

Biden-Harris Administration invests \$115 million in funding to respond to the drinking water emergency in Jackson, Mississippi

EPA funding is first awarded of \$600 million total secured by the Biden-Harris Administration for Jackson’s water system

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the City of Jackson,

Mississippi will receive \$115 million to support critical water infrastructure investments that will help ensure safe and reliable

drinking water for residents. The funding comes from a \$600 million Congressional appropriation championed by President Biden

as part of the 2023 Federal budget.

With this award and other funding from the President’s Invest-

ing in America agenda, the EPA is delivering on the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to ensuring that all people, includ-

ing the people of Jackson, Mississippi, have access to clean, safe

Water
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With Carolyn Bryant’s death, where is justice for Emmett Till?

By Liz Courquet-Lesaulnier
Word in Black

Emmet Till deserved to grow old.

If he hadn’t been murdered in Money, Mississippi, on August 28, 1955 – if he had lived long enough to develop wrinkles and gray hair, and bounce his children, grandchildren, and possibly his great-grandchildren on his knees – he might have celebrated his 82nd birthday this July.

His mother, Mamie Till-Mobely, who died in 2003, might have had many happy years with her beloved son. She wouldn’t have gone to her grave with horrifying memories of this brutalized body. She wouldn’t have had to make the courageous decision to leave his casket open. There would have been no reason for her to say these heartbreaking words: “I wanted the world to see what they did to my baby.”

But thanks to the need of white men in the Jim Crow South to preserve the purity and honor of 21-year-old Carolyn Bryant – the white woman who falsely accused Till of making sexual advances at her – Emmet Till never made it past 14.

Carolyn Bryant – known later in life as Carolyn Bryant Donham – lived to the ripe old age of 88 without ever being held accountable for her part in Till’s murder.

As reporter Ed Pilkington wrote in the *Guardian* in 2020 about the people involved in Till’s murder,



President Joe Biden greets guests after the signing of H.R. 55, the “Emmett Till Antilynching Act,” Tuesday, March 29, 2022, in the White House Rose Garden. OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY ERIN SCOTT

“Not a day has been spent in jail nor a penny paid in compensation.” That was still true on April 25, the day Carolyn Bryant died.

A last chance for justice
On the morning of April 27, before most people knew about Bryant’s death, the social media accounts of the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation, the nonprofit founded in 2005 by Till’s family, posted black squares to their various pages.

The squares were, perhaps,

an acknowledgment that with Bryant’s death, the family’s last chance for justice for Emmett Till – for anyone involved in his murder to be held accountable – was now gone.

“This is not a celebratory moment,” Keith A. Beauchamp, the filmmaker who co-wrote and produced the 2022 feature film “Till,” explained on his Facebook page.

“Since 1955, law enforcement and local officials have allowed Bryant-Donham to evade justice.

It’s infuriating to come to the realization that the American judicial system has failed us yet again.”

In his post, Beauchamp also acknowledged, “The question that everyone should be asking is how and who allowed this predator to get away?”

Like Till’s family, Beauchamp has long pursued truth and justice for the murdered teen.

Beauchamp spent 10 years mak-

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Tougaloo College President Carmen Walters announces she is stepping down

By Jackie Hampton
Mississippi Link Publisher

In a message to the Tougaloo College family, President Carmen J. Walters announced Tuesday that she is stepping down as president of Tougaloo College, effective June 30, 2023. She stated in her message “Tougaloo College is a remarkable institution with enviable academic excellence and activism legacy. Its impact on our alumni, the state of Mississippi, and our nation is immeasurable, and I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to lead this historic institution.”

Tougaloo College Board of Trustees Chairman Edmond E. Hughes, Jr. stated in a message to the Tougaloo College Community, “On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we thank Dr. Walters for her service to the college and her efforts to build upon our 155-year history.” He continued, “We are especially grateful to Dr. Walters for her leadership over these past four years – leading the college through the COVID-19 global pandemic, significantly increasing the college’s endowment and strengthening our external partnerships with organizations such as the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), among others.”

“As I reflect upon my time as president, I wish to thank



Walters



Hughes

the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni for their support. It has been the honor and privilege of a lifetime to represent this distinguished institution through

Tougaloo
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The war against being woke

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines the word woke as “aware of and actively attentive to important societal facts and issues (especially issues of racial and social justice).”

Several sources, including Wikipedia, indicate that use of the word woke began in the 2010’s by African Americans as an endorsement of those they encountered who demonstrated an awareness of the ongoing racial discrimination and social injustice that exists in America.

To be referred to as woke is a good thing. African Americans and others disenfranchised in America now had an ally; someone who was no longer asleep in

the false contentment that here in the good ole USA everyone has a level playing field.

America was aware of its racial injustice long before its founding. Slavery, lynchings, denial of basic rights guaranteed to others, the list goes on and on, and in many ways has continued to the present day.

Surely, there have been gains in equality and equity – yet we remain a long way from freedom and justice for all.

Whenever minorities make their way to the goalpost, the white power structure moves the goalpost. This is not to say that legions of African Americans and other minorities have not succeeded in our society, because they surely have, yet is it more the rule, or the excep-

tion?

Here in Mississippi, the state with the highest population of African Americans in the nation at a bare minimum of 38% – only 6% of our state agencies are headed by African Americans, and 94% are headed by European Americans. The Mississippi Supreme Court has nine members, and one member – representing 11.11% of the court – is African American. This ratio has existed since 1985 when Justice Reuben V. Anderson broke the racial barrier to become the first.

Thirty-eight years later, there is still only one African American justice on the court of last resort for a state that has a 38% African American population.

In 1991 America watched the

savage beating of Rodney King at the hands of the Los Angeles Police Department, only due to the diligence of an amateur cameraman. The four officers, sworn to protect and serve, were acquitted on charges of assault with a deadly weapon and excessive use of force by a police officer, by a predominantly white jury.

In 2012, 17-year old Travon Martin was fatally shot to death by 28-year old George Zimmerman in Sanford, Florida seemingly for being black, wearing a hoodie, and eating Skittles. Police initially claimed the stand your ground law shielded Zimmerman who claimed self-defense and refused to charge him. After public outcry from across the nation they recanted,

but a jury acquitted Zimmerman of second-degree murder and manslaughter in 2013.

Just over three years ago, American watched the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, due to the diligence of a teenager with a cellphone who recorded the horror. Another instance of police brutality, yet this time striking an even deeper chord in the American psyche, and far beyond.

In June 2020, just a month after Floyd’s murder, BBC provided a list of ten substantial changes already being seen:

“There have been global tributes and protests of racism and societal inequalities. Statues of Confederates have been taken down. Many companies have come to stand in solidarity with

Black Lives Matter. Police officers are being charged and found guilty at higher rates. Police departments are making policy changes. Major celebrities are donating and bailing out protesters. More people are speaking out about the everyday racism and discrimination they have faced. Blackout Tuesday was implemented across social media. Street names have been changed – Black Lives Matter Plaza is the name of the street leading up to The White House and the mayor of New York City has pledged that all five boroughs will have a street named Black Lives Matter.”

Are more white people finally saying that black people

Woke
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Sarah H. Johnson rose above the times in Greenville, MS

By Sybil C. Mitchell
The New Tri-State Defender

Sarah Hughes Johnson, a beloved daughter of Greenville, Mississippi, respected for her Civil Rights advocacy and civic leadership, died May 9 at Region One Health in Memphis. She was 85.

Johnson’s life was a filled with accomplishments that helped improve the lives of her constituents, especially African Americans.

“Our mother was bold,” said Geneva Johnson, the eldest of Johnson’s four children. “She was courageous, and threats from white people who didn’t like what she was doing never fazed her. Mother just kept going, even after the divorce when she was left to raise four children alone. She was never distracted from her purpose.”

In 1973, Johnson became the first African American to serve on the Greenville City Council. Johnson was also the city’s vice-mayor.

Johnson served on the city council for 23 years. Upon retiring in 1996, she realized that she helped push the city forward for more than two decades.

Beyond Greenville’s racist past, her efforts spurred momentum for a new day in uniting the races in hope and optimism.

“Of course, as children, we



Three of Sarah Hughes Johnson’s surviving children – Ned, Karen and Geneva – nestle around her. Not pictured is her daughter Yvonne. COURTESY PHOTO

didn’t understand, really, who our mother was,” said Karen Johnson, youngest of the four children. Mother was director of various organizations. She had lots of friends also working in the civil rights movement.

“We had different ‘nannies,’ who would look after us. We didn’t see mother as much as we would have liked, especially me because I’m the baby. But we at least could understand that her work was important.”

In 2013, then-Greenville mayor John Cox met Johnson, along with family members and officially renamed a Greenville street, “Sarah H. Johnson Lane.”

Even at 75, sitting in her wheelchair, Johnson made a speech during the event.

Praise God and thank you, Je-

sus,” she began. “I want to thank all of you for coming out to this occasion...”

The Delta Daily News reported that “Johnson won her political campaign in 1973 during a time when racism and Jim Crow laws were still in full effect despite being revoked years prior...”

“Throughout her career, Johnson was known for her tenacity and willingness to help the poor, middle-class, and the elderly. Her goal was always to help those who were less fortunate. She will be remembered for embodying the characteristics that the community needs to see in its leaders.”

Greenville Mayor Errick D. Simmons released a statement, expressing the city’s shock and

sadness shortly after Johnson’s death. Simmons said hearts were heavy in Greenville for the loss of “Mrs. Johnson.”

“Mrs. Johnson will be remembered, not only as a municipal leader, but also as a community activist who loved the City of Greenville, her family, and all its citizens,” Simmons wrote. “Mrs. Johnson’s determination, dedicated service, and courage opened the doors of City Hall for me and every other black municipal leader in Greenville.”

Johnson was employed by Mississippi Action for Community Education, where she was the area director for the People’s Education Program (Head Start). Johnson also served as a 1972 Fellow of the Mississippi Institute of Politics and attended sev-



Sarah Hughes Johnson’s swearing-in ceremony was front-page news.

eral affairs by invitation to the White House during President Jimmy Carter’s administration.

Sarah Hughes was the fourth child of 13 children. she never knew who her father was. Her birth mother gave her to an aunt, who had just lost a baby.

“There was never a formal adoption, or anything like that,” said Geneva Johnson. “My mom’s birth mother gave her sister the baby because her baby died. So really, the woman my mother called her mother was really her auntie. That’s just what families did back then.”

“She was born in Allendale, South Carolina. Mother and Daddy came later to Greenville because he was moved to a new church. Dad was a United Methodist pastor.”

Sarah Hughes met Ned Johnson at Clark College. She was a first-year student, and Ned Johnson was attending Gammon Seminary. Although Hughes won a full-time scholarship as valedictorian of her high school, she left after her freshman year. After starting a family, Johnson was assigned a new church in Greenville.

Unfortunately, the union did not last, and Ned Johnson left Greenville, never to return.

“My dad left when I was three years old,” said Karen Johnson. “But my mother was always

there – still out there fighting for her community. Mother and other community activists decided that the four Johnson children will go to the predominantly white school to force integration.

“And I didn’t mind going to school with white children. It was just not having the frilly, little dresses that bothered me. I was about six or seven.”

Despite a very painful divorce and all the hatred the white establishment could muster, Johnson never lost sight of her vision that all of Greenville’s children would enjoy a free, public and equal education and every citizen could freely exercise their right to vote without threat or intimidation.

“This Mother’s Day was going to be extra special,” said Geneva Johnson, prior to the holiday. “Each year, that day becomes so precious because you begin to realize your mother won’t be with you always. I thought we would enjoy her today. She went on to be with the Lord, but we’re still going to enjoy her.

“We’ll share memories and laugh about so many things we thought were funny as children. We’ll call our brother Ned so we can all remember her together. It will be hard, but we will get through it. We are all pretty tough. We got it from our mother.”



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Till

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ing the 2005 documentary, “The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till.”

The evidence he uncovered was instrumental to the U.S. government reopening its investigation of the case in 2004 — before the film was released. However, no charges ended up being brought, and the investigation closed in 2007.

The FBI reopened the case after the January 2017 publication of the book “The Blood of Emmett Till,” by historian and author Timothy B. Tyson.

Tyson spent an unprecedented amount of time with Bryant, and he detailed in the book that she admitted to him that she had lied.

Tyson wrote that Bryant said: “Nothing that boy did could ever justify what happened to him.” However, he was unable to produce an audio recording of that specific conversation — he only had a handwritten note of Bryant’s remarks. The Till case was closed again in 2021.

An unserved arrest warrant

Bryant’s death came just two weeks after the April 13 announcement that Ricky Banks, the sheriff in Leflore County, Mississippi, had declined to serve a recently discovered 1955 arrest warrant for Carolyn Bryant. Why wasn’t the warrant served in 1955? The then-sheriff decided he didn’t want to “bother” Bryant because she was a mother.

This unserved warrant was found in June 2022 at the Leflore County Courthouse by five members of the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation.

Despite the discovery of the warrant, in August 2022, a Leflore County grand jury refused to indict Bryant.

“It is evident that the outstanding warrant was not ever intended to be served in 1955 and obviously not intended to be served in 2022,” Deborah Watts, another cousin of Till and a co-founder of the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation, wrote in a statement at the time.

“This is a missed opportunity to break the cycle of protection that has been afforded to white women, specifically to Carolyn Holloway Bryant Donham, Mrs. Roy Bryant, the last living known accomplice, who has been allowed to escape full accountability and judicial judgment in this case. No family should ever have to endure this pain and injustice for this long,” Watts wrote.

In February 2023, another of Till’s cousins, Patricia Sterling, filed a federal lawsuit seeking to compel Banks to serve the warrant.

“But for Carolyn Bryant falsely claiming to her husband that Emmett Till assaulted her, Emmett would not have been murdered,” the lawsuit stated.

Bryant is widely believed to have identified Till to her husband, Roy Bryant, and J.W. Milam, Roy Bryant’s half-brother. It’s also believed that Carolyn Bryant helped the two men locate Till so that they could abduct him from his bed in his great-uncle’s home.

“It was Carolyn Bryant’s lie that sent Roy Bryant and JW Milam into a rage, which resulted in the mutilation of Emmett Till’s body into unrecognizable condition,” Sterling’s lawsuit stated.

However, on April 13, Banks’ attorney, Charles J. Swayze III, filed court papers stating, “Since the Grand Jury found no probable cause to indict Donham on the charges of kidnapping and manslaughter, there is no probable cause to support the 1955 Arrest Warrant.” Swayze also asked for Sterling’s federal lawsuit to be dismissed.

Despite this setback, the Till family didn’t give up.

In an April 26 Facebook post, Watts clarified that far from the discovery of the warrant being a surprise — as some news outlets had reported — she and the other foundation members were “intentionally searching for the unserved warrant.”

Watts wrote that they found the warrant “within an hour and a half” of looking for it — raising the question of why it had not previously been discovered in the decades before.

Watts subsequently demanded “that Mississippi authorities that are responsible, do their jobs and #ServeTheWarrant now!”

Little did Watts know when she uploaded her post that Carolyn Bryant had died the day before.

We can never forget

In 2003, one week before she died, Mamie Till Mobeley told Beauchamp to “tell Emmett’s story until man’s consciousness is risen, only then there will be justice for Emmett Till.”

Till’s “case is so relevant today because he is

the Anne Frank for Black America,” Beauchamp wrote me in an email in 2015.

“Just like our Jewish brothers and sisters, we must continue to tell Emmett’s story over and over again.”

The details of what followed after Till’s abduction are horrific, but given the persistent attacks on teaching the truth about black history — about American history — they bear repeating.

We know that Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam drove Till to a barn, stripped him naked, and tortured and beat him beyond recognition. A passerby reported hearing the boy crying out, “Mama, please save me.”

As the historian Tyson wrote, “Affronted white supremacy drove every blow.”

The men went on to gouge out one of Till’s eyes, shoot him in the head, and use barbed wire to tie his body to a 75-pound cotton gin. They then threw his body into the Tallahatchie River and took Till’s clothes and shoes home to burn them.

Despite the weight of the cotton gin, Till floated eight miles downstream. Once discovered, his body was only identifiable because of a silver ring on his pinky finger.

During Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam’s trial, Carolyn Bryant sat coolly beside her husband.

When called to testify, she claimed that Till had grabbed her hand and waist, asking her, “How about a date, baby?” She claimed he’d made sexually explicit comments and said he’d been with other white women.

Both men were acquitted in Sept. 1956 by an all-white jury.

We only know the details of Till’s murder because in 1956, *Look* magazine paid Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam \$4,000 to spill the gruesome circumstances.

The article describes 5’ 4” tall Till as looking “like a man” — a reminder of how from Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin to Tamir Rice, the combination of adultification and racism gets black children killed.

Milam told the magazine that when a black man “gets close to mentioning sex with a white woman, he’s tired o’ livin.’ I’m likely to kill him. Me and my folks fought for this country, and we got some rights.”

He went on to say he told Till, “I’m going to make an example of you — just so everybody can know how me and my folks stand.”

Double jeopardy laws protected both men from being tried again for Till’s murder.

A steep price for civil rights

Surely, the actions of Mamie Till-Mobley weren’t what either man expected. The widely circulated photograph of Till’s mutilated body in the open casket requested by Till-Mobley shocked the world and galvanized the civil rights movement.

