor Keegan Foxx First Place among News Anchors at their Excellence in Broadcasting Awards in 2022.

West's story on marriage records in Miss. helped WAPT earn first place from the Mississippi Associated Press for the station's Who's Accountable series. The honoree is a member of the Junior League of Jackson, the organizing committee for

the Hinds County Distinguished Young Women Program and serves on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Opera.

Cassandra Welchlin, raised in Jackson, Miss., sets out as executive director and co-convenor of MS Black Women's Roundtable (MS-BWR) to create a leadership infrastructure for long-term movement building to shift power at the voting booth and policy table. She has empowered many poor communities to use their power at the policy making table and at the ballot box. The W. K. Kellogg Fellow and a Novo Foundation Movement Fellow has been featured in national and local outlets and publications such as Oprah Daily, CNN, HNL USA Today, PBS News Hours, Black News Tonight, Fierce for Black Women, Truthout, MS Today, to name a few. A highly sought-after motivational speaker on expert content such as race, gender and economic security, Welchlin is a Commissioner for the City of Jackson Planning Board, an active member of New Horizon Church International, the NAACP and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Crystal Springs native Maggie Wade Dixon, a widely sought after speaker throughout Mississippi, is on numerous boards, including Merit Health River Oaks Hospital, Mississippi Blood Services and the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi. She received the Legends for Children Award by Mississippi Families for Kids for outstanding commitment and support of families and children in Mississippi. Dixon was recognized by the Brain Injury Association of Mississippi and honored with the Eternity Award for being a champion for children, the disadvantaged and disabled of Miss. In October 2022, she traveled with other journalists to Spain for special reports on the Majesty of Spain Exhibition which was featured in Jackson from March through September of 2001. The Mississippi College graduate has received more than 500 awards, including being recognized by the United States Congress in October 2011 as an Angel in Adop-



**Dr. Marilyn Johnson-Luckett, founder, Connecting
The Dots Foundation, Inc., with dancers Julian
Dean and Sarah Hom (Ballet Magnificat)**
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CTDF, INC.

tion for her work on Wednesday's Child. In October, 2011 Dixon was appointed to a 3-year term by Governor Haley Barbour to the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service.

Young scholarship recipients received \$1,000 awards.

Among many sponsors were Carter Jewelers; First Commercial Bank; Sincere Home Care, LLC; Gordon Medical Arts Clinic; iHeart Media; 16 WAPT News; Green Oak Florist & Garden Center; Atmos Energy; and Herrin-Gear Lexus.

Reacting to the evening's enchantment was Marilyn Johnson-Luckett (Ph.D.), founder.

"It's people like you who make Connecting the Dots cultivated. We connect dots from America to Africa and from Africa to America [while serving the people]. Thank you," she told the crowd.

For inquiry, contact Marilyn Johnson-Luckett @ 601-813-5045.

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Bozeman

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." These are the opening lines of the classic, "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens. They also could be the opening lines and summarization of the life and times of Morris 'Bubba' Bozeman. For when one considers his life of 93 years and what those years' entail, one could easily surmise that even in the worst times, by the grace of God, it was the best times.

Born, June 1, 1929, on the Patton Johnson Place in Terry MS, Morris was one of twelve children born to the late Willie and Katie Brown-Bozeman. He was delivered by a mid-wife and was raised in a home where discipline and a hearty work ethic was the order of the day.

Being the son of a sharecropper, Morris learned the discipline of hard work early as he would have to milk the cows and perform other chores before going to school. He observed the way his mother and father worked and realized that he would have to do the same to achieve success in life. While Morris only advanced to the 8th grade, he was a keen observer and an avid listener, and therefore took advantage of the life lessons learned from two of his favorite teachers, Hattie Williams and Ora Lee Wolfe. He also gained insightful wisdom and 'mother wit' from his Grandpa Bright.

From an educational standpoint it might have been the worst of times, but when one considers the life of Morris Bozeman, his legacy includes children and grandchildren who have achieved academic success with professions in cosmetology, entrepreneurial enterprises, administration, law, education, medicine, health care, business, information technology, politics, social work, and graphic design/art that would make him a scholar by default. Yes, Morris laid a foundation in spite of the worst times in order that his seed might enjoy the best of times.

His legacy, however, would not be made alone. It was shared with the love of his life Ethel Pearl Bingham-Bozeman

Honoring a life well lived - Morris Bozeman

of 45 years and 9 months; something he was very proud to remind everyone. He and Ethel Pearl worked together to make their home a haven of love, discipline and respect. And although times were tough, they made the worst of times the best of times.

He worked several jobs in order to provide a comfortable living for his wife and children. United Distributors, MS Products and Colonial Bakery were his earliest employers. He was later employed with Harshaw-Filtrol-Englehard Corporation from which he retired after 23 years in 1991.

An accomplished man of the land, he raised cows, pigs, horses, chickens, sugar cane, fruits and vegetables for his growing family. Yes, these might have seemed like the worst of times but Morris and Ethel Pearl made them the best of times. He worked outside the home, while Ethel Pearl managed the home and he credits her with whatever success was made in the home.

Morris's commitment to his wife and family can be attributed to his commitment to God and his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was baptized at Little Bethel CME church at the age of 11, but reaffirmed his faith by accepting Christ at the age of 17. He confessed that it was at that time that he truly understood what it meant to be a Christian. This set him on a life-long path of service to God and the church. One that he never wavered or strayed from but was faithful until he was called from labor to reward on March 4, 2023.

He began his Christian service at Little Bethel as an assistant superintendent of the Sunday School. He also served as a junior steward, junior trustee, trustee, recording steward, chairman of the Steward Board and church treasurer for over 25 years. On the district level, Morris served as district superintendent and was a delegate to the CME Conferences for numerous years as a youth and adult.

Morris was actively involved in his community. Always lending a hand

to anyone who needed help, advice or just a good conversation. And he could carry on a conversation. He would often remind his children, who sometimes chided him about his knack for talking by saying "When you have lived as long as I have lived and seen all I have seen in life, you will have a lot to talk about" And then would smile and keep on talking.

Morris supported anyone and anything that was positive and productive. He was known for encouraging many individuals from Terry to pursue their dreams when others thought things couldn't be accomplished.

He also served as a role model and mentor to Dr. Robert Smith, a family friend and Morris's personal physician. Dr. Smith said, "As a young Christian man (Morris) taught me as a boy that it was okay to be a Christian." He also acknowledged that Mr. Bozeman was among those community leaders in Hinds County that helped his brother George become the first black supervisor from District 5 and George Thomas, the first black constable.

His Christian character, integrity and

charismatic personality allowed him to rub shoulders with some of the most influential personalities, politicians, educators and businessmen while feeling right at home in his signature attire: khaki slacks and plaid shirts.

Morris Bozeman's life should serve as a lesson for all to learn and remember that the Bible is true as Romans 8:28 declares, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Yes, Charles Dickens wrote, "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times," Morris Bozeman lived through some of the worst of times and for 93 years God blessed him with the best of times.

Cherishing the wonderful memories of their loving father are his children; Earlean Bozeman, Gerealean (Ray) Gibson, Mae (Dennis) Grant, Alma (Jesse) Cline, Kathy (Kenneth) Funchess, Willie Morris (Stephanie) Bozeman, Jennifer (Thomas) Holly and Tanya (Jimmie) Shaw.

Continuing his legacy are his grandchildren: Roshada, Jeryl, Ian, Mor-

ris (Erica), Samantha, Jessica, Samuel Morris (Jessica), Kandice (Elliot), Karla, Karnice, Kristian, Shara, Brequia, Jamie, Katie, Deanna, Phylicia (Marcus), Tiarra, and Jarrett.

Great grands: Kamryn, Raven, London, Kensleigh, Paige, Karmin, Zoey, Kaylie, Taylor, Carter, Sunni, Isaiah Kingston Morris and Emersyn.

He was predeceased by great granddaughter Isabella Benford.

The life and times of Morris Bozeman would be incomplete if it did not include the experiences he shared with his siblings. He loved each of them and enjoyed the time spent with them during their childhood and adult life. He was predeceased by brothers, Theodore, Edward and Frank; sisters, Almedia Houston, Minerva Bozeman, Hazel Williams, and Willie Mae Moses. His surviving siblings include his brother Bright Bozeman and sisters Mary Lou Chris, Charlene Johnson and Marie Chatman.

Services were held Friday, March 10, 2023, 12 p.m. at Little Bethel C.M.E. Church, Terry, MS. Reverend Dr. James A. Loftin, officiant.

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Carver Middle School

The Carver Middle School and Raymond Elementary School Band and String students below participated in the Raymond Solo & Ensemble Festival this past Saturday, January 21, at Raymond High School. They performed their solo and/or ensemble (duet, trio or quartet) for a college music professor. We are super proud of how they represented Carver and Raymond Elementary and our band and string programs. Of these 54 students, 31 performed solos and there were 50 ensemble entries. They brought home 71 medals for earning 1st division ratings (25 for solos and 46 for ensembles).



6th Grade Band students (7 Solo medals & 17 Ensemble medals!): Tatiyanna Kimbrough, My'Liah Mack, Alyson Hudson, Jessie Breckenridge, Jordan McMillan, Kennedy Jefferson, Jones Jefferson, Landon Reaux, Orlando Reaux, Travis Brown, Zayden Strickland, Ransom Johnson, Ayden Spencer, Jacob DeOchoa, Caleb Jennings, Makayla Ware, Kendal McGee, Zamiyah Baskin



5th Grade Band students (8 Solo medals & 10 Ensemble medals!): Joseph Troth, Mason Martin, Shaun Clark, Jayla Killingsworth, Ivyanna Greene, Deja Brown, Noah Roberts, Hope Jamison, Melany Mejia, De'Airra Stamps, Caleb Myles, Trinity Qualls, Taraji White, JoElmarie Palmer, Lamarshawn Shepherd

5th Grade Strings Students (3 Solo medals!): Mason Martin, Shaun Clark, Tr'Lyn Shearry



7th Grade Band students (6 Solo medals & 16 Ensemble medals!): Ryley Lilly, Rebecca Rouse, Shaun Beckham, Farrah Bellamy, Kenadie Hunter, Xykhia Campbell, Ian Walker, Derrick Noel, Caiden Willis, Cartavius Berry, April Jamison, JoEmilya Palmer, JoElla Palmer, Josiah Johnson, Wryllik Mikell

8th Grade Band students (1 Solo medal & 3 Ensemble medals!): Matthew DeOchoa, Peytin Braden, Emery Pollard, Jayda Jenkins

Mississippi lawmakers stop effort to take over Jackson water

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi lawmakers are giving up on an effort to create a state-dominated board to oversee the troubled water system in the state's capital city.

But, the Republican-controlled state Legislature is still considering proposals to appoint rather than elect some judges and to expand the territory of a state-run police department inside Jackson, which is governed by Democrats.

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba has sharply criticized white lawmakers' attempts to assert state control in Jackson, which has the highest percentage of black residents of any major U.S. city.

The Jackson water system has been struggling for years and nearly collapsed in August and September, leaving most people in the city of 150,000 without running water to drink, bathe, wash dishes or flush toilets. Parts of the city lost water again during a cold snap in December.

In November, the federal government appointed Ted Henifin, an experienced administrator from Virginia, to oversee Jackson's water sys-

tem. The federal government also has allocated hundreds of millions of dollars for Jackson water improvements.

The Mississippi Senate voted last month to create a nine-member regional utility board to control Jackson water after Henifin finishes his work, with four members who would be appointed by the mayor and five by state officials.

