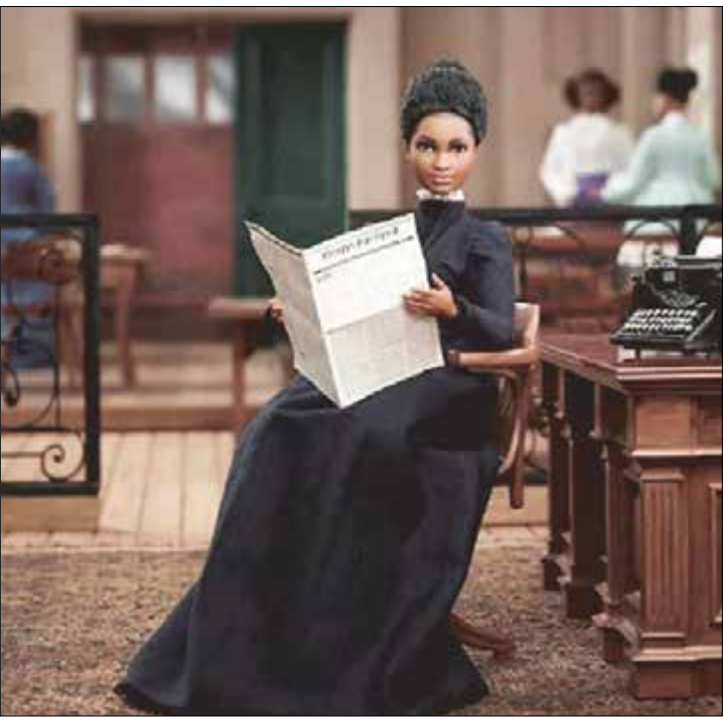




Born in Holly Springs, Mississippi.... Women’s History Month Salute to Ida B. Wells, Renowned Crusade Journalist, Newspaper Owner



In 2022, Mattel released the Ida B. Wells “Barbie Doll.” (The Mattel Co.)

By Ayesha K. Mustafaa
Contributing Writer

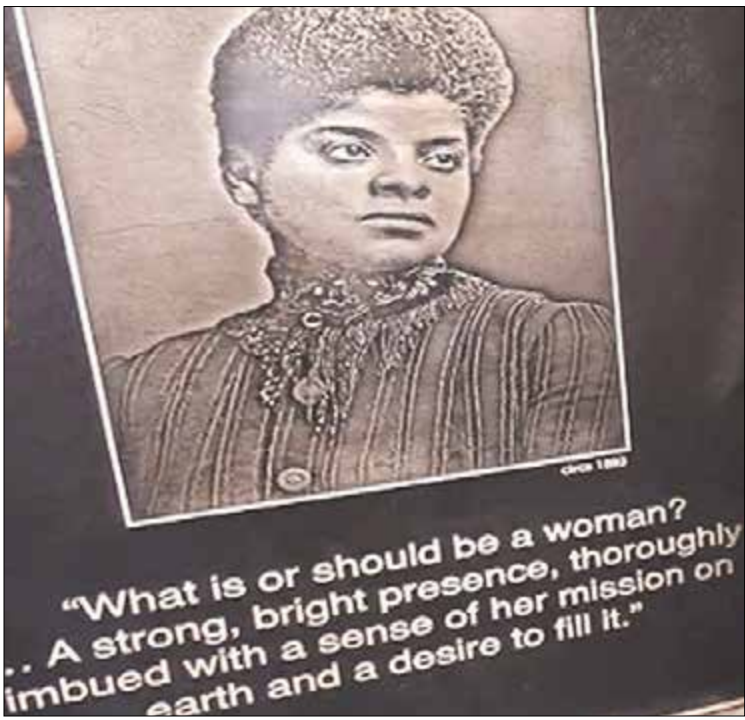
Ida B. Wells (Barnett) was freed from slavery at 9-months-old, when the Emancipation Proclamation was signed – born during the Civil War in Holly Springs, Mississippi, on July 16, 1862.

Freed from slavery and belonging to a people whom it was illegal to teach to read and write, the miracle of Ida B. is

reflective in that she is referred to as “a skilled writer.” Her parents placed great importance on education and enrolled her in Rust College in her hometown.

Rust was the second oldest college in Mississippi’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities system (HBCUs) and one of 10 founded before 1869.

Her spirit to speak up and challenge certain “norms” became clear as she was expelled



Ida B. Wells Monument in Chicago, Ill.

from Rust for getting into an argument with the college’s president. She later attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.

Both her parents and one sibling brother died from Yellow Fever, leaving her to take care of her remaining six siblings. She moved to Memphis, Tenn., and her tenacity stood out as she refused to give up her first-class seat on a train from Memphis to Nashville – where she was en-

rolled in Fisk.

She filed a lawsuit against the train car company because she was removed from her first-class seat, winning the \$500-case but it was overturned by a federal court.

In March of 1892, she published articles on the lynching of three black men – Thomas Moss, Calvin McDowell and

Wells
Continued on page 3

Mississippi’s Own Celebrated in Women’s History Month “50 Years with WKXI-107.5 FM Radio’s Lady Vee”



Lady Vee holding her State Representative Proclamation

By Ayesha K. Mustafaa
Contributing Writer

She’s known as “6’3 Lady Vee” and as “The Tall Lady of Soul,” born and raised in Mississippi as Verbina Ray Cooper, now recognized as Verbina C. Harden. Born to parents Sylvester Cooper and Ida Ray Cooper, her upbringing was the Mississippi rule of “being true to oneself.”

Her true self came with her natural height to be a top string basketball player at Jim Hill High School, leading the team to a Mississippi state championship in 1966, and a natural voice that found its expression just for radio – no formal training necessary.

She says that when she was in 6th grade, her height was already at 6’2” and had never played basketball. She began playing in the 7th grade and by the time she was a high school senior, the ladies on the team “jelled together” and could beat everybody on the court.

She attended Jackson State taking courses in business administration.

at a time when it did not have a basketball team and the WMBA had not been formed; so a career in sports was not an option. Nor did Jackson State have a Mass Communications department. She had a nice voice for which she received a lot of praise – again, no professional training for it.

Her objective was to “just get a job,” which led her to WOKJ to fill a secretary position. Then she became a weekend announcer, and eventually becoming a full-time radio personality. Her career in radio evolved as a “natural,” where she sees it as “being chosen,” giving credit to God for blessing her to follow this journey to become Lady Vee.

That’s the on-air handle given to her by Dwayne Reeves. And now that 50 years in radio broadcasting has passed and Lady Vee remains on the air, she reflects on how she has moved through the eras of Motown and Rap and other music jundras, through each era with an ease from

Vee
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Jackson Resident Shirley B. Johnson Shares Devastation from the Mississippi Tornado that Ripped Through Rolling Fork

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

On Friday night, March 24, 2023, residents in the small predominantly Black town of Rolling Fork, Mississippi (comprising nearly 1,800) were impacted by a deadly tornado that carried wind gusts of over 166 mph and took the lives of 13. Eight of those killed were in a mobile home.

Like many Jackson residents from Rolling Fork, Shirley B. Johnson has recollections and feelings of ambivalence. A telephone interview with her revealed that her heart was restless, and continues to be, after learning from the media and loved ones the impact of the storm.

“To see all the devastation does no justice [from watching the news. I have brothers and sisters and other family members there]. You can perhaps imagine that first night. My sister finally called me, and I was asking how everyone was. She told me that all were okay except our one brother who lived there behind Chuck’s Dairy Bar.

“My sister heard all the glass shattering in her sunroom. She crawled in her son’s closet and heard that horrible train sound. It was dark, and this huge tree was down in her yard across the street. Everything was demolished. She called her daughter,



Shirley B. Johnson

ter, and the shingles were falling from the roof,” said Johnson.

The interviewee noted in her continuation that the following establishments were destroyed in just a matter of seconds: Chuck’s Dairy Bar; Mississippi Farm Bureau; Service Lumbar Company; Mississippi Agriculture Center; Delta View (Air B & B); Marchie Mexican Grill; Britton Furniture; Family Dollar Store; the police station; the county courthouse; the library; two motels and houses. Entire blocks were flattened; vehicles were flipped on their sides and turned upside down.

Johnson and a cousin in Greenville called all the hospitals, but there was no trace of her brother. Two cousins came from Greenville and checked the rubbish, but they didn’t find him. He didn’t answer his phone when he was



Johnson on two-wheeler with her brother, Curtis Bee viewing devastation

Tornado
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Inside

Say his name:
Rasheem Carter

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Parade Day
killing in
Downtown
Jackson

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Share this issue with a friend

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

by mailing it to:

Celebrating The Life of Rebecca J. Coleman

Sunrise: September 4, 1952 - Sunset: March 26, 2023



Coleman (Photo by Jay Johnson)

A Life Well Lived
 “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of

the Lord forever.” Psalm 23:4-6
 A loving mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend, Rebecca Jean Coleman was surrounded by family in the comfort of her home when she entered heaven on Sunday, March 26, 2023 at the age of 70.
 Rebecca was born in Magee, MS, on Thursday, September 4, 1952, to the late Roosevelt and Rebecca (Durr) Nelson. She graduated from McLaurin High

School in Magee. Upon graduation, she furthered her education at Jackson State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology with a minor in Social Work.
 Rebecca viewed her career in law enforcement as her call to service. She was raised in a religious family that always believed if you put God first, everything else should fall into place.
 It worked for her as she often said, “I have unwavering faith in God, knowing that through him all things are possible. I move forward in my life my living on this premise, First God, then family, then the job.”
 Rebecca joined the Jackson Police Department on October 20, 1974, as one of the first three African American females to be hired by the City of Jackson. In 1978, she became one of the first two African American females to become a sergeant within the police department.
 She continued to quickly rise through the ranks becoming the first African American female to be appointed as an Acting Deputy Chief of Police, first African American female Dep-

uty Chief, and the first African American female to retire from the Jackson Police Department.
 After leaving the Jackson Police Department in 1994, she served as the very first African American female police Chief for the Forest Hill Police Department in Texas, before moving on to become the Assistant Manager of that city.
 Later the same year, she returned home to serve as the Associate Director of Public Safety for Jackson State University’s Police Department. She then left to become the Division Director of Program Integrity, Office of Fraud Investigations for the Mississippi Department of Human Services. From there, she returned to Jackson State University and served as the Director of Public Safety for 11 years.
 In October 2009, Rebecca achieved her lifelong dream, returning to JPD as the Chief of Police and led the Department until her retirement in 2013. As a proud native of Simpson County, she always stated that becoming chief was her greatest professional achievement because it had always been her

dream to run the department.
 She was joined in holy matrimony to George Coleman. To this union two children were born, Danielle Demetrius and Dana Michelle Coleman. Her daughters were her greatest accomplishment and the joy of her life.
 She took pride in loving her children, taking trips, and making memories, while fulfilling her “bucket list” which included travels across the United States, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, and France. But her travels were always limited to the months of January through August, as she was a well-known season ticket holder for Thee Jackson State University Tigers.
 Having battled colon rectal cancer, breast cancer, and cervical cancer, Rebecca was an avid giver to St. Jude Childrens Hospital, encouraged blood donations, and cancer research. She also regularly contributed to Gateway Rescue Mission whose mission and goal of providing a message of hope in Jesus Christ aligned closely with her beliefs.
 Early in life, Rebecca decided to seek and follow the Lord. She joined Macedonia M.B. Church

in Mt. Olive, MS. After moving to Jackson, MS, she united with Greater Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church where she served as a faithful member.
 Rebecca was preceded in death by her parents Roosevelt and Rebecca (Durr) Nelson; brothers Ned McInnis and R.V. Nelson; sisters Nellie Kasim, Mozell Nelson, and Nancy Barner.
 She leaves to cherish her memory two daughters, Danielle Demetrius and Dana Michelle Coleman, Clinton, MS; a brother Clifton Daniel Nelson (Youlanda), Flora, MS; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, a furry son, and two grand furry babies.
 Viewing was held Wednesday, March 29, at People’s Funeral Home, 886 North Farish Street in Jackson from 11:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. Home-going services were held Thursday at Greater Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, 1900 Bailey Ave., in Jackson at 11:00 a.m., Pastor Dr. Michael L. Gibson, officiating.
 Burial was held at Macedonia M.B. Church, 83 Macedonia Road, in Mount Olive, MS.