Her description of her son’s body is what no mother should ever have to see:

“I saw his tongue had been choked out and it was lying down on his chin. I saw that this eye was out, and it was lying about midway to cheek. I looked at this eye, and it was gone. I looked at the bridge of his nose, and it looked like someone had taken a meat chopper and chopped it. I looked at his teeth, because I took so much pride in his teeth. His teeth were the prettiest things I’d ever seen in my life, I thought. And I only saw two. Where are the rest of them? They had just been knocked out. And I was looking at his ears. His ears were like mine. They curled. They’re not attached, and they curled up the same way mine are. And I didn’t see the ear. Where’s the ear? And that’s when I discovered a hole about here, and I could see daylight on the other side. I said, now was it necessary to shoot him? If that’s a bullet hole, was that necessary? And I also discovered that they had taken an axe, and they had gone straight down across his head, and the face and the back of the head were separate.”

When you read Till-Mobley’s words, you understand why on Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks had Emmett Till on her mind when she refused to go to the back of the bus which led to her arrest and sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

That, in turn, led to Martin Luther King Jr. becoming the president of the Montgomery Improvement Association activism that catapulted him onto a national stage.

Last year President Joe Biden signed the Emmett Till Antilynching Act into law — legislation that had previously been killed more than 200 times.

weapon — concealed or not. This list continues to grow longer each day as conservatives, a large portion of them synonymous with white nationalists, stake their claim to what they view as their country — no longer our country in their eyes. Anti-woke means maintaining the status-quo, with all it’s attendant racism and oppression.

“Look, we know what woke is; it’s a form of cultural Marxism,” DeSantis (presidential candidate) told NBC News on a campaign stop in Iowa on Saturday (June 3, 2023). “It’s about putting merit and achievement behind identity politics, and it’s basically a war on the truth. And as that has infected institutions, and it has corrupted institutions. So, you’ve got to be willing to fight the woke, we’ve done that in Florida, and we proudly consider ourselves the state where woke goes to die,” per www.aol.com. His statement is not only fiction, but its wholly racist and we don’t have to be woke to see it clearly. It’s a vague dog whistle, intentionally lacking specificity, designed to appeal to those afraid of losing “their” country.

Tougaloo

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my interactions with several national leaders, policymakers and other stakeholders. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to represent Tougaloo College,” said Walters.

Walters continued, “I will always reflect on my tenure at the college with pride, and root for its continued success as a passionate supporter.”

Water

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drinking water.

“I’ve had the privilege of meeting with Jackson residents in their homes, in their churches, and in their schools, and I’ve seen firsthand the water infrastructure challenges they’ve endured for far too long. President Biden and I pledged to do everything in our power to help deliver clean, safe drinking water for the Jackson community, and this action reaffirms our commitment,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “These funds will help stabilize and rebuild the city’s water system and make significant strides to provide reliable water service to people’s homes, schools and businesses. As I’ve said since the onset of this crisis, we will continue to stand with the people of Jackson and work to resolve this long-standing issue together.”

President Biden secured an unprecedented \$600 million in disaster supplemental funding for the City of Jackson under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, or bipartisan 2023 Federal budget. This initial \$115 million award to the Jackson Public Water System will be used to stabilize and rebuild the city’s water infrastructure. These activities include identifying and fixing leaks in the distribution system, developing a system-wide assessment of valves and hydrants, ensuring adequate pumping capacity to maintain water pressure and distribution, and developing a system stabilization and sustainability plan.

“This is an incredible milestone towards ensuring access to safe drinking water for the Jackson, Mississippi community,” said U.S. Representative Bennie G. Thompson (MS-02). “It is a testament to the work Congress has done to provide this funding to Jackson through the bipartisan 2023 federal budget and is a first step in resolving the water crisis for the citizens of Jackson. The continued dedication and commitment of President Biden’s administration is essential and very much appreciated.”

“This is great news for the city of Jackson and our state,” said U.S. Senator Roger Wicker (MS). “Last year’s prolonged water crisis showed us the urgent need for drinking water infrastructure improvements, and I was glad to work with members of the Mississippi congressional delegation to secure emergency funding to help. With this first award, the City of Jackson will have the resources necessary to begin addressing many of the longstanding challenges with its water supply and help guard against future emergencies.”

Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba responded to the investment.

“This historic funding will impact the residents of Jackson in unprecedented ways. I want to thank the Biden-Harris Administration for standing with us and leading the efforts to ensure our community received the necessary funding that has been denied to us for so long,” the mayor said. “These funds will help provide relief to Jackson residents, who have suffered decades of water insecurity. This aid helps to restore dignity to our city.”

EPA is using its emergency authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Section 1442(b) to award funding to the City of Jackson’s Public Water System. Section 1442(b) allows EPA to make

Dr. Donzell Lee was unanimously appointed by the board to serve in an interim capacity effective July 1, 2023. He served as interim president of Alcorn University during its 2018-2019 presidential search.

Hughes stated there will be a national search for Tougaloo’s next president.

grants to publicly owned water systems to assist in responding to and alleviating emergencies affecting public water systems that are determined to present substantial danger to the public health.

In addition to this appropriation, the City of Jackson and State of Mississippi are eligible for tens of millions of dollars in additional financial support to support water infrastructure upgrades. Many of these programs are part of President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, which is advancing environmental justice by ensuring that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments reach disadvantaged communities that are marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment.

Background

Flooding in Mississippi in early August 2022 caused the City of Jackson’s already vulnerable public water system to lack sufficient pressures in some areas, leaving around 150,000 residents without drinkable water. By Aug. 30, 2022, emergencies were declared by the Mayor, the Governor, the Mississippi State Department of Health, and the President. The city was under a state-imposed boil water notice for 40 days, ending on Sept. 16, 2022. Multiple federal, state and local partners responded, making progress in restoring water pressure and repairing equipment; however, the city needed more time to address staffing shortages, operations and maintenance issues, and needed infrastructure repairs. In December 2022, a severe cold snap reduced ambient temperatures to well below freezing for 48 hours. Once again, the city lost pressure to thousands of customers and a precautionary city-wide boil water notice was issued. There continues to be an imminent danger that the system could fail again and return to boil water notice without improved management, operation and maintenance of the system.

The City of Jackson has had long-term challenges in meeting National Primary Drinking Water Regulations and has incurred several violations over the years. On Nov. 1, 2022, EPA made an Emergency Determination under Section 1442(b) of SDWA, authorizing the Agency to provide grant funding and technical assistance to the City of Jackson Public Water System and the State of Mississippi, consistent with this emergency authority. On Nov. 29, 2022, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a complaint in federal court on behalf of the EPA against the City for failing to comply with SDWA. On the same day, the court approved the Interim Stipulated Order, which was signed by the city and the Mississippi State Department of Health. The order appointed an interim third party manager to stabilize the City’s system and build confidence in the system’s ability to supply safe drinking water to customers. To assist the Public Water System in fulfilling commitments established in the order, EPA used its emergency authority under SDWA Section 1442(b) on Dec. 20, 2022, awarding over \$2.1 million in grant funding to the City of Jackson’s Public Water System for immediate needs. This latest grant award builds on the great work that has begun to end the drinking water crisis and protect the public health of the citizens of Jackson, Mississippi.

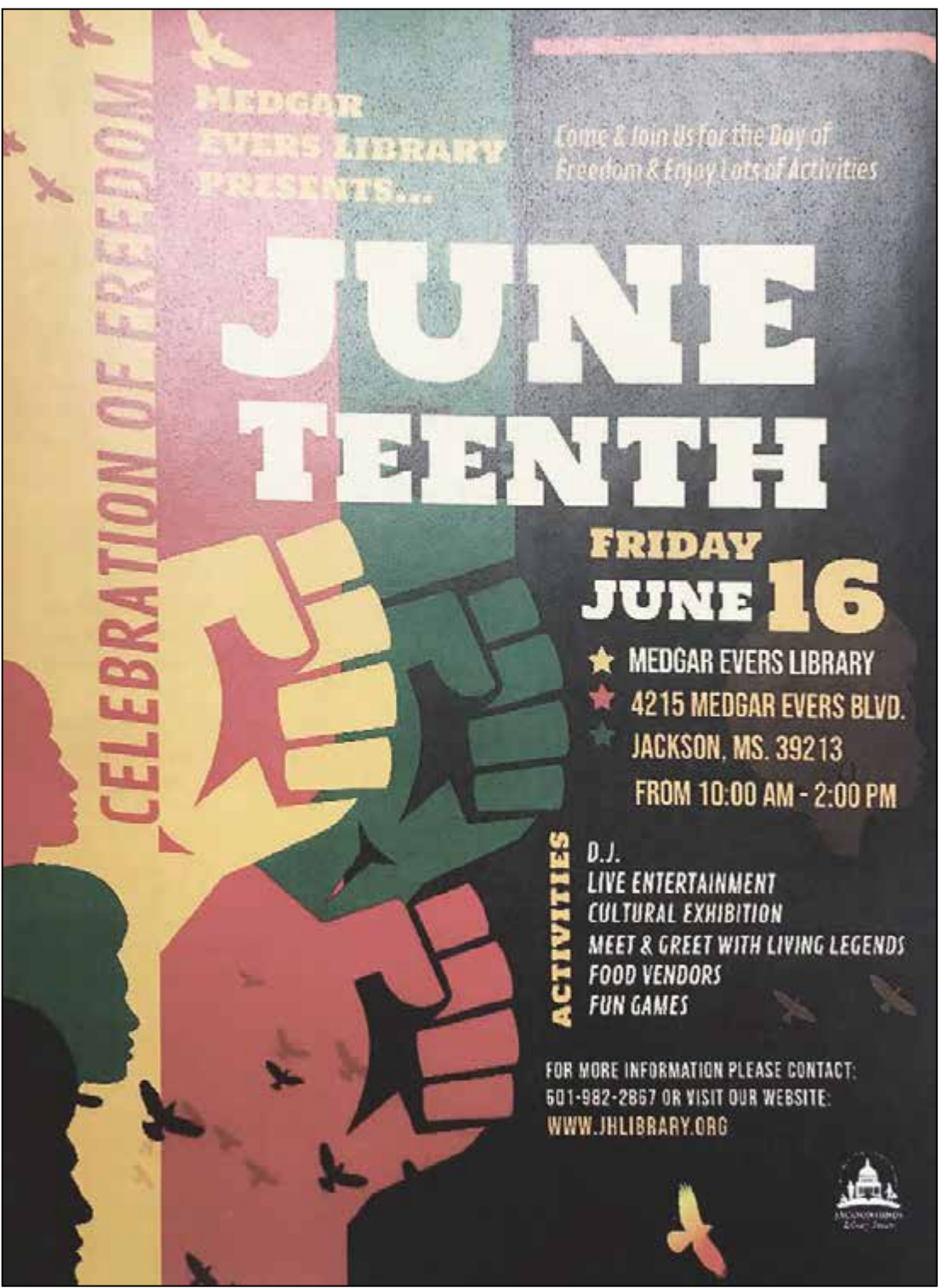
Woke

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are people? Does doing so make them woke? Have they awakened from their slumber to demand that black people be treated with dignity and respect? Some have, and of course we are grateful, but the truth is that many others have not awakened, and moreover, they have doubled down with their racist thinking and behavior.

In Mississippi and seventeen other states, the teaching of Critical Race Theory has been banned, and nine states are still working on it. Eighteen states have prevented attempts to enact bans. Seven states have not yet had any attempts to ban this academic theory, per www.worldpopulationreview.com.

Everyday, in the midst of shootings across the country at a record pace — many racially motivated — we hear about banning books, securing elections where no evidence of fraud existed previously — while purging voter rolls, anti-vaxxers who jeopardize the health and safety of us all — Mississippi politicized COVID vaccines and we have the highest COVID death rate in the country as a result, increasing the ability for every Tom, Dick and Harriette to carry a



Meet Mississippi House Representative, District 66

Candidate Roshunda Harris-Allen, Ed.D.

Quoted by Civil Rights activist Medgar Evers, “The gifts of God should be enjoyed by all citizens of Mississippi.” Access to resources should be available to all community members regardless of race, ethnicity, social or economic status. National known for being appointed as the first Mississippi Field Secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Color People, Medgar Evers organized high-profile boycotts and voter registration drives, led protests to desegregate schools and parks, and was instrumental in the campaign to have the first African-American student admitted to the University of Mississippi.

According to Medgar Evers College (Retrieved 2023) Evers’s death in 1963 was a defining moment for many citizens struggling for equality, inspiring other civil rights leaders to continue their fight for a socially just society despite vicious threats against them. In the wake of Evers’s assassination, a new civil motto derived – “After Medgar, no more fear.”

Currently, Evers is still inspiring citizens to lead the fight for equality. I, Roshunda Harris-Allen, Alderwoman-at-Large in Byram, Mississippi, have been encouraged and motivated to



Harris-Allen

become the next House Representative for District 66. Having been involved in civic activities and worked for positive change in Mississippi, it is time for me to step up, take the gavel and lead positive change that will have a lifelong impact in Mississippi. I am proud to call Hinds County, Mississippi home for over 25 years.

Currently, I reside in Byram with my husband and three of our four children.

I earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education, and a Specialist Certification in Infant and Toddler Development. In May 2015, I earned my Doctorate of Educa-

tion in Early Childhood Education with an emphasis in Education Leadership from The I Love, Jackson State University.

As an associate professor of education director for the Institute for the Study of Modern-Day Slavery, student advisor for the Harriet Tubman Project at Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi, and author of the book Social Justice: Disrupting the Pipeline, I advocate for equal education and a quality life for all.

My latest accomplishment is the development of a Call to Action Fellowship for students and faculty members from institutions of higher learning to come together and gain knowledge and a deeper understanding of the skills needed to educate and support young children’s development and learning process focusing on child, family, school and community.

I am an advocate for children and students of all ages, and the Hinds County community and always find opportunities to serve. I am the ex-officio president for Junior Auxiliary of Byram Terry, a member of the Byram Chamber of Commerce; the past cheer coordinator for the Byram Jr. Bulldogs; a mentor for the Byram-Terry Crown Club; a leader in hosting restorative

justice peace circles at various schools and community organizations; and support my family as a soccer, football, baseball, and dance mom.

Presently, as alderwoman-at-large, I am actively engaged in the coordination of enhancing the parks and recreation program and department for the city of Byram. Parks and recreation are essential to the citizens of Byram or any community for economic growth, family engagement and community enhancement.

My goal is for us to work together to expand the quality of our community through education, preparation, advocacy, collaboration and enhancement to inspire individuals, families and businesses to build a better district.

With your support, we can work together to address the concerns, the quality of community growth and expanding of great resources for District 66 regarding the basic needs of all.

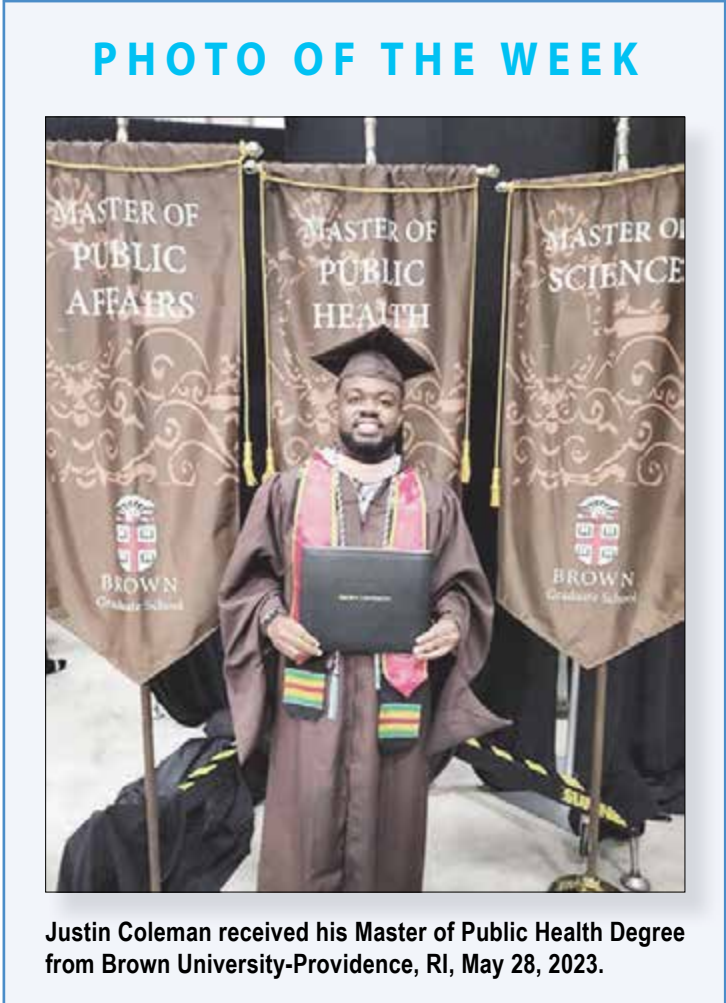
As a candidate for the Mississippi House of Representatives, it is a priority for me to listen to all of the citizens that represent District 66. My purpose as a public official is to educate, advocate and provide resources to the community I serve.

When Jerusalem was burned to pieces and in ruins, Nehemiah

could not rebuild the city on his own. It took the help of the entire community. Let’s work together to build better communities in District 66.