Wednesday was the deadline for the Mississippi House to consider the Senate bill, and House leaders let it die without bringing it up for a vote.

"There was 'Jackson fatigue' among the membership," independent Rep. Shanda Yates, of Jackson, said Thursday.

Yates said House leaders want to focus instead on proposals to curb crime in Jackson, which has had more than 100 homicides for each of the past three years.

Republican Sen. David Parker of Olive Branch sponsored the bill to create a regional utility board, saying he believes Jackson's water woes are hurting the whole state.

"I'm disappointed that we didn't get any action on that bill," Parker said Thursday. "It's a significant problem, and it's a problem that deserves at-

tention now."

The Mississippi House and Senate have passed different versions of bills to expand the territory for Capitol Police. The state-run department currently patrols in and near downtown Jackson, where state government buildings are located. The city-run Jackson Police Department patrols the entire city.

Yates, who is white, said during a House debate Wednesday that she knows Jackson residents who are considering moving out of the city because they don't feel safe.

"We have a crime problem," Yates said.

Democratic Rep. Ed Blackmon of Canton is one of several black lawmakers opposing the expansion of Capitol Police territory. Blackmon said African Americans want to be protected from crime, but many worry the state police won't be held accountable if they treat people roughly.

"There will be no joy in the black community when this becomes law," Blackmon said Wednesday.

Associated Press/Report For America reporter Michael Goldberg contributed to this report.

State being run like a conservative business, per Hosemann

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

When you least expect it, you hear and see the strangest things on Twitter. Last week there was a clip of SuperTalk Outdoors with Ricky Mathews, and his guest Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann, on March 6, 2023. They were discussing the Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund, state parks and more. It was somewhat interesting – Mississippi now investing in State Parks to the tune of \$5 million per year, having neglected them for decades.

The podcast provided a bit of an insider's view to a popular aspect of the Mississippi lifestyle; hunting, fishing, camping – the ability for any family in Mississippi to be within a one hour drive of a State Park where, when the upgrade projects are completed, a family could go for the weekend for "\$50-75 for the weekend and be able to enjoy modern amenities like cabins with fireplaces and outdoor firepits."

In his closing remarks Hosemann said, "We've had a great session. We've been running Mississippi like a conservative business, and we have \$1.4 billion in reserves, we've been paying down debt – \$600 million in debt, we've shrunk the size of government and therefore we've been able to use these assets for outdoor stewardship and building our parks and bridges and educating our children. Mississippi is in its best financial position since 1817 (statehood began) and I think it's wonderful, we're at a really great spot right now."

So much to unpack here, but we'll go ahead and draw the drapes. Let's start with the Outdoor Stewardship Board, a seven-member board, with four members appointed by the Governor and three by the Lt. Governor last summer – 100% of them are white, in a state whose black population is about 40%. Based on these appointments, it would appear there are no black people in Mississippi that know anything about outdoor living, fishing, hunting, camping, rehabbing cabins, installing firepits, working collaboratively, project management, or handling financial matters.

Pure fiction. If our state leaders, in this case the word is being used loosely, are not intentional about providing opportunity to others, they are not leaders. Leaders are all about growth,



Hosemann

COMMENTARY

inclusion and collaboration. Leaders are about doing things differently, finding new ideas, new ways to move forward. True leaders detest the status quo. There is a big difference between actual leaders and place-keepers in elected office.

The Lt. Governor mentioned educating our children. By last check, Mississippi is ranked #43 in education by *US News & World Report*; a ranking that makes total sense when you consider the underfunding of public schools in our state.

There is talk now of fully funding our own MAEP (Mississippi Adequate Education Program). That has not happened in sixteen years. "Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value," says Joe Biden. Thank God it wasn't Barack Obama that said it.

Even now, the talk is \$181 million increase to fully-fund education. The calculator is saying that if there are 138 school districts and 7-8 charter schools (can't wait to see how these funds are apportioned), then \$181 million is a drop in the bucket. And this at a time when state leaders boast of a \$4 billion surplus.

Is Mississippi being run like a conservative business? Let's check on that a bit. Former President Ronald Reagan is celebrated as an icon of conservatism. *ConservativeJournal.org* quotes him saying, "What is right will always eventually triumph and there is purpose and worth to each and every life." They quote him further, saying, "Government is not the answer to America's problems – it is the problem."

We have 139 state agencies in Mississippi, yet the Lt. Governor says, "We've shrunk the size of government." Really? Is that so? When is the last time a Missis-

issippi Governor has called for a 5% budget reduction across all agencies? We just keep right on spending.

The Census says 20% of Mississippians live beneath the poverty line. In Hinds County it sure looks more like 40%. How is our conservative business approach working? Does it address poverty and demoralization? Jack Kemp was a Republican politician from New York – an Army veteran, a football player for twelve years, Member of the House of Representatives for eighteen years, chairman of the House Republican Caucus for six years, housing secretary, and shortly after his death was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama. He was an economic conservative. He helped achieve tax cuts, not tax eliminations. A conservative republican by any standard, yet one who preached helping the poor by fostering a rising economic tide for all.

Folks claim that self-reliance and personal responsibility are pillars of conservatism. If that is so, how do you explain the embezzlement upwards of \$100 million, provided by the federal government as a safety net for the poorest families in the poorest state in America while under republican conservative leadership?

Stealing is not self-reliance or personally responsible. Since 2012 Mississippi has had a Republican trifecta (majorities in both chambers and the governor's office) and a Republican triplex (governor, attorney general and secretary of state), yet no Republican has called for or conducted a hearing into this theft.

Lastly, the Lt. Governor claims that "Mississippi is in its best financial position since 1817 and he thinks it's wonderful, we're at a really great spot right now." Mississippi is the poorest state in the country, we are last in everything, we have \$4 billion in indebtedness, they brag about a \$4 billion surplus, they are hell bent to cut income taxes completely which greatly favors the wealthy, they resist cutting the highest grocery tax in the nation which makes non-wealthy people suffer more, and they never mention that 47% of state income is derived from the federal government.

We are not in a really great spot. Portraying us as such is disingenuous.

Family caregivers in Mississippi provide \$5.6 billion in unpaid care to loved ones

Latest AARP research attaches \$5.6 billion to the estimated 440 million hours of unpaid care that family caregivers provided in 2021

Mississippi Link Newswire

The unpaid care provided by the 470,000 caregivers in Mississippi is valued at \$5.6 billion, according to new state data available in AARP's latest report in the Valuing the Invaluable series. This is a \$900,000 increase in unpaid contributions since the last report was released in 2019.

The report highlights the growing scope and complexity of family caregiving and highlights actions needed to address the many challenges of caring for parents, spouses, and other loved ones.

"Family caregivers play a vital role in Mississippi's healthcare system, whether they care for someone at home, coordinate home healthcare, or help care for someone who lives in a nursing home," said AARP Mississippi State Director Kimberly L. Campbell, Esq. "We want to make sure all family caregivers have the financial, emotional and social support they need, because the care they provide is invaluable both to those receiving it and to their community."

AARP Mississippi provides support to family caregivers and the loved ones who depend on them for care. In 2015, AARP Mississippi worked to pass The Caregiver Act, one of the first states to do so.

AARP Mississippi also has urged lawmakers to pass a caregiver tax credit to bring much needed financial relief to family caregivers who pay for expensive care to help their loved ones live at home.

Read the full report for national and state-by-state data on the economic value of unpaid care by family and friends.

Resources and information on family caregiving are available at aarp.org/caregiving.

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SSI is for people with low income and financial resources, who are either 65 or older, or an adult or child with a disability or blindness.

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Member:



Atlanta hospital closure inquiry sought by Georgia Democrats

By Jeff Amy
Associated Press

Democratic Georgia lawmakers, local officials and the NAACP are asking federal officials to investigate a health care system that closed hospitals in downtown Atlanta and a southern suburb, claiming Wellstar Health System has illegally discriminated against black people and violated its tax-exempt status.

State Sen. Nan Orrock, an Atlanta Democrat, said Wednesday that she and others filed complaints Tuesday with the IRS and the Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“WellStar should be held to account,” Orrock said at a news conference at the Georgia Capitol. “Wellstar should be required to repair the damage that it’s caused to this long-established system of care for the individuals formerly served by these facilities.”

Based in suburban Marietta, Wellstar last November closed the 450-bed Atlanta Medical Center, a vital health care provider for many low-income residents, just months after closing the smaller Atlanta Medical Center South in East Point. Wellstar had operated both hospitals since 2016 after buying them and others from for-profit operator Tenet Healthcare Corp.

An email seeking comment was sent to a spokesperson for Wellstar. When the system closed the hospitals, it said it had spent more than \$350 million to cover losses and make improvements at Atlanta Medical Center, losing \$100 million in the year before closing. Wellstar said then that it tried and fail to find governments or others to help with sustainable solutions.

But local officials, including Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, angrily replied that Wellstar gave them no notice or chance to help. State and county officials pumped money into Grady Memorial Hospital – a publicly owned safety net hospital blocks away from Atlanta Medical Center – to take up the slack. The medical center’s closure meant the loss of the city’s only other emergency room besides Grady with a highest-level trauma designation and an obstetrics department where many babies were born.



Now, officials want to make Wellstar pay, both legally and financially. Orrock said the nonprofit should make a payment similar to the more than \$100 million in stock that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia gave to create the Healthcare Georgia Foundation in 1998 after a lawsuit over its conversion to for-profit status.

“Wellstar knew what they were doing when they took their resources, leaving without looking back, laughing all the way,” said Rep. Kim Schofield, an Atlanta Democrat. “It’s disgusting, disrespectful, and I’m going to send a message with all of my colleagues that it will not be tolerated.”

The complaint to the IRS charges that while Wellstar performed a required community health-needs study under rules for nonprofit hospitals, it failed to implement a strategy to address those needs. Orrock and others cite a 2021 letter from the Atlanta Medical Center’s advisory board saying management proposed and discarded a series of “opaque” and “vague” plans to improve operations and finances, showing a “long-term lack of vision and clear direction.”

The complaint to Health and Human Services alleges that Wellstar broke federal law by closing two hospitals that served primarily Black populations while continuing to operate hospitals that served richer, whiter people.

“What we’re talking about is no more and no less than healthcare redlining

on the part of Wellstar,” Fulton County Commission Chairman Robb Pitts said. “It means that they’ve chosen where they will do business and not to do business based on the color of skin and the size of the bank accounts in the ZIP Codes where they’re located.”

Pitts noted that Wellstar not only closed the hospitals, but closed or relocated physician offices, meaning patients now have long journeys if they want to keep their old doctors.

“Like bandits, they swept up everything that comes along with the hospitals – the clinics, primary care doctors, the specialists, cardiologists, those who treat diabetes, high blood pressure, you name it – packed them up, and took them all away,” Pitts said. “They have literally created a healthcare desert in central and south Fulton County.”

Opponents also target Wellstar’s negotiations to buy the Augusta University Health System, which operates two hospitals in Augusta. They particularly criticized Wellstar’s acquisition of the rights to build a hospital in Augusta’s mostly white Columbia County suburbs, and the \$105 million that the state is providing to buy a new electronic medical records system for the university’s Medical College of Georgia, from which Wellstar would benefit.

“You don’t walk away, get yourself in the budget for a hospital over in Columbia County, and turn your backs,” Orrock said.

Despite Increased black unemployment rate, Biden celebrates robust job market

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

America’s employers added 311,000 jobs last month, surpassing the 208,000 experts predicted.