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Wells

Continued from page 1

Henry Stewart in her crusading style of journalism.

She married Ferdinand Barnett in 1895, with whom she had four children. However, she continued to write under her maiden name. With her husband, she established a newspaper, the Memphis Free Press.

She was researching lynchings when her newspaper in Memphis was firebombed, the violence against her growing till she had to escape to Chicago, Ill. There, she began writing for the Chicago Defender, where she continued investigating lynchings of black men.

She became an international traveler, exposing the system of lynchings wherever she went. She also confronted white women of the suffragette movement, as they ignored lynchings. Countering the suffragettes, she helped to found the National Association of Colored Women’s Club.

Revered also as a leader in the civil rights movement, in 1909 she was considered in some writings as one of the founders of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) – although not officially listed.

View a short clip of her suffragette activism at: https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/suffrage60seconds_ida_b_wells.htm

Within this clip, it is noted: “You cannot spell F-O-R-M-I-D-A-B-L-E without IDA.” She passed in Chicago in 1931.

In 2020, she was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize, the highest honor for journalists, “for her outstanding and courageous reporting on the horrific and vicious violence against African Americans during the era of lynching.”

As a note upon being awarded the Pulitzer, a relative said, “... The only thing she had was raw courage.”

In 2022, Mattel released the Ida B. Wells “Barbie Doll” series – indeed another unique honor for this Mississippi woman of true grit and courage, born at time when it was illegal to teach her how to read..

(References: womenshistory.org, National Park Service)

Tornado

Continued from page 1

called. Eventually, he telephoned from a friend’s house, and that allayed the family’s fears. The brother explained that when the storm started, the dog jumped in the truck and covered his body, putting his paws around him.

Several of Johnson’s nephews went missing but were located following the upheaval, found alive under a bunk bed.

“In seeing all of that, you would wonder how anyone survived; yet, so many people survived. Many had no relatives and nowhere to go. They were still roaming about near their demolished homes, but it was awesome to see the community come together and try to help one another. [The five-year-old bank, however, was still standing],” Johnson recollected.

What does Johnson believe? What gives her hope? “By the grace of God’s rebuilding process, I know these people are going to live better than they’ve ever lived before,” she shared with confidence.

Emotionally, the respondent surmised that the family was okay, but they still wake up sweaty.

They still recall what happened. “On the surface,” Johnson said, “all are okay, but they are needing some psychological help.”

Johnson added that while she can’t afford to support all in Rolling Fork financially, she and her husband, Jay Johnson, photographer and recently retired City of Jackson employee, purchased items for her immediate family.

In her jubilance she commended FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency Administration) for “doing everything possible to make sure the Rolling Fork Community is being taken care of by going above and beyond the call of duty.”

President Joe Biden issued an emergency declaration for Mississippi so that federal funding would go immediately to the most devastated areas. Homeland Security and Sunflower Church have stepped up to the plate. Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of HS proclaimed that despite socioeconomic status, victims will be helped.

Shirley B. Johnson is Administrative Assistant, Hinds County Sheriff Office, Civil Processing (601-974-2925).

Vee

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one to the next.

She says having a job you are excited to get up every day and go to is a blessing. Her listeners enjoy her “laid back” style and pleasant personality, with that extra touch of caring for those who tune in.

The “Morning Stretch” is an anticipated segment where she breaks into the show with the “one minute stretch,” and whether you intended to or not – you find yourself following her instructions to “Sit up straight, breathe in – hold it ... and exhale.” You feel immediately, now with a smile on your face that she intended to bring.

Lady Vee says her unique height made her conscious of maintaining good posture which leads to better self-confidence – the winning ingredient for any career.

Her listeners see her on occasions away from the radio station, and come up to her and say, “I grew up listening to your show, and I wanted my daughter to meet you.” She’s a “natural” with people, as one may be surprised to learn that she is the mother of two, grandmother to 11 and great grandmother to seven.

Her persona and success that evolved organically is encouragement to young Mississippi girls. She says she never had a problem of being a Mississippi girl because this is the environment she has always known. “If you have talent, it doesn’t matter that you are a Mississippi girl.”

She does not consider herself a role model but is very conscious of her listening audience and the impact she may have on someone. “Be yourself,” she says, “but know there may be little girls out there admiring you. Someone may occasionally say that because of me they got into radio.”

Lady Vee added, “Terry Lynn was the first female jock at WOKJ and I always admired her. She was my inspiration in radio.” She has no regrets for putting motherhood first and making decisions based on what was best for her children, which meant “staying close to home in Mississippi.”

Ever so often, someone will ask, “When will you retire” – the “Tall Lady of Soul” is now 75-years-old, to which she says,

“Getting up and going to work is just so much fun.” Her advice to older women, she says, is “Straighten your back. Keep good posture, so you can breathe better. Your lungs open up.”

Reminiscing, she said, “I came up with the idea of the on-the-air breathing minute back in the 1970s. A nurse then told me to also ‘exhale’ – I encourage my older listeners to also know that they are getting older.”

State Representative Gregory Holloway was sponsor of the recent House of Representatives Resolution presented to her for “50 Years of Service on the Airwaves.”

The Resolution was part of the MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE 2023 Regular Session, House Resolution 55 “COMMENDING MS. VERBIA COOPER HARDEN FOR HER OUTSTANDING CAREER IN RADIO BROADCASTING.”

In the Resolution’s closing, it read ... “It is the policy of the House of Representatives to commend exceptional Mississippians, especially those such as Ms. Harden, whose dedication to her listeners brings honor to the State of Mississippi.”

Lady Vee says this honor is the one she is most proud of and she thinks about the struggles of the ancestors. “This meant more than just picking up a resolution.” Along with being read into the legislative record, it was also distributed through the Capitol Press Corps.

Often for our “African American Mississippi women of greatness,” we go to the likes of civil rights icon Fannie Lou Hamer, the first black woman mayor of Mississippi Unita Blackwell and the first Mississippi state representative Alyce Clarke.

However, every now and then, we remember those women who simply make us all feel better about ourselves on a everyday level...; are you feeling a little down – fix that real quick by tuning into “Lady Vee” on WKXI-107.5 each day, as she signs off with “... Come back, because you never know when I may do it just a little bit better.”

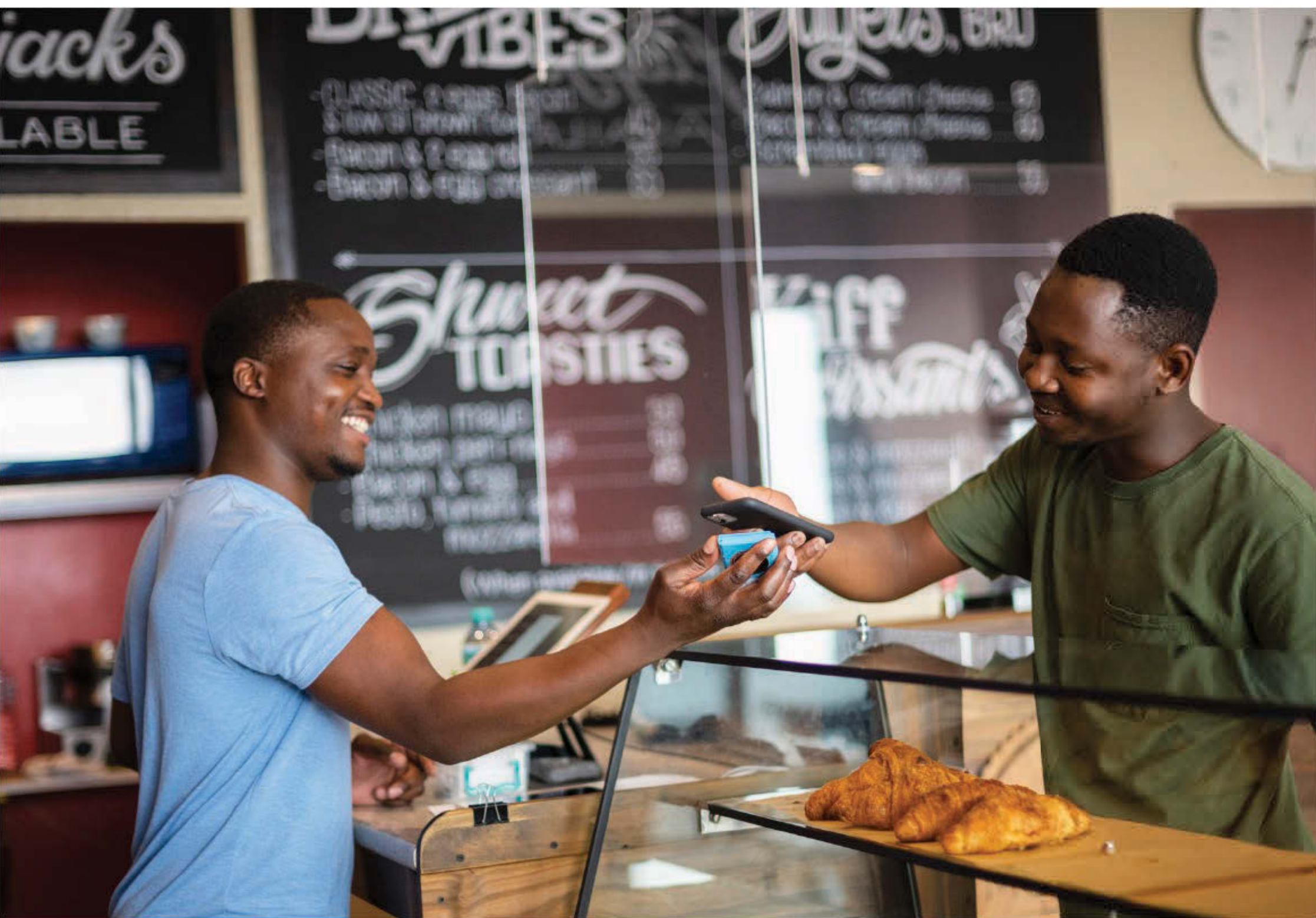
She puts us all in that comfort zone, just like listening to a friend with a soothing voice. “That is one of the reasons I remain on the air. I make people feel comfortable,” Lady Vee says.



Photo Essay showing the utter devastation by tornado

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





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

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Say his name: Rasheem Carter

Murder in a Mississippi small town and the fear that never goes away.

