

Pamela Junior, director of the Two Mississippi Museums, welcomes those in attendance for the Democracy Under Siege in Mississippi discussion. Seated (l-r) Oleta Garrett Fitzgerald (moderator), Maisie Brown, Phaedra Bratton Robinson, Brandon Jones and State Rep. Robert Johnson. PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

Democracy Under Siege in Mississippi: Fighting efforts to suppress the will of black and marginalized citizens

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

Celebrating 50 years in 2023, the Children’s Defense Fund is a national child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly to ensure a level playing field for all

children. The organization envisions a nation where marginalized children flourish, leaders prioritize their well-being, and communities wield the power to ensure they thrive. The only national, multi-issue advocacy organization

working at the intersection of child well-being and racial justice, CDF advances the well-being of America’s most diverse generation, the 74 million children and youth under the age of 18 and 30 million young adults under the age of 25.

CDF’s grassroots movements in marginalized communities build power for child-centered public policy, informed by racial equity and the lived experience of chil-

Democracy
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Crisler holds press conference stating he plans to stay in the race

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Marshand Crisler, candidate for Hinds County sheriff stated in a press conference held at 5:45 p.m. in front of the Hinds County Courthouse Monday, “A person is innocent until proven otherwise.”

Crisler, who was recently indicted on federal charges, is accused of accepting thousands of dollars in bribes, as reported by WAPT-TV on April 27, 2023.

Crisler went on to say, “I look forward, like any American charged with a crime, to my day in court. And in so doing, I am under no obligation to withdraw from seeking public office.” He thanked those that had assembled to stand with him.

Crisler said the press conference was not intended to address the indictment itself or any impending charges associated with it, but rather he stated,

Crisler
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Marshand Crisler speaking to the press while family and friends stand in support. PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

President Biden calls Black Press ‘heroes’ during pointed and hilarious White House Correspondents Dinner

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

President Joe Biden proved likely as funny and prescient in his White House Correspondents Dinner remarks as hired comedian and Daily Show correspondent Roy Wood Jr.

But the commander in chief struck a rather serious and forceful tone during his 22-minute speech when he declared how vital the Black Press remains after 196 years of speaking truth to power.

After hilariously railing on everyone from FOX News, Tucker Carlson, Donald Trump and Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, the president made fun of himself in a tour de force of hilariously self-deprecating jokes. But, it was his proclamation calling the Black Press heroes that punctuated a 22-plus minute speech that proved one for the ages.

“During Black History Month this year, I hosted the screening of the movie Till,” the president stated, after such quips like “MS-NBC is owned by NBC Universal and FOX News is owned by Dominion Voting Systems.

“The story of Emmett Till and his mother is a story of a family’s



The commander in chief struck a rather serious and forceful tone during his 22-minute speech when he declared how vital the Black Press remains after 196 years of speaking truth to power. A/P PHOTO

promise and loss and a nation’s reckoning with hate, violence and the abuse of power,” Biden recounted as he started his championing of the Black Press.

“It’s a story that was seared into our memory and our conscience – the nation’s conscience – when Mrs. Till insisted that an open casket for her murdered and maimed 14-year-old son be the means by which he was transported. She said, ‘Let the people see what I’ve seen.’

The president continued: “The reason the world saw what she saw was because of an-

other hero in this story: the Black Press. That’s a fact. *Jet Magazine*, the *Chicago Defender*, and other black radio and newspapers were unflinching and brave in making sure America saw what she saw. And I mean it.”

He quoted Ida B. Wells, who exclaimed that “The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon the wrongs.”

“That’s the sacred view, in my view,” Biden asserted. “That’s the sacred charge of a free press. And I mean that.”

Earlier the White House Correspondents Association honored

fallen PBS star journalist Gwen Ifill, and Biden took notice. “That’s what someone we still miss so much, who you honored posthumously, stood for. Gwen Ifill,” he said. “She moderated my first debate for vice president and was a trusted voice for millions of Americans. Gwen understood that the louder the noise, the more it’s on all of us to cut through the noise to the truth. The truth matters.”

Before given way to Wood, the president reminisced about the 2022 dinner. “As I said last year at this dinner, a poison is running through our democracy and parts of the extreme press,” Biden reassured. “The truth buried by lies, and lies living on as truth. Lies told for profit and power. Lies of conspiracy and malice repeated over and over again, designed to generate a cycle of anger, hate, and even violence.”

He concluded: “A cycle that emboldens history to be buried, books to be banned, children and families to be attacked by the state, and the rule of law and our rights and freedoms to be stripped away. And where elected representa-

Biden
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Mount Nebo Baptist Church celebrates 100 years



Pastor Orr speaking in a box on the subject, “Outside The Box.”

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

“We’re Sending Praises Up and Stepping Our Commitment Up: Thank God for 100 Years” was the theme for the centennial anniversary of Mount Nebo Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. John A. Wicks, Jr. The church is located at 1245 Tunica Street in Jackson.

The celebration was held in the church sanctuary Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. A welcome was presented in music by five members of The Grant family singing “Lift Up Holy Hands and Worship Him.” A historical view of Mount Nebo was presented by Pamela Junior, who recently retired as director of the Mississippi History & Civil Rights Museums in Jackson. She thought about her early days at Mount Nebo and began singing a few lyrics of “Jesus loves me, This I Know.” She gave a historical review beginning with that of six believers whom she said stood on hope when starting

and chartering Mount Nebo in October 1923.

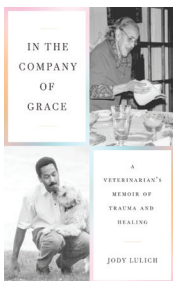
A tribute was offered to the first lady of Mount Nebo from the youth ministry, thanking her for her dedication love, service and kindness, which Pastor Wicks called a tear jerker. Sister Mariah Redmond who served as first lady from 1972-2000 was recognized by Pastor Wicks. Other first ladies that were present from various other churches were also recognized.

Candace Miller, New Member Assimilation coordinator at Brown M.B. Church in Southhaven, MS introduced the anniversary speaker, Dr. Bartholomew Orr, pastor of Brown M. B. Church. Pastor Orr, entered the pulpit after a musical selection from members of the Brown Baptist Church Musical Ensemble, climbed into a big box that was brought to the pulpit, and from inside that box he spoke on the subject, “Outside the Box.” He asked the questions, “Is there a solution to the pollution all around us? What is the fix to



Pastor John Wicks, Mount Nebo M. B. Church

Nebo
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Bishop Marcus Lee Butler

May 29, 1933- March 29, 2023



Butler

Marcus Lee Butler, born on May 29, 1933, to Havon Butler and Della Roberts, is the sixth of twenty-four children. As the son of a sharecropper in rural southern Mississippi, “Buster,” as he was affectionately called, was expected to be one of the primary labor hands helping to earn a living for the family. He helped to provide for the subsistence of his brothers, sisters and family friends in the neighborhood by planting crops, picking cotton, and harvesting other vegetables from sun up to sun down. It was definitely both the “best of times and the worst of times.”

The revelatory call of God to preach the Gospel was surely one that Marcus hesitated to answer because of feelings of inadequacy. But even at the young age of seventeen, he was determined to seek the

will of God in this matter.

God’s Word courted Marcus in the fields. While working along the rows, he would often preach to the corn stalks, ignoring the disparaging remarks and laughs in the background. For surrendering and saying “Yes” to the Lord, for him, was not just a high exultation, but a lifetime commitment; one that God confirmed with the assurance of His Word.

As this drum major moved with God, not only were his steps ordered but so were his family’s, all for God’s glory. Despite his father’s initial disapproval, the entire family was united in fellowship as active members of the Grand Ole Church of God in Christ.

Humorously, the renowned pastor, Elder D. R. Curry later became Marcus’ brother-in-law, and as God willed, Marcus became his father’s pastor before his father’s demise.

The love of his life, Ruby Jean McCoy, was a beautiful, articulate, gifted damsel from Morton, Mississippi. Believing her to be his helpmate, after much fasting, prayer, supplication, and seeking God’s will they were happily united in marriage. To this union were entrusted three children, Marquise Kassandra, Marshall Stanley and Peggee Felisha; ten grandchildren and eleven great-grand. On February 22, 2006, Jean answered the call of her maker and was transitioned to “Glory.”

Ordained as an Elder in the Church Of

God In Christ in 1956, Elder Butler believed that as a spiritual leader, he had a divine responsibility of shepherding the souls of the last, the least and the lost. As a result, over the span of his ministerial career in Mississippi Southern First and Second Jurisdictions, this churchman planted Forest Hill COGIC in the early 1960s, Rutledge Street COGIC in 1968, and Amazing Institutional COGIC in 1974. All three of these congregations continue to exist and make a meaningful difference in the lives of mankind.

From 1989-2006, Superintendent Butler faithfully served in the following national capacities in the Church Of God In Christ: Member of the Saints Center Board, assisting in the appropriation of funds to purchase property in downtown Memphis, Tennessee; member of the National Board of Trustees whose function is to ascertain and oversee the budgetary needs of the denomination, renovation and oversight of church-owned properties, and budgeting revenue for operational expenses, salaries, departmental functions, and overseas ministries of the Church Of God In Christ. In 1971 Bishop Butler was asked to assist in organizing the first Quadrennial Installation.

A local and jurisdictional celebration was held April 14, 2023. A national celebration was held April 15, 2023 at Greater Bethlehem Temple Church, 1505 Robinson Road, Jackson, MS.

Carol Elaine Windham Dyse

January 16, 1957 - April 2, 2023



Dyse

Carol Elaine Windham Dyse was born January 16, 1957, in Dekalb, MS as the third child of Armstead Mitchell Windham and Julia Franklin Windham (both deceased). The family later moved to Jackson, MS.

At an early age she dedicated her life to Christ and was baptized at Northwest Church of Christ in Jackson, MS.

She was a graduate of Callaway High School in the class of 1974. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree from Jackson State University in 1978.

In 1978 she met the love of her life, Dennis Reginald Dyse. Dennis had prayed for a wife and his prayers were answered with the gift of Carol Elaine Windham. They fell in love and married in 1979 and were blessed to be together for over 44 years. To this union

were born two daughters, Crystal Lynn and Jennifer Leigh.

Carol was employed for Southern Farm Bureau for 35 years and retired in 2014. After retirement she devoted her life to spending time with family and enjoying her grandchildren.

She became a member of St. Thomas Missionary Baptist Church after marriage and became a deaconess, the teacher of the New Members Class, a member of the Missionary Ministry and the administrator of the church membership roll. Carol loved organizing things and keeping records for the church. She worked as an active, dedicated and faithful member until the Lord called her home.

Carol leaves to cherish her memory: her devoted husband, Dennis Dyse, Bolton, MS; two daughters, Crystal Lynn Dyse and Jennifer Leigh Dyse, Clinton, MS; six grandchildren, Silas and Zoe, Pensacola, FL, Isaiah, Micah, Adham and Phoebe, Clinton, MS; siblings, Armstead Mitchell Windham, Jr. (deceased), Jay Allen Windham (Ruby), Jackson, MS; Donna Windham, Atlanta, GA, Sherri Berry, Jackson, MS; sister in law, Hope Hayes (Robert), Jackson, MS; and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services were held April 12, 2023 at St. Thomas MB Church, Bolton, MS.

