

Mississippi continues rampant discrimination of black contractors

We think we know what constitutes minorities, but in Mississippi – think again

Agency	Total Expenditures	Minority %	Agency Head
Veteran's Affairs	\$28,144,133.64	35.21%	Mark Smith
MDOT	\$833,942,675.32	2.02%	Brad White
Dept of Education	\$45,766,274.24	2.87%	Dr. Ray Morgigno
Auditors Office	\$2,208,930.74	.34%	Shadrack White
Secretary of State	\$4,159,658.39	.26%	Michael Watson

A few examples of state agency expenditures listed in the FY2022 minority participation report

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Even when we know the truth about something, why are we so shocked to see it in print right in front of our eyes? You don't have to look too deeply across the landscape of Mississippi to see that

the contracting awards are fixed to favor established white companies. The state even awards contracts to white companies outside of Mississippi, rather than allow black contractors to do the work. The inherent sin in the state's behavior is that it was black hands that built this state,

black back's stinging under the white man's whip, that developed what we now know as Mississippi.

Is the indescribable cruelty any different today? Smother or at least stifle any

Contractors
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Biden pays tribute to Emmett Till

Acknowledges the vital role of the Black Press in the Civil Rights Movement

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Recognizing the country's painful racial history and honoring the legacy of Emmett Till, President Joe Biden signed a proclamation Tuesday designating a national monument spanning two states to memorialize Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till-Bradley.

A distinguished audience included Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., President & CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), as well as several members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including Chair Steven Horsford, Minority Whip James Clyburn and Mississippi Democratic Rep. Bennie Thompson.

The NNPA is the trade association that represents the Black Press of America.

"During the height of the civil rights movement, I had the honor and privilege to meet and work directly with Mrs. Mamie Till-Mobley," Chavis stated.

"We worked together across the nation to make sure that the memory and legacy of Emmett Till will never be forgotten. Today, sitting in the White House listening to the president and vice president about the importance of establishing federal monuments



Recognizing the country's painful racial history and honoring the legacy of Emmett Till, President Joe Biden signed a proclamation Tuesday designating a national monument spanning two states to memorialize Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till-Bradley. A distinguished audience included Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president & CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

on Emmett and Mrs. Till, I know that Emmett's mother is smiling from heaven knowing that the brutal murder of her son continues to have great meaning not just for the past, but future of America. We thank President Biden for emphasizing the importance of the Black Press in this continuing struggle for freedom, justice and equality."

Till, a 14-year-old black teen-

ager from Chicago, was tragically murdered in Money, Mississippi, on August 28, 1955, after being accused by a white woman of whistling at her.

His brutal killing became a catalyst for the Civil Rights movement when his mother, Mamie Till, chose to hold an open-casket funeral, and a photograph of her son's disfigured body was published in black media, bringing

national attention to the horrors of racism and sparking outrage across the nation.

The Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ in Chicago, where Till's funeral took place, Graball Landing in Mississippi, thought to be the site of his body's discovery, and the Tallahatchie County Second District Courthouse, where an

Till
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V. P. Kamala Harris says Florida rules on Black History pushed by DeSantis are 'propaganda'

By Chris Megerian
and Brendan Farrington
The Associated Press

Vice President Kamala Harris said extremists want to "replace history with lies" as she traveled to Florida Friday to assail Republican efforts to overhaul educational standards, plunging into a battle over schooling that has rippled through classrooms around the country.

"They dare to push propaganda to our children," she said in Jacksonville. "This is the United States of America. We're not supposed to do that."

Her trip came two days after the Florida Board of Education approved a revised Black History curriculum to satisfy legislation



Harris

signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican presidential candidate who has accused public schools of liberal indoctrination. The new standards include instruction that

enslaved people benefited from skills that they learned.

"How is it that anyone could suggest that in the midst of these atrocities that there was any benefit to being subjected to this level of dehumanization?" Harris asked.

She did not mention DeSantis by name, instead referring to "so-called leaders." However, the speech was another example of how Harris has been the White House point person for addressing cultural issues such as race, schooling and abortion that DeSantis has taken on in the governor's office and on the campaign trail.

In Salt Lake City Friday, DeSantis doubled down on earlier

arguments that the new curriculum was needed to prevent liberal indoctrination and accused Harris of attempting "to demagogue" and politicize history.

He said he wasn't involved in devising the Board of Education's standards but defended the components concerning how enslaved people benefited.

"What they're probably going to show is some of the folks that eventually parlayed being a blacksmith into doing things later, later in life. But the reality is: All of that is rooted in whatever is factual," he said.

Earlier, DeSantis accused the

Harris
Continued on page 3

Mississippi's Top Doctor: 'Protecting all children is critically important!'

Edney complies but disagrees with federal judge's ruling and the State AG's opinion

By Gail H.M. Brown, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer

"One of the main purposes that we have had the school-age vaccination law since 1972 was to protect the individual child from these potentially fatal childhood diseases," said Mississippi's State Health Officer Dr. Daniel Edney, Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), recently.

During an exclusive interview with *The Mississippi Link*, Edney expressed possible impacts the recent federal order to allow religious exemption for childhood vaccinations going forward. U.S. District Court Judge Halil Suleyman Ozerden for the Southern District of Mississippi ruled that the state's lack of religious exemption for childhood vaccination violates the U.S. Constitution.

The federal lawsuit was filed against Mississippi last year by some parents, represented by a Texas-based organization.

Edney has openly voiced his disagreement with the ruling, and he reiterated to *The Mississippi Link*. "I, for one, absolutely disagree," he said. "We obviously respect the authority of the Court, and we have to comply. ... this ruling will cause harm to children in Mississippi. And, we disagree with the Attorney General in her opinion that religious exemptions under Mississippi law should be allowed."

Despite being at the bottom in overall healthcare, "We have the highest rate of childhood vaccinations in the country at over 98 percent," said Edney. "Which means over 98 percent of our children are protected."

He pointed out that because the state's population immunity is so high, "Measles cannot get into Mississippi right now." He called that even 15 years ago when there was an increase in outbreak of measles in Memphis, north of the Mississippi Desoto County line, "the index case that caused the outbreak actually took a trip from Memphis to the Gulf Coast; drove all the way through the Mississippi Delta, stopping at gas stations, at restaurants, and spent



Edney

a good bit of time in Mississippi. Do you know how many cases of measles we had out of that? Zero! Tennessee has religious exemptions; they have outbreaks."

Therefore, one ponders the question: What will happen to Mississippi's national childhood vaccinations lead now that MSDH complied with the judge's order, Monday, July 17, 2023, and more unvaccinated children will be allowed to penetrate the ranks of the vaccinated?

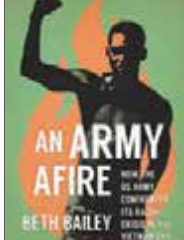
No doubt, a number of parents are concerned. State Rep. Zakita Summers (D-Dist. 68) is one of them.

"The recent federal court decision to provide religious exemptions on school vaccinations is deeply troubling," said Summers. "This decision will put all of our children at risk. As the mother of three boys, the decision is extremely concerning for me and my family because I do not want my childrens, or any child, compromised due to the outcomes of this decision." Summers also shared that she has "been a long advocate for the protection of immunization laws in the state of Mississippi."

Rose McGee of Madison shared similar concerns as Summers for her girls. "I hope and pray that none of the children, those vaccinated and unvaccinated, experience any illnesses as a result of this order," she said.

Dr. Edney addressed parental some concerns in the following excerpt from the interview:

Children
Continued on page 3



Mississippi Mass Choir mourns loss of original founding member Rachel Curry

Mississippi Link Newswire

It is with heavy hearts that the Mississippi Mass Choir (MMC) shares the transition of a beloved, original and founding member Rachel Deloris Curry, who joined the Heavenly Choir Saturday, July 22, 2023, after an extended illness.

Rachel answered the clarion call from her Heavenly Father, just as she was one of the first to answer the call in 1988 for the formation of the Mississippi Mass Choir. She can be heard leading “Lord Take Control” on the MMC’s Emmanuel recording.

She is the sibling of MMC co-founder David R. Curry Jr., choir director Dorcus Curry Thigpen and lead singer Leah Angela Curry-Williams. Her voice and elegant presence will truly be missed.

Final arrangements have been made and include:

Family Hour, Friday, July 28, 2023 from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at Liberal Trinity Church of God in Christ located at 725 West Northside Drive in Jackson and

Homegoing Service, Saturday, July 29, 2023, at Greater Bethlehem Temple Apostolic Church located at 1505 Robinson Street in Jackson.

Services are entrusted to Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home located at 3580 Robinson Road also in Jackson, Mississippi.

All ladies have been asked to grace the occasion in their beloved hats or fascinators in honor of Rachel’s life.

Notwithstanding, the Curry family takes comfort in knowing that those who “die in the Lord shall rest from their labors.” (Revelation 14:13)

Please keep the Curry family and the Mississippi Mass Choir in your thoughts and prayers as we mourn this great loss.



Less worrying and more living.

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A campaign poster for Kenny Lewis. The background is dark blue. On the right side is a portrait of Kenny Lewis, a Black man with short hair, smiling, wearing a black judicial robe over a white shirt and a red tie. On the left side, the text "RE-ELECT" is in red, and "KENNY LEWIS" is in large white letters. Below that, "JUSTICE COURT JUDGE" is in white, and "DISTRICT 4" is in white on a red background. At the bottom, a small white box contains the text "PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT KENNY LEWIS".

- ▶ 2022 Citizen of the Year for the City of Clinton
- ▶ 2022 Boy Scouts of America Golden Eagle Award
- ▶ 2022 New Horizon Church Community Servants Award
- ▶ 2018 HBHS Crisis Intervention Officer School
- ▶ 2018 State of Mississippi School Board
- ▶ 2012 Clinton Public School District Board of Trustees
- ▶ 2011 Hinds County DA's Top Cop
- ▶ 2009 AG's Knock Out Knock Offs Task Force
- ▶ 2003 City of Clinton Police Officer of the Year
- ▶ 2003 Appointed Clinton Police Department Chaplain
- ▶ 2003 Graduate of the 12th Class of Leadership Clinton
- ▶ 2001 Mt. Hood Baptist Church Outstanding Service and Accomplishment in Law Enforcement Award
- ▶ 2001 Top five Nominees for Tri-County Officer of the Year
- ▶ 1997 Clinton Police Officer of the Month
- ▶ 1997 Jitney Jungle and Arrow 94 WTYX FM Blue Note Salute Officer of the Year

Earlier this year, the DeSantis administration rejected a College Board Advanced Placement course on African American history, which DeSantis said was “indoctrination.”

Contractors

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Gennie Jones indicates that non-ethnic women have been considered a minority in Mississippi for a long time.
PHOTO: MCAMI WEBSITE

form of black advancement, well that is a fundamental plank of Mississippi’s white power structure. There are few contracts awarded by Mississippi that could not be fulfilled by black contractors if it were the state’s will. Instead, we hear about performance, bonding and capacity, being the impediments to a more

equitable share of contracts being awarded to minorities in a state rife with minorities.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that as of July 1, 2022, Mississippi’s population is 2,940,057, and has declined 0.7% in the past two years. The white population is 58.8%, therefore the total minority population is 41.2%. The black or African-American population is 37.8%.

The State of Mississippi is required by statute to report annually on minority business participation, and State Senator John Horhn (D-26) provided *The Mississippi Link* newspaper a copy of the 300-page FY22 Minority Participation Report(s). The report provides great detail on the performance of Mississippi’s State Agencies and Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) regarding minority procurement in fiscal year 2022.

The colorful cover page at the beginning of the report indicates a combined (Agencies + IHL) minority spending rate of 5.5%. The other 94.5% of the expenditures go to white businesses (non-minority). Said differently, \$206 million versus \$3.5 billion, in a state with a 41.2 % minority population, just 5.5% of state contracts go to minorities!