Further, the last two years saw more jobs created since 1940, a sign that the country has recovered soundly from the COVID-19 recession.

In January, employers added 504,000 jobs, and then 300,000+ last month, robust gains that pointed to high demand for labor. However, despite the solid report, the African American job market remained problematic.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the overall unemployment rate rose to 3.6% in February from 3.4% the prior month. Women over 20 saw an unemployment rate slightly rise to 3.2% from 3.1%. Unemployment rates for black women climbed to 5.1% from 4.7%. Among Hispanic women, it jumped to 4.8% from 4.4%. The black unemployment rate peaked at 5.7%, up from 5.4% in January. But, President Biden said he was excited about overall progress.

“I’m happy to report that our economy has created over 300,000 new jobs last month, and that’s on top of a half a million jobs we added the month before,” a celebratory President Joe Biden exclaimed.

“All told, we’ve created more than 12 million jobs since I took office, nearly 800,000 of them manufacturing jobs. “That means, overall, we’ve created more jobs in two years than any administration has created in the first four years.”

Biden said he believes his administration’s economic plan is working.

The President asserted that when he took office, the economy was reeling.

“And 18 million people were unemployed, on unemployment insurance, compared to less than 2 million today,” he stated. “Unemployment was 6.3 percent, and the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicted it wouldn’t get below 4 percent until



2026. “Because of our economic plan, unemployment has been below 4 percent for 14 straight months since January 2022.” In February, the unemployment rate remained near the lowest level in a half-century.

“That’s really good news. People who were staying out of the job market are now getting back into the job market,” the President noted.

“They’re coming off the sidelines. They’re getting back into the job market. And today’s job numbers are clear: Our economy is moving in the right direction.”

Biden declared that jobs are available, and Americans are working again and becoming more optimistic about the future.

He called right-wing Republicans the biggest threat to America’s economic recovery. “The reckless talk, my MAGA friends. This is not your – as you’ve heard me say, it’s not your father’s Republican party,” Biden railed. “But the Republicans in the United States Congress, what they want to do with regard to the debt limit. You know, they’re threatening to default on our national debt. Planning to default, as some Republicans seem to be doing, puts us much at risk.”

He continued: “I believe we should be building on our progress, not go backward. So, I urge our extreme MAGA Republican friends in Congress to put the threats aside. Instead, join me in continuing the progress we’ve built. We’ve got a lot more to do, so let’s finish the job.”

Statement from the National Bankers Association on Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank

The Black Press USA

National Bankers Association (NBA) President & CEO Nicole Elam Esq. and Chairman Robert James II released the following statement regarding Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Signature Bank.

“In light of recent industry events, the National Bankers Association wants to assure consumers that your money is safe with minority banks. Minority depository institutions are very different from both SVB and Signature Bank which had high concentrations in crypto deposits and volatile venture capital. Minority banks are not exposed to riskier asset classes and have the capital and strong liquidity to best serve consumers and small businesses. If you’re looking for a place to bring your deposits and have greater impact, bring your deposits to minority banks” said Nicole Elam, President and CEO of the National Bankers Association.

“The Biden-Harris Administration, FDIC, and Federal Reserve worked hard this weekend to make sure that these bank failures are the exception, not the rule, and that



The National Bankers Association is the nation’s leading trade association for the country’s minority depository institutions (MDIs).

all Americans can continue to have confidence in our banking system. I also applaud bipartisan leaders in Congress for keeping stakeholders informed about how hard-earned deposits are being kept safe.” said Robert James, II, Chairman of the National Bankers Association, President & CEO, Carver Financial Corporation.

The National Bankers Association is the nation’s leading trade association for the country’s minority depository institutions (MDIs). MDIs have always focused on safety and soundness as a part of our conservative, relationship-based

business model. We continue to monitor SVB’s impact on large corporate deposit concentrations, fintech, tech companies, and larger financial institutions that have partnerships with MDIs or who have made investments in MDIs.

MDIs are in the strongest position ever to support their

customers and here’s why:

Traditional Banking Model with Diverse & Secure Assets: MDIs are diversified in terms of their assets, predominately focused on well-collateralized loans, and are not exposed to riskier asset classes. Unlike both SVB and Signature Bank, MDIs have very limited

exposure to the venture capital industry and crypto.

Well-Capitalized and Strong Liquidity: MDIs are in the strongest position ever. The sector is exceptionally well-capitalized, enjoys substantial liquidity overall, and has grown by 33% over the last three years in total assets. Nearly \$4 billion in new, permanent capital has flowed to MDIs and currently, the median MDI common equity ratio is 16.4% versus 14.8% for non-MDIs.

Positioned for Impact: 77% of MDI branches are in areas with a higher average share of minorities compared to 31% for all FDIC-insured depository institutions. According to a Dallas Fed Study in 2022, MDIs originate almost 40% of their mortgages to minority borrowers, versus only 10% by other banks. Additionally, MDIs originate 30% of small business loans to low- to moderate-income communities in comparison to 20% at community banks and 24% at large banks. Customer deposits are not only extremely safe in an MDI but are far more likely to have a positive impact in the community.

Colonoscopy prep – why you need it

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

No one wants to take a colonoscopy because of the horror stories they’ve heard about the prep. Most people will say that a colonoscopy is not bad, but the prep is really bad. I know it because I’ve gone through it. I had to drink a gallon of chalky fluid. It’s daunting but it is a crucial part of your colonoscopy. I’ve heard the prep described as “cruel and unusual punishment.”

The prep is a crucial part of your procedure because your intestines have to be thoroughly clean. Doctors can miss a precancerous polyp during the colonoscopy because they didn’t see it if your colon is not clean.

Some doctors have recommended a saline-based laxative that includes sodium phosphate (NaP) as a primary osmotic agent and other mineral salts such as potassium and magnesium. These formulas offer an alternative to drinking your colonoscopy prep because they come in tablet form. You still have to consume them with liquids. You also have to take in some cases about 32 pills. They’re working on developing an option that has fewer pills.

Some people have had good results taking an over-the-counter laxative along with 64 ounces of a sport drink. Some people split the preparation. They take half the preparation the night before and half the next morn-

ing five hours before their colonoscopy. Most doctors have a method that they like and will recommend it but if you’ve tried the preparation before and you didn’t like it, ask your doctor for more options.

The goal of your preparation is to induce diarrhea to clean out your intestines. What ever prep you use plan on a lot of time in your bathroom. To make the process as comfortable as possible is it good idea to buy soft toilet tissue. Some preparations will require you to fast the day before your procedure by consuming a clear liquid diet that doesn’t contain any red or purple coloring.

If you think you can avoid the preparation by having a virtual colonoscopy that uses a CT scan you’re out of luck. A virtual colonoscopy still requires a clean intestinal tract.

Research at the Mayo Clinic has come up with a new technique that requires only four tablets before a virtual colonoscopy. Researchers have also developed a preparation that involves putting a contrasting dye into low fiber in your foods for two days before the test. That contrasting agent makes fecal matter stand out, making it easier to remove that part of the image from your scan results. The drawback to a virtual colonoscopy is that if a polyp is found you still need to have a colonoscopy.

Other alternatives to colonos-

copies include sigmoidoscopy, which is a less invasive form of colonoscopy and stool sample testing.

Recent studies have found that using current screening guidelines that one and ten malignancies were missed. People with a family history of colon polyps or a first-degree relative, parent, sibling or child with polyps, at any age should talk to their doctor about getting screened more often than the current recommendation of every five years beginning at age 40.

People with a normal colonoscopy usually receive one every ten years. If you are 50 and have never had a colonoscopy you should get a colonoscopy. If you’re between 76 and 85, talk to your doctor about how often you should be screened.

People with an inherited condition called familial adenomatous polyposis have an extremely high risk of colon cancer or if they have close relatives that have had colon cancer should also have a colonoscopy every 1-2 years beginning at age 20-25.

Most polyps cause no symptoms. Most people won’t know they have polyps until they have a colonoscopy. Because of this, it’s important to keep up with your colon cancer screening. The doctor performing your colonoscopy can’t tell if a colon polyp is precancerous or cancerous until it’s removed and examined under a microscope.

If you have a polyp that is cancerous, your doctor will also biopsy nearby lymph nodes to determine if the cancer has spread or metastasized to other areas of your body. Your doctor may recommend radiation, chemotherapy or other therapies.

Research shows that stool DNA tests are effective at detecting colon cancer and polyps that could become cancerous. If you have a positive stool test you need a colonoscopy to examine the inside of your colon for polyps and cancer.

Things you should avoid before your colonoscopy are foods like nuts, seeds and high-fiber cereals. You also want to avoid granola, coconut, dried fruit and fresh fruit with the skin on, like apples and pears, or fruit with seeds, like strawberries and raspberries because they are hard to get out of your system.

Your colon is not clean enough if the morning of your exam you are still passing brown liquid with solid material mixed in it. You should contact your doctor’s office if your colon is not clean. Passing mostly clear or only a light color, including yellow liquids, it’s a sign your colon is clean enough for an accurate examination.

If you have a fitness question or concern you would like addressed write to “Tips to be Fit” P O Box 53443 Philadelphia PA 19105 or tipstobefit@gmail.com If you’ve missed an article

10 health tips doctors encourage you to try today



StatePoint

Want to make a fresh start and invest in your health? You may be unsure what changes will have the biggest impact. Doctors say that the easy, tangible actions you take are some of the most important.

“Many people focus on big-picture health goals,” says Jack Resneck, Jr., M.D., president of the American Medical Association (AMA). “The good news is that small, positive health choices made right now can have long-lasting effects.”

Want to get started today? Here are the 10 recommendations by the AMA that should top your list:

1. Exercise is essential for your physical and mental health, so get moving today. A good rule of thumb for adults is at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity.

2. Vaccination is the best protection against a number of serious illnesses. To protect yourself and your family, get up to date on your vaccines, including the annual flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine for everyone 6 months and older. Your doctor can let you know if you’re due for a COVID booster. If you have questions, speak with your physician and review trusted resources, including [getvaccineanswers.org](https://www.getvaccineanswers.org).

3. Get screened. Estimates based on statistical models show that since April 2020, millions of screenings for breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer diagnoses may have been missed due to pandemic-related care disruptions. Check in with your physician. If you’re due for preventive care, tests or screenings, make an appointment. These measures are designed to keep you healthy and help your doctor spot certain conditions before they become more serious.

4. High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, can increase your risk of heart attack or stroke, and it affects millions of Americans. Visit [ManageYourBP.org](https://www.ManageYourBP.org) to understand what your blood pressure numbers mean and what you can do to get your blood pressure under control.

5. One in 3 American adults has prediabetes, a condition that can lead to type 2 diabetes if left unmanaged. However, there are steps you can take that can help delay or even prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes. Learn your risk by taking a simple 2-minute self-screening test at [DoIHavePrediabetes.org](https://www.DoIHavePrediabetes.org). This resource also features helpful lifestyle tips that can help you reverse prediabetes.

6. Whenever possible, drink water instead of sugar-sweetened beverages and replace processed foods – especially those with added sodium and sugar – with nutritious, whole foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, herbs and spices.

7. If consuming alcohol, drink only in moderation. The U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans defines that as up to one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men, and only by adults of legal drinking age.

8. Speak with your doctor or health care professional about quitting tobacco and nicotine use. Declare your home and car smokefree to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure.

9. Follow your doctor’s instructions when taking prescription drugs – especially opioids. Always store and dispose of these medications safely to prevent misuse. Whenever prescribed antibiotics, take them exactly as directed. Not taking the full course can lead to antibiotic resistance, a serious public health problem, and will not make you feel better if you have a virus, such as a cold or flu.