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Mount Nebo M. B. Church 100th Anniversary

Rev. John Wicks, Pastor • Sunday, April 23, 2023 • 1245 Tunica Street, Jackson, MS • Photos by Jay Johnson



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Black-owned hotel razed; was safe haven during segregation



E. F. Young Hotel has been torn down. PHOTO BY EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

The Associated Press

A Mississippi hotel that gave black travelers safe lodging during segregation and once welcomed such notables as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. has been torn down after falling into disrepair after years of sitting vacant.

The E.F. Young Jr. Hotel was opened in 1946 in Meridian by E.E. Young Jr., a black entrepreneur and manufacturer of hair care products. It remained open as a hotel until 1978, before being converted to office space and later going vacant.

A small crowd watched Monday as a crew demolished the building, the *Meridian Star* reported. The owners said in local news reports that the building had deteriorated and was too costly to rehabilitate.

Over the years, the hotel hosted a number of notable people including the civil rights leader

King, Ella Fitzgerald, the Harlem Globetrotters and others.

After the building deteriorated while sitting vacant, the city deemed it a safety hazard in September 2021. The Young family continued to own the hotel and decided to demolish it after seeing high estimates for restoration and repair, the newspaper reported.

Democratic state Rep. Charles Young Jr. of Meridian, a grandson of E.F. Young, told Jackson's WLBT-TV in February that the hotel was one of the few places in the Deep South state for black travelers to stay during segregation.

"The only way that people could communicate was by word-of-mouth limited telephone, and they had what is called a Green Book," Young said, adding the hotel was listed there as "one of the premier places to stay in the South."

The Green Book was published starting in the mid-1930s and listed hotels, gas stations, restaurants and other businesses across the U.S. that accommodated black motorists during segregation.

The 30-room Young Hotel had barber and beauty shops on the first floor and hotel rooms on the second.

"It had bridal suites. It had enclosed and private bathrooms. It was a very nice and modern facility," Young said of the hotel's heyday.

The hotel thrived for decades, but circumstances changed.

Young told WLBT-TV that during the 1970s, his grandmother, Velma Beal Young, chose to convert the building into a marketing and sales offices for the hair care manufacturing company. The company later moved its offices to a different site in Meridian.

Southern Baptist leader selection process fails amid dispute

By Peter Smith
Associated Press

A powerful Southern Baptist committee was looking to appoint a new leader Monday who could navigate controversies over its handling of sexual-abuse reforms and the ousting of churches with women serving as pastors.

Instead, the Executive Committee found itself tangled in yet another dispute, voting down a recommendation to make its own former chairman its president in what had become a racially fraught decision.

That 50-31 vote came after some of the denomination's prominent black clergy questioned the selection process, which they saw as bypassing an African-American pastor who has led the committee as interim president for more than a year.

The selection process hit a nerve in a denomination that has lost some black clergy in recent years over what they have seen as a failure of the mostly white-led denomination to make good on its pledges to reform after its history of supporting slavery and segregation. While the SBC elected its first black president in 2012, no African Americans have led any of the denomination's powerful agencies or seminaries.

The Executive Committee, meeting in private session in Dallas Monday, voted down a recommendation from its search committee to choose a white pastor, Jared Wellman of Arlington, Texas, to be its next president.

Wellman himself had been

chair of the Executive Committee's board until resigning last month.

Under committee bylaws, the presidential selection process will begin anew under a new search committee, which was created Monday.

Bishop A.B. Vines — a former SBC vice president and former president of the National African American Fellowship within the SBC — challenged the selection process last week in an open letter to the Executive Committee. He noted that black pastor Willie McLaurin, with experience as a Tennessee Baptist Mission Board staff member, has served as the committee's interim president since early 2022. Two other SBC agencies recently hired interim leaders to permanent positions.

Vines didn't take issue with Wellman but said the process was secretive and didn't "pass the smell test."

The denomination "always seems to have issues with hiring a person of color for a senior leadership position," wrote Vines, pastor of New Seasons Church in Spring Valley, California. "We have made resolution after resolution, from apologies on slavery to Confederate flags," but they won't be effective "if the heart of the convention does not change," he wrote.

After the vote, Vines told *The Associated Press*: "Today's vote was about process and integrity. Today we showed the watching world that we honor both."

Dwight McKissic, a black pastor also from Arlington,

Texas, said he respected Wellman but didn't understand why the committee appeared ready to bypass McLaurin. "I've lost confidence that an (African-American) man will ever be elected as an entity head," he tweeted Sunday before the vote. "It's simply counter culture to SBC DNA."

The Executive Committee coordinates much of the business of the nation's largest Protestant denomination outside of its annual meeting, recommending budgets, receiving and distributing funds, handling public relations and ousting churches from the convention, as it voted to do earlier this year with five congregations with women pastors.

One of the Executive Committee members, Oklahoma pastor Mike Keahbone, tweeted he was "grieved" by the vote. "I believe we made a mistake today," he said.

David Sons, chairman of the Executive Committee, said in a news conference after the vote that trustees' concerns "were not about Jared personally. It was more so about the process, of how things came to be."

Sons, also a search team member, said it nominated Wellman after being tasked by trustees "to bring the best candidate forward that we felt the Lord leading us to bring."

Asked about the concerns raised by black pastors, he said: "Our hope again is that we would one day soon not only see more diversity in the first seat but we would see more diversity in every seat on our trustee boards, at our seminaries."

NAACP sues Mississippi over 'separate and unequal policing'

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

The NAACP warns that "separate and unequal policing" will return to Mississippi's majority-black capital under a state-run police department, and the civil rights organization is suing the governor and other officials over it.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves says violent crime in Jackson has made it necessary to expand where the Capitol Police can patrol and to authorize some appointed rather than elected judges.



Johnson

But the NAACP said in its lawsuit filed late Friday that these are serious violations of the principle of self-government because they take control of the police and some courts out of the hands of residents.

"In certain areas of Jackson, a citizen can be arrested by a police department led by a state-appointed official, be charged by a state-appointed prosecutor, be tried before a state-appointed judge, and be sentenced to imprisonment in a state penitentiary regardless of the severity of the act," the lawsuit says.

Derrick Johnson, the national president of the NAACP, is himself a resident of Jackson. At a community meeting earlier this month, he said the policing law would treat black people as "second-class citizens."

The legislation was passed by a majority-white and Republican-controlled state House and Senate. Jackson is governed by Democrats and about 83% of residents are black, the largest percentage of any major U.S. city.

The governor said this week that the Jackson Police Department is severely understaffed and he believes the state-run Capitol Police can provide stability. The city of 150,000 residents has had more than 100 homicides in each of the past three years.

"We're working to address it," Reeves said in a statement Friday.

"And when we do, we're met with overwhelming false cries of racism and mainstream media who falsely call our actions 'Jim Crow.'"

According to one of the bills Reeves signed into law Friday, Capitol Police will have "concurrent" jurisdiction with Jackson Police Department in the city. The expanded jurisdiction for the Capitol Police would begin July 1.

Another law will create a temporary court within a Capitol Complex Improvement District covering a portion of Jackson.

The court will have the same power as municipal courts, which handle misdemeanor cases, traffic violations and initial appearances for some criminal charges. The new law says people convicted in the Capitol Complex Improvement District Court may be put in a state prison rather than in a city or county jail.

The judge of the new court is not required to live in Jackson and will be appointed by the Mississippi Supreme Court chief justice. The current chief justice is a conservative white man.

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Statue honoring Mamie Till-Mobley unveiled in Illinois

The Associated Press

A memorial honoring Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett Till, was unveiled Saturday outside the suburban Chicago high school she attended as a young woman, long before she became a critical player in the Civil Rights Movement.

Emmett Till's 1955 lynching in Mississippi and his mother's insistence on an open-casket funeral for the 14-year-old served as a catalyst for civil rights. Till-Mobley was a civil rights activist for the rest of her life.

The memorial opening to the public Saturday outside Argo Community High School in Summit, Illinois includes a bronze statue of Till-Mobley with hands spread wide and standing behind a podium, which bears bronze reliefs of her son, the Mississippi barn where he was killed and the Chicago funeral home where thousands of mourners gathered.

No one has been held accountable for the teenager's kidnapping and murder; the white woman who accused him



FILE - Mamie Till-Mobley, mother of lynching victim Emmett Till, right, and Wilma Allen, of New Orleans, search for their relatives' names on the black granite table at the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 5, 1989. A memorial honoring Till-Mobley was unveiled Saturday, April 29, 2023, outside the suburban Chicago high school she attended as a young woman, long before she became a critical player in the Civil Rights Movement. AP PHOTO/DAVE MARTIN, FILE

of whistling at and accosting her died this week at the age of 88.

Till-Mobley died in 2003 in Chicago and was awarded the

Congressional Gold Medal posthumously in December along with her son.

Argo Community High School and the Argo Higher

Education Fountain raised money toward the project and an annual scholarship for a graduate demonstrating a commitment to social justice.

FBI: While active shooter incidents decreased in 2022, the number of people killed increased



While there will be a drop from 2021 to 2022, an FBI official told reporters on a call that there has been an overall increase in the frequency of active shooter situations over the past 20 years, especially over the last five years.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The FBI Wednesday revealed numbers showing a decline in active shooter situations and an increase in the number of victims shot in the United States during 2022.

The FBI defined an active shooter as "one or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area" but stressed that their report is not comprehensive. Not included in the report were incidents involving self-defense, gang violence, drug violence, domestic disputes, hostage situations and other illegal acts.

While there will be a drop from 2021 to 2022, an FBI official told reporters on a call that there has been an overall increase in the frequency of active

shooter situations over the past 20 years, especially over the last five years.

There were 18% fewer active shooter incidents in 2022 compared to 2021, according to data released by the FBI Wednesday, but the number of casualties increased from 243 to 313.

The number of people killed decreased from five in 2021 to twenty-one in 2022, while the number of injured police officers increased considerably.

With nine events, the month of May had the most shootings, with Sunday being the day with the most gun violence.

The mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, was the deadliest occurrence of 2022, and Texas also had the most shootings overall.

The most significant casual-

ties resulted from a shooting at a July 4th parade in Highland Park, Illinois, where a gunman wounded 55 people. Nearly half of the occurrences happened in public places like the Fourth of July parade, 14 occurred in commercial establishments and four occurred in educational institutions.

Only three of the fifty perpetrators were female; the youngest was 15, and the oldest was 70.

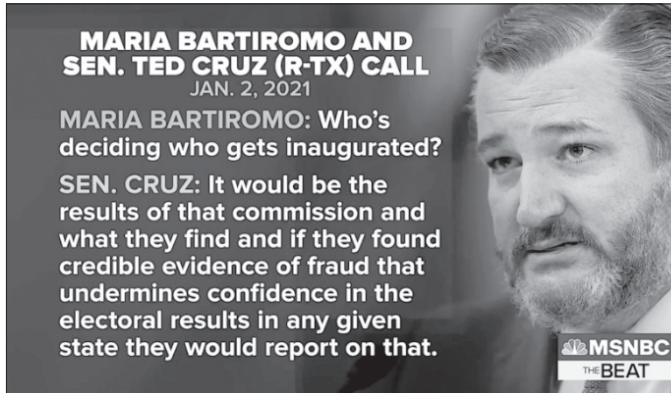
Most shooters were familiar with the site or the people inside, with the FBI reporting that roughly half of all shootings had a shooter who knew the target.