But that is far from the whole story. There’s more inequity to come. You see, in Mississippi, as far as contracting is concerned, white women are included under the minority classifications. Yes, you just read that correctly. There is a minority classification entitled, “Other Non-Ethnic Women.” That means white women. And in FY2022, there was a total of \$188,264,676.98 in expenditures awarded to minorities, yet \$126,994,761.56 went to white women – 67.46% of all minority contacting funds

went to white women. Black men received just 4.04% of the remainder.

Gennie Lacy Jones, the former director of Minority Business Enterprise Division at Mississippi Development Authority, and currently the president of the Minority Contractors Association of Mississippi, Inc. (MCAMI), indicates that non-ethnic women have been considered a minority in Mississippi for a long time. She says that she is personally aware of attempts between 2002-2005 to remove white women from minority classification but it never made it to a vote. She indicates that “not taking action on this important issue is intentional.” She believes there are procurement folks in Mississippi that are intentionally calling majority companies, inherently being non-inclusive.

How can legislators defend this behavior? Women Busi-

ness Enterprise certifications exist across the country and are a healthy component of our nation’s economy. But Minority Owned Business certifications are purposely different for obvious reasons, tracing back to Jim Crow. They are two different things. But here in Mississippi, unlike the majority of states, we corrupt the process. We don’t embrace minority business owners and contractors who contribute to our economy and help Mississippi thrive. It’s painfully clear that Mississippi’s white majority legislators and most agency heads would rather keep us at the bottom than to see minority advancement.

Is there a clear-headed white legislator at the capitol willing and eager to write the legislation to correct this oppressive behavior? Is there no one that grasps the importance of fairness and equity in our state populated by

41.2% minorities? Those who fortify the status quo are aiding and abetting the suffering of true minorities in our state, depriving them of the opportunity to grow and thrive, which in turn contributes mightily to depriving Mississippi itself of the opportunity to grow and thrive.

How can human beings hurt their fellow man like this? Why don’t we see a report on this discrimination from our state auditor? Study and analysis of the policies that create this discrimination and the procurement practices that carry it out are well within the auditor’s scope of responsibility.

The Mississippi Link has submitted requests to the president of the Hinds County Board of Supervisors and the City of Jackson for their own Minority Participation Reports, and we look forward to sharing those results with our readers.



Thank you to our crews who worked through the storms

And thank you to our customers for your patience throughout the restoration

The recent series of storms caused the largest outage in Entergy Mississippi’s service area since Hurricane Katrina. Our 2,300-strong crew worked heroically as repeated storm cells battered our region with 80+ MPH winds. It was almost a week before crews could complete a full day of restoration without another storm inflicting new damage to the power grid. Ultimately, they restored power to half of our entire customer base – replacing or repairing 121 miles of power lines in the process.

These heroes restored power as quickly and safely as possible. We’re proud of their work. We also know that with each storm, we can identify ways to continuously improve our restoration response. Keeping our customers informed throughout a storm is important to us, and we are taking a hard look at the performance of our communication systems and processes. We know that timely and accurate restoration information is critical as you make decisions for your families and businesses in the wake of a storm. We will continue to improve our efforts in helping our customers stay up-to-date through resources such as the free **Entergy app** and at entergystormcenter.com.

Thank you for your words of encouragement to our crews and your patience as we worked through this unprecedented storm event. Every employee at Entergy Mississippi is committed to our customers and communities.

We power life.™

You can't have it your way

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
TIPS for a GOOD MARRIAGE



Yes, I know most of you are accustomed to the famous jingle or theme introduced by Home of the Whopper, "You Can Have it Your Way," that captivated many people of all ages especially in the late twentieth century. As customers, we were convinced, convicted and converted to believe that we could get whatever we desired on and beyond the menu. Further, some took advantage of this while others did not for whatever reasons.

Despite some not taking advantage of having it their way; customers were aware of the endless possibilities. Unlike, the popular jingle, you can't always have it your way in marriage.

One of the biggest challenges that many married couples face

today is one or both believing that they can have it their way in marriage. Yes, you are one in marriage but there are two hearts involved. In other words, one heart can't always answer for two hearts, one heart can't make every decision, one heart can't base what's only convenient for them, and one heart can't ignore or neglect their spouse's feelings, etc.

A spouse having it their way in marriage looks like the following:

- Control
- Entitlement
- Selfishness
- Lack of respect
- One sided marriage
- There's no compromising
- Anger, misery and resentment of the other spouse
- Depression
- Unhealthy and unhappy marriage
- Unhealthy and unhappy family

ily

- Eventual separation and divorce.

A spouse who never considers or involve their spouse in decision making can be detrimental to the marriage. You will put your marriage in jeopardy of dismantling quickly if you continue having a I'm doing it my way mentality in your marriage; this is not marriage, well at least it's not a healthy marriage. I don't care how long you have been married, eventually your spouse will check out either within your marriage or check out in divorce court.

What if your siblings, friends, or your boss wanted to control or dictate everything you do; never considering how you feel? Wouldn't you eventually get annoyed and frustrated by their inconsideration? Wouldn't you feel like a child? Do you think it's fair to always make plans with-

out ever considering what your husband or wife may feel?

Imagine the pain of being married to someone who rarely or never consult you about not only major decisions but minor decisions that impact both you and your family. Unfortunately, many spouses are in agony because they are in marriages where their feelings are never considered, they have no say so, and no input in their marriage.

Should couples do the following:

- Only cook what they like
- Purchase groceries for their liking only
- Do only what's convenient for them
- Purchase homes without spouse's insight
- Purchase vehicles without spouse's insight
- Plan vacations and trips without spouse's insight
- Throw away sentimental

things without spouse insight

- Give to others like family, friends without spouse's insight

- Change jobs without spouse's knowledge or insight

- Make major medical decisions without spouse's knowledge or insight?

Believe it or not reality is, spouses are making the above decisions every day, without their husbands' and wives' insight every day. Your spouse wants to be heard. Further, they desire for you to not only hear what they feel but consider their feelings too. Furthermore, your spouse doesn't want to be left out and your spouse wants their voice to be heard in the marriage too. Husbands and wives, please involve your spouses in decisions that especially impact you both and your family. Make it a priority to plan together and communicate about everything and anything that can impact

your marriage.

The benefits of working together with your spouse are countless such as: learn more about one another, grow as one, bond, build trust, build love and empathy. Decide today to acknowledge your spouse, consider your spouse's feelings, be a team player, work together, communicate with one another, listen to one another, and be willing to compromise.

If you truly desire a healthy and happy marriage; you can't have it your way.

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

"Us": America's last line of defense

By Dr. John Warren
Publisher, San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper



There are a number of things we should all be concerned about as so many around us focus on summer vacations, the excessive heat, fires and floods. We are saturated with the media each day. So many of us are caught up in the acts of survival; facing things like maintaining income or no income at all for shelter, food and living expenses. We have very little time or interest in the politics of democracy playing out each day with the country being divided over personal interest rather than the concern for the nation as a whole.

In the midst of this, "we," the everyday people, are the real hope because the democracy in which we live allows us to make decisions concerning our lives with our votes. But if we fail to vote, then those who would take our God given rights, our freedoms which we enjoy without appreciation or commitment, the takers of these rights will do so with our unspoken permission.

I speak of those minority Republican interests in every state who have organized to take over legislative bodies, at all levels of our society, drawing political districts through gerrymandering so that a few can control the lives and activities of the majority by making laws against their interest, and the planning of restructuring America's checks and balances as provided in the Constitution of the United States.

At the local level, we must become registered voters with an eye on the issues that we need to address more than on whether we like the candidates that are being placed before us. If we remember that our votes are one of the means we have to safeguard the freedoms we have, even if it looks like we are not getting our share, then we maintain a voice in laws and policies being made that affect us. If we do this at the local level, then we will be better prepared to vote and control outcomes at the state and national levels.

Let's each of us pick three issues of importance to us right where we live and question what can those who have been elected by us or our friends and neighbors do to make those issues a reality. Questions to be asked: Where do those persons seeking our votes stand on issues of healthcare, homelessness and feeding and nutrition programs? Those who are against "our" interest have their own. We must find people who think like us to run against them. We must not allow campaign dollars from big money and slick ads to get us to vote against our own interest.

We must ask, will the people seeking our votes form coalitions against our interest once elected or will they work for our interest? Without the considerations raised here on the part of each of us, it will not be difficult for a few to change our laws, nullify our Constitution and cancel our rights as we see with recent decisions on Affirmative Action, Abortion and Supreme Court decisions rolling back 50 years of equality.

We the people, "us," can change the people in Congress and State legislatures voting against our interest and the democratic way of life guaranteed by our Constitution. It's time for us to get "woke" and get involved.

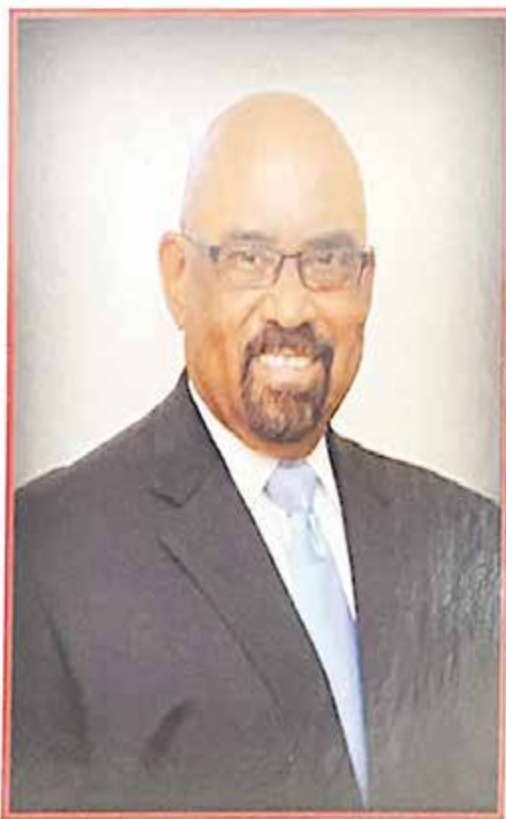
VOTE TUESDAY, AUGUST 8TH

RE-ELECT
VERN GAVIN

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As your Supervisor, I will continue my commitment to improving economic development opportunities by recruiting new businesses, working with law enforcement to aid in obtaining safer communities, improving our roads and infrastructure so that people will see Hinds County as a place to be proud to live, work, and play. With continued hard work, it can and will happen.

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- Certified Business Analysis
Professional (CBAP), MBA

EXPERIENCE

- President/Hinds Co. Supervisors and District 4 Supervisor
- President/Owner Gavin Travel Agency and GAVINCO Mortgage
- Licensed Real Estate Agent
- Former Hinds County Administrator
- Former Chairman of the Board for Farish Street Historic District Neighborhood Foundation, Inc.
- Former Deputy Director for the Jackson Chapter, National Business League
- Former Executive Director for Mississippi Supplier Development Council, Inc.
- Former Federal Examiner for Federal Home Loan Bank

Join our grassroots campaign:
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COMMUNITY/CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

- Anderson United Methodist Church
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
- One Hundred Black Men of Jackson
- Alumni Association of Jackson State University
- M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge, F&AM

Supreme Court's gavel continues to strike a harsh blow against Affirmative Action on college and university campuses

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

Saturated concerns about the future of students' education are in the air over the Supreme Court's ruling against race as a factor in college and university admissions. The 14th amendment comes into play with the Court's decision that race-based admissions policies violate equal protection. While the battle over race-related admissions has existed for decades, the Court's recent ruling puts a damper on students who might not be accepted into college toward their educational pursuits. According to the ruling, "affirmative action is no longer necessary or lawful."