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Taylorsville is a town of 1,148 based on the 2020 Census and located near the southern boundary of Smith County – only fifteen miles north of the Covington County line. This past Saturday several businesses were open, there was a steady flow of vehicles – it was easy to get the feeling of business as usual in small-town Mississippi – except for the fact that this visit was an attempt to learn more about the violent death of a twenty-five-year-old Black man under highly suspicious circumstances.

Based on reports from numerous media outlets, Rasheem Carter had travelled from his home in Fayette – 105 miles away – to work on a welding contract at the Georgia Pacific Company – to save up money to reopen a seafood restaurant in Fayette named after his 7-year-old daughter, Cali, which had to close during COVID.

He went missing on October 2, 2022, after contacting his mother and reporting that he was at odds with a co-worker and that people were trying to kill him – six white men following him in three trucks – and that he feared for his life. His mother, Tiffany Carter, told him to go to the nearest police station. On November 2nd, his body was found dismembered, decapitated, decomposed, and spread out in a field just south of downtown Taylorsville off Rt 37.

By March 14th, Smith County Sheriff Joel Houston had met significant national backlash, and told NBC news that he has not ruled out the possibility of



Welcome sign along Route 28, a few miles outside the downtown area. PHOTOS: CHRIS YOUNG

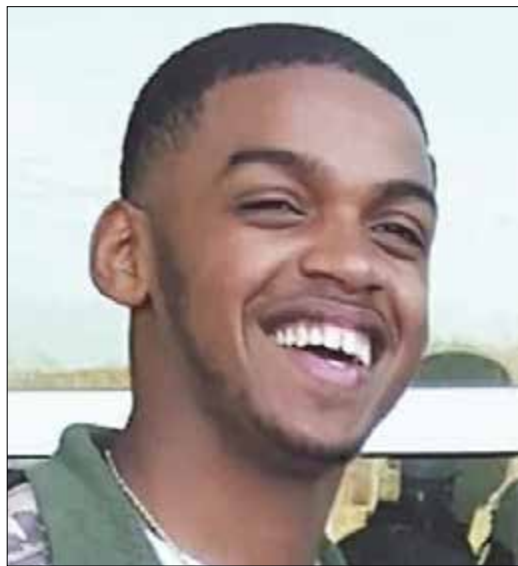


Photo of Rasheem Ryelle Carter provided to NBC news by his mother, Tiffany Carter.



Rt 37 northbound, in close proximity to where Carter's remains were found, just over one mile from downtown.

murder in the case of Rasheem Carter, months after initially saying there was “no reason” to suspect foul play in the Black man’s death. “Nothing is being swept under the rug, there’s nothing to hide.” NBC spoke to Houston a day after Attorney Ben Crump slammed authorities for stonewalling them for more than four months and accused police of covering up what they believe was a brutal hate crime. “This was a nefarious act. This was an evil act,” Crump said. “Somebody murdered Rasheem Carter, and we cannot let them get away with this.”

According to MotherJones.com, Carter’s mother stayed on the phone with her son as he went to the Taylorsville police station for help. She heard him tell the officers that he was being followed and ask them for a ride back to his hotel in Laurel, about 20 miles away. She heard an officer tell him no, because Laurel was out of their jurisdic-

tion. She heard someone say he couldn’t stay at the station, that he had to leave. The next morning, Carter, still frightened, returned to the police. Again, he felt as if the officers brushed him off. His mother sent a friend to pick him up, telling him to wait for the ride. But when the friend arrived, Carter had disappeared. See the MotherJones article here: <https://www.motherjones.com/crime-justice/2023/03/who-killed-rasheem-carter/>.

A black family, near the main drag – Mayfield Street in Taylorsville – took time to speak about the incident. Things like, “yes, we are always afraid, things like this happen around here, and from the mother, as the grandmother nodded in agreement, “I would never tell my children to go to the police around here.” And this comment was made against the backdrop of most neighbors being white and reporting that they all get along just fine – “but it’s just

not like that everywhere around here.” She asked not to be photographed or identified in any way but encouraged me to go to the projects up the street for more information.

Three quarters of a mile away at those projects, where half the units had children playing in their yards – two mothers, a grandmother, and children agreed to speak but asked not to be identified. The adults indicated that the law had been there asking questions and talking about drugs, but they had never seen Rasheem Carter there. They were suspicious because Carter is not from this area and would know nothing about these projects. One Mother said, “it tells you he was good because he was calling his mother and listening to her.” They had heard the reports of Carter being denied assistance by the police and called it shameful. “A young man comes to you for help with his mother on the phone and tells

you he’s afraid for his life and you do nothing? You can’t even give him a lift or let him stay there – that’s just so wrong.”

When asked how it is here, and if they feel racism on a regular basis, the responses included “people want to act like it stopped. It’s never stopped. It was like this when I was going to school, it was like this when my mama was going to school. It ain’t never stopped. People don’t want to talk about this situation because they are scared. Just because they’re not walking around with sheets on no more, you still gotta watch your back. These people are talking about animals got him – do they really think an animal put the man’s penis in his mouth? And where’s these six white men at that was chasing him – what happened to them?” When asked if they consider this to be a sundown town, one said yes, and the other two adults said “they do go out at night sometimes but keep

their eyes wide open and always watching behind them.”

Before riding down Rt 37 at one of many stores with a slow but steady flow of customers, something caught my eye and I spoke to a woman who was sick over hearing about his murder, saying “it just hurts my whole heart knowing this is still going on. This needs to be told everywhere so people know. How can people do something like that to another human being? This needs to come to an end. They have to stop doing this to us.”

Taylorsville, a small Mississippi town where a young black man was chased by white men – hunted down in a wooded area – viciously murdered, lynched by hatred in 2022, and where black residents continue to live in fear in 2023 – fear, that despite some racial progress, has persisted for generations – people who despite their best efforts, continue to find grace for their humanity illusive.

Parade Day killing in Downtown Jackson

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

A senseless cowardly killing took place adjacent to S. Jefferson Street at the Agriculture and Commerce parking lot in Downtown Jackson at approximately 1PM on Saturday, March 25, 2023.

By reports from the Clarion Ledger newspaper and all local broadcast networks, the Hal’s St. Paddy’s Parade had already kicked off to the joy of thousands. One local resident said, “Look, it’s simple, this is Jackson’s Day!” implying it’s the largest gathering of the year in downtown. Yet when two passersby attempted to intervene as a white man was beating on his white girlfriend, they paid for their heroics with their lives.

A long-time resident with her ears always tuned to “the word on the street” confided that she got it directly from an observer, fifteen minutes after the shooting, that Joshua Spann and Auden Jubilee Simpkins approached the couple involved, in what authorities referred to as a domestic dispute inside a gold colored Chevrolet Malibu, and tried to intervene; with Spann trying to address the white male aggressor and Simpkins attempting to distract/shield the children from seeing the activity. When Spann was not able to make progress, they turned to leave and moments later Spann was shot in the side/back, and Simpkins was shot in the back. They both died at the scene. Circumstances prevent a direct quote, as the woman asked to remain anonymous.

Numerous local sources report that after the killings, the

alleged suspect, Jordan Kyle Cummins, fled the area and was later apprehended in Rankin County. Cummins was charged with two counts of murder and appeared before Hinds County Court Judge Johnnie McDaniels, on Monday March 27, 2023, and was denied bond.

Capitol Police Chief Bo Luckey told WAPT16 on camera that “a white male suspect and his girlfriend were in an altercation in the parking lot and unfortunately these victims intervened and that’s when the shots fired occurred. One thing I will say about this case is that we were here within one minute of the shooting, so we were here, the area was saturated. Unfortunately, it’s something you just can’t predict when you are dealing with a domestic-type situation.” Off-camera, WAPT Anchor/Reporter Troy Johnson said that Luckey also said that Cummins was arrested by Rankin County Police and they recovered his vehicle and the murder weapon at his home.”

The next day Hinds County Sheriff Tyree Jones reported seeing a video by Cummins inside a jail cell at the Hinds County Detention Center that he characterized as “very disturbing.” An investigation later revealed two cell phones in the jail cell. It is possible additional charges will be added for Cummins, which could include introducing contraband to a correctional facility. In the video, Cummins, the 27-year-old alleged killer of Joshua Spann and Auden Jubilee Simpkins, says, “Free me man. You walk up on me, and I’m going to bust your a _ _ . Two dead.”

Fortunately for us all, Cummins is behind bars. So many aspects of this incident require examination. Our hearts go out to the families of Joshua Spann – 27, and Auden Jubilee Simpkins – 23, and to their friends and co-workers. We offer our prayers and condolences. Loss and especially sudden loss is always difficult, yet it can often be better understood or accepted in a situation involving health or accident. This situation is difficult to accept. So deliberate and senseless. Two good people seeing something wrong and attempting to bring correction are dead. Poof, just like that.

Capitol Police Chief Luckey had no trouble indicating that the suspect was a white male. What he did not find necessary to share was that both victims were African American. Interestingly, there was also a time-lag by local broadcast stations before making that information public. Was Chief Luckey doing some self-promotion when he reported Capitol Police being on the scene in less than a minute? And if the area was so saturated with law enforcement, why did no law enforcement intervene immediately? And if the area was so saturated with law enforcement, how was the suspect permitted to drive away? And who did the cell phones belong to? Wouldn’t it be impossible to apprehend a double murder suspect, transport, and book him, without searching him first? We also wonder why an alleged killer, who by some reporting is claiming self-defense, would leave the scene? After being told so many times that race

is involved in everything that happens in Mississippi, even more questions remain.

Journalist at WLBT, Roslyn Anderson, spoke to Spann’s aunt – Leah. It was revealed that Spann’s family will hold a candlelight vigil at the crime scene on Thursday, March 30th at 6PM. The Mississippi Link looks forward to providing more information about these two victims in an upcoming issue.



South Jefferson Street crime scene on March 25, 2023. PHOTO: COURTESY OF WICKER PERLIS AND THE CLARION LEDGER.

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Only 1 Black representative gets role in talks on Mississippi

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

One Black lawmaker and nine white ones have been chosen to negotiate final versions of bills that could expand the territory of a state-run police department inside Mississippi’s majority-Black capital city.

Critics say the bills are a way for the Republican-controlled state government to exert control over Jackson, which is 83% Black and is governed by Democrats.

The Black lawmaker chosen as a negotiator, Democratic Rep. Earle Banks of Jackson, said Tuesday that his goal is to have a safer city. With just under 150,000 residents, Jackson has had more than 100 homicides for each of the past three years.

“I think there is a desire by citizens in the city of Jackson for additional police protection, and Capitol Police may be the answer to that,” Banks told The Associated Press.

Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and House Speaker Philip Gunn, both Republicans, on Tuesday finished selecting the senators and representatives to work on the final versions of two bills. The negotiators face a deadline to finish their work by next week.

Banks said he is not surprised eight of the negotiators are white Republicans, one is a white independent and one is a Black Democrat because the GOP holds a wide majority in the state House and Senate.

“It’s the reality of the political world we live in,” Banks said.

Since January, the Mississippi House and Senate have passed different versions of two bills that would give the state-run Capitol Police department wider territory to patrol inside Jackson.

One of the bills also would create a wider role for judges who are appointed rather than elected - a proposal that critics say would strip away voting rights in a state where many older Black people still remember being denied access to the ballot before the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 became law.