The FBI said perpetrators used 61 firearms in 50 incidents, including 29 handguns, 26 rifles, and three shotguns.

Key conclusions from the report include:

- Forty-seven men out of a total of 50 shooters. They were between the ages of 15 and 70.
- In over half of the events, the shooter had a known link to the area, the victim, or both.
- Four of the perpetrators wore body armor, and two served as snipers.
- A total of 61 firearms were used in the incidents, including 29 handguns, 26 rifles, three shotguns, and three undetermined weaponries.
- Six of the fifty active shooter incidents were reported in Texas, more than any other state.
- These shootings occurred in seven distinct settings, including open areas, commercial buildings, residences, educational institutions, government buildings, places of worship, and healthcare facilities.

Texas GOP Sen. Ted Cruz caught on tape plotting "Step Two" of Jan. 6 insurrection



By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) was adamant that neither the people nor the House of Representatives should have the final say in who would be president in 2020. After losing to Trump in the GOP primaries during the 2016 campaign, Cruz wildly expressed his reluctance to leave the decision of the 2020 contest between Trump and Joe Biden to the Electoral College.

Cruz, who once labeled Trump a "liar who can't accept defeat," proved no different from the rioters who attacked the U.S. Capitol, which led to the deaths of five police officers. He wanted Trump to remain in office and was willing to set up a fake commission to do it.

Just two days before the January 6, 2021, riot, Cruz attempted to aid Trump by giving an unsupported evaluation of accusations of election fraud. Abby Grossberg, a former Fox News producer, recorded all of this.

Special Prosecutor Jack Smith is reportedly looking for the tapes as he continues investigating Trump's actions following his defeat in the 2020 presidential election. The recording from January 2, 2021, with parts aired on national television by MSNBC's Ari Melber and afterwards supplied to publications like *The Washington Post* by Grossberg's attorney, significantly revealed an overall scheme to overturn the election results.

Clarifying the full extent of Cruz's plotting to aid Trump in overturning Biden's election, the audio features a previously secret conversation between Cruz, Grossberg, and Fox Business host Maria Bartiromo on the campaign to refuse the certification of Biden's victory.

In the transcript, Cruz brags that he convinced 11 senators to vote against using electoral certification to form a panel. After Arizona Representative Paul A. Gosar (R) challenged the state's electoral certification, Cruz became the first senator to object to the Electoral College results.

Cruz proposed delaying certification of the electoral college results to initiate a 10-day "audit" that could allow GOP state legislatures to overturn the election results.

"You need an adjudicatory body with fact-finding and investigative authority to con-

sider the facts, examine the record, and make determinations – that's how they did it in 1877," Cruz told Grossberg and Bartiromo, referring to the commission established to investigate voter fraud in the 1876 Hayes-Tilden election.

Cruz said he would have liked to have seen "these facts developed in a court of law," but then he cast doubt on the Supreme Court's ultimate decision to dismiss the lawsuits filed to contest the election Trump had lost. Unfortunately, the courts that handled these cases "did not give us a full and thorough consideration," Cruz stated.

In response to Melber's broadcast of the video, Cruz tweeted the following:

"This @msnbc [clown] is breathlessly reporting that I 'secretly' said in a phone call... the EXACT same thing I said on national television the next morning. Repeated on the Senate floor four days later. Cruz suggested to Fox News that an electoral commission be established promptly, which would conduct a 10-day evaluation and report back by Inauguration Day, in case the majority of the House and Senate objected to the certification of the Electoral College on January 6, 2021.

If the panel finds "credible evidence of fraud that undermines confidence in the electoral results in any given state," then the state would call a special session and recertify the results, as Cruz proposed. "Is there any chance you can overturn this?"

Bartiromo asked Cruz, to which he replied, "I hope so." Cruz presented his concept for an electoral commission to Fox News the same day he announced it to Republican members in Congress.

Despite criticism from some of his loyal supporters and Cruz's aides, Trump noticed the panel and tweeted his approval of Cruz's plan.

Melber claims the recording proves Cruz's plans to aid Trump in seizing power and overthrowing the election if the previous president's legal objections are dismissed. "He literally explains it that way," Melber said of Cruz.

"Basically, they would hijack the certification and use their own made-up, fake commission to declare that the Biden win was fraudulent, and then that would decide who was inaugurated."

Walgreens eases anxiety for senior shoppers with monthly Seniors Day

By Stacey Brown.
NNPA Correspondent

Walgreens unveiled on April 26, The Walgreens COVID-19 Pulse Check[1], a quantitative study commissioned by the healthcare retailer, which surveyed over 1,000 senior adults 55 and older in the U.S. about their feelings on socializing after the pandemic.

As society moves past the impacts of this pandemic, the reality for many of the nation's 41+ million seniors is that they still feel concerned about getting sick. The survey reveals that an estimated 17 million (42%) of seniors agreed they are less socially active now than they were before the pandemic. Additionally, an estimated 8.2 million (20%) of seniors feel lonelier now than before the pandemic.

The research also reveals that seniors are missing activities they enjoyed pre-pandemic due to COVID-19 exposure anxiety, which is still prevalent in the senior community:

60% are worried about seeing friends regularly and attending family gatherings

36% miss going on vacation

28% miss going shopping or running errands

19% miss being connected to their local community

15% miss the independence of doing things for themselves, like shopping

This feeling of concern around socialization increases for the black senior community 55 and older with nearly 4 in 10 (39%) of these seniors reporting feeling socially isolated, 13 per-



Walgreens COVID-19 Pulse Check finds seniors are less socially active now than before the pandemic and are seeking confidence in socializing.

centage points higher than the total population of 55 and older. In addition, over 4 in 10 (43%) seniors in the black community reported they are limiting what they do and where they go in fear of catching COVID-19 – 16 percentage points higher than the total population of 55 and older.

Inspiring senior confidence with shopping experiences, savings and support

When seniors think about their confidence in socializing, The Walgreens COVID-19 Pulse Check found 70% of seniors are more confident socializing when the people they are around are vaccinated against COVID-19 and other viruses like flu, shingles and pneumonia.

To help create inclusive communities and unlock the joy of

aging, Walgreens Seniors Day fosters an accessible, safe and supported environment. Patients 55 and older and their caregivers can save 20% off eligible regular-priced merchandise on the first Tuesday of every month or online all week with code SENIOR20 at checkout (Sunday-Saturday of that week).

At checkout, seniors should let a Walgreens team member know they are shopping with the Seniors Day discount for the savings to apply to their purchase. Those with Medicare Advantage over-the-counter benefits are encouraged to ask team members how to take advantage of their benefit while in store.

Our pharmacy teams are trained to support the senior population through pharmacy services including, Save A Trip

Refill, 90-day prescription fills and refill reminders which are designed to make medication management easier, keeping them healthy and avoid hospitalization.

With the majority of seniors feeling more confident in a society with immunizations and testing, building a healthy post-pandemic world where everyone feels included is a shared responsibility.

No cost at-home COVID-19 tests are available with most insurance plans through May 11, 2023. Limits apply to the number of tests covered per person per month.

Walgreens brand at-home COVID-19 tests provide an affordable option and are available with a deeper discount on Senior Day. Walgreens pharmacy team members are available to help

customers use their pharmacy benefits to get over-the-counter test kits through their insurance.

“As a trusted healthcare destination, we’re giving customers another testing option to stay ahead of COVID-19 with our Walgreens brand at-home COVID-19 test, broadening our assortment in stores and online,” said Luke Rauch, Walgreens chief merchandising officer and senior vice president. “In addition to tests, we offer an assortment of Walgreens brand products that offer a great everyday value and are designed to meet our consumers’ needs.”

To help further protect this senior community more at risk from, and concerned about, COVID-19, shingles and pneumonia, Walgreens pharmacy team members are available during Seniors Days and every day to make getting vaccinated simple. This includes the recently approved additional bivalent (updated) COVID-19 dose for those ages 65+ and certain immunocompromised individuals. Customers can schedule a vaccine appointment online, via the myWalgreens app or by calling (800)-WALGREENS, available in both Spanish and English.

Unlocking the joy of aging with essential products and doorstep delivery

With more than 85,000 healthcare service providers, including pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and nurse practitioners, Walgreens offers customers with more complex health needs easy access to the medications, treatments and products

they need to keep safe and well.

This includes products from walkers and hearing aids along with Walgreens brand line of vitamins with a range of products like Calcium, Iron and Vitamin C. As a trusted name in health and wellness, Walgreens brand health and wellness products are Walgreens pharmacist recommended and backed by a 100% satisfaction guarantee.

Making it even easier for seniors to get the products they want and need, Walgreens now offers 24-Hour delivery. Available around the clock, seven days a week from 600+ participating stores across the country, customers can get last-minute needs like groceries, over-the-counter medications, personal care items, household necessities and more. If a customer wants to swing by Walgreens, 30-minute pickup makes it easy to shop their local store via *Walgreens.com* or the myWalgreens app and have items ready for pickup in-store or curbside in as little as 30 minutes.

To find out more about the work Walgreens is doing to support our senior communities visit *Walgreens.com*.

About the study

The Walgreens COVID-19 Pulse Check Study is a quantitative survey of 1,048 adults 55 and older conducted February 17 – 18, 2023 using an online data collection methodology. The survey was fielded by Dynata, a global survey vendor, and was commissioned by Walgreens.

Marijuana and testicular cancer

By Vince Faust
Tips to be Fit

Some studies have reported a potential association between marijuana use and testicular cancer. A new study shows smoking marijuana over an extended period of time appears to boost a young man's risk for developing a particular aggressive form of testicular cancer.

Researchers found that men who smoke marijuana once a week or began to use the substance on a long-term basis had a 70% greater risk of developing testicular cancer.

Marijuana has many adverse health effects, regardless of its impact on testicular cancer. Smoking marijuana involves inhaling a number of chemicals and toxins, which can harm the lungs and respiratory system. Marijuana use can affect your hormone levels, including testosterone, which can influence the risk of certain types of cancer. The specific mechanisms for the development of cancer are not fully understood.

Typically testicular cancer develops in young men between the ages of 15 and 44. The highest incidence of testicular cancer occurs in men in their early twenties. Risk factors include a family history of testicular cancer, undescended testicles, testicular abnormalities and certain genetic conditions.

The exact causes of testicular cancer are unclear. Researchers are investigating potential environmental factors, such as marijuana use.

Marijuana, known as cannabis, is a psychoactive substance derived from the Cannabis Sativa plant. It contains various chemical compounds, notably tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD). THC is responsible for the intoxicating effects of marijuana, while CBD has been studied for its therapeutic properties. Both compounds interact with cannabinoid receptors in your body, influencing various physiological processes.

The association between marijuana use and testicular cancer has been explored. Some studies have suggested a potential cancer link. The studies took into account various factors, such as study design, sample size, duration and frequency of marijuana use, and the potency of marijuana consumed.