The June 29, 2023 ruling hinders diversity. According to ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History), "SCOTUS's decision will have a disastrous effect on black people and other racially oppressed groups. The nine states that previously banned affirmative action witnessed a sharp decrease in black student enrollment. In California after the 1996 ban, black student enrollment at Berkeley and UCLA plunged by 40 percent." The association explained further that it was in 2006 that Michigan abolished affirmative action in admissions. Then in 2022, the enrollment of black and other students of color was less than half (3%) of what it had been prior to the elimination of affirmative



The Supreme Court as composed June 30, 2022 to present. Front row, (l-r) Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. and Associate Justice Elena Kagan. Back row, (l-r): Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett, Associate Justice Neil M. Gorsuch, Associate Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh, and Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. Credit: Fred Schilling, Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States (supremecourt.gov)

action (7%).

Jeffrey Milem, dean of UCSB's Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, noted, "It defies everything we know from good empirical evidence in education research and social science research that says what we should be doing in this area. It also defies the act that educational opportunity access and student success is still inequitable in educational institutions."

The significance of race has impact beyond measure on the justices' ruling. Liberals on the Court had their say against the six conservative Justices who concurred with the opinion

to eliminate race as a factor in university and college admissions decisions. Complained Justice Sonia Sotomayor, "The result of today's decision is that a person's skin color may play a role in assessing individualized suspicion, but it cannot play a role in assessing that person's individualized contributions to a diverse learning environment. That indefensible reading of the Constitution is not grounded in law and subverts the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection."

The only black woman on the Court is Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. She wrote, "Deeming race irrelevant in law

does not make it so in life." She penned, the majority had "detached itself from this country's actual past and present experiences." Jackson went on to note that "no one benefits from ignorance" and the majority have a "let-them-eat-cake obliviousness" in how the ruling declared "colorblindness for all by legal fiat."

The emergence of President Barack Obama led national media to proclaim the United States to be a "post-racial society, where 'race' no longer had significance and the long history of America's racism no longer existed. Among those who disagree with this

notion is anti-racism consultant Valerie Batts. She argues that racism continues to exist in many forms. She concludes that the new forms of racism are: (1) dysfunctional rescuing (white people "help" people of color in a condescending way believing they can't help themselves); (2) blaming the victims (of systemic oppression for the oppression itself); (3) avoidance of contact (white people self-segregate in their personal and professional lives from people of color, and white people show little interest in learning about the cultures of communities of color); (4) denial of cultural differences ("color blindness" which minimizes the cultural and behavioral difference among people, which simply mask discomfort with racialized differences); and (5) denial of political differences in which white people deny the profound impact of the social, political, and economic realities of the lives of people of color.

In the midst of the dissention, ASALH concludes that the Court's decision "turns the clock back on the use of affirmative action in other areas of American life where historic racial discrimination has been endemic, especially in employment." Not only does ASALH disagree with the decision, but it condemns it, thereby indicating it to be "ahistorical, shortsighted and perversely racist, using color blindness to further racial discrimination."

Education Department opens investigation into Harvard's legacy

By Michael Casey
Associated Press

Opening a new front in legal battles over college admissions, the U.S. Department of Education has launched a civil rights investigation into Harvard University's policies on legacy admissions.

Top colleges' preferential treatment of children of alumni, who are often white, has faced mounting scrutiny since the Supreme Court last month struck down the use of affirmative action as a tool to boost the presence of students of color.

The department notified Lawyers for Civil Rights, a nonprofit based in Boston, Monday that it was investigating the group's claim that the university "discriminates on the basis of race by using donor and legacy preferences in its undergraduate admissions process."

An Education Department spokesperson confirmed its Office for Civil Rights opened an investigation at Harvard. The agency declined further comment.

But White House press sec-



Derrick Johnson, NAACP president/CEO commended the Education Department for taking steps to ensure the higher education system "works for every American, not just a privileged few." PHOTO: NAACP.ORG

retary Karine Jean-Pierre said President Joe Biden has "made clear that legacy admissions hold back our ability to build diverse student bodies."

The complaint was filed earlier this month on behalf of Black and Latino community groups in New England. The group argued that students with legacy ties are up to seven times more likely

to be admitted to Harvard, can make up nearly a third of a class and that about 70% are white. For the Class of 2019, about 28% of the class were legacies with a parent or other relative who went to Harvard.

"We are gratified that the Department of Education has acted swiftly to open this investigation," the group said in an email statement. "Harvard should follow the lead of a growing number of colleges and universities—including Amherst, MIT, Johns Hopkins, the University of California, and most recently Wesleyan—and voluntarily abandon these unfair and undeserved preferences."

A spokesperson for Harvard on Tuesday said the university has been reviewing its admissions policies to ensure compliance with the law since the Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action.

"As this work continues, and moving forward, Harvard remains dedicated to opening doors to opportunity and to redoubling our efforts to encourage students from many different

backgrounds to apply for admission," the spokesperson said.

Ending legacy preferences is "one of many steps that Harvard and other universities can take to increase access, diversity, and equity in admissions," said Jane Sujen Bock, a board member of the Coalition for a Diverse Harvard, which includes alumni, student and staff.

Last week, Wesleyan University in Connecticut announced that it would end its policy of giving preferential treatment in admissions to those whose families have historical ties to the school. Wesleyan President Michael Roth said a student's "legacy status" has played a negligible role in admissions, but would now be eliminated entirely.

In recent years, other schools—including Amherst College in Massachusetts, Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University in Maryland—also have eliminated legacy admissions.

Legacy policies have been called into question after last month's Supreme Court ruling banning affirmative action and

any consideration of race in college admissions. The court's conservative majority effectively overturned cases reaching back 45 years, forcing institutions of higher education to seek new ways to achieve student diversity.

NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson said he commended the Education Department for taking steps to ensure the higher education system "works for every American, not just a privileged few."

"Every talented and qualified student deserves an opportunity to attend the college of their choice. Affirmative Action existed to support that notion. Legacy admissions exists to undermine it," he said.

Sarah Hinger, senior staff attorney for the ACLU's Racial Justice Program, said she did not know the specifics of the Harvard program but "as a general matter, legacy admissions tend to benefit disproportionately, white people and wealthy people."

"Systemic racism and inequality has allowed some people to build legacies across genera-

tions of their family in the same way that systemic racism has left many families of color out of opportunities in the educational hierarchy. In a way they're two sides of the same coin," she added.

A study led by Harvard and Brown researchers, published Monday, found that wealthy students were twice as likely to be admitted to elite schools compared to their lower- or middle-income counterparts who have similar standardized test scores.

The study looked at family income and admissions data at Ivy League schools as well as Stanford, MIT, Duke and the University of Chicago. It found that legacy admissions policies were a contributing factor to the advantage high-income students have at these schools. Athletic recruitment and extracurricular credentials, which are stronger when students attend affluent private high schools, were the other two factors.

Associated Press reporters Annie Ma and Gary Fields contributed from Washington, D.C.

Sheriff Tyree Jones was born and raised in Hinds County and has consistently served this community over the course of his 23 years in law enforcement. Sheriff Tyree Jones is seeking re-election as an accomplished law enforcement leader providing first-class service and expertise in fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of the Hinds County Sheriff's Office.

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ActBlue



The Lord is acquainted with all your ways Mississippi

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer



We've read it, it's been preached to us, but we don't take it to heart in Mississippi.

At Farish Street Baptist Church on Sunday, the Call to Worship was not unfamiliar – the most basic message, and in one way or another contained in every Gospel: “Brothers and sisters, have you loved your neighbor? Have you stopped by the road and bandaged the wounded, or have you passed by on the other side? The Lord is acquainted with all your ways! Have you loved your God? Have you carried the afflicted to a place of rest, or have you turned your back and hurried on? The Lord is acquainted with all your ways!”

It would be impossible to count all the people I've come to know in Mississippi who know these words and live these words. They are the other-centered people. They walk the walk humbly, seeking no fame, recognition or attention – they do what is right and just. Naturally, they become an example for so many of us. Why can't there be more like them? Why do we not seem to have any at the highest levels of Mississippi government – the folks that direct our state and our state's resources?

Those in top positions in Mississippi's government proclaim we have a culture of life. It sure doesn't look like it. They have passed by on the other side of the road when they don't prioritize the health of mothers, infants and in utero. Mississippi remains the worst state in the nation for

COMMENTARY

them.

See for yourself:

- Our maternal death rate is the 2nd highest in the nation, barely edged out by Arkansas, per www.worldpopulationreview.com
- Our infant mortality rate is the highest in the nation, per www.worldatlas.com
- Our fetal death rate is the highest in the nation, per www.cdc.gov
- Our overall healthcare ranking is 49th, and we are 50th in quality, per, www.usnews.com.

All too often being ranked dead-last equates with death in Mississippi. Claiming a culture of life while persistently clinging to the bottom in these areas is hypocritical. The Collins Dictionary online defines hypocrisy as, “the practice of professing standards, beliefs, etc., contrary to one's real character or actual behavior, esp. the pretense of virtue and piety.” That's what we do here, and families suffer, our economy suffers and our potential to get off the bottom suffers; no, not a culture of life at all. State leadership has turned their back and hurried on.

Another dimension of Mississippi's anti-culture of life is race. Our African-American population is 38% by Census data, clearly underestimated. Mississippi has the highest African-American population in the nation per capita. When discussing fetal mortality and race, *US News & World Report* says, “Black individuals had a rate of 10.34, American Indian or Alaska Native persons had a rate of 7.84, and Hispanics

had a rate of 4.86, per 100,000. The fetal mortality rate among whites was 4.73.”

Just last week the *New York Times*, in an article titled, Racism and Sexism Underlie Higher Maternal Death Rates for Black Women, U.N. Says. They report, “A new United Nations analysis of black women's experiences during pregnancy and childbirth in the Americas has concluded that systemic racism and sexism in medical systems – not genetics or lifestyle choices – are the main reasons they are more likely to experience serious complications or even death.”

With this being the reality nationwide, just imagine the suffocating realities for African-American women and their families in The Magnolia State. Yet do we make women's health a priority in Mississippi? We ask the state leadership – we know them well (“You shall know them by their fruits, Matthew 7:16) – to change course, to start doing the right thing.

To truly achieve a culture of life in Mississippi, we must embrace all Mississippians. What is more deserving of a higher priority than mothers, pregnant mothers and children? We must divorce hypocrisy. We must establish a panel to work with our new state health officer, Dr. Daniel Edney, to rid our health system of systemic racism and sexism. Nowhere in our state is this more needed, and in doing so it could well become a model for others, after all – The Lord is acquainted with all your ways Mississippi.

The Lord sees the hypocrisy of the leaders of the poorest

state in the nation, the unhealthiest state in the nation, and the state with the highest COVID death rate in the nation – expending vast amounts of taxpayer dollars on pet projects as we continue to suffer.

Just last November, our Governor, unconcerned with the health of Mississippi, called a costly special session of the legislature to give \$155 million in grant money and another \$92 million in various tax incentives to Steel Dynamics for an aluminum manufacturing project in The Golden Triangle. In 2020, Steel Dynamics reported over \$9 billion in revenue. You can't make this stuff up!

And this on the heels of the discovery of upwards of \$100 million stolen from the federally funded Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, all occurring under Republican administrations and their appointees, and to this day not one Republican hearing has been held on this illegal and obviously immoral behavior.

Just imagine what the combined \$347 million could do to build a real culture of life in our state. A culture that embraces all Mississippians. A culture that embraces mothers, children and families. Couple that investment with expanding Medicaid. Stop calling it ObamaCare, Mister Governor. Demonstrate some Christian sense, some Christian values. From now on, call it MississippiCare.

The Lord is acquainted with all your ways Mississippi. For once and forever more, give Him reason to smile upon Mississippi.