10. Invest in your mental health by managing stress, getting sufficient sleep, exercising and seeking help from a mental health professional when you need it.

Find more health resources at [ama-assn.org](https://www.ama-assn.org). For a healthy future, invest in your wellness with these 10 doctor-recommended tips.

Federal researchers find sudden unexplained deaths rose for black infants

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A new study has shown a huge racial difference in infant deaths. Researchers found that babies born to African Americans had the highest rate of sudden unexpected deaths in 2020. The authors concluded that black infants die nearly three times the rate of white babies.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released research Monday, March 13, that found a 15 percent increase in sudden infant deaths among babies of all races from 2019 to 2020.

In the United States, SIDS is the third leading cause of infant death after congenital abnormalities and premature birth. SIDS is also the most common cause of infant death in the United States.

The authors attributed the rise in SIDS cases to diagnostic shifting, where causes of death are reclassified. They said the rise in deaths among black infants happened at the same time the coronavirus pandemic started in late 2019. The virus disproportionately affected black communities.

“Evidence does not support direct or indirect effects of the pandemic on increased rates of sudden unexpected infant



death, except for non-Hispanic black infants,” the study authors stated.

They have called for more research, but also noted the many ways in which the pandemic wreaked havoc on African Americans.

The study found that SIDS death increased by 15%, from 33.3 deaths per 100,000 babies born in 2019 to 38.2 per 100,000 babies born in 2020. In data collection, both SIDS and incidents of accidental suffocation or strangulation fall under the umbrella term SUID, or sudden unexplained infant death.

Unlike SIDS, the rates of SUIDs are categorized by race and ethnicity, and research-

ers found an increase in unexplained deaths in black infants. They didn’t find an increase among any other group.

The study’s author, Sharyn Parks Brown, told NBC News that the finding was absolutely a surprise. She is a senior epidemiologist for the CDC’s Perinatal and Infant Health Team.

“The racial and ethnic breakdowns of such deaths had been consistent for decades,” she said.

Reasons for the jump are unknown, NBC reported.

The authors said that the increase could be a statistical anomaly. They said they would check the data for several more years to see if the increase was

real or not. It could also reflect adjustments the National Association of Medical Examiners made in 2019 to how sudden infant deaths are classified on death certificates.

According to NBC News, the guidance said finding babies on or near soft bedding was not enough to say the deaths were caused by suffocation, because there was no evidence the airways had been blocked. Those cases, according to the recommendations, should be classified as SIDS.

“If the new guidance was followed, this could have led to increased reporting of SIDS,” the study authors wrote.

P R E S E R V E D

New strategies for old battles

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



I consider myself an experienced warrior in the fight against allergies and a couple of weeks ago, I survived yet another battle with seasonal allergies. Like so many others, the wide range of temperatures caused me to have a few days of a runny nose and uncontrollable sneezing.

Having suffered from allergic reactions to pollen, dog and cat hair, ragweed, etc since I was in elementary school, I knew those symptoms were signs of the seasonal shift to spring.

Honestly, I was surprised with my recent battle because a few years ago, I switched to a plant based diet and the most amazing thing happened: I went through the shifts from fall, winter and spring seasons without one sinus infection,

upper respiratory challenge or case of the sniffles.

Having experienced at least one and, in some cases, all of these yearly for the last 40 years, I was ecstatic. Because of my body responding so positively to the “clean” diet, I was even able to stop taking my daily allergy medicine altogether. Previously, I was able to sense the change in seasons based on how my body responded to things that were in the air. Even though allergy symptoms frustrated me, I actually came to see them as a good sign.

For example, allergy symptoms like sneezing, runny nose and watery eyes are our bodies’ ways of protecting us from the “invaders” as some like to call allergy triggers like dust, pollen or pet hair. Even though we don’t see them, our bodies’ responses let us know that the allergy triggers are there.

Allergies also are an unhealthy overreaction to things that are a part of our normal

lives. Allergies warn us of the dangers that are out there much like the Spirit of God.

My past allergy fights remind me of how we sometimes fight against the warnings we receive from the Spirit of God. Many of us have the experience of walking into a place where we instantly didn’t feel comfortable. That funny feeling, regardless of what we saw with our own eyes, was God communicating to us. These awkward moments are often God’s way of protecting us from things, people and places that mean us no good.

I Corinthians 2:9-11 says, “However, as it is written: ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him’ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows

the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”

Spiritual discernment will often let us know the heart of God concerning changes in our lives. Some of these changes are ones that we spent many nights praying for. However, some of us overreact to the Spirit of God (and fight the change) or, worse, ignore what we sense but don’t know how to respond to similar to how our bodies respond to allergies.

One of the best lessons we can learn is to trust and willingly submit to the Spirit of God.

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

Focusing on serving God

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



God wants to bless, comfort and protect His people if they will only stay under the shadow of the Almighty. Psalm 17:8 reads “Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings.” Jesus said in Matthew 23:37, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” The fact is not that they did not know how, but that they would not allow Jesus to gather them. Jesus wants to gather all His people yet today, but many will not.

Psalm 23:4 tells us, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” God knows all the dangers, all the different passes, the hidden pits, and the cliffs along the way. He guides us around them and through them.

Some people have such a challenging time staying put. It is hard for them to stay focused on serving God. They have to do this, and they have to do that. They have to

go here, and they have to go there. They get so restless. They leave full of blessings of God. They have no reason to leave. If they come back, they are like Naomi, empty, destitute, and weary of life. They do not come back the way they left.

There are many demanding situations that come against God’s people which may make it hard to stay focused on serving God. My friends, if you are going to make it, you must stay focused on serving God. He must be your number one priority.

When other things come in, God will be faithful to warn you, maybe a multiplicity of times, but some do not take the warnings. Some people get up a miff tree, so to speak, and instead of straightening things out, they leave thinking that is the answer. When they leave, they take their problems with them. The cares of life press down on us from day-to-day. Ones become weary in just living right.

The Apostle Paul warned in Galatians 6:9, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” If you put God first, He will always work things out.

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


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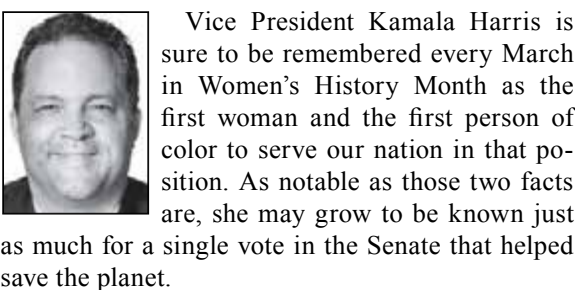
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A historic vote and the tools it gave us

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



Vice President Kamala Harris is sure to be remembered every March in Women’s History Month as the first woman and the first person of color to serve our nation in that position. As notable as those two facts are, she may grow to be known just as much for a single vote in the Senate that helped save the planet.

Last August, she broke the 50-50 deadlock between Democrats and Republicans in the Senate to pass the Inflation Reduction Act. That historic package, along with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that Harris had crisscrossed the country in 2021 to build support for, give us a once-in-a-generation chance to protect the climate and build a cleaner, fairer economy.

Both laws bear Harris’ mark. For example, the two packages provide billions to replace diesel school buses with electric ones and an additional tax credit for purchases that counties and cities make on their own. As a senator, Harris repeatedly sponsored bills to electrify the nation’s school buses. Similarly, she championed proposals to help recovery in low-income communities that bear a disproportionate burden of pollution and climate; the IRA includes \$60 billion directed to help those places.

Harris’ role inside and outside Washington on environmental issues isn’t surprising. When she was elected San Francisco’s district attorney 20 years ago, she started one of the first environmental justice units in a prosecutor’s office. When she moved on to be California’s attorney general, she fought to protect the state from fossil fuel interests, winning tens of millions in civil settlements and a criminal indictment against the pipeline company responsible for an oil spill off Santa Barbara, as well as suing the federal government to block fracking off the coast. It’s a path others have been able to follow in the years since (Columbia University keeps a database of attorneys general’s environmental actions now).

It’s a concern that runs deep. Like I did, Harris grew up in environmentally conscious northern California in a household deeply involved in the civil rights movement. She learned early that conservation was a good thing, so much so that she has joked she couldn’t understand as a youngster why people she knew said conservatives were bad.

The Biden-Harris administration has provided leadership. With Congress, they’ve given us the tools to clean up pollution, to boost communities’ resilience to climate related natural disasters like wildfires, and to create good jobs in clean manufacturing across the country in unprecedented ways. Through the infrastructure and inflation reduction packages, the United States can spend more than double protecting Earth than we spent putting astronauts on the moon.

“I think we all understand we have to be solutions driven. And the solutions are at hand,” Harris said at a climate summit earlier this month. “We need to make up for some lost time, no doubt. This is going to have an exponential impact on where we need to go.”

It’s time for the rest of us to pick up those tools and build. There are powerful interests that would be more than happy to let the inertia that allows people and places to be treated as disposable continue indefinitely. Our planet can’t afford that, and we have to marshal a movement to prevent it.

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

Further from coverage and closer to profit, health insurance giants must take accountability

By Jessica Ann Tyson
Frederick Douglass Found. MI - Chap.



As the incessant flu and COVID outbreaks continue to plague the US this winter season, it is not unheard of to take further precautions to keep your health in good shape. Whether that’s getting your flu shot, taking essential vitamins, or even washing your hands a few more times a day, lots of people are taking the extra step to avoid the seemingly never-ending sicknesses being passed around. While these rituals seem to work for the majority, few find that not even their daily multivitamin can protect them from coming down with something.

In the 2021-2022 flu season, there were more than 4 million medical visits and over 10,000 hospitalizations for the influenza virus alone. Combining the 10,000 hospitalizations from the flu alongside of covid hospitalizations for the 2021-2022 winter months, the number of people visiting and staying at healthcare facilities in this short time frame is pushing well into the millions. As these numbers

continue to rise, so does the cost of healthcare. Since 2010, individual insurance premiums have risen over 58 percent, and family insurance premiums have risen more than 63 percent. Despite these skyrocketing numbers, health insurance still manages to cover less and less each year.

While health insurance companies are moving further from coverage and closer to profit, more and more Americans are drowning in medical bills, struggling to make ends meet. The top five health insurance companies, (United Health Group, Anthem, Centene, Humana, and Blue Cross Blue Shield) collectively generated a profit of over \$720 billion in 2022 alone.

The largest of the five insurance companies, United Health Group, raked in over \$324 billion this year and is projected to bring in more than \$360 billion in 2023. These record-breaking profits are an embarrassment to our healthcare system as hospitals are struggling to keep the lights on and patients are unable to cover these absurd costs.

In 2017, with full control of Washington, Republicans worked to repeal Obamacare only to come

up short. Now that they have the majority again, we need to encourage the new leadership to offer a bold new vision that puts patients over profits and offers legislation that would protect American patient’s access to affordable care. This is an opportunity for Congress to finally implement policies that will hold insurers accountable.

A survey taken in 2019 shows that Americans collectively owe around \$195 billion in medical debt and that number will only continue to rise.

The US healthcare system is clearly no friend to anyone; however, this system is especially cruel to minority groups. While Americans owe around \$195 billion in medical debt, the burden is unevenly distributed among American citizens. 28 percent of black households hold medical debt compared to 17 percent of white households.

Surveys have shown that in parts of the US, people living in communities of color are four times more likely to have medical debt compared to those living in predominantly white communities.

