

What’s in a credo?

The Black Press is the unfailing and faithful voice of Black America, then and now



Board members of the NNPA and NNPA Fund sworn in by Judge Stephanie Williams (center) at their 2023 convention in Nashville. PHOTOS BY MARK MAHONEY

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

The Black Press is the unfailing and faithful voice of Black America, then and now.

According to *wordreference.com*, credo is a noun and is defined as a set of principles of belief; any creed or formula of belief. Its synonyms are doctrine, tenet and philosophy.

The credo of The Black Press reads: “The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back,” per www.nnpa.org.

“The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) is a trade association of the more than 200 African-American-owned community newspapers from around the United States. Since its founding 79 years ago, NNPA has consistently been the voice of the black community and an incubator for news that makes history and impacts our country,” per their website.

Earlier this year in February at the annual White House Correspondents Dinner, as President Biden started to wrap-up his remarks, he said, “Let me end on a serious note...during Black History Month this year I hosted a screening of the movie Till. The story of Emmett Till and his mother is a story of a family’s promise and loss, and a nation’s reckoning with hate,

violence and abuse of power. It was a story that was seared into the nation’s conscience when Mrs. Till insisted that an open casket for her murdered and maimed 14-year-old son be the means by which he was transported. She said let the people see what I have seen. The reason that the world saw what she saw was because of another hero in this story – The Black Press. JET Magazine, The Chicago Defender, black radio and newspapers, who were unflinching and brave in making sure America saw what she saw,” garnering a standing ovation.

The Black Press traces its roots to 1827 when the first black-owned and operated newspaper in the United States, *Freedom’s Journal*, was

launched as a weekly in New York City. This milestone was achieved against a backdrop of slavery ending in New York. They had a gradual emancipation law in 1799, and in 1817 another law that ensured emancipation for all others enslaved. The last slave was freed in New York on July 4, 1827, just a few months after the launch of *Freedom’s Journal*.

As depicted in the documentary, *The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords*, directed and produced by Stanley Nelson in 1999, “We didn’t exist in other papers. We were neither born, we didn’t get married, we didn’t die, we didn’t fight in any wars, we never participated in any scientific achievement. We

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Christine King Farris, prominent civil rights leader and acclaimed author, dies at 95



Christine King Farris (1927-2023) “was a powerful educator, author and advocate for civil rights.” (Congresswoman Nikema Williams) PHOTO BY MEDIA

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

Ninety-five years ago, Willie Christine King was the first born of her parents, the Reverend Martin Luther King Sr. and Alberta Christine Williams King in Atlanta, GA. Like many oldest children, she watched over her two siblings, Martin Luther (born January 15, 1929) and Alfred Daniel (A. D.), born July 30, 1930. She continued her love for them throughout their lives.

It was on Auburn Avenue in the King home where Christine’s formative years were in large part shaped. Her grandfather, father and brothers served as pastors at the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church which also – in large measure – impacted her for life. During the course of time, Christine became the longest-serving member at Ebenezer. Her stewardship enabled her to serve as a trustee, soloist and leader.

At the age of 16, Christine followed the path of trailblazers in her family by enrolling in Spelman College. Her mother, grandmother and great-aunt had made Spelman their alma mater. In 1948 she graduated from Spelman, having earned a bachelor’s degree in economics.

The scholar was denied admission to the University of Georgia because she was black. She later persisted in her educational endeavor and attended New York’s Columbia University, where she earned two master’s degrees in education.

In her continued pursuit of excellence, Christine held her first teaching position at Atlanta’s W. H. Croghan Elementary School. Ten years later she was employed as a Spelman educa-

tor and directed the Learning Resources Center until she retired in 2014. These dual roles afforded her opportunities to influence many students throughout their matriculation at the college. The educator-leader maintained lifelong relationships with former students and colleagues.

On August 16, 1960, Christine married Isaac Newton Farris Sr. Within this union two children – Isaac Newton Ferris Jr. and Angela Farris Watkins – were born. Isaac, an entrepreneur, was a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church for 60 years. Christine and Isaac experienced 57 years of matrimony until his death in 2017.

Throughout the years, Farris supported the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. not only in his personal life, but also in the political arena. She joined him in the 1965 March for Voting Rights in Alabama and the 1966 March Against Fear in Mississippi.

In search for equality, Farris was among hundreds of thousands of people in the history-making March into Washington, D. C.

In 1968 Rev. Dr. King was assassinated by James Earl Ray, a segregationist. Farris then teamed up with King’s widow – Coretta Scott King – as a founding board member of the King Center for Nonviolent and Social Change. Farris served as vice president and treasurer of the nonprofit organization. Isaac, her spouse, was project manager for the construction of the center. The center conducts educational programs and promotes research about Rev. Dr. King.

“I think of the things that I’ve faced in my life, and

Farris
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Independence for whom?

An unpopular question for many, but stark reality still for too many Americans

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Our annual Happy Birthday to America has now passed – 247 candles are now blown out. A majority of the country is back to work after celebrations galore; backyard grilling, time with family and friends, concerts, parades, fireworks displays – most infused with patriotism in the land of the free, the home of the brave. No expense is spared for this holiday, a respite from the day-to-day grind, and in close proximity to summer having kicked into full gear.

From small towns to large cities all across the land, the celebrations take many forms. Many times, over the years, I made the four-hour drive to the U.S. Capitol from Norfolk/Portsmouth Virginia to sit on the west lawn of the Capitol Building to enjoy the annual birthday party concert – A Capitol Fourth. Hundreds upon hundreds of people are drawn there to celebrate our nation’s birthday. The gathering in-

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PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.SUPREMECOURT.GOV, WITH CREDIT TO FRED SCHILLING



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.HISTORY.COM

Inside
Retirement celebration held in honor of Chief Edna Drake



Black Folk



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Jackson native speaks to the Black Press on cybersecurity

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Keith Collins was one of the presenters at the 2023 National Newspaper Publishers Association's 2023 National Convention. He sent shock waves through the audience of newspaper publishers, business owners, sponsors, and others that attended the conference as listeners learned how their businesses and personal information can so easily be attacked to the extent of being completely shut down and even bankrupt as a result. This can happen to anyone even when there are precautions in place to avoid such attacks.

He had a unique presentation, where at times he pretended to be an attacker and teased the audience by saying, "I'm coming after you."

Collins, a native of Jackson, Mississippi, graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1988. After graduation he entered the U.S. Army where he served three active years plus an additional seven years with the National Guard.

Collins returned to Jackson after serving in the military and enrolled at Jackson State University where he graduated with a degree in management. Just the mentioning of having graduated from Jackson State Univer-



Keith Collins PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

sity brought loud applause from the audience because many publishers across the nation just happen to follow what is

going on in Jackson, Mississippi.

Collins is an accomplished cybersecurity professional with extensive experience in IT networks and security for the US Army, Department of Defense and multinational defense organizations.

He is the owner of BlackOps CSO, a cybersecurity firm that specializes in cybersecurity awareness and risk management solutions.

He stated in his opening remarks, "The cybersecurity world is struggling; small businesses are struggling trying to defend themselves from attacks. "Changing Minds, Changing Worlds, Be Aware" was his message at the convention.

He said women and minorities are particularly vulnerable to cybercrime according to Reports Verizon and we-connectinternational.org.

A federal trade commission study conducted in 2016 provided to congress found that African-American and Latino consumers were more likely to become cyber fraud victims than non-Hispanic whites and has grown over the years since COVID.

Cyber awareness, he stated, is knowing what you have to do to protect your business, before something happens.

He stated some small businesses are going out of business due to increased cyber attacks. Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) reports that 60% of small businesses overall close their doors within six months of a cyber attack and that Ransomware is the weapon of choice.

There were a lot of questions asked of Collins and he gave numerous suggestions on how one can be pro-active to the issue of cyber attacks, including getting cyber insurance.

In addition to his professional work, Keith is an adjunct instructor at Oklahoma State University, where he teaches Network+, Operating Systems, Cyber Ethics and Law.

He is dedicated to sharing his knowledge and experience with minority-owned small businesses as they are a crucial part of our community and need protecting more than ever. As a proponent of education in the field, Collins is also committed to empowering our kids as they are the next generation to defend small business from cyber attacks.

Overall, Collins is a highly respected cybersecurity expert with a proven track record of success in the industry. His combination of education, military

service and practical experience makes him a valuable asset to any small business looking to protect their interest.

After his presentation, Collins shared his experience as a presenter with *The Mississippi Link*.

He said, "The responses I received from the other attendees were truly amazing. I was humbled by the positive feedback and the many great responses I received after my presentation."

Collins said one common theme that emerged from the feedback was a lack of cyber awareness training among businesses. He said, "Many attendees expressed their frustration at not fully understanding how cyber criminals could affect their operations and what to do about it in reference to awareness training."

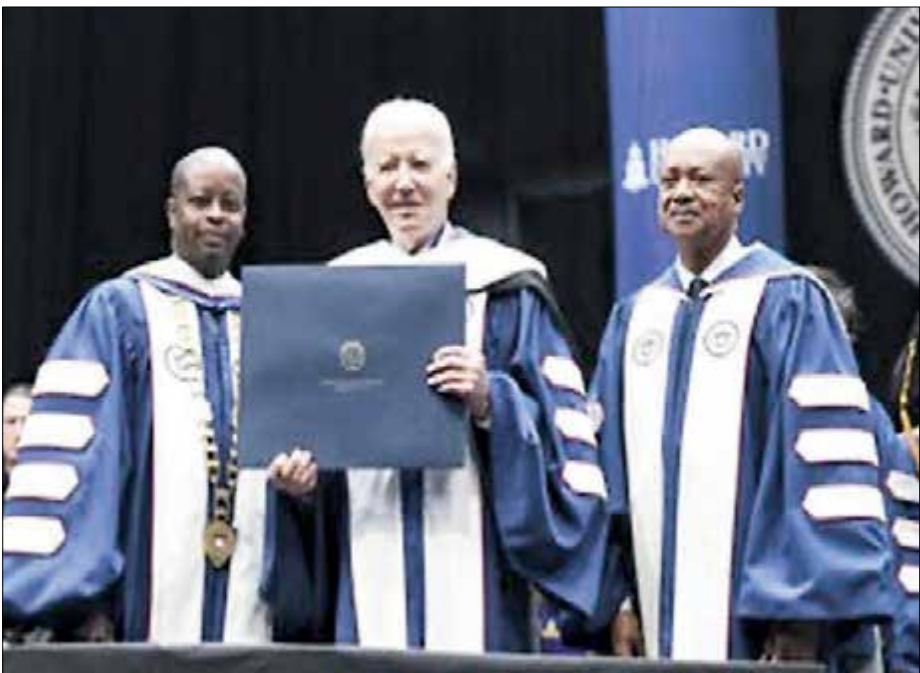
Collins also commented that the overall convention was truly remarkable. He had the opportunity to hear other speakers such as The Honorable Keith M. Ellison, Attorney General of Minnesota, who served as lead prosecutor of the death of George Floyd. Ellison led the team that successfully convicted former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin on a charge of second-degree murder.