Website: [campaigntoelectrmha.com](#)

Facebook: Campaign To Elect RMHA
LinkedIn: Roshunda Harris-Allen, Ed.D.
Twitter: @AllenRoshunda
Instagram: ro_ro17
TikTok: @roro_ha17



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

ELEMENTARY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Quinn Healthcare, PLLC sponsored a Poster Contest with the Hinds County Elementary Schools. The posters submissions had to address “Why is it important for all children to get a yearly physical?” Hinds County School had great participation from their elementary students and the winners were selected from the art teachers, administrators and staff of the district. The award money was well worth the activity with Gary Road Intermediate School awarded \$900 in prize money, Raymond Elementary awarded \$600 in prize money, Utica Elementary awarded \$600 in prize money and Bolton Edwards Elementary awarded \$900 in prize money; bringing the total to \$3,000 in prize money given out to the young artists. Thank you to Quinn Healthcare for this opportunity and for thinking about Hinds County School District. The winners, posing with HCSD Supt. Dr. Robert Sanders, were:

Gary Road Intermediate School
1st Place Alyssa Breen - \$400
2nd Place Brayden Wilson - \$300
3rd Place Chelsie Lollis - \$200

Raymond Elementary School
1st Place Owens Bufkin - \$400
2nd Place DeAndria Brown - \$200

Utica Elementary School
1st Place Diego Ascencio - \$400
2nd Place Alicia Alvarez - \$200

Bolton Elementary School
1st Place – Saidy Coto - \$400
2nd Place – Rebecca Milson - \$300
3rd Place – Anala Fallingame - \$200





Mississippi school districts still under federal desegregation orders

By Michael Goldberg
Associated Press/Report for America

There are 32 school districts in Mississippi still under federal desegregation orders, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division's assistant attorney general said Thursday.

Enforcing the open desegregation orders fit into a broader body of civil rights work launched in Mississippi that is examining jails, police departments and hate crimes in the state, according to Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. Referring to the U.S. Supreme Court decision that outlawed segregation of public schools across the country, she said the Justice Department is ensuring school districts provide black students in Mississippi with equal access to education programs.

"In our ongoing efforts to fulfill the promise of Brown vs. Board of Education, we currently have 32 open cases with school districts here in Mississippi," Clarke said. "And in each of those cases, we are working to ensure that these districts comply with desegregation orders from courts."

Clarke spoke to a small group of residents, local leaders and reporters Thursday at the Holmes County Circuit Court Complex in Lexington, about 62 miles (100 kilometers) from Jackson, the state capital. Mississippi is the latest stop in Clarke's "listening tour" throughout the

Deep South. The Justice Department is learning where to direct resources and where it might need to mount civil rights lawsuits, she said.

Mississippi has the highest percentage of black residents of any state. It has been home, as have other states, to legal fights over desegregation. In 2017, a Mississippi Delta school district agreed to merge two high schools after nearly 50 years of litigation in which the district sought to maintain historically black and white schools.

In addition to school districts, Clarke said at least five Mississippi jails and prisons have come under federal scrutiny. The department is looking into whether the facilities protect prisoners from violence and meet housing standards. The facilities include the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, the South Mississippi Correctional Institution, the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, the Wilkinson County Correctional Facility and a Hinds County jail.

Clarke also said her division is investigating whether Rankin County Sheriff's deputies used excessive force when they shot Michael Corey Jenkins in the mouth during an alleged drug raid. An Associated Press investigation found that several deputies from the department have been involved in at least four violent encounters with black men since 2019 that left two dead and another with lasting injuries.

Clarke declined to offer more details about the case, citing an ongoing federal civil rights investigation. After delivering prepared remarks in Lexington, she met with community members about allegations of police brutality in the small town. Police have "terrorized" black residents by subjecting them to false arrests, excessive force and intimidation, an ongoing federal lawsuit claims.

"What I hope she'll do is seriously address the issues. Not gloss over them, say that she has heard about these violations, talk about them in detail and say that it is wrong if it is happening," said Jill Collen Jefferson, president of JULIAN, a civil rights organization that filed the federal lawsuit on behalf of a group of Lexington residents.

The community meeting was closed to reporters. The Justice Department has not announced an investigation into the Lexington Police Department.

Jefferson said her organization plans to file a class action lawsuit against the Lexington Police Department in the new few months.

Against the backdrop of ongoing investigations into potential civil rights violations ensnaring school districts, jails and police departments is FBI data released in March showing the number of hate crimes in the U.S. rose in 2021.

"Hate and bigotry are sadly on the rise," she said.

US judge condemns Mississippi city's 'crime cancer' as he removes state justice from lawsuit

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

The Mississippi Supreme Court chief justice cannot be sued over a state law that requires him to appoint some judges in the capital city of Jackson, a federal judge wrote Thursday in a ruling that also condemned violence in the city.

U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate did not address residents' constitutional rights in his ruling, saying he will do that later. But, Wingate wrote: "Jackson has a crime cancer."

Wingate cited the principle of judicial immunity, which prevents judges from being sued for most of their official acts, as he removed Chief Justice Mike Randolph as a defendant in a lawsuit filed by the national, state and local chapters of the NAACP.

"Chief Justice Randolph must be dismissed from this litigation, which still will continue with the remaining parties to address the constitutionality of H.B. 1020 as a whole," Wingate wrote.

House Bill 1020, signed into law

by Republican Gov. Tate Reeves in April, expands the territory of a state-run police department within the capital city of Jackson and creates a new court in part of Jackson with a judge appointed by the chief justice. It also requires the chief justice to appoint four temporary judges to serve with the four elected judges in Hinds County Circuit Court.

Reeves and legislative leaders said the law is intended to help curb crime. But, the NAACP and other critics say the creation of a new court and the appointment of judges by a white chief justice is a way for the majority-white and Republican-led Legislature to wrest local control from residents of Jackson and Hinds county, which are both majority-black and governed by Democrats.

Wingate on May 22 issued an order that temporarily prevents the law from taking effect. Without indicating how he will rule later in the lawsuit, Wingate wrote that "Jackson's crime problem is sweltering, undisputed and suffocating."

He wrote that the city has high rates of homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, sexual assault and burglary.

"Caught in this 'race to the grave' are the most innocent – young children whose still developing lungs had barely tasted the nutritious air which was their birthright," Wingate wrote. "On the other end of this 'killfest' are the senior citizens hoping to spend their golden years in retired harmony with family and friends, instead of outfitting their homes as fortresses."

A separate lawsuit challenging the new law was filed in state court, with some Hinds County residents arguing that the appointment of judges tramples their rights, because most judges in the state are elected. Hinds County Chancery Judge Dewayne Thomas removed Randolph as a defendant, also citing judicial immunity. Thomas later dismissed the state lawsuit by ruling that appointing judges does not violate the Mississippi Constitution. Plaintiffs are appealing Thomas' ruling to the state Supreme Court.

Independent black-owned bookstore business woman chats about her service to Greenville community



Mary Hardy, owner of the Book Gallery, is author of the books in her hands. She discloses the need to encourage community reading.

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

An unparalleled pillar within the Greenville, Miss. community has been present for 28 years. In its rarity, The Book Gallery – owned by Mary Hardy – is the only African-American bookstore in the Mississippi Delta. The bookstore is an anchor to many. Books in the gallery are designed to build a child's self-esteem and self-confidence through children's readings. They encourage teens and adults to fulfill their lives by (1) finding meaning in their relationships; (2) understanding historical contexts; (3) reducing stress; (4) improving literacy; (5) exercising the brain; (6) increasing general knowledge; (7) improving concentration; (8) getting motivational, and (9) being entertained.

"Reading makes a ready person. Many children aren't reading. We have to pull the book off the shelf and read it to them," contended Hardy during a face-to-face interview on Saturday, May 27, 2023.

The Book Gallery owner referenced that she's "a resource for the community," especially for children. She argued that children are deprived when they do not have books in their homes. In that regard, she stated, "There's no excuse for them to not have books at home. Having and reading books makes them accountable."

Reflecting on her bookstore, Hardy spoke about the "ups and downs" throughout the years. Her persistence in maintaining the business has been gratifying and rewarding. "I will never stop

ordering books. Where we are, we need a little light, so I consider this my call, my service in this area. I will hold onto it until I decide to retire," she explained with a chuckle.

The Book Gallery is located at 647 South Theobald Street in South Side Shopping Complex. It provides book signings, author and poetry readings, writing groups, book clubs, children's readings and virtual book reviews. Hours of operation are: Tuesday – 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Saturday – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In 1968, Hardy moved to Greenville from Magee, Miss. She found community relations to be good. "My children and I attend the arts' functions. I was PTA president when they were in high school. I went from teaching special education to regular education," she said.

Hardy also found herself in other leadership capacities. She has served as president of the Opera Club, Greenville Arts Council, Alpha Kappa Alpha Greenville Chapter and Middle School of College Readiness Program.

Having no regrets for her journey as The Book Gallery's owner, Hardy offers advice to persons who might be interested in starting their own businesses. Committing to their aspirations comes with the territory. Aspirants must be willing "to invest in their time, talent and dreams." Not giving up is essential for such commitment.

Persons interested in contacting Mary Hardy may email marycharleshardy@gmail.com or call 662-820-5047.

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Kristen Welker making history as first black ‘Meet The Press’ moderator

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

NBC’s long-standing political panel show, “Meet the Press,” will experience a history-making change as Chuck Todd, the current moderator, announces his departure after nearly a decade. Stepping into his shoes will be Kristen Welker, the first black host of the renowned program.

During his announcement, Todd, 51, stated that he wanted to put his family first and avoid letting work consume him, citing examples of friends and family who regretted not doing the same.

While the exact date of his final show remains uncertain, Todd assured viewers that this summer would mark his departure. Reflecting on his tenure, he expressed concern about the current historical moment but took pride in the high standards maintained by the show.

He emphasized their refusal to entertain propagandists, reiterating that the network and program would continue to uphold these principles.

Welker, a former chief White House correspondent, has been with NBC News in Washington since 2011. Since 2020, she has served as Todd’s primary substitute.

Also, her performance as the moderator for Joe Biden and Donald Trump’s final debate during the 2020 presidential campaign garnered widespread praise. Media experts have hailed Welker’s skillful and incisive questioning of lawmakers during political interviews as a masterclass in the field.

In a memo announcing her promotion, Rebecca Blumenstein, NBC News President of Editorial, praised Welker’s abilities. Welker, 46, will now assume the significant responsibility of leading the program during what promises to be another contentious presidential election cycle.

Since 1947, when Martha Rountree hosted the program, “Meet the Press” has remained



Welker, a former chief White House correspondent, has been with NBC News in Washington since 2011.

a mainstay on Sunday mornings.

The program experienced peak years during Tim Russert’s tenure from 1991 until his untimely passing in 2008. Subsequently, Tom Brokaw temporarily filled in before David Gregory assumed the role until Todd’s appointment.

With Welker’s ascension to the moderator position, she becomes the first black host in the show’s history and the first woman since

Rountree’s departure in 1953.

Industry officials said the milestone marks a significant step forward in diversifying “Meet the Press” and underscores the importance of representation in the media.

With Welker’s appointment, NBC News pledged a fresh perspective and renewed energy as the program hopes to continue its legacy of providing insightful political analysis and interviews with key figures.

Dr. Cornell West declares candidacy for president

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent



Dr. Cornel West

Renowned scholar and activist Dr. Cornel West declared his candidacy for the upcoming presidential race under the banner of the People’s Party, as announced on Monday.

In a compelling video shared on Twitter, West expressed his intention to run for the pursuit of truth and justice, emphasizing that the presidency serves as a means to achieve these noble ideals.

With a strong academic background, including positions at prestigious institutions such as Harvard University and Princeton University, West is recognized for his intellectual activism.

In his Twitter video, West articulated his decision to run as a third-party candidate, citing the reluctance of the established political parties to address critical issues concerning Wall Street, Ukraine, the Pentagon, and Big Tech.

He referred to former President Donald Trump, a leading contender for the Republican nomination, as a “neo-fascist” and labeled President Biden as a “milquetoast neoliberal.”

West’s educational journey has taken him through esteemed universities such as Yale, Princeton and Harvard, and he presently holds a professorship in philosophy at Union Theological Seminary.

Throughout his career, he

has been known for his progressive activism and his outspoken critique of former President Barack Obama. Fair wages, affordable housing, abortion rights, universal healthcare, the urgent need to address climate change, and preserving American democracy were some of the significant issues West highlighted in his campaign video.

The platform through which West intends to pursue his presidential aspirations is the People’s Party, which Nick Brana founded after previously working on Bernie Sanders’s campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016.

While the party attempted to recruit Sanders after his 2016 campaign, the senator declined involvement and subsequently sought the Democratic nomination once again in 2020.

“Will we succeed? Only time will tell. But some of us are ready to fight until the end,” declared West in his announcement video, leaning towards the camera, his words resonating with determination.

“We will fight passionately, with style, and with a smile.”

Carter and the Kings: A key alliance for race relations, but only after MLK’s assassination

By Ronda Rachia Penrice
Urban News Service

The voice of Martin Luther King Sr., a melodic tenor like his slain son, carried across Madison Square Garden, calming the raucous Democrats who had nominated his friend and fellow Georgian for the presidency.

“Surely, the Lord sent Jimmy Carter to come on out and bring America back where she belongs,” the venerated black pastor said as the nominee smiled behind him. “I’m with him. You are, too. Let me tell you, we must close ranks now.”

Carter then shared a moment with Coretta Scott King, clasping hands and locking eyes with the widowed first lady of the Civil Rights Movement, their children looking on.

For the Kings, closing the 1976 convention affirmed their continued reach – and their pragmatism – eight years after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. For Carter, it marked the evolution of a white politician from the Old Confederacy:

As a local leader and state senator who aspired for more, he had mostly avoided controversial stands during the civil rights era. During all their years in Atlanta, he never met the movement’s leader.

“Carter never did anything racist himself. But he didn’t participate,” biographer Jonathan Alter said. “And King was right there.”

Yet the alliance Carter later forged with the King family endured as he grew into a governor, president and global humanitarian who advanced racial equality

and human rights.

“He was one of the few presidents who really was an advocate for the black community out of a pureness of heart,” said the Rev. Bernice King, who leads the King Center that her mother founded.

Now 98, Carter is receiving hospice care in Plains, Georgia. King, just 39 when he was gunned down in 1968, would have been 94.

Certainly, King would have expanded his own legacy with a longer life span – after civil rights victories for black Americans he turned his focus to challenging Western militarism and rapacious capitalism – and there’s no way to know what kind of relationship King might have had with Carter once the Georgia Democrat reached high office.

As it was, Carter used the most visible decades of his public life to reflect King’s values and often his rhetoric, while playing a central role in memorializing King as an American icon.

Carter opened government contracts to black-owned businesses and appointed record numbers of black citizens to executive and judicial posts. He steered more public money to historically black colleges and opposed tax breaks for discriminatory private schools. He echoed King’s emphasis on peace, expressing pride long after his presidency that he never started a shooting war.

Carter quoted many of the same theologians King cited in his practice of nonviolent resistance, and he would join King in 2002 as a Nobel Peace Prize

winner. As a former president, Carter tracked King’s later economic observations, declaring the U.S. an oligarchy, rather than a fully functioning democracy, because of wealth inequality and money in politics.

That record, Bernice King told The Associated Press, cements Carter as a “courageous” and “principled” figure who built on her father’s work, while having “genuine” relationships with her mother and grandfather.

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter welcomed the Kings to the White House to present Coretta with a posthumous Medal of Freedom for her husband, making him one of the few black Americans to receive the nation’s highest civilian honor at that point.

Carter helped establish government observances of King’s birthday and enabled the federal historic site encompassing King’s birthplace, burial site and the family’s Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The former president even served as private mediator for King’s children, helping settle an extended dispute over their parents’ estate. “I appreciate his efforts” ending the highly publicized fight, Bernice King said.

Barely 5 years old when her father was killed, the younger King said she does not “know for sure” when the families’ friendship began. She thinks her mother made the first overture, after Carter became Georgia governor in 1971.

“My mother was the kind of leader who made sure that she connected with the people she felt could assist her in the work that she was doing to continue

my father’s legacy,” King said.

It had not been obvious before Carter reached statewide office that he could be such a partner.

During the peak of the Civil Rights Movement, as Martin Luther King Jr. worked with President Lyndon Johnson on the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act, Carter was a one-term state senator. He supported Johnson’s election in 1964 and never aligned with segregationist colleagues in Atlanta, but Carter didn’t speak out in favor of the federal laws during his two campaigns for governor, nor did he appear at Ebenezer, just a few blocks from the Georgia Capitol.

When King was assassinated, Carter did not attend the funeral. In 1970, he won the governor’s race as a conservative Democrat, avoiding explicit mentions of race while assuring voters of his general preference for “local control” over federal intervention.

A “code-word campaign,” Alter called it.

Then, at his inauguration, the 46-year-old Carter issued a surprise edict: “The time for racial discrimination is over.”

Bernice King assessed his declaration as “very profound at the time.”

Within a few years, Carter stood with the King family in the Georgia Capitol as Coretta unveiled a portrait of King, while Ku Klux Klan members protested outside.

King Sr. had no trouble reconciling Carter’s earlier maneuverings before reaching the governor’s seat.

“He had never been charac-

terized as a ‘cracker’ lawmaker, the way so many rural statesmen had been,” the elder King wrote in his autobiography.

He said Carter “achieved an unusual reputation” among black constituents with his “willingness to meet with people and work long hours on issues and needs.”

Such attention showed the way for Democrats as expanded voting rights finally allowed black voters to flex political power. Every Democratic president since then has depended on strong black support to win the nomination and general election. President Joe Biden has recognized the dynamics by pushing the national party to put more diverse states, including Georgia, earlier in the nominating process.

Political calculations aside, Bernice King said her grandfather and Carter shared “real kinship” as two Baptists raised in small-town Georgia. The senior King once described their conversations as “one country boy to another.”

Carter paid the elder King an in-person visit to ask for his support at the outset of his presidential bid. Never a party loyalist, the elder King initially told Carter he would support his White House bid only if Republican Vice President Nelson Rockefeller did not run again. King’s reasoning: Carter was a longshot, while Rockefeller, a civil rights liberal, was already a heavyweight.

When it became clear Rockefeller would not be President Gerald Ford’s running mate in 1976, King endorsed Carter. It was an invaluable imprimatur for

a white Southern governor from the same generation as segregationists like Alabama’s George Wallace and Georgia’s Lester Maddox.