The racial disparities in healthcare continue to devastate minor-

ity groups and the price gauging of health insurance companies is of no help.

As year 3 of the COVID-19 pandemic begins and flu season is in full throttle, health insurance companies need to start becoming our allies rather than our enemies. These insurance companies are bringing in enough profit to wipe out all medical debt several times over, yet millions of Americans, and especially minorities, are consistently losing sleep over how to pay off surprise medical bills and monthly premiums.

A system put in place to help patients get the health care they need is now strictly serving big insurance. It’s time for health insurance giants to be held accountable, and work for their patients instead of against them.

Jessica Ann Tyson is president of the Frederick Douglass Foundation Michigan Chapter. She was appointed to Building the 21st Century Economy Commission and Michigan Board of Nursing Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs Bureau of Health Care Services by former Governor Rick Snyder in 2014.

Excitement and unforgettable moments make March Madness America’s signature sporting event

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



The month of March signals spring is on the way and the flowers will begin to bloom.

We will be able to leave our homes without our boots and gloves. The term wind chill will be in our rear view mirror.

March also begins a truly American tradition called “March Madness.” Basketballs will be bouncing non-stop as we the fans enjoy all the tournament action.

There is not another sporting event that rises to the level of “March Madness.” To compare it to something else in my opinion is quite debatable. Some will opine that the Super Bowl is a big event, and it is while others will say that the NBA Finals top their list. Both events along with the World Series and Wimbledon certainly have a place on everyone’s scoreboard.

However, “March Madness” has a different ring to it. It even has a set of terms that go along

with the event.

Being on the bubble, bracketology, buzzer-beaters are all terms that you hear associated with “March Madness.” Other terms include going to the big dance, the last four in and the last four out. Get familiar with them because for the next three weeks, you will be hearing them a lot.

ESPN has Joe Lunardi who in my opinion has become a “March Madness” guru and somewhat of a sports prophet. In a funny and humorous way, he only comes out during this time of year. He is on ESPN everyday talking about the selections or other media personalities are quoting him. A little-known fact about him is that he is credited with creating the term, bracketology.

There will be 68 men’s and women’s teams playing in the NCAA Division I basketball tournament. The selection shows were held on Sunday, March 12, and were televised on CBS and ESPN.

I have watched the selection shows for many years, and I don’t grow weary watching them.

Happiness is just spontaneous when you see young student-ath-

letes going bananas when they know they are going dancing. I would opine these moments of joy will be etched in their hearts and minds forever.

There are some moments so wonderful in a college athlete’s career that they will always cherish them. I humbly submit that I have had a few of those moments.

According to well-documented reports the term, “March Madness” was first used in reference to basketball in 1939 by Henry V. Porter, an Illinois high school official. “March Madness” wasn’t used by the NCAA until legendary sportscaster Brent Musburger used it during the 1982 tournament. I was honored to have taken a picture with him some years ago.

In accordance with “March Madness,” is the term Final Four. Ed Chay, a sportswriter coined the term in 1975. Of course, the NCAA has now trademarked the term.

The 12 person NCAA-appointed committee has made its selections. The number one overall seed for the men is Alabama and the overall number 1 seed for the

women is South Carolina.

Sports shows will dissect each team with coaches and players being interviewed for their perspectives. It’s the most wonderful time of the year.

Critics will say that if you made it to “March Madness,” then you are a pretty good coach. I agree.

The season is over for some teams and just beginning for other teams. That is the ecstasy and agony of March.

Bobby Hurley, one time guard for Duke, and now the coach of Arizona State, said recently that he had never gone to the NIT (National Invitational Tournament) and doesn’t want to start now. The committee must have heard him. Arizona State is a part of “March Madness.”

Have you gotten your bracket completed yet? Some folks have at least two or three of them.

So now, enjoy the drama and the upsets. Upsets are what make “March Madness” so much fun to watch. You see, at the beginning, every team has a chance.

Who will be the last team standing? That is the question on the court.

March Madness: Human trafficking on the move

By Michael Watson
Secretary of State of Mississippi



As a long-time sports fanatic, I can’t help but love this time of year – March Madness is upon us and college baseball and softball are gearing up. While this brings a great deal of excitement, it can also create an uptick in human trafficking (HT).

In fact, large sporting events, including collegiate sports, are

the largest coordinated efforts of movement in young victims within the U.S. These events aren’t directly responsible for the spike in trafficking, but they create movement among people who are already soliciting sex, thus traffickers travel with victims to host sites due to high demand.

The Super Bowl is notoriously associated with HT due to the uptick of fans and money exchanges, but according to Forbes, “The three-week-long tournament (March Madness)

is supposed to attract more legal bets than the Super Bowl, which is the largest single sporting event in the U.S.

This year, sports bettors wagered about \$1 billion on the Big Game legally, according to the AGA, while March Madness is supposed to attract three times that amount.”

With both the Men’s and Women’s Final Four Championship host sites in Texas this year, Mississippians must be extra vigilant regarding illicit activity in our rest stops, hotels, massage

parlors, and adult entertainment locations. Being within driving distance of both Houston and Dallas, Mississippi businesses are prime locations for travel breaks in the days leading up to the tournaments.

Through our efforts with Mississippi Businesses Against Trafficking (MBAT), we have worked to raise awareness and educate our state businesses on the warning signs of HT and what to do when suspecting instances of trafficking. Members are provided informational ma-

terials and resources through the MBAT website, periodic newsletters, summits and connections to victim’s service providers.

But, it takes all of us.

As you move about your daily routines, I encourage each of you to be mindful of the warning signs of HT. These include an individual: not being allowed to move around freely, avoiding eye contact, exhibiting anxious behavior, showing signs of physical abuse, lacking knowledge of his or her whereabouts, among others. Specific to hotels,

red flag indicators may be an older male accompanying several young females, individuals denying housekeeping services, or never leaving the room.

Whether you are a business owner, organizational head, employee, or just someone who wants to make a difference, we want to provide you with the necessary tools and resources to saves lives right here in our state.

For more information, visit the MBAT website and join our fight to coMBAT human trafficking.

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for \$3,600 for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale. 2001 Ford Mustang GT, Vin #1FAFP45X81F193232

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

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

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bid
Bid 3231 Renovations to McLeod Elementary

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

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

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 JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

3/9/2023, 3/16/2023

LEGAL

FILED
MAR 01 2023
HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
IN RE: ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE OF
PATRICIA McLAURIN, DECEASED
ANTONYO MOSLEY, PETITIONER
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Letters of Administration on the Estate Patricia McLaurin, deceased, having been granted to me on the 1st day of March, 2023, by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to Antonio Mosley, as Administrator of the Estate of Patricia McLaurin, deceased, Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present such claims to the Clerk of said Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days of the date of the First Publication of this Notice, or they will be Forever barred.
THIS 1st day of March, 2023.

CAUSE NO. P2023-74

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

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF LYNETTE GRIFFIN,
DECEASED
CAUSE NO.: P2022-649 G/2
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS
Letters of Administration having been granted to Carolyn G. Purvis and Peggy Burk, by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Administrator upon the Estate of Lynette Griffin, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probation and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.
This the 8th day of March, 2023.
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS
Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, Peggy Burk, Administrator for the Estate of Lynette Griffin, deceased, who having been by me first duly sworn, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.
Peggy Burk
NOTARY
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

3/16/2023

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF JOHNNY STRINGER,
DECEASED
CAUSE NO. P2022-207 T/I
PETITIONER: JOHNNIE STRINGER
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS
Letters of Administration having been granted on to Mildred Johnson, by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Administrator upon the Estate of Johnnie Stringer, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probation and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.
This the 8th day of March, 2023.
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS
Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, Mildred Johnson, Administrator for the Estate of Johnnie Stringer, deceased, who having been by me first duly sworn, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.
Mildred Johnson
NOTARY
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
ANN JAMES
Commission Expires March 24, 2023
HANKIN COUNTY
3/16/2023

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CITY OF JACKSON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LEGAL

Jackson Redevelopment Authority
PUBLIC NOTICE
Request for Proposals

MUNICIPAL PARKING FACILITY NO. 2 PARKING AREA, MUNICIPAL PARKING FACILITY NO. 2 (including Parking Area and Commercial Area), MUNICIPAL PARKING FACILITY NO. 4, and/or BLOCK C PARKING LOT

The Jackson Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority" or "JRA") is seeking proposals to lease, manage, and operate the space in the Authority's Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 (the "Parking Facility 2 Parking Area"), including the parking area and the commercial area therein ("Parking Facility 2"), the Authority's Municipal Parking Facility No. 4 ("Parking Facility 4"), and/or the Authority's surface parking lot known as the Block C Parking Lot (the "Block C Lot" and, together with the Parking Facility 2 Parking Area, Parking Facility 2 and Parking Facility 4, the "Facilities"); Submissions will be received by the Authority via the online portal at www.jrams.org, until 4:00 o'clock P.M., April 18, 2023. All proposals shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Request for Proposals ("RFP"), copies of which are available for review, download, and submission at www.jrams.org. Consistent with requirements stated therein, Proposals submitted in response to the RFP shall be made on or before 4:00 o'clock P.M., April 18, 2023.

3/16/2023, 3/23/2023

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Jackson's Office of Housing and Community Development is accepting Applications and Proposals for an Environmental Contractor for the City of Jackson's Healthy Homes Production Program until 5:00 PM, CST on April 7, 2023. Applications will be available on the City's website at www.jacksonms.gov or by emailing an application request to robbies@jacksonms.gov. The application must be filled out in its entirety and all required documentation must be attached at the time of application submission. The City of Jackson reserves the right to approve and terminate Environmentalist Contractors for the Healthy Homes Production Program at any time. Questions should be directed to:

Valerie Tucker, 601-960-4238 or email vtucker@city.jackson.ms.us; or

Dr. Robbie Smith, 601-960-1156 or email robbies@jacksonms.gov.

3/16/2023

LEGAL

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

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

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

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

3/9/2023, 3/16/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bids
Bid 3227 ESSER Restroom and HVAC Upgrades for Green, Lake and Walton Elementary Schools

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 12, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The pre-bid conference concerning the project for Green, Lake, and Walton Elementary Schools will be held at 3200 Bailey Avenue, Jackson, MS 39213 on March 23, 2023 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid, if approved, for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at jpdsms-projects.com. A \$250.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Joey Crain, Eley Guild Hardy Architects, PA Phone: 228-594-2323, Email: JCRAIN@EGH.MS

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 JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

3/9/2023, 3/16/2023

LEGAL

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

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 13, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The pre-bid conference concerning the project for Wingfield High School will be held at 1985 Scanlon Drive, Jackson, MS 39204 on March 28, 2023 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid, if approved, for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at jpdsms-projects.com. A \$250.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Joey Crain, Eley Guild Hardy Architects, PA Phone: 228-594-2323, Email: JCRAIN@EGH.MS

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 JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

3/9/2023, 3/16/2023

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

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

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

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

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

3/2/2023, 3/9/2023



LEGAL

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

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

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

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

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4206

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 Kristen Bradley has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for a placement of a manufactured house within a R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District on property located at 529 Eden Downs Rd. (Parcel: 844-195-2), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Commence at NW corner of the SW ¼ , NE ¼ , Section 21, 15N, RIW, Hinds County, Mississippi and run thence East 670.5 feet: thence N 00 33' - 43"E, 47.18 feet to the point of beginning: thence S89-39'E, 670.5 feet to the West line of the NE ¼ , NE ¼ , of section 21, thence N 00 33'-43" E, 212.18 feet; thence N 89-39'W, 670.5 feet; thence S 00-33'-43"W, 212.18 feet to the point of beginning being situated in the NW ¼ , NE ¼ of section 21, T5N, RIW, Hinds County Mississippi and containing 3.27 acres more or less.