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Biden blasts Supreme Court’s Affirmative Action decision



President Biden delivered the commencement speech at Howard University, May 13, 2023, and received honorary Howard University degree.

By **Stacy M. Brown**
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

The United States Supreme Court has sent shockwaves through the nation’s education system by departing from decades of precedent that have fostered diversity and inclusivity in colleges and universities. The ruling has ignited concerns about the future of creating vibrant learning environments where students can grow and learn from one another. President Biden, a vocal advocate for equal opportunity in education, expressed his disappointment with the Supreme Court’s decision. He emphasized that while talent and hard work are abundant across the country, equal opportunity remains elusive.

The President urged that this decision not be the final say in the matter and called on colleges and universities to lead in expanding access to educational opportunities for all students. He highlighted diversity’s strength to educational institutions and the entire nation.

President Biden emphasized that when colleges and universities embrace racial diversity, they tap into the full range of talent present in the country. The president urged institutions of higher learning to consider the adversities that students have overcome, including financial struggles, upbringing, high school attendance, and personal experiences of hardship or discrimination, including racial discrimination.

By considering these factors during the admissions process, colleges and universities can recognize and value the resilience and determination shown by aspiring students in the face of challenges. To support colleges and universities in this pursuit, the Biden-Harris Administration has pledged to clarify admissions practices and additional programs within the next 45 days. This guidance will help institutions prepare for the upcoming application cycle.

The administration also plans to convene a National Summit on Educational Opportunity and release a report outlining strategies to increase diversity and expand educational opportunities. Transparency in college admissions and enrollment practices will be promoted, and states will receive assistance in analyzing data to enhance access to education for underserved communities.

These measures build upon the Biden-Harris Administration’s ongoing efforts to ensure equal access to higher education.

Previous accomplishments include:

- Securing historic increases in Pell Grants.
- Prioritizing college completion.
- Supporting historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), Tribal colleges, and minority-serving institutions. Additionally, the administration is addressing issues in the student loan system to provide relief to borrowers burdened by loans.

Although the affirmative action decision threatens to undermine progress in advancing racial equity and civil rights, the Biden-Harris Administration vows that it remains committed to fighting against this setback. In the wake of the Court’s decision, Biden pledged to “safeguard the hard-earned achievements and preserve opportunities for all Americans to pursue higher education.”

Biden said the battle for diversity and equal opportunity in higher education continues. “Because affirmative action is so misunderstood, I want to make sure everybody is clear about what the law has been and what it has not been, until today,” the President stated. “Many people wrongly believe that affirmative action allows unqualified students to be admitted ahead of qualified students. This is not how college admissions work.”

The President continued: “Rather, colleges set out standards for admission, and every student – every student has to meet those standards. Then, and only then, after first meeting the qualifications required by the school, do colleges look at other factors in addition to their grades, such as race. “The way it works in practice is this: Colleges first establish a qualified pool of candidates based on meeting certain grades, test scores and other criteria. Then, and only then, and it’s from this pool of applicants, all of whom have already met the school’s standards, that the class is chosen, after weighing a wide range of factors, among them being race.”

Finally, the President said he believes the nation’s colleges are more robust when racially diverse. “Our nation is stronger because we are tapping into the full range of talent in this nation,” he asserted. “I also believe that while talent, creativity, and hard work are everywhere across this country, not equal opportunity. It is not everywhere across this country. We cannot let this decision be the last word. I want to emphasize: We cannot let this decision be the last word. While the Court can render a decision, it cannot change what America stands for.”

verance to move forward. In 2003 she published a memoir on her childhood and the siblings’ upbringing in the 1920s entitled *My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing up with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* This book and *March On* were inspiring tools. The author’s 2009 autobiography, *Through It All: Reflection on My Life, My Family, My Faith* – allowed her to pull the pieces of her life together regarding

Credo

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Bobby Henry raises his right hand as he is sworn in as chairman. Seen left is Dr. Ben Chavis, NNPA president & CEO and Jackie Hampton (rt), NNPA 2nd V.P.

were truly invisible, unless we committed a crime. But in *The Black Press* we did get married, they showed us our babies, they showed us graduating, they showed our Ph.D.s. Public expression was one of the only weapons that we had,” per renowned journalist, Vernon Jarrett.”

The Black Press is a press of advocacy. Due to lack of advocacy for the black voice in other news organizations, *The Black Press* reports the news, but does so with the deliberate slant to ensure the black community is seen and heard. With cameras and pens, *The Black Press* became soldiers without swords, hence the name of the documentary. It can be viewed on many platforms, including <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo8Pvr7TyP4>.

Bigotry, discrimination, hatred, racism and lynchings were showcased in *The Black Press*, when typically, non-black newspaper would ignore the subjects. This was true at its inception, and it remains true to this day. *The Black Press* is unwavering, relentless, and makes no apologies. The truth will be told, and it will reflect the truth of Black America. It’s in the credo, you see. Not negotiable.

Last week, the NNPA held its annual convention in Nashville, TN., and this year’s theme was *The Black Press – Amplifying Progress, Excellence and Voices of Black America*. Meetings, panels, election of officers, and presentation of awards filled the four-day event with thirty-six speakers in all. The convention schedule, list of speakers, performers and the actual presentations themselves can all be viewed at <https://www.nnpa-events.com>.

Independence

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cludes many active-duty military, retirees, spouses, and so forth. The theme rotates each year, placing emphasis on a particular war, conflict, or wartime era, while also highlighting one of the branches of the armed forces.

An inseparable link exists between our country’s independence from British rule and our nation’s military might – and the price paid through service that makes it so. Maybe somewhere in the midst of our annual celebration there is some form of reflection. What would we reflect upon? Would our minds go all the way back to the document declaring our independence? If so, surely, we would focus on the words, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” However noble these words sound, they remain as mere words, and ring hollow to many Americans.

More from the Declaration of Independence, “But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.”

Yet at the very same time the thirteen colonies declared our independence, the practice of slavery was deeply embedded in those colonies. Estimates vary as to the numbers enslaved here, but after consulting PBS, *History.com*, and *worldhistory.org* – 388,000 to 461,000 seems accurate. PBS claims the number increased to 4,000,000 by 1860. Following the civil war, in 1865, the 13th Amendment abolished slavery. Wouldn’t it have been miraculous if that were the end of the story of America’s original sin?

But no enduring miracle came. No more physical shackles, for which we are profoundly grateful, yet as we are painfully aware, shackles can take many forms – especially for those whose mindset doesn’t

The election of officers for NNPA are held every two years and after Karen Carter Richards, publisher of the *Houston Forward Times*, completed two 2-year terms as chairman, the organization now has a new chairman, Bobby R. Henry, publisher of the *Westside Gazette*, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Other elected officers include:

1st Vice Chair – Dr. Frances Draper, publisher of *The Afro-America*, Baltimore/Washington;

2nd Vice Chair – Jackie Hampton, publisher of *The Mississippi Link*, Jackson, MS;

Secretary – Fran Farrer, publisher of *The County News*, Charlotte, NC;

Treasurer – Cheryl Smith, publisher of *The Texas Metro News* and CEO of IMessenger Media;

At-Large Board Members elected were Denise Rolark Barnes, publisher of *The Washington Informer*, and Walter L. White of *The Cincinnati Herald*.

The Mississippi Link newspaper Publisher, Jackie Hampton, has served for the past four years as the national secretary for NNPA. As observed by this writer, her commitment to this position can only be matched by her commitment to *The Mississippi Link* newspaper. It’s in the credo, you see. We know all of our readers, subscribers, advertisers and content contributors join in thanking Jackie Hampton for her steadfast service as national secretary and wish her continued success during her term as NNPA 2nd vice chair. Being a part of *The Black Press* is a special responsibility, a daunting responsibility that has been cherished for 196 years and counting.

fully and truly believe those earlier words – “all men are created equal.”

In white majority, at least for now, America – the living breathing reality of racial equality continues to be an idea, an aspiration at best. Progress has been substantial in the last 158 years since the abolishment of slavery, and lives have certainly been improved for many Americans, but not for all Americans. Here in America, despite the best intentions of many, there is a systemic governor installed. Yes, that type of governor. Merriam-Webster.com listed it as definition “4a: an attachment to a machine (such as a gasoline engine) for automatic control or limitation of speed.” Progress is allowed, but with limits – unless you are in the majority, unless you are European American.

Louis Menand, wrote an article for *The New Yorker* on January 28, 2019, entitled: *The Supreme Court Case That Enshrined White Supremacy in Law – How Plessy v. Ferguson shaped the history of racial discrimination in America*. In the print edition, the article was called: *In the Eye of the Law*. He concludes saying this: “After 1900, the South had Jim Crow, a legal regime of separatism, but the rest of the country had ghettos, redlining, gerrymandering, quota and exclusion systems, and the artifice of the local school district. De-facto discrimination – we now call it “institutional racism” or “structural racism” – is much harder to address. It requires more of people than just striking down a law.”

And there it is, the missing element – intentional embrace of “all men are created equal.” We lack it in our institutions, and we lack it in a large portion of our population. Just in the last week we have seen it clearly employed yet again in the highest court in the land. If we are to be honest, in America there are two words that should never be used together, because they embody a penetrating anti-truth – reverse discrimination. Despite being often referred to as the greatest nation, wealthiest nation, and most resourceful nation on earth – America’s original sin ambles onward.

As a nation, we don’t have enough remorse. We have never repented, and it becomes unlikely that we will with each passing year, even as the white majority slowly but steadily declines. Happy Birthday America.

Professor Emerita and sister of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We will continue to celebrate her impactful legacy on generations of Spelmanites and extend condolences to her family.” (Helen Gayle, M.D., MPH, President of Spelman).

“The King Center mourns the loss of Dr. Christine King Farris... We join the people of goodwill and worldwide in celebrating the life of our servant leader.”

Farris

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sometimes I question how I’m still here. I’m the lone survivor in my family,” stated Farris during a 2008 CNN interview.

