

Jackson Airport takeover goes to the full Fifth Circuit

Seven years in, a final decision appears to be drawing closer as other oppression persists



PHOTO: EN BANC COURTROOM. [HTTPS://WWW.CA5.USCOURTS.GOV/](https://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/)

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

When Mississippi’s white conservative legislators decide they want something that doesn’t belong to them, they take it – or at least try their hardest to take it. For them, nothing is more important than power.

They don’t do well with the reality or even the idea of black leadership. They never admit to their sinful behavior. They never make the connection that this is why Mississippi is last.

Taking over resources of the predominantly black City of Jackson is just part of the unceasing effort to reign supreme partly by attacking black leadership and black economics at every opportunity.

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority v. Harkins (Josh Harkins,

COMMENTARY

District 20 Senator from Rankin County) Case No. No. 21-60312, came about after the 2016 session when the legislature passed, and former Governor Bryant signed into law SB2162, abolishing the airport authority (five commissioners selected by city government) and replacing it with a regional authority composed of nine commissioners, only two of whom are selected by Jackson city government, per <https://casetext.com/case/jackson-mun-airport-auth-v-harkins>.

Against a decades-long backdrop of periodic attempts, in 2023, a blitz of Jackson takeover bills arose from Mississippi’s supermajority republican legislature. Here are the most egregious:



Anti-HB1020 rally on January 31, 2023. PHOTO: CHRIS YOUNG

HB1020 – to create a special judicial district within the city of Jackson with judges appointed instead of elected as they are everywhere else in the state. And also, to expand an existing Capital Complex Improvement District (CCID) patrolled by Capitol Police to cover an area of north Jackson that contains most of the city’s white population. Modifications making chief justice-appointed judges temporary, through 2026, then adding another permanent elected judge for the Hinds County district that covers Jackson, then giving Capitol Police jurisdiction throughout the entire city of Jackson, not just in the CCID. As predicted, lawsuits were filed, and this law is currently before the U.S. District Court, per numerous sources.

SB2343 – referred to as a companion to HB1020, revised the jurisdiction of the Department of Safety in CCID to have concurrent jurisdiction with the City of Jackson Police and throughout Hinds County and requires permission of the Capitol Police Chief for Department of Public Safety Commissioner prior to any public events taking place in proximity to state properties. This bill became law on April 21, 2023, per <https://legiscan.com/MS/text/SB2343/id/2773533>, but has been delayed by Federal Judge Henry Wingate after suit by Jackson Undivided Coalition and others on First Amendment grounds.

SB2889 – to create a new regional water-authority board to

*Airport
Continued on page 3*

Affixing the label of indoctrination attempts to rewrite U.S. history

Anything contrary to white conservative views of America are now labeled indoctrination

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Once upon a time, indoctrination was viewed as teaching in fundamental ways that most everyone seemed to agree on. You know, things like don’t touch the hot stove, police are your friends, be home before the streetlights come on, honesty is the best policy, respect your elders, all people are equal in God’s eyes, you get more with honey than vinegar, if you don’t succeed keep trying, apologize when you are wrong—things like that. In recent years that has certainly changed, not for most people it appears, but for many.

Merriam-Webster says that indoctrination is “to imbue with a usually partisan or sectarian opinion, point of view, or principle. To instruct especially in fundamentals or rudiments. To teach.” The website www.vocabulary.com says the purpose of indoctrination is “teaching someone to accept a set of beliefs without questioning them. Your sister’s orientation at her new job might seem more like indoctrination if she comes home robotically recit-

COMMENTARY

ing her corporate employee handbook.” There is a rigor to indoctrination – views and principals driven home, based on their perceived importance, whether it be from parent to child, teacher to student, or employer to employee.

In an article by The Hill, on April 9, 2023, they say that “In the last two years, 15 states have adopted educational gag orders restricting “discussions of race, racism, gender, and American history” in public schools, with seven states applying such orders to public higher education. Campaigns to eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, undermine tenure, ban or sanitize books, and appoint MAGA (Make America Great Again) extremists to public university boards are well underway. Yet almost all the conservative claims about left-wing indoctrination are wrong.”

The Hill article is titled, “The myth of ‘woke’ indoctrination of students.” They appear to illuminate the real purpose of using words like woke and in-

doctrination. “For the first time in decades, education policy has become a major issue in a Republican presidential campaign. Last month, former President Donald Trump, a frequent critic of “radical left indoctrination,” declared that he would cut funding to schools espousing “critical race theory,” “transgender insanity” or “any other inappropriate racial, sexual or political content.

Trump was trying to outbid Florida’s Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has vowed to curb “woke indoctrination” and the use of tax dollars to teach kids “to hate our country or to hate each other.” South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, another potential Republican presidential contender, calls “defeating anti-American indoctrination” in schools “the biggest cultural challenge of our lifetime” and has pledged to restore “honest, patriotic education.”

How exactly does telling the truth about us and our country’s past equate with teaching children to hate our country? How does telling the truth or even exposing American’s – students and grown-ups alike – to the

truth about our history equate with being anti-American? Affixing the words woke and indoctrination is purely a political tool, nothing more. And in their thirst for power and prestige, these extreme conservatives display a level of willful ignorance that is shocking and harmful to our nation’s progress.

Is there any reasonable or fair-minded person in the United States that actually believes our government treated Native Americans fairly? They inhabited this land long before we did, and we broke promises (The Treaty of Ft. Laramie of 1868) and then forcefully removed them from their land (Trail of Tears beginning in 1930). That’s just the beginning of that story, which continues to the present day. Telling that truth is not designed to make students hate their country, it is designed to be honest about America’s history, and contribute to a deeper understanding of our complex experiment with democracy.

Did slavery happen in what

*History
Continued on page 3*

Coco Gauff wins the US Open for her first Grand Slam title at age 19 by defeating Aryna Sabalenka



Gauff

By Howard Fendrich
AP Tennis Writer

Coco Gauff is still a teenager, after all, and so it should surprise no one that she was on her phone in the locker room, scrolling through social media, right up until 10 minutes before heading out on court for the U.S. Open final.

What the 19-year-old from Florida was reading, she would say later, were various comments, negative ones, “saying I wasn’t going to win today; that just put the fire in me.”

As a pro athlete from a young age, as someone of whom greatness has been expected by some and doubted by others, Gauff has always taken it all in and kept moving forward, trying to learn from each setback. And now, at a tournament she used to visit as a kid to see her idols, Serena and Venus Williams, Gauff is a Grand Slam champion herself and a certified star.

Setting aside a so-so start Saturday, Gauff surged to a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over the soon-to-be-No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the final at Arthur Ashe Stadium, delighting a raucous crowd that backed her from start to finish.

When Gauff walked into her news conference phone in hand, of course she noticed that a large screen on the back wall was rotating pictures of her from the match. So she tucked her new silver trophy under one arm and used the other hand to snap a selfie with those photos in the background.

“Right now I’m just feeling happiness and a very, very small bit of relief,” she explained. “Because honestly, at this point, I was doing it for myself and not for other people.”

Gauff, who is from Florida, is the first American teenager to win the country’s major tennis tournament since Serena Williams in 1999. If last year’s U.S. Open was all about saying goodbye to Williams as she competed for the final time, this year’s two weeks in

New York turned into a “Welcome to the big time” moment for Gauff. Famous people were coming to watch her play, including former President Barack Obama, who was among those sending congratulatory wishes on Saturday. Also, Gauff and her parents received a congratulatory phone call from President Joe Biden, who was in New Delhi for the Group of 20 summit.

Gauff burst onto the scene at 15 by becoming the youngest qualifier in Wimbledon history and making it to the fourth round in her Grand Slam debut in 2019. She reached her initial major final at last year’s French Open, finishing as the runner-up to Iga Swiatek, a loss that stung.

“I watched Iga lift up that trophy, and I watched her the whole time,” Gauff recalled. “I said, ‘I’m not going to take my eyes off her, because I want to feel what that felt like for her.’”

Another down moment came this July at the All England Club, where she exited in the first round. Since then, she has won 18 of 19 matches, and now 12 in a row, while working with a new coaching pair of Brad Gilbert and Pere Riba.

The No. 6-seeded Gauff did it Saturday by withstanding the power displayed by Sabalenka on nearly every swing of her racket, eventually getting accustomed to it and managing to get back shot after shot. Gauff broke to begin the third set on one such point, tracking down every ball hit her way until eventually smacking a putaway volley that she punctuated with a fist pump and a scream of “Come on!”

Soon it was 4-0 in that set for Gauff. Didn’t take long for her to close it out, then drop to her back on the court, before climbing into the stands to find her parents.

“You did it!” Gauff’s mom told her, both in tears.