The potential link between marijuana use and testicular cancer is the hormonal disruption hypothesis. THC has been shown to affect the endocrine system, potentially altering hormone levels in your body. Testicular cancer development is tied to a hormonal imbalance, particularly elevated levels of estrogen and decreased levels of your testosterone. Marijuana use can disrupt your delicate hormonal balance, potentially increasing the risk of testicular cancer.

We know that the incidence of testicular cancer has been rising in our country and in Europe over the last 40 years. Marijuana use has also risen over the same period of time. It seems logically that there might

be an association between the two. The research also noted that your testes can be particularly vulnerable to the affects of marijuana given that the organ along with your brain, heart, uterus and spleen carry specific receptors for THC.

The relationship between testicular cancer and marijuana use is complex. Studies suggest a potential link, primarily through the hormonal disruption hypothesis and exposure to carcinogens in cannabis smoke. As marijuana use becomes more prevalent, it is crucial for further studies to be conducted with larger sample sizes, rigorous methodologies and the ability to control for confounding variables.

Future research should also explore the potential impact of different marijuana strains, modes of consumption and long-term effects to gain a comprehensive understanding of the relationship with the use of marijuana and cancer.

The signs of testicular cancer include:

1. Lump or swelling: The most common sign of testicular cancer is a painless lump or swelling in one or both testicles. It may feel like a small, hard nodule or a larger, softer mass. The lump is usually found on the front or side of your testicle.

2. Testicular pain or discomfort: Some men may experience pain or discomfort in their testicles or scrotum. The pain may range from a dull ache to a sharp, intense sensation. Not all cases of testicular cancer

cause pain.

3. Heaviness or change in testicle size: The affected testicle may feel heavier than usual or appear larger than your other testicle. You might notice a change in the size, shape or consistency of your testicles.

4. Swelling or lumps in your scrotum: In addition to testicular lumps, you may also feel swollen or lumpy areas in your scrotum itself.

5. Aching in the lower abdomen or groin: Some men with testicular cancer experience a persistent ache or discomfort in their lower abdomen or groin area.

6. Back pain: In rare cases, testicular cancer may spread to your lymph nodes or other parts of your body, leading to back pain.

The treatment for testicular cancer involves a combination of surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy. The specific treatment plan depends on many factors, including the stage and type of testicular cancer, as well as the individual's overall health.

Surgery is the primary treatment for testicular cancer. The most common procedure is called radical inguinal orchiectomy, which involves the surgical removal of the affected testicle. In some cases, a retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (RPLND) may also be performed to remove lymph nodes in the abdomen.

After surgery, additional treatments may be recommended based on the cancer's stage and other factors.

Weight loss tips from a woman who lost 50 pounds

Statepoint

Life is full of memorable events – both big and small. But sometimes, when you don't feel your best, those moments can seem like a blur. With her upcoming wedding approaching, Audrey B. was determined to enjoy this special time in her life, but there was one thing standing in her way – her own self-confidence.

“I no longer felt comfortable in my own skin,” says Audrey. “I knew I needed to focus on my health and wellness goals so that I could feel my best in time for my wedding.”

And that's just what she did. By the time her big day rolled around, Audrey had lost 50 pounds. “I can honestly say I'm happier and healthier than ever before. And now I actually enjoy eating healthy and staying active,” explains Audrey, who found success using Nutrisystem.

If you have an upcoming event in your life or you're simply looking to commit to a healthier lifestyle, these simple tips, which helped Audrey on her weight loss journey, may help you too.

Use portion control. Did you know that over the last few decades, portion sizes in restaurants and at dinner tables have grown? That means oftentimes you're eating more than you need to, which can hinder your weight loss efforts. With Nutrisystem, meals are perfectly portioned and set you up for success so that you're not overindulging.

Add veggies to every meal. The key to losing weight and keeping it off is to replace high-calorie, low-fiber foods with low-calorie, high-fiber foods like veg-



Audrey B.

etables. High-fiber foods can help you feel full faster so it's important to add them to every meal. Vegetables are great for snacking too. For example, try grabbing a bowl of carrots or slices of bell pepper instead of potato chips.

Drink more water. Water has so many benefits, from increasing energy and relieving fatigue to boosting your immune system and of course, promoting weight loss. Water can help you feel full and potentially eat less. In fact, sometimes a glass of water is enough to curb what you thought was hunger. If you have a hard time reaching your water intake goal, you can use an app, like Nutrisystem's NuMi, to send you reminders and track what you consume.

Get moving. A key part of living a healthier lifestyle is making sure you move more. One of the most simple and effective exercises that can be done anywhere is jumping rope. It's not only a solid cardiovascular workout, it's great for challenging your coordination and stamina. No matter what exercise you choose, moving your body for 30 minutes per day can have great benefits. You can even break that 30 minutes into three 10-minute sessions to make it less daunting.

P R E S E R V E D

Prepare for the overflow of blessings

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“You are blocking your blessing.” This is what one friend told me a few years ago was the reason why I was not receiving God’s blessings in one particular area of my life. She said that instead of focusing on faith, I focused too much on my doubt.

At first I agreed with her about the impact that faith had on receiving God’s blessing. However, it wasn’t until I read story of The Widow’s Olive Oil from the Old Testament that I realized that receiving God’s blessing has more to do with just having faith.

First of all, we must have faith in order to be willing to admit that we need a blessing. But we also need to prepare to receive the blessing by having

the right amount of faith.

The widow’s olive oil story, found in 2 Kings 4, begins with the widow asking the prophet Elisha to help her with her finances. When he asks her how he can help and what she has, she says that all she has is olive oil. In 2 Kings 4:3 Elisha responds by telling her “Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.”

She does what appears to be everything Elisha instructs her to do with the exception of one thing: She does not have enough jars for the abundance of oil that follows. In verse 6 her son replies “There is not a jar left.” Then the oil stopped flowing.” Were her blessings literally stopped because of her unbelief illustrated in her

not having enough jars?

Some say that she only partially obeyed the prophet’s instructions which is still disobedience. Others say that what stopped her blessings (the oil flowing) was that she did not gather enough jars because though she had faith (as symbolized by the number of jars), she didn’t have enough when it was necessary.

Interestingly, she had faith to reach out to Elisha and even had enough faith to follow his instructions. Even after the oil stopped, she had faith and went back to the prophet who told her to sell the oil she had bottled and to use what remained to take care of her debts. She even had enough oil to provide for her family’s future needs.

Like the widow, we often have no problem acknowledging God’s instructions and even obey in faith to the best of our abilities. Yet, some-

times, blessings may stop simply because we did not adequately prepare to receive them.

I think the widow’s story is much like how some of us respond when we want blessings from God but struggle with receiving them in their promised abundance. We have to have enough faith to pray for the blessing, but we also have to be prepared to receive the overabundance of the blessing when it comes.

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

Thank God for the compassionate heart

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



Have you ever encountered a homeless person, given them some money, watched them shuffle away and wondered, “Have I just paid for their next drink or drug, or rewarded laziness?” In some cases, you may be right or in other cases wrong. So, what should you do?

In Second Corinthians, Chapter 8, God gives us a plan we can understand and follow. The Macedonian church did it this way: (1) Both the well-off and the needy participated. They all gave, even those in “extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity – and even beyond their ability.” (2) They gave gladly, not under pressure. “Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing.” (3) Their giving flowed from their devotion to Christ.

“They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us. They didn’t give to impress others, or for a tax deduction, or to get the preacher off their backs, or because they felt bad for the needy. No, it was a natured response to bring in love with Jesus.” (4) The church leaders received, oversaw, and distributed their collective giving. They didn’t give naively, trusting the integrity of the unknown and unproven. Their leaders managed and distributed their gifts openly, consistently, with accountability.”

They knew the finances were handled honestly in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.

Bottom line: you can give without loving, but you can’t love without giving to those God loves. (They gave themselves ... to the Lord and then to us” 2 Corinthians 8:5).

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



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It's going to rain, do you have an umbrella?

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
Guest Writer



One of my favorite ways to spend quality time with my husband believe it or not is in the grocery store, which occurs occasionally. Further, I actually consider grocery shopping with my husband as somewhat of a date, especially if our schedules have been too hectic throughout the week to spend any alone time together.

When we first met in college and became engaged, Wal-Mart would easily turn into a two-hour or longer date for us. We loved going in any store together because it meant spending time together.

Now notice, I stated that I anticipate going to the store with my husband as a date – he, on the other hand, believes that a date should not include buggies, baskets, cash registers, aisles and self-checkouts.

It just so happens that my husband and I went grocery shopping this past Saturday and I noticed that when we got out that it looked like it was going to rain. Therefore, I asked him to grab our umbrella for a just-in-case scenario. Nevertheless, my expert husband assumed that we were going to be okay and getting an umbrella would not be necessary. Of course, I asked was he sure because I did not want to get my recent hairdo wet, (you know how we get about our hair) and he expressed that if it did rain, he would drive up and take every precaution to keep my hair dry.

We proceeded in the store and I didn't think much about it. We looked forward to getting the items we needed like black pepper, paper plates, sweet potatoes, etc. We spent about an hour in the store and had to wait for our tickets and items to be checked before leaving. As we were exiting, we were met with a major challenge: lots of rain, no darn umbrella, and my recent hairdo. We both looked at one another and my husband quickly reassured me that I had nothing to worry about. He did not give me time to say anything – he ran out so quickly (wonder why he ran out so quickly?).

As I was waiting for my husband to load the groceries in our vehicle I noticed the following: several couples walking out of the store prepared with their umbrellas, I noticed several wives who opened their umbrel-

las to accommodate both of them while the husbands pushed the baskets, a couple of spouses held the umbrella together, a couple of husbands went to get the vehicle while the wives were waiting along with me in the store. Overall, I witnessed love, care and empathy by most of the spouses in some type of way – they all seemed to be interested in looking out for one another.

My husband eventually drove up, got out of the vehicle soaking wet with our umbrella. I encouraged him to hold the umbrella over both of us and he did. He opened the door for me and made sure I got in without getting wet.

Yes, in my mind, I had meditated on a spicy, "I told you so speech." But, I simply said, "Thank you, and next time, please just get an umbrella if we anticipate rain." He couldn't do anything but agree and I told him that this actually inspired what I would write about this week.

In conclusion, every couple will experience dark clouds in your marriage. If you have not experienced dark clouds and the rain, stay married and you will. However, if you both are willing to take hold of an umbrella, you both can withstand the rain.

The idea of holding on to an umbrella includes the willingness for both of you to seek God as your umbrella (covering for marriage), pray for your marriage, fight for your marriage, reassure one another of your love, protect your marriage from negative outside influences such as social media, preying men and women (some women won't stop preying on husbands until they get the house, dog, goldfish and the darn umbrella), and work on improving self in the areas of communication, compromising, understanding, patience, forgiveness, empathy, building trust and intimacy, exercising self-care, self-love – love and nurture yourself so that you can love and nurture your spouse and even your children.

It's going to rain: do you have an umbrella?