Multiple tragedies within her family impacted Farris. Apart from Rev. Dr. King’s assassination, A. D. drowned in his swimming pool. Mother Alberta King was assassinated during a 1974 church service.

Despite these tragedies, Farris had the perse-

verance to move forward. In 2003 she published a memoir on her childhood and the siblings’ upbringing in the 1920s entitled *My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing up with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* This book and *March On* were inspiring tools. The author’s 2009 autobiography, *Through It All: Reflection on My Life, My Family, My Faith* – allowed her to pull the pieces of her life together regarding

the legacy of her family. Beyond her publications, she was part of a delegation to Washington for a ceremony when Rev. Dr. King’s monument was erected on the National Mall in 2011. In 2017 she was present for the unveiling of the long-awaited statue of her brother at the state Capitol.

Among condolences are the following.

“We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Christine King Farris, C’48, Spelman

Professor Emerita and sister of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We will continue to celebrate her impactful legacy on generations of Spelmanites and extend condolences to her family.” (Helen Gayle, M.D., MPH, President of Spelman).

“The King Center mourns the loss of Dr. Christine King Farris... We join the people of goodwill and worldwide in celebrating the life of our servant leader.”

Retirement celebration held in honor of Chief Edna Drake

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Chief Edna Drake is retiring from the position of chief and director of the Department of Public Safety/Emergency Management at Tougaloo College, effective June 30, 2023.

- She started at Tougaloo College in 2008 after 28 years with the Jackson Police Department.
- She retired as a chief with the City of Jackson Police Department prior to her work with Tougaloo College.
- She is the longest tenured chief of security operations for Tougaloo College with 15 years of service.
- She changed, improved and upgraded the Security Department at Tougaloo College to the Department of Public Safety.
- She developed and hosted the first campus wide tornado drills and active

shooter drills utilizing local, state and Federal responders to ensure that the college's emergency plan was operable, and, whereby the college received a passing grade from FEMA.

- She developed an annual National Night Out celebration on the Tougaloo College campus in collaboration with The City of Jackson and neighboring Tougaloo community residents.
- To improve safety, she hired sworn armed officers and she ensured unarmed officers received professional training and certifications in CPR and First Aid.
- She had numerous other accomplishments and meaningful experiences that enhanced the quality of life for law enforcement and security personnel under her leadership and others with whom she worked and assisted throughout her career in law enforcement.



Chief Drake celebrates retirement party with family members: (Standing- l-r) William Drake, Edna Drake, Harrison Drake and Denise Drake; Seated, Godfrey Drake, husband, and Dr. H.T. Drake, father-in-law, at 100 years old.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Devasia Spires,
NMLS #53891



John Michael Wilson,
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Off-duty officer was with deputies accused of abusing black men, police chief says

By Kevin McGill, Mark Sherman and Sara Cline
Associated Press

An off-duty police officer participated in a raid where two black men say deputies beat and sexually assaulted them before shooting one of them in the mouth, a Mississippi police chief said Monday.

The announcement comes less than a week after Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey said all five deputy sheriffs tied to the Jan. 24 episode had been fired or resigned. Michael Corey Jenkins and his friend Eddie Terrell Parker said deputies burst inside a home without a warrant and subjected them to 90 minutes of abuse. The men said deputies beat them, assaulted them with a sex toy, shocked them repeatedly with Tasers and shouted racial epithets at them.

The announcement also comes days after The Associated Press sought public records related to the episode from the Richland Police Department, which is in Rankin County. In February, the allegations sparked a still-ongoing Justice Department civil rights probe.

Jason Dare, an attorney representing the Rankin County Sheriff's Office, said the department knew of five deputies who conducted the Jenkins raid. But since Jenkins and Parker came forward with their allegations in February, they have maintained that six police

officers carried out the raid. The claim appeared to have been corroborated Monday.

In a statement posted online shortly after 5 p.m. the day before the Fourth of July holiday, Richland police Chief Nick McLendon said one of his officers had joined the five Rankin County deputies while off-duty.

“Joshua Hartfield, while off duty, has been implicated in an incident occurring in Rankin County, Mississippi on January 24, 2023,” McLendon wrote. “We must express our deepest disappointment that a member of our department is claimed to be involved in a situation that goes against our department’s commitment to serve and protect the public.”

McLendon, who could not immediately be reached for follow-up questions, said Hartfield was placed on administrative leave and resigned after the department learned of allegations against him. He did not say when exactly he learned of the allegations or from whom. He also did not mention Jenkins and Parker in his statement.

The recent announcements follow an AP investigation that linked several deputies involved with the episode to at least four violent encounters with black men since 2019 that left two dead and another with lasting injuries. Deputies who had been accepted to the sheriff’s office’s Special Response

Team – a tactical unit whose members receive advanced training – were involved in each of the four encounters, the AP found.

Deputies had claimed the raid was prompted by a report of drug activity at the home.

Alongside the Justice Department, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation is conducting a separate probe of the episode.

Jenkins and Parker have filed a federal civil rights lawsuit and are seeking \$400 million in damages. In a joint statement Tuesday, Malik Shabazz and Trent Walker, attorneys representing Jenkins and Parker, said the police officers involved should be criminally charged.

“All citizens of Mississippi regardless of race, creed or color are repudiating the criminal acts of these rogue deputies,” the attorneys said. “No decent law enforcement officer wants to be affiliated with the horrific, malicious and sadistic acts which occurred against Michael Jenkins and Eddie Parker.”

Michael Goldberg is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a non-profit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercover issues. Follow him on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/mikergoldberg>.

US judge temporarily blocks Mississippi law on state police permits for some protests

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

A federal judge Thursday temporarily blocked a new Mississippi law that requires permission from state police for protests or other gatherings near state government buildings in the capital city of Jackson.

U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate said the law is vague and could have a chilling effect on First Amendment rights, particularly for people who want to demonstrate against government actions.

“It is clear that this statute is a prior restraint on speech,” Wingate said.

Earlier this year, the majority-white and Republican-led Mississippi Legislature passed a bill to require the state-issued permits for protests in parts of Jackson, which is majority-black and governed by Democrats.

Legislators also passed a separate bill expanding the role of the state-run Capitol Police department inside the city, creating a new court inside part of Jackson with a judge appointed by the state Supreme Court chief justice, and authorizing the chief justice to appoint four additional judges to work with

the four elected circuit court judges in Hinds County, where Jackson is located.

Hinds County is also majority-black and governed by Democrats. Most Mississippi judges are elected.

Supporters of the bills said they were trying to strengthen safety in Jackson, which has a population of about 150,000 and has had more than 100 homicides for each of the past three years. Opponents said the bills undermine local self-governance.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves signed the bills, and most of the changes were supposed to become law Saturday.

Wingate on Thursday confirmed that he has dismissed Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Randolph from a lawsuit that the NAACP filed to challenge the law on policing and courts. Wingate issued an order last month temporarily preventing most of that law from taking effect on Saturday.

The law on protests requires the state Department of Public Safety to develop regulations for the type of information that protest sponsors would need to provide and what standards the department would use in decid-

ing whether to issue permits.

Wingate said Thursday that because such regulations have not been set, “some brave soul ... could risk the onset of criminal penalties” for protesting without a state permit. He said the department could draft regulations, which would take several weeks, and could then ask him to reconsider whether the law can take effect.

Protests near downtown Jackson’s state government buildings in the past year included January, February and March rallies against the courts and policing legislation. The Poor People’s Campaign protested outside the Governor’s Mansion last fall against what organizers said was the state’s inadequate investment in Jackson’s struggling water system.

People planning events in downtown Jackson are already required to obtain a city-issued permit – the same procedure used in many other parts of the state.

The lawsuit said people will need permission from both the city and the state for protests or events in parts of Jackson, but state permission is not required for protests or events near state government buildings elsewhere in Mississippi.

The fight for free speech never ends

Attempts to restrict free speech are intentional and always wrongheaded

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

The First Amendment to the Constitution says, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances,” per www.constitution.congress.gov.

Reinforced by the 14th Amendment, 77 years later, “the First Amendment now covers actions by federal, state and local governments. The First Amendment also applies to all branches of government, including legislatures, courts, juries and executive officials and agencies. This includes public employers, public university systems and public-school systems, per Britanica.com.

The 14th Amendment secured rights that were being trampled on, and begins with this sentence: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside – this nullified the 1857 Dred Scott decision, in which Chief Justice Roger Taney wrote that a black man, even if born free, could not claim rights of citizenship under the federal constitution.”

The next clause of section one reads: “No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States.” This greatly expanded the civil and legal rights of all American citizens by protecting them from infringement by the states as well as by the federal government.”

The third clause, “Nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law,” expanded the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment to apply to the states as well as the federal government.”

“Over time, the Supreme Court has interpreted this clause to guarantee a wide array of rights against infringement by the states, including those enumerated in the Bill of Rights (freedom of speech, free exercise of religion, right to bear arms, etc.) as well as the right to privacy and other fundamental rights not mentioned elsewhere in the Constitution.”

“Finally, the “equal protection clause” (“nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws”) was clearly intended to stop state governments from discriminating against black Americans, and over the years would play a key role in many landmark civil rights cases,” all per www.history.com.

In 2023, 155 years after the adoption of the 14th Amendment, we still see evidence of Constitutional freedoms being restricted. The Mississippi legislature, majority white and majority republican in both chambers, voted to pass Senate Bill 2343, titled: Department of Public Safety; revise jurisdiction of. The bill, signed by Governor Reeves April 21, 2023, does far more than is indicated in its title. It codifies restricting and reducing rights of the citizens of Hinds County and the city of Jackson, both of which are majority African American.

The upper chamber vote was 29-14-7. The ab-

COMMENTARY

stentions consisted of six republicans and one democrat. The lower chamber vote was 74-41-6. In this vote, four democrats voted in favor and three republicans voted against. The abstentions consisted of three democrats and three republicans, all per <https://legiscan.com/MS/rollcall/SB2343/id/1290980>.

The Mississippi Link newspaper has reported previously on this bill and other bills dubbed The Jackson Takeover bills. On June 1, 2023 a lawsuit was brought in Federal court against this bill by JXN Undivided Coalition, Mississippi Votes, Peoples Advocacy Institute, Mississippi Poor People’s Campaign, Black Voters Matter, Rukia Lumumba, Danyelle Holmes and Arekia Bennett-Scott. The defendants are Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell and Capitol Police Chief Bo Luckey. The filing can be viewed in its entirety here: https://mscenterforjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/001_20230601_Complaint_SB2343-Jxn-v-Tindell.pdf. The suit contends implementation of this law is unconstitutional, overbroad, vague and would give two state actors the authority to decide who is allowed to peaceably protest and/or exercise free speech rights in nearly every area of Jackson that is not residential.