In addition to her trophy, Gauff was handed an envelope with the champion’s \$3 million paycheck, the same amount Novak Djokovic or

*Gauff
Continued on page 5*



Hometown hero: Richard Bradley named Grand Marshal of JSU Homecoming Parade

By Rachel James Terry
Director of Public Relations,
Jackson State University

Jackson State University alum, entrepreneur, contractor and philanthropist Richard Bradley will serve as Grand Marshal of JSU’s Homecoming Parade Saturday, Oct. 14, in downtown Jackson, kicking off at 8 a.m. This year’s homecoming theme is “Thee Legacy Continues.”

“To be selected as the grand marshal for the Jackson State Homecoming Parade is such an honor,” said Bradley, a 2001 and 2010 graduate of the HBCU.

As the chief culture officer (CCO) of A3 Consulting, Bradley has been building his legacy in the capital city for over 15 years. His company specializes in project management, business marketing and operations.

“[With me] being from the city of Jackson gives kids hope when I am able to do economic development throughout the city, when it comes to [recreation] leagues, when it comes to parks, or when it comes to anything that can change the culture of a community,” shared Bradley while supervising a job site his company is demoing. The West Jackson space is the future home of a youth com-



Richard Bradley is married to Tamika Bradley, retired JSU professor, and they have three children. PHOTO SPECIAL TO JSU

munity center and retail outlet in West Jackson for the Erick Dampier Foundation.

“We are proud to have Richard as Grand Marshal of our homecoming parade. One aspect of homecoming is coming back and giving back. Richard exhibits this spirit as an alum in all he does – from philanthropy to service. He is uplifting our university and the community by investing his resources and leading by example,” said Acting President Elayne Hayes-Anthony, Ph.D. “We are grateful for alums such as him

and the many others who help continue ‘Thee JSU Legacy.’”

During the city’s sanitation crises, the JSU alum organized his crew and used his company’s resources to ensure those in most need continued to receive waste disposal services.

“When the community cries out, we’re here to serve. People are out sitting on their porches, and they are anxious about what will happen next. It’s just an unknown. That’s what we’re here for, to come out and support the citizens, support the communi-

ties that have helped build us up as small businesses that have been in this community for over 40 years,” explained Bradley, who holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master’s of Science in Education from JSU.

Bradley, also the CEO of Metropolitan Bar and Grille (MBar), said that being of service is the legacy he hopes to leave for his three children. He lives by his motto, “progressing communities forward through education, development and leadership.”

“Being a philanthropist here in the city and the state of Mississippi, you want people to remember what you did for the community, how you changed or affect[ed] people’s lives, how you made a difference in the community, and doing things that will be remembered hundreds of years from now,” he said.

Bradley is a former championship forward for the JSU Tigers Basketball Team and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. For three years, he served as assistant coach of the JSU Women’s Basketball Team under the leadership of head coach Tomekia Reed.

As a staunch JSU supporter, Bradley hosts fundraisers for the

university’s athletic program. The most recent one, held by Acting President Elayne Hayes-Anthony, Ph.D., at Bradley’s entertainment venue, the MBar, netted over \$300,000.

“Richard is a longtime friend of the university and the Division of Athletics. He does not hesitate to contribute his time and energy to ensure our student-athletes have what is necessary to be contenders on the field and in life,” said JSU Vice President of Athletics and Athletic Director Ashley Robinson. “What he is doing to revitalize his hometown should be celebrated and congratulated. I think his character, work ethic and contributions to Jackson State warrant the honor of Grand Marshal, and we are glad to have him represent JSU in this fashion.”

Bradley shared that he wants his children to learn from his example and is working to create a better Jackson for his family and its residents.

“I believe that no matter where you live, people desire and deserve a great quality of life. I believe that construction and entertainment are two areas that can impact the quality of life in any environment. So, that’s what we focus on, and that’s why I went

into the business of contracting and entertainment,” said Bradley, who emphasizes that people need places to unwind and relax after working long hours.

“Throughout the city, as a native, I want others to see the potential of my hometown. The city of Jackson has many areas within it that can be considered ‘hidden jewels.’ As a contractor, I am committed to staying here and working to revitalize these areas. That makes a difference. The quality of life is what we’re working toward to change the community here in Jackson.”

Jackson State’s homecoming is Oct. 7-14, and Bradley is looking forward to the reconnection it brings.

“When homecoming comes around, you get a chance to see those people you’ve known for 20 to 30 years. It’s a wonderful opportunity to reflect and nurture those relationships and appreciate the people you’ve met in your life that began at ‘my dear ole college home.’”

The deadline to register for the JSU homecoming parade is Sunday, Sept. 17. After the 17th, a late fee will be added, and the entry fee will increase. The final parade registration deadline is Sept. 30.



Less worrying and more living.



BluePrimaryCare
WOMEN'S WELLNESS MISSISSIPPI

bcbsms.com | @BlueCrossBlueShieldofMississippi

Airport

Continued from page 1

oversee the system’s water, sewer and drainage systems. The governor and lieutenant governor would appoint a majority of the board. After passing in the Senate, this bill died on the calendar in the House Public Utilities committee.

HB1168 – which directs certain municipalities (read Jackson) to spend 100% of income from their 1% sales tax on water and sewer only, in the initial bill, then infrastructure more broadly after amendments, along with a ten-member commission for oversight with only four members appointed by the municipality mayor. This bill became law on March 27, 2023, per <https://legiscan.com/MS/text/HB1168/id/2752473>.

We can’t forget about Jackson Public Schools being perilously close to being taken over on two different occasions in 2017.

These takeovers and takeover attempts are a lot to take in. Usurping voting rights, policing autonomy, revenue utilization, control of utilities, constitutional rights to assemble and peacefully protest. And all of it comes on the heels of reducing

Gauff

Continued from page 1

Daniil Medvedev will get after the men’s final Sunday. This is the 50th anniversary of when the 1973 U.S. Open became the first major sports event to pay women and men equal prize money; the person who led that effort, Hall of Fame player and rights advocate Billie Jean King, was on hand Saturday.

“Thank you, Billie,” Gauff said, “for fighting for this.”

Sabalenka came in 23-2 at majors in 2023, including a title at the Australian Open. The 25-year-old from Belarus already was assured of rising from No. 2 to No. 1 in the rankings next week (Gauff will be No. 3 in singles, No. 1 in doubles).

That ranking milestone is “why I’m not super depressed right now,” Sabalenka said, then joked: “I’m definitely going to be. I’m definitely going for a drink tonight – if I’m allowed to say that.”

She was reduced to the role of foil by the fans in 23,000-capacity arena. Setting the tone, Gauff’s pre-match TV interview, shown in the arena, was drowned out by the sound of applause and yells reverberating off the closed retractable roof.

Winners by Gauff were celebrated as if the match were over. So were Sabalenka’s miscues. When Sabalenka heard cheers during the post-match ceremony, she joked: “You guys could have supported (me) like this during the match.”

By the end, she had 46 unforced errors, Gauff 19. Here’s another way to view it: Gauff only

or ignoring Jackson’s bond requests for decades.

Remember when, speaking to Paul Gallo on SuperTalk radio in 2011, “His voting record didn’t tell the whole story, Reeves said. For instance, take the millions in bonds the city had requested to repair its crumbling water and sewer infrastructure. “I’ve never voted against that because it’s never gotten to the Bond Commission. We are talking to the city of Jackson,” Reeves said. “If we are not comfortable, we never bring it up for a vote.”

The Bond Commission decided not to consider issuing bonds for Jackson water projects that had been authorized by the Legislature, Reeves said. “Let’s just say there is an economic development in a town that doesn’t have a lot of political power,” Gallo responded. “The Bond Commission can just refuse to take it up? ... Isn’t that the same thing as a negative vote?” “It is the same thing as a negative vote,” Reeves said. Most years, the Legislature authorizes projects in one king-sized measure, known in legislators’ parlance as “the



Coco Gauff celebrates her first Grand Slam win.
PHOTO BY DERREL JAZZ JOHNSON FOR ROLLING OUT

needed 13 winners to accumulate 83 points.

“Sometimes, I can get emotional,” Sabalenka said. “Today on the court, I was overthinking and I was missing ... balls I shouldn’t be missing.”

When Sabalenka has everything calibrated just right, it’s difficult for any foe to handle it –even someone as speedy, smart and instinctive as Gauff, whose get-to-every-ball court coverage kept points alive.

Sabalenka credited Gauff’s superb defense – “definitely, she was moving just unbelievable” and “I always had to play like an extra ball” – but also thought many mistakes were “more about me than her. I lost this match.”

When Sabalenka was on-target early, she dominated. During a four-game run to close the opening set, one thrilling point had the audience

big bond bill.” Then, the Bond Commission – made up of the governor, attorney general and state treasurer – votes on whether to issue the bonds, per the Associated Press.