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

Thomas does not belong on the Supreme Court

By Svante Myrick
Mississippi State Director for the Southern Poverty Law Center

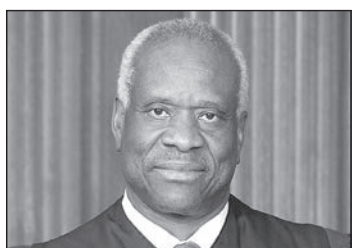


It's been over 30 years since Justice Clarence Thomas was confirmed to the Supreme Court seat once held by the great Thurgood Marshall, and it's safe to say that his reputation for unethical behavior – which was poor to start with – has only gotten worse.

What are we supposed to think about a justice's career that started with allegations of sexual harassment, moved on to extreme coziness with conservative political donors, then multiple instances of questionable gifts and payments to himself and his wife, and now revelations that years of free trips and perks lavished on him by right-wing billionaire Harlan Crow went unreported – despite laws that clearly say they should be?

Even after the news of Crow's largesse first broke, it got worse: Crow had also bought Thomas's mother's house in Savannah, a helpful real estate deal that Thomas never reported, either.

We could think that Thomas either doesn't know or doesn't care about the ethical standards expected of a Supreme Court justice, or the laws that apply to him as a public employee. But



Thomas

Thomas is a graduate of Yale Law School. Ignorance is not a believable defense here. So we have to conclude that Thomas just doesn't care about the rules, or thinks that he can ignore them.

That's not the kind of person who belongs on the Supreme Court. If he wanted to do the decent and honorable thing, Thomas would admit his wrongdoing and resign. Calls for him to resign are coming from pro-democracy groups including the one I lead, top media outlets, and members of Congress.

But Thomas doesn't have a history of doing the decent and honorable thing. So that means others will have to hold him accountable. The question is how?

There are plenty of calls for impeachment, but with a Republican-controlled House the option would appear to be off the table. Meanwhile the Senate will hold hearings and may call Thomas himself to testify. That is an important step. I would add that two other steps are absolute-

ly essential right now: a Justice Department investigation and Supreme Court reform including an enforceable code of ethics.

The Justice Department has clear grounds to investigate Thomas under a federal disclosure law that applies to government officials including Supreme Court justices. The law authorizes DOJ to pursue both civil penalties and criminal fines from government officials who fail to report gifts as legally required.

Thomas has claimed that the generosity he received from Harlan Crow was just "personal hospitality" – not subject to reporting. Even if some of that were true, some perks, like free use of Crow's private jet for Thomas's personal travel, and the real estate transaction in Georgia are, according to most ethics experts, clearly in a different category.

The Justice Department can give a definitive answer as to whether Thomas's actions were not only unsavory, unethical, improper and all the rest – but also absolutely illegal. And it can call for imposition of a monetary fine. Even more important than the cash fine would be the impetus a finding of guilt would give to any effort to remove Thomas.

And then, to help ensure that trust in the Court isn't further eroded by scandal after scan-

dal, we need to have Supreme Court reform. That means an enforceable code of ethics specifically for the Court, written to address the full range of ethical questions that could ever apply to justices' behavior. In the longer term we should also have Supreme Court expansion, to counteract the far-right capture of the Court that was achieved by totally unethical means. But that is a larger conversation.

It has been painful to watch Thomas's corrupt behavior and its effect on the Supreme Court. This is especially true given the historic significance of the seat he occupies. We need judges on all our courts – not just the highest – who act with humility and who understand the impact of their decisions on everyday Americans.

Courts really do make a difference in the lives of everyday people. They should be led by trustworthy, fair-minded judges who value equality and justice, uphold the Constitution, and protect civil and human rights for all Americans.

That's not Clarence Thomas.

Svante Myrick is president of *People For the American Way*. Previously, He served as executive director of *People For and led campaigns focused on transforming public safety, racial equity, voting rights, and empowering young elected officials*.

Thirty years later, an antidote to NAFTA

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



Thirty years ago, my university suspended me for leading a protest against a research lab that the school wanted to put in the Audubon Ballroom where Malcolm X was assassinated. The plans ignored both that history and the neighbors in Harlem who would be exposed to risks from biomedical and environmental waste.

I spent months crisscrossing the country speaking out against the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for the Student Environmental Action Coalition. Our message was simple – killing jobs and the environment were far too high a price to pay to boost regional trade. They called us Chicken Little for saying that the deal would make the US weaker and would poison the Earth quicker.

Since January, I've been to many of the same places – Alabama, Illinois, New York, Washington and Wisconsin among them. In all those states, I've felt the pain of being proven right. Everything we warned in 1993 would happen has. And worse.

Tens of thousands of plants

here were shuttered while plants spring up overseas. Too often, those new plants opened where there was the least environmental regulation and outside North America. We saw the impact of this loss of manufacturing capacity two years ago when we couldn't produce ventilators and protective equipment at the start of COVID-19.

NAFTA created legal backdoors that allowed polluters to challenge environmental policies outside of our courts. It tied Canada's hands in regulating fossil fuel. In Mexico, it prompted export-driven farming that relies heavily on dangerous pesticides, and destructive mining as well. The incentives pointed in the wrong direction.

Despite those troubling results, I've left every place I've been this year hopeful. I'm seeing that we have an antidote now to NAFTA's poison.

First, science and technology now can free us from an extraction economy that pretends to give us energy independence and low costs. In reality, electric vehicles need a quarter of the power or less (and their sticker price is dropping with demand) than gas-powered equivalents. All but one coal fired power plant in the country is more expensive

per kilowatt hour of electricity produced than solar and wind power. And we won't run out of sun and wind.

Second, the United States investing in a cleaner, healthier planet through historic federal spending on everything from homeowners buying solar panels to school districts replacing dirty diesel buses with electric ones to property owners electrifying buildings. Behind it all is funding and incentives to promote more clean technology. The result will be good jobs that don't take a college degree in industries that don't destroy the planet.

The private sector is moving more slowly but is moving. Major banks no longer fund drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Small groups of their shareholders are pushing for broader bans. The price for offshore leases to produce wind power has exceeded gas and oil leases in recent government sales.

Third, everywhere I go I've heard fear in the people I've met about the future of the Earth and frustration with an economy that seems to result in persistent downward mobility and poverty. At the same time, I've heard profound hope that it's not too late, that we can still preserve the planet and create

good jobs for more Americans. I've heard a recognition that all of it is connected.

We need to make sure that the billions we're investing as a country through the infrastructure and clean energy packages get spent well; those decisions will get made locally and we need to be watchful locally as well.

The desire so many of us share to turn toward a cleaner and healthier world creates demand. If we're loud enough and persistent enough, the markets will begin to shift. NAFTA, after all, was an economic agreement, so changing directions needs to happen in those kinds of economic terms as well.

I suspect my 20-year-old self would see this unprecedented opportunity in this intersection of innovation, investment and interest. I'd be encouraging people to seize it because we won't have it again. That's what I see clearly through 50-year-old eyes.

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

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

4/27/2023, 5/4/2023

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP
RFP 2023-12 Online and Blended Learning

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

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

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

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

4/27/2023, 5/4/2023

Cooperative Energy

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

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

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

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

LEGAL

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


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

CAUSE NUMBER: **1:15-pr-00409**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

This the 13th day of April, 2023.


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

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

COUNSEL FOR THE ESTATE

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

LEGAL

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received electronically via MAGIC or physically delivered to the office of the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. (14:00:00 Military Time) on Thursday, 06/08/2023, for:

RE: GS# 320-085 ARPA Mit. - MCCF
Department of Corrections
RFx # 3160005846

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: Engineering Resource Group, Inc.
Address: Post Office Drawer 16443
Jackson, Mississippi 39236
Phone: 601-362-3552
Email: mbutler@ergms.com

A deposit of \$100.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management

5/4/2023, 5/11/2023

LEGAL

Advertisement for Reverse Auction Bids
Bid 3236 Child Nutrition Food Services Equipment Reverse Auction

Reverse Auction bidding 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 19, 2023, at which time Reverse Auction bidding begins electronically. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning this Reverse Auction project will be held at 101 Dr. Dennis Holloway Drive, Jackson, MS 39203 on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 2:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date Reverse Auction bid opening ends.

Unpriced Specification responses must be submitted for this bid event. Specifications are due no later than (5:00 p.m., May 12, 2023) local time to be the given the opportunity to participate in the auction. Vendors submitting acceptable specification responses will be invited to participate in the electronic reverse auction at www.centralbidding.com on May 19, 2023 beginning at 10:00 a.m. local time. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to participate in the reverse auction. For any questions concerning the reverse auction process or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

5/4/2023, 5/11/2023

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Jackson, MS will conduct Public Hearings and an Application Workshop regarding the development of its 2023 One-Year Action Plan of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The Annual Action Planning process requires broad public participation by citizens and entities which are interested in, or are providing assistance in, the areas of housing, services for the homeless, public services and other community development activities.

The City of Jackson estimates that we will receive \$1,745,968 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; \$958,017 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds; \$153,954 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds; and \$1,602,538 in Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOP-WA) funds for a total of \$4,460,477.

The Public Hearings will explain the purpose of the City's Annual Action Plan; discuss the City's goals and accomplishments with HUD funds; and consult with the public by accepting public comments regarding proposed activities for the programs. The Public Hearings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates at the specified locations:

May 15, 2023
Tabernacle Ministries, 2025 N. Siwell Rd., 39212

May 30, 2023
Charity Activity and Event Center, 195 Raymond Road, 39204
(Washington Addition)

June 27, 2023
Warren Hood Building, 200 S. President St., 39201
(Final Public Hearing)

Application/Proposal Workshop- For non-profit organizations interested in applying for HUD funding, workshops will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at City of Jackson, 200 South President Street, Andrew Jackson Conference Room, Jackson, MS 39201. The Workshop will be conducted as follow:

- ESG and HOPWA Applicant workshop will be from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- HOME Workshop will be from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Deadline- Application/Proposal packages for 2023 ESG, HOPWA, and HOME will only be accepted electronically via email. Electronic submission instructions will be included in the application instructions. Applications will be available for download on June 13, 2023 by visiting <https://www.jacksonms.gov/housing-community-development/>. The deadline to submit all applications electronically is by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 14, 2023.

No application/proposal packages will be accepted at our office or by mail.

The draft Annual Action Plan will be available for review at the final public hearing and on the City's website at www.jacksonms.gov on June 8, 2023. The City will be accepting public comments on the draft Annual Action Plan until no later than 5:00 p.m., on Monday, July 27, 2023.

Residents with disabilities are encouraged to notify the City at least five (5) days prior to the public hearing of any needed accommodations.

For more details contact the Office of Development Assistance Division at 601-960-2155.

5/4/2023

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS
OF INTEREST

BY THE
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR SERVICES IN
CONNECTION WITH THE NEW TERMINAL FEASIBILITY STUDY
AT THE

JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 016-23

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is requesting Statement of Qualifications and Expressions of Interest (each, a "Statement of Qualifications") to provide architectural and related services (the "Services") to JMAA in connection with the New Terminal Feasibility Study Located at JAN JMAA Project No. 016-23 at JAN.