This lawsuit has yielded results – on June 29, just two days before SB2343 was to go into effect, U.S. District Court Judge Henry Wingate issued a preliminary injunction blocking a controversial portion of S.B. 2343 from taking effect, saying “the provision likely would have had a chilling effect on free speech and criticized the law for being too constitutionally vague,” per WLBT.

The other portion of the law, providing Capitol Police with city-wide concurrent jurisdiction in Jackson has gone into effect, yet according to one Capitol Police Officer who spoke on the condition of anonymity told *The Mississippi Link* that “they just don’t have enough staff at this point to patrol the entire City of Jackson.”

How many times have we seen the Mississippi legislature pass bills to restrict our freedoms and autonomy? Despite claiming to be Christians, there is never an authentic attempt to help with long-standing difficulties in Hinds/Jackson, such as poverty, insufficient black economic engines, insufficient infrastructure support, homelessness and crime; all of which have worsened over time at least, in-part, due to targeted indifference by the State.

Only three Republicans voted against SB2343, just three out of seventy-five. There is no virtue in doing the wrong things for the wrong reasons. The people of Hinds/Jackson, majority African American, are people – human beings, deserving respect and support, not disdain and takeover. The people of Hinds/Jackson are loved by God. When will it be time for the legislative majority to take a turn?

These takeover bills are an attempt to sterilize black leadership, usurp the rights of our majority black citizens, keep the knee on the neck – to establish white rule over Hinds/Jackson. Thank God for the federal courts.

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President Biden salutes Black Press during convention in Nashville

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

This week, during the NNPA's Annual Convention, which celebrated 196 years of the Black Press of America, Biden appeared via video to salute the NNPA and its member publishers on the occasion.

"Congratulations to the Black Press of America for celebrating 196 years of serving communities across our nation," Biden stated in the address which aired on July 1.

"Ida B. Wells once said, the way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon the wrong. That's the sacred charge of a free press. That's the charge African American publishers have pursued for nearly two centuries," Biden continued.

"With every story you publish, you make our democracy stronger. Thank you for what you do to turn the light of truth wherever your work leads you. Thank you."

President Joe Biden has always maintained that the black vote pushed him over the top in his 2020 election victory over Donald Trump.

And it's never been lost on the president that the pivotal day in his campaign occurred in Charleston, South Carolina, on Feb. 26, when he sat down for a live roundtable interview with Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade association of the more than 200 African-American-owned newspapers and media companies.

Joining Chavis at that campaign-turning event were dozens of Black Press publishers and media com-



Biden

pany owners, and the livestream of that event, followed later in the day by an endorsement from Democratic South Carolina Rep. James Clyburn, catapulted the once slumbering candidacy all the way to the White House.

Dr. Chavis and outgoing NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards, praised the President for recognizing the importance of the Black Press of America.

"The NNPA is especially honored to hear directly from President Joe Biden for his continued support and advocacy of the importance of the Black Press of America," Chavis stated. "As we celebrate 196 years of the Black Press, it's always gratifying and encouraging to have the support of the President of the United States. In the wake of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions on civil rights, the Black Press rededicates our journalism to be a clarion voice for freedom, justice, equality and equity."

Richards who is the publisher of the *Houston Forward Times*, also thanked the President.

"To have the President of the United States take the time out to be a part of our convention is of course special," Richards said. "But, it's also a testament to just how vital the Black Press remains. Collectively, as black publishers and black business owners, we are stronger than ever and the President's message reinforces that."

Newly elected board chair Bobby Henry, publisher of the *Westside Gazette* in Florida, added, "That message from President Biden to the association was one that signifies that he remains true to his pledge to value the role African Americans play and have played in this country. Further, acknowledging the role that the Black Press plays in reaching our people and those sympathetic to our plight remains a critical component of the 2024 electoral strategy."

After anticipated Affirmative Action ruling, black leaders speak out

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

After the U.S. Supreme Court did what many have long expected, strike-down race-based admissions to colleges, black leaders held emergency press conferences and strategy calls. One convened by Marc Morial on June 29 hours after the Supreme Court's decision yielded sharp commentary.

Affirmative action refers to a set of policies and practices aimed at promoting equal opportunities for historically disadvantaged groups, particularly in relation to employment or education. The purpose of affirmative action is to address the historical and ongoing systemic discrimination and underrepresentation that has been faced throughout history. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, and individuals with disabilities have been beneficiaries. Typically, affirmative action involves taking proactive steps to increase the representation of these underrepresented groups in areas where they have been historically excluded or marginalized.

The 6-3 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court will alter college admissions policies. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., writing the opinion for the majority, said the programs "unavoidably employ race in a negative manner" and "involve racial stereotyping," in violation of the Constitution. The ruling affirmed that race-conscious admissions programs at Harvard and the University of North Carolina are unconstitutional.

Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor spoke in person her dissent from the bench which signaled strong disagreement saying the court's ruling "further entrenching racial inequality



ity in education" will have a devastating impact."

The decision would seem to be a slap in the face of history as well as real world reality. Currently, a move is on to ban books in many school districts across America with many Republicans calling rudimentary discussion on race "divisive." Statistics on college enrollment for African Americans demonstrate there is more work to be done to increase enrollment at a time when college costs have skyrocketed.

"I find it interesting to say we're beyond race in this country when we know that 48 percent of white students admitted to Harvard between 2009 and 2014 either were legacy admissions or they were athletes," said Maya Wiley, President of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

"This is the first time that we are facing a court that misinterpreted the equal protection clause and our seminal case Brown vs. Board of Education after a predecessor court made very clear what the principals were in the Constitution and in the Brown case," said Janai Nelson, president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund during a mid-day press event held by the National Urban League.

The NAACP Legal Defense Fund has been involved in every case involving affirmative action that has

gone to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Unfortunately, this Supreme Court is trying to have a reality that is more reflective of 1950," said NAACP President Derrick Johnson.

"Today's case, let's be very clear, does not end Affirmative Action but it makes it much more difficult. It narrows the ability of higher education institutions to use their own power to decide who should be in a classroom... we are not abandoning the fight," Nelson concluded.

"Friends today the Supreme Court got it wrong. I think this day will live in infamy. Because it was one of the most tortured opinions any of us have ever seen because it's twisted in terms of its logic on the law," Damon Hewitt, president of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

"Nothing in the opinion stops universities from asking about their race," Hewitt pointed out. "Our advice to students is to continue to talk about your experiences with race and racism," he concluded.

"This Supreme Court ruling will close the door to educational opportunity for many black students and students of color who want to attend non-HBCUs. With this new ruling, UNCF knows that more students will turn to HBCUs for their college educations. We also know that our HBCUs will do everything they can to meet increased student demand," stated a press release from the United Negro College Fund.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist and the host of the podcast *BURKEFILE* and publisher of *Black Virginia News*. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on *#RolandMartinUnfiltered*.

America's ten 'blackest' cities revealed



These urban areas, where African Americans constitute a significant portion of the population, have become magnets for individuals seeking more substantial opportunities and sustainable living.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

A recent report by the esteemed Brookings Institution revealed that the internal migration patterns of African Americans in the United States have contributed to "black-majority cities."

These urban areas, where African Americans constitute a significant portion of the population, have become magnets for individuals seeking more substantial opportunities and sustainable living.

According to Insider Monkey, despite a mere 1.5% growth in their overall share since 1970, the African American community's strategic relocation has paved the way for their rising influence in critical regions nationwide.

Experts project that the United States will transform into a minority-white country by 2045, as racial minorities, including African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians, are set to become the primary drivers of the country's economy.

Census experts attribute this transformation to two reasons: the combined racial minority population is projected to grow by a staggering 74% between 2018 and 2060, while the aging white population is expected to experience a decline during the same period.

Jackson, Mississippi, widely regarded as the "blackest city" in America, is at the forefront of this demographic shift. With African Americans constituting over 80% of the city's population, Jackson is a testament to the vitality and prominence of African American culture and influence.

Looking at the state level, Texas boasts the highest African-American population, with 3.55 million individuals, followed closely by Georgia and Florida.

These three states rank as the top con-

tenders with the highest concentrations of African Americans nationwide.

The following ten urban areas have the highest percentage of African American residents:

10. Miami Gardens, Florida Total Population: 110,881 African Americans: 68,121 Percentage: 61.44%

9. Memphis, Tennessee Total Population: 628,118 African Americans: 398,824 Percentage: 63.50%

8. Montgomery, Alabama Total Population: 198,659 African Americans: 126,268 Percentage: 63.56%

7. Southfield, Michigan Total Population: 75,901 African Americans: 48,391 Percentage: 63.76%

6. Birmingham, Alabama Total Population: 196,410 African Americans: 139,691 Percentage: 71.12%

5. Albany, Georgia Total Population: 67,146 African Americans: 49,281 Percentage: 73.39%

4. Detroit, Michigan Total Population: 632,589 African Americans: 484,779 Percentage: 76.63%

3. Lauderdale, Florida Total Population: 73,461 African Americans: 58,704 Percentage: 79.91%

2. East Orange, New Jersey Total Population: 68,893 African Americans: 55,087 Percentage: 79.96%

1. Jackson, Mississippi Total Population: 149,813 African Americans: 122,612 Percentage: 81.84%

Baltimore (Md.), Shreveport (La.), New Orleans, Mount Vernon (N.Y.), Macon (Ga.), Augusta (Ga.), Mobile (Ala.), Baton Rouge (La.), Portsmouth (Va.), Savannah (Ga.), Trenton (N.J.), Cleveland (Ohio), Hampton (Va.), and Newark (N.J.), rounded out the top 25 cities with the highest African American population.

Carlos Watson, tech founder of Ozy, says prosecution is racially biased

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Carlos Watson, the co-founder of Ozy Media, is loudly claiming on social media and in a well-produced video that he has been targeted as a black entrepreneur in the mostly white tech world.

Ozy collapsed after Watson was indicted for fraud in February 2023. Federal prosecutors alleged that Watson and his company defrauded investors out of "tens of millions." Prosecutors claim that Watson ran a company that was a fraudulent scheme to fool financial supporters based on false information about Ozy.

But in the tech world, over-inflating user data and success is generally standard practice. Watson is arguing that his prosecution is racially biased and that he was using often used tactics by tech entrepreneurs.