King vouched for Carter in black churches across the country and to the nearly all-white national press corps, particularly after Carter mangled federal housing policy discussions by defending “ethnic purity” in American neighborhoods.

Carter tried to clean up his remarks with more explanations, saying he would “oppose very strongly and aggressively” any “exclusion of a family because of race or ethnic background” but still saw it as “good to maintain the homogeneity of neighborhoods if they’ve been established that way.”

Carter eventually followed with an apology.

Bernice King said her grandfather saw Carter’s word choices as “an innocent mistake” and urged journalists and voters to see Carter’s values and full record.

During the first half of Carter’s long life, “he had to navigate in a society, in a culture where, as a white person, you were expected to hate and see black people in a very demeaning way,” Bernice King said. Considering the whole of his life, she said, “I think he managed that very well.”

Along the way, Carter learned something the King siblings and cousins always understood about their grandfather and that “booming” voice.

“When Granddaddy opened his mouth,” Bernice King said, “you paid attention.”

Self-Care tips for moms, caretakers

StatePoint

Carving out some “me time” is not just good for your mental health, physical wellness and confidence, as many moms know, it can actually make you a better parent. According to a survey of moms conducted by Hutchinson and Cassidy, those who had higher self-esteem had higher levels of perceived parenting confidence.

Here are three ways to practice self-care:

1. Get some rest: We live in a goal-oriented society where the value of rest and relaxation is not always emphasized. Whether it’s a spa day with your best friend or curling up with a good book at home, be sure your schedule includes adequate time to recharge your batteries.

2. Take care of your smile: One of the best ways to foster self-confidence is with a clean, healthy smile. In fact, a 2020 Cigna Dental Report found that smile satisfaction is one of the top three drivers of self-confidence among U.S. adults.

Give yourself the gift of innovative brushing technology. The iO Series 5 Rechargeable Electric Toothbrush from Oral-B, for example, allows you to personalize your brushing experience with its five smart modes: daily clean, intense, whitening, sensitive and super sensitive. No ordinary toothbrush, this one is designed to help you brush smarter and more safely. To help protect gums, a smart pressure sensor displays a red light when you’re brushing too hard and a green light when you’re brushing just right, and its dentist-inspired



One of the best ways to foster self-confidence is with a clean, healthy smile.

round brush head cleans with micro-vibrations and oscillating action. Plus, a connected app tracks brushing behavior to ensure you’re targeting all six zones of your mouth, and a vibrating timer lets you know when you’ve brushed for the dentist-recommended 2 minutes.

3. Take care of your mind: So much of motherhood is ensuring everyone has what they

need, and often, your own needs can fall by the wayside. There are many ways to take time to check in with yourself though. You could buy yourself a beautiful journal and jot thoughts down for a few minutes each evening or check out apps like Headspace, which can help get you started on a meditation practice. Even a 10 or 15 minute walk at lunchtime can be a powerful mood-

booster and an opportunity to reflect.

You might also consider taking up a hobby that offers the chance for self-expression, such as painting, poetry, music or crafting.

When it comes to parents and caretakers, the importance of self-care can’t be overstated. Kick-off new routines that boost your self-confidence and your well-being.

Black men were likely underdiagnosed with lung problems because of bias in software, study suggests

By Mike Stobbe
AP Medical Writer

Racial bias built into a common medical test for lung function is likely leading to fewer black patients getting care for breathing problems, a study published Thursday suggests.

As many as 40% more black male patients in the study might have been diagnosed with breathing problems if current diagnosis-assisting computer software was changed, the study said.

Doctors have long discussed the potential problems caused by race-based assumptions that are built into diagnostic software. This study, published in *JAMA Network Open*, offers one of the first real-world examples of how the the issue may affect diagnosis and care for lung patients, said Dr. Darshali Vyas, a pulmonary care doctor at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The results are “exciting” to see published but it’s also “what we’d expect” from setting aside race-based calculations, said Vyas, who was an author of an influential 2020 *New England Journal of Medicine* article that catalogued examples of how race-based

assumptions are used in making doctors’ decisions about patient care.

For centuries, some doctors and others have held beliefs that there are natural racial differences in health, including one that black people’s lungs were innately worse than those of white people. That assumption ended up in modern guidelines and algorithms for assessing risk and deciding on further care. Test results were adjusted to account for – or “correct” for – a patient’s race or ethnicity.

One example beyond lung function is a heart failure risk-scoring system that categorizes black patients as being at lower risk and less likely to need referral for special cardiac care. Another is an equation used in determining kidney function that creates estimates of higher kidney function in black patients.

The new study focused on a test to determine how much and how quickly a person can inhale and exhale. It’s often done using a spirometer – a device with a mouthpiece connected to a small machine.

After the test, doctors get a report that has been run

through computer software and scores the patient’s ability breathe. It helps indicate whether a patient has restrictions and needs further testing or care for things like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder or lung scarring due to air pollutant exposure.

Algorithms that adjust for race raise the threshold for diagnosing a problem in black patients and may make them less likely to get started on certain medications or to be referred for medical procedures or even lung transplants, Vyas said.

While physicians also look at symptoms, lab work, X-rays and family histories of breathing problems, the pulmonary function testing can be an important part of diagnoses, “especially when patients are borderline,” said Dr. Albert Rizzo, the chief medical officer at the American Lung Association.

The new study looked at more than 2,700 black men and 5,700 white men tested by University of Pennsylvania Health System doctors between 2010 and 2020. The researchers looked at spirometry and lung volume measurements and assessed how many were deemed

to have breathing impairments under the race-based algorithm as compared to under a new algorithm.

Researchers concluded there would be nearly 400 additional cases of lung obstruction or impairment in black men with the new algorithm.

Earlier this year, the American Thoracic Society, which represents lung-care doctors, issued a statement recommending replacement of race-focused adjustments. But the organization also put a call out for more research, including into the best way to modify software and whether making a change might inadvertently lead to overdiagnosis of lung problems in some patients.

Vyas noted some other algorithms have already been changed to drop race-based assumptions, including one for pregnant women that predicts risks of vaginal delivery if the mom previously had a cesarean section.

Changing the lung-testing algorithm may take longer, Vyas said, especially if different hospitals use different versions of race-adjusting procedures and software.

Weight gain after high school

By Vince Faust
Tips to be Fit

Almost everyone will gain weight after they graduate from high school just from growing up. This will happen whether you go to college, enter the work force or join the military. You get taller. Your bones get denser. You build more muscle. All of this will have you gaining normal weight. But let’s make sure it’s more bone and muscle than fat.

Graduating from high school marks a milestone in a person’s life. High school grads will be embarking on a new life journey filled with challenges. Most of them will have newfound independence, more social experiences and greater responsibilities. All of these experiences and greater responsibilities will be happening at the same time with it’s own challenges. Alongside these new and sometimes exciting changes most of them will gain unwanted bodyfat.

High school grads make less healthy choices, have irregular eating patterns, have an increased consumption of fast food, have late night snacking and don’t exercise due to life’s new demands. All of these choices will contribute to the wrong type of weight gain.

While you want to grow up physically and mentally you want that growth to be good. You want life to have challenges. But you want it to be positive. You want to be able to live with the new you.

With change comes stress. Stress is a part of everyday life. Stress can cause weight gain. Some people can even thrive on stress. But, when stress reaches your mental, emotional or physiological limits it becomes distress. The way in which people perceive and cope with stress seems to be more important in the development of disease than the amount and type of stress itself.

What can you do? Here are a few quick tips that will help you cope with stress immediately.

.....Stop your thoughts before they escalate into the worst possible scenarios.

.....Breathe deeply to release physical tension.

.....Smile, it’s hard to feel stressed when you smile.

.....Take a quick walk even if its 1 or 2 minutes.

.....Have a cup of warm herbal tea.

.....Appraise the situation or identify the problem.

.....View the stressor as a challenge.

.....Do what you can to deal with the problem or stressor.

.....Get medical help.

For some high school grads a total change in diet may be necessary to get in most of the nutrients they need to be healthy. With others, it’s a matter of adding a few foods to the diet. But, for most people trying to balance a diet means adding some foods to their diet while giving up others. Depending on how motivated and disciplined a person is these changes may have to take place over a long period of time rather than all at once to insure they become lasting habits.

If you look up diet in the dictionary you will find a defini-

tion, which states; “diet (b) habitual course of feeding.” This habit of eating nutritious food should be your goal.

Here are some examples of actions you can list:

Eat fruit and or drink juice when you wake up instead of coffee and donuts!

Have whole grain pancakes with molasses instead of bacon and eggs for breakfast!

Carry your lunch instead of eating out every day.

Visit your local health food store to see the alternative products they now stock.

Make sure you have 3 to 5 servings of vegetables daily.

Drink water between meals instead of soda pop.

Limit fried foods to once or twice a week.

Plan your menu for each week, make a shopping list and stick to it.

Use canola oil instead of vegetable oil for cooking!

Eat at least 1/3 of your food before late day.

Eat 4-6 small meals throughout the day.

It’s impossible to get what your body needs on 1 meal a day.

Exercise can stimulate the amount of testosterone released in the body of both men and women. Exercise can also increase the amount of protein utilization, which takes place in the body. These changes will have an affect on muscle size and strength and bone density. Exercise also strengthens the bones, tendons and ligaments. Tendons connect muscle to bone. Ligaments connect bone to bone. Exercise can help control gaining bodyfat.

Lack of sleep can contribute to weight gain. Sleep is something you cannot take for granted. Some people need more sleep to avoid problem sleepiness and others need less. If a person does not get enough sleep, even on one night, a “sleep debt” begins to build and increases until enough sleep is obtained. Problem sleepiness occurs as the debt accumulates. Many people do not get enough sleep during the week and then sleep longer on the weekends or days off to reduce their sleep debt. If too much sleep has been lost, sleeping in on the weekend may not completely reverse the effects of not getting enough sleep during the week.

Caffeine can reduce sleepiness and increase alertness, but only temporarily. It can also cause problem sleepiness to become worse by interrupting sleep. While alcohol may shorten the time it takes to fall asleep, it can disrupt sleep later in the night and therefore add to the problem sleepiness.

In general, medications do not help problem sleepiness, and some make it worse. Medications may be prescribed for patients in certain situations. For example, the short-term use of sleeping pills has been shown to be helpful in patients diagnosed with acute insomnia. Long-term use of sleep medication is recommended only for the treatment of specific sleep disorders.

I want every grad to grow up but I want it to be healthy.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

P R E S E R V E D

Loving the most

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



"The one who loves least controls the relationship." I can't remember who said this; I think it was a former pastor. However, this saying has always resonated as one of the most truthful statements I've heard about relationship dynamics. It's a challenging thing to recognize because sometimes we spend so much time trying to convince the other person how much we love them that we don't realize they stopped loving us a long time ago.

More importantly, we justify doing some inappropriate things to hold onto them because of "love" without realizing that if we really loved that person or thing, we would let them go.

For example, I was talking to a friend about the stress that one family member in particular had put on their siblings regarding the long-term terminal illness of their youngest sibling. All of the other siblings agreed about what to do concerning the family member who was put on hospice...except this one. She insisted that the sister who was dying remain on life support for the reason that she loved her sister too much to see her die. Despite the fact that the dying sister's sons cried every time they had to visit their mother and see her hooked up to machines, this one sibling accused the others of not loving their sister and wanting to kill her. When asked repeatedly by the other siblings why she was acting that way, the sister simply stated, "Because I must love her more than you do."

It was clear to everyone,

including doctors, the "loving" sibling who insisted on keeping the other sister alive had selfish motives that had nothing to do with loving her sister more than the others. In fact, one doctor offered that if she really loved her sister, she would not want her to suffer anymore.

It took a lot of persuasion, but the "loving" sibling was eventually convinced to relinquish the medical power of attorney so that the wishes of her sister's adult children would prevail. A few short days later, the woman, who had suffered with brain cancer for 5 years, was able to peacefully transition.

Watching these events from the outside made me think about how often the one who claims boldly, "I love you" "I love the USA" "I love my church" the most is often the one who really loves the least. Often what they really love is

being able to cause chaos and selfishly manipulate and control others.

I Corinthians 13:4-8 speaks about all of the characteristics of love. When you study this amazing scriptural passage, you see how powerful love is not just because of how it transforms the object of love by how it transforms the one who loves. Loving the most means that you love with the love of God seeking to show compassion and grace to all.

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.chocolateantiepodcast.com.

The truth of God's Word will confront you some day

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



Rejecting God's truth is far more serious than failing to stay brushed up on your mathematics. Rejecting spiritual truth will develop into a tragedy in the life of every person who rejects the light. Their rejection of the truth will condemn them to Hell (John 8:25; John 5:40). The little candle holds tremendous power. It has the ability to dispel darkness. The candle gives its light at great cost to itself. As the candle gives ways its precious light, its very life is consumed.

This is a perfect illustration of what Jesus did for us. He paid a high price to bring His light to the lost. He died on the cross so that we might have life and light. When He saved us, He kindled that light within our hearts. We must let our lights shine so that a world lost in darkness might see the way to come to God. It may cost us everything to give the light to others, but we must be willing to pay the price. We must never be guilty of hoarding the light; hiding the light or hin-

dering the light. We must let our light shine for the glory of God.

Friend, you can't hide from the light. The truth of God's Word will confront you some day. It may have already done so today. It may be that the Lord has spoken to your heart; revealed your sins; and pointed out the truth of the Gospel. If so, you need to come to Him and be saved.

Please do not reject the truth. Please do not go on toward Hell. Please come to Jesus and be saved today. The truth is, He loves you. He died for you. And He will save you if you come to Him.

You can't hide from the light. If you reject Him as Savior in this life, you will face Him as Judge in eternity. Don't let that happen. Embrace the truth and be saved today.

Child of God, has the Lord spoken truth to your heart today? Is He calling you to share the light with a lost world? Today would be a good day to come before Jesus and renew your commitment to Him; to obey Him in sharing the Gospel with a lost world.

Simeon R. Green, III, pastor, First Church of God, 6517



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Black voters needed more than ever

“If you don’t vote, you don’t count” – Vernon Dahmer

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer



“We are witnessing right now a massive and unabashed assault on voting rights unlike anything we’ve ever seen since the Jim Crow era. This is Jim Crow in new clothes,” per newly elected Georgia Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock, giving his maiden floor speech March 17, 2021.

As of March 24, lawmakers in 47 states have introduced more than 360 bills this year with provisions that restrict voting access, according to New York University School of Law’s Brennan Center for Justice, as reported by Brandon Tensley, CNN.

This response, all by duly elected lawmakers from around the country, is no accident. Results of the 2020 Census reveal that white (European American) population has declined by over 30% over the past sixty years, from 88.6% in 1960 to 57.8 in 2020, while other races have increased from .9% in 1960 to 29.8% in 2020. African American population has increased as well, from 10.5% in 1960 to 12.4% in 2020.

Oxford dictionary defines white nationalism as a noun, “advocacy of or support for the perceived political interests of the white population within a particular country, especially to the exclusion or detriment of other racial and ethnic groups.” There you have it – they think this is their country, and as their population decreases, they are pushing back in many ways, but going for the jugular when they attack our right to vote.

In the almost century-long Jim Crow era, their focus was on intimidation, violence, literacy tests, poll taxes, grandfather clauses and other tools – especially in the South. Today, in nearly every state, there are other tools being used to restrict or suppress voting.

“There are barriers to registering to vote, barriers to voting by mail, and even barriers to some in-person voting. Suppression efforts include stricter voter-identification laws, cuts to early voting, purging of voter rolls and systemic disenfranchisement. These measures disproportionately impact people of color, students, the elderly and people with disabilities. And long before election cycles even begin, legislators redraw district lines that determine the weight of your vote,” per the ACLU.

Felony disenfranchisement has become a renewed challenge. We know that in the land of the free and the home of the brave that people of color often face harsher sentences than white people for the very same offenses.

“In Mississippi persons convicted of the following felonies cannot vote unless they are pardoned by the governor, or by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature: murder, rape, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretense, perjury, forgery, embezzlement or big-

amy, per the ACLU.

So how do we push back against this more modern-day oppression? How do we make sure we preserve these basic rights that so many African Americans have fought for and in many cases gave their lives for?

“Black Voters Matter (BVM) goal is to increase power in marginalized, predominantly black communities. We believe that effective voting allows a community to determine its own destiny. We agree with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he said, “Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love,” per their website <https://www.blackvotersmatterfund.org>. In the month of May, they continued their We Won’t Black Down Campaign with bus tour stops across 14 states to mobilize black voters against oppressive legislation.

Their organization so far has partnered with over 400 community organizations in over 25 states and their efforts are being noted wide and far. BVM is always looking for volunteers and they have a useful toolkit on their website.

“Former first lady Michelle Obama and Phoenix Suns point guard Chris Paul are co-chairs of the Obama-led When We All Vote initiative. The Squad Challenge is When We All Vote’s first campaign for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). It is geared to empower HBCU students to take a leading role in voter registration, education and mobilization efforts on their campuses and the communities surrounding them ahead of the 2022 midterm elections,” per www.blackenterprise.com.

“During the national convention marking the 195th-anniversary celebration of the Black Press of America in New Orleans in June 2022, leaders of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and the Transformative Justice Coalition (TJC) announced their partnership for a get-out-to-vote campaign aimed at registering and mobilizing GOTV for 10 million more African Americans to vote in time for the 2022 midterms,” per NNPA and TJC.

Black Men Vote has a goal of registering one million more African-American voters before the deadline for the 2024 election. They have partnered with Vote.Org whose mission is to use technology to simplify political engagement, increase voter turnout, and strengthen American democracy. Black Men Vote can be reached at www.blackmen-vote.org

Many organizations exist to promote voting rights and ensure our citizens are not disenfranchised. They need your help and support. That is something that we can do. Visit these websites, use the free tools available, make a commitment to get everyone in your circle engaged in voting, share this article with your loved ones and friends.