JMAA will receive sealed electronic or printed submissions only. All submissions of Statement of Qualifications to perform the Services will be accepted until Monday, June 05, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on (the "Deadline"). RFQ shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows: Email: bids@jmaa.com

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

JMAA will not consider any Statement of Qualifications received after Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Statement of Qualifications ("RFQ") is on file and open for the public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFQ, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents, and Criteria for Selection.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Mr. Marvin Buckhalter, JMAA, Director of Procurement, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
Attn: Marvin Buckhalter
Director of Procurement
100 International Drive, Suite 300
Jackson, MS 39208
Telephone: (601) 664-3516
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713
Email: mbuckhalter@jmaa.com
or JMAA's website at <https://jmaabids.com>

<https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
APRIL 26, 2023

John Means, (Acting) Chief Executive Officer

4/27/2023 5/4/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

74507-051623 – Twelve Month Supply of Asphaltic Pavement Materials

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

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

4/27/2023, 5/4/2023

SEEK MENTAL HEALTH HELP BECAUSE YOU'RE STRONG.



Getting a mental health diagnosis isn't the *end* of life as you know it. It's the *beginning* of your journey towards hope. Support yourself or loved ones by seeking mental health treatment.

CALL OR TEXT **988**, OR FIND YOUR LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH CENTER: **HOPEISHEREMS.COM/CMHC**



Mississippi Department of Mental Health

dmh.ms.gov

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YOU QUALIFY for Free Internet if you receive Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline and Tribal.





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Bonus offer: 4G Android Tablet with one time co-pay of \$20

ACP program details can be found at www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-consumer-faq

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.

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

© Feature Exchange

Sudoku Solution

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

© Feature Exchange

PICK UP

THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON
BULLY'S RESTAURANT
3118 Livingston Road
CASH & CARRY
Capitol Street and Monument Street
CITY HALL
219 S President St
GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX
2659 Livingston Road
DOLLAR GENERAL
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
J & A FUEL STORES
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
MCDADÉ'S MARKET
Northside Drive
MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive

SPORTS MEDICINE
Fortification and I-55
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
REVELL ACE HARDWARE
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
WALGREENS
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON
A & I
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
FRYER LANE GROCERY
Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY
507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
LACY'S INSURANCE
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM
DOLLAR GENERAL
125 Swinging Bridge Dr.
HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE
5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON
DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY
SERVICE STATION
at Exit 78
CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND
HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOME CENTER
505 E. Main Street
SUNFLOWER GROCERY
122 Old Port Gibson Street, Raymond, MS
LOVE FOOD MART
120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY
126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND CITY HALL
110 Courtyard Square, Raymond
RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA
HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP
Mississippi Hwy 18
PITT STOP
101 Hwy 18 & 27

BOLTON
BOLTON LIBRARY
BOLTON CITY HALL

MCAN

Mississippi Classified Advertising Network

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Businessn Opp

NEWSPAPER FOR SALE: Owner retiring. Small weekly newspaper and companion shopper in a beautiful region of Mississippi. Serious inquiries only. Contact Layne Bruce, lbruce@mspress.org.

For Sale

MOVING SALE: 5 piece white wicker bedroom \$350, antique ice box \$150, secretary desk \$350, large wood desk \$500, file cabinets, credenza, mini fridge, wood dinette 4 chairs \$150, safe \$250, medical equipment, hall tree \$100. Senatobia 662-301-2861.

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THE GENERAC PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-844-355-7099.

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Medical Supplies

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DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1 - 8 5 5 - 3 9 7 - 7 0 4 5 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/mspress)
FREE AUTO INSURANCE QUOTES for uninsured and insured drivers. Let us show you how much you can save! Call 833-396-2834

Miscellaneous

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-400-8263
STATEWIDE ADVERTISING in Mississippi newspapers handled with one call- one payment service. If you need to advertise in multiple Mississippi markets, contact Mississippi Press Services: 601-981-3060.

Pets / Livestock

ARE YOU A PET OWNER? Do you want to get up to 100% back on Vet Bills? Physicians Mutual Insurance Company has pet coverage that can help! Call 1-855-516-3653 to get a free quote or visit insurebarkmeow.com/msp

Services-General

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS HOME INTERNET with EarthLink. Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, and data plans up to 300 GB. Call 866-831-4021
DISH NETWORK. \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch and Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-877-628-3143

Services-General

FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-855-215-7081
SWITCH AND SAVE UP TO \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-844-954-4517

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1 col. x 3 inch.....\$785
1 col. x 4 inch.....\$1050

Call MS Press Services
601-981-3060

Week of April 30, 2023

Secretary Watson announces 2023-2024 SOS Student Ambassadors

Special to The Mississippi Link

After a competitive application process, Mississippi Secretary of State Michael Watson is proud to announce the 2023-2024 class of Secretary of State (SOS) Student Ambassadors.

The Ambassador program equips high school seniors with the knowledge and resources to engage as leaders within their schools and communities. This year's group of Ambassadors consists of 67 students from 46 schools in 35 counties across all four congressional districts.

"High school students, especially those in Mississippi, are often catalysts for groundbreaking ideas and positive change. I have no doubt this class of SOS Ambassadors will continue to raise the standards of last year's inaugural class," said Secretary Michael Watson. "We are excited to work with another group of diverse young leaders and look forward to seeing them in Jackson in August."

The class of Secretary of State Student Ambassadors include the following seniors:

Alex Bonin, Alex Foster, Angel Viveros, Anna Beth Kilgore, Ava Perry, Aznii Welchlin, Bailey Powel, Bella Grace Lane, Bradford McAllester Stewart, III, Britton Dickerson, Brooke Bumgarner, Bryce Crawford Smith, Caedence Hodge, Cait Mayo, Carrington Fowler, Cazyah Cooper, Chloe Hillyer, Christopher Dawson, Colin Richardson, Dajah Earles, Danielle Wallace, Davis Hardin, Eliana Vaughn, Elyse Smith, Emily Majors, Emma-Grace Loper, Evelyn Lachaussee, Fatima Stafford, Gabrielle Riz, Georgia Collins, Hallie Smith, Harrison Brown, Harrison Hinkel, Iris Xue, Isaiah Tyler, Jaden Agnew,



Watson

Jakobe Washington, Jermarius Everett, John Ford Thomas, II, John Parker Dancer, John Robert Walker, John Stevenson, Kameryn Bardwell, Kenneth Lenell Crowley Jr., Kori Jeffries, Kye Webb, Kershlyn Crowley, Layton Nowel, Lennie Kate Wood, Maci Thomas, Macy Walker, Maria Barrera,

Marion Reese, Mason McLellan, Morgyn Williams, Murry Catherine Alderman, Natyia Harris, Quinton Howard Dickerson, IV, Ruth Bishop, Sara Hadyn Brady, Shelby Hadley, Taylor Griffin, Trager Yeoman, William Ham-mack, William Andrews, Wyatt Eaton and Zeyad Ibrahim.

MPB partners with Microsoft Philanthropy, LinkedIn Learning to offer free online employment resources

Mississippians can learn or update their career skills online while earning points toward cash prizes

Special to The Mississippi Link

Mississippi Public Broadcasting, Bean Path, Jackson Resource Center and the City of Jackson have partnered with Microsoft Philanthropy and LinkedIn Learning to offer free career and skill-training resources to Mississippians.

Skill-IT-Thon is a program built upon Microsoft's Skills for Jobs learning pathways. These role-based learning paths provide opportunities for people – at any stage in their career – to reskill and up-skill for in-demand roles. The program offers more than 70 courses related to roles in a more digital economy.

As part of the program's launch in Mississippi, registrants can participate in the Skill-IT-Thon, a free upskilling challenge with cash prizes. Beginning May 1, registrants can take online skills courses from LinkedIn Learning and earn certificates to bolster their resumes while competing in the Skill-IT-Thon.

Participants earn points with a certificate of completion for a Foundational Skills course or Career Essentials Certificate for a Career pathway. The top earners in three categories will win cash prizes, ranging from \$1,500 to \$250. The prizes will be awarded after the competition ends June 30.

Any person in Mississippi age 16 or over can register for the Skill-IT-Thon. After the competition ends, the LinkedIn courses and pathways will still be avail-

able to anyone, regardless of whether they competed in the Skill-IT-Thon.

The new collaboration is the latest effort of MPB's Education Department. MPB received grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in 2018 to create a workforce development initiative. Getting to Work MS focuses on educating students and adults about career pathways, essential workforce priorities, initiatives, and programs.

Mississippi Public Broadcasting provides relevant instructional and public affairs programming to Mississippians through its statewide television and radio network. MPB enhances the work of educators, students, parents and learners of all ages by providing informative programming and educational resources. MPB's locally-produced programming focuses on the people, resources and attractions that reflect Mississippi's unique culture and diverse heritage. Children's television programs constitute a major portion of the daytime and weekend morning schedules. MPB provides a valuable resource to Mississippians in disseminating information as part of the state's emergency preparedness and response system. Since 1970, MPB has won over 350 national, regional and statewide awards, including Emmy®, Edward R. Murrow and Parents' Choice® Awards.

For more information on MPB, visit www.mpbonline.org.

Kelly's Green to host hiring event for medical marijuana industry

Special to The Mississippi Link

Kelly's Green, a medical cannabis company, based in Jackson, is hosting a job fair for people interested in working in the medical marijuana industry in Mississippi this Saturday, May 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at their grow facility.

In order to work for any licensed medical cannabis company in Mississippi, employees must have a medical marijuana work permit issued by the State Department of Health. At the job fair, team members from Kelly's Green will educate those interested in working in the industry about how to apply for the proper permit.

"Now that patients are able to get medical marijuana patient cards, there is a huge need for

more employees in the medical cannabis workforce to make sure we are able to provide these patients with the best product in a timely manner," said Kelly Williams, CEO of Kelly's Green. "While we are actively hiring more employees here at Kelly's Green, our goal with this event is to help grow the workforce for the industry as a whole."

The first and only woman-owned vertically integrated medical cannabis company in the state, Kelly's Green is one of the dozens of newly formed Mississippi-based cannabis businesses hoping for a bright future in the industry not only for its business owners but the thousands of Mississippi residents who have eagerly sought

this new alternative for pain relief. Through their upcoming hiring event, Kelly's Green is looking forward to interacting with individuals interested in learning more about their business's several available positions and how they can become a big part of Mississippi's newest industry.

Kelly's Green's upcoming employment event will take place on-site at their facility located at 540 Ford Avenue, Jackson, MS 39209.

Potential applicants are asked to bring their state issued ID and proof of residence.

To learn more about Kelly's Green, visit them on the web at www.kellysgreen.org and be sure to follow them on Facebook and Instagram at [kellysgreeninc](https://www.instagram.com/kellysgreeninc).