"The U.S. legal system criminalizes the actions of black #entrepreneurs such as OZY Media Founder Carlos Watson while giving their white counterparts a pass. Black entrepreneurs receive 1% of venture funding and 51% of the prosecution," wrote Watson on social media on June 21.

Watson's legal defense team is asking the Department of Justice to conduct a racial bias investigation on the Brooklyn prosecutors who are working on his case. Watson claims that the three white prosecutors focused on him have overwhelmingly prosecuted black people and other people of color while only ten percent of their prosecutions are black.

In February, federal prosecutors accused Watson of running Ozy "like a criminal organization."



Watson

"There's a not-so-secret track record of double standards in prosecution of black people for identical allegations as our counterparts. Acknowledging this does not suggest indifference, but of the reality we face," wrote Dr. Nehemiah Mabry on twitter regarding Watson's prosecution.

Ozy recently released a statement regarding ten one thousand dollar grants that have not been delivered to their "genius award" recipients.

Kenneth Montgomery, an attorney on Watson's legal team, said in a statement that, "the unwarranted criminal charges brought the company to a complete standstill and forced the cessation of operations. The Watson family firmly believes in making higher education accessible to all, which is why they co-founded Achieve College Prep Service well before Mr. Watson founded OZY."

Carlos Watson, 53, is a graduate of Harvard University, Stanford University and Stanford Law School.

The danger of leaving a child in a parked car

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Every year, this tragic incident occurs where a child suffers a heatstroke or even lose their lives due to someone leaving their child in a car. 53% of child car deaths happen because someone forgot a child in the back seat. Most people have asked themselves: “How does this happen”? Hot car deaths don’t just occur in the summer heat. On average, the first vehicular heatstroke of the year happens in March according to Jan Null, who has been tracking child car deaths since 1998. The tracking discovered:

- About 46% of the time when a child was forgotten, the caregiver meant to drop the child off at a daycare or preschool.
- Thursdays and Fridays – the end of the workweek – have had the highest deaths.
- 26.3% of the children gained access into the car on their own and got trapped.
- 18.9% of the children were knowingly left in the car by a childcare provider at daycare.
- 0.9% of the children were found in the car without anyone knowing how they got there.
- More than half of the deaths (54%) are children under 2 years old.

In a study conducted in 2002 by the American Academy of Pediatrics, a dark blue mid-sized car was used to test how the temperature increased inside of a car over a one-hour period.

The study established:

- Opening or “cracking” the windows had little effect to cool the interior.
- Two-thirds of the most rapid heating occurred in the first 20 minutes.
- Vehicle interior color was probably the biggest factor in how quickly the interior temperature increased.
- Even when outside temperatures averaged 61° F during the first hour of testing, the inside of a parked car could exceed 105° F.

Once your body reaches a core temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit, heatstroke can occur, causing toxins to flood your body and lead to cell death. At 106°, your body begins to convulse. Once your body temperature reaches 108°, irreversible brain damage will occur.

The interior of your closed car heats quickly because sunlight heats up elements inside, such as the dash, upholstery and steering wheel according to tonoheatstroke.org. This occurs especially if the color of the vehicle is darker. Those elements release their heat into the air (heat rises), increasing the temperature inside your car. Opening or “cracking” the windows had little effect to cool the interior.

“Cracking” open your car window does not help cool down your car’s interior. A study survey was conducted to discover if people still held the



Ranked states by their respective pediatric vehicular heatstroke deaths per capita. Here are the top ten states from that report:

State	Deaths Per Capita
<u>Mississippi</u>	32.46
<u>Louisiana</u>	31.66
<u>Arizona</u>	29.32
<u>Arkansas</u>	29.07
<u>Oklahoma</u>	28.81
<u>Alabama</u>	27.73
<u>New Mexico</u>	27.54
<u>Florida</u>	26.52
<u>Kentucky</u>	26.24
<u>Tennessee</u>	24.02

assumption that this behavior helped to mitigate the threat of potential heatstroke to their child left inside the car. The results of the survey found that the majority of Americans believe that there is no overall effect on the temperature inside of a car when rolling down the window on a hot day. Still a few still believe it does.

- 51.7% of respondents said cracking open a window does not lessen nor increase the threat of heatstroke to a potential victim inside a car.
- 32.9% of respondents said cracking open a window does lessen the threat of heatstroke.
- 15.5% of respondents said cracking open a window does not lessen the threat of heatstroke.

Consumer Reports wants automakers to integrate features that can detect children in the vehicle cabin and trigger an alert and get the technology into as many models as they can, as soon as they can. After-

market products often fall short because they still depend on adults recognizing the risk and taking some sort of action.

To ensure the safety of our children it’s essential for us to take proactive measures to prevent death due to hot cars. The following are a few strategies that can help to reduce your child’s risk:

- Education and Awareness: We need to raise awareness about the dangers of leaving our children unattended in a vehicle. Parents, caregivers and society as a whole should understand the risks and consequences and actively educate others about this issue. Public awareness campaigns, media coverage and community initiatives can play a vital role in spreading this message.
- Never Leave a Child Unattended: The cardinal rule is to never leave your child alone in a parked car, regardless of the duration. Your children should be attended to at all times. Even

another responsible adults can help by taking turns watching your child to ensure their safety.

- Vehicle Safety Measures: Utilize vehicle safety mechanisms to ensure your children are not left behind inadvertently. For example, some cars have motion sensors that can alert the driver if your child or pet is detected in the backseat of your car.
- Encourage Childcare Communication: If there is a change in your routine, such as a different person dropping off your child at daycare or school, establish communication protocols. Encourage your childcare provider to promptly contact the parents if your child does not arrive at the expected time.
- Community Involvement: Encourage businesses, shopping centers and public spaces to display awareness posters or stickers reminding parents not to leave their children unattended in cars. Establish community programs that incentivize responsible behavior, such as distributing informational brochures or organizing seminars.
- Be Vigilant: If you notice a child unattended in a vehicle, act promptly. Check if the car is locked and if necessary call emergency services. Do not hesitate to intervene if a child’s safety is at risk.

The most common response to children dying in cars is that only bad or negligent parents forget kids in cars. Noted PhD. professor David Diamond from the University of South Florida says. “It’s a matter of circumstances. “Forgetting a child is not a negligence problem but a memory problem.”

Remember this can happen to anyone.

Next week I’ll talk about “Heat stroke and Heat Exhaustion”

Vegan curious? Here’s how to get started



StatePoint

Following a vegan diet doesn’t just reduce one’s impact on the environment, it’s associated with a range of health benefits, making it no surprise that a plant-based food movement is on the rise.

“With more than 100,000 internet searches per month for ‘vegan recipes’ and ‘vegetarian recipes,’ it’s clear there is high demand for plant-based meals,” says Chef Fred Scarpulla, chief culinary officer at Amy’s Kitchen, an organic and vegetarian food company.

A recent national survey commissioned by Amy’s Kitchen and conducted by Atomik Research finds that 52% of Americans are vegan-curious, and men are even more inquisitive, with nearly 3 in 5 revealing an interest in cutting out animal products.

Every individual may have their own unique reasons, but the survey revealed Americans’ most common motivators for purchasing or eating plant-based foods were their health (55%), a desire to protect the environment (34%) and a preferred taste of plant-based ingredients (28%). No matter why you’re considering a vegan lifestyle, actually adopting one is not always easy. In fact, 72% of parents in households with dietary restrictions say finding prepared foods that meet their family’s needs is very or extremely challenging.

“Cutting down on meat and incorporating more plant-based foods into your diet doesn’t have to be complicated or restrictive,” says Chef Fred.

Whether you’re transitioning to a vegan diet, incorporating meatless Mondays into your routine or simply curious about meatless cooking, Chef Fred offers the following tips to help you get started:

- Don’t restrict yourself: While going vegan may sound like it’s all about cutting foods out, it’s actually an opportunity to explore new flavors and ingredients you may not have tried before,

and to indulge in vegan-friendly cuisines from around the world, such as Indian food and Thai food. Plus, these days, vegan alternatives to a number of favorite comfort foods, like enchiladas, pizza and even mac and cheese, abound.

- Keep it simple: As you build your repertoire of go-to vegan meals, take a mental inventory of your family’s favorite dishes. Many of them may already be vegan, or able to be made vegan with a few tweaks. Also, be sure to check out online resources offering vegan meal plans, which can help ensure your overall diet is balanced, satisfying and delicious.
- Look for shortcuts: Creating meals from scratch is not always possible for busy families. In fact, 56% of Americans want shortcuts to plant-based meals. Luckily, there are a growing number of convenient vegan meal options available. Amy’s Kitchen, for example, is founded on the principle that everyone should be able to enjoy a delicious, convenient meal, even those with dietary restrictions, which is why they don’t use meat, peanuts, fish, shellfish or eggs in any of their recipes, and why they offer gluten-free and kosher options.

The brand, which works with farmers using organic and regenerative farming practices to lessen its impact on the planet, has an expanding vegan menu that includes snacks, breakfast, lunch and dinner options, making it easy to ensure your diet aligns with your values and your desire to eat healthfully.

- Get creative: To reduce prep work, follow recipes that start with already prepared vegan foods. Visit amys.com/eating-well/ for recipes to access Amy’s Kitchen’s library of healthy vegan recipes.

Whether you choose to go fully vegan or simply want to incorporate more plants into your diet, rely on solutions that make it easy, convenient and delicious.

P R E S E R V E D

Will real Christians stand up for justice...not just us?

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Every few years, it seems like I have to write a column asking for real Christians to stand up against a social, racial or political injustice. This time, I'm asking the same question regarding recent US Supreme Court rulings regarding Affirmative Action, student loan forgiveness and religious freedom. For those who have paid attention to the Supreme Court adding more religiously conservative justices, it came as a disappointment but not a complete surprise that these rulings were announced.

Evangelical and conservative Christians celebrated the court's newest appointees, the exception being the confirmation of Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first African-American female justice. These same conservatives enthusiastically praised the court's ideological

shift to the right. The hope was that this meant that issues that were most important to them like ending abortion and protection of "religious freedoms" (not being forced to work on Sundays or to have to do business with people that your "religion" is not in support of) could happen.

So, what does this mean? Well...after years of strategic judicial maneuvers and strong voting turnout, those groups have gotten what they wanted. Roe vs. Wade was struck down and many states have enacted such strict laws that abortion is essentially outlawed. Moreover, Christians now have a legal example which supports them not having to do things that are against their religious beliefs like work on Sundays or provide business services to gays and lesbians. For some, these are answers to prayers.