Back to the airport, a true economic engine for the 80+% black City of Jackson, some rulings were made on May 10, 2023, but then the panel withdrew that May 10th rulings on August 25, 2023 and issued a new ruling. Then four days later, on August 29, 2023, the panel vacated the August 25th ruling and based on a poll of the panel, had ordered an en banc (full court) hearing of the cause, per https://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/21-60312.pdf?sfvrsn=f9f1c92d_2.

Never offering genuine help, deliberately denying formal infrastructure bond requests that are approved for other municipalities, then subjugating our city and its people at every turn. If not for the federal government and federal courts, we would already be overcome by these oppressors. Regardless of the Constitution, they just never stop.

making noise before it was over. Gauff scrambled to get Sabalenka’s strokes back, including somehow deflecting a booming overhead, before a second, unreachable overhead bounced into the seats.

Sabalenka raised her left hand and wagged her fingers, telling spectators to give her some love.

But soon, Gauff was playing better, Sabalenka was off-target more, and the love was being showered only on one of them, the sport’s newest Grand Slam champion.

“Many more to come,” Sabalenka said, “I’m pretty sure.”

That will now be the pressure placed on Gauff: When’s the next one? That’s no easy burden. Consider: Two of the previous four U.S. Open women’s champions were teens at the time, Bianca Andreescu in 2019 and Emma Raducanu in 2021, and neither has come close to replicating that success yet.

Gauff’s maturity on and off a court should help her now as much as ever.

“I have just been embracing every positive and negative thing that’s said about me. I realize sometimes people have different personalities and some people need to shut off the comments and not look at them. But I’m an argumentative person. I’m very stubborn,” said Gauff, who chatted with her boyfriend until 1 a.m. the night before the biggest match of her life so far.

“My parents know: If they tell me one thing, I like to do the other.”

Spoken like a true teen.

History

Continued from page 1

is now known as the United States of America? Yes, it did, and it was brutal and evil beyond what words can ever describe. Man’s despicable inhumanity toward man, woman and children knows no bounds. Is telling the truth about it unpatriotic? The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 didn’t end slavery in the United States completely, hence the 13th Amendment in 1865. Yet 56 years later, white supremacists murdered hundreds of African Americans in the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and injured hundreds more, while burning Black Wall Street to the ground. The European Americans just couldn’t stand to see blacks thriving – couldn’t allow them equity. Is it unpatriotic to speak that truth, or to teach that truth? Many among us would like to whitewash it from U.S. History.

Education only becomes indoctrination when in the words of a 2007 American Association of University Professors subcommittee report, “an instructor insists that students accept as truth propositions that are in fact professionally contestable,” and presents “such propositions dogmatically, without allowing students to challenge their validity or advance alternative understandings.”

The report continues, “Thus, it is not indoctrination for a professor to assert her belief, based on research and disciplinary expertise, that systemic racism is (or is not) a defining feature of American life, gender is (or is not) fluid, capitalism is (or is not) the best system for allocating goods and services. It is indoctrination only if the professor refuses to countenance discussion or debate about these claims.”

The website www.insidehighered.com shared on the topic of The True Purpose of a College Education, on November 4, 2021. They cited a Strada Education Foundation survey that asked important questions, “Are we doing enough to help students articulate the value of college beyond its employment and income outcomes? If most graduates think that a college education’s essential value lies in career preparation, then we’re doing a poor job of explaining our broader objectives: to produce culturally literate, well-rounded adults who are knowledgeable about the arts, the humanities and the social, behavioral and natural sciences, who can think critically, communicate effectively, argue logically and solve complex problems.”

Affixing the labels of indoctrination and woke to anything that runs contrary to maintaining a white conservative power structure is a cancer in our society today – a deliberate mechanism to rewrite our complicated history – just another page from the playbook of white supremacy. It’s easy to note that almost without exception, its only white people using the terms.

The tragedy of 9/11 revisited 22 years later

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

Tuesday marked the 22nd anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the American soil. This particular moment was the day that defined the beginning of the 21st Century for Americans. On that brutal day, 2,977 people were killed and over 6,000 were injured in the deadliest terrorist attacks in American history. As part of a mission orchestrated by Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, 19 men hijacked four airplanes.

Media reports indicate that Americans gathered at memorials, firehouses, city halls and other places to pay tribute to the victims on Tuesday. Commemorations stretched from the attack

sites at New York’s World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania – to Alaska and beyond. President Joe Biden reminded Americans that every corner of the nation, however remote, felt the impact of 9/11. The hijacking destruction, heretofore, reshaped American foreign policy and domestic fears.

Vice President Kamala Harris was attending a ceremony at Ground Zero on the National September 11 Memorial and Museum Plaza. Instead of prodding political figures to speak, the event welcomed remarks from victims’ relatives which resulted in an hours-long reading of the names of the dead. The ceremony was a continuation of love displayed by loved ones to their deceased rela-

tives.

According to Hawker Vanguard, reporter for North Carolina (Queen City News), flight attendant Betty Ong is remembered for her heroism on 9/11. “From her jumpseat in the back of the plane (board 11), Betty Ong relayed invaluable information about the men who strong-armed their way onto the flight deck after murdering two flight attendants. Eighty-seven people who lost their lives were on board American 11.

Vanguard pinpointed that Ong carried pride and responsibility with her. Every time she put on the uniform, she told herself, “Do it for flight 11. The 25 flight attendants and 8 pilots lost on September 11th are remembered here at the World Trade Center Memo-

rial in lower Manhattan, but the crew of flight 11 will always be remembered for their voice of bravery...for being the first to tell America it was under attack.”


Peter Alexzander, Phil Helsel and The Associated Press reported that Biden spoke in the State Dining Room at the White House on Wednesday, September 6, that he would not approve conditions proposed by lawyers for 9/11 criminal defendants who are seeking a plea agreement. “The President concurred with the Secretary of Defense’s recommendation not to accept the Joint Policy Principles that had been proposed by the 9-11 defendants as a basis for plea negotiations,” stated National Security Council spokesperson. Thus, Biden has

left military prosecutors and defense lawyers to try to hash out an agreement.

Still under discussion are the terms that would have the five detainees at Guanta’namo Bay, Cuba, plead guilty and serve life sentences in exchange for being spared the death penalty. Biden did not deem it essential to accept the “joint policy principles” as a basis for a pretrial agreement in what were the deadliest attacks on U.S. soil since the attack on pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 1941,” noted the NSC official.

Pretrial hearings for the five defendants have been underway at the U.S. military commission at Guanta’namo Bay for more than a decade, with no trial date set.





RE-ELECT

JODY OWENS

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

VOTE Tuesday, November 7th, 2023 and join me in the fight for a safer Hinds County!

JSU Professor Mark Henderson premiered on Wheel of Fortune September 12 and outperformed other players

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Mark Henderson, assistant professor of speech and theater at Jackson State University, appeared on the 41st season of the syndicated game show “Wheel of Fortune” and started the game off with a bang. He rang the buzzer and guessed the very first answer to the puzzle, “THE TOWER OF LONDON,” immediately winning \$1,000. He didn’t stop there. When his turn came around again he guessed the letter ‘C’ and was able to figure out the puzzle, taking his score to \$4,000. Henderson outperformed the other two players and went on to win the game, allowing him to go to the bonus round. He had three categories he could choose from in the bonus round and he chose PHRASE. The phrase

was a difficult one to figure out. ‘Whirling Around’ was the answer which he was not able to guess. Malena Dow, a retired JSU instructor not only taught Henderson while at Jackson State, but was also his advisor. She was extremely proud when she learned of his performance on Wheel of Fortune and stated, “Mark Henderson is a gifted individual. He has one of the best memories of any student I have ever taught.” Henderson said the show was filmed in early August, but to keep the integrity of the show, he was not able to reveal the results prior to air time. He told *The Mississippi Link* being on the show was a great experience that he very much enjoyed. The phrase, he admitted was difficult to guess, but

he was not the only one who thought so. There were several tweets and various comments made through social media regarding the choice of the phrase. There was an article written by Martin Holmes in *tvinsider*. The article was titled, ‘Wheel of Fortune’ Fans Slam ‘Impossible Puzzle After Contestant Loses \$50,000.’ The article stated viewers felt sympathy for Henderson because he lost out on a phrase many deemed “unheard of.” The article stated viewers took to social media blasting the horrible final puzzle phrase. One viewer stated “Whirling Around” is not a phrase. Henderson said, “In spite of it all, I did win cash and prizes.” One of his prizes include a trip to Italy which he plans to take next June for his birthday.



Mark Henderson (left) outperformed other players on Wheel of Fortune, winning \$13,990 in cash and prizes. PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Jackson State University President (4th from right) and other HBCU presidents met at Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland, to discuss recruitment efforts, grants, research and future opportunities for students during the FBI’s National Beacon Conference held Sept. 5-6. PHOTO BY ALMESA CAMPBELL

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

COMING BACK TO SCHOOL IN SPECIAL WAYS

What a great way to come back to school with great excitement and expectations. Gary Road Elementary made a great effort to welcome their students back to school with a clap-in ceremony where several dads, granddads, local firefighters, policemen, city officials and Superintendent Dr. Robert Sanders all lined up to give a high-five to welcome students back to school.