Banks

Banks - who has voted against both bills so far - told AP that he does not think the final proposals will create permanent new courts with appointed judges, as House Republicans originally sought. He said, though, that he thinks Capitol Police will get a larger patrol area.

“I’ve heard from doctors. I’ve heard from lawyers. I’ve heard from retired people,” Banks said. “People want more protection than they have now.”

Jackson Police Department covers the entire city, but it is short-staffed. Capitol Police currently patrol near state government buildings in and near downtown. The Senate voted to expand Capitol Police territory to the entire city, but the House voted for an expansion only into relatively affluent shopping and residential areas, including some predominantly white neighborhoods.

Banks acknowledged some Jackson residents have raised concerns that Capitol Police are more aggressive than city police.

“It’s not going to be martial law,” Banks said.

God might simply say: ‘use a map’

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Most days, it just seems that Mississippi can’t catch a break. Despite many people thriving, as a state, we are so poor – the poorest of all fifty states. More poverty per capita than any other state in the country. Firmly in last place in many major measures of society. We get all excited when our 4th graders make “historic” gains in reading.

The rest of the story is that while those gains are great and we are very proud, they are now at the national average. Mississippi would go belly-up were it not for the federal government – 47% of our state’s revenue comes from Washington, D.C. Embezzlement of the highest order under republican leadership. A strong hand in nudging the water system of the Capital City to its knees – the same capital city that generates more state revenue than anywhere else in the state.

Now in the Delta - total devastation in Rolling Fork, Silver City, and Midnight. Destruction, wreckage, and over twenty deaths. EF-4 and EF-5 tornadoes are considered violent and extremely rare, and make up only about 1% of all tornadoes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

A few days ago, our Congressman, Bennie Thompson, told CNN, “The police department is destroyed. City Hall is destroyed. The county courthouse is damaged. The fire department is devastated. There’s no grocery store that’s operable in the community.”

These towns are small in terms of square miles and combined have a population less than 2,500. These residents are predominantly African Americans. Some reports indicate that over 50% of residents live below the federal government poverty guideline. The last Census indicates median household income just over \$22,000. There is no poorer region in the United States. A nocturnal wedge tornado, in some cases, has taken everything from people who work so hard and barely get by.

The outpouring of prayers, funding, resources, and promises is a joy to behold. What will it take to rebuild, to be made whole, after a tragedy like this? And a catastrophe that occurs against a backdrop of generations of neglect to this region – in many respects a region that was the springboard for the building of America.

What might God have to say about it? God might simply say – ‘use a map.’

More than half a lifetime ago, a life-saving mentor had heard enough of



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER YOUNG

my whining about hardship and disappointment – never seeming to catch a break. Alongside the whining was a built-in questioning of God, and why He lets these things happen in our lives. My mentor asked the simple question, have you ever driven from Virginia to California? I had not. He told me that God is omnipotent, and he had no doubt whatsoever that God could get me there if I only asked for His help.

He then asked how I would go about asking for His help, and I answered that I would pray because I don’t know anything else to do. He smiled and said, “That’s right, you would pray, and God would answer your prayers – He would simply say, ‘Use A Map.’”

Mississippi is starving for a map - a pathway full of guideposts from wrong-headed thinking, a pathway from economic impoverishment, a pathway from discrimination, a pathway from blatant racism, a pathway to a new optometrist for a new pair of glasses – glasses that allow it to stop pretending that black residents are invisible, a pathway to dignity and respect for all Mississippians.

While this tornado strike in the Delta is beyond devastating, so is it beyond our control. (Yes, a climate control discussion could be inserted here, but we’ll save that for another day.) Conversely, the day-in day-out functioning, decision-making, and governing in Mississippi is not beyond our control.

What must happen before Mississippi stops shooting itself in the foot? We are losing population. We are losing vital resources to provide for our healthcare in our rural areas. We wait for the freedom of income tax relief that would benefit “the have’s” while we maintain a tax on groceries that is cruel to the poor and those on fixed in-

comes.

At a unique time in our history when our debtor-state has overflowing coffers, we continue to resist Medicaid expansion that would help hundreds of thousands of our residents have access to healthcare and save lives. We have a governor who decries vaccine mandates, calling it tyranny, while we maintain the highest Covid death rate in the nation.

How often have we heard men say, “I don’t need a map, I know where I’m going!” And here in Mississippi we repeatedly elect officials who are predominantly white males who behave like they know where they are going.

Over a year ago near the end of the legislative session, an impromptu discussion at a downtown eatery allowed me to ask a white republican legislator if he was doing his very best at the capitol to help all Mississippians – stressing the word, all.

He replied that he was, and that when his colleagues bring bills to the floor claiming that they will help all Mississippians, that he is fond of asking them the question – “who will it hurt?” Later back in the office, research of the votes revealed that he was one of the twenty-three members of the lower chamber who had voted against redesigning the Mississippi State Flag.

Let’s continue to pray for the residents of Rolling Fork, Silver City, Midnight – and the entire Mississippi Delta. Let’s also pray that these elected officials who continue to keep our State last and our people down, that they find the humility to acknowledge that they don’t always know where they are going - and “seek a map” that includes 1 Corinthians 13:13: “And now abideth faith, hope, and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

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P R E S E R V E D

The Strength of Trees

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



"It's a chilly 45 degrees outside now but the high later today will be close to 75 degrees."

As I listened to the morning television meteorologist finish the rest of his forecast recently with these words, I wondered how in the world I would dress for a day like today. It was not the first time I'd pondered this question.

North Texas weather being what it is always gives the option of having two different seasons in a 24-hour day.

On that day, it looked like we were going to have winter and spring in the same 24 hours. Even though it is technically spring, we are still having temperatures that are more like winter.

After thinking about what

I was going to wear for a few minutes, I decided to get out of bed and see what I had in my closet. Should I dress for what it would be like when I went to work in the morning or should I dress for what it would be like when I got off work in the afternoon?

It really wasn't a hard decision but for some reason on days with a nearly 30-degree temperature spread, it always stumped me.

I didn't want to be overdressed (and burn up) or underdressed (and freeze). Unless it was really freezing outside, what I usually did was dress in layers so that I'd be able to shed the extra clothes as the day warmed up.

As I stared blankly at the short and long-sleeved clothes in my closet, I thought how my decision on how to dress was similar to something I'd heard years

ago about tithes and offering.

The minister said that you should not pay your tithes based on what you make now but based on what you'd like to make. The reason was that God would reward your faith and increase your finances.

At first, I thought that was crazy advice..., but then I tried it, even though it was a sacrifice. Just like the minister said, God increased my finances to the level of the new tithes and offering amount.

Similar to wearing clothes based on the current or future temperature, the question is whether you plan your life for current circumstances or according to future and hoped for circumstances.

Should you pray for where you are or for where you want to be? Should you worship based on your current situation or what you hope your future situation will be?

In Isaiah 46:10, God says,

"I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'"

God is not limited by time, situation or circumstance. We should also not be limited by time and our present circumstances, but honestly acknowledge where we are.

At the same time, we can reach forward with our faith with hopeful expectancy toward where we desire to be.

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

If My People

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



What we need to do as citizens of America is to realize how much we are favors of God. Without God, we are nothing!

We read in Psalm 9:17, "The wicked shall be burned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." No one can deny there has been a deplorable decline in the morals of the average American citizen and the entire world.

Just a few years ago, certain things that are going on today would not have been accepted, but the moral decay of our country is obvious to all. When our leaders refer to a decline in the home, and the problem of immorality, they are ridiculed by the press and by others as missing the point. Beloved, I don't believe statements such as those miss the point at all. That is the point!

What makes a home? Beloved, people shacking together under the same roof does not make a home. People listen, America needs to return to the righteousness that built her up. Marriage is still an honorable thing, and marriage is the beginning of a properly constituted home.

There needs to be commitment in marriage; there needs to be love and devotion one toward another; there needs to be fidelity in marriage. Some of our modern thinkers tell us that at times it is good and wholesome for a relationship to be unfaithful to the other. They don't know what they're talking

about! I don't care how much education they have, sin is a reproach to any people. Adultery is not a wholesome act. No, it is sin, and it destroys.

People today are taking sex lightly. There is much sexual promiscuity, and it is causing problems in the world today! There is a big controversy about homosexuality. Beloved, I truly believe the Bible is very clear that homosexuality is sin, and sin is a reproach to any people. I don't doubt that some men are tempted by other men. Temptation is a part of life, but yielding to temptation is sin. I believe that some women are tempted by other women, but that is not natural, godly, or acceptable, it is sin the same as incest is sin.

Men can be tempted with their own children, but that does not give them an excuse for committing incest. We need God. He will take care of us. God will protect us as a nation. But we need to return to God as a nation. What we need to do is to remember II Chronicles 7:14. God says, "If my people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

That's what we need, not only to pray, but to turn from wickedness. God has promised to heal our land. America needs help. America needs God. I need God. You need God. May God continue to bless the church of the Living God!

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



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Nashville shooter who killed 6 drew maps, surveilled school

By Jonathan Mattise, Travis Loller and Holly Meyer
The Associated Press

A former student shot through the doors of a Christian elementary school Monday and killed three children and three adults after elaborately planning the massacre by drawing out a detailed map and conducting surveillance of the building, police said.

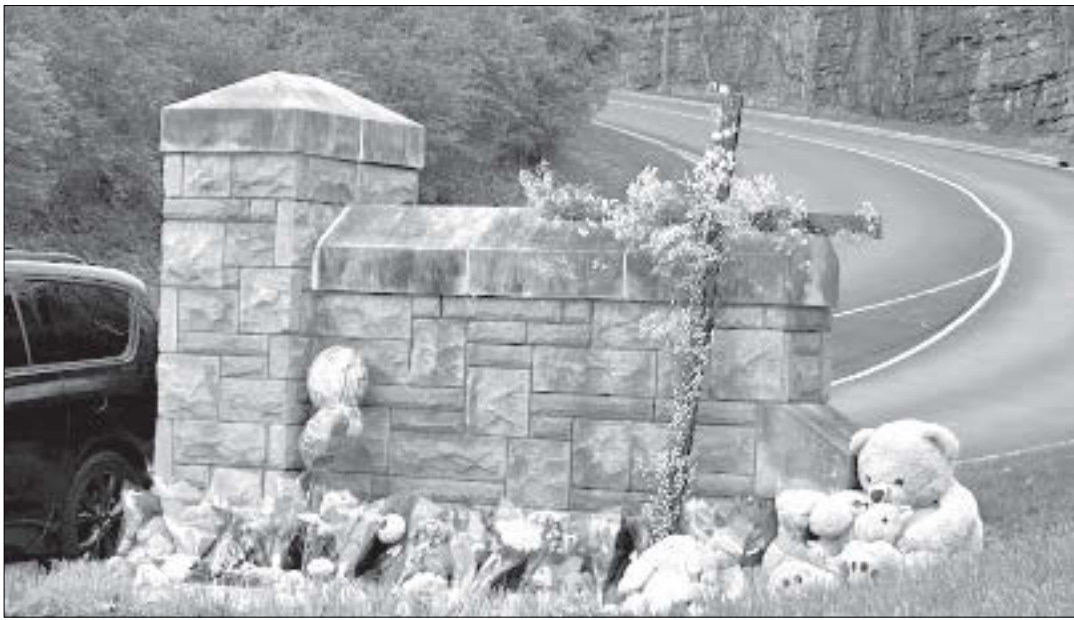
The massacre at The Covenant School in Nashville was the latest in a series of mass shootings in a country that has grown increasingly unnerved by bloodshed in schools.