For others, these are extremely dangerous signs of a hypocritical Christianity becoming the norm. There are now more "Christians" mas-

querading as men (and women) of God who continue to justify what is clearly racist, ungodly and unchristlike behavior using biblical scripture. In the case of the Colorado website business owner who won her case that argued she should not be forced to make wedding websites for gays and lesbians, it's now been revealed that some of the details of the case may not be true.

Among the many social media comments posted after these rulings, some said that Christians who praised these rulings are the reasons they are atheists and avoid church. Some Christians have rightfully criticized these rulings as being unchristlike. 2 Timothy 3:5 warns against having a form of godliness that denies the power of God.

It's now gotten to the point that I don't like telling people that I am a Christian. And when I do, I whisper, "I'm not like the "other" ones you keep reading about in the news."

In addition, Romans 13:9-

10 states that "and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law." It seems like these are more wasted opportunities to witness to others about the transformative and loving nature of God. It looks as though God is continuing to expose the hypocrisy of those who wrap themselves in Christianity but don't appear to have the heart or mind of Christ.

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.

Thankful for the Gospel – The Good News

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



I personally thank God for life spared and blessings bestowed. I believed that life is a gift from God. As the Scriptures say, God is the One who gives to all, life, and breath, ye and all good things. It is in Him that we live and move and have our being. I am thankful for the Gospel, the good news.

Jesus gave the church the commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. The gospel message is that Jesus came into this world, taught the way of life, and then gave His life so that we could have life.

People are starving for God. If anyone in all the world should be able to say, "I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory," it is the herald of God. And as we look out over the wasteland of our secular culture, must we, ministers, not ask: who but us will say to this people, "Behold your God?" Who will tell the people that God is great and greatly to be praised? Who will paint for them the landscape of God's grandeur? Who will labor to find words that can carry the "gospel of the glory of the blessed God?"

If God is not supreme in our preaching, where in this world will people hear about the supremacy of God? If we do not spread a banquet of God's beauty on Sunday morning, will not our people ask or seek in vain to satisfy their inconsolable longing with the cotton candy pleasures of past times and religious hype? If the fountain of

living water does not flow from the mountain of God's sovereign grace on Sunday morning, will not the people hew for themselves cisterns on Monday, "broken cisterns that can hold no water" (Jeremiah 2:13)? Give your people God.

Jesus Christ gave His church – this body of spiritually transformed believers – a responsibility to carry out. The church's mission is to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God and make disciples throughout the world teaching them exactly what Jesus taught (Mark 16:15; Matthew 24:14; Matthew 28:19-20).

The work of the church continues; it did not cease when the original disciples died. At first the job of the apostles, the church's mission has passed to each generation of God's people. Jesus promised to be with His followers as they accomplished that work until He returns at the end of the age (verse 20). Notice the purpose for which Jesus Christ sent the Apostle Paul to people in the world: "to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me." (Acts 26:18).

Paul also said: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). The Gospel is God's message of how salvation will be brought to mankind – starting with His Church.

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



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8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Services

WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class

TV BROADCAST
8:00 a.m. - Channel 14 (Comcast)

Prayer Everyday: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.



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REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR

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Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir




Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Live Radio Broadcast
WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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Crossroads Church of God
Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



Sunday Morning
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Sch: 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m.
(Fellowship following worship service 1st Sundays)

Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor
231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046
Church: 601-859-2858

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3242 ESSER III Program: Restroom Upgrades for Career Development Center

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) August 02, 2023, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A pre-bid conference for Career Development Center will be held at 2703 First Avenue, Jackson, MS 39209 at 2:00 p.m. on July 19, 2023. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$200.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Kenan Morris with Durrell Design Group at 601-708-4788 or at kmorris@durrelldesigngroup.com.

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

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

06/29/23, 07/06/23

LEGAL

**NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY
CITY OF JACKSON**

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 18th, 2023, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: Parcel 824-548 (Metro Center Dillard's Building and Parking Lot), located at 3645 Highway 80 West in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars and 00/100 cents (\$700,000.00). The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us.

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201), or submitted through Central Bidding <https://www.centralauctionhouse.com/main.php>. If submitted to the City Clerk, the outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on, along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, July 18th, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

If there are multiple equivalent high bidders a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be held to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

6/29/2023, 7/6/2023, 7/13/2023

LEGAL

**PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The City of Jackson is seeking submission of proposals from qualified professional firms for professional assistance with the following project: Master Developer: Downtown Properties Mixed-Use Development.

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

One (1) original and eight (8) signed copies of the proposal must be received no later than 3:29 P. M., on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at the City Clerk's Office, 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Mailed proposals should be addressed to the Office of the City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205-0017. Packets should be sealed and clearly marked "Master Developer: Downtown Properties Mixed-Use Development."

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

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

7/6/2023, 7/13/2023, 7/23/2023

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3241 ESSER Program: Classroom Upgrades for Career Development Center

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 11:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) August 01, 2023 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A pre-bid conference for Career Development Center will be held at 2703 First Avenue, Jackson, MS 39209 at 2:00 p.m. on July 19, 2023. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$350.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Kenan Morris with Durrell Design Group at 601-708-4788 or at kmorris@durrelldesigngroup.com.

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

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

06/29/23, 07/06/23

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PATSY HARPER, DECEASED CAUSE NO.: 21-254(M)

RULE 4 SUMMONS

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS:

Any and all persons or parties who are interested in or claim any right, title or interest as a wrongful death beneficiary of Patsy Harper, deceased, including, but not limited to, the unknown wrongful death beneficiaries of Patsy Harper, if they be living and not to be found therein after diligent search and inquiry and whose places of residence, post office, and street and house addresses are unknown after diligent street search and inquiry to ascertain the same, and if dead, their unknown descendants, devisees, executors, administrators or legal representatives are not to be found after diligent search and inquiry, and whose places of residence, post offices, and street and house addresses are unknown after diligent search and inquiry to ascertain the same. You have been made Defendants in the lawsuit filed in the Court by Felicia Harper to establish the wrongful death beneficiaries of Patsy Harper, deceased. The only Respondents other than you are Felicia Harper, Freda Shines, Lynn Campbell, Reginal Harper, Patrick Harper, Nathaniel Russell and Jeffrey Fortune.

You are required to mail or hand-deliver a written response to the Complaint filed against you in this action to R. Paul Williams, III, Attorney for Petitioner, whose post office address is Post Office Box 23785, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, and whose street address is 640 N. State Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39202.

YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE 15th DAY OF JUNE, 2023, WHICH IS THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS SUMMONS. IF YOUR RESPONSE IS NOT SO MAILED OR DELIVERED, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT.

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

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court at Rankin County, Mississippi, this the 19 day of June, 2023.

LARRY W. SWALES, CHANCERY CLERK
RANKIN COUNTY CHANCERY COURT

BY: [Signature], D.C.

6/22/2023, 6/29/2023, 7/6/2023

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PATSY HARPER, DECEASED CAUSE NO.: 21-254(M)

RULE 81 SUMMONS

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS:

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

IF TO BE FOUND IN THIS COUNTY, to be and appear before the Honorable John C. McLaurin, Jr. of the Chancery Court of Rankin County, at the Rankin County Chancery Courthouse in Brandon, Mississippi, on the 31st day of July, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., next, then and there to show cause, if any they can why Felicia Harper, Freda Shines, Lynn Campbell, Patrick Harper, Reginald Harper, Nathaniel Russell and Jeffrey Fortune should not be declared the only heirs-at-law of Patsy Harper, deceased, according to law, and further to do and suffer such things as shall be considered and ordered by the Court aforesaid in the premises, and have then and there this, with an endorsement thereon to the manner in which you shall have served.

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

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court at Rankin County, Mississippi, this the 19 day of June, 2023.

LARRY W. SWALES, CLERK
RANKIN COUNTY CHANCERY COURT

BY: [Signature], D.C.

6/22/2023, 6/29/2023, 7/6/2023

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BESSIE JACKSON, DECEASED CAUSE NO.: 21-127

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 15th day of April, 2021 by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to: the undersigned Administratrix of the Estate of Bessie Jackson, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this the 1st day of June, 2023.

KATTIE PARTEE, ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE
ESTATE OF BESSIE JACKSON, DECEASED

[Signature]
KATTIE PARTEE

Prepared by:

[Signature]

R. PAUL WILLIAMS, III (MSB# 102345)
COURTNEY M. WILLIAMS, (MSB# 102347)
MATT NEWMAN (MSB# 103654)
WILLIAMS NEWMAN WILLIAMS, PLLC
129D South President Street
Post Office Box 23785
Jackson, Mississippi 39225
Tel: (601) 949-5080
Fax: (601) 949-3358

6/22/2023, 6/29/2023, 7/6/2023

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LEGAL

Advertisement For Bids
WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES CITY PROJECT NO. RFP#2023-05

Sealed bids will be received by the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, July 18, 2023, for waste disposal services (as specified) necessary for REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2023-05.

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

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

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

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

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

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2023-05." Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal.

Bids, EBO and DBE plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

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

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

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

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

Christine Welch, Deputy Director Office of Transportation

6/22/2023, 6/29/2023, 7/6/2023, 7/13/2023

LEGAL

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

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

CAUSE NO.: 2023-27 T/I

PETITIONER: BENETA BURT

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on February 9, 2023, by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Administrator upon the Estate of Annie Lee Burt, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probation and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 2nd day of June, 2023.

Beneta Burt
Beneta Burt, Administrator

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, Beneta Burt Administrator for the Estate of Annie Lee Burt, deceased, who having been by me first duly sworn, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.

Damon Stevenson
NOTARY

Damon Stevenson
Stevenson Legal Group, PLLC
1010 N. West Street
Jackson, MS 39202
Telephone: (769) 251-0207, Facsimile: (601) 608-7872

7/6/2023 7/13/2023 7/20/2023

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

05554-072523 Eighteen-Month Supply of Barlights, Electronic Sirens, Switch Boxes, Speakers, Communication Organizers and Security Screens.

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

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

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

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

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

7/6/2023, 7/13/2023,

LEGAL

ELECTRONIC GATE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR
CITY PROJECT NO. RFP#2023-06

Sealed bids will be received by the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, July 18, 2023, for electronic gate maintenance and repair (as specified) necessary for REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2023-06.

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

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

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

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

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

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for ELECTRONIC GATE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2023-06." Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal.

Bids, EBO and DBE plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

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

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


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

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




Christine Welch, Deputy Director
Office of Transportation

6/22/2023, 6/29/2023, 7/6/2023, 7/13/2023

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

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Week of June 25, 2023

Affirmative action decision won't stop equal rights progress

By Dr. Gail C. Christopher
Executive Director, National
Collaborative for Health Equity



The decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to end affirmative action in higher education is much more than just a bad ruling; this is an embarrassment on a global scale.