Our votes are needed now more than ever before.

The power of holding hands

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
Guest Writer



I was introduced to the idea of holding hands as far back as I can remember, which is not too far back because

I am still very young (smile). Further, my parents taught me and my four siblings to hold hands when we went into the public, especially in risky situations, like busy parking lots, amusement parks, etc. Holding hands was key to our unity and survival.

Nevertheless, some of us dreaded holding one another’s hands, especially as we got older because we deemed it annoying and unnecessary. We celebrated the eventual extermination of holding hands and some of us decided not to ever hold hands again with anyone. However, we were unaware of the power and importance of holding hands.

One of the most precious acts of love that I admire most about couples is observing them hold hands. I love seeing couples of all backgrounds hold hands. Holding hands seems special, intimate, romantic and reassuring. I, however, have observed older couples hold hands more than younger couples but couples of every race, age, culture and ethnicity, etc. should embrace the practice of holding hands as often as possible.

According to health experts and scholars, there are serious

benefits of spouses holding one another’s hands.

According to several studies, like the Hello Relish Website, there are ten benefits of holding hands with a loved one:

1. Provides a sense of security – Holding hands creates a sense of grounding and reassurance that we belong in this human-to-human habitat.
2. Decreases stress – Studies found that when people in stressful situations held their partners’ hand, their heart rate and blood pressure were lowered. Their cortisol (stress hormone) level was also significantly reduced.
3. Boost oxytocin – Physical touch with a partner like cuddling, hugging and hand holding triggers the release of oxytocin. Oxytocin is often called, the love hormone” because it is released during an orgasm.
4. Strengthens your bond – Holding hands with your partner regularly strengthens your connection and encourages the development of the following essential feelings: empathy, compassion and trust.
5. Relieves pain – Reaching for your partner’s hand when you are in distress helps you experience less discomfort and greater security.
6. A language of love – Hand holding is a simple, readily available way to show your partner that you love and value them.
7. Heart healthy – Holding hands can reduce blood pressure and lower your heart rate.

The loving touch of holding your partner’s hand might save your life.

8. Soothes anxiety – Physical touch, like holding hands, can soothe anxiety before feelings of anxiousness, etc. become overwhelming.

9. Counteracts loneliness – Holding the hand of another person provides immediate physical feedback that interrupts that feeling of loneliness and replaces it with feelings of acceptance, belonging and love.

10. Syncs brain waves – Finally, scientists found that a couple’s brainwaves can sync up when they are touching – but most dramatically when they are holding hands. Synched brainwaves mean partners feel a greater sense of connection and empathy for one another. These emotions are fundamental for a strong intimate relationship.

The Relish article also emphasizes that hand holding styles hold unique, communicable meanings:

- Loosely intertwined fingers: endearment and security
 - Wrapping hands: strong and protective bond
 - Firm hold: taking charge in the relationship
 - Interlaced finger: sense of need and love for the other
 - Hand on top: feelings of protection for the other
 - Relaxed interlocked fingers: fun and flirtatious relationship
 - Holding wrist: passionate relationship
- To conclude, holding hands

can play a vital role in establishing intimacy, love and trust in your marriage. It doesn’t cost anything to hold your spouse’s hands. It doesn’t require major planning to hold your spouse’s hands. Also, a special occasion does not warrant when you can hold your spouses’ hands; you can hold your spouse’s hands at any time and as often as you desire.

If you and your spouse do not hold hands and you are looking for a way to increase intimacy, security, bonding, kindness and acts of love in your marriage; start holding one another’s hands today or as soon as you encounter your spouse and make it a consistent habit.

Holding your spouse’s hands does not only reassure your spouse of your love and willingness to express your love for one another in public, but it sends a message to everyone that you are one and that you share an unbreakable bond.

My husband and I enjoy holding one another’s hands, but we plan to hold hands more because there is power in holding hands.

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

Teachers and guns don’t mix – don’t start now

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



Have you given any thought to how much things have changed? It is a fact that things have changed and aren’t what they used to be. This is what time will do. It moves things along and we get in step, or we are left behind. However, does that mean we have to get in lock step with everything?

It is my opinion we must use our discernment about the trends that we follow. Not everything is worthy of our time and efforts.

We know that school shootings sadly have reached a crisis point in our nation. Our children and teachers are at risk. Law enforcement officers are also being challenged by what is happening today. Lives have been lost and families have been changed forever.

Every day we mourn their lives and pray for their families. Words are inadequate as we try to mend broken hearts and repair families.

Now there is a new trend developing about what to do to stop violence in schools.

There are those who want teachers to begin taking guns to school. They believe that brandishing a firearm will curb the tragedies in our schools.

The question written on the chalkboard is, “should teachers carry guns in schools?”

I was a teacher in both high school and college. During my tenure, there were no guns in schools. In fact, guns weren’t a topic of conversation.

Students and the larger education community had as its goal teaching and learning. The environment we lived in wanted children to reach their full potential and for teachers to enjoy their positions.

Teachers were valuable members of their communities. Who would harm a student or a teacher? If you did, your life would be forever changed. Your reputation would be ruined, and your character would be assailed.

Now our society has changed. Values that we shared are no longer cherished. For example, teachers are under-funded and

are devalued. A moral decline has come over our beloved America.

There are states now that are moving closer to allowing teachers to carry guns in schools. Leaders in them have been proactive in their efforts to create legislation that will allow it to happen.

In my opinion, these states are short-sighted and are putting more people at risk. When teachers are preparing for work, does he/she pack a pistol?

Just thinking about that scenario is both frightful and sad. It is my strong opinion that teachers should not carry guns in schools. Having teachers with guns around students at any level during the day is dangerous and alarming. There is simply too much unplanned that can happen with an armed teacher in a classroom.

What would happen if a teacher’s gun was stolen or misplaced? What if a young child unknowingly took possession of a teacher’s gun? There would be wholesale panic, and the authorities would probably be called.

There must be some other

ways to keep schools safe.

First off, every school system in this country must know and understand that a school shooting could happen to them. Therefore, safeguards must be in place and installed. Being reactionary after something tragic happens is the wrong approach. Beef up before and not afterwards!

Having security guards is a must. Having checkpoints before entering schools is a must. Knowing where police stations are in relationship to the school is a must. These are my opinions.

The debate on whether to have guns in schools is not going away. Pro-gun folks are going to be dogged and determined to have teachers carrying guns. If you are against teachers carrying guns in schools, you too must speak up and speak out.

Unfortunately, but I believe true, we have not seen the last school shooting. It is up to us to strengthen and enhance our systems in order to keep our children and teachers safe. I believe we can agree upon that fact.

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Advertisement for Bids
Bid 3238 Child Nutrition Dairy Products
Bid 3239 Child Nutrition Produce

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), June 22, 2023, at which time and place they will be publicly opened. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids for waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

There are two (2) options in which 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 RFP 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.

6/1/2023, 6/8/2023

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RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MICHAEL ANDERSON, DECEASED

CAUSE #: P2020-519 T/1

BY: Rolland Anderson

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MICHAEL ANDERSON, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Rolland Anderson, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Michael Anderson, Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock a.m., on the 24th day of July, 2023, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County, Mississippi, before Honorable Dewayne Thomas and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 18th day of May, 2023



CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY
Mississippi

K. Howard

5/25/2023, 6/1/2023, 6/8/2023

LEGAL

Advertisement

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is soliciting proposals from qualified proposers to perform household hazardous waste collection services at the Environmental Service Center (ESC), which include proper handling, transporting, disposing of, and recycling of household hazardous wastes.

Proposals will be received by the City of Jackson at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, until 3:30 P.M. CST, June 27, 2023.

Selection of a Service Provider for contract/agreement negotiation will be based on an objective evaluation of the following criteria:

- A. Service Provider's ability to implement waste management methods that include recycling and reuse, energy recovery and conversion (20%)
- B. Service Provider's experience, qualifications and references as demonstrated in similar engagements (15%)
- C. Service Provider compliance with federal and state policies (20%)
- D. EBO Plan and commitment to exceeding MBE and FBE participation goals (10%)
- E. Cost proposal (35%)

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provision of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Executive Order shall disqualify a contractor, bidder, or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1055. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Room 223, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

Proposals (one signed original plus five copies) and the EBO plan (one signed original plus five copies included in the proposal) shall be submitted in a sealed package and plainly marked on the outside of the package. "Proposal for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Services".

Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk, 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205 by 3:30 p.m., local time, on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. All physical hard copies shall be submitted to the attention of:

If by hand delivery:
City Clerk's Office
Attn: Lakesha Weathers, Solid Waste Manager
City of Jackson
219 South President Street
Jackson, MS 39201

If by mail:
City of Jackson
Office of the Municipal Clerk
Attn: Lakesha Weathers, Solid Waste Manager
Post Office Box 17
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

Specifications are available for download through Central Bidding online at www.centralbidding.com and at the City of Jackson website, www.jackson.ms.gov/bid-opportunities/. Hard copies are available upon request from the City of Jackson Solid Waste Division, Warren A. Hood Administration Building, 5th Floor, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

Publication Dates: June 1st & June 8th, 2023
Bid Opening Date: June 27, 2023
Publication: Mississippi Link

Robert Lee
Robert Lee, Public Works Director

6/1/2023, 6/8/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4208

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Dr. Selika Sweet has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C-3 (General) Commercial District to CMU-1 (Community) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the construction of a community recreation center (event venue) for the property located at Parcel #140-3 on Pascagoula St. in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

INDEXING INSTRUCTIONS: Part of Lots 25, 26 & 56, West Jackson HC Hinds County, MS Daniels Map of Jackson,

(Book 904 Page 22)

Beginning at the point where the Eastern boundary of Clifton Street intersects the Northern boundary of Pascagoula Street, as said streets are now laid out and improved, and running thence in an Easterly direction along the Northern boundary of Pascagoula Street 222.64 feet to an old stake; turning thence to the left through an angle of 90 deg 29 min. run Northerly toward an old iron stake 74.6 feet; run thence Westerly parallel with the Northern boundary line of Pascagoula Street 94.25 feet to a point 25 feet West of the East line of Lot 56; turning thence right through an angle of 90 deg. 10 min. run Northerly along a line parallel and 25 feet West of the East line of Lot 56 a distance of 7124 feet; turning thence to the left through an angle of 90 deg. 10 min. run Westerly and parallel with the North line of Pascagoula Street 127.85 feet to the Eastern line off Clifton Street; run thence Southerly along the Eastern line of Clifton Street 145.84 feet to the Point of Beginning.

TOGETHER WITH:

(Book 904 Page 23)

Commencing at the point where the Eastern boundary of Clifton Street intersects the Northern boundary of Pascagoula Street, as said streets are now laid out and improved, and running thence in an Easterly Northern boundary of Pascagoula Street 222.64 feet to an old iron stake; turning to the left thence through an angle of 90 deg. 29 min. run in a Northerly direction 74.6 feet to a point; and run thence in a Westerly direction along a line parallel with the Northern boundary of Pascagoula Street 69.25 feet to the Point of Beginning of the being described in this paragraph. From said Point of Beginning, continue Westerly along a prolongation of the last course and run 25 feet to a point; and thence turning to turning to the right through an angle of 90 degrees 10 min, run in a Northerly direction 71.24 feet to a point; and run thence in an Easterly direction along a line parallel with the Southern boundary of the parcel being described in this paragraph 25 feet to a point; run thence in a Southerly direction 71.24 feet to the Point of Beginning of the parcel described in this paragraph, said parcel being a part of Lot 56.

TOGETHER WITH:

(Book 988 Page 435)

A part of Lots 25 & 56 West Jackson, according to H.C. Daniels Map of the City of Jackson, Mississippi and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows.

Beginning at a point on the North line of Pascagoula Street, which point is 222.64 feet measured Easterly along the North line of Pascagoula Street from the East line of Clifton Street as both Streets are now laid out and improved in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, said point being the Southeast corner of the Salvation Army Property as described in Deed Book 904 at Page 22 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, turn thence to the left through an angle of 90029' and run Northerly along the East line of the Salvation Army Property for a distance of 74.6 feet to the Northeast corner thereof, and said corner being the Point of Beginning of the land herein described; continue thence Northerly along an extension of the last mentioned course for a distance of 88.65 feet to an old fence line; turn thence to the left through an angle of 88 degrees 23' and run Westerly along said old fence line 72.25 feet to a fence corner; thence Southerly along an old fence line and the projection thereof, for a distance of 90.14 feet to a point in the North line of the presently owned Salvation Army Property, which point is 73.55 feet measured Westerly along the North line from the Northeast corner of said Salvation Army Property; thence Easterly along the North line of said Salvation Army Property for a distance of 73.55 feet to the Point of Beginning. In aid of and as a part of this description reference is hereby made to plat for the Salvation Army Property prepared by W. A. Akin, civil engineer, dated July 26, 1956, which plat is attached hereto and which is to be considered a part hereof as if copied fully herein.

TOGETHER WITH:

(Book 988 Page 453)

All that part of Lots 25 and 26 of West Jackson, which lies South of the fence on the South side of that real property conveyed to the grantee herein by Warranty Deed dated August 15, 1956 and executed by Robert P. Roepcke and

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4209

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Ronnie Crudup Jr. has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the operation of a Community Recreational Center (Sports Complex – a.k.a. "The Ark") in a C-3 (General) Commercial District on property located at 590 Raymond Rd. (Parcel 220-20), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A certain lot or parcel of land being situated in Lots 6 and 7; Block 1, Van Winkle Estates, Part 2, in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

Beginning at a point in the South line of Summer Place, a subdivision of part of Lot 5, Block 1, Van Winkle Estates, Part 2, said point of beginning being the Southwest corner of Lot 7 of said Summer Place, run thence Westerly along the South line of Summer Place for a distance of 50 feet; turn thence to the left through an angle of 83 degrees 07 minutes and run Southwesterly 81 feet to an iron stake, said point being the point of beginning of the land herein described, a point of beginning of survey herein described; turn thence to the left and through an angle of 59 degrees 42 minutes and run Southwesterly 189.5 feet to the northern right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 80; turn thence to the right through an angle of 88 degrees 48 minutes and run northwesterly along the northern right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 80, 100 feet to a point; turn thence to the right through an angle of 59 degrees 12 minutes and run Northeasterly 133.2 feet to a point; turn thence to the right through an angle of 59 degrees 42 minutes and run Easterly 115.6 feet to the point of beginning.

Mrs. Jacqueline Sullivan Roepcke, husband and wife, and said deed appearing of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to which deed is hereby made in aid of this description.

TOGETHER WITH

(Book 1468 Page 209-210)

A certain lot or parcel of land fronting 50 feet on the East line of Clifton Street and extending back Easterly between parallel lines for a distance of 148 feet, being a part of Lot 56, West Jackson, according to the map of Jackson by Henry C. Daniels, 1875, and being more particularly described as follows:

Begin at a point on East line of Clifton Street 185.0 feet Southerly from the intersection of the East line of Clifton Street with the South line of Pearl Street, as both streets are now (August 1963) laid out and Improved City of Jackson in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, said Point of Beginning also being 196.2 feet Northerly from the intersection of the East line of Clifton Street with the North line of Pascagoula Street, as both streets are now (August 1963) laid out and improved in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, said Point of Beginning also being the Southwest corner of the lot formerly belonging to the A. M. E. Church; run. thence Southerly along the East line of Clifton Street for a distance of 50 feet to an iron stake; thence turn to the left through a deflection angle 900 00' and run Easterly and parallel with the North line of Pascagoula Street for a distance of 148 feet to an iron stake; thence turn to the left through a deflection angle of 900 00' and run Westerly and with the North line of Pascagoula Street for a distance of 148 feet to the Point of Beginning; LESS AND EXCEPT a certain triangular shaped parcel of land lying in the Northwest corner of the above described property, heretofore conveyed to the City of Jackson, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows: Begin at a point on the East line of Clifton Street at the Northwest corner of the above; described lot or parcel of land and run thence Easterly and parallel with the North line of Pascagoula Street for a distance of 17.42 feet to an iron stake on the North line of the above described lot or parcel of land; turn thence to the right through a deflection angle of 1360 02' and run Southwesterly for a distance of 24.2 feet to an iron stake on the East line of Clifton Street, said point being 16.8 feet Southerly from the Point of Beginning; turn thence to the right through a deflection angle of 133 0 58' and run Northerly along the East line of Clifton Street for a distance of 16.8 feet to the Point of Beginning.

TOGETHER WITH:

(Book 2220 Page 635)

Begin at the intersection of the South line of Terry Road and the East line of Clifton Street as now laid out run thence in a northeasterly direction along the south line of Terry Road 24.22 feet to the point of beginning; from this point run thence along said south line of Terry Road in a northeasterly direction a distance of 133.52 feet; thence turn south and run 79.02 feet to a point which is 107.58 feet from the point of beginning; run thence westerly 107.58 feet to the point of beginning. Said lot being the triangle lot located on part of Lot 56 Miscellaneous-numbers West Jackson, according to map or plat of said It of record Chancery Clerk's office at Jackson, Mississippi.

TOGETHER WITH:

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO June 21, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 1ST day of June 2023.