Letter reviewed by the AP undercuts Mississippi candidate's accusation against lieutenant governor

By Michael Goldberg
Associated Press/Report for America

In the closing weeks of Mississippi's statewide primary elections, the Republican lieutenant governor's race has turned nasty, with an accusation over the incumbent's history with a women's health clinic showing how abortion remains a flashpoint even between conservatives.

In campaign ads, speeches, social media posts and interviews, state Sen. Chris McDaniel and campaign surrogates have tied Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann to the South Jackson Woman's Clinic, claiming he led it at a time it was performing abortions. But the physician who directed the clinic said it didn't start performing abortions until after Hosemann stopped providing legal services there, according to a letter reviewed by The Associated Press.

Business records maintained by the secretary of state's office show Hosemann listed as the vice president of the clinic, which was formed in 1976 and closed in 1991. The clinic's president, Dr. Larry Lipscomb, wrote in a memo dated June 4, 1998, that Hosemann provided periodic legal services for the clinic from 1977 to 1981, before abortions were performed.

“At that time the Clinic provided obstetrician and gynecological services. These services did not include pregnancy terminations as the clinic did not offer that procedure until several years later,” Lipscomb wrote in the memo. “I am saddened that his name was mistakenly listed on documents filed with the Secretary of State.”

Ending abortion has animated Republican politics for decades, and it's especially salient in Mississippi, the state that led the charge to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, rescinding a five-decade-old right to abortion nationwide. Both Hosemann and McDaniel oppose abortion rights. Mississippi law says abortion will be legal only if the pregnant woman's life is in danger or if a pregnancy is caused by a rape reported to law enforcement. It does not have an exception for pregnancies caused by incest.

McDaniel, a four-term Mississippi legislator, lost two races for U.S. Senate in the past decade, including a bitter 2014 election



McDaniel



Hosemann

in which his supporters photographed the ailing wife of former Sen. Thad Cochran in a nursing home and used her image in a political video against Cochran. McDaniel denied any involvement in that incident. He later asked the state Republican Party to overturn the election results.

Hosemann's legal work for the medical clinic has been an issue in a previous campaign. It came up during the Republican primary in his unsuccessful run for a U.S. House seat in 1998, coinciding with Lipscomb's memo. A 1998 AP article says Hosemann was removed from the clinic's documents filed with the secretary of state's office in 1989.

Hosemann, who is seeking a second term as the state's second-highest-ranking official, has said he was listed in the documents as a formality and never worked for the clinic in a leading role while it was performing abortions. He has been endorsed by the anti-abortion group Mississippi Right to Life.

Referencing the latest campaign ad, Hosemann said in a statement late Tuesday that McDaniel was a “pathological liar” who was trying to defame him and his Catholic faith.

The lieutenant governor presides over the 52-member Mississippi Senate, appoints senators to committees and names the committee leaders. Tiffany Longino, an educator, is also running in the Republican primary for lieutenant governor.

The Republican nominee will face Democrat D. Ryan Grover, a business consultant.

Party primaries are Aug. 8, with runoffs Aug. 29. The general election is Nov. 7, with runoffs Nov. 28.

Michael Goldberg is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/mikergoldberg.

Mississippi sheriff expects great hardship after hospital closes inpatient mental health unit

The Associated Press

A hospital company has shut down the only inpatient mental health unit in western Mississippi's Warren County, and the sheriff says the closure will cause major problems.

Merit Health River Region's behavioral health unit in Vicksburg closed June 30, and its 50 beds were transferred to Merit Health Central Mississippi in Jackson, the *Vicksburg Post* reported.

The two hospitals are about 39 miles (63 kilometers) apart. “It's going to be a great hardship on this entire community,” Warren County Sheriff Martin Pace said. “For a community the size of Vicksburg and Warren County not to have a mental health facility to adequately treat those with mental illnesses is a shame.”

Pace said when serving mental health orders from chancery court, deputies had been taking people to the behavioral health unit at River Region. Now, he said, deputies

have to drive people to a facility in Jackson or elsewhere, then bring them back to Vicksburg for a mental health commitment hearing.

“If the court commits the person to that same facility or another facility, then we would have to transport the person to that facility,” Pace said. “And without one being in Vicksburg, we're talking about multiple trips back and forth to Jackson or some other city where an adequate mental health facility exists.”

Community Health Systems – based in Franklin, Tennessee – owns nine Merit Health hospitals in Mississippi.

According to Merit Health, the decision to move behavioral health from River Region was part of a plan to reduce duplication of services. In 2022, Merit Health officials filed a certificate of need application with the Mississippi State Department of Health to transfer the 50 behavioral health beds from the Merit Health River

Region West Campus to Merit Health Central in Jackson. That transfer was completed June 30.

“While the distance is further for Vicksburg/Warren County patients, (patients) will receive treatment in a newer facility, and this increases our overall capacity to provide critically needed behavioral health services for the region,” company officials said.

Warren County Chancery Clerk Donna Hardy said Friday she and several deputy clerks spent most of Thursday trying to locate beds for mental health patients awaiting treatment.

“It boiled down to they had no availability,” she said. “People were lining up, they have waiting lists; people were in the emergency room waiting to be placed. Merit Health Central is the only one that we could find that is even taking patients right now, but they're full.”

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Carlee Russell admits abduction hoax

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Carlethia “Carlee” Nichole Russell, a 25-year-old Alabama nursing student who told police she was abducted, admitted Monday through a statement from her lawyer that she was not kidnapped.

“We ask for your prayers for Carlee as she addresses her issues and attempts to move forward,” Hoover Police Chief Nicholas Derzis read on behalf of Russell’s lawyer. “Understanding that she made a mistake in this matter, Carlee again asks for your forgiveness and prayers.”

CrimeStoppers has reversed its decision to return over \$63,000 in donations intended to help find Russell after her kidnapping story came under scrutiny, the latest fallout from what many now believe was a hoax.

The 25-year-old Alabama woman claimed she was kidnapped after stopping to assist a toddler wandering alone on Interstate 459 on July 13.

However, she reappeared at her home two days later.

Initially, the organization that offers anonymous tips about criminal activity pledged to return the funds raised during the two-day search for Russell.

CrimeStoppers has now said they’ve decided against it because of the suspicions surrounding her story.

Alabama police have also expressed reservations about the alleged abduction, revealing that Russell had conducted suspicious internet searches about kidnappings before the incident occurred.

Those findings have added to the uncertainty surrounding the case.

Still, Russell’s boyfriend, Thomar Latrell Simmons, has pleaded with the public to stop cyberbullying Russell.

Simmons emphasized the importance of considering her mental health and urged people to avoid targeting her online.

Russell went missing shortly after contacting 911 to report a toddler in a diaper walking along the highway.

Her mysterious return home on foot further deepened the mystery. While her mother, Talitha Robinson-Russell,



Russell

remains firm in her belief that Carlee was abducted and subsequently returned, law enforcement continues investigating the circumstances surrounding her disappearance.

The case has brought attention to the struggles faced by black families when dealing with missing person cases.

African Americans often encounter delays in police investigations and are sometimes labeled “runaways” immediately. In contrast, cases involving missing white women and children are urgently treated and receive national attention.

According to 2021 FBI data, black people account for 31% of missing person reports despite making up only 14% of the US population. White people represent 54% of such reports and 76% of the population.

Derrica Wilson, co-founder of the Black & Missing Foundation, underscored the significance of not losing sight of the broader picture. Wilson told CNN that she currently has nearly

6,000 cases of missing black people in her database, many of which remain unsolved.

She asserted that Russell’s case is an anomaly and that the focus should remain on helping the countless missing individuals of color who need assistance.

Wilson highlighted that disappearances in the black community often stem from issues such as human trafficking, domestic violence and mental health incidents.

Wilson stated that amplifying the cases of missing black people remains an uphill battle, urging the public to continue raising awareness.

“For our community, we can’t lose sight of the bigger picture,” Wilson said. “We are disappointed that there are inconsistencies with her (Russell) story, especially when there are a staggering number of people of color who are still missing, and they need our help.”

Federal judge sets trial date for former Pres.

Trump’s classified documents case



The decision arrived following what’s been described as a contentious hearing at the federal courthouse in Fort Pierce, Fla., where prosecutors from the special counsel’s team and lawyers representing Trump clashed over the trial’s timing.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Judge Aileen M. Cannon has rejected former President Donald Trump’s request to delay his confidential documents trial until after the 2024 election.

Instead, Cannon announced on Friday that the trial date for the charges of illegally retaining dozens of classified documents will begin on May 20, 2024.

The decision arrived following what’s been described as a contentious hearing at the federal courthouse in Fort Pierce, Fla., where prosecutors from the special counsel’s team and lawyers representing Trump clashed over the trial’s timing.

The judge took a middle position, pushing the start date past the Justice Department’s request for a trial in December but refusing to postpone it after the 2024 election, as Trump had hoped.

Trump is the front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination. Cannon clarified that the trial would not be moved to another location. Her scheduling order includes a series of hearings throughout the remainder of this year and into next year, with a particular focus on handling the classified material central to the case.

Trump’s legal obligations to attend court likely intersect with his campaign schedule, making the case highly consequential. Trump made his initial court appearance on Tuesday, June 13, where he pleaded not guilty to 37 charges related to the alleged mishandling of classified documents.

The charges brought against Trump involve the illegal retention of national defense information and the concealment of documents, with potential violations of witness-tampering laws during the ongoing investigation.

Trump’s close aide, Walt Nauta, also faces charges related to a conspiracy to obstruct the federal investigation. Nauta has also pleaded not guilty.

The former president is also facing more than 30 felony charges related to alleged financial crimes in New York, and prosecutors in Georgia have seated a grand jury to determine whether to indict Trump on charges related to obstructing the 2020 presidential election.

Jack Smith, the special counsel, has also empaneled a federal grand jury in Washington where Trump acknowledged receipt this week of a target letter implying that he could be indicted on charges related to the January 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol.

New York City settles civil rights lawsuit for \$13 million stemming from 2020 BLM protests

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

New York City has agreed to pay over \$13 million to resolve a civil rights lawsuit filed on behalf of approximately 1,300 individuals who endured arrests or violence at the hands of the police during the racial injustice demonstrations that gripped the city in the summer of 2020.

The settlement, submitted to the Manhattan federal court Wednesday, July 19, could potentially become one of the largest payouts in history for a lawsuit involving mass arrests, according to legal experts closely monitoring the case.

The lawsuit focused on 18 specific protests that erupted in the city during the week following the tragic killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis.

According to the plaintiffs’ attorneys, everyone who encountered arrests or police force during those demonstrations can receive compensation totaling \$9,950.

The agreement, one of several that emerged from the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, enables the city to avert a costly and politically sensitive



trial.

Cities across the United States reportedly are currently negotiating settlements for similar claims brought by protesters who took to the streets to denounce racist police brutality following Floyd’s death, during which police arrested about 10,000 people across just a few days.

The National Lawyers Guild, representing the plaintiffs in New York, accused the leadership of the New York Police Department of violating

the protesters’ First Amendment rights through a systematic and indiscriminate campaign of brutality and unlawful arrests.

Throughout more than two years of legal proceedings, the city’s attorneys maintained that the police responded to an unprecedented and chaotic situation, highlighting unruly protests where police vehicles were set on fire and officers were pelted with rocks and plastic bottles.

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LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposals to lease space in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 will be received by the Jackson Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") via the online portal only at www.jrams.org, until 5:00 o'clock P.M., January 31, 2023, for any space available to be leased in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 (the "Facility").

The Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 is located in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, on the south side of Capitol Street, between Congress and President Streets, and space available for lease is located on the first floor of the Facility.

All proposals shall be in accordance with all of the requirements of the Request for Proposals, copies of which are available for review via the online portal only at www.jrams.org. Proposals shall be made by those interested on or before 5:00 o'clock P.M., January 31, 2023.