It's based on the misguided notion that the Constitution, and even our society today, is colorblind. That's so far from the truth. In reality, what we have is a judicial authority that is in denial; denial of racism, denial of facts, denial of the consequences of this decision, denial of the harm to the people affected and denial of the hierarchy of human value that this nation was built upon and still reigns supreme in too many minds and institutions today.

Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts concluded that the approach used by Harvard University and the University of North Carolina violated the 14 Amendment and "cannot be reconciled with the guarantees of the Equal Protection Clause." That is duplicitous — that clause was designed to remedy the harm caused by denying rights and protection to people of color over centuries. For this court to use it to deny educational opportunities to people of color in the 21st century is hypocrisy at its best and cruel at worst. Their decision lacks empathy and compassion for millions.

Our Constitution was conceived in an environment of racial hierarchy. It was dedicated to the proposition that some people were not human. Blacks could be enslaved and had no human rights. During the 1787 United States Constitutional Convention, the infamous Three-fifths Compromise relegated enslaved people to be counted as 3-5ths of whites in a state's population.

That created an inequitable and unfair American society. Harvard Professor Roland G. Fryer, Jr. has quantified the consequences. Relative to Whites, Blacks earn 24% less, live five fewer years, and are six times more likely to be incarcerated on a given day.

Hispanics make 25% less than Whites and are three times more likely to be incarcerated. At the end of the 1990s, there were one-third more black men under the corrections system's jurisdiction than those enrolled in colleges or universities.

Despite improvement by

Blacks and Hispanics, there remain stark differences in access to quality education and opportunity that education affords. In a recent NCHE recent paper, Susan Eaton, director of the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy at the Heller School for Social Policy at Brandeis University, cited the racial disparity in poverty nationwide. About 24% of Native Americans, 20% of Blacks, and 17% of Latinos live in high-poverty neighborhoods compared to just 4 % of Whites. Disparities in schools are even more extreme, with 74% of Black and Latinos, 70% of Native Americans, and just 32 % of Whites attending schools where at least half of the students qualify for free and reduced lunches.

Clearly, American society remains far from a colorblind state where equity and equality are spread across all communities, rich and poor, Black, White, and Brown. It's astounding that the Supreme Court chose to ignore centuries of racism that has created a society where Blacks, Native Americans, and other people of color are forced to confront bias daily in their everyday life, at school, at work, at play and in their communities.

But there is hope for America. This Supreme Court is not a reflection of the people. This Court represents the opinions of a minority of our population. That has been demonstrated by the political uprising after the Court's rejection of a woman's right to her own reproductive decisions.

We may see a similar reaction to this Court decision limiting access to the nation's top educational institutions to people qualified to attend but have faced discrimination because of their skin color every day since birth.

NCHE has conducted research, which will soon be released, demonstrating that the American people want to put racism and political divisiveness behind us and move forward to create equitable communities.

America made tremendous progress after the murder of George Floyd. A watershed of honesty and sincerity opened up to address the realities of police brutality and the legacy of denial of humanity. Anytime there is a moment creating a seismic wave in society, one representing a transformation from the norm, there will be resistance. In this case, the opposition has a high level of authority and power, but it contradicts the minds and hearts of the majority of America.

You Are a Funny Little Lady

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
Guest Writer



Have you ever been around an individual who does not have a sense of humor? People with no sense of humor tend to be very serious, uptight, appear angry when you laugh, and smiling seems to be a treacherous, painful task. Some view laughter as silly, unprofessional, uncivilized, childlike, and some even perceive laughter as stupidity. However, laughter is fun, free, and it can be contagious, I love to see people laugh! I love being around people who smile and laugh. In fact, one of my favorite things that I often enjoy doing is making people laugh.

I love making people laugh from my family to my college students, to our church members, and others. Our children, especially our daughter, thoroughly enjoy my humor. For instance, when we go to a particular drive through restaurant and are greeted by outside workers asking us for our name and order; I sometimes give the name Brown Sugar or Madea. And loud bouts of laughter immediately start in our vehicle, to the worker, and then at the window where we pick up our order. According to my mother, I have been making people laugh for as long as she can remember. I could share many stories of how I have made people laugh. Furthermore, I have

had multiple students inform me that they would buy front row tickets if I ever did standup comedy.

To be frank, I cannot imagine life without laughter. Even God emphasis that laughter is good for the soul in Proverbs 17: 22. It has also been medically and scientifically proven that laughter can promote healing. According to the Mayo Clinic, a good laugh has several benefits:

- stimulates many organs
- activate and relieve your stress response
- soothe tension
- improve immune system
- relieve pain
- increase personal satisfaction
- improve your mood

The Mayo Clinic concludes that laughter is the best medicine. Very famous comedian, Bob Hope once stated that laughter is an "instant vacation." Jay Leno says, "you can't stay mad at somebody who makes you laugh.

I believe laughter is necessary in almost every facet of life, especially marriage. Can you imagine being married to someone who doesn't have a sense of humor? Can you imagine being in a marriage where there is absolutely no laughter? Do you know that laughter can be medicine for your marriage? How often do you and your spouse laugh together? When was the last time you and your spouse had a good laugh? Laughing with your spouse ac-

cording to Focus on the Family, is good medicine, having an important physiological effect on you and your soul mate. The Marriage.Com Website identifies the following ten benefits of couples laughing together:

- Better behavior with significant other
- Endocrine glands floods your body when you laugh — one of the direct benefits is that your mood will improve and when you're in a good mood, you automatically tend to behave better with your significant other.
- Great for your emotions — couples feel less defensive, and this makes such people pleasant to be around.
- Enhances communication within the romantic relationship — such a positive state of mind also means that they'll be more likely to engage in healthy and direct communication and listen to each other better.

- Humor adds excitement to long-term relationships — couples who actively use humor in their romantic relationship usually share a close and intimate bond.

- Greater intimacy through shared jokes — another great shortcut to closeness provided by humor in relationships is shared inside jokes — inside jokes can be as simple as a secret gesture, a single word, a facial expression, and so on.

- It's an effective stress-reliever — laughter alleviates stress.

- Humor is essential for a great sex life — often makes

space for laughter in the bedroom.

- More gratitude and mindfulness — have gratitude for one another.

- Humor is important for navigating through difficult times — laughter can make difficult or stressful times easier.

- Better health of both spouses -hormones released from laughing like, endorphins, dopamine, serotonin, etc. have positive effects on both mental and physical health.

Although, I do not have a particular laugh, I love laughing. I love it when my husband makes me laugh and when we laugh together. We both share a similar sense of humor from mimicking voices, enjoying similar comedy movies, and listening to comedians like Ricky Smiley, Bruce Bruce, Shuler King, (YouTube), etc. Further, we even both manage to make people laugh. I especially enjoy making my husband laugh just to hear him he say, "You are a funny Little Lady!"

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) on: Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-874-6176

Now that the Supreme Court Has Acted

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



African Americans in particular and people of color in general have a history of Supreme Court Decisions against their interest. When the Plessy vs Ferguson decision was handed down in 1896, the Court said "separate but equal was" old. We survived the "Jim Crow" era that followed: When the Court said in the Dred Scott Decision that "A Black man has no rights that a White man is bound to respect; we survived the indignity of being called everything except "Mister" as Maya Angelo said: "and still we rise". We have experienced the works of racist White Justices before. Today we are better educated and equipped than

we have ever been with full knowledge of options and alternatives. The only question is do we have the collective will to fight back?

Consider that while the Supreme Court has acted and has an embedded conservative majority for years to come. The Constitution does give us a way out of all the Decisions handed down against our interest. Years ago when the Court Ruled against Flag burning, the Congress passed a law which said while such activity was offensive to many, the existed a First Amendment right under Freedom of Speech to burn the flag if one decided to do so. Today just as the President is Proposing legislation to overcome the Student Loan Forgiveness, and the reversal of Roe v. Wade, the Congress can legislate the reversal of these Supreme Court Decisions. The problem is that we the people

must change out those Right leaning Conservative Members of Congress for people who support our points of view and will vote to make the desired legislative changes. We must run candidates in each of the 435 Congressional Districts that will commit to and support our goals and we must finance them as well as register to vote in such extreme numbers that we overcome the opposition.

We must remember that there are more people in America that share our views among young Whites and people of color than the conservative element that appears interested in returning Donald Trump to the Presidency.

Let us not forget that all the Republicans now running against Trump appear to speak out against him. Let us not forget that the very basis of the overwhelming support for Trump is racism. The racism

is based in a fear that America is changing to Whites becoming a minority rather than the majority they have always been. While this idea might be too much for some of us to think about, let's focus on the fact that if we register to vote, then we have a ticket in the American lottery of Democracy. We must then use that vote for people who support our cause, no matter what their race. We cannot engage in reverse racism, but rather winning for all of us who have a shared interest in the challenges before us. If the vote was important enough to try and keep it from us through Voter Suppression, then it's important enough for us to fight for.

Let us remember that our fight is for the collective and not just for each of us individually.

The Struggle really does continue. Will you be a part of it?

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Celebrating 20 years of service in the Greater Jackson Area.

National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Central MS Chapter, awards scholarships

Special to the Mississippi Link

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Central MS Chapter awarded \$10,000 in scholarships to 10 graduating high school seniors from the Central Mississippi area. The 2023 Scholarship & Awards Program, held on the campus of Tougaloo College in the Bennie G. Thompson Academic Center, featured Courtni Sutton as the keynote speaker. Devontae Phillips, a member of the Tougaloo Men's Ensemble, entertained the audience.

Sutton, a Jackson native, is a junior elementary education major at Jackson State University. During her inspirational words, she encouraged each scholarship recipient to keep pressing toward their goals no matter the obstacles they may encounter.

Guests in attendance proudly watched as each graduate received her scholarship, introduced herself, told of the institution she plans to attend in the fall, and her future goals. In addition, five former schol-



Left to right (seated) Hailey Burnes, Sha'Kyria Allen, Madison Word, Sydnee Thompson, Ashlyn Tate, Kara Pickett, Erin Nichols, Breanna Haynes, Kiersten Cox, and LaNiya Chappel Left to right (standing) Rita Wray, Luigia Hodge, Melony Horton, Barbara Monroe, Katrina B. Myricks, Courtni Sutton (speaker), Gaynell Tinsey, Minnie Jones-Erharbor, Cynthia Armstrong, and LaVerne Gentry

PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

arship recipients were featured in a video presentation entitled "Where Are They Now." The segment featured Janiyah Thomas, 2022 scholar; Jaylen Brown, 2016 scholar; Makayla

Wiley, 2015 scholar; Bria Paige, 2014 scholar; and FranTreaa Evans; 2011 scholar.