Keeping the blues alive



Attendees at the B.B. King Day Symposium PHOTO BY MVSU COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING LATUNYA EVANS



By Jaheim Wilder
Contributing Writer, MVSU

The Carver Randle Auditorium in the W.A. Butts Social Science Building came alive Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023, as Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) successfully hosted its highly anticipated 9th annual B.B. King Day Symposium. This extraordinary event took attendees on a captivating journey through time, celebrating the legendary blues musician and his enduring legacy. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., six esteemed panelists, representing the blues’ origins in Louisiana, Arkansas, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi, enthralled the audience with their rich in-sights into this iconic musical genre. The symposium delved deep into the roots of the blues, exploring its evolution and significance in these distinct regions.

Renowned blues musicians Terry “Harmonica” Bean and Lil’ Ray Neal graced the stage, delivering unforgettable performances that resonated with the spirit of B.B. King himself. Their soulful melodies and electrifying presence left the audience in awe, setting the perfect tone for the entire event.

Engaging panel sessions provided a platform for attendees to actively participate in the symposium. Lively discussions ensued, fueled by burning questions from the audience. Each panelist expertly addressed these inquiries, weaving concise historical insights and captivating stories that brought the blues to life.

MVSU recognized the importance of passing on the blues legacy to the younger generation. Therefore, students from elementary to high school level were actively involved in the symposium. This inclusion aimed to foster a deep appreciation for the blues and its cultural significance, ensuring that its impact would endure for years to come.



Panelists receiving the award/trophy of appreciation included (L-R) Christopher Parker, Origins of Arkansas Blues; Frankie Robinson, Jr., Origins of Georgia Blues; Clark White, Origins of Tennessee Blues; Art. T. Burton, moderator; Diane Williams, Origins of Mississippi Blues; Jock Webb, Sr., Origins of Alabama Blues; not pictured - Lil Ray Neal, Origins of the Louisiana Blues. PHOTO BY TIMOTHY ADAMS

Throughout the program, attendees were taken on a musical journey through time. As the panelists traced the origins of the blues and examined its evolution in contemporary society, it became clear that the blues had not only shaped music but also a profound cultural tapestry.

One of the organizing sponsors, Deputy Director Robert Terrell of the B.B. King Museum and the Delta Interpretive Center, explained that celebrating the remarkable life and contributions of B.B. King, the symposium strives to reflect his enduring impact in the music industry. Terrell said the aim is to explore King’s evolution as an artist, his ability to bridge cultural divides, and the lessons we can learn from his journey. “By shedding light on his unwavering dedication to his craft, we hope to inspire aspiring musicians and foster a greater appreciation for the blues genre,” said Terrell.

Reflecting on the symposium, student blues enthusiast Myiesha Smith expressed, “This event was more than extraordinary – it was an opportunity to delve into the heart of the blues and truly understand its cultural significance. I am grateful to have been part of such a remarkable experience.”

According to the B.B. King Day Symposium Project Director Margaret Clark, “This was our ninth one, and out of nine years, this was the best one in terms of students’ participation.”

Clark said she is profoundly grateful to all of the sponsors and everyone who helped make this year’s event a huge success. Sponsoring organizations included MVSU, Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area, Experience Greenwood Mississippi, the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center, Dr. Riley B. King Recording Studio, Margaret W. Clark and the Holmes County Heritage and Cultural Foundation, Inc.

Clark, who is also executive assistant for VP of Academic Affairs, said she is also grateful to Central Mississippi Blues Society President Malcolm Shepherd for sponsoring lunches for the public school students who attended the event. During remarks from the floor, Shepherd indicated that a strong focus of the society is on increased youth awareness and appreciation of the blues.

The symposium culminated in the presentation of awards to panel members and students who displayed exceptional talent in an art contest dedicated to B.B. King’s life and legacy. Their contributions added another layer of depth to the event’s overall success, highlighting the widespread admiration and dedication to honor the influential blues legend.

MS Democrats name Pinkins new nominee for Secretary of State to challenge GOP’s Watson



Pinkins

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi Democrats on Thursday named attorney Ty Pinkins as their new nominee for Secretary of State to replace a candidate who left the race because of health problems.

Pinkins will face Republican incumbent Michael Watson in the Nov. 7 general election.

Pinkins was already running a different statewide campaign, challenging Republican U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker in the 2024 election.

During a news conference Thursday on the steps of the state Capitol, Pinkins said Mississippi has “restrictive and confusing voting laws” because of Watson and other Republicans.

“Republican lawmakers and state leaders have carefully gerrymandered and redrawn districts to limit the voting strength of minority and poor communities,” said Pinkins, a military veteran. “They’ve refused to allow online registration and early voting. They’ve made it cost-prohibitive and sometimes impossible to vote absentee, even with a valid reason.”

Watson is an attorney and served three terms in the Mississippi Senate before he won the open race for Secretary of State in 2019.

The Associated Press sent Pinkins’ statements to Watson by email and text message Thursday, seeking response. A spokesperson for Watson said the Secretary of State was traveling and unable to respond but would be available for an interview next week.

Shuwski Young had been unopposed for the Democratic nomination for Secretary of State, but he recently announced he was leaving the race because of a hypertensive crisis that was limiting his ability to campaign.

Two of three members of the state Board of Election Commissioners voted Wednesday to accept Young’s departure and to let Democrats name a new nominee. Watson is on the commission but did not participate in the decision.

Watson had nearly \$884,000 in his campaign fund in July. The Secretary of State’s website showed no campaign fund for Pinkins as of Thursday.

Subscribe TODAY

2659 Livingston Road • Jackson MS, 39213
601-896-0084 • www.mississippilink.com

The Mississippi Link

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

e-Mail

CHECK ONE

☐ 1 year

☐ 2 year

☐ 3 year

\$32
1 year
subscription

\$64
2 year
subscription

\$96
3 year
subscription

Thank you for your order. Order a subscription for a friend!

The Mississippi Link™

Volume 29 • Number 48

September 14 - 20, 2023

© copyright 2023. All rights reserved.

Publisher.....Jackie Hampton

Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett

Sports Editor.....Tim Ward

Graphics.....Marcus Johnson

Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

Member:

SAAPA

MISSISSIPPI PRESS
ASSOCIATION • SERVICES

75 YEARS
NNPA
NATIONAL NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION

The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: publisher@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster:
Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link, P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information, please call (601) 896-0084.

The Mississippi Link accepts no responsibility for unsolicited materials and in general does not return them to sender. Manuscripts and photographs submitted for publication are welcome by The Mississippi Link, but no responsibility can be taken for sources considered to be authoritative, because the publication cannot guarantee their accuracy. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content, is prohibited.

A letter to Biden requesting a Reparations Commission for 2024



Leaders within the Democratic Party in the last Congress demonstrated their political will for a Reparations Commission.

By Kamm Howard
Executive Director Reparations United

Mr. President, the call for justice in America is at a historic high. This current call for justice is founded squarely on the issue of Reparations. This is an American call for justice – not only has it been identified as the major issue by black Americans via a 2021 Congressional Black Caucus poll, but in a recent USA Today poll, 83 % of Americans said racism is a problem facing the US.

This explains why an array of Americans has enthusiastically joined this call for reparatory justice – allied ethnic groups, many of the largest social justice organizations in the country, a diversity of religious orders, America’s most prestigious universities, major US corporations, some of the largest philanthropies in America, and of immense importance, following Evanston, Illinois – numerous municipalities and states within the Union. This is proof that much of America wants to see this issue addressed and resolved now.

Leaders within the Democratic Party in the last Congress demonstrated their political will for a Reparations Commission. 217 confirmed yes votes in the House and half of the Senate Committee chairs, along with the Senate Leader, and many of their colleagues, signed on to the Senate bill. However, as you are aware, Mr. President, the bipartisanship that is needed to pass the bill in the Senate does

not exist. Thus, the only way to move this issue forward, which much of America is demanding, is through an Executive Order.

This must be done immediately as the next presidential election is approaching. On one side of this issue are those calling for “No Reparations No Vote,” in their attempt to drive black voters to the Republican Party. On the other side, are those of us who fully understand the significance of the black vote for a Democratic Party win. Statistics have shown that since 1960, except for 1964, the black vote was the deciding factor in each of the Democratic Party’s wins in presidential elections. In essence, the black vote gave American Presidents Kennedy, Carter, Clinton, Obama and you Mr. Biden.