Thereafter, Notice of Request for Proposals by the Authority to lease any remaining available space in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 shall be published monthly until all space in the Facility is leased, with the last Submission Deadline being 5:00 p.m. on December 29, 2023. Interested parties may submit proposals to the Authority for any unleased available space pursuant to RFP issued and dated December 29, 2022, or subsequently.

Such further information as is available regarding lease space in the Municipal Parking Facility No. 2 may be obtained via the online portal only at www.ijrams.org.

7/6/2023 7/13/2023 7/27/2023

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JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

7/13/2023, 7/20/2023, 7/27/2023

LEGAL

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
ANNIE LEE BURT, DECEASED

SUMMONS

7/20/2023 7/27/2023

7/20/2023, 7/27/2023

LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

7/27/2023, 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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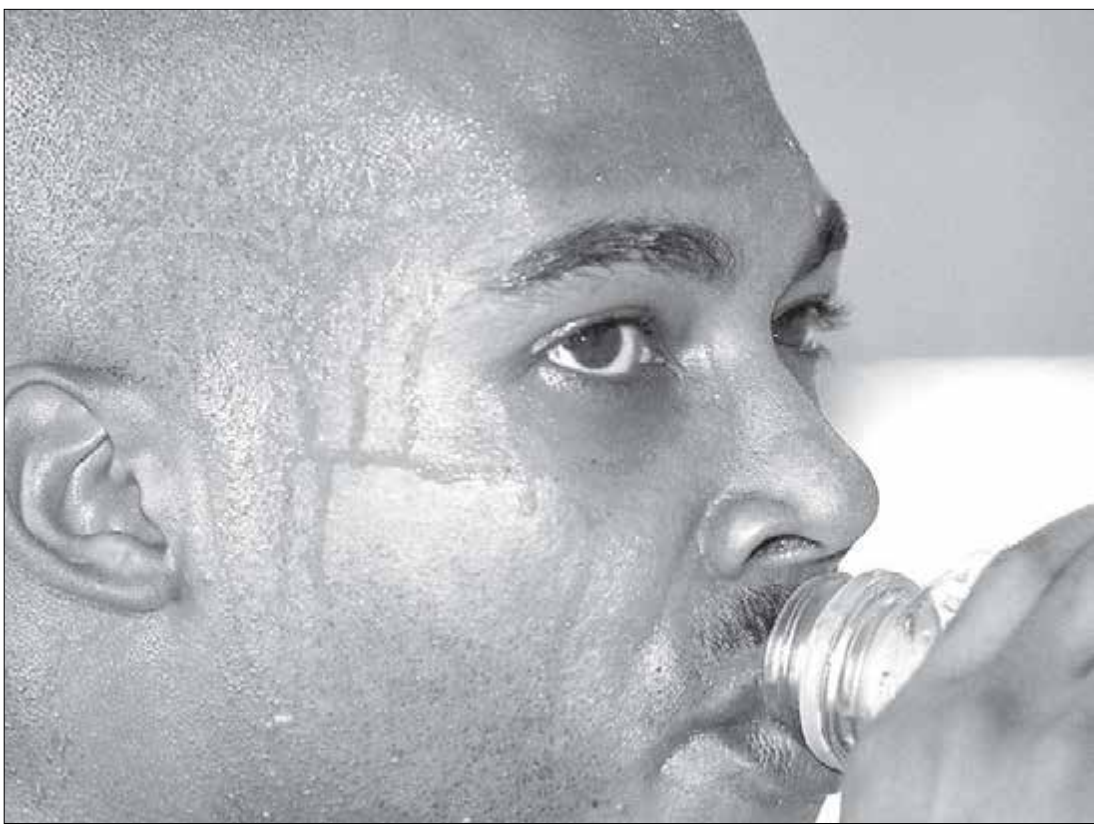
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Surviving the summer heat

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Surviving the summer heat can be a challenge, but with a few smart strategies you can stay cool and reasonably comfortable throughout this scorching season. Here are a few tips to help you beat the heat:

- **Stay Hydrated** – One of the most critical aspects of dealing with the summer heat is to stay hydrated. You should drink water throughout the day even if you don't feel thirsty. I'd love to see everyone carry a reusable water bottle wherever they go. This will ensure that you have access to water all the time.
- **Dress for the heat** – You should wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing made from breathable fabric such as cotton and linen. These materials allow better airflow and help your sweat evaporate faster which helps to cool your body.
- **Use Sunscreen** – You need to protect your skin from harmful UV rays by using sunscreen with a SPF of 30 or greater. You should apply it generously to all of the exposed areas of your body. Remember to reapply every two hours especially if you're swimming or sweating.
- **Find some shade** – When you're outside try to stay in the shade as much as possible, especially during peak sunlight hours between 10am and 4pm.



This will help you avoid direct exposure to the sun's intense heat and reduce your risk of sunburn.

- **Get a fan** – Fans, air conditioners or cool misters can help create a comfortable indoor environment. If you don't have access to an air conditioner you should consider spending some time in a cool public space like a shopping mall, library or community center.
- **Take a cool shower** – Taking a cool shower can help cool your body temperature and provide temporary relief from

the heat. If you do take a cool shower don't make it too cold. You can also use a spray bottle filled with water to mist your face and body during our hot days.

- **Don't go outside** – Some days it will be too hot to go outside. You should reduce any strenuous outdoor activities during peak heat hours. If you have to be outside try to schedule your activities for the mornings or evenings. Make sure you take breaks in the shade and pace yourself to avoid overheating.

- **Listen to your weather report** – Pay attention to your local weather forecasts and heat advisories. Knowing when hot days are coming can help you plan and take any necessary precautions. Know the heat index, which factors in humidity and gives you a more accurate representation of how the heat feels.
- **Eat your carbs** – Eat meals that include fruits and vegetables. These foods have high water content and can help keep you hydrated.
- **Hydrate your home** – You

want to keep your living space cool. It helps to keep your blinds closed and your curtain drawn but windows open during the hottest part of the day to block out direct sunlight. You can also use reflective materials on your windows to minimize heat absorption. Place bowls of ice around your house.

- **Know the signs of heat related illnesses** – Learn the first aid for heat related illnesses.
- **Sleep cool** – Sleeping in a hot stuffy room is not easy. Try using lightweight, breathable bedding. Putting a large bowl of ice or a cold pack near your bed can help cool down your immediate area. Taking a cool shower before bed can also help lower your body temperature and help you to sleep.
- **Exercise smart** – If you exercise outside try to exercise during the cooler parts of the day. Early morning or late evenings are the best times for outdoor activities. If you're exercising indoors make sure your workout area is well ventilated and has fans or air conditioning.
- **Wear a hat and sunglasses** – You can protect your face and eyes from the sun's rays by wearing a wide brimmed hat and sunglasses with UV protection. You can also wear clothing that is UV protective. Not only will this keep you cool but it also prevents sunburn and helps reduce your

risk of eye damage.

- **Check on everyone** – We need to check not just on the elderly and the young. We need to check on people with chronic health conditions. Let's not forget the people that think they are invincible.
- **Avoid hot vehicles** – Never leave children, pets or anyone unattended in a parked car even for a short time. The temperatures inside a car can shoot up rapidly.
- **Remember your pet** – Your best family friend needs your help to stay cool. Provide them with fresh water and a cool place to rest. Avoid walking your dog on hot pavements. It can burn their paws.

The summer heat can affect your skin too. Heat rash is characterized as a skin irritation from excessive sweating. It is more common in young children. Being over weight can be a factor with developing heat rash.

First aid for heat rash: You should bathe or shower in cool water with a nondrying soap, then let your skin air-dry don't towel off. Use calamine lotion or cool compresses to calm any itchy, irritated skin. Don't use creams or ointments that contain petroleum or mineral oil. They can block pores.

The extreme heat can be dangerous if you let it.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

Safeguarding Charitable Medicines Programs in America

By Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
President and CEO of the NNPA



All Americans should have equal access to high quality healthcare. As our nation steadily emerges out of the awful debilitating aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of communities of color, and in particular the African-American community, are all facing lingering challenges and prolonged difficulties in having access to affordable and quality healthcare.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has many important and life-saving public health related programs that are structured and funded to ensure access to the best of healthcare offerings including the provision of affordable pharmaceuticals with respect to the most vulnerable and underserved communities across the nation.

One of those important governmental healthcare programs is known as the Charitable Medicines Program (340B). The 340B program began in the early 1990s when Congress wanted to require pharmaceutical manufacturers, as a condition of benefiting from government programs, to donate at low or no cost prescription drugs to charitable hospitals. These hospitals, overwhelmingly located in underserved urban and rural communities with patients of all races and ethnicities, were in turn expected to use these discount price medicines to serve patients who otherwise could not afford these drugs.



Today, Americans are facing unprecedented times. We are rebuilding our economy from a global pandemic. But there is another epidemic in this country (Entities putting profits over people) which must be addressed, and it must be addressed now. It's one of the few things reasonable Americans on all sides of the political spectrum can agree on these days. Where it happens, there ought to be robust, bipartisan reform efforts to fix it. When it happens inside the context of a government program meant to help the poorest among us, it should mean robust oversight from the Congress and the Administration. That's exactly what's going on now with the charitable medicines program known as "340B."

For a while, the program worked as intended. The aver-

age discount on a 340B drug is nearly 60%, and for many drugs it's much more than that. But over time, greed has cropped up and made a mockery of the program resulting in practices which furthers health inequities in our nation.

The definition of a "charitable hospital" was never well-defined in law, and today 57% of all hospitals participate in the drug discount program. They are happy to accept the cheaper medicines, but where do they end up? Out of the nearly 13,000 hospitals and community pharmacies participating in the 340B program today, fully six in ten are in middle class and affluent areas, not the poorer zip codes the program is meant to serve.

How is this possible? How has a program Congress created to get Big PhRMA to give affordable drugs to charitable hospi-

tals gone so far off the rails? The answer is that no one is minding the store in Washington. There are zero requirements for hospitals to use the cost savings from 340B to help needy patients, and there isn't any rule requiring these hospitals to let patients know they are eligible for these drugs.

In addition, stand-alone hospitals are now the exception compared to the rule of a broad hospital network with facilities in diverse income areas. A hospital or clinic that qualifies for the discounted drugs in this program might be one of dozens of health care centers in a network conglomerate. As a result, the drug price reductions are eagerly gobbled up and the drugs fed into the larger system. To put a fine point on it, medicines intended for poor urban and rural areas are being re-routed

and sold at full price to insured patients in more affluent areas. That's the definition of health inequity.

This is not a mere theoretical concern. Last year, the *New York Times* <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/24/health/bon-secoures-mercy-health-profit-poor-neighborhood.html> broke a story that Bon Secours, a hospital network in the Richmond, VA area, was accepting 340B discount drugs at Richmond Community Hospital, not telling local patients they were eligible for these free-to-inexpensive medicines, and selling the drugs for full price to patients in more affluent hospitals in their network. This led Richmond mayor Levar Stoney to send a letter to Bon Secours, charging them with using "loopholes [to increase] profit margins for the hospital system while they have reduced services in one of our predominantly black communities."

Notably, Mayor Stoney also called on the Biden Administration to increase oversight of the 340B program: "I request for your administration to urgently investigate the effectiveness and unintended consequences of 340B – not only regarding Bon Secours in the City of Richmond, but in other localities across the country."

Untold stories like this exist in communities across the country. But the fact is the hospital lobbyists have influenced Congressional and Administration oversight officials from both political parties for decades. Every Congressman has a hospital in their district, and the 340b program must be used by the hospi-

tals as Congress mandated.