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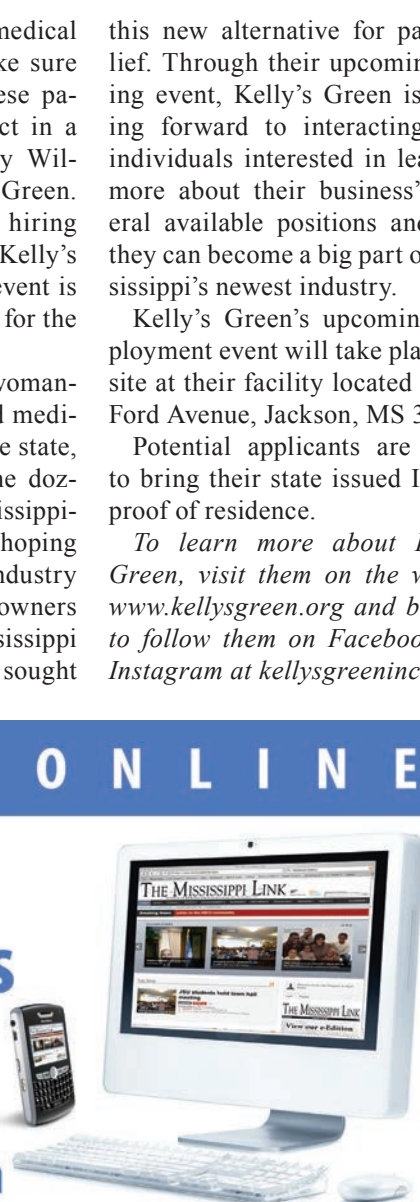
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New Orleans teen shatters record with \$10M in scholarship offers

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Teenager Dennis Barnes has shattered multi-million-dollar records and gaining interest from colleges and universities everywhere. Barnes, who goes by his middle name Maliq, is a senior at International High School in New Orleans and has earned more than \$9 million in scholarship money during the college application process.

In shattering the previous record of \$8.7 million, Barnes received 170 acceptances from 200 applications.

Barnes told the New Orleans NBC News station, “I started to apply to schools, and as I’ve gone through the process, the numbers just started increasing.”

Barnes and school counselor Denise James worked to shatter the \$8.7 million record after Barnes realized he was close. The record is further impressive because there are no third-party scholarships. Instead, all his offers came directly from the schools.

Barnes first spent many hours applying to schools around the country, he told NBC News. However, as a teenager, school, and extracurricular activities took precedence over his pursuit.

“I was still doing other things,” Barnes said. “I did incorporate it into my schedule one way or another, but I just did it whenever I had time.”

Barnes’ participation in track and basketball and serving as the National Honors Society executive president made him a well-rounded applicant. He has a 4.98 GPA and speaks Spanish through an immersion school. That pri-



In shattering the previous record of \$8.7 million, Barnes received 170 acceptances from 200 applications

mary school foundation was imperative in his decision to attend International High School.

“That school was very important for me and my journey,” he told the network. “They set a strong foundation for me going into high school, and I think that’s a big reason I could say I am where I am today.”

International High School opened in 2009, when Barnes graduated from middle school. He attended Riverdale, a public high school outside the city, while many of his classmates attended International.

The school’s strong language department, which provides French, Spanish, Arabic, and Mandarin, was a big lure for him, as he wanted to practice his Spanish.

“There are plenty of options at the school that I could have chosen from to continue with my languages, be able to strengthen them, and continue to learn,” Barnes said. Barnes immediately

impacted the charter school despite combining his sophomore and junior years into one with a dual enrollment at Southern University in New Orleans. He also noted International High School’s academic reputation.

“They are known for putting out million-dollar scholars, so whenever the idea was presented to me by my counselor, I hopped on board,” he said. Barnes advised prospective college students to value education, especially African American students. “There’s always something in the news for athletics. And I think there’s a stigma put on African Americans – probably others, too,” he said about academic success.

“I think that doing well in school and understanding the importance of education is something that could break that stigma,” Barnes credits his parents and James for his success. James helped him apply to institutions, prepare for college, and dual enrollment.

“She has guided me and instructed me in my best interest; that will move me forward,” he stated. “James has helped me get where I am.” Barnes said he’s grateful and excited about all scholarships and acceptances. Still, he insists that he’s incredibly proud of those from well-known institutions like Xavier and LSU and other schools that traditionally don’t provide many scholarships.

Barnes now aims to exceed \$10 million in scholarships and acceptances in the coming days. With 170 acceptances, he said he’s being more selective and won’t hedge on which school he’ll choose.

HBCUs capitalize on growing interest by adding sport options

By Cliff Brunt
AP Sports Writer

The outrage, frustration and emotional trauma Jahi Jones felt as he watched video of police murdering George Floyd three years ago compelled him to seek ways to lift up other young Black men.

He just wasn’t sure how to do it.

Jones had attended the University of Maryland on an academic scholarship and was a walk-on for the wrestling team. He became team captain, competed at the NCAA championships and earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees. He later noticed that, in 2021, Black men made up half the 10 Division I national champions in wrestling but fewer than 10% of Division I wrestlers.

That’s when everything started to click.

“I would start thinking about ways that I could get involved to help inside of the wrestling community and just make things more fair and equitable,” he said. “It was just seeing the lack of diversity, but also seeing that ... we excel inside the sport, but (we are) just not having those same opportunities to develop.”

Now 25, Jones is the executive director of the HBCU Wrestling Initiative. With a major assist from that program, Morgan State in the next school year will become the only historically Black college or university (HBCU) to offer Division I wrestling. The school had cut the sport back in 1997.

Kenny Monday – the first black wrestler to win an Olympic gold medal – will be the coach. The Baltimore school also will add women’s acrobatics and tumbling, which could someday be a full-fledged NCAA championship sport.

Morgan State’s additions mirror a growing phenomenon at HBCUs as they ride a wave of popularity not seen in decades: Many are adding sports beyond the more typical offerings of football, basketball and track and field.

The Associated Press contacted 46 Division I and D-II HBCUs and five conference offices about the trend over the past decade; 20 schools responded, saying they have added at least 42 NCAA championship or emerging sports since 2016, including at least 32 sports since 2020 alone. Several of these new teams are scheduled to start competition next school year. Only three of the newly added sports were track and field, two were football and none were basketball.

Division II Bluefield State has been the busiest – the West Virginia school has added 13 sports since 2020.

Smaller schools are making moves, too. Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, added

women’s gymnastics last season. Talladega College (Alabama) is slated to add women’s gymnastics as early as this fall.

HBCU administrators say the new sports fill a need, noting that Black parents are increasingly choosing different, “non-traditional” options for their children. Sports such as gymnastics, lacrosse and volleyball have gained more black competitors at the NCAA level in recent years, and HBCUs are adapting by increasing their offerings.

Chara Hinds, a sophomore from Barbados who competes in women’s triathlon at Delaware State, said the changes already are making a difference.

“It means a lot because it gives me the opportunity to participate in triathlon and still go to an HBCU, and as a person of color, that is a one-of-a-kind experience,” she said.

This trend picked up in 2020. The rise in social awareness that followed Floyd’s slaying and a wave of interest in HBCUs fueled a spike in donations, helping support the clear interest in Black athletes playing non-traditional sports.

“I think it’s just an evolution of where we (black people) are as a society,” said Delaware State athletic director Alecia Gadson, whose school added women’s triathlon in 2021 and will be adding women’s soccer and women’s lacrosse in the next school year. “We’re thinking differently. You know, when you have a kid now, you don’t have to say, ‘Oh, I’m going to push them into basketball just because they’re tall. You may say, ‘Hey, you know what? They might be able to do volleyball.’ I think it’s a mindset.”

Deion Sanders has played a significant role in raising the profile of HBCUs. The former NFL defensive back coached the Jackson State football program for three seasons, most recently in 2022 before being hired at Colorado.

“I think that Deion’s level of engagement helped to put fuel to the fire,” Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) commissioner Anthony Holloman said. “But I think the fire had already been lit.”

Organizations such as the HBCU Wrestling Initiative, HBCU Gymnastics Alliance and the First Point Volleyball Foundation have provided funding and direction for new programs.

The wrestling initiative got a \$10 million pledge from investor and former Princeton wrestler Michael Novogratz. Jones said Novogratz already has donated \$6 million, which covered the \$2.7 million needed to restart the sport at Morgan State. Jones said the initiative has had conversations with schools in the Division I Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) and Mid-Eastern Athletic Confer-

ence (MEAC) about potentially adding more programs.

First Point Volleyball provided a \$1 million grant to help the SIAC start men’s volleyball. Six schools began play in 2022, becoming the first HBCUs to offer the sport.

“I just think that the importance of diversity and representation in sports in general needs to increase and improve, and so to see increasing and improvement overall in men’s volleyball specifically is phenomenal,” said Anitra Brockman, men’s and women’s volleyball coach at Central State (Ohio). “It just really shows that minorities in general, especially black athletes, can participate in predominantly white sports and be just as successful and be supported equally.”

The investment in men’s volleyball is strategic. Holloman said the SIAC is working with John Speraw, the Team USA and UCLA men’s volleyball coach who leads First Point and is looking for ways to increase the talent pool at the national level.

Holloman said Speraw has the right idea, and his timing was perfect.

“If you want to get immersed into our culture, then what better way to do it than developing a relationship with historically Black colleges, who have historically produced great athletes across the board in every sport?” Holloman said.

Black athletes are taking advantage of their options. Cameron Lee, a 6-foot-1 Central State sophomore, said he didn’t even play volleyball until after his senior season of high school basketball at Edmond North (Oklahoma) High School. He played one year of club volleyball before joining the Central State program.

Teammate D’Aaron McCraney, a 6-foot-9 sophomore from Las Vegas, also started off playing basketball before switching to volleyball. He said he loves the ability to chase his passion and be himself.

“I just feel like being in the environment and in the school – especially with people who understand me as a black man – I don’t have to explain myself and act different around them because I’m a black man,” he said.

Fisk is the first HBCU to add women’s gymnastics, the latest step in an explosion of interest in the sport among black athletes. Fisk athletic director and gymnastics coach Corrinne Tarver said she’s amazed by the attention her program has received.

“We knew the significance of this,” she said. “We knew it was important, but did not expect it to be this – to be this big and be so much publicity and interest. It’s been absolutely crazy. It’s been wonderful.”

AP Sports Writers Hank Kurz and Stephen Whyno contributed to this article.

Belhaven surprises student with full-ride scholarship for creative writing

Belhaven University News Wire

Best-selling author Angie Thomas and Belhaven University surprised an unsuspecting high school senior with a full-ride scholarship for creative writing.

A group of Belhaven University staff and faculty visited Canton High School Thursday to make the announcement. Thomas, currently on a new book tour, delivered the news via video. Students burst into cheers as Thomas congratulated senior Ahniya Myers for winning the 2023 Angie Thomas Writers Scholarship.

Myers is a Canton, Mississippi native and was named winner for her creative writing submissions. “As I read Ahniya’s writing samples, I immediately fell in love with her craft,” said Thomas. “Her talent and skill blew me away, and I know that the creative writing program was created with a student like her in mind.”

The scholarship, named in honor of Belhaven University alumna Angie Thomas ’11, was created to help young aspiring writers who need the extra support to make their dreams of authorship a reality.

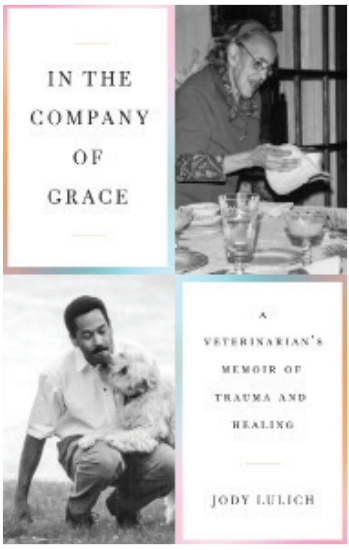
“By giving Ahniya this scholarship, she can focus more on her studies and writing, which will allow her gift to thrive,” observed Thomas. “It’s an honor to know that this scholarship could play a key role in the journey of yet another exceptional writer.”