A growing number of major publications have recognized this dependence of the Democratic Party on the black vote. Immediately after your election, Vox reported – “The Black Vote is key to Democratic success” – saying you “could not have been competitive without it.” At this same time, the *New York Magazine* shouted, ‘Joe Biden Owes It All to African American Voters.’

In April of this year, *Time Magazine* wrote, ‘Black Voters Gave Biden the White House. They May Determine Whether He Stays There’ – the writer concluded, “Put plainly: you can’t win the nomination or the White House as a Democrat without the black vote.

And finally, just last month,

the *Washington Post* echoed the *Times* writer, by saying the black vote “will be crucial in a Biden bid for reelection.”

We are 20% of your base Mr. President, more than all other people of color combined. When we come out and vote, Democrats win. Certainly, Mr. Biden, the Republicans are fully aware of this as they have directed enormous resources to suppress the black vote– by spending nearly \$1 billion in the last election and introducing over 900 pieces of legislation, according to Marc Morial of the National Urban League. The Democratic Party needs to both counter these efforts by Republicans and address the low enthusiasm for the Democratic Party in the black community.

This counter-offensive must be an immediate statement announcing the implementation of an HR 40-like Reparations Commission via Executive Order by the President of the United States of America. This, and only this, will generate the turnout in the black community necessary for a Democratic Party victory in 2024.

The Democratic Party can no longer waffle on this issue of reparations. We need a Reparations Commission Now. You, Mr. President, need a Reparations Commission now – for any hope of a 2024 victory.

Text – Reparations Now to 202-347-9797 to support this call.

Record number of black quarterbacks have starting positions in the NFL for the 2023-2024 season



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes. Photo: Wikimedia Commons / Patrick Mahomes / All Pro Reels, District of Columbia USA

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

On the opening day of the 2023-2024 National Football League season, a historic record was set. For the first time in the history of the NFL, 14 black quarterbacks took the snap on week 1. Last season, 11 black quarterbacks started on week 1. The Week 1 starters are Patrick Mahomes (Chiefs), Jalen Hurts (Eagles), Lamar Jackson (Ravens), Dak Prescott (Cowboys), Deshaun Watson (Browns), Russell Wilson (Broncos), Geno Smith (Seahawks), Desmond Ridder (Falcons), Joshua Dobbs (Cardinals), Justin Fields (Bears), Jordan Love (Packers), Bryce Young (Panthers), C.J. Stroud (Texans) and Anthony Richardson (Colts).

The 2023 NFL Draft marked the first time in NFL history black men were selected in the top three positions for quarterback. The position was once seen as a white male-dominated one until players such as Michael Vick and Randall Cunningham revolutionized the position and the game of football. In the modern era, the NFL has seen an increasing number of black quarterbacks breaking barriers and achieving success. Players like Michael Vick, Donovan McNabb, Cam Newton, Russell Wilson and Patrick Mahomes have become stars in the league. Mahomes is currently one of the most recent standout black quarterbacks. He led the Kansas City Chiefs to a Super Bowl victory and has won the NFL MVP award.

The history of black quarterbacks in the NFL is a story of perseverance. Breaking down racial barriers in the NFL has been a long and difficult road in a sport that is now dominated by African Americans. But the quarterback position

has been a special problem. Teams from college up have been reluctant for decades to encourage black players to play quarterback. Many talented black athletes were denied opportunities to play quarterback.

In the 1920s Fritz Pollard became one of the first African-American quarterbacks in the NFL. He played for the Akron Pros in 1920, making him one of the league’s first black players. He also became a player-coach. But he was a rare early pioneer at a time of racial segregation Jim Crow. In 1968, Marlin Briscoe became the first black quarterback to start in the NFL during the modern era. He played for the Denver Broncos and later transitioned to a wide receiver position.

In the 1980s, Houston Oilers QB Warren Moon became one of the most prominent black quarterbacks in NFL history. Moon started as a star in the Canadian Football League before joining the NFL in 1984. He had a highly successful NFL career, earning nine Pro Bowl selections and being inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

In 1988, Washington Redskins QB Doug Williams made history in Super Bowl XXII (1988) when he became the first black quarterback to win a Super Bowl. He led them to a victory and was named the game’s MVP. Philadelphia Eagles QB Randall Cunningham was known for his athleticism in the 1980s and 1990s. Cunningham was a four-time Pro Bowl selection.

While there have been significant strides in the representation of black quarterbacks in the NFL, there is ongoing recognition of the need for continued diversity and inclusion in all positions in professional football – including owner and head coach.

Oregon man is released after years on death row as his case highlights racial bias in a flawed legal system

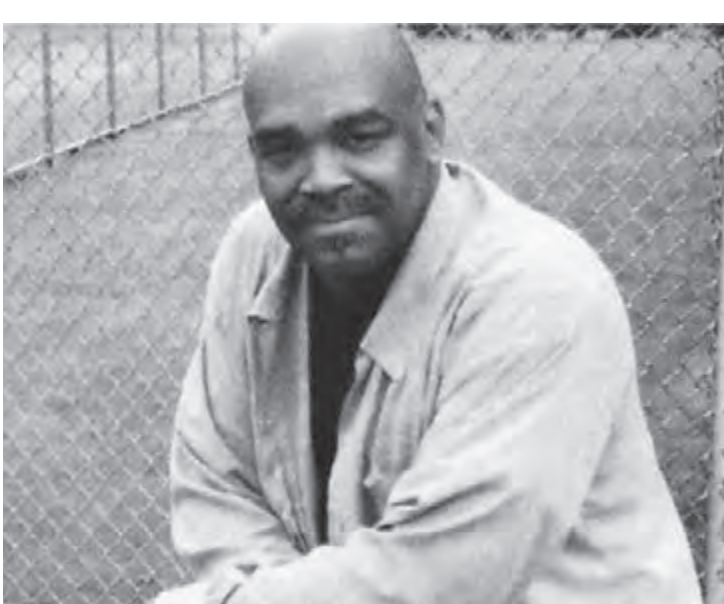
By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Jesse Johnson, a black man wrongfully convicted for a 1998 murder, was released Sept. 7, following a reversal of his conviction by the Oregon Court of Appeals two years ago. The case highlighted longstanding racial bias within the justice system.

The Oregon Innocence Project, which handled Johnson’s appeal, strongly criticized the state’s handling of the case, branding it a “heinous injustice.”

The Marion County District Attorney’s office finally sought to dismiss the charges against Johnson after citing the unavailability of critical evidence and the extended passage of time. A judge granted the motion, allowing Johnson to finally walk free

Johnson, who steadfastly maintained his innocence,



Johnson

rejected plea deals over the years, and a video captured outside the jail showed the jubilant man, clad in gray sweats, walking beside a deputy, his face lit with a broad smile while supporters show-

ered him with hugs.

“I’m happy and excited and ready for the next phase now. Been a lot of years for something I didn’t do,” Johnson proclaimed, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting.

Initially sentenced to death in 2004, Johnson’s case took a significant turn when former Gov. John Kitzhaber imposed a moratorium on executions in 2011. Then, in 2022, Gov. Kate Brown commuted all 17 of the state’s death sentences and ordered the decommissioning of the execution chamber.

The Oregon Innocence Project had pointed out the role racism played in Johnson’s wrongful imprisonment. They asserted that Johnson’s trial lawyer failed to interview crucial witnesses, including one who observed a white man fleeing the scene.

The neighbor in question, Patricia Hubbard, revealed she witnessed a white man entering Thompson’s residence shortly before the murder occurred. She also recounted hearing screams, a thud, and then an eerie silence. Hubbard claimed that the respond-

ing detective made racially charged remarks, indicating a predetermined bias. “A black woman got murdered, and a black man is going to pay for it,” Hubbard said a detective told her.

The Oregon Court of Appeals underscored the failure of Johnson’s defense team to interview Hubbard, a critical oversight that led to the reversal of his conviction in October 2021. Further, requests for additional DNA testing, which might have unveiled alternative suspects, were met with resistance from the state.

“For 25 years, the State of Oregon has fought to defend their deeply flawed case against our former client, Jesse Johnson,” declared Steve Wax, the legal director of the Oregon Innocence Project. “There can be no more heinous injustice imaginable than for Mr. Johnson to have heard a sentence of

death pronounced against him all those years ago...and to then waste away for years on death row.”

In asking the judge to dismiss the case finally, prosecutors admitted to the absence of any identified alternate suspect in Thompson’s murder despite ongoing investigations. Wax said Johnson, now a free man, finds himself with nothing, not even the customary release funds because of the dismissal.

A GoFundMe campaign launched on Johnson’s behalf garnered over \$10,000 in support.

Johnson’s release coincides with the exoneration of a New York man, who was officially cleared of a 1976 rape conviction, marking the longest-standing wrongful conviction overturned based on new DNA evidence in U.S. history, as stated by the Innocence Project.