That's why I was proud to hear about a panel earlier this year organized by the Rev. Al Sharpton on this topic where he stated, "This affects everybody. If you are having people abuse government funds that should be reinvested, this is not a right-wing or left-wing issue."

The executive branch runs the 340B program out of the Health Resources and Services Administration, a branch of the Department of Health and Human Services. HRSA, as it's known, makes determinations of what entities are covered by the program, and they have been very generous over the years. According to the Government Accountability Office, the number of hospitals and clinics HRSA has approved has increased from fewer than 10,000 in 2010 to nearly 13,000 today—an increase of 30 percent in a little over a decade.

And while HRSA is supposed to collect information and conduct audits on 340B covered entities, they simply don't have the manpower to do so. The little number of questions they do raise are answered and accepted, because there is no real oversight possible. There are only the staff resources to facilitate drug discounts to hospitals.

What's urgently needed is a combination of Congressional hearings and a more inquisitorial HRSA. Until that happens, low income patients across America will be the excuse giant hospital chains use to get drugs at a discount rate and sell them at full price to more affluent patients.

P R E S E R V E D

Stay in your lane

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“Stay in your lane. Lane shifts.” The first time I read this sign, I was driving to San Antonio on I-35 in the summer of 2010. The flashing sign was hard to miss as it warned drivers hundreds of yards away from the actual lane shift. I chuckled to myself because I thought it was obvious that the lane was changing. There were very obvious signs of construction like orange barrels and equipment.

However, when I came upon the actual shift in the road, I found myself surprised by the sharpness of the change. As a result, I immediately slowed down and gripped tighter on the car’s steering wheel. Even though I made these adjustments, I still found myself struggling

to stay in my lane. For a few moments, I was fearful that I’d get out of my lane and hit the concrete construction wall. Things changed once I shifted my focus to staying in the lane and not the change that was happening in the lane.

Later that year, I was driving back from a visit to my parent’s house in San Antonio over the Christmas holidays and passed the same lane shifts warning signs. It made me think about how I’d handled some shifts that had happened in that year. Some shifts, like physical changes, were easier to handle than others because I’d been prewarned.

My mother had warned me and my 3 sisters that after we turned 40 years old, our bodies would drop and spread. That was probably the best piece of motherly advice she gave us. But oh, the shifts that happened in our bodies.

Even though I saw some shifts coming, I still had to make a conscious effort to “stay in my lane.” How did I do that? I took my eyes off of the shift and focused on the road that God had me on. Fear sometimes made it difficult, but I made an effort to spend more time in prayer, praise and worship.

I had to learn that praying to God doesn’t guarantee that you will not have to go through the shift. However, praying to Him will ensure that you develop the trust and assurance to know that whatever happens, you will be able to endure.

The bible says in Proverbs 3:5-7 that we should “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” The focus will be straight on Him and His promises.

We waste precious time

worrying about the changes that might come. Psalms 119-105 reminds us that God’s word will light our path. Study God’s word if you ever find yourself trying to control the changes in your life. God allows change and our job is to trust Him through the change. Many of us trust Him just enough for Him to do whatever WE want Him to do. It’s a whole other level of faith to stay in your lane and allow God’s sovereign will to direct our lives.

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

Learn to respect authority

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



Can you imagine a nation without a leader, a workplace without a boss, or an army without a general? It would be chaotic. Structure creates order; without it no progress can be made. That’s why you don’t park your car in the bedroom or sleep in the garage.

Learn to respect those in authority over you. Honor those who have lived longer than you because they possess a wealth of knowledge. Listen to them and grow. Until you learn to take orders, you will never be qualified to give them. Jesus understood it. He was the Son of God. He knew more than any other human being, yet He honored the authority of the government in power.

When the Pharisees asked Him His opinion on paying taxes He answered, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to

God the things that are God’s” (Mark 12:17 NKJV).

Are you speaking words of doubt about your own organization? Are you belittling those in authority over you? Stop it now!

True, they are not perfect. Perhaps that’s why they can tolerate you. If you rebel against every instruction you are given, don’t complain when those around you rebel against your words and opinions.

The law of reciprocity states that if you want to be treated with respect, you must respect others. That includes those you don’t agree with, or even like. Jesus did. Pray, “Father, I know that respect for authority is taught in your Word. So, remind me today and tomorrow that my success depends upon my attitude toward those you’ve placed in leadership over me. As I honor them, I believe You will honor me.”

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

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Innovative Career Coach Program sees growth in second year

Special to the Mississippi Link

More career coaches will be engaging with Mississippi high school students this fall to help them discover successful paths into the workforce.

The State of Mississippi has revved up its efforts to connect students with industry leaders with over 50 new coaches throughout the state, increasing the total for the 2023-2024 academic year to 185 from just 20 coaches two years ago. In all, coaches will be deployed in 78% of public high schools and 79% of the public school district across the state.

“We believe that access to one-on-one career coaching opens the eyes of Mississippi high school students to the kinds of high-tech, high-skill jobs available right here at home,” said Ryan Miller, executive director of AccelerateMS. “We’ve seen this model create a positive impact in communities and believe that – with continued support from elected officials and members of business and industry – this program will shepherd thousands of students toward better career pathways and be a driver for economic growth across our state. The potential impact of this program can reach every corner of Mississippi, from the most rural towns and cities to inner-city schools alike.”

The statewide initiative was funded in the 2022 legislative session with \$8 million from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through House Bill 1388. In October, more than 100 coaches were hired and an additional \$12 million of state general funds was appropriated in 2023 to help continue the growth of the program.

Through the coordination of AccelerateMS, grants were awarded this year to six local regional development organizations to recruit, hire and place coaches in school districts located within



their geographic areas.

Working for these organizations focused on community growth and prosperity, the coaches serve the role of critical link between educators, students and employers who have quality occupational opportunities for Mississippians.

“The addition of career coaches to our county created immediate excitement for our business and industry and served

as a shot in the arm to our K-12 institutions, stated Ross Tucker, president of the Economic Development Authority of Jones County. “Jones County students can have confidence in the fact that they have coaches ready and able to equip them with information about career options and help them navigate their future after high school.”

By the end of the 2022-2023 school year, additional met-

rics included 4,389 interactions with students to assess aptitudes and clarify majors; 7,162 group interactions; 4,108 parent conversations; 2,905 college applications; 1,741 job applications; 2001 guest speakers; and 1,057 field trips.

The coaches also had 25,814 one-on-one conversations with students about their postsecondary plans.

“The growth of career coach-

es in Mississippi is significant and we are closer than ever to having a career coach every school in Mississippi,” said Program Manager Lori Nail. “These coaches bridge the gap between businesses and schools and show that the state is committed to supporting students in a very strategic way to ensure they have opportunities to thrive in Mississippi.”

AccelerateMS serves the peo-

ple and businesses of Mississippi by developing and deploying workforce strategies to connect individuals with transformative, high-paying careers.

By leveraging resources and partnering with organizations that hold complementary missions, AccelerateMS effectuates positive change, creating sustained individual, community and statewide economic prosperity.

Aberdeen High School	Hamilton High School	Newton County High School	Taylorville Attendance Center
Alcorn Central High School	Hancock High School	Newton High School	Terry High School
Amanda Elzy High School	Harrison Central High School	North Panola High School	Thomas E. Edwards Senior High School
Amite County High School	Hattley High School	North Pontotoc High School	Thrasher High School
Amory High School	Hattiesburg High School	Northwest Jones High School	Tishomingo County High School
Ashland Middle-High School	Hernando High School	Northside High School	Tremont Attendance Center
Baldwyn High School	Hickory Flat Attendance Center	Northwest Rankin High School	Tylertown High School
Bay High School	Holly Springs High School	Noxapater Attendance Center	Union High School
Bay Springs High School	Holmes County Central High School	Noxubee County High School	Vancleave High School
Belmont School	Horn Lake High School	O'Bannon High School	Vardaman High School
Billow High School	Houlika Attendance Center	Ocean Springs High School	Velma Jackson High School
Blue Mountain High School	HW Byers High School	Okolona High School	Vicksburg High School
Boonerville High School	Independence High School	Olive Branch High School	Walnut Attendance Center
Brandon High School	Itawamba Agricultural High School	Oxford High School	Warren Central High School
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Byhalia High School	Jefferson County High School	Pass Christian High School	Wayne County High School
Caledonia High School	Jefferson Davis County High School	Pearl High School	West Bolivar High School
Calhoun City High School	Jim Hill High School	Pearl River Central High School	West Harrison High School
Callaway High School	Jumpertown High School	Pelahatchie Attendance Center	West Jones High School
Canton High School	Kemper County High School	Perry Central High School	West Lauderdale High School
Center Hill High School	Kosciusko High School	Philadelphia High School	West Lowndes High School
Charleston High School	Lafayette High School	Picayune Memorial High School	West Marion High School
Choctaw County High School	Lake Cormorant High School	Pine Grove High School	West Point High School
Clarkdale High School	Lake High School	Piquah High School	West Tallahatchie High School
Cleveland Central High School	Laurel High School	Pontotoc High School	West Union Attendance Center
Coahoma County Senior High School	Laurel High School	Potts Camp High School	Wheeler High School
Coffeyville High School	Leake Central High School	Provine High School	Wilkinson County High School
Collins High School	Leake County High School	Puckett Attendance Center	Wingfield High School
Columbia High School	Lefflore County High School	Quitman High School	Winona Secondary School
Columbus High School	Leland High School	Raleigh High School	
Crystal Springs High School	Lewisburg High School	Raymond High School	
Desoto Central High School	Long Beach High School	Richland High School	
OTBerville High School	Louisville High School	Richtown High School	
East Central High School	Madison Central High School	Ridgerland High School	
East Marion High School	Madison Palmer High School	Ripley High School	
East Webster High School	Magee High School	Riverside High School	
Ethel Attendance Center	McAdams High School	Rosa Fort High School	
Eupora High School	McComb High School	Seminary High School	
Falkner Attendance Center	McLaurin Attendance Center	Senatobia High School	
Florence High School	Mendenhall High School	Simmons Senior High School	
Forest High School	Meridian High School	Smithville High School	
Forest Hill High School	Mize Attendance Center	South Delta High School	
Franklin County High School	Morton High School	South Jones High School	
Gautier High School	Moss Point High School	South Panola High School	
Gentry High School	Mount Olive Attendance Center	South Pontotoc High School	
George County High School	Murrah High School	Southaven High School	
Germantown High School	Myrtle Attendance Center	Southeast Lauderdale High School	
Greene County High School	Nanih Waiya Attendance Center	St Martin High School	
Greenville High School	Natchez High School	Starkville High School	
Greenwood High School	New Albany Middle School	Stone County High School	
Grenada High School	New Hope High School	Strayhorn High School	
Gulport High School	New Site High School	Stringer High School	

Schools with Career Coaches for the 2023-2024 Academic School Year

Robbie Ferguson appointed leader of Bailey APAC Middle School 2024-2025

Mississippi Link Newswire

Robbie Ferguson, a National Board certified educator, has been appointed to serve as the principal of Bailey APAC Middle School for the 2024–2025 school year.

In order to lead preparation for the transition back to the Bailey campus, Ferguson will join the Bailey team this fall as assistant principal. She brings 15 years of educational experience to this role, all within the Jackson Pub-

lic School District.

She attended Delta State University and earned her bachelor's degree in social science with an emphasis in special education. She received both her master's degree in social science and specialist degree in educational leadership from Mississippi College.

In 2015, Ferguson earned National Board Teacher Certification as an exceptional needs specialist during her eight-year

tenure at Hardy Middle School. She served as an assistant principal at Northwest Jackson IB Middle School for six years. She served as summer school principal and coordinator of after-school programming. This past school year, she served as assistant principal at Whitten Middle School and was appointed the Wingfield after-school feeder lead and A3 summer camp principal.