Myers is the fourth student to win the scholarship, which covers tuition, room, and board at the University for four years.



Professor and Chair of Creative Writing Dr. Randall Smith said, “Ahniya embodies both the spirit of the Angie Thomas Scholarship and the potential of an Angie Thomas Scholar. The community of writers at Belhaven University is excited to welcome Ahniya to the BFA program, where we help one another master craft, find our purpose as writers, and reach our potential.”

The Angie Thomas Writers Scholarship is awarded to only one incoming freshman each year, but other applicants received partial scholarships. Thomas is the author of New York Times best-selling novels “Concrete Rose,” “On the Come Up,” “The Hate U Give,” and “Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy.” “The Hate U Give” and “On the Come Up” were both developed into major motion pictures.



BOOK REVIEW:

IN THE COMPANY OF GRACE:

A VETERINARIAN'S MEMOIR OF TRAUMA AND HEALING

BY JODY LULICH

C.2023, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS

\$19.95 • 232 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You are a product of what your parents do. They nurtured you, and you learned to nurture. They yelled, and you discovered that shouting was the way to communicate. From them, you got your sense of humor, your earliest political beliefs, and your initial ideas of right and wrong. You're a product of what adults around you do – or, as in the new book “In the Company of Grace” by Jody Lulich, what they don't.

The suicide attempt on New Year's Eve of 1966 was not Jody Lulich's mother's first. It was, however, the one that took her life, no matter how hard Lulich, who was nine years old at the time, tried to save her.

He'd been taking care of her every day after school by then, trying to keep his parents from fighting, trying to keep the violence and vitriol between them at bay, but they were alcoholics with anger issues and he was just a boy.

On the way to his mother's

funeral, his father accidentally hit a stray dog with his car, and kept on driving. It was a kind of metaphor for Lulich's heartbreak, and he never forgot it.

Through the rest of his childhood, Lulich tried to find the love his father denied him, but it was almost always absent.

At age eleven, Lulich moved out of his father's home, bouncing between a neighbor's welcoming house and back; as soon as he was able, he escaped, enrolled in college, and decided on veterinary school as a post-

grad at Tuskegee, an HBCU. There he excelled in his career, found support from a mother-figure who loved him, and he grew to accept that he was attracted to men.

But despite his success, the appreciation of his clients and patients, and the accolades that he gathered through the years, Lulich couldn't seem to shake the feeling that something was wrong in his life. How could he finally accept the love and compassion he deserved?

If you're the kind of reader

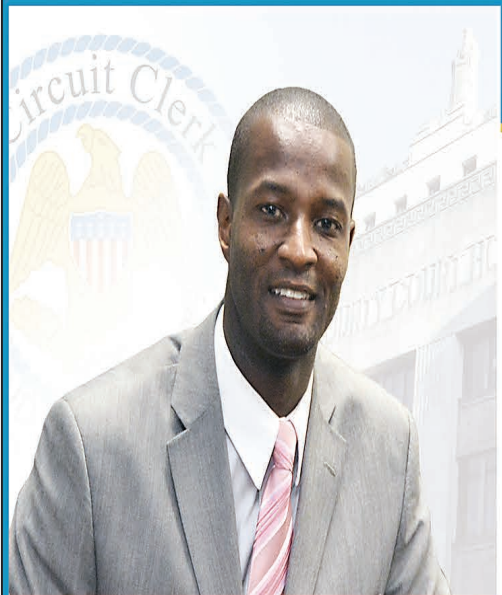
who sees the word “veterinarian” in the subtitle of this book and make a beeline for it, there's one big thing you'll want to know: “In the Company of Grace” is not filled with animal tales.

There are a few, but they take a big back seat to author Jody Lulich's story and that of his family, which come in wave after wave of sad memories and deep, lingering want. These are tales that, even when they're meant to be the slightest bit upbeat, feel like a smack-


down, or a stomp on your soul. That makes this a hard read for a good long time – melancholy and hard, but compelling because the tales don't ever become what you think they'll be.

Oddly enough, there's triumph here, and exactly what readers will want in the end.

“In the Company of Grace” – so-titled for the woman who accepted Lulich – is not the book to come to when you're feeling sad. Reach for it when you want something meaningful, though. That's what to do.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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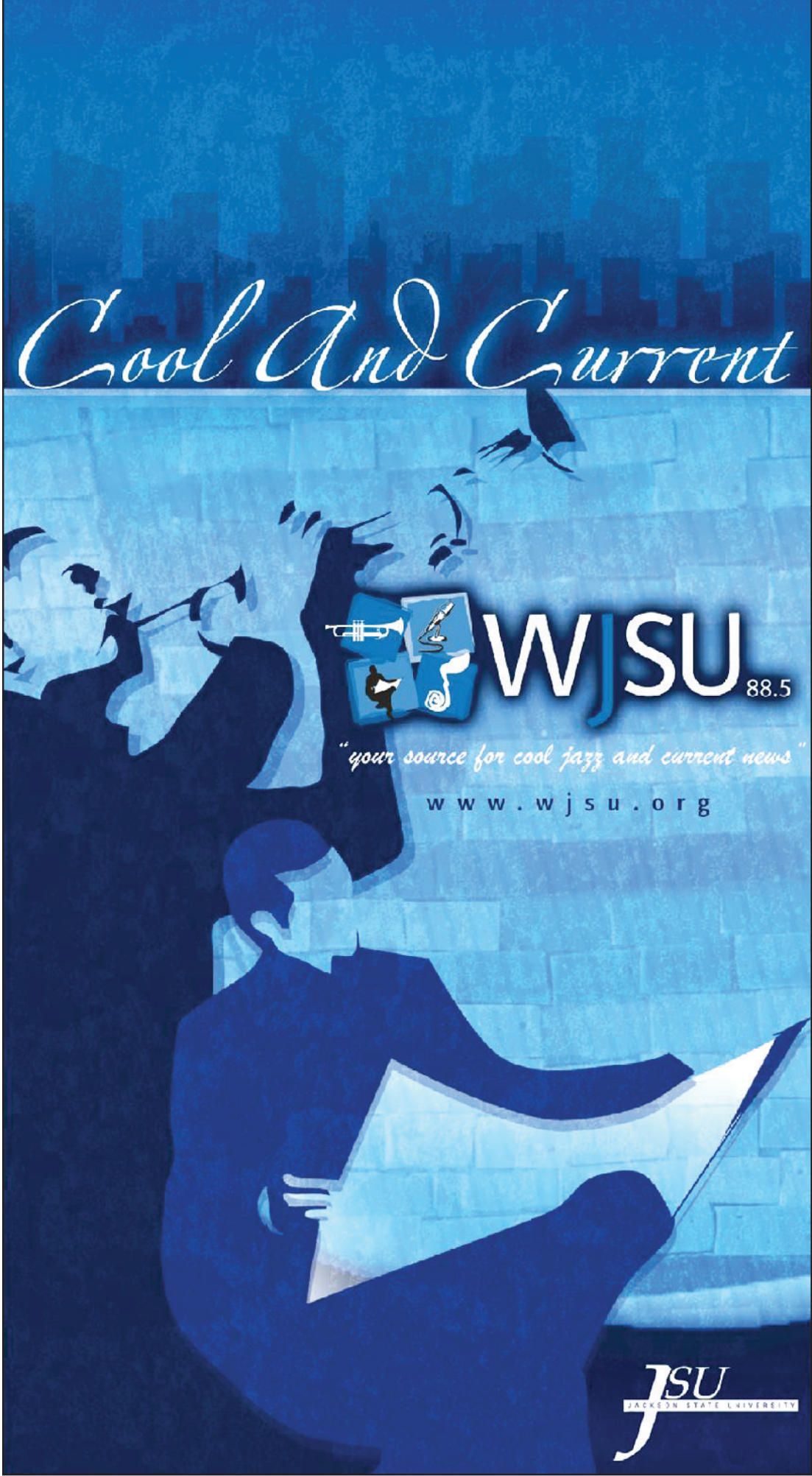
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Candace Foster returns home

By Timothy Ward
Sports Writer

On April 21, 2023 Candace Foster was named the head girls basketball coach at Murrah High School. Foster won 3 basketball championships at Murrah. 2007, 2009, and 2010. After graduating from Murrah in 2010, Foster went to play for Sharon Fanning-Otis and then Vic Schaefer at Mississippi State. Foster then served as a graduate assistant on Schaefer's staff in 2014-15. Five years ago, she began coaching at Brandon High School. First as an assistant under Coach Murphy, then as the lady bulldogs head coach. Coach Candace Foster won 99 games as the head coach in Brandon. Last season, she lead the lady bulldogs to a 22-8 record.

Now she's happy to be home. "I'm really living an answered prayer," she said. "First, let me say I'm thankful to Brandon High School, and the administration there, for allowing me to jump-start my coaching career. It's always been a dream of mine to come home to Murrah High School. There's such his-

tory and tradition here, and I'm excited to be part of that, and to reach back and do that same thing for these young ladies in this program." Coach Foster feels that she's being obedient to her calling to come home and coach.

A nice crowd of current lady mustangs, family, friends, and even a former Brandon lady basketball player filled the library to watch the press conference for Coach Candace Foster. It's kinda rare to have a press conference for a head coach hiring in JPS, but the significance of hiring Coach Foster, a 3 time champion at Murrah, and who played for the Legendary Coach Anna Jackson, warranted such an event. She'll be inheriting a lady mustang program that's rebuilding. Although Murrah's lady mustangs won the championship in 2016 and were runner ups in 2018 under Coach Tangel Banks. Banks is currently the head coach of Mississippi Delta Community College. The expectations for the program that she played for, now under her watch, is to play hard, compete and carry themselves with class.



Candace Foster won 3 championships as a player at Murrah



Coach Foster won 99 games at Brandon



JPS Athletic Director introduces Candace Foster



Coach Foster with Murrah Administration and JPS AD



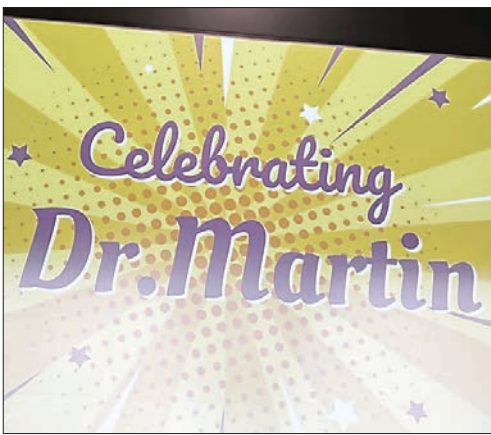
Coach Foster and the lady mustangs

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Administrator Honor Dr. Delesicia Martin On Her Retirement

All Hinds County School Administrators, Faculty and Staff and business partners paid tribute to their Superintendent in honor of her upcoming retirement in June. Dr. Martin was serenaded by some, danced to by others and gifts were given to show how much they appreciated her commitment and dedications to making Hinds County School District the best. Thank you, Dr. Martin for a job well done!





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