The victims included three 9-year-old children, the school's top administrator, a substitute teacher and a custodian. Amid the chaos, a familiar ritual played out: Panicked parents rushed to the school to see if their children were safe and tearfully hugged their kids, and a stunned community planned vigils for the victims.

"I was literally moved to tears to see this and the kids as they were being ushered out of the building," Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief John Drake said during one of several news conferences.

Police gave unclear information on the gender of the shooter, who police say was fatally shot by two responding officers at the school. For hours, police identified the shooter as a 28-year-old woman and eventually identified the person as Audrey Hale.

Then at a late afternoon press conference, the police chief said that Hale was transgender. After the news confer-



Flowers, balloons and teddy bears are seen outside The Covenant School in Nashville, Tenn., on Tuesday.(Source: CNN)

ence, police spokesperson Don Aaron declined to elaborate on how Hale currently identified.

Drake did not give a specific motive when asked by reporters but gave chilling examples of the shooter's prior planning for the targeted attack.

"We have a manifesto, we have some writings that we're going over that pertain to this date, the actual incident," he said. "We have a map drawn out of how this was all going to take place," Drake said.

He said in an interview with NBC News that investigators believe Hale had "some resentment for having to go to that school."

The shooter gained entry by firing into glass doors on the building, shattering them, police later explained in a tweet.

The shooter was armed with two "assault-style" weapons as well as a handgun, authorities said. At least two of them were

believed to have been obtained legally in the Nashville area, according to the chief.

Police said a search of the shooter's home turned up a sawed-off shotgun, a second shotgun and other unspecified evidence.

The victims were identified as students Evelyn Dieckhaus, Hallie Scruggs, and William Kinney, all 9 years old, and adult staff Cynthia Peak, 61; Katherine Koonce, 60; and Mike Hill, 61.

The website of The Covenant School, a Presbyterian school founded in 2001, lists Katherine Koonce as the head of the school. Her LinkedIn profile says she has led the school since July 2016. Peak was a substitute teacher and Hill was a custodian, according to investigators.

Students held hands as they walked to school buses, which drove them to a nearby church

to be reunited with their parents.

Rachel Dibble, who was at the church as families found their children, described the scene as everyone being in "complete shock."

"People were involuntarily trembling," said Dibble, whose children attend a different private school in Nashville. "The children ... started their morning in their cute little uniforms, they probably had some Froot Loops and now their whole lives changed today."

Communities around the U.S. have suffered through one mass killing after another in recent years, with school shootings taking an especially painful toll.

President Joe Biden, speaking at the White House on Monday, called the shooting a "family's worst nightmare" and implored Congress again to pass a ban on certain semi-

automatic weapons.

"It's ripping at the soul of this nation, ripping at the very soul of this nation," Biden said.

Founded as a ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church — which is affiliated with the conservative evangelical Presbyterian Church in America — The Covenant School is located in the affluent Green Hills neighborhood just south of downtown Nashville that is home to the famed Bluebird Café — a spot typically beloved by musicians and songwriters.

The school has about 200 students from preschool through sixth grade, as well as roughly 50 staff members.

"Our community is heartbroken," a statement from the school said. "We are grieving tremendous loss and are in shock coming out of the terror that shattered our school and church. We are focused on loving our students, our families, our faculty and staff and beginning the process of healing."

According to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University, all of the shooters have been males.

Monday's tragedy unfolded over roughly 14 minutes. Police received the initial call about an active shooter at 10:13 a.m.

Officers began clearing the first story of the school when they heard gunshots coming from the second level, Aaron said during a news briefing. Police later said in a tweet that the shooter fired at arriving officers from a second-story

window and had come armed with significant ammunition.

Two officers from a five-member team opened fire in response, fatally shooting the suspect at 10:27 a.m., Aaron said. One officer had a hand wound from cut glass.

Late Monday night, police released approximately two minutes of edited surveillance video showing the shooter's car driving up to the school from multiple angles, including one in which children can be seen playing on swings in the background.

Next an interior view shows glass doors to the school being shot out and the shooter ducking through one of the shattered doors.

More footage from inside shows the shooter walking through a school corridor holding a gun with a long barrel and walking into a room labeled "church office," then coming back out.

The final part of the footage, shows the shooter walking down another long corridor with the gun drawn. The shooter is not seen interacting with anyone else on the video, which has no sound.

Aaron said there were no police officers present or assigned to the school at the time of the shooting because it is a church-run school.

Nashville has seen its share of mass violence in recent years, including a Christmas Day 2020 attack where a recreational vehicle was intentionally detonated in the heart of Music City's historic downtown, killing the bomber, injuring three others and forcing over 60 businesses to close.

Trump Ramps Up Attack on Manhattan DA with Violent Imagery and Call for 'Death' and 'Destruction'

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Former President Donald Trump has ramped up the rhetoric and the threats as potential criminal charges loom in New York, Georgia, and Washington.

Trump took to his Truth Social platform and posted a photo of him swinging a bat to the head of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg. He also threatened that his anticipated arrest would lead to "death and destruction."

"What kind of person can charge another person, in this case a former President of the United States, who got more votes than any sitting President in history, and leading candidate (by far) for the Republican Party nomination, with a Crime, when it is known by all that NO Crime has been committed, & also known that potential death & destruction in such a false charge could be catastrophic for our Country?" Trump wrote.

"Why & who would do such a thing? Only a degenerate psychopath that truly hates the USA!" he added. Then in all capital letters, Trump continued his tirade:

"EVERYBODY KNOWS I'M 100% INNOCENT, INCLUDING BRAGG, BUT HE DOESN'T CARE. HE IS JUST CARRYING OUT

THE PLANS OF THE RADICAL LEFT LUNATICS. OUR COUNTRY IS BEING DESTROYED, AS THEY TELL US TO BE PEACEFUL!"

A week before, Trump predicted that authorities from New York would arrest him, however, that never happened. Bragg's office said Trump simply misled the public about an imminent arrest.

"We will not be intimidated by attempts to undermine the justice process, nor will we let baseless accusations deter us from fairly applying the law," Bragg said through a spokesperson. Bragg, 49, maintained that no one is above the law, and everyone receives equal treatment.

"In every prosecution, we follow the law without fear or favor to uncover the truth," his statement continued. "Our skilled, honest, and dedicated lawyers remain hard at work."

Trump's social media attack on Bragg could reveal the frustrations and even the concern he might possess over all of the legal problems he currently faces.

Bragg's case, in which the former President allegedly paid hush money to porn star Stormy Daniels and committed campaign finance crimes, is just the tip of the iceberg for the bombastic Trump.

Most legal experts believe


Fulton County, Georgia, District Attorney Fani Willis might have a more serious case. A special grand jury disbanded in January after reportedly recommending charges that include obstruction, bribery, and interfering with a presidential election.

Additionally, a Special Counsel's investigation into Trump allegedly mishandling classified documents at his Florida home has amped up with a federal judge ordering the former President's lawyer to testify.

Finally, the Congressional committee that investigated the January 6 insurrection has recommended serious charges against Trump to the U.S. Department of Justice. Those charges could include treason.

"It would be a travesty of justice," Mississippi Democratic Cong. Bennie Thompson said if Trump isn't prosecuted by federal authorities for his role in the insurrection. "Nobody is above the law, not even the President of the United States," said Thompson, who chaired the January 6 commission.


"What we saw after interviewing more than 1,000 people — the majority of who identify with the Republican Party — we are convinced that whatever happened, happened because of one person. So, we are clear in our recommendation."



Donald J. Trump


@realDonaldTrump · 12m


nationalfile.com/just-10-of-manhattan-residents-voted-for-anti-trump-da-in-2021-election





Just 10% of Manhattan Residents Voted for Anti-Trump DA in 2021 Election

Anti-Trump Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg won the votes of only 10% of Manhattan residents in New York City's 2021 election cycle.


 National File

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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 probate 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.

Peggy Burk
Peggy Burk, Administrator

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.

LaQuana Smith
NOTARY

Peggy Burk
Peggy Burk, Administrator
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

3/16/2023, 3/23/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bids
Bid 3232 Marshall Elementary School ESSER III Renovations

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 25, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Marshall Elementary will be held at 2909 Oak Forest Drive, Jackson, MS 39212 on April 14, 2023 at 2:30 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 www.jpdsmsprojects.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 Cody Farris at Duvall Decker, Phone: 601-713-1128, Email: cnf@duvalldecker.com. Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPDS Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

3/23/2023, 3/30/2023

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 Dewayne 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 09th day of March, 2023.

CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY
Mississippi
BODIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK



3/16/2023, 3/23/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bids
Bid 3234 ESSER Projects Package A: Bates, Blackburn, Cardozo, Forest Hill and Peoples Schools

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

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

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

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

3/30/2023, 4/6/2023

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF JOHNNY STRINGER,
DECEASED

CAUSE NO. P2022-207 T/1

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 probate 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.

Mildred Johnson
Mildred Johnson, Administrator

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.

Ann James
NOTARY

Mildred Johnson
Mildred Johnson
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
ANN JAMES
Commission Expires
March 24, 2023

3/16/2023, 3/23/2023

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

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

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

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

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

3/30/2023

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Sudoku

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

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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LEGAL

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

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

CAUSE NO: P2021-253 M/4

RULE 4 SUMMONS

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS:


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

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

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

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

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



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

BY: PW Williams, D.C.

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

LEGAL

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

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

CAUSE NO: P2021-253 M/4

RULE 81 SUMMONS


NOTICE BY PUBLICATION YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS:

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

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

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

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



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

BY: PW Williams, D.C.

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

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Week of March 26, 2023

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Every year millions of men and women have heart attacks. Some survive with few after effects. Some don't survive. Others will have a heart damaged so bad that a return to useful activities is questionable.

Your heart is a muscle that pumps blood throughout your body. When you have a heart attack (myocardial infarction), part of the heart muscle dies when it's deprived of blood. To stay healthy, your heart needs oxygen and other nutrients that are carried in your blood.

Heart diseases can affect any part of your heart. However, the most common is the insidious disease of the coronary arteries called atherosclerosis. When this occurs, plaque or fatty deposits have developed in your artery walls.

Over a period of time, plaque can build up, harden and narrow your arteries and restrict your blood flow to your heart. It is this underlying coronary artery disease (CAD) that sets the stage for most heart attacks.

Sudden cardiac arrest and a heart attack are very serious medical emergencies and can be life-threatening. Cardiac arrest is more severe. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) can result in death within minutes if you don't get proper medical care.

A heart attack occurs when you have a blood clot that interrupts your blood flow to a section of the heart. A SCA is an electrical malfunction in your heart. This triggers a dangerous heart rhythm (arrhythmia)



that will disrupt blood flow to your heart, brain and other organs.

Only about 10% of the people who have sudden cardiac arrest live long enough to get to the hospital.

Over 50,000 Americans suffer SCA every year. If your doctor has warned you about elevated cholesterol, high blood pressure or even other cardiovascular risk factors, you could be setting yourself up for a heart attack.