As a dedicated school leader

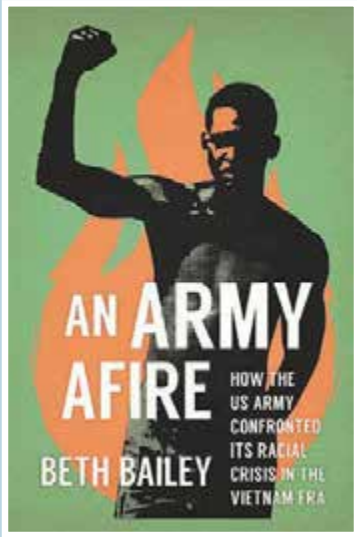
and educator, she is committed to cultivating an environment that inspires creativity, innovation, and academic excellence among staff and students.

It is her goal to ensure all students are socially, emotionally, and mentally prepared for the challenges of life.

The proud Glen Allen, Mississippi native is married to her high school sweetheart, Brian Ferguson, an Army veteran with whom she has two amazing sons.



Ferguson



BOOK REVIEW:
AN ARMY AFIRE:
HOW THE US ARMY CONFRONTED ITS
RACIAL CRISIS IN THE VIETNAM ERA
BY BETH BAILEY
C.2023, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS
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By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Spine straight, shoulders back, arms at sides, feet pointing front.

Atten-SHUN! There you stood with your fellow soldiers, all in formation, upright and alert, waiting for words of release from your position. Chevrons on a uniform indicate who has rank and can set you “at ease.” Ribbons are significant, pins can tell tales but, as in the new book “An Army Afire” by Beth Bailey, skin color should have no bearing here.

From the beginning, “Black men... fought in America’s

armies” though, for decades, they did so mostly in segregated units.

Occasionally, the idea of equality surfaced before Harry Truman moved to desegregate America’s military but nothing lasted and separation of races in the ranks continued until serious efforts were put forth. Even then, some experts continued to predict “massive resistance to racial integration.”

By the mid-1960s, when black Americans were fighting for civil rights and black soldiers were being drafted into the Army to fight in Vietnam, the issues of equality

seemed to expand on two continents.

Maj. Lavell Merritt made news in 1968 when he took the Army to task, forcing President Johnson to see “that we do have race problems.” In the months to come, “Racially charged violence exploded throughout the army...”

“By... the 1970s,” Bailey says, “race was tearing the army apart.”

This didn’t go unnoticed by politicians; in fact, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara “did mean to use the full power of the Department of Defense to bring about change.” There was prog-

ress, but there was a story behind every bit of forward movement: the army wasn’t the only place where issues of racism lurked.

Racism continued in the whole country and until the problem was addressed off-post as well as on, here and abroad, inequality would be around despite everything the Army tried to do.

Even today, with a volunteer army in America, Bailey says “Fundamental questions remain. New questions have emerged. But the affirmative actions to which the US Army committed

itself in the 1970s continue to provide the institutional framework for solutions.”


Here’s a sentence you should not take lightly: “An Army Afire” is probably not going to be anybody’s idea of a beach read. It’s interesting, but it will demand a fully-engaged brain or you’ll be lost within a few pages.

Part of that may come from the non-linear way that this tale is told. Author Beth Bailey shares a wide story that necessitates some looseness in timeline, which can both clarify and confuse, depending on a reader’s previous knowl-


edge of the subject. That’s not to say that you need to be a PhD to read this book, but a walking knowledge of the Vietnam War and/or politics from the Johnson and Nixon administrations will help.

Having said that, though, surprisingly, a casual browsing through this book may yield a reward, too, in the small stories that stack up to make a bigger picture for veterans or for fighters for equality.

“An Army Afire” is history, and heavy-duty at that, but it still might capture your attention.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



2023
PRIMARY ELECTION
CALENDAR

Voter Registration
Deadline for Primary
July 10

Absentee Ballots Available
June 24

Last Day to Absentee Vote
August 5
8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Primary Election Day
August 8

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

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

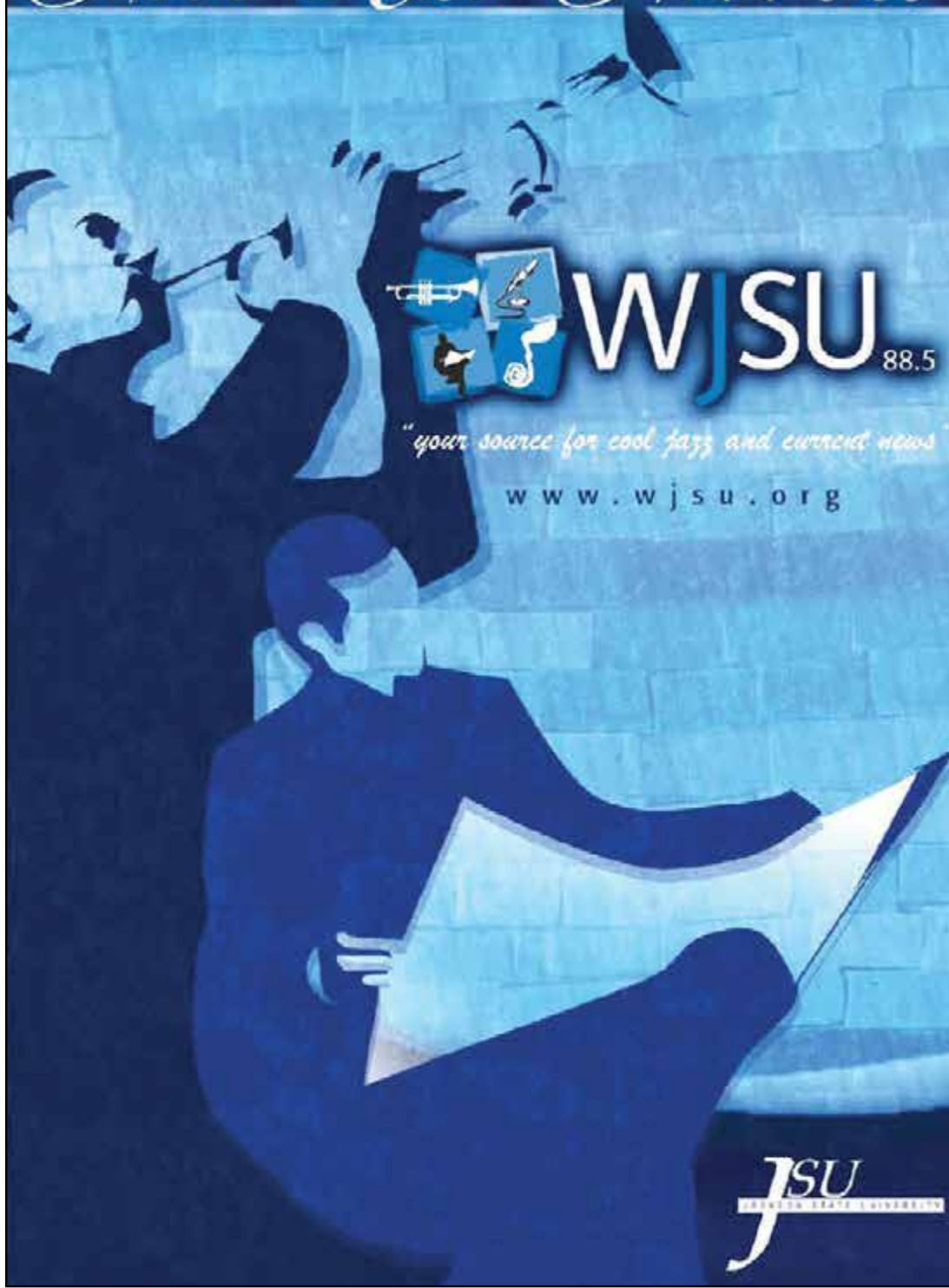
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 999
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: (601) 857-8038
Fax: (601) 857-0535

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

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

Website: www.hindscountymys.com
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SFCWC 91st Anniversary and 54th Biennial Convention

Special to The Mississippi Link

The Southeastern Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. (SFCWC) and Youth Affiliates held its 91st Anniversary and 54th Biennial Convention July 20-22, 2023 at the Jackson Hilton Hotel located on East County Line Road.

Mary J. Collier, 35th president of the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs (MSFCWC) stated the

activities of the convention were planned around their chosen theme, "Utilizing Our Resources to Sustain our Legacy of Service, Scholarship, Sacrifice and Sisterhood."

Awards presented included: Recognition of 50 and 25 - year club members, Award for Service, Arts & Crafts, Hat and Umbrella Parade, Scrapbook and the Eva H. Owens youth scholarships.

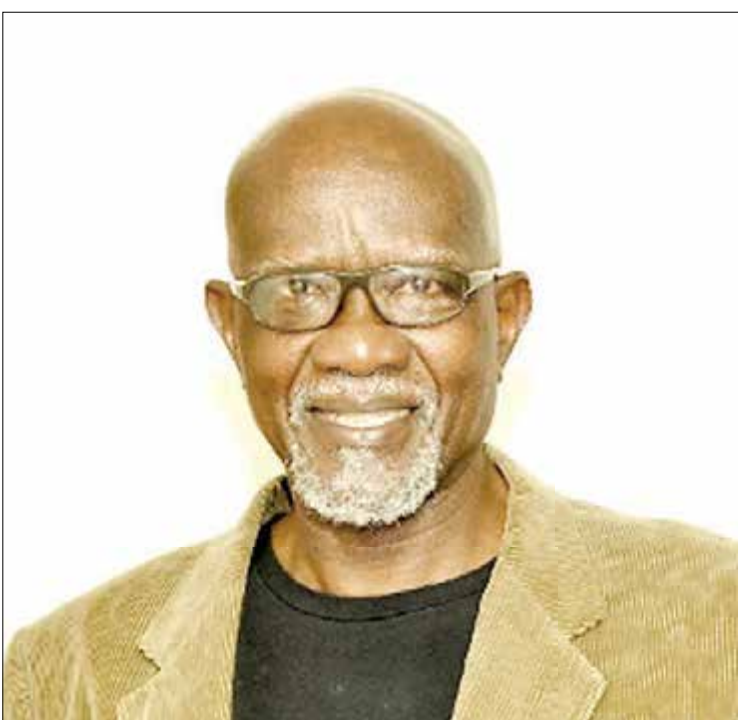


Group photo of the Mississippi Delegation of the Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



The Heart of Community: The importance of discussing hereditary heart conditions with our loved ones



Peters

By Randy Peters
Partner, Voices for the Heart

Everyone has heard the advice to “listen to your heart.” This holds true especially when it comes to heart conditions like hereditary transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy (or hATTR-CM). It took years for me to get diagnosed. My body was telling me something was off – but at the time, I didn’t listen to it. Also, some doctors are not familiar with the disease. I saw six doctors before I was finally diagnosed with hATTR-CM – and my experience is not unusual. That’s why I’m so passionate about sharing my story.

My symptoms started four years before I was diagnosed. I was experiencing shortness of breath during my routine jogs. I also developed carpal tunnel syndrome (a condition that causes numbness, tingling or weakness in the fingers), which was diagnosed by my primary care doctor, but I thought it was the result of my days as a college professor. We didn’t discuss ATTR-CM. I never imagined the carpal tunnel could be linked to the shortness of breath I was experiencing – and certainly not my heart.

One day, as my daughter watched me struggle to make it up the stairs, she insisted I go to the emergency room. A doctor there suggested I be tested for ATTR-CM and later I was diagnosed with ATTR-CM. Once I received my ATTR-CM diagnosis, I relied on my cardiologist for information. I also did a lot of my own research to stay informed.

I learned that there are two types of ATTR-CM – wild type and hereditary. Wild type is associated with aging, mostly affecting older white men. The hereditary type of the disease, which I was diagnosed with through genetic testing, is more prevalent in black, African-American and Afro-Caribbean communities.