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

6/8/2023, 6/22/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4209

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Ronnie Crudup Jr. has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the operation of a Community Recreational Center (Sports Complex – a.k.a. "The Ark") in a C-3 (General) Commercial District on property located at 590 Raymond Rd. (Parcel 220-20), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A certain lot or parcel of land being situated in Lots 6 and 7; Block 1, Van Winkle Estates, Part 2, in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

Beginning at a point in the South line of Summer Place, a subdivision of part of Lot 5, Block 1, Van Winkle Estates, Part 2, said point of beginning being the Southwest corner of Lot 7 of said Summer Place, run thence Westerly along the South line of Summer Place for a distance of 50 feet; turn thence to the left through an angle of 83 degrees 07 minutes and run Southwesterly 81 feet to an iron stake, said point being the point of beginning of the land herein described, a point of beginning of survey herein described; turn thence to the left and through an angle of 59 degrees 42 minutes and run Southwesterly 189.5 feet to the northern right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 80; turn thence to the right through an angle of 88 degrees 48 minutes and run northwesterly along the northern right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 80, 100 feet to a point; turn thence to the right through an angle of 59 degrees 12 minutes and run Northeasterly 133.2 feet to a point; turn thence to the right through an angle of 59 degrees 42 minutes and run Easterly 115.6 feet to the point of beginning.

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6/8/2023, 6/22/2023



LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING WITH A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4210

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that John Strong has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C80-C1 (Restricted) Commercial Sub-district to C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict with a Use Permit to allow for the operation of a nightclub/bar for the property located on 3301 Highway 80 W. (Parcel #698-550) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Tract 1: A certain lot or parcel of land lying in the Northwest Quarter of Section 7, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at an iron pipe marking the Southwest corner of Lot 18, Jackson College Community Farms, run thence North along the West line of said Lot 18 327.8 feet to the Southern Right-of-way of U. S. Highway #80, run then South 60 degrees 30 minutes East along the Southern Right-of-way line of U. S. Highway #80 175 feet to the West line of Mississippi State property, run thence South 1 degree 45 minutes West along the West line of the aforementioned State property 248.7 feet to the North line of Lynch Street, run thence North 88 degrees West along the North line of Lynch Street 153 feet to the point of beginning.

Tract 2: Beginning at the Northeast Corner of that parcel of land now owned by the grantee as described in Hinds County Deed Record Book 976, page 294, said Corner being a point on the Southern right-of-way line of U. S. Highway #80, run thence South 60 degrees 30 feet East, parallel with and 100 feet from the center line of U. S. Highway No. 80, a distance of 233 feet, more or less, to a point 35 feet Westerly from the center line of present Lynch Street or North McRaven Road; run thence Southwesterly, parallel with and 35 feet from the center line of said street or road, 250 feet, more or less, to grantees present East property line; run thence North on said property line, 235 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, containing 0.675 of an acre, more or less, and being situated in the Northwest quarter of section 7, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO June 21, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 1ST day of June 2023.

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

6/1/2023, 6/8/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE RENAMING OF OAKMONT STREET TO DARYL OWENS DRIVE.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HONORARY RENAMING OAKMONT STREET TO DARYL OWENS DRIVE.

6/8/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE RENAMING OF INGLEWOOD AVENUE TO REV JEFFREE TAYLOR WAY

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HONORARY RENAMING OF INGLEWOOD AVENUE TO REV JEFFREE TAYLOR WAY.

6/8/2023

LEGAL

Advertisement for Reverse Auction Bids

Bid 3237 Early Childhood Multi-Touch Educational Tables 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), June 21, 2023, at which time Reverse Auction bidding begins electronically. 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., June 14, 2023) local time to be 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 June 21, 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.

6/1/2023, 6/8/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4212

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that UA Jackson MS, LLC - Jay OShields & Ginamarie Soto has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the operation of an community recreational facility (entertainment center) in a C-3 (General) Commercial District on property located at 6370 Ridgewood Ct Dr. (Parcel 738-9-8), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

EXHIBIT A

Real property in the City of Jackson, County of Hinds, State of Mississippi, described as follows:

Parcel 1 - Fee Simple:

A certain parcel of land containing 22.406 Acres (976,016 Square Feet) lying and being situated in Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3), Six (6), Seven (7) and Eight (8) of Block 49, and Lots One (1), Two (2) and Three (3) of Block 53, all in Virden Hatch Place of Highland Colony, according to the map or plat thereof as recorded in Surveyor's Record Book "A", Page 283, in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at an iron pin marking the Northwest corner of Wildwood North, Part 1, a subdivision according to the plat on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 23 at Page 13 said point also marking the Southeast corner of Jamestown, a subdivision according to the map or plat on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 29 at Page 1; thence run North 04 degrees 34 minutes 09 seconds East along the East boundary of said Jamestown for a distance of 424.25 feet to an iron pipe; thence run North 04 degrees 34 minutes 09 seconds East along the East line of said Jamestown for a distance of 24.95 feet to a concrete monument marking the Northeast corner of said Jamestown; thence run North 04 degrees 34 minutes 17 seconds East for a distance of 671.07 feet to a point; thence run along the South right-of-way line along a curve to the left having a radius of 814.77 feet, a delta angle of 01 degree 31 minutes 41 seconds, an arc length of 21.73 feet and a chord which bears North 53 degrees 21 minutes 35 seconds East for a chord distance of 21.72 feet to the Point of Beginning, said point also being on the southeasterly right-of-way line of Ridgewood Court Drive as it is now laid out and exists; thence run northeasterly along a counterclockwise curve to the left in said right-of-way line, said curve having a radius of 814.77 feet, a delta angle of 02 degrees 48 minutes 34 seconds, an arc length of 39.97 feet and a chord bearing and distance of North 51 degrees 11 minutes 28 seconds East for a distance of 39.95 feet to a point; thence run southeasterly and counterclockwise along a non-tangent curve to the left for a distance of 40.01 feet (43.17 feet -deed), said curve having a radius of 50.00 feet, a delta angle of 45 degrees 50 minutes 48 seconds and a chord bearing and distance of South 03 degrees 36 minutes 34 seconds East for a distance of 38.95 feet to a point; thence run southeasterly and clockwise along the arc of a curve to the right for a distance of 29.55 feet, said curve having a radius of 50.00 feet, a delta angle of 33 degrees 51 minutes 35 seconds and a chord bearing and a distance of South 13 degrees 12 minutes 35 seconds East for a distance of 29.12 feet to a point; thence run South 00 degrees 06 minutes 27 seconds West for a distance of 71.17 feet to a point; thence run southeasterly and counterclockwise along the arc of a curve to the left for distance of 31.24 feet, said curve having a radius of 20.74 feet, a delta angle of 86 degrees 18 minutes 19 seconds, and a chord bearing and distance of South 45 degrees 36 minutes 27 seconds East for a distance of 28.37 feet to a point; thence run South 89 degrees 58 minutes 45 seconds East for a distance of 21.98 feet to a point; thence run northeasterly and counterclockwise along the arc of a curve to the left for a distance of 23.44 feet, said curve having a radius of 15.00 feet, a delta angle of 89 degrees 33 minutes 05 seconds, and a chord bearing and distance of North 45 degrees 14 minutes 08 seconds East for a distance of 21.13 feet to a point; thence run North 00 degrees 27 minutes 01 second Fast for a distance of 258.78 feet to a point; run thence northwesterly counterclockwise along the arc of a curve to the left a distance of 29.06 feet, said curve having a radius of 18.50 feet, a delta angle of 89 degrees 59 minutes 13 seconds, and a chord bearing and distance of North 44 degrees 32 minutes 59 seconds West for a distance of 26.16 feet for a point; thence run North 89 degrees 32 minutes 59 seconds West for a distance of 55.00 feet to a point; thence run northwesterly and clockwise (counterclockwise-Deed) along the arc of a curve to the right for a distance of 26.58 feet, said curve having a radius of 83.50 feet, a delta angle of 18 degrees 14 minutes 24 seconds, and a chord bearing and distance of North 77 degrees 19 minutes 06 seconds West for a distance of 26.47 feet to a point; thence run southwesterly and counterclockwise along the arc of a curve to the left for a distance of 35.59 feet (38.61 feet-Deed), said curve having a radius of 50.00 feet, a delta angle of 40 degrees 46 minutes 50 seconds, and a chord bearing and distance of South 88 degrees 38 minutes 51 seconds West for a distance of 34.84 feet to a point on the southeasterly right-of-way line of the aforesaid Ridgewood Court Drive; thence run northeasterly along the arc of a curve to the left in the aforesaid southeasterly right-of-way for a distance of 329.53 feet, said curve having a radius of 814.77 feet, a delta angle of 23 degrees 10 minutes 22 seconds, and a chord which bears North 24 degrees 45 minutes 12 seconds East for a chord distance of 327.28 feet to a point at the Southwest corner of the ModernAge, Inc. property as recorded in Deed Book 4050, Page 268 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi; thence run South 89 degrees 55 minutes 54 seconds East for a distance of 282.49 feet to a point; thence run North 00 degrees 04 minutes 06 seconds East for a distance of 36.98 feet to a point; thence run South 89 degrees 55 minutes 54 seconds East for a distance of 248.42 feet to a point; thence run North 18 degrees 21 minutes 20 seconds West for a distance of 130.24 feet to a point; thence run North 54 degrees 35 minutes 44 seconds West for a distance of 32.26 feet to a point on the South right-of-way line of County Line Road as now laid out and in use; thence, following the aforesaid South right-of-way line, run North 89 degrees 09 minutes 52 seconds East for a distance of 71.82 feet to a point; thence run South 26 degrees 04 minutes 32 seconds East for a distance of 40.97 feet to a point; run thence North 88 degrees 55 minutes 30 seconds East for a distance of 38.33 feet to a point; run thence South 01 degree 39 minutes 11 seconds West for a distance of 727.98 feet to a point; run thence South 25 degrees 46 minutes 30 seconds West for a distance of 55.65 feet to a point; run thence South 28 degrees 12 minutes 21 seconds East for a distance of 78.60 feet to a point; run thence South 07 degrees 04 minutes 34 seconds West for a distance of 383.67 feet to a point; run thence South 07 degrees 04 minutes 34 seconds West along the West boundary of Sun Valley Subdivision, Part II according to the plat on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi in Plat Book 26 at Page 28 for a distance of 232.93 feet to a point; run thence North 89 degrees 49 minutes 31 seconds West for a distance of 629.83 feet to a point; thence run North 00 degrees 08 minutes 30 seconds East for a distance of 46.01 feet (45.95 feet-Deed) to a point; thence run North 53 degrees 54 minutes 31 seconds West for a distance of 86.47 feet to a point; thence run North 89 degrees 51 minutes 30 seconds West for a distance of 97.37 feet to a point; thence run North 00 degrees 08 minutes 30 seconds East for a distance of 740.00 feet to a point; thence run North 37 degrees 24 minutes 15 seconds West for a distance of 18.25 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Parcel 2 - Easements:

Together with those rights and easements constituting rights in real property created defined and limited by that certain Easements with Covenants and Restrictions Affecting Land by and between Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and Jackson Simon Limited Partnership, an Indiana limited partnership, dated August 3, 1993, and recorded August 11, 1993, in Book 4152, Page 492, amended by that certain First Amendment to Easements with Covenants and Restrictions Affecting Land by and between Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and Jackson Simon Limited Partnership, an Indiana limited partnership, dated August 22, 1989 and recorded August 26, 1996 in Book 4660, Page 667, further amended by that certain Second Amendment to Basements with Covenants and Restrictions Running with the Land by and between Sam's Real Estate Business Trust, a Delaware business trust, and Jackson Simon Limited Partnership, an Indiana limited partnership, dated July 23, 2004 and recorded July 27, 2004 in Book 6130, Page 329, and further amended in Third Amendment to Easements with Covenants and Restrictions Affecting Land by and between Sam's Real Estate Business Trust, a Delaware business trust and Ridgewood Court, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, successor in interest to Jackson Simon Limited Partnership, an Indiana limited partnership, filed in Book 6975, Page 29, all in the Hinds County Chancery Clerk's Office, Mississippi, over the following described land:

A certain parcel of land lying and containing 15.395 acres (670,597.400 square feet) lying and being situated in Lots Five (5), and Six (6) of Block 49, and Lots Two (2), and Three (3) of Block 53, all in Virden Hatch Place of Highland Colony, according to the map or plat thereof as recorded in Surveyor's Record "A", Page 283, in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at an iron pin marking the Northwest corner of Wildwood North, Part 1, a subdivision according to the plat on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 23 at Page 13, said point also marking the Southeast corner of the Jamestown, a subdivision according to the map or plat on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 29, Page 1; thence run N 04° 34' 09" E along the east boundary of said Jamestown for a distance of 424.25 feet to an iron pipe marking the Point of Beginning; thence run N 04° 34' 09" E along the East boundary line of said Jamestown for a distance of 24.95 feet to a concrete monument marking the Northeast corner of said Jamestown; thence run N 04° 34' 17" E for a distance of 214.13 feet to an iron rod; thence run N 00° 08' 30" E for a distance of 168.82 feet to an iron rod; thence run N 55° 43' 01" W for a distance of 64.08 feet to an iron rod on the South right-of-way line of Ridgewood Court Drive; thence run along said South right-of-way line N 54° 07' 25" E for a distance of 671.07 feet to a point; thence run along the South right-of-way line, said line being in a curve to the left having a radius of 814.77 feet and a chord which bears N 53° 21' 35" E for a chord distance of 21.72 feet to a point; thence leaving said South right-of-way line, ran S 37° 24' 15" E for a distance of 18.25 feet to a point; thence run S 00° 08' 30" W for a distance of 740.00 feet to a point; thence run S 89° 51' 30" for a distance of 97.37 feet to a point; thence run § 53° 54' 31" E for a distance of 86.47 feet to a point; thence run S 00° 08' 30" W for a distance of 468.85 feet to an iron pipe on the North boundary line of said Wildwood North, Part 1; thence run along said North boundary line N 89° 49' 31" W for a distance of 736.85 feet to an iron rod. Marking the Northwest corner said Wildwood North, Part 1; thence run along the East boundary line of said Jamestown, N 04° 34' 09" I; for a distance of 424.25 feet to the Point of Beginning, save and except the following described parcel of land:

A certain parcel of land containing 2.258 Acres lying and being situated in Lot Six (6) of Block 49 in Virden Hatch Place of Highland Colony, according to the map or plat thereof as recorded in Surveyor's Record Book "A", Page 283, in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at an iron pin marking the Northwest corner of Wildwood North, Part 1, a subdivision according to the plat on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 23 at Page 13, said point also marking the Southeast corner of Jamestown, a subdivision according to the map or plat on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 29 at Page 1; thence run North 04 degrees 34 minutes 09 seconds East along the East boundary of said Jamestown for a distance of 424.25 feet to an iron pipe; thence run North 04 degrees 34 minutes 09 seconds East along the East line of said Jamestown for a distance of 24.95 feet to a concrete monument marking the Northeast corner of said Jamestown; thence run North 04 degrees 34 minutes 17 seconds East for a distance of 214.13 feet to an iron pipe (Pin-Deed); thence run North 00 degrees 08 minutes 30 seconds East for a distance of 168.82 feet to an iron pipe (Pin-Deed); thence run North 55 degrees 43 minutes 01 second West for a distance of 64.08 feet to an iron pipe (Pin-Deed) on the South right-of-way line of Ridgewood Court Drive; thence run along said South right-of-way line North 54 degrees 07 minutes 25 seconds East for a distance of 139.80 feet to the Point of Beginning of the following described tract of land; thence following the aforesaid South right-of-way line North 54 degrees 07 minutes 25 seconds East for a distance of 531.28 feet to a point; thence following the aforesaid South right-of-way line along a curve to the left having a radius of 814.77 feet, a delta angle of 01 degree 31 minutes 41 seconds, an arc length of 21.73 feet and a chord which bears North 53 degrees 21 minutes 35 seconds East for a chord distance of 21.72 feet to a point; thence, leaving the aforesaid South right of way line, run South 37 degrees 24 minutes 15 seconds East for a distance of 18.25 feet to a point; thence run South 00 degrees 08 minutes 30 seconds West for a distance of 359.28 feet to a point; thence run North 89 degrees 51 minutes 30 seconds West for a distance of 458.23 feet to a point; thence run North 00 degrees 08 minutes 30 seconds East for a distance of 48.33 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Parcel 3 - Non-Exclusive Easement

Together with those rights and non-exclusive easements constituting rights in real property created defined and limited by that certain Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions Agreement by and between Jackson Simon Limited Partnership, an Indiana limited partnership, and ModernAge, Inc., a Delaware corporation, dated November 5, 1992 and recorded November 9, 1992 in Book 4050, Page 271, as assigned in Assignment of Agreements by and between Jackson Simon Limited Partnership, a Indiana limited partnership, and Ridgewood Court, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, dated July 1, 2005 and recorded July 15, 2005 in Official Record Book 6311, Page 398, both in the Hinds County Chancery Clerk's Office, Mississippi, over and upon the land therein described.

Parcel 4 - Intentionally deleted.

Parcel 5 - Non-Exclusive Easement

Together with those rights and non-exclusive casements constituting rights in real property created defined and limited by that certain Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions Agreement by and between Jackson Simon Limited Partnership, an Indiana limited partnership, and Pacific Industrial Properties Holdings, Inc., a Texas corporation, dated May 2, 1994 and recorded May 13, 1994 in Book 4294, Page 654 in the Hinds County Chancery Clerk's Office, Mississippi, over and upon the land therein described.

Parcel 6 - Easement:

Together with those rights and easements constituting rights in real property created defined and limited by that certain Reservation of Pylon Sign Easement by Jackson Simon Limited Partnership, an Indiana limited partnership, dated November 5, 1992 and recorded November 9, 1992 in Book 4050, Page 264, in the Hinds County Chancery Clerk's Office, Mississippi.