Rita Wray, president, stated that the organization is honored to assist with the young ladies'

educational expenses this fall.

Each year NCBW Central MS Chapter commits itself to providing scholarships to young ladies in our service area who plan to attend HBCUs. To date,

we have given over \$300,000 in scholarships.

The 2023 scholarship recipients are Sha'Kyria Allen, Vicksburg High School; Hailey Burnes, St. Andrew's Episcopal

School; LaNiya Chappel, Callaway High School; Kiersten Cox, Jim Hill High School; Breanna Haynes, Crystal Springs High School; Erin Nichols, Canton High School; Kara Pickett, St. Andrew's Episcopal School; Ashlyn Tate, Provide High School; Sydnee Thompson, JPS Tougaloo Early College High School (Jim Hill); and Madison Word, St. Andrew's Episcopal School.

Prospective schools the young ladies are planning to attend are Alcorn State University, Hampton University, Jackson State University, Southern University and A&M College, Tougaloo College, Tuskegee University and Xavier University.

Members of the Scholarship & Awards Committee are Luigia Hodge, First Vice President of Programs; Katrina B. Myricks, Chair; Cynthia Armstrong, LaVerne Gentry, Ethel Gibson, Melony Horton, Minnie Jones-Erharbor, Barbara Monroe, Gaynell Tinsey, and Dolores Wright. Rita Wray is the chapter's president.

Adult HSE diploma earners honored at special Hinds CC ceremony

JPS Newswire

Teirra Brown originally left high school in the 11th grade and enrolled in a program to finish her high school diploma. It turned out to be an illegitimate "diploma mill" that didn't follow through on its promise.

At age 33, Brown of Jackson celebrated finally receiving her high school equivalency certificate, formerly known as a GED, at an Adult Education ceremony at Hinds Community College's Raymond Campus on June 22.

"I want a better life, a better opportunity for my two kids," she said.

She did so well in the college's Adult Education program that she snagged an ACT scholarship worth \$1,500 a semester and hopes to eventually enroll in the nursing program.

She was among about 50 adult learners celebrating their accomplishments.

"I have joined in the journey with several of you. It hasn't been an easy one for everyone but you did it. You didn't give up," said Kristi Johnson, director of Adult Education and Training. "And you're sitting here and you earned it. You earned every bit of it, I hope you're proud of it."

Keynote speaker Marvin Moak, vice president of Facility Management & Auxiliary Services, recalled that he dropped out of high school. "It severely limited opportunities that I was going to have in my life. With a whole lot of prayers from my mom and a lot of action from my dad, I returned to school and later went to college. I became the first in my family to not only attend college but to graduate from college. None of this was easy. "Everyone's path is different," he said. "You are going to be presented opportunities. We have to make a



Teirra Brown of Jackson, 33, received a certificate recognizing receiving her High School Equivalency certificate from Hinds President Dr. Stephen Vacik. Behind them is Kristy Johnson, Director of Adult Education and Training.

choice, to take them or not. Each of you made the choice to take an opportunity. Don't stop. Opportunities taken will lead you to different places in the world, places you can't even imagine."

Herman Jensen of Clinton, 18, decided to earn his High School Equivalency certificate through Hinds' Adult Education program because it was "quicker." "I'm coming back to Hinds for Information Technology. I already have a carpentry certificate," he said.

With six campuses in central Mississippi, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of

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Our Vision: Hinds Community College will be a catalyst to create a competitive economy and a compelling culture for Mississippi.

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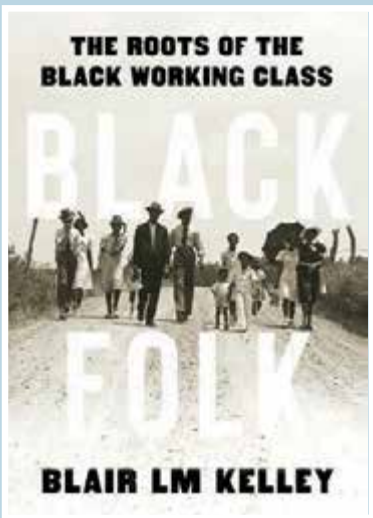
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Alisha McMillan of Pearl, 23, celebrated receiving her High School Equivalency certificate with her mom, Jessica McMillan.



Keynote speaker Marvin Moak, vice president of Facility Management & Auxiliary Services, second from right, with from left, Alisa Hughes, MI-BEST Navigator, Hinds President Dr. Stephen Vacik, Vice President Sherry Bellmon and Kristy Johnson, director of Adult Education and Training. BRAD SMITH/HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE



BOOK REVIEW:

BLACK FOLK:
THE ROOTS OF THE BLACK WORKING CLASS

BY BLAIR LM KELLEY

C.2023, LIVERIGHT

\$30.00 • 338 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

At least you won't have to move. You keep telling yourself that, ever since the boss decided to downsize this year, work-place and all: a reduced staff and work-from-home options means a smaller office and big change, which is fine with you. In the new book "Black Folk" by Blair LM Kelley, your ancestors never had it this good.

In the years immediately following Emancipation, former slaves were shut out of nearly every job other than domes-

tic and sharecropping and they "still faced circumstances almost as degrading as those of slavery." Hoping for better lives, black workers first headed from farm to big city, in the hope of landing good jobs.

"My work as a historian has always begun with the stories of my ancestors," says Kelley and she opens this book with an angry man, his son, and the story of Henry, who was "born in bondage" and ultimately became a blacksmith. Kelley admits that she doesn't know much about Henry's earliest life but in adulthood, he became a voter and "he was part of a community" – something that Kelly "found time and again" had given "black folks [a] sense of self."

Like many black women in the 1920s, Sarah Hill was a washer-woman hired to launder white folks' clothes. It was an honorable job, one of the few available to black women, but while it didn't pay well, it paid enough for Sarah to put a little money aside. It allowed her some control over her own life then.

Callie House helped washer-

women organize. Cottrell Del-lums belonged to an organization of black porters. As a young teenager, Minnie Savage was "near the front of a grand exodus north" when she snuck away from her parents' home. To her great irritation, Minnie could only find domestic work in Philadelphia. And after moving north, Hartford Boykin landed a job but his past kept returning to him.

"From his mother, Hartford learned that black freedom was precarious."

Remember how totally dry


your high school history books were? Yeah, this is nothing like those. "Black Folk" lets readers get to actually know people who lived a century ago or more. It's like being carefully handed a living, breathing story to hold.

In using her own family tree as a launching point, author Blair LM Kelley lends detail to tales she's heard all her life and knows well. This is no small thing: it assures readers that there's authenticity inside every anecdote, that they're not told with guesswork but with real first-hand knowledge.


Alongside that, Kelley uses her experience as a historian to show how her ancestors represent most of the black working class between roughly 1865 and 1940, and how their journeys were like so many others in the Great Migration.

On this, readers will be happy that both men and women stand tall here.

This is one of those books that's meant to savor, to explore and enjoy. For historians and anyone who had a Great Migration ancestor, reading "Black Folk" is a good move.



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Rev. Stephen Tyrone Cook, becomes new Sr. Pastor of Anderson United Methodist Church

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

Anderson United Methodist Church held an installation service for their new shepherd, Pastor Stephen Tyrone Cook, Sunday, July 2, 2023.

"It is with great privilege and honor that I have been appointed to be your next senior pastor of Anderson United Methodist Church," he wrote. "With more

than twenty years of faithful service as a United Methodist, my family and I are excited to share our message of God's love for His people with our Anderson family."

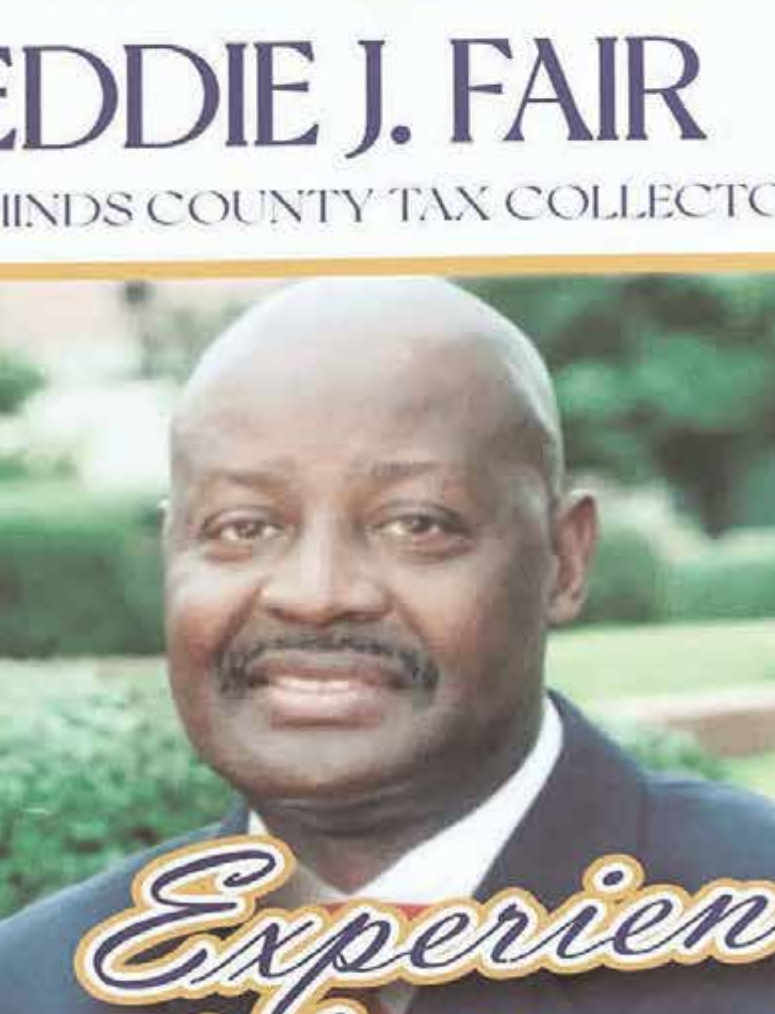
Anderson is located at 6205 Hanging Moss Road. Pastor Cook, a native of Carrollton, MS spoke on the subject, "God Gets the Glory."



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Paid for by friends of Eddie Fair