The same conditions can also mean that you're at risk for SCA. SCA is truly a sleuth killer because you have no symptoms. If you abuse drugs or alcohol you are at greater risk for SCA. When someone suffers SCA, the only symptoms that occur simultaneously are sud-

den collapse, loss of consciousness, stopped breathing and no detectable pulse.

Sometimes other symptoms occur before sudden cardiac arrest. These might include:

Chest discomfort.
Shortness of breath.
Weakness.

Fast beating, fluttering or pounding heart called palpitations.

But sudden cardiac arrest often occurs with no warning.

Studies show that if CPR is used out of the hospital during an emergency, the chances of surviving are greatly increased. Keeping your blood flow active, even partially, will extend the opportunity for a successful resuscitation once a trained medical person arrives.

More than 350,000 out-of-

hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States per year, out of which 70% happen inside homes; 90 percent of people who suffer cardiac arrest die prior to reaching a hospital or a medical care facility.

Cardiac problems are not uncommon medical emergencies. Cardiac problems can occur at any time and place. Even someone who appears healthy can suffer cardiac arrest or a similar condition. It's helpful for not only you but also others around you to learn CPR. According to

The New England Journal of Medicine, about 18% of people aged 65 and over that received CPR before they got to the hospital survived and were discharged.

When you should use CPR:

Heart attack
Electric shock
Allergic reactions of severe nature
Drowning
Suffocation
Drug overdose

When you see something has gone wrong, this is what The American Red Cross recommends:

Check the scene and the person. - Make sure the scene is safe, then tap the person on the shoulder and shout, "Are you OK?" to ensure that the person needs help.

Call 911 for assistance. - If it's evident that the person needs help, call (or ask a bystander to call) 911, then send someone to get an AED. (If an AED is unavailable, or there is no bystander to access it,

stay with the victim, call 911 and begin administering assistance.)

Open the airway. - With the person lying on his or her back, tilt the head back slightly to lift the chin.

Check for breathing. - Listen carefully, for no more than 10 seconds, for sounds of breathing. (Occasional gasping sounds do not equate to breathing.) If there is no breathing, begin CPR

Push hard, push fast. - Place your hands, one on top of the other, in the middle of the chest. Use your body weight to help you administer compressions that are at least 2 inches deep and delivered at a rate of at least 100 compressions per minute.

There are a few mistakes people make when doing CPR. The most common mistakes committed when performing CPR are not giving deep enough compressions, as well as giving too slow or fast compressions. Even healthcare professionals fail in the process because they either don't push fast or deep enough.

Once you begin CPR, do not stop except in one of these situations:

Physical Fatigue.

You see an obvious sign of life, such as breathing.

An AED is available and ready to use.

Another trained responder or EMS personnel take over.

The scene becomes unsafe.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

MSDH News: Health Department Urges Residents to Take Precautions After the storm

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) continues to monitor the health impacts of recent severe weather. Significant power outages, home repairs, and flooding can create dangerous and potentially life-threatening situations.

Personal Protection

When cleaning up storm-damaged areas, be sure to wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes to prevent cuts and scratches from debris. Do not let children play in floodwater, and discard any items that come into contact with floodwater.

Any food (including food in plastic or glass), medicines, cosmetics or bottled water that has come in contact with floodwater should be discarded. If in doubt, throw it out. Intact cans may be thoroughly disinfected with one-quarter cup of bleach to one gallon of water, and then used.

Carbon Monoxide

MSDH recommends the following precautions to help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Do not burn charcoal or gas grills inside a house, garage, vehicle, tent or fireplace. Do not use gas-powered generators or pressure washers in enclosed spaces including indoors or in the garage. If you suspect you are experiencing any symptoms of CO poisoning, open doors and windows, turn off gas appliances and go outside. In cases of severe CO poisoning, call 911 emergency services or the Mississippi Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

Around Your Home

When cleaning up debris around your home, be sure ladders are secure before climbing on them to clean the roof and gutters. If you plan to use a chainsaw to clear debris, be sure to operate the ma-

chine according to the instructions. If injury occurs, call 9-1-1 or seek immediate medical help.

Flooding can cause mold to grow inside your home, which can cause allergic reactions, asthma episodes, infections, and other respiratory problems. MSDH does not handle mold removal or abatement. You will need to call a private contractor for further assistance.

Boil Water Alerts

Many public water systems in Mississippi are under boil water notices. If your system is under a boil water alert:

Do not drink tap water.

Do not use ice made from recent tap water.

Do not use tap water to make drinks, juices, or fountain soft drinks.

Cook with tap water ONLY if food is boiled for at least one minute.

Wash dishes, fruits and vegetables in boiled water or water that has been disinfected with bleach. Using your home dishwasher is not recommended.

Brush your teeth with boiled or bottled water.

Wash your hands and bathe as usual. Bathing is safe as long as no water is swallowed.

Wash laundry as usual. Laundry washed in hot or cold water is safe.

Bring water to a rolling boil for 1 minute to kill most organisms.

>Disinfecting Private Water Wells

Homeowners impacted by flooding who do not receive their water supply from a public water system regulated by the MSDH should have their private well inspected, disinfected and sampled in order to protect their health.

For step-by-step instructions on disinfecting your private water well, visit the MSDH website at www.HealthyMS.com/wells.

Connecting Those With Heart Defects to Needed Care

StatePoint

Congenital heart defects (CHDs) are the most common birth defects, and doctors and affected families can help ensure that individuals with CHDs receive lifelong congenital cardiac care to stay healthy. In 2010, it was estimated that approximately 1 million children and 1.4 million adults were living with a CHD in the United States. However, about 60% of individuals with CHDs don't see a congenital cardiology specialist after age 18 for follow-up.

Congenital cardiology care is essential, even for those who are not currently experiencing symptoms. In addition to the need to manage the CHD, affected individuals remain at risk for developing acquired cardiac conditions of adulthood. These include a range of potentially serious conditions such as arrhythmias, atherosclerotic heart disease, congestive heart failure, endocarditis, hypertension, hyperlipidemia and pulmonary hypertension.

According to advocates, a primary care physician is often the only doctor a patient sees, making it critical that patients disclose their CHD to their doctors, and for doctors to help ensure they get the specialized care they need to stay healthy and safe over the years.

"Although most individuals with CHDs require lifelong congenital cardiac care, many children and adults experience gaps in care for several years or more," says Dr. Sherry Farr from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Whether these lapses are due to loss of insurance, financial barriers or an inaccurate belief that their heart



defect has 'been cured,' physicians that these patients see for other reasons can facilitate continuity of cardiac care."

Dr. Farr suggests that physicians start the conversation with patients by asking them if they ever had heart problems. After learning that a patient has a heart defect, they should then emphasize the need for continuous care, even in cases where patients feel well. Doctors should be prepared to both explain the vital role of congenital cardiologists and provide a referral for a specialist in the area. Patients with CHDs should share their health history at their appointment and be ready to ask questions and seek referrals.

The new CHD Awareness Toolkit

from the American Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers resources to help physicians connect people with heart defects to the care they need.

It includes materials for pediatricians and family physicians (who treat children), internal medicine physicians and family physicians (who treat adults), obstetrician-gynecologists and emergency room physicians. To learn more or to download the toolkit, visit aap.org/CHDcare.

People with heart defects need lifelong congenital cardiac care. By getting the conversation started, patients and physicians can help ensure continuity of care.

Do you support a political candidate who might be a prison candidate?

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



America is the land of hope and good fortune. Our landscape has often been the launching pad for honorable and rewarding careers.

This is the big difference between our country and those ruled by dictators and carriers of fear. They are in office simply because citizens are afraid of them.

We have seen in too many instances when speaking up creates turmoil, retribution and sometimes death. It is troubling that people can lose their lives because they voice their opinions.

Fortunately, we have not had many problems with the conduct of our national leaders. Our democracy is stronger than folks who we put in office and then create confusion while in office.

Right will always “trump” wrong. Evil will never be able to stand next to good and last. They will eventually fall and self-destruct.

If you don’t remember Watergate and Richard Nixon, go into the history books and you will find out what happened to the former president. You can draw your own conclusion about his innocence or guilt.

More recent history will bring us to what happened with Donald Trump, the 45th president of the United States of America. The allegations of his wrongdoings have captured the attention of we the citizens.

He lost the last election yet still believes that he won. He claims that it was fraudulent and unfair. In the eyes of most, Mr. Trump is fraudulent and unfair.

Calling Brad Raffensperger, Georgia Secretary of State and telling him that he needed 11,780 votes (1 more than defeat) from him was unscrupulous. That is a crime in my opinion.

The mayhem that occurred on January 6th has been attributed to Trump as he encouraged and cajoled people to come to Washington, DC.

Again, we know what happened.

So now, if you have read any of the reports, you know that the former president has trouble brewing in Georgia and New York.

In New York, we know about his questionable business practices and having hush money paid on his behalf. In Georgia, it is because he wanted officials to change the voting count that would have allowed him to win.

The next presidential election will be held in 2024, and he has already announced his intention to run for that office. However, so has Nikki Haley with Mike Pence, and Ron DeSantis is waiting to announce later.

Mr. Trump is confronted with mounting legal battles. Indictments appear to be on the way. Will he have to testify, or will he go to prison? Maybe nothing will happen and it will be business as usual.

These are questions on the justice stove, and they are hot. As close as these papers are to being served, will they be?

I do not believe that he will go to a federal prison. The delays and appeals will keep him out of harm’s way. Without the political trappings, if we had committed what he allegedly has committed, we would be serving time.

America, here is a scenario that would be a nightmare for us. Just suppose his legal problems last until next year prior to the November election.

Will the Republican Party still make him their choice for president? That move would be unprecedented and embarrassing. That is my opinion.

It may just happen because there is a voting block in this country that believes that he can do no wrong. They blow it off as something minor and that it is much to do about nothing.

How is it that they can turn away and only blink awkwardly about his indiscretions? That is a mystery to many of us. Let’s just stay aware of what may happen. This is history in the making and we don’t want to miss it.

Where Did You Meet Your Spouse for the First Time

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
Guest Writer



Where did you and your spouse meet for the first time?

Do you still light up when you are asked where you and your spouse met for the first time? Do you immediately start smiling and blushing, in other words? Or do you become overwhelmed with feelings of anxiety, discomfort, tension, sadness, and nausea?

Moreover, do you and your spouse’s stories match? Do you reflect often on where you and your spouse met? This question is not often asked, at least not in my experience. Further, this question is typically asked by one’s children, family members, possibly friends, and during special occasions or events such as Marriage Conferences and Anniversary celebrations.

However, spouses should reflect often on the significance of this question in their marriages, especially during the “for worst days” in marriage. Yes, for worse days do occur even in perfect marriages!

Despite many marriages’ current statuses and circumstances - whether happily married, unhappily married, separated, or divorce; it is rare for couples to forget where they met for the first time. If you are married and aren’t currently going through

a divorce, become intentional about reminiscing on where you met one another for the first time because it can play a vital role in helping sustain your marriage.

Furthermore, the story of where you met your spouse for the first time is the beginning of your love story. Only you and your spouse have that special connection with one another, so hold on to that connection during both for the better and worse days.

According to the University of Siegen’s Mohammad Reza Majzooobi and Simon Forstmeier (2022), “Memories couples have about their ongoing marital relationship appear to be one of the decisive interpersonal variables in their close relationship.”