Parcel 7 - Easement:

Together with those rights and easements constituting rights in real property created defined and limited by that certain Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions Agreement by and between Jackson Simon Limited Partnership, an Indiana limited partnership, and Brinker Mississippi, Inc., a Delaware corporation, dated August 22, 1996 and recorded August 26, 1996 in Book 4660, Page 697, as amended in Amendment to Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions Agreement by and between Ridgewood Court, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, successor in interest to Jackson Simon Limited Partnership, an Indiana limited partnership, Brinker Mississippi, Inc., a Delaware corporation and Melvin Property #3011, LLC, a Mississippi limited liability company, filed in Book 6975, Page 21, in the Hinds County Chancery Clerk's Office, Mississippi.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO June 21, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 1ST day of June 2023.

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

6/8/2023, 6/22/2023

LEGAL

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS/PROPOSALS FOR SHOP LOCAL INCENTIVE SYSTEM

Prepared by:
City of Jackson, Mississippi
200 South President Street
Jackson, MS 39201

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Jackson is seeking submission of proposals from qualified professional firms for professional assistance with the following project: Shop Local Incentive System.

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

One (1) original and eight (8) signed copies of the proposal must be received no later than 3:30 P. M., on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at the City Clerk's Office, 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Mailed proposals should be addressed to the Office of the City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205-0017. Packets should be sealed and clearly marked "Proposal for The Shop Local Incentive System."

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

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

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS/PROPOSALS FOR: Shop Local Incentive System

A. INTRODUCTION

The City of Jackson, Mississippi Department of Planning and Development ("City") is requesting this Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ/RFP) for a Shop Local Incentive System for businesses in Jackson, Mississippi.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The selected consultant will enter into an agreement with the City to provide a software/system solution that encourages residents to shop in local Jackson businesses. The vendor must provide an application-based fiscal incentive platform that can be easily used by businesses and patrons and the necessary administrative services to launch and maintain the program. The platform is meant to allow patrons to earn City credit through valued actions, like patronage of small businesses in Jackson, MS, and then redeem that credit at other participating Jackson businesses. The scope of services shall be (Appendix "A") strictly adhered to as a minimum of the required deliverables.

C. TIME FRAME

Work is scheduled to begin within 30 days of selection with a deliverable date of six months (180 days) later.

D. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Respondent proposals should address the preliminary scope of services and applicable specifications provided in Attachment A and as may be further clarified by the City. The preliminary scope of services is to be understood as minimum and is subject to change at the discretion of the City.

E. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The procurement process is subject to applicable provisions of federal, state, and local laws and ordinances.

1. The City will not be liable for any costs incurred in preparing, submitting, or presenting a respondent's submittals or any associated travel costs.
2. Although discussions may be conducted with respondents submitting acceptable proposals, consultant selection may be made without any discussion.
3. The City reserves the right to postpone the opening and/or review of respondent submittals for cause or convenience. The City also reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any information therein.
4. If only one qualified respondent responds by the due date, the City may enter into contract negotiations with that firm.

F. CONTENTS OF RESPONDENT SUBMITTALS

Proposal Format Guidelines: Interested entities or contractors are to provide the City of Jackson, Mississippi, with a thorough Proposal using the following guidelines: Proposal should be typed and should contain no more than 50 typed pages using a 12-point font size, including transmittal letter and resumes of key people, but excluding Index/Table of Contents, tables, charts, graphic exhibits, and pricing forms. Each proposal will adhere to the following order and content of sections. Proposal should be straightforward, concise and provide "layman" explanations of technical terms that are used. Emphasis should be concentrated on conforming to the RFP instructions, responding to the RFP requirements, and providing a complete and clear description of the offer. Proposals that appear unrealistic in terms of technical commitments, lack of technical competence, or are indicative of a failure to comprehend the complexity and risk of this contract may be rejected. The following Proposal sections are to be included in the Proposer's response:

Cover Letter: A cover letter, not to exceed three pages in length, should summarize key elements of the Proposal. An individual authorized to bind the Contractor must sign the letter. Indicate the address and telephone number of the contractor's office located nearest to Jackson, Mississippi, and the office from which the project will be managed. And include the proposed working relationship among the offering agency and subcontractors, if applicable.

Background and Project Summary Section: The Background and Project Summary Section should describe your understanding of the City, the work to be done, and the objectives to be accomplished. Refer to Scope of Work, Appendix A of this RFP.

Method of Approach: Provide a detailed description of the approach and methodology that will be used to fulfill each requirement listed in the Scope of Work of this RFP. The section should include:

1. An implementation plan that describes in detail (i) the methods, including controls by which your firm manages projects of the type sought by this RFP; (ii) methodology for soliciting and documenting views of internal and external stakeholders; (iii) and any other project management or implementation strategies or techniques that the respondent intends to employ in carrying out the work.
 2. Detailed description of efforts your firm will undertake to achieve client satisfaction and to satisfy the requirements of the "Scope of Work" section.
 3. Detailed project schedule, identifying all tasks and deliverables to be performed, durations for each task, and overall time of completion.
 4. Detailed description of specific tasks you will require from City staff. Explain what the respective roles of City staff and your staff would be to complete the tasks specified in the Scope of Work.
 5. Proposers are encouraged to provide additional innovative and/or creative approaches for providing the service that will maximize efficient, safe, and cost-effective operations or increased performance capabilities.
 6. Firms, individuals, and entities wishing to be considered shall include in their submissions the steps they will, if selected, implement and adhere to for the recruitment, hiring, and retention of former employees of the City who have been displaced due to layoff or outsourcing of functions and services formerly provided by the City.
- Qualifications & Experience of the Firm: Describe the qualifications and experience of the organization or entity performing services/projects within the past three years that are similar in size and scope to demonstrate competence to perform these services. Information shall include:
1. If the owner is a corporation, please provide: Name of the corporation, corporate office street address, city, state, and zip code, the state where incorporated, date of incorporation, first and last name of officers, local office address, city, state & zip, and the date local office opened its doors for business.
 2. If the owner is a partnership or joint venture, please provide: Name of the partnership or joint venture, principal office street address, city, state, and zip code, state of organization, date of organization, first and last name of the general partner(s), local office address, city, state, and zip code, and date local office opened its doors for.
 3. List all businesses owned or controlled by yourself (applicant) or a business manager doing similar business in Mississippi under another name. List the business name and address and specify who owns or controls the business (e.g., self, business manager, etc.).
 4. List all businesses for which you or your business manager is or was an officer, director, or partner doing similar business in Mississippi under another name. List business name and address, title, and date(s) in position; specify who was in position (e.g., self, business manager, etc.).
 5. How many years have you been in business under your present business name?
 6. Provide a list of current and previous contracts similar to the requirements for Jackson, MS, including all public agencies served (if any). For each, provide a brief description of the scope of work performed, the length of time you have been providing services, and the name, title, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted regarding your organization's service record. Provide a sample of each background investigation for each contract.
 7. Submit a description of the organization's qualifications, experience, and abilities that make it uniquely capable to provide the services specified in the Scope of Work.
 8. The City of Jackson is interested in knowing how Proposers support the communities that they serve. Please provide information on your organization's participation in the local community, charitable and civic organizations, and events, including membership in the Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce, charitable contributions made by your organization, etc.

Any public entity which submits a Proposal should describe in detail how it currently performs services like those identified in the Scope of Work within its or other jurisdictions, including photographs, written policies and/or video of services provided. If you have performed these services under contract for another public entity, please provide references for those entities as set forth above for private Proposers.

Financial Capacity: The City is concerned about bidders' financial capability to perform, therefore, it may ask you to provide sufficient data to allow an evaluation of the firm's financial capabilities.

Key Personnel: It is essential that the Proposer provide adequate experienced personnel capable of and devoted to the successful accomplishment of work to be performed under this contract. The Proposer must agree to assign specific individuals to the key positions.

To identify the members of the staff who would be assigned to act for Proposer's firm in key management and field positions providing the services described in the Proposal, and the functions to be performed by each.

Include resumes or curriculum vitae of each such staff member, including name, position, telephone number, email address, education, and years and type of experience. Describe, for each such person, the relevant transactions on which they have worked.

G. SELECTION PROCEDURE

The objective is to select the highest qualified firm for the services to be rendered at a compensation determined as fair and reasonable to the City. To accomplish this objective, respondents will be evaluated on the following basis:

Evaluation Criteria Maximum Points

1. Method of Approach 35
 2. Qualifications of the Firm and Personnel 25
 3. Relevant Project Experience and Capability 20
 4. Project Schedule 20
- Maximum Total Points 100

Before assigning final scores, the City may, at its discretion, schedule face-to-face interviews or telephone conferences with each respondent. Each member of the Committee will then assign up to the maximum points noted above to each criterion based on the respondent's submittals and any other information obtained through interviews and/or telephone conferences. Respondents will be ranked according to their total cumulative points.

Following the completion of the evaluation, the City will enter into contract negotiations with the top-ranked firm. If a mutually satisfactory agreement cannot be negotiated with the top-ranked firm, said firm will be asked to document a final offer in writing before terminating negotiations. Negotiations will then be initiated with the second-ranked firm, and so forth, until a contract has been negotiated with a qualified consultant or halted at the discretion of the City.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all applicants if the requirements as set forth herein are not met or if the City deems a respondent unqualified on the basis of the overall analysis of the criteria outlined above. The City further reserves the right in its sole discretion to select the consultant it considers most favorable to the interest of the City.

H. CLARIFICATION OF SPECIFICATIONS

Requests for clarification of any items, requirements, or specifications contained in this RFP/RFQ must be received in writing at the City Offices no later than 3:30 P. M., on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. Please fax, email, or deliver all RFP/RFQ clarification requests to:

Attention: Chloe Dotson BUPD, MURP
Department of Planning and Development,
200 South President Street, Suite 229
Jackson, MS 39201
Phone: (601)-960-1993
Fax: (601) 960-2192
Email: cdotson@city.jackson.ms.us

I. RESPONDENT SUBMITTALS

To be considered, one (1) original and eight (8) copies of the required submittals must be received at the City Clerk's Office, 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, by 3:30 P. M., on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. Respondent submittals will be opened by the City on the due date after 3:30 p.m. As soon as possible thereafter, the City shall review the documents that include each respondent's letter of interest, qualifications, and required certifications and assurances.

Respondent submittals should be securely sealed in one or more parcels and clearly marked "Proposal for a Shop Local Incentive System."

Respondent submissions not in compliance with the instructions contained in this section and/or not containing the information requested may be declared "non-responsive" and disqualified from consideration.

J. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Proposals received after the due date and time will not be considered. Modifications received after the due date will not be considered. No responsibility will be attached to the City for the premature opening of a package not properly addressed and identified and/or delivered to the wrong office. The City may reject any and all proposals and reserves the right to waive any technicalities, irregularities, or informalities in any proposals or in the proposed procedure.

Documents. This RFP/RFQ comprises the following documents (all of which are herein collectively referred to as the "Documents"):

- PUBLIC NOTICE - REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
- REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS/PROPOSALS
- ATTACHMENT A - PRELIMINARY SCOPE OF SERVICES

Contract Award. It is anticipated that if one or more proposals are accepted, the City may enter into one or more contracts for said services or may enter into one Contract with a sub-contract for one or more of the specific elements under the Preliminary Scope of Services provided in Attachment A.

Owner's Representative. It is understood that the City will designate an Owner's Representative to provide oversight and administration during the performance of the professional services covered by any contract that is awarded.

APPENDIX A

SCOPE OF WORK

Scope of Work: Shop Local Incentive System/Service

The Office of Economic Development is seeking a technology partner to provide a software/system solution that encourages residents to shop in local Jackson businesses. The vendor must provide an application-based fiscal incentive platform that can be easily used by businesses and patrons and the necessary administrative services to launch and maintain the program. The platform is meant to allow patrons to earn City credit through valued actions, like patronage of small businesses in Jackson, and then redeem that credit at other participating Jackson businesses. The City would require the partner to provide the following services:

1. The program would be for one year with the potential to extend services for up to 5 years. The preparation for the launch of the program can take no more than three months from the kick-off meeting.
2. The platform must handle the distribution and auditing of a reward/point system, which would allow customers to earn points for shopping at Jackson businesses or participating in local events while redeeming these points at Jackson businesses. Thereby potentially encouraging patronage of two small businesses in Jackson with each dollar.
3. The vendor would complete the establishment and administration of the program. This includes finding and bringing businesses on board, developing the branding and outreach materials for the program, overseeing the system's maintenance, and ensuring the funds' distribution is secure and proper. They will make every effort to ensure participating businesses are distributed throughout the City.
4. Any businesses recruited to be locations to accrue or redeem City credits must be businesses within the City of Jackson. The vendor will coordinate with the City to ensure this program focuses on assisting local small businesses and encourages the shop local campaign.
5. The system cannot require businesses to purchase additional hardware to implement the program.
6. Patrons and businesses must be able to use the service on a personal mobile device easily.
7. The service will provide a monthly reporting system to allow the City of Jackson to track the program's progress and track the types of businesses benefiting most from the program.
8. The service would provide flexibility in the program that would allow the City to adjust reward points by type of business, business location, or other essential characteristics of the businesses like female-owned, minority-owned, within an opportunity zone, or more.
9. Provide the flexibility for credits to be awarded for attendance at public engagement opportunities, including event calendars and page highlights where users can engage directly with the City of Jackson
10. Provide the flexibility for credits to be awarded for non-profit/community-based organization events. Increase the visibility of non-profits and highlight individual commercial corridors or local business events like Hal's St Paddy's Day Parade.
11. Integrate with the existing Jackson Open Gov view point cloud website by assisting in producing an integration with the Jackson Open Gov view point cloud so that participating businesses might be identified in real-time.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4211

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Michael Kinard of Root Down 4, LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C-1 (Restricted) Commercial District to C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to allow for consistency with the zoning in the immediate vicinity of the properties and for a compatible diversity of land uses (medical cannabis dispensary) for the property located at 4775 Old Canton Rd. (511-538-1) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Being a parcel of land off the East side of Lot 2 of LeFleur's Square, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof on file and as recorded in Plat Cabinet "C", Slot 154 and Plat Book 28, Page 22, within the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Jackson, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at a "PK" Nail set for the Northeast corner of Lot 2 of the above referenced LeFleur's Square Subdivision, and also being the Northeast corner and the POINT OF BEGINNING of the herein described parcel;

THENCE run South 01 0 52' 01 " West, along the East line of Lot 2 and the West right-of-way line of Old Canton Road, a distance of 130.74 feet (deed - 13 1.00') to a point being the Southeast corner of the herein described parcel, witnessed by a 1/2" rebar found, bearing South 870 31' 59" East for a distance of 0.60' along the Easterly prolongation of the Southerly line of the herein described parcel;

THENCE departing the West right-of-way line of said Old Canton Road, turn an interior angle to the left of 89 0 24' 00" and run along the North line of a tract of land conveyed to Hollingsworth Real Estate Trust as described in Deed Book 7137, Page 8561, for a distance of 115.64 feet to a 1/2" rebar found, marking the Southwest corner of the herein described parcel;

THENCE turn an interior angle to the left of 920 51' 00" and run along the East line of a tract of land conveyed to J W, LLC and Waggoner Farms, Inc., as described in Deed Book 5246, Page 215, for a distance of 124.89 feet (deed 125.15') to a found hole drilled in concrete marking the Northeast corner of the herein described parcel, and being on the North line of the above referenced Lot 2, same being the South right-of-way line of LeFleur's Square;

THENCE turn an interior angle to the left of 90 0 00' 00" and run along the North line of Lot 2, same being the South right-of-way line of LeFleur's Square, for a distance of 120.64 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, and containing 0.346 acres, (15,092 square feet), more or less.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO June 21, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 1ST day of June 2023.

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

6/1/2023, 6/8/2023

6/8/2023

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The JPS Child Nutrition Department will offer its Summer Food Service Program

JPS newswire

The JPS Child Nutrition Department will offer its Summer Food Service Program from June 5 to July 14. The program will be closed June 19 and the week of July 3-7.

Children must be 18 years old or younger to participate in the program. Meals are free and must be consumed on-site.

Breakfast will be served Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and lunch will be served Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the locations listed below.

- Bates Elementary School, 3180 McDowell Road Extension
- Blackburn Middle School, 1311 West Pearl Street
- Boyd Elementary School, 4521 Broadmeadow Drive
- Callaway High School, 601 Beasley Road
- Cardozo Middle School, 3180 McDowell Road Extension
- Casey Elementary School,



- 2101 Lake Circle
- Chastain Middle School, 4650 Manhattan Road
- Clausell Elementary School, 3330 Harley Street
- Galloway Elementary School, 186 Idlewild Street

- Green Elementary School, 610 Forest Avenue
- Jim Hill High School, 2185 Coach F. Harris Street
- Key Elementary School, 699 West McDowell Road
- Provine High School,

- 2400 Robinson Street
- Raines Elementary School, 156 Flag Chapel Road
- Sykes Elementary School, 3555 Simpson Avenue
- Van Winkle Elementary School, 1655 Whiting Road.

Mississippi's Youth Challenge Academy graduates hear from Hinds County Judge Debra Gibbs

The Mississippi Link Newswire

More than 250 at-risk youth will soon have to face justice – not to be reprimanded, but rather congratulated and supported for their graduation from a life-changing program.

Hinds County Judge Debra Hendricks Gibbs will travel to Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg to speak to the graduates of the Mississippi Youth Challenge Academy June 9, 2023 at 1:00 pm.

The Mississippi National Guard Youth Challenge Academy is a five month program which aims to help young men and young ladies take control of their lives and accept the responsibility for their past, present, and future behavior. Students develop pride, self-respect, discipline, direction, ethics, values and educational skills. There are two classes each year.

“I am humbled and excited by the experience and opportunity to speak to such a successful group of youth,” Judge Gibbs said. “Knowing that these young people are making positive choices makes me proud. They will head to college, employment or the military. Whatever they choose, each one is on the path to good citizenship and a good life.”