Fatigue vs being tired



By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Fatigue and being tired are two related but different states of physical and mental exhaustion. Both involve a sense of weariness, differ in their underlying cause, duration and impact on your overall well-being.

Fatigue is more serious and long lasting state of exhaustion that goes beyond your normal sensation of tiredness. Fatigue can be both physical and mental in nature. Fatigue often results from prolong physical or mental exertion, sleep deprivation or an underlying medical condition. A persistent feeling of weakness, lack of energy and reduced physical and mental capacity can characterize it. Fatigue doesn't subside with adequate rest.

Causes for fatigue
Strenuous physical activities or enduring prolong periods of intense mental focus
Inadequate sleep that disrupts your body's natural re-

storative processes
Various medical conditions such as chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia and anemia
Some medications such as antidepressants and antihistamines
Symptoms for fatigue
People that experience fatigue often report feeling extreme weakness and lack of energy to perform basic task.
Cognitive function is significantly impaired
Physical aches and pains throughout your body
Irritability, mood swings and heighten emotional sensitivity
Fatigue is persistent and can last for weeks or even months. Tiredness on the other hand is a natural response to physical or mental exertion that will subside with adequate rest.
Causes for tiredness
Physical and mental demands of everyday life that can include work, chores and social interaction
Missing a night's sleep or

not getting your usual amount of sleep
Vigorous physical activities such as sports or exercise that doesn't go away with rest
Concentrated mental effort such as studying for an exam or solving a complex problem that doesn't go away with rest.
Symptoms for tiredness
Generally presents as a general sense of weariness and a desire to rest, tiredness is usually short lived and can be alleviated with a good night's sleep or a brief period of rest.
Difficulty concentrating or staying focused but not as severe as mental fatigue
Physical tired may involve sore muscles but it is less likely to result in widespread aches and pains
Diet, sleep and exercise are three parts of our lives that we have a lot of control over. All three will help reduce the impact of both fatigue and tiredness.
To have a balanced diet you should consume between 13-

16 calories per pound of body weight daily. Your daily intake of food should include 2 to 3 servings of protein, 4 to 6 servings of vegetables, 2 to 3 servings of a grain and 4 to 6 servings of fruit. You should ingest no more than 14 grams of saturated fat, which is 126 calories. You should fuel your body throughout the day to maintain energy and keep you from bingeing during the day. Eating small meals a day stimulates your metabolism to burn calories rather than shut down and store fat.
Sleep is another factor that can affect your body's ability to fight off fatigue and tiredness. If you get the right amount of sleep you will get the most out of your body. The amount of sleep needed each night varies among people. Each person needs the right amount of sleep in order to be healthy. Research has shown that when healthy adults are allowed to sleep unrestricted, the average time slept is 8 to 8.5 hours. If

a person does not get enough sleep, even on one night, a "sleep debt" begins to build and increases until enough sleep is obtained. Problem sleepiness occurs as the debt accumulates. Many people do not get enough sleep during the workweek and then sleep longer on the weekends or days off to reduce their sleep debt. If too much sleep has been lost, sleeping in on the weekend may not completely reverse the effects of not getting enough sleep during the week.
Healthy adults should work out everyday for 30 minutes. Strength training exercises should be done at least three to four times a week. If you're just starting, start slowly and build on intensity gradually.
A complete workout should include exercises for each body part. Start with 2 or 3 different exercises for each body part. Gradually work up to 8-12 repetitions for each exercise. Do each exercise 1-3 times to start. If you can do more than 12

repetitions for a set the weight is too light. If you can't do at least 8 repetitions for a set the weight is too heavy.
You'll also need to do aerobic exercises.
Doing aerobic exercises for up to twenty minutes will boost your immune system, work your heart, lungs and circulatory system. Aerobic exercises will also help burn body fat. You don't start to burn body fat until you're about 20-25 minutes into the workout. To burn significant amounts of body fat you should perform between 30 and 45 minutes of aerobic activity. If you're not already working out it may take you several weeks to reach this goal. You should start with between 3 to 10 minutes of aerobic activity at a moderate pace. As your body becomes stronger you want to increase your time and intensity (effort level) gradually.
Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

Black Men's Health Equity Council wants brothers to go get checked

By Warren Jones, MPH
Special to The Mississippi Link



If crime increases in your neighborhood, you will relocate your family. If a recall is issued on your vehicle, you will take it to the dealership for repair. As a black man, it is imperative to employ the same diligence implemented when it comes to your family's safety to your own personal health and physical well-being.
September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Black men are 1.6 times more likely to get prostate cancer than other racial groups and twice as likely to die

from it.
According to the American Cancer Society, black men tend to be younger when prostate cancer occurs, and the cancer tends to be more aggressive and progresses faster. Physicians do not fully understand why black men are at such an elevated risk. However, there are factors germane to men of African ancestry. They are:
Age: The chance of having prostate cancer rises rapidly after age 50. Black men should begin testing at 45.
Family History: Prostate cancer seems to run in some families. Having a father or brother with prostate cancer more than doubles a man's risk of devel-

COMMENTARY

oping this disease. Do not be fooled, however. Prostate cancer can occur in men without a family history.
Obesity: Food deserts and the lack of healthy food causes black men to be more likely than non-Hispanic white males to have obesity. Being physically active and following a healthy diet are ways to lower your risk.
Racial bias in health care: African Americans are less likely to receive prostate screenings or Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) tests.
Delayed Care: Black men may be reluctant to get a prostate exam due to cultural myths. Be-

ing uninsured or underinsured because of various socioeconomic issues delays or prevents men from seeing a doctor.
The Institute for the Advancement for Minority Health is very intentional regarding its mission to reduce health disparities, one community at a time and is committed to raising prostate cancer awareness in the black community. In September, the Institute's Black Men's Health Equity Council launched a media campaign, Brother, Go Get Checked! The Brother, Go Get Checked! campaign is designed to elevate knowledge regarding prostate cancer. Its goal is to encourage black men to go to the doctor and to get tested. Via social media

fliers, radio ads and newspaper articles, the institute is providing information to assist black men understand the dangers of the disease and the importance of screenings. Additionally, outreach activities are scheduled to expose college-age men to risk factors, explore the significance of early detection and provide exposure to careers in oncology.
A prostate cancer diagnosis has an enormous physical, emotional and fiscal impact on the patient and their loved ones. Just as you would never drive an impaired vehicle or allow a criminal to invade your family dwelling, do not let prostate cancer to rob you of your golden years or wreck your family's future via

grief and loss. Research says effective treatment and improved outcomes are possible with early detection. So please, Brother, Go Get Checked!
The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health was established in 2019 to reduce health disparities among disadvantaged and underserved minority populations in Mississippi.
Warren Jones, MPH, is an epidemiologist with the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health. As coordinator of the Black Men's Health Equity Council, Jones is a leader and advocate for black men's health. Jones is a graduate of Tougaloo College and member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Bridging the gap: cancer prevention for communities of color

By U.S. Rep. Glenn Ivey (D-MD-04)



Cancer is a formidable adversary, no matter where it strikes here at home or across the world. But it's a battle that at-risk communities like yours and mine often face with fewer resources and less awareness. To truly make strides in the fight against cancer, we must focus our efforts on prevention in these vulnerable populations.
I would know. I survived a bout of kidney cancer. It was a high-blood-pressure incident in 2004 that tipped me off to the health scare. As a 42-year-

old with six young kids, I was grateful for the amazing medical care, doctors and facilities available to me in the Washington-Baltimore region – and for having quality health insurance.
As a black man, I may have been at greater risk for high blood pressure, stroke and cancer, but I was incredibly thankful and blessed to have the resources, wherewithal and education to get checked out. When it comes to matters of life and death, everyone should have the same access.
At-risk communities, defined by factors like socioeconomic status, ethnicity and geographic location, bear the disproportionate burden of cancer. These

COMMENTARY

disparities are not just the result of genetics but are rooted in systemic inequalities that impact access to healthcare, education and healthy living environments.
Education is paramount. In many at-risk communities, there is a lack of awareness about the risks associated with tobacco use, poor diet and physical inactivity. Public health campaigns tailored to these communities can provide crucial information about the dangers of smoking, the benefits of a balanced diet and the importance of regular exercise.
Addressing environmental

factors is essential, too. For instance, certain communities may have limited access to fresh, nutritious foods while being inundated with fast-food options. Policy changes at the local level can encourage healthier food choices and reduce exposure to carcinogens in the environment. We must find solutions to "food deserts" in communities of color and map out more effective strategies for better and healthier developments in underserved neighborhoods.
Cultural sensitivity also plays a significant role in cancer prevention. Tailoring interventions to the specific needs and beliefs of at-risk communities is es-

sential for success. Engaging community leaders and organizations can help build trust and increase participation in prevention programs. In Congress, I will continue to work across the government, non-profit and private sectors to bridge the gap for communities like ours, so we can prevent and treat the cancers that plague our people.
Addressing mental health is additionally crucial. At-risk communities often face chronic stressors related to economic hardship and discrimination that can contribute to cancer risk. Providing resources for mental health support can help individuals cope with stress and reduce their overall cancer risk.