According to the statistical findings produced by the Majzooobi-Forstmeier study, published on Psychology Today website, Relationship-Defining Memories (RDM) can provide such value for a couple for the following five reasons:

1. Social Bonding

The very act of retelling a powerful “couple story” can help promote intimacy, drawing you closer to your partner.

2. Self-expansion

When you and your partner share a story, both of you enhance your identities as individuals, charting out the overlap that binds your past histories together.

3. Self-determination

First is “need-satisfying,” creating a “scaffold” or structure to your relationship. Pinning memories to that scaffold helps satisfy your needs as individuals and as a couple.

4. Sense-making

As you tell your story to your closest partner, you each gain insight into yourselves and each other, helping to alleviate even the distress of an unpleasant memory.

5. Self-regulation

Retelling a story that you share with your partner can help you engage in what the authors call a “mastery experience,” showing how you were able to “express and control your emotions.”

All in all, the five factors mentioned above promote communication, mental health (reflecting on memories), long lasting love, and healthy and happy marriages.

When I am asked where I met my husband for the first time – I honestly still light up, at least for now. I am overjoyed to share where me and my boo met for the first time and so is he. Nonetheless, we don’t often reflect with one another on where we met for the first time – we typically reflect when either of us are asked or when we discuss it a couple of times throughout the year.

I hope he reads this article because I think it would be quite romantic to recreate or at least plan a romantic date at the loca-

tion to celebrate old memories and our renewed love for one another. We happened to meet at one of the best HBCU’s in the country. And you already know, it is “Thee Jackson State University” (financial aid office – picking up Work Study checks, January 2005)!

In conclusion, I’m not suggesting that reflecting on where you and your spouse met for the first time or any other old memories will spark magic or guarantee a happy marriage. Although, not part of the five factors mentioned above, it may possibly rekindle some lost or reduced connections and love between you and your spouse.

I challenge you not to wait until Valentine’s Day or Anniversaries to share special memories with one another. Please reflect and share those memories today because life is short. Although, a simple question, “Where Did You and Your Spouse Meet for the First Time?”, conversing with one another about it can help set the foundation of sharing memories with one another for a lifetime.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars and Conferences) on: Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) and Facebook; or email: letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 769-206-3749

Wisconsin Race Reminds Us How Important Every Election Is

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



Whether it’s protecting the planet or preserving our democracy, it can seem at times that our individual actions fall short against the biggest challenges. Let me tell you why that isn’t true.

We tend to overlook that issues like these arise in the first place because of the sum of a lot of individual actions. If one by one, half of us switched to powering our homes and cars with solar and wind energy, emissions and fossil fuel extraction would drop precipitously.

It’s the paradox of the aggregate. One of us doing something has a minimal impact; a lot of us doing the same thing moves the needle – for the good or the bad.

Voting is no different. I’ve spent a good part of my career fighting to ensure people can vote and encouraging them to get out and do it.

Next week, on April 4, Wisconsin will hold a spring election, mainly for local races. It’s the kind of election that historically voters across the country skip. Voter turnout in the Wisconsin primaries last month was 21 percent, and that was a four-point improvement. Badger State voters should see this election differently.

This election will pick the swing vote on the state’s Supreme Court, which is dominated by a far-right majority that’s ruled against everything from broad use of ballot drop boxes to make voting more convenient to the right of citizens’ groups to challenge environmental permits.

The dissenting justices said that decision “slam shut the courthouse doors” to Wisconsinites.

The Wisconsin race may even decide the next Presidential election. Those justices may well be called on in 2024 to rule on election challenges in a state whose 10 electoral votes have decided presidential elections. It happened that way in 2020.

Now, the conservative in this year’s race was the one who advised the national and state Republican parties and those who sought to submit fake paperwork for Donald Trump electors after he lost the 2020 race.

A few more people stepping up to vote could decide this race. Statewide contests in the Dairy State often turn on razor thin margins. Wisconsin has 72 counties.

If 140 more people in each one

chooses to vote for the same candidate in the supreme court race, that’s one percentage point in the typical voter turnout in April.

If more 500 people in each county go vote for that person, that’s nearly four points. And even with that boost in turnout, a majority of voters would still have stayed home.

So Wisconsin voters can do a lot to save the country and protect the planet if they cast their ballots. Judging by past races, most Wisconsinites plan to skip this election. The rest of us can do something by texting anyone we know in Wisconsin to let them know how important this election may be. Their State Supreme Court may end up deciding the next President.

Ben Jealous is executive director of the Sierra Club and professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He’s author of “Never Forget Our People Were Always Free.”



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Wells APAC Wins Big Again at 2023 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Mississippi Regional Competition

Jackson Public Schools Newswire

Wells APAC received a total of 130 awards during the 2023 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Mississippi Regional Competition. JPS scholars received the most Gold and Silver keys in the state again this year.

Presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are the country's longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for creative students in grades 7-12.

This year, which marks 100 years of the Awards, more than 100,000 teens from across the United States and Canada entered more than 300,000 works of art and writing. 185 creative teens from 65 counties in Mississippi received regional honors, including Gold Keys, Silver Keys, Honorable Mentions, and American Visions & Voices nominations from the Mississippi Museum of Art (MMA).

Murrah High senior Dion Hines received the only Gold Key in Mississippi for his senior portfolio and received 2 of the American Vision nomination awards, which are the best-in-show awards given to 5 pieces.

An exhibition of the Mississippi region's Gold Key-winning artworks is on view in the Mississippi Museum of Art's corridor through April 2, 2023. Silver Key and Honorable Mention artwork are available for viewing on MMA's website. Awarded artists and their teachers will be recognized during a ceremony on Sunday, April 2, at 2 pm in MMA's Trustmark Grand Hall.



By Jaliyah Bell, 9th grade

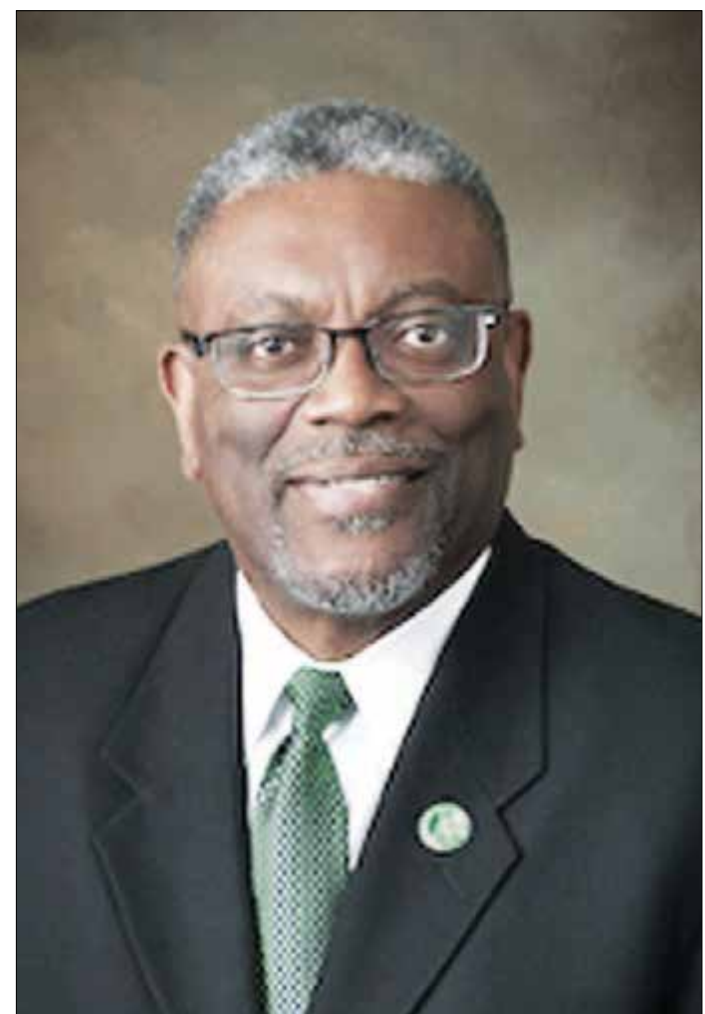


By Harper Golden, 10th



By Dion Hines, 12th grade

Dr. Jerryl Briggs of MVSU offers support to families and communities affected by recent tornados



President Jerryl Briggs, MVSU

Letter pinned by Dr. Briggs

As we heard the news Saturday morning, the magnitude of devastation along the Mississippi Delta from Friday night's tornado is unimaginable. Please know that our Mississippi Valley State University community stands ready to do what we can to assist those impacted by this disaster.

Although the MVSU campus avoided a severe blow from the catastrophic tornado, an extreme weather event that left a trail of devastation, we know how much this event has forever changed our State and neighboring communities.

Our hearts ached as we watched the news coverage and have since heard of the reports of those who lost their lives, property, and so much more. I write to you with care and concern for all of those impacted by this tragedy, and I want you to know that the MVSU family is actively working to secure ways to be of support during this time to all the communities affected

by the storms, but especially the communities of Rolling Fork and Silver City.

At times like these, we must unite as one community to support those affected by the destruction and loss of life. These events have impacted students, faculty, and staff in many ways.

We are thinking of those directly affected and offering our assistance as they move forward from this tragedy. Dr. Thomas J. Calhoun, Jr., Ph.D., Vice President, Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, is helping organize a student-led community service event to support the communities and families impacted by this devastating tornado.

As a university, we extend our thoughts, support, and prayers to those affected by this disaster. We offer our deepest condolences to the families of those who lost loved ones and united our MVSU community stands in providing any support we can.

Sincerely,
Jerryl Briggs, Sr.
Ed.D.



BOOK REVIEW: INCLUSIVE BOOKS FOR BUSINESS

BY VARIOUS AUTHOR
C.2023, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS
\$28.99 - \$30.00 • VARIOUS PAGE COUNT

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Every year has its challenges. A few years ago, it was Covid-19. The economy influences your business constantly. Customer acquisition is a big issue, but you're also laser-focusing on staffing. You're determined to make a change in the people you hire and the workplace you offer them. So let these two books be your guides...

Unless you fall into the non-white, non-cis-male category, you may not realize the amount of extra labor that women and

minorities do at work and do to be able to work. It's hidden, and few folks discuss it. But those who experience it, know it.

"Emotional Labor" by Rose Hackman (Flatiron Books, \$28.99) helps you recognize those burdens and, if you're someone dealing with the issues, learn how to regain your sanity and your strength.

Women – even, maybe especially professional women – are asked to "smile more" and are often talked-over. People of color feel that they need to "code switch" and talk differently in

the presence of their white co-workers. Black hair is now a workplace issue.

Assuming who brings the coffee to a meeting is an issue. Gender is a workplace issue. None of this – or any other, similar thorniness on the job – is new; in fact, emotional labor has a long, long history, and Hackman unpacks it with firmness.

And yet, this is not an anti-white-men rant kind of book. The author has a lot to say and she's respectful. Though a good amount of it may be uncomfortable, leaders, supervisors, busi-

ness owners, and C-Suiters will be glad they read what she and her case-study subjects have to say. Business owners can no longer pretend not to know this information, making "Emotional Labor" an eye-opener, to be sure.

Another surety: you know you need to make change and you want to do it. You've wanted to do it for years, actually, but you're not sure where to get started. In "Rising Together" by Sally Helgesen (Hachette Go, \$30), you'll see why you're stymied and you'll learn how to

move forward.