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, March 22, 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 MARCH 15, 2023.

3/2/2023, 3/16/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 4203

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 Harvey Williams Sr. has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception to allow for a residential community facility within a R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District on property located at 5129 Andover Dr. (Parcel: 640-428) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot Sixty-five (65), Clinton Boulevard Subdivision, part 5, a subdivision according to a 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 16 at Page 40 thereof, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

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, March 22, 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 MARCH 15, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 24th day of February 2023.

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

3/2/2023, 3/16/2023

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

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

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

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

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

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4204

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 Fondren Tobacco & More, Inc has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for a bar/lounge within a C-2 (Limited) Commercial District on property located at 663 Duling Ave. (Parcel: 47-27), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A tract of land situated in the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the point where the South line of Duling Avenue intersects the West line of Old Canton Road, as said highways are now laid out, improved, and used in this city, said corner being the Point of Beginning of the following described property; from said Point of Beginning, run south 25 degrees 51 minutes 43 seconds West along the West line of Old Canton Road a distance of 300.63 feet; thence North 64 degrees 34 minutes 22 seconds West a distance of 25.07 feet to the Northwest corner of a concrete retaining wall; thence North 64 degrees 18 minutes 49 seconds West along the North face of said wall a distance of 29.26 feet; thence South 73 degrees 58 minutes 14 seconds West along the North face of said wall a distance of 111.52 feet; thence North 83 degrees 27 minutes 14 seconds West along the North face of said wall a distance of 15.52 feet; thence North 82 degrees 52 minutes 57 seconds West along the North face of said wall a distance of 30.05 feet; thence North 82 degrees 48 minutes 12 seconds West along the North face of said wall a distance of 30.38 feet; thence North 82 degrees 39 minutes 45 seconds West along the North face of said wall a distance of 30.50 feet; thence North 81 degrees 58 minutes 09 seconds West a distance of 30.54 feet to the Northwest corner of said wall; thence North 81 degrees 58 minutes 09 seconds West a distance of 8.03 feet to the East line of Morgan Place; thence North 06 degrees 33 minutes 12 seconds along the East line of Morgan Place a distance of 310.81 feet to the South line of Duling Avenue; thence South 82 degrees 52 minutes 12 seconds East along the South line of Duling Avenue a distance of 398.73 feet to the Point of Beginning.

The above described tract of land includes 2.37 acres, more or less.

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, March 22, 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 MARCH 15, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 24th day of February 2023.

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

3/2/2023, 3/16/2023

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFPS

RFP 2023-08 Content Area Support for Pre-Kindergarten – 12th Grades

RFP 2023-09 Professional Development and Coaching Support for School and or District Leaders and Administrators

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevaling Time), April 05, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs/ are opened.

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

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

3/16/2023, 3/23/2023

bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Official Bid Documents, including the Contract Documents and Drawings can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbiddina.com. Electronic Bids may be submitted at www.centralbiddine.com. For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

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

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

Christine Welch, Deputy Director
Office of Transportation

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4205

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 Mohammed Alyadi has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for a tobacco paraphernalia retail business in a neighborhood shopping center and not in combination with a convenience type grocery store or service station within a C-3 (General) Commercial District on property located at 4429 North State St. (Parcel: 430-42), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A certain parcel of land being a part of Lot 12, Block L, North View Addition, Part II, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof, on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, as now recorded in Plat Book B at Page 116 in the City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Point of Intersection of the South line of Lot 11, of said Block L, North View Addition, Part II and the East right-of-way line of Northview Drive (as now laid out and improved) said point being 637.70 feet North 21 degrees 27 minutes 00 seconds East along the East right-of-way line of Northview Drive from the intersection of the East right-of-way line of Northview Drive and the North right-of-way line of Meadowbrook Road (as now laid and improved) and run thence South 88 degrees 01 minutes 00 seconds East along said South line of Lot 11 for a distance of 210.00 feet to the Southwest corner of an existing building; run thence North 21 degrees 49 minutes 00 seconds East for a distance of 150.00 feet to a point on the North line of said Lot 11; said point also being on the South line of the aforesaid Lot 12; said point further being the POINT OF BEGINNING of the parcel of land herein described; from said POINT OF BEGINNING, run thence North 88 degrees 01 minutes 00 seconds West along said South line of Lot 12 for a distance of 16.50 feet to a point; run thence North 09 degrees 35 minutes 00 seconds East for a distance of 71.50 feet to a point; run thence North 01 degrees 59 minutes 00 seconds East for a distance of 70.30 feet to a point on the North line of said Lot 12; run thence South 88 degrees 01 minutes 00 seconds East along said North line of Lot 12 for a distance of 237.36 feet to a point on the West right-of-way line of North State Street (as now laid out and improved); run thence South 09 degrees 51 minutes 00 seconds West along said West right-of-way line of North State Street for a distance of 142.61 feet to a 1" pipe on the aforesaid South line of Lot 12; run thence North 88 degrees 01 minutes 00 seconds West along said South line of Lot 12 for a distance of 210.85 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, containing 32,482.62 square feet or 0.75 acres, more or less.

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, March 22, 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 MARCH 15, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 24th day of February 2023.

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

3/2/2023, 3/16/2023

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFPS

RFP 2023-10 Professional Development and Coaching Support for Teachers

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevaling Time), April 06, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs/ are opened.

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

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

3/16/2023, 3/23/2023

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
ANTHONY CHARLES SMITH, DECEASED

CAUSE #:P2022-648 T/1

BY: Gwendolyn Porter Smith

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ANTHONY CHARLES SMITH, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Gwendolyn Porter Smith, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Anthony Charles Smith, Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 2:00 o'clock a.m., on the 7th day of June, 2023, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County, Mississippi, before Honorable Dwayne Thomas and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 8th day of March, 2023.

CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY
Mississippi

by BODIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK



3/16/2023

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE

CRT Indirect Purchaser Class Action Settlements

In re: Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Antitrust Litigation, MDL No. 1917 (N.D. Cal.)
Important Legal Notice - You Could Get Money from a Settlement Involving
TVs and Computer Monitors

This Notice is authorized by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in the case entitled In re: Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Antitrust Litigation, MDL No. 1917. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

A class action Settlement has been reached with Mitsubishi Electric Corporation involving Cathode Ray Tubes ("CRTs"), a display device that was the main component in TVs and computer monitors. The lawsuit claims that Mitsubishi Electric conspired with other CRT manufacturers to fix the prices of CRTs, causing consumers to pay more for CRTs and products containing CRTs, such as TVs and computer monitors ("CRT Products").

If you indirectly bought televisions, computer monitors, or other products containing CRTs, you could get money from this Settlement totaling \$33 million.

"Indirectly" means that you purchased the CRT Products from someone other than the manufacturer of the CRT Products. For example, you bought a CRT television from a retailer, such as Best Buy, or a CRT monitor from Dell.

A simple online Claim Form and more detailed notice of the Settlements is available online at www.CRTClaims.com or by calling toll-free at 1-800-649-0963.

Claim online or by mail by June 13, 2023. If you previously submitted a valid claim as an end user for indirect purchases of CRT Products in related prior settlements (In re: Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Antitrust Litigation, MDL No. 1917 (N.D. Cal.)), you do not have to resubmit your claim to benefit from this Settlement unless you have additional purchases to claim.

The amount of money you will receive depends on the type and quantity of CRT Products you purchased and the total number of claims made. Eligible claimants are expected to receive a minimum payment of \$10.

Please read the notice carefully. Your legal rights may be affected whether or not you act.

You can make a claim for money if you indirectly purchased CRT Products, for your own use and not for resale, in Arizona, Arkansas, California, the District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia or Wisconsin (the "Settlement Class").

The purchase must have been made in one of these states but you do not have to be a resident of these states. Purchases in Missouri, Montana and Rhode Island must have been made primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

Purchasers in nine additional states are included in this Settlement with Mitsubishi Electric Corporation that were not included in prior settlements involving indirect purchases of CRT Products. The nine additional states are: Arkansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Utah.

Be sure to check your eligibility by going to www.CRTClaims.com.

If you do nothing, you will be bound by the Court's decisions. If you want to keep your right to sue Mitsubishi Electric, you must send a written request to the Class Administrator for exclusion from the Settlement Class by April 14, 2023. The Court will exclude any class member who timely requests exclusion. If you stay in the Settlement Class, you may object to the Settlement by April 14, 2023.

The Court will hold a hearing on June 1, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom, with the link available at <https://cand.uscourts.gov/judges/tigar-jon-s-jst/>, to consider whether to approve the Settlement and a request for attorneys' fees up to one-third of the Settlement Fund, plus reimbursement of litigation expenses, and awards to Class Representatives. This date may change so please check the website. You or your own lawyer may appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense. Questions? Contact us as follows:

CRT Claims Administrator
c/o The Notice Company
P.O. Box 778
Hingham, MA 02043
1-800-649-0963
www.CRTClaims.com

3/16/2023

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www.mississippilink.com

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BULLY'S RESTAURANT

3118 Livingston Road

CASH & CARRY

Capitol Street and Monument Street

CITY HALL

219 S President St

GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX

2659 Livingston Road

DOLLAR GENERAL

3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL

2030 N Siwell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL

4331 Highway 80W

DOLLAR GENERAL

5990 Medgar Evers Blvd

DOLLAR GENERAL

1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL

304 Briarwood Dr

DOLLAR GENERAL

2855 McDowell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL

104 Terry Rd

J & A FUEL STORES

3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.

LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST

2325 Livingston Rd.

MCDADDE'S MARKET

Northside Drive

MCDADDE'S MARKET #2

653 Duling Avenue

PICADILLY CAFETERIA

Jackson Medical Mall

350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue

SHELL FOOD MART

5492 Watkins Drive

SPORTS MEDICINE

Fortification and I-55

MURPHY USA

6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)

REVELL ACE HARDWARE

Terry Rd (South Jackson)

WALGREENS

380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON

A & I

716 Roby Street - Canton, MS

B & B

702 West North Street - Canton, MS

BOUTIQUE STORE

3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS

BULLY'S STORE

Church Street - Canton, MS

COMMUNITY MART

743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS

FRYER LANE GROCERY

Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS

HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN

285 Peace Street - Canton, MS

JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY

507 Church Street - Canton, MS

K & K ONE STOP

110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS

LACY'S INSURANCE

421 Peace Street - Canton, MS

SOUL SET BARBER SHOP

257 Peace Street - Canton, MS

TRAILER PARK GROCERY

22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM

DOLLAR GENERAL

125 Swinging Bridge Dr.

HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE

5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE

5777 Terry Road

CITY HALL

Terry Road

CLINTON

DOLLAR GENERAL

807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY

SERVICE STATION

at Exit 78

CITY HALL

West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WELCOME CENTER

505 E. Main Street

SUNFLOWER GROCERY

122 Old Port Gibson Street,

Raymond, MS

LOVE FOOD MART

120 E. Main Street,

Raymond, MS

RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS

RAYMOND CITY HALL

110 Courtyard Square, Raymond

RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA

HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP

Mississippi Hwy 18

PITT STOP

101 Hwy 18 & 27

BOLTON

BOLTON LIBRARY

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Political Science student, Maisie Brown first JSU student named Truman Scholarship finalist

By Anthony Howard
JSU

Maisie Brown is the first student from Jackson State University to be named a Truman Scholarship finalist. Brown joins the ranks of 199 elite scholars from 133 institutions who were selected as finalists for the highly competitive 2023 Truman Scholarship competition.