A 7-year study in London, UK found a gene mutation (ATTR V122I) was the cause of heart failure in 211 out of 1392 Afro-Caribbean patients.

It can be passed down from one generation to the next through specific genes. About three to four percent of African Americans carry a mutation in the TTR gene (V122I) that makes it more likely they’ll develop hATTR-CM. However, not all people that have the mutation develop the disease. Also, ATTR-CM gets worse over time. That’s why early diagnosis and appropriate disease management strategies are so

important.

I never knew how much my life would change the day I was diagnosed. I am grateful to have an amazing support system and community around me. I work closely with my doctor to manage my hereditary ATTR-CM. My wife Priscilla is a big part of my disease management, and she helps me tremendously. I’ve had to make some changes: I watch my diet and how much salt I eat, but I still enjoy many of the things I love, including woodworking and staying fit. I also found peace in discussing my diagnosis with my family. Now they know that with genetic testing and counseling, they have a chance to better understand their risk.

It’s important to remember that if you have hereditary ATTR-CM, it is not your fault. It is caused by a change in the TTR gene, and not something you have done.

I hope my story will help other families get the right diagnosis and not have to go through what I did. This is why I am excited to be partnering with Pfizer on Voices for the Heart in Jackson – a community-based event that teams up with local organizations within black, African-American, and Afro-Caribbean communities around the country dedicated to raising awareness of hATTR-CM as an often underdiagnosed cause of heart failure.

As part of the Voices for the Heart effort, I am a featured speaker that will appear at a virtual event Sunday, August 27 at 5 p.m. CT. At the event, people can learn more about hATTR-CM symptoms and diagnosis, and there will be additional educational resources on hATTR-CM available.

Let’s work together to raise awareness of hATTR-CM among family members, friends, and neighbors and encourage those experiencing unresolved symptoms and with a history of heart failure to talk to their doctor.

For resources on hereditary ATTR-CM, including a discussion guide to help conversations with your doctor, you can visit www.voicesfortheheart.com



Voices for the Heart

PFIZER IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

A Community Event to Raise Awareness of a Rare Heart Condition Called ATTR-CM*

*ATTR-CM=transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy.

Voices for the Heart is a program dedicated to raising awareness of a rare heart condition called hereditary ATTR-CM (hATTR-CM). hATTR-CM is a serious and often underdiagnosed cause of heart failure in Black, African American, and Afro-Caribbean communities.

As part of the program, Pfizer is teaming up with groups in the community to:

- Explain the warning signs of ATTR-CM
- Help you or your loved ones who might have this heart condition talk about it with their doctor

Voices for the Heart

Voices for the Heart: Community-Based Event

For the **Jackson/Mobile Area**
August 27, 2023, at 5:00 PM CT

Attend Virtually
Sunday School Ministries

[Registration Information >](#)

A presentation lead by heart specialist:
Dr. Oluyemi Badero M.D., F.A.C.C
S.U.N.Y Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn, New York
Invasive and interventional Cardiologist; Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

The event will be moderated by:
Mrs. Ann Porter

We will be joined by a special guest, who will share their personal experience with ATTR-CM
Randy Peters
Patient Living with ATTR-CM

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Bronny James, son of LeBron, in stable condition after cardiac arrest at USC basketball practice

By Greg Beacham
Associated Press

Bronny James, the oldest son of NBA superstar LeBron James, was hospitalized in stable condition Tuesday, a day after going into cardiac arrest while participating in a practice at the University of Southern California, a family spokesman said.

The spokesman said medical staff treated the 18-year-old James on site at USC's Galen Center after he went into cardiac arrest on Monday morning. He was transported to a hospital, where he was in stable condition Tuesday after leaving the intensive care unit.

"We ask for respect and privacy for the James family and we will update media when there is more information," the spokesman said. "LeBron and (his wife) Savannah wish to publicly send their deepest thanks and appreciation to the USC medical and athletic staff for their incredible work and dedication to the safety of their athletes."

USC spokesman Jeremy Pepper declined a request from The Associated Press for comment or additional details, citing student privacy concerns. The AP also left a message seeking comment from the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

A representative for USC outside the Galen Center Tuesday said the school would not have a briefing or issue a statement about James' health scare.

Bronny James announced in May that he would play college basketball for the Trojans, whose campus is less than two miles from the downtown arena of his father's Los Angeles Lak-



Sierra Canyon's Bronny James warms up at halftime during a high school basketball game against Christopher Columbus at the Hoopville Classic, Monday, January 16, 2023 ,in Springfield, Mass. AP PHOTO/GREGORY PAYAN, FILE

ers. USC's basketball team is holding offseason practices in preparation for a two-week European tour next month.

His father is the leading scorer in NBA history and a four-time champion, but Bronny James is an elite talent in his own right, establishing himself as one of the nation's top point guard recruits before he chose the Trojans late in the commitment cycle.

Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin, who suffered cardiac arrest during an

NFL game last season, tweeted his support: "Prayers to Bronny & The James Family as well (prayer emoji) here for you guys just like you have been for me my entire process."

Sports figures across the world also sent messages of support. Jayson Tatum, Trae Young and Donovan Mitchell were among many NBA stars tweeting prayers for James, while former Lakers forward Metta Sandiford-Artest wrote: "Prayers for Bronny.

What a great kid. Come back stronger young fella. Get better and feel better."

Bronny James was stricken just over a year after USC freshman 7-footer Vincent Iwuchukwu collapsed during a practice. Iwuchukwu not only survived but returned to play for the Trojans in the second half of the season.

Dr. Sameer Amin, a cardiologist and the chief medical officer at L.A. Care Health Plan, is not treating Bronny James, but he says the teenager's move out of intensive care is encouraging.

"It's a really positive sign that they didn't sustain too much brain damage or any brain damage, or any major heart damage in the setting of their heart stopping," Amin said. "Usually we see that when somebody's heart gets restarted very quickly after it stops. Also, in young people, you tend to get these bounce-backs a lot faster. It's a really positive outcome that he's already out of the ICU."

Amin said it's too soon to speculate on whether Bronny James can return to basketball, or how quickly it could happen.

"If (the cardiac event) is happening because of a unusual blow to the chest like in the Damar Hamlin case, oftentimes those people can have a positive outcome because it's a rare and unusual event that led to the heart stopping," Amin said. "In those where there's an underlying genetic problem or an underlying electrical issue, it can be a little bit more tricky to get somebody back on the playing field."

With his family fame and huge social media following, Bronny James has the top name, image and likeness valuation in sports at \$6.3 million,

On3.com estimates.

LeBron James has spoken frequently about his desire to play a season in the NBA with Bronny, the first of his three children with his wife. The elder James recently confirmed he will play his 21st NBA season in the fall with the Lakers, his home since 2018.

Bronny's decision to stay close to home was a coup for USC, which is expected to have one of college basketball's most compelling teams next season after making its third straight NCAA Tournament appearance last March.

Bronny, whose name is LeBron James Jr., was one of the top college prospects in the country last season as a star two-way guard at Sierra Canyon School in suburban Chatsworth. His younger brother, 16-year-old Bryce, played at Sierra Canyon last season before transferring to Campbell Hall School in Studio City for the upcoming high school season.

Iwuchukwu, one of the nation's top college basketball prospects a year ago, went into cardiac arrest on July 1, 2022, with athletic trainers using an automated external defibrillator to revive him. Iwuchukwu had a battery-powered pulse generator known as an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator implanted in his chest, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

Iwuchukwu made his Trojans debut Jan. 12 and eventually appeared in 14 games, including five starts. He will return this season to USC, which is expected to have a powerhouse team.

AP Sports Writers Eric Olson and Tom Withers and AP video journalist Eugene Garcia contributed to this report.

Coaches have a high calling to serve as role models for student-athletes

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



All of us have gifts and talents we use daily. We use them for the betterment of other people.

Teachers and coaches have long served as mentors to students. They chose those professions because they wanted to help the next generation. The teaching they gave us on and off the courts and fields made us solid citizens.

Some of us became teachers and coaches because of the experiences we had at different points in our education journey. Way before the "I want to be like Mike" commercial, we wanted to be like a teacher and/or a coach.

Many of us would come home extolling the virtues and behaviors of certain teachers and coaches. Their counsel and consistency provided us with a platform for learning whether that was in a subject or in a sport.

Being in education takes competence, caring and compassion. Toss in a big dose of patience, too.

My career was spent in education as a teacher, coach and administrator. This happened because I was influenced by my teachers and coaches when I was a student-athlete.

Being called "coach" was an honor that I will always cherish. My coaching career led me to coach at both the high school and college level.

If you become a coach, you should know the spotlight of integrity and honesty will be on you. That means being in the public square that you represent the school that employs you.

My personal behavior was always on display. There were times when I would see parents in non-school settings, and I

COMMENTARY

would fondly be introduced as a coach.

My career as a coach is now in the rear-view mirror yet these present-day coaching mishaps have caught my attention.

Recent events involving Pat Fitzgerald, former head football coach at Northwestern University and Bob Huggins, former head basketball coach at West Virginia University have taken them from fame to shame. Some would argue that both were legends at their respective institutions.

Pat Fitzgerald was a stellar football student-athlete at Northwestern University. He became the head football coach there in 2006. In fact, he had more wins than any other coach in the history of Northwestern University history.

He was fired a few weeks ago because of hazing allegations made by former players. The allegations became more widespread after an original 2-week suspension. Lloyd Yates, who played quarterback and receiver from 2015-2017, said, "We were thrown into a culture where physical, emotional and sexual abuse was normalized."

Fitzgerald denies any wrongdoing. His attorney, Dan Webb said, "As regards our client, Coach Pat Fitzgerald, no arguments were made that would present any substantive detailed, factual allegations, let alone evidence about Coach Fitzgerald's conduct." Lawsuits on both sides of this issue will be filed so we will see where all of this goes.

Bob Huggins played basketball at West Virginia and received many honors including being a member of their sports hall of fame. He became coach there in 2007. He was fired recently for making homophobic comments and for a DUI charge in Pittsburgh shortly after

the first incident.

Mr. Huggins said that he did not resign his position and that his wife submitted the letter which the president of West Virginia, Gordon Gee accepted. Part of a letter written by Huggins states, "Now

that I have obtained counsel to review the Employment Agreement and have seen WVU's comments about my status, it is clear that WVU did not handle the situation appropriately."

Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Huggins can

no longer attach "coach" to their names, at least for now. What will happen to them down the athletic road, we don't know. What we do know is that the title coach is a revered one and can never be taken for granted.



campaigntoelectrmha.com



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DISTRICT 66

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Paid for by friends to elect Roshunda Harris-AlLEN

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District would like to thank the Keesler Federal Credit Union for a large donation of bookbags and supplies for our Kindergarten Students. We really appreciate their support and getting us started off on a great school year. Thank you to Caitlin Bradshaw and Samantha Bignell who presented the donation.



Hinds County School District likes to stay in touch and communicate with the different municipalities within the school district. To keep a strong and positive relationship with the local public officials, Tonie Crisler, Community Relations Specialist for Hinds County School District, visits with these municipalities and informs them about information concerning the School District and also receive information from the city of any information valuable to the School District. Crisler visited with the town of Bolton and Mayor Lawrence Butler and shared and received great information for the district and shared the excitement of another school year with the Bolton/Edwards Elementary/Middle School located in Bolton, MS.



Incoming Raymond High School Freshman

RHS FRESHMAN ORIENTATION/ VILS ROLLOUT



Learn about:

- RHS Mission and Vision
- RHS Rules, Regulations, and Procedures
- Graduation Options
- Schedules
- VILS Program

July 29th

10:00 A.M.

@ RHS AUDITORIUM

Please Join Us!!!!!!