There are, says Helgesen, eight barriers to making change, including gender and age. Here, you'll learn how to spot the most common walls between you and an inclusive workplace, and how to knock them down with communication, equity, and (yay!) humor.

And just to be sure you can do this, the author offers tools to implement every workday until inclusivity feels natural and automatic. If you're looking to make a better team or a new, top-notch, first-rate workplace

with different and dynamic outlooks, then this easy-to-grasp, calm and methodical book is what you need.

But let's say you're hungry for more on this subject. You want to be absolutely sure that forming an inclusive, welcoming, productive workplace is done right. Good for you!

Now head to your local book spot and ask your favorite librarian or bookseller for help. They'll know what books you need, what you're missing, and where you can find them. They'll help by stepping up to the challenge.

ZACK WALLACE

Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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Circuit Clerk's Office
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Florida Atlantic Owls make it to the Final Four with two Mississippi hoopers

By Timothy Ward
Sports Writer

The #9 seeded Florida Atlantic University Owls (FAU) have been one of the major surprises in the NCAA tournament this year. Opening up with a 66 to 65 over Memphis, FAU proceeded to Fairley Dickson, another surprising team.

Fairley Dickson is only the second #16 seed to defeat a #1 seed. Fairley Dickson defeated Purdue. FAU defeated Fairley Dickson 78 to 70 placing them in the sweet 16.

A week later, FAU took down the #4 seed Tennessee Volunteers 62 to 55. The win put them in the Elite Eight. Their biggest challenge of the tournament was having to play #3 seeded Kansas State.



Alijah Martin cutting down the nets
PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY WARD

KSU boasted one of the best players in the nation. Markquis Nowell definitely made himself a high NBA draft choice with his tournament play. Against FAU, Nowell dropped 30 points with 12 assists. The 5'8" guard was

brilliant. However, it wasn't enough. FAU defeated KSU 79 to 76. Alijah Martin from North Pike and Brandon Weatherspoon from Canton are Mississippi players who have contributed to



Alijah Martin win the power dunk



Brandon Weatherspoon is averaging 5 points so far



Brandon Weatherspoon

the historic run for FAU.

Martin is a 6'2" sophomore guard averaging 12.5 points during the tournament. Weatherspoon, is a 6'4" junior guard averaging 5 points during the tournament.

Brandon Weatherspoon is the younger brother of Nick Weatherspoon and Quindary Weatherspoon, both who starred at Velma Jackson.

Quindary Weatherspoon was a member of the Golden State Warriors

last season when they won the championship. Alijah Martin, Brandon Weatherspoon and their teammates from FAU will battle #5 seeded San Diego State on April 1, 2023 in Houston. Winner plays winner of Miami vs UCONN for the national championship.

T.C. Taylor's first practice goes well

By Timothy Ward
Sports Writer

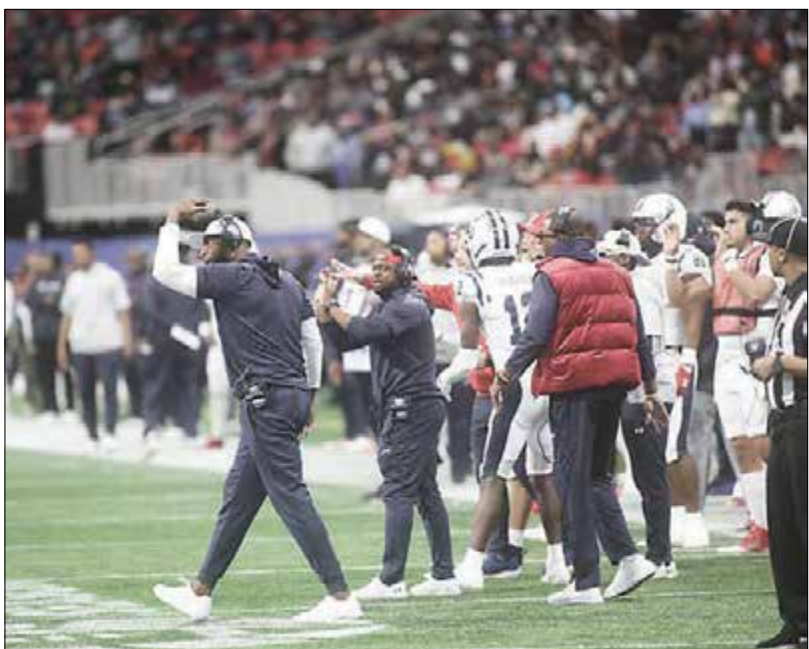
Another official moment happened for Coach Taylor, he conducted his first spring practice. "It felt good," Taylor said about his first practice as head coach. "I talked about the players champing at the bit, but I have been champing at the bit also. To finally get out there and be able to run the whole show and direct the whole show felt good."

One of the biggest questions for the team is who will replace Shadeur Sanders at quarterback. Sanders left for Colorado with his dad, Deion Sanders. Jason Brown, Zy McDonald and Phillip Short are all vying for the starting quarterback position. All 3 quarterbacks are said to be doing well in the open competition for quarterback.

Coach Taylor was impressed with his defensive line. Tiger Nation is firmly behind Coach Taylor and excited to get the season started. The spring game will be April 15 at 3 pm.



Coach Taylor at the Celebration Bowl
PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY WARD



Coach TC Taylor holds first practice

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Community Meeting With Hinds Community College President

The Hinds County School District participated in a Meet and Greet with Dr. Stephen Vacik, President of Hinds Community College, to discuss the future of the Hinds Community College Utica Campus. The meeting was held in the Walter Washington Administration Building Amphitheater on the Utica Campus. This meeting was organized by Pastors in the communities of Raymond, Utica, Bolton, Edwards and Terry, to gain information about the Utica Campus, and to ensure that the Utica Campus remains a viable entity in the district of Hinds County. The meeting was attended by several political leaders such as United State Representative Bennie Thompson, Mississippi State Representative for District 63 Stephanie Foster, Mississippi State Representative for District 66 De'Keither Stamps, and Mississippi State Senator for District 27 Hillman Frazier. Representative Thompson gave expressions and talked about his time at Utica Jr. College and that he has invested several millions dollars in the Utica Campus from a legislative standpoint to ensure that the campus is kept in good condition and can meet future needs of the local communities.

The Hinds County School District was represented by Superintendent Dr. Delesicia Martin, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Robert Sanders, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Ray, Pastor Tonie Crisler Community Relations Director and Administrators from the Utica Elementary/Middle School, Raymond Elementary School, Raymond High School, and Bolton Elementary/Middle School. The Hinds County School Board was also in attendance, including Dr. Linda Laws-President, Mrs. Robbie Anderson and Mrs. Carolyn Samuel. Municipalities and communities from Raymond, Edwards, Bolton, Terry and Utica were all in attendance.

The room was full to overcapacity. Dr. Vacik gave remarks and denied the closure of the Utica Campus and said he plans to grow the campus and make several improvements to the facilities, including building a state-of-the-art dormitory. He gave assurance for the public not to listen to rumors; the Utica campus is here to stay. We all heard him, and we will all be watching to ensure that is the case. The pastors from these municipalities also set up a \$15,000 endowment fund to pay scholarships to students who attend the Utica Campus. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please make your donations out to "Unified Pastors Endowment Scholarship Fund" and mail to HCC Foundation, P. O. Box 1100, Raymond, MS 39154, Attn: Robyn Burchfield. We thank you for your support.



LeRoy Walker, Jr. honored with ‘Our Mississippi’s Lifetime Achievement’ Award

Our Mississippi Magazine publisher Wesley Wells presented Jackson businessman LeRoy Walker, Jr., the 2023 Our Mississippi Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Our Mississippi Honors banquet in Tupelo.

Previous recipients of the Our Mississippi Lifetime Achievement Award include Myrlie Evers Williams, Reuben Anderson, Jack Reed, Sr., Hon. William Winter, Robert Khayat, Beverly Wade Hogan, Augustus L. Collins, Jerry Mitchell, and Victor McTeer.

“We couldn’t be more delighted to select someone the caliber of Mr. Walker for this prestigious award,” Wells said. The lifetime commitment he’s made to enrich the lives of others is immeasurable. He’s been such a blessing to the state of Mississippi.”

Walker is a familiar face in the Jackson community and is well known for his volunteer and philanthropic efforts. He has been an active community and corporate servant, and through the years

has given generously of his time, talent, and resources. His business, LTM Enterprises, Inc., formerly owned and operated 22 McDonald’s Restaurants in the Jackson Metro area. He retired from the McDonald’s system in March 2015 to pursue other business interests.

Walker is a graduate of Tennessee State University with a degree in Zoology. He also holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Illinois in Springfield, Illinois, and has done additional study in Education Administration at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois. He previously taught Science and Mathematics in the East St. Louis, Illinois, school system, and was also a founding member of the East St. Louis Community Federal Credit Union, where he served on its board of directors.

His involvement in professional and civic organizations is extensive. As founder of the 100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc. he created an opportunity to mentor students as well as share his en-

trepreneurial skills. In 2015, Mr. Walker received the prestigious Mentor of the Year Award from the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. He is a past Chairman of the Metro Chamber of Commerce, past Chairman of the Board of the United Way of the Metro Area, and Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Trustees of Tougaloo College, where he served for 13 years.

He is a past member of the Board of Directors of Trustmark National Bank and a former board member of Junior Achievement of Mississippi where, in 1994, he was inducted into its esteemed Business Hall of Fame. Other board affiliations include the Hinds County Economic Development District, Jackson State University Development Foundation, St. Dominic Hospital, Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau, Advisory Board for Entergy Mississippi, and Central Mississippi Planning and Development District.

In 2005, Walker was a graduate of the inaugural class of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Citizens Academy. He

is a Commissioner of the Capital City Convention Center, Incorporated, and a member of the Mississippi State Advisory Committee (SAC) of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Other affiliations include Life Memberships in the NAACP and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and membership in Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc. In 2011, he received an appointment to the United States Chamber of Commerce Board where he served two terms.

Walker is an active member of Farish Street Baptist Church, where he has chaired several committees and its Board of Trustees. He counts himself fortunate and blessed to be able to give back to his community. He adheres to the scripture of Luke 12:48, which reads “Much is required from those to whom much is given, for their responsibility is greater.”

Through faith and determination, Mr. Walker continues to make a positive impact in the community.

He and his wife Terryce have one adult daughter and three grandchildren.



Walker



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***ETEC honors
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Women's
HISTORY
MONTH
MARCH 2023

A large portrait of Lloryn Love-Carter, a Black woman with short, dark, curly hair, smiling. She is wearing a purple top with a large bow at the neck and large hoop earrings.

Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories during Women's History Month

Nissan North America honors
Lloryn Love-Carter, Senior Manager,
Manufacturing & Labor Communications



*Lloryn Love-Carter honors
her mother, Karen Love
who for years told many stories*

"My mother, Karen Love is my greatest inspiration. She was chief operating officer of the Michigan Chronicle, the largest black newspaper in the country, and publisher/co-founder of the Michigan FrontPage. She provided endless opportunities to aspiring journalists who would otherwise never have had the opportunity to use the press as a platform for impactful change. She used these platforms to give a voice to those who would otherwise be voiceless."