Each year the Harry S. Truman Foundation awards 55-65 students \$30,000 to apply toward graduate education in various public service fields. A political science student, Brown was chosen from 705 applicants and 275 institutions who applied for the distinguished award. The Jackson, Mississippi native is one of three finalists from a Mississippi institution.

“Maisie Brown is a wonderful person, student and leader. We in the Department of Political Science are thrilled that she is a Truman Scholarship finalist,” stated Department of Political Science Chair Maruice Mangum, Ph.D. “She has an excellent academic background, is a fierce advocate for social justice and has a bright future.”

Mangum added that if Maisie were to capture this prestigious scholarship, it would mean a lot to the Department of Political Science, Jackson State University and HBCUs in general.

“It will be another shining example that our department and institution help develop leaders



Brown

of tomorrow and outstanding individuals,” he said.

As a full-time student, Brown has earned a notable reputation for her advocacy work in the community. She has been featured in several publications such as *Glamour Magazine*, *Teen Vogue*, and *Essence* for her organizational work during the Jackson, Mississippi water

crisis.

Brown leads the Jackson branch of a student-founded nonprofit reproductive justice organization that provides feminine hygiene products to women in need. She also serves as the advocacy and organizing coordinator for the ACLU of Mississippi.

“I am proud of Maisie for her

dedication and willingness to go the extra mile,” said Interim Executive Director of Honors Student Services and Activities Pamala Heard, Ph.D., advisor to Brown. “She is a fantastic student who is self-aware and driven to explore a deeper understanding of the human condition.”

Heard believes Brown’s first JSU Truman Scholarship finalist achievement will “undoubtedly open doors” for other students seeking viable opportunities.

After graduation, Brown plans to study educational policies. She aspires to develop an administrative career in education and hopes this opportunity inspires her peers to challenge themselves to reach new heights.

“I am very excited because two students from HBCUs were among the finalist, and it’s nice to be a part of that representation. I just want to help set the standard and expose people to what’s out there, and hopefully, I can help others get to this point,” Brown shared. “I want to share my application experience with them and offer any kind of assistance they may need.”

Brown and the remaining finalists will now undergo interviews with the Harry S. Truman Foundation’s regional review panels between March 2 and April 4. She will be traveling to Nashville in March for her interview.

William Carey University launches “Making College Affordable”



William Carey College Campus Photo

The Mississippi Link Newswire

William Carey University announces “Making College Affordable” – a major restructuring of its financial aid program. Starting in fall 2023, it will mean an average increase of 40 percent in scholarship amounts awarded to freshmen, transfer and international students. It also means free textbooks for undergraduate students and no tuition increase over fall 2022.

This initiative was among Dr. Ben Burnett’s first priorities in August 2022 as he assumed a new role as the university’s president.

“While Carey has always been competitive with other institutions in Mississippi, and in most cases less expensive, we felt our scholarship structure was outdated and needed to reflect the needs of our students today,” Burnett said. “We want all students to have the option of choosing a Christian higher education. Hopefully, these changes will make that possible for many more students in the future. We don’t ever want financial hardship to prevent a student from enrolling at Carey.”

WCU’s academic scholarships are ranked in four tiers and awarded based on factors like scores on ACT and SAT tests for freshmen, college grade point average for transfer students and whether the student lives on-campus or off-campus.

Under the new structure, scholarships will range from \$5,100 to \$9,300 per year for students who live on campus, and \$2,700 to \$6,600 for

commuters.

The new program also includes Church-Related Vocation scholarships for ministerial students – increasing those awards to \$9,000 for on-campus students and \$6,300 for commuters. “One of the things I’ve learned talking to prospective students and families is that people assume William Carey’s tuition is high because it’s a private university. That’s never been the case. We kept tuition low – but now, we’ve raised our scholarships to unprecedented amounts. Students can absolutely afford to pursue their educational dreams at William Carey,” said Dr. Brett Golson, dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Ministry Studies.

By the numbers:

- More than 90 percent of WCU students receive financial aid. Both academic and talent-based scholarships are available. Work study is available.
- WCU’s academic year consists of three 10-week trimesters.
- The student-faculty ratio is 14:1.
- WCU is home to 18 athletic programs.

For more information, visit

wmcarey.edu/MakingCollegeAffordable or contact the

WCU Office of Admissions:

- Hattiesburg – (601) 318-6103 or admissions@wmcarey.edu
- Tradition – (228) 702-1815 or admissions-tradition@wmcarey.edu
- Baton Rouge – (225) 953-7023 or batonrouge@wmcarey.edu

Jackson State University Tigers honored by the Mississippi Senate

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson State University Tigers 2022 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship football team was honored Wednesday, March 8, 2023, by the Mississippi Senate for its second consecutive SWAC Championship, the first back-to-back SWAC titles since 1995-1996.

After initially clinching the SWAC Championship during the 2021 gridiron season for the first time since, 2002 with the university’s first 11-win season in school history, the 2022 “Tigers” one-upped their previous season, breaking their own record by going a perfect 12-0 on the regular season, and 8-0 in conference division play.

Senator Sollie Norwood led the charge in coordinating the annual JSU Day at the Capitol and rec-

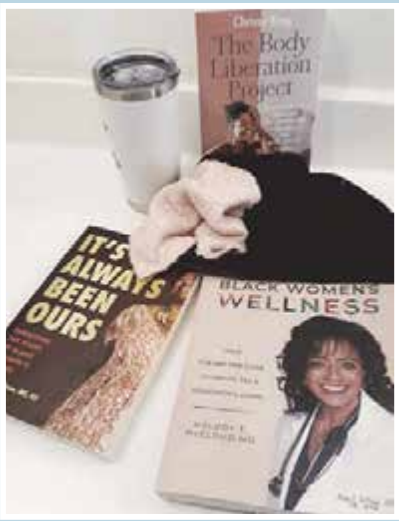


Senators and JSU interim President standing with the team and coaching staff are Senator Sollie Norwood, Elayne Hayes-Anthony, Senate Minority Leader Derrick T. Simmons, Senator Rod Hickman and Senator David Blount

ognized the success of other JSU Athletic Programs (cross coun-

try, tennis, women’s basketball, women’s soccer). All programs

won the 2022 SWAC Championship.



BOOK REVIEW:
BOOKS ABOUT BLACK WOMEN'S BODY IMAGE
BY VARIOUS AUTHORS
C.2023, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS
\$26.99 - \$29.00 • VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

The last two apps you downloaded were for diets. Ugh. Friends say that you're perfect but you'd like to lose your flabby arms, your thick thighs, and a few inches from your belly. You imagine what you'd be like if you were a size 6. You wonder if you could wear skinny boots again. But before you download another app, read these books about black women's health and body image... There's not just one, but at least two books out this spring that ask



if it isn't time for black women to reclaim positive self-images about their bodies. "It's Always Been Ours" by eating disorder specialist Jessica Wilson (Go Hachette, \$29.00), looks at the politics of black women's bodies. You don't need to be told that this isn't a new thing but the true history of black women and the harm such negativity has done may still surprise you; Wilson also pulls in the works of novelists, friends, influencers and others to get the best, most interesting look at the subject. If you want a call to action,

this is it. Along those lines, author Chrissy King says that body liberation is what black women should strive for, and in "The Body Liberation Project" (Penguin Random House, \$28.00), she also offers ways to achieve body freedom. What sets her book apart from the Wilson book is less history, more personal tales and thought-provoking question-pages to get readers thinking about how they've been thinking about their bodies. Again, there could be surprises

in what you learn about yourself. With these books, King and Wilson advocate for the individual as well as for all black women and if it feels difficult to you to pick between these two books, then don't. Read them together or concurrently and you'll be happier. But okay, you love your body. Your legs, your arms, your shoulders and hair and smile – so how do you keep all that gorgeousness healthy? You can start with "Black Women's Wellness" by Melody T. McCloud, MD (Sounds True, \$26.99) and learn.

Indeed, even if you're feeling well and looking great, this book explains how to keep yourself that way, starting with what looks like healthy for a black woman. From there, McCloud touches upon things like cancer, HIV, heart disease and diabetes before moving on to reproductive health, sex, relationships and mental health. It's written in real language, and everything is in simple, easy-to-understand, authentic terms created for grown-ups. Beware that "Black Women's Wellness" isn't a replacement

for your doctor or clinic, but it's a nice question-answerer and a good launching point for knowing your body. If these three books aren't exactly what you're looking for, be sure to ask your favorite librarian or bookseller. Admittedly, there aren't a lot of modern, new books out there about body image for women of color, but a bookish person can help you find what you need. They'll be able to put the book in your beautiful hands, your soft arms, for your gorgeous eyes. There's no app for that.



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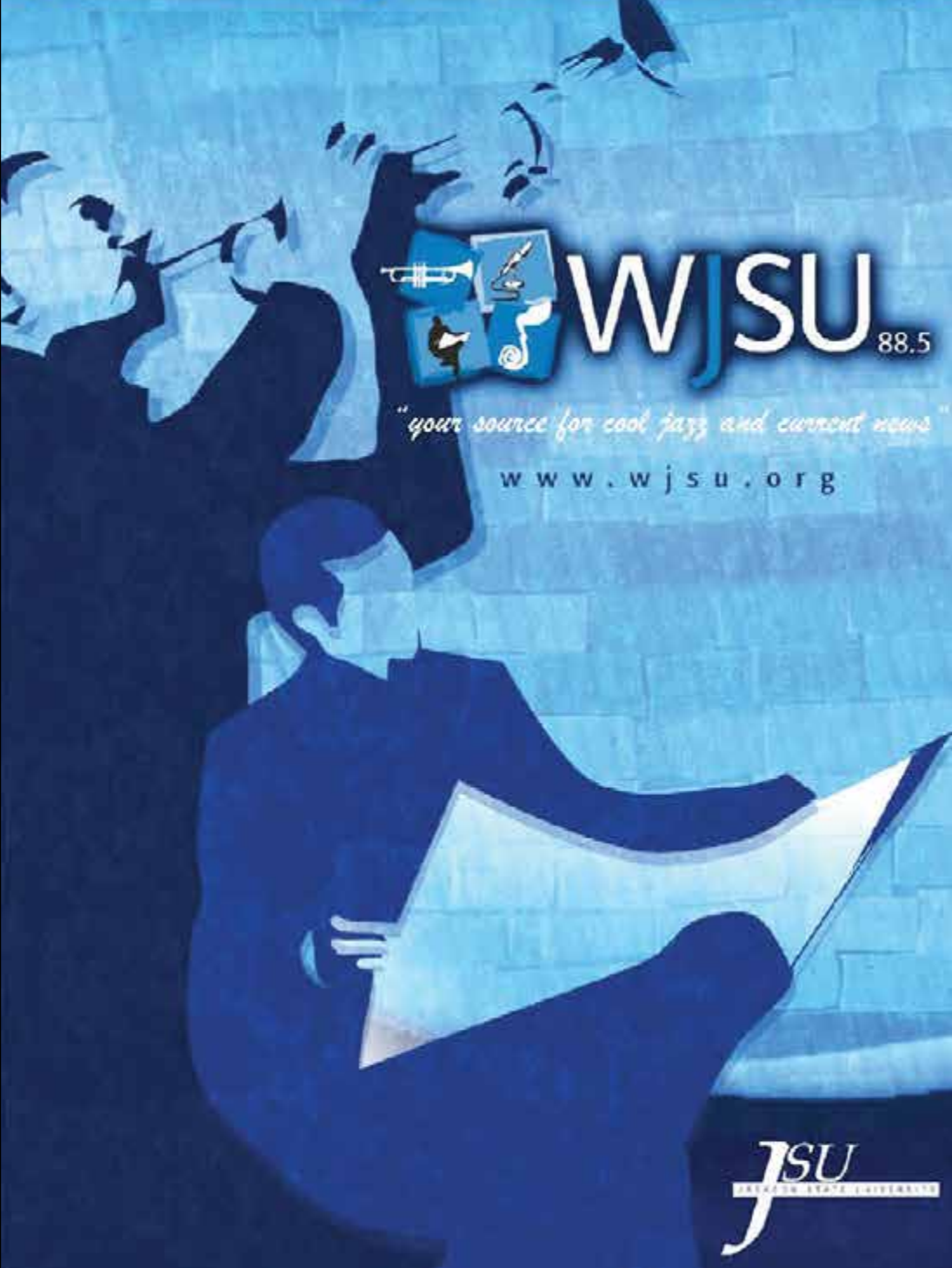
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Jackson State's men fall to Grambling in SWAC tournament semifinals

By Timothy Ward
Sports Writer

After defeating Prairie View and gaining head coach Mo Williams' first SWAC tournament win, Jackson State had to battle Grambling State in the semifinals in Birmingham.