By far, our most effective tool in the battle against cancer is prevention. Many at-risk individuals face obstacles to routine screenings and check-ups, which can detect cancer at an early, more treatable stage. Community health clinics and outreach programs can bridge this gap, offering free or low-cost screenings and education.
Ultimately, the fight against cancer in at-risk communities requires a multidimensional approach. With persistent effort and a commitment to equity, we can reduce cancer disparities. But it all starts with you.
Together we can bridge the gap in cancer detection, prevention and treatment.

P R E S E R V E D

Back to school and back to prayer

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Each year around this time, I share a back-to-school prayer. I think it is important to offer encouragement as students, staff and educators prepare to return to school. There are so many things that stir up confusion and can distract from the excitement of the beginning of a new school year. My hope is that this prayer provides inspiration.

"Heavenly Father, we come to you thanking you for your many blessings. You are so worthy of honor, praise and glory. First, God we know that nothing surprises you and that recent events like the Covid-19 pandemic, mass school shootings and fights over curriculum did not catch you off-guard. During this time of uncertainty, remind us of Isaiah 46:10 which says that you

know the end from the beginning. We rest on the assurance that you know what is best.

"1 Corinthians 14:33 reminds us that you are not the author of confusion but that you are the God of peace. We pray that the truth of this scripture will influence the decisions of the administrators and government officials regarding the safety of students, staff and faculty at all levels of education from daycare, pre-K, K-12 and higher education. Let Godly wisdom and truth prevail. We come to you now praying for our children and students who will be attending school face to face and virtually this academic year. Let there be peace in the hearts of students, faculty, administrators and staff in classrooms, administrative offices and school buildings. We ask for an extra measure of your grace, mercy and protection.

"We also ask God that despite what goes on around them you would grant students

an extra measure of grace and ability to focus on the academic subjects they have to learn. Give instructors innovative ideas and methods to creatively motivate students to learn even the most difficult topics. Give them peace and protect educators as they fulfill their commitment to teach. We pray that the learning environment is a place of safety, connection and inspiration. We declare that frustration and discouragement will not distract students and educators from their purpose. We bind up anything that comes to disrupt the educational environment. Classrooms will be secure places of love and encouragement regardless of what may be taking place in the world outside.

"We pray that you would give parents and guardians of students confidence that their students will remain safe. For any anxieties that may arise, remind them to cast their cares on you as it says in 1 Peter 5:7. Allow them to rest in the con-

fidence that your Godly presence will be there to cover and protect their children whether they are in the classroom, participating in extracurricular activities, in the cafeteria or on the playground.

"God, you are sovereign, and we thank you for the promise in 3 John 1:2 which says that you would have us to be in good health. Let this school year be one where good health, joy and hope prevail. In Jesus' name we pray...Amen!"

May you have a blessed and amazing school year.

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.

Living righteously

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



We read in Ephesians 6:14, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness." As Paul was writing this letter, sitting in a Roman prison, no doubt, he looked at a guard and saw the breastplate, helmet and the rest of his armor, so he began to see a spiritual lesson and used it to instruct the church at Ephesus.

He said they needed to have on the breastplate of righteousness. I want you to understand that God has clothed the saints with the robe of righteousness. In Revelation 19:8, John wrote, "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." We are to live righteously, soberly and godly in this present world. We need to honor God by living righteously. We must read the Word of God and appropriate it into our lives so that we can stand against the wiles of the devil.

The Apostle Paul told young Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:12 to "Fight the good fight of faith." He told the church of Ephesus to "Put on the whole armour of God." Then in 2 Corinthians 10:3, he told the church at Corinth, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh." Christian friend, God saved us, but we still have a fleshly body, and we will be in that body until death comes upon us; then we will move out of it. Though we are in the flesh, we should not walk after the flesh. Paul stated in verses 4-5 "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (or fleshly), but mighty through God

to the pulling down of strongholds: casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God (many things and many religions exalt themselves against the knowledge of God) and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." God even intends for us to control our thoughts.

I want you to notice that God thinks controlling our thoughts is so important that He had Paul write about it in Philippians, Chapter 4. We must remember that our mind is the doorway to our hearts. Where does evil first appear? It appears in the mind, or in our thoughts. If we pray, God will give us the power to shun all appearance of evil.

The enemy will try to invade our mind with evil thoughts; therefore, we have to pray. Prayer is a weapon of this Christian warfare. We have to put it on; it is a part of the armor. We have to take the weapons of warfare and stand.

Paul stated in Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

God gave us a mind for multiple reasons. Just as David of old, we can recall precious memories. When David faced Goliath, he remembered the bear and the lion that he slew. God gave us a memory, and it can serve us well if we use it to think on the good things.

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

Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

1600 Florence Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi 39204
601-355-2670 • 601-355-0760 (Fax)
www.collegehillchurch.org
Chmbo@collegehillchurch.org

COLLEGE HILL
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY
Worship Services
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. in person

Or you may worship with us via
Facebook or our YouTube
channel at CHMBC

Pastor
Chauncy L. Jordan

New Horizon Church
INTERNATIONAL
A place of love and victory.

Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr.
1750 Ellis Avenue • Jackson, MS 39204
OFFICE: 601-371-1427 • FAX: 601-371-8282

SUNDAY
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.

True Light Baptist Church
224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202
Phone: 601.398.0915
WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG

THE
Light Line
PRAYER

JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY
MORNING AT 6:00 AM
CALL: 559-671-2546

VIRTUAL SERVICES AVAILABLE
SMALL GROUP STUDY 9:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE | SUNDAY 10:30 AM
BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM

REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

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.

New Bethel M. B. Church • 450 Culberston Ave. • Jackson, MS 39209
601-969-3481/969-3482 • Fax # 601-969-1957 • E-Mail: Serenitynbc@aol.com

Crossroads Church of God
Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others

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

Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m.
(Fellowship following worship service for Sunday)

Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor
211-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046
Church: 601-859-2850

Zion Chapel to celebrate Hiram Revels with bust in his honor

Special to the Mississippi Link

Zion Chapel A.M.E. Church will celebrate the legacy of Hiram Rhodes Revels this month with a bust in his honor created by Bob Willis of Oklahoma. The bust will be unveiled in a ceremony in the church at 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 30, at 228 N. Dr. M.L. King St., Natchez, MS.

The Rev. Birdon Mitchell, pastor of Zion Chapel, said he was excited about the opportunity to pay homage to Revels.

“I, along with the Zion Chapel family, am ecstatic that Hiram Revels, a former pastor of our church, the first president of Alcorn College, and the first person of color to serve in the United State Senate, is being recognized in our community,” he said. “The Lord’s name be praised. I’m truly thankful to all who are involved in making this event possible.”

The unveiling is free to the public. It is, in part, a celebration of Revels’ birthday, according to Norma West, event organizer. Revels was born on Sept. 27, 1827.

Revels became the first pas-



Pastor Mitchell shown here with history marker said Hiram Revels was a man of many accomplishments.

tor to serve at Zion Chapel in the 1860s, and in 1870, he became the first African American lawmaker to serve in the United States Congress. Following his time in office, Revels became the first president of Alcorn A&M College, which is now Alcorn State University, in Lorman.

“Hiram Revels is an important

national figure, and it is fitting that this bust will be placed at Zion Chapel, from whose pulpit he entered the United States Senate and made history,” said Carter Burns, executive director of Historic Natchez Foundation. “I’m thrilled to see him honored in this way.

Roscoe Barnes III, cultural



Bob Willis' bust of John R. Lynch is on display at the Natchez Museum of African American History and Culture. Lynch was born enslaved in 1847 in Concordia Parish, Louisiana. In 1872, he became the first African American speaker of the Mississippi state house. He also represented Mississippi in the U.S. House of Representatives.

heritage tourism manager for Visit Natchez, said that he and Visit Natchez are assisting with the event.

“We are proud of Pastor Mitchell and Zion Chapel for honoring Hiram Revels with this important work of art by Bob Willis,” he said. “We’re asking local residents and visitors alike to come out to this church program and learn more about Revels and his role in Natchez’s rich cultural

history.”

The ceremony will feature music by Tony Fields and presentations by Mitchell, Willis, and Mayor Dan Gibson.

Willis is a retired pastor with a passion for telling stories through his art. His work shows a special interest in Natchez’s history. Over the years, he has sculpted several busts related to Natchez, including one of John Roy Lynch, which he donated to



Sculptor Bob Willis was selected by Zion Chapel A.M.E. Church to sculpt the bust of Hiram Revels.

the Natchez Museum of African American History and Culture.