The Mississippi National Guard implements the Youth Challenge Academy which adopts features of successful intervention programs. This military-based program is residential, provides strict discipline, offers structured long-term follow-up, and includes a diverse group of participants.

It is comprised of eight core components: leadership and followership; service to the community; job skills; life



Judge Debra Gibbs will speak at Camp Shelby.

coping skills; education excellence; responsible citizenship; health, sex education and nutrition and physical fitness.

The Mississippi National Guard Youth

Challenge Academy has currently a 97.6 percent success rate of its graduates either entering college, the work force or the military.

Brinkley Middle School teacher selected for National STEM Scholar Program

JPS newswire

Kandice Taylor, a science teacher at Brinkley Middle School, is among 10 teachers from eight states selected to participate in the National STEM Scholar Program.

The program provides advanced STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) training, national network building and project support for middle school science teachers nationwide.

The 2023 National STEM Scholar class will be hosted by The Gatton Academy from May 29 to June 2 on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Taylor is a native of Jackson, Mississippi, and a proud graduate of Jim Hill High School. She attended Jackson State University and earned a Bachelor of Science in biology and a Master of Arts in teaching. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership and administration from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Currently, she is receiving training in leadership from the Early Leadership Institute with the Mississippi Association of Educators.

Taylor has been a teacher with JPS for 7 years and will teach 8th-



Taylor

grade science at Chastain Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year. She has served on the leadership team and as a district mentor.

This year, she received the prestigious honor of being named a Mississippi state finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She was also chosen as a recipient of the 2023 Shell Urban Science Educators Development Award.

Taylor has a passion for teaching transformative science. She believes that each child can grow if you meet them where they are and provide for the whole child in all facets of life.

Raines named interim director of athletics at Alcorn

ASU Newswire

Robert Raines has been named interim director of intercollegiate athletics at Alcorn State University. He will begin his new role Friday, June 9.

“Mr. Raines has a wealth of experience as an athletics administrator,” said Dr. Ontario Wooden, interim president. “He understands the rich history and tradition of Alcorn’s athletic programs and the need to maintain winning programs. I look forward to his contributions in his new role. I thank outgoing Athletic Director Raynoid Dedeaux for his dedicated service to his alma mater.”

Raines has over 20 years of experience on the collegiate and secondary school levels serving in administrator and coaching roles.

He returned to Alcorn in 2022 as the associate athletic director for business operations, having a previous stint in the same position from 2008-2009 as director of compliance from 1998-2001 and athletics director from 2001-2006.

“I am honored to accept the interim AD position at my alma mater,” said Raines. “We will work together to build upon Alcorn’s longstanding legacy and continue to foster the commitment to excellence that we are known for – on the field and in the classroom. I look forward to working with our student-athletes, coaches, fans



Raines

and community as we unite to enhance our programs.”

Before returning to Alcorn, Raines was an assistant football coach at McComb High School.

His collegiate athletics experience has landed him at Florida A&M and Cheney University of Pennsylvania, serving as senior athletics director for Compliance & Operations and associate athletics director for compliance, respectively.

Raines received a bachelor’s degree in health, physical education, and recreation with a minor in math and science from Alcorn State University and a master’s degree in health, physical education, and recreation and sports management with a minor in sports administration from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La.



BOOK REVIEW:
JUNETEENTH BOOK
BY VARIOUS AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS
C.2023, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS
\$5.99 - \$18.99 • VARIOUS PAGE COUNT

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

The celebration is coming soon, you can feel it in the air. Your entire family will gather together for one special day. There'll be picnics and tasty foods, dancing and storytelling. No, it's not Christmas or your birthday, not Easter or Ramadan; it's Juneteenth and these three new books will help you understand why that day is important.

For the uninitiated, Juneteenth has a lot of traditions. In "Jaggylen's Juneteenth Surprise"

by Lavoille Lavette, illustrated by David Wilkerson (Little Golden Book, \$5.99), a young boy learns how all the pieces fit in his new favorite holiday.

The fun begins when Paw Paw Jimmy comes to visit, and he introduces Jaggylen to the frottoir, a musical instrument that means there's going to be dancing. With the cute and simple illustrations in this book and the excitement it conveys, you know it's gonna be a party, and this book is a great (and inexpensive) Juneteenth introduction for kids ages 3 to 5.

In David's house, Juneteenth doesn't start until grandma's ready to tell stories and in "The Night Before Freedom: A Juneteenth Story" by Glenda Armand (Crown Books / Random House Kids, \$18.99), the best one is the one that her grandmother told her. Mom Bess was just a little girl when the first Juneteenth arrived, and hearing the story is a can't-miss for David and his family. Five-to-8-year-olds will love this tale, told as a beautiful, fantastical memory. Parents will love the artwork by Corey Barksdale inside the covers.

Find "A Flag for Juneteenth" by Kim Taylor (Neal Porter Books / Holiday House, \$18.99) for your 5-to-8-year-old, and share it with your favorite seamstress. Here, all the illustrations are quilted, crafted and embroidered, leaving readers with nostalgia to match the tale of almost-ten-year-old Hulda, who wakes up on her birthday morning to hear the best news ever. "All slaves are free," she and her parents are told, and everyone celebrated – everyone, that is, except the plantation owners. And while her neighbors


danced, some women sat down and sewed freedom flags that looked like warm, soft quilts. The children found branches for use as flagpoles, and their fathers carved the branches with designs and symbols like the intricate "Fawohodie. It means independence and freedom." Be absolutely sure that you read the author's note at the end of this story; it's a great explanation, written for parents who will appreciate knowing about the work that went into this book.

These three tales might not be enough for your family, which


is why your favorite librarian or bookseller is waiting for you. They'll have something perfect for every age group and everyone in your household who'll partake in your Juneteenth picnic or party. They'll know just the thing you want to read for yourself, or read aloud.

One of the best parts of Juneteenth is the storytelling, and these great books will help you do that in a way your child can understand.

Make them a new tradition in your house, and add to the celebration.



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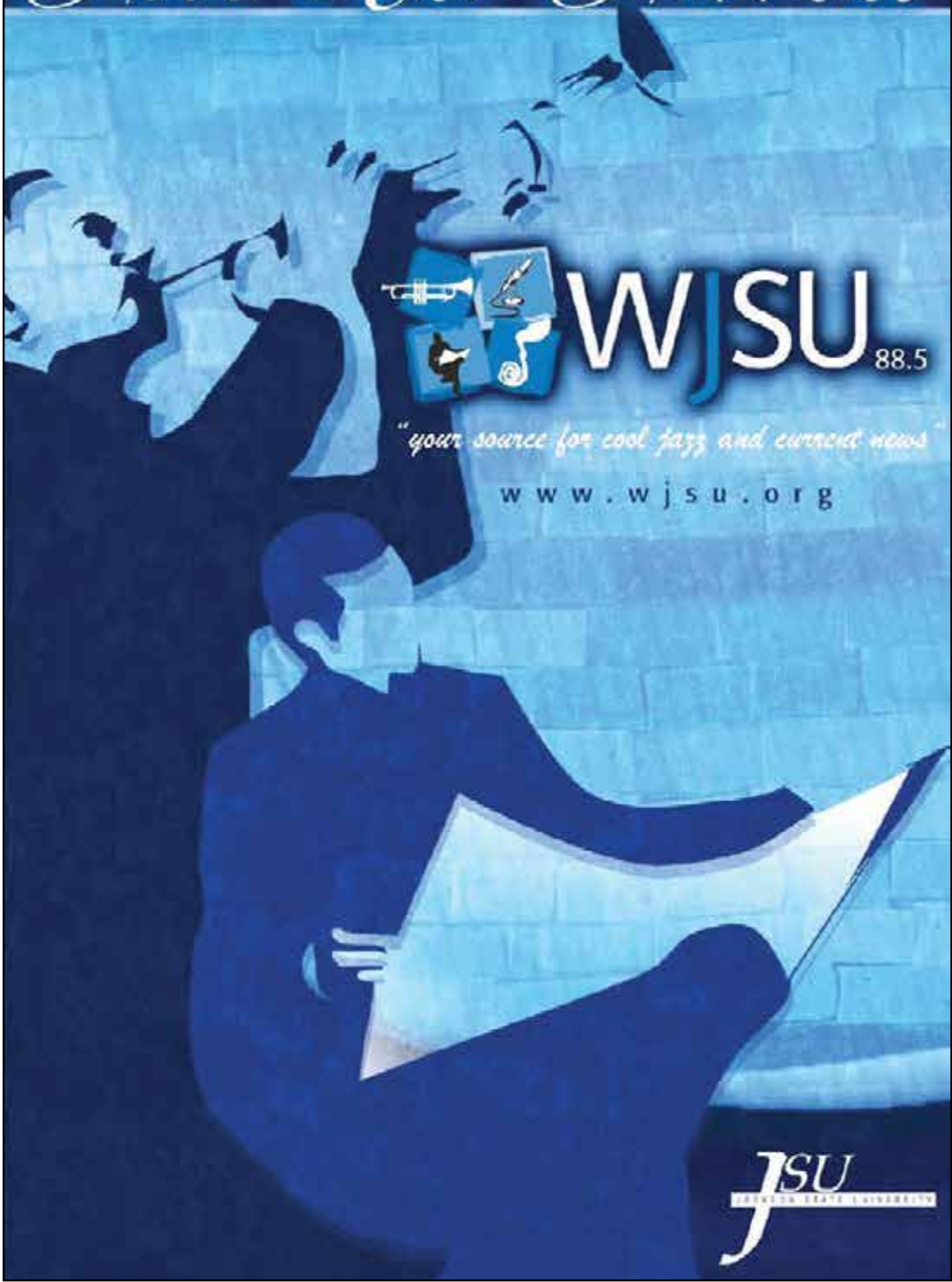
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SBA Mississippi salutes small businesses and partners during National Small Business Week

Nicholas Wallace named Small Businessperson of the Year

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The SBA Mississippi District recently held what has been described as a “stellar” observance of National Small Business Week.

Business owners, lenders and partners are still reflecting on the honors and recognitions bestowed on them during the SBA Mississippi 2023 Small Business, Top Lenders and Top Certified Development Company (CDC) Awards Luncheon. The luncheon was held at the Westin Hotel in downtown Jackson.

Serving as program guide was Germaine Flood, MS Public Broadcasters radio host.

Special greetings were brought by Janita Stewart, district director, SBA District Office; Jennifer Kim, associate administrator, SBA Headquarters; and Karen Knapik, public affairs specialist, SBA Headquarters.

Bringing greetings remotely were U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson, 2nd District and Mayor Chokwe Lumumba, City of Jackson. Neither were able to attend the in-person event due to schedule conflicts.

Congressman Thompson stated, “Small businesses are the background and backbone of most communities.” He congratulated the small business award recipients, the top lend-



L-R: Ashlei Donerson, SBA Deputy Dist. Director, Janita R. Stewart, Dist. Director, Nicholas Wallace, Small Business Person of the Year and Jennifer “Jen” Kim, Associate Administrator, SBA Headquarters.

ing class, as well as the top SBA resource partners.

Mayor Lumumba expressed his great appreciation for SBA in supporting small businesses across the state and, in particular Jackson. He said, “Small businesses are the true legends of our economy.”

Stewart thanked everyone for coming to recognize 2023 small business winners, top certified lending companies, and in-kind donors. She congratulated each

awardee for their achievements.

Chuckles were heard when Stewart said, “If it wasn’t for the donors we would not be having lunch.”

Celebrated among the various honorees, Nicholas Wallace was chosen as Small Businessperson of the Year (SBPOY). Stewart said, “Mississippi’s SBPOY, Nick Wallace represents the best and brightest culinary talent in our state.”

During his acceptance re-

marks, Wallace of Wallace Culinary, LLC, stated he was so appreciative of being chosen. He shared that he learned to make biscuits from scratch when he was just six years old. He credits his grandmothers, Queen Morris and Lennel Donald, for sparking his love for cooking. In an emotional moment he shared that Queen Morris had recently transitioned and asked the audience to stand in her memory. The

audience applauded and gave a standing ovation.

Wallace, who has been voted Best Chef in Jackson for the last four years and has remained on the list of one of the best chefs in America, thanked his family for their support and his team of workers, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said, “We had to pivot during the pandemic. The one thing we had was courage, we didn’t want to fail. We had to shut down all our facilities.”

In doing so they created a concept, “from our hands to your kitchen and took to the road in a van with 2,200 five, six, and seven course meals. He said they had lines serving multiple events daily from their van.

Wallace thanked SBA for the opportunity and said to the audience, “It doesn’t matter what color you are, what age you are; it depends on what you have in your chest, and how far you want to go with it.”

Other recognitions and winners included:

- Minority Small Business Champions – Tony A. Reimonenq, Jr. and Elizabeth L. Reimonenq of Linked Up, Inc. of Hattiesburg, Miss.
- Rural Small Business of the Year Shannon Arick – Bits N Pieces, LLC of West Point, Miss.

• Veterans Small Business Champion Mike Pornovets of Veterans Business Center, MSU, Starkville, Miss.; and

• Woman Owned Small Business of the Year LeAnn N. Wade and Tammie “Nicole” Garner, Sole Sisters, LLC, Seminary, Miss.

Additionally, special recognition was shown to two of SBA’s Mississippi collaborating resource partners. They were the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, who was recognized as Federal Buying Agency of the Year and Community Navigator Hub, Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) of Lexington, Miss. recognized as Entrepreneurial Development Resource Partner of the Year.

CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer told *The Mississippi Link*, “We were extremely humbled and honored that SBA Mississippi recognized our Community Navigator Hub in such a great way. We, along with our Spokes partners, appreciate the opportunity granted to us by the U.S. SBA to help small businesses develop and startup.”

“There obviously was a lot of very positive energy in the room and our winners expressed how honored they felt and really appreciate being recognized by SBA,” Stewart told *The Mississippi Link*.



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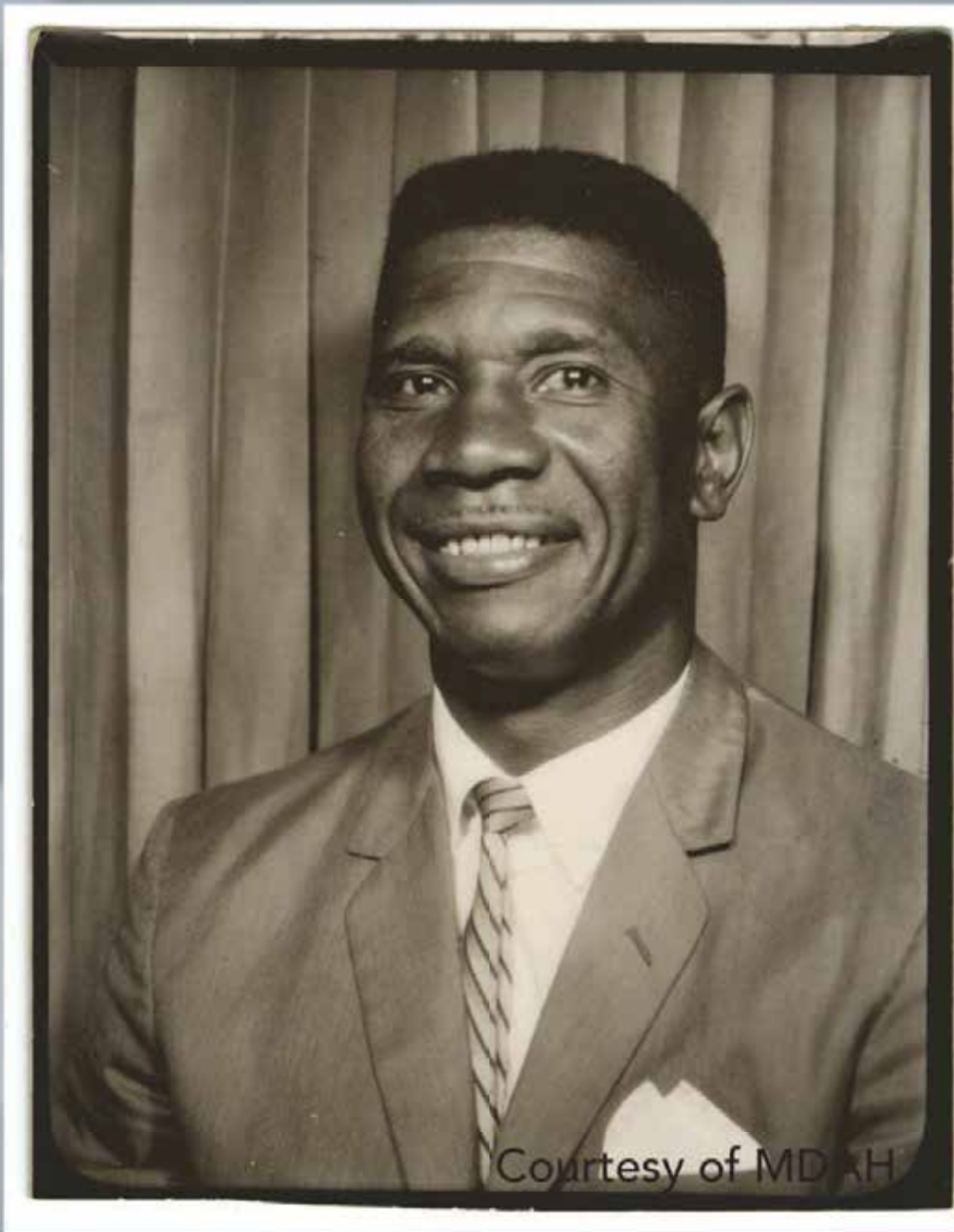
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