SWAC Player of the Year, from Grambling, Jourdan Smith, scored 18 points and grabbed 8 rebounds. His effort was necessary to lead Grambling back to victory.

Jackson State came out of the gates firing on all cylinders in the first half. At one point, the Tigers held a 14 point lead. Controlling all aspects of the game, JSU seemed poised to take the victory. Jackson State lead 36 to 34 at halftime.

Grambling, 24-8, came out motivated in the second half.



Things are pointing in the right direction for JSU

Early on, Jackson State held their ground trading basket for basket. With 14 minutes left in the game, Grambling was able to gain the lead for good.

Despite struggling to score late in the game, JSU knocked down eight three pointers. JSU also outrebounded Grambling 34 to 32. Freshman guard

Coltie Young lead JSU in scoring with 18 points. Romelle Mansel and Ken Evans poured in 12 points each. Jackson State finished the season 14-19.



Coach Mo Williams and his staff

The Tigers have some good things to build off on heading into the offseason. They finished 3rd in the SWAC; won a SWAC tournament game.

Head coach Mo Williams, should also be able to recruit some area talent for next season. Expect good things on the horizon.

Tougaloo men make it to the national elite eight



Cameron Copeland scored 18 of his 20 in the second half

By Timothy Ward
Sports Writer

The "dream" season continues at "The Loo." Winners of two games last week in New Orleans and 1 game this past Monday, Tougaloo is in the Elite 8. They are in contention for a National Championship. This is the first time in school history, that the team has made it to the NAIA quarterfinals.

At 32-1, the Bulldogs battle the entire game. Defense has been their catalyst to victory all season. Tougaloo started off missing shots they normally make with ease. St. Thomas took advantage and took an early lead. Tougaloo was able to battle back, but St. Thomas hit a three pointer to give themselves a halftime lead.

St. Thomas came out in the second half with the intent of putting the game away. They pushed their halftime lead to 9 points. That's when Tougaloo turned up the defensive intensity.

The Bulldogs made it difficult for St. Thomas and the shots they missed in the first half began to fall. Cameron Copeland, the team's leading scorer got going. Copeland scored 18 of his 20 points in the second half. D'Andre Johnson lead St. Thomas with 19 points and 11 rebounds. Copeland also added 6 rebounds as the Bulldogs rallied off his 4 point play, giving them a 58-55 lead. Tougaloo would not trail again. The Bulldogs won 74 to 68.

Next up for Tougaloo is the quarterfinals matchup with the top seeded College of Idaho. The game will be played in Kansas City.



Cameron Woodall has been great on the boards

Southern hits game winner at the buzzer to stun Lady Tigers



Coach Tomekia Reed

PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY WARD

By Timothy Ward
Sports Writer

With seconds left in the game, Southern's Aleightyah Fontenot, raced down the court, and nailed a three pointer at the buzzer to win the game. The fourth seeded Lady Jaguars all raced onto the court in celebration. Lady Tigers stunned.

It was the 10th three pointer of the game for Southern. Their guards kept driving and passing out to open three point shooters most of the game. JSU dominated in the post, outrebounding 40-35. South-

ern battled the entire game and actually lead at halftime, 35 to 31.

The second half was a game of runs by both teams. JSU was able to capture the lead late in the fourth quarter. One last run by Southern did the Lady Tigers in. Southern hit the buzzer beater, but it capped off a 14-7 fourth quarter run. Ti'lan Boler scored 18 points to go along with 6 rebounds to lead the Lady Tigers. Daphane White added 15 points.

Although, they missed out on the NCAA tournament, the Lady Tigers were invited to the WNIT

tournament. They will travel to Memphis to play March 16. Memphis is currently, 20-10 and JSU comes in 21-9.

The chance for a championship will be the driving force for head coach Tomekia Reed. Reed was an assistant coach for JSU in 2017, the last time the Lady Tigers played in the WNIT. They lost to Tulane by double digits.

However, a lot has changed for the wom-

en's basketball at JSU. They've won 4 consecutive SWAC regular season titles and almost upset LSU in the NCAA tournament last season.

Another good recruiting class seems headed to JSU. For now, they have their sights set on Memphis.



The Lady Tigers will play in Memphis March 16.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Lanier High School National Alumni Association (LHSNAA) wins the Governor's Award for the fourth consecutive year March 7, 2023 at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson. Pictured are LHSNAA members that attended the 21st annual celebration.

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More than 130 registered for the SBA Community Navigator Pilot Program's (CNPP) MS Delta Lending Fair

'The take-aways were great,' says Alonzo Lewis

Special to The Mississippi Link

"Oh, the lending fair was very educational," expressed Zundria Webb of Cleveland. Webb was among more than 130 registrants for the Community Student Learning Center's (CSLC) Small Business Administration's (SBA) Community Navigator Pilot Program's (CNPP) Mississippi Delta Lending Fair held Feb. 25.

A collaborative of CNPP, Boss Lady Economic Planning and Development Workforce Transportation, and the Delta State University Women Minority Business Development Center (WMBDC), the free financial and technical assistance (TA) outreach event for underserved businesses was held at the Cleveland, Miss. Lyric Hotel West End.

Dr. Pam Chatman aka "Boss Lady," founder of Boss Lady Economic Planning and Development Workforce Transportation served as host.

Webb said she gained valuable business information and assistance. She was able to secure her Mississippi Certificate of Formation at the fair. "I'm so excited," she said. Webb did not know she needed more than the Employer Identification Number (EIN) for her business. Her business is called Shilett Ragalia, LLC. "I sell men and women apparel and also unisex fragrances," she said.

Regina Bynum of Greenville, Miss., said: "Overall, I have acquired a wealth of knowledge in all areas concerning the business that I am seeking to open: whether it's from lending, how to incorporate my business, to the difference resources that are available to me in order to get started."

She is planning to start a consultant business as well as a non-profit. She plans to share what she learned with others. "I will tell them that there are people who are willing to help like Mrs. Greer, Dr. Chatman and Mr. Clark who organized this," she said.

Although social media and the QR Code registration process helped to attract many to the free lending fair, "in actuality, the need for small business technical assistance and start-up training is so great, especially in underserved areas," said CNPP Project Director Antwan Clark.

Alonzo Lewis II, owner of Circle (L) Enterprises, LLC, in Coila, Miss. drove more than 80 miles from the Hills of Mississippi to take advantage of the event. "I found the CNPP Lending Fair most helpful for my business," said Lewis.

"There were lots of helpful information given by banking representatives, and the networking presented an excellent opportunity to meet other business owners and share related experiences. I found it most helpful, very friendly and supportive. I highly recommend that businesses attend future events with the CNPP Lending Fair. It was a great opportunity for current and future business owners. The take-aways were great."

According to its brochure, CNPP "is an American Rescue Plan initiative designed to reduce barriers that underserved entrepreneurs often face in accessing the programs they need to recover, grow, or start their businesses."

CSLC, based in Lexington, Miss., is one of 51 grantees awarded a CNPP by the U.S. SBA.

CSLC, the CNPP hub, was grateful to partner with Chatman's organization and the WMBDC to coordinate the event. CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer said, "Host, Dr. Pam Chatman, was an inspirational to everyone."

Chatman told the audience: "There is nothing you cannot achieve if you believe in yourself and have a plan. You can't

just jump out there and say you have a business because you have a name...It will take all of us working together hand and hand in our own communities, helping each other. Then we can branch across the state."

CSLC and its board are most appreciative to everyone who helped make the event a success. "We also would like to thank Ms. Veronique E. Thom-

as, Ms. Rhonda Fisher and Ms. Rosetta Harris of the SBA Mississippi District Office under the leadership of District Director Janita R. Stewart for taking time out of their Saturday to come and support us," said Greer. "We are so grateful for all they do to assist us as we implement CNPP. And, of course, we can never thank our dedicated CSLC staff enough

for all they do. Their devotion is remarkable."

Participating banks were BankPlus of Mississippi, Trustmark Bank, Guaranty-Bank, and Cadence Bank. Participating CNPP spokes/partners were North Central and Development District (NCPDD), Knowledge Info, LLC, Fresh Start Enterprises, LLC, The Institute for Evalu-

ation and Research (TIER), BOLO Works, LLC and Sydney Brown Consulting.

SBA Mississippi District Office announced an upcoming "Meet the Lenders" event in Greenville, Miss. on June 8. All businesses are asked to bring their business plans. If you need assistance with your business plan, feel free to call CNPP at (662) 834-0905.

CSLC- SBA CNPP A Mississippi Delta Lending Fair
Lyric Hotel – West End, Cleveland, Miss
Saturday, February 25, 2023 | Highlights
Courtesy Photos



Business owner Zundria Webb is excited after CSLC SBA CNPP's spokes, Fresh Start Enterprise, LLC, helped her to secure her State of Mississippi Certificate of Formation during the lending fair.



CSLC SBA Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP) Project Director Antwan Clark (left) provides technical assistance to business owner Alonzo Lewis.



SBA Marketing and Outreach Specialist Veronique Thomas makes remarks during the event's general session.



Attendees packed the general session as they were introduced to the lending fair lenders and CSLC SBA CNPP spoke partners.



Yolanda Pilton Campbell (right) of Trustmark shares her bank's services.



BankPlus's Ralph Jackson and Angie Henderson explain their financial products to an interested entrepreneur.



Guaranty Bank's Carla Ross and Frank Bradford are all smiles as a potential client reviews their materials.



Cadence Bank's Michael Williams (left) talks to two attendees about his bank's business products and services.



Host Dr. Pam Chatman inspires attendees with her pearls of business wisdom.



Rhonda Fisher, Supervisory Lender Relations Specialist, Lender Relations Division and Rosetta Harris of Mississippi District Office share information on SBA resources and services with a lending fair attendee.



(L-R) Founder of Boss Lady Workforce Transportation Dr. Pam Chatman, CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer, SBA Marketing and Outreach Specialist Veronique Thomas, and CSLC Founder /President Leslie Greer



A representative of Delta State University's Women Minority Development Center (right) share information an interested business seeker.