Willis said he appreciates the opportunity to recognize Revels through his work. “It was my honor to sculpt a bust of Hiram Revels, recognizing his faithful service to his community, to our Country, and to our God,” he said.

For more information on the Hiram R. Revels unveiling ceremony, call 601-807-0454.

Dr. Acie Whitlock Jr, DMD – Alumnus of the Year for The University of Mississippi School of Dentistry – sets tone for young Mississippians

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

Thirty-seven years ago, Dr. Acie Whitlock Jr. began practicing dentistry. He envisioned his practice while obtaining four years of undergraduate college, four years of dental school and one year of advanced training in a General Practice Residency. It was at The University of Mississippi where Whitlock received his dental training. Like many of his counterparts, the professional could have gone to far-away places and set up his practice, but Mississippi (his home state) was his choice.

“I chose to practice dentistry in Mississippi because it is home – and my people – as well as others, need to see and have a steadfast stalwart black man providing dental health care for them. Our young people, especially young black males, need strong, dedicated, hard working role models to follow. I hope in some way that I am providing that path. By staying in this state, I feel that my living and efforts are not in vain,” said the dentist.

Whitlock serves in a dual role within the field of dentistry. He is responsible for providing and adhering to the standard of dental care for persons seeking help and attention to their oral health. This has a direct correlation to their overall health care. “I must listen, examine, diagnose and provide the needed treatment to return and maintain person’s dentition to form and function,” he spoke.

On the other hand, Whitlock teaches at The University of Mississippi School of Dentistry. He imparts knowledge to his students seeking to learn the profession. It is incumbent upon them to obtain the necessary skills to become proficient health care providers.

Whitlock says that teeth are not isolated from other parts of the body. One’s overall health is impacted by bacterial infections within the oral cavity. Malfunction and other unfavorable health conditions can occur as a result of bacterial infections. Further, adverse effects upon the teeth can produce many systemic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and digestive disorders.

“My patients have concerns of not being able to eat well due to defective teeth and supporting bone and gum structures. Patients are concerned about their appearance which affects their confidence and self-esteem in many cases,” stated Whitlock.

Whitlock continued that though patients may encounter problems, there is light at the end of the tunnel. “Many of these problems can be solved when patients take personal responsibility for their oral health.”

Such responsibility includes “practicing diligent oral hygiene daily, seeking checkups and cleanings at least semi-annually, along with having restorative work done early to prevent debilitating situations.”

While working for the good of patients, Whitlock has a Dental Health Care Team. His dental assistant “serves as a chairside aid in all procedures, including diagnoses, x-rays and aiding in maintaining comfort – both physical and mental – for the



Dr. Acie Whitlock Jr.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. ACIE WHITLOCK

patient.” The office assistant “is cross-trained as a dental assistant and front business office manager. She knows the procedures while being able to handle the business aspect of checking patients in and out of the office daily.”

Aside from serving on the above team, Whitlock collaborates closely with physicians in providing overall health care. From the oral cavity, the expert can diagnose many abnormalities and diseases. The patient can then be referred to a physician for follow-up care.

As with other professionals, Whitlock has identified his most trying experience as a dentist to be that of compliance. When patients delay dental checkups and health care until conditions become “worse” while expecting “a magic wand miracle,” they set themselves up for failure. Accordingly, “Many just don’t understand that there is a point of no return where the dentist cannot return a neglected situation into God-given perfection again,” he explained.

Just as Whitlock has confirmed his most trying experience as a dentist, he articulates his best experience as “being an African-American male who cares about and provides care for all persons seeking help. Being able to communicate with people in communality and translate the dental/medical aspect into aid is gratifying.”

The Alumnus of the Year for the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry just finished serving a term as president of OKU (the Dental Honor Society at UMMC School of Dentistry). OKU is a national recognized organization in dentistry.

For further inquiry, contact Dr. Acie Whitlock Jr at 601-982-7636, or visit 514 E. Woodrow Wilson Avenue G, Jackson, MS 39216.



Hire Mississippi.

Providing safe, reliable natural gas is our job. But fueling safe and thriving communities is our responsibility. That’s why we work hard to ensure local suppliers and contractors have the opportunity to work with us.

If you are a Mississippi supplier or contractor interested in doing business with us, please register with us at atmosenergy.com/HireMississippi.

ATMOS
energy

Your natural gas company

atmosenergy.com/HireMississippi

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD JOHNSON, DECEASED

CAUSE #: P2022-154 T/1

PETITIONER: ALICE H. JOHNSON

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF EDWARD JOHNSON, DECEASED


You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Alice H. Johnson Petitioner, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Edward Johnson, Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock a.m., on the 30th day of October 2023, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County before Honorable Dewayne Thomas, Chancellor. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 25 day of August 2023.

CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY Mississippi



09/07/23, 09/14/23

Caregiver Love Heals

Are you looking for a caregiver that's not just a sitter?
23 years of experience w/reliable references
Seeking client(s) with live-n-options
Call Patricia Smith at 601-566-4347.

08/31/23, 9/7/23, 9/14/23

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, October 10, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS HONORARY RENAMING REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE, FROM WOODROW WILSON AVENUE TO MAPLE STREET TO JUDGE LARITA COOPER STOKES DRIVE.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HONORARY RENAMING REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE, FROM WOODROW WILSON AVENUE TO MAPLE STREET TO JUDGE LARITA COOPER STOKES DRIVE.

09/14/23

Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3247 Child Nutrition District-Wide Cooked Pizza & Delivery

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

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

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to 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.

09/07/23, 09/14/23

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY (parcel 71-27)

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, September 19th, 2023, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 71-27, located on East Fortification Street (0.21 acre lot in 100 block) in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$500.00. 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, September 19th, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Preferential preference will be granted to all equivalent high bidders that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee. If multiple equivalent high bidders submitted applications, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted 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.

If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus Property Committee, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted 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.

If multiple equivalent high bidders consist of, one equivalent high bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee and the other equivalent high bidder(s) that did not submit an application to the Surplus Property Committee, preferential preference will be granted to the bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee.

City reserves the right to reject any and all bids

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

08/31/23, 09/07/23, 09/14/23

LEGAL

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, TO ISSUE EITHER GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY IN ONE OR MORE TAXABLE OR TAX-EXEMPT SERIES, AND/OR ISSUE A GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND OF THE CITY FOR SALE TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK IN ONE OR MORE TAXABLE OR TAX-EXEMPT SERIES, AND/OR ENTER INTO A TAXABLE AND/OR A TAX-EXEMPT LOAN WITH THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK, ALL IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED NINE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$9,500,000) TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF (A) REPAIRING, IMPROVING, ADORNING AND EQUIPPING THE ARTS CENTER OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE RUSSELL C. DAVIS PLANETARIUM AND FOR OTHER AUTHORIZED PURPOSES IN CONNECTION WITH SAME INCLUDING CONSTRUCTING, IMPROVING AND PAVING STREETS, SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS, PARKWAYS, WALKWAYS AND PUBLIC PARKING FACILITIES (COLLECTIVELY, THE "CONSTRUCTION PROJECT"), ALL PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 21-33-301 ET SEQ., MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED FROM TIME TO TIME AND SECTIONS 31-25-1 ET SEQ., MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED FROM TIME TO TIME; (B) PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT IN FULL OR IN PART OF THE OUTSTANDING \$7,500,000 (ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT) CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI TAX-EXEMPT GENERAL OBLIGATION PLANETARIUM BOND, SERIES 2022, DATED DECEMBER 22, 2022 AND THE CORRESPONDING \$7,500,000 MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK SPECIAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2022 (JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI TAX-EXEMPT GENERAL OBLIGATION PLANETARIUM BOND PROJECT) DATED DECEMBER 22, 2022; (C) PURSUING AN ADDITIONAL SUBSIDY AND/OR FINANCING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT BY PARTICIPATING AND UTILIZING FEDERAL NEW MARKET TAX CREDITS PURSUANT TO SECTION 45D OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AND/OR SECTION 57-105-1 ET SEQ., MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED FROM TIME TO TIME (THE "NMTC FINANCING"); (D) AUTHORIZING THE USE OF A PUBLIC ENTITY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE JACKSON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE NMTC FINANCING; (E) ENTERING INTO OR APPROVING VARIOUS LEASES, LOANS AND OTHER FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE PUBLIC ENTITY FOR THE NMTC TRANSACTION, (F) PROVIDING FOR CAPITALIZED INTEREST, IF NECESSARY, AND (G) PAYING THE COSTS OF BORROWING ASSOCIATED WITH THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, THE LOAN AND/OR THE NMTC FINANCING, DIRECTING THE PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE OF SUCH INTENTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (the "Governing Body"), acting for and on behalf of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (the "City"), is authorized by Sections 21-33-301 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and supplemented from time to time (the "City Bond Act"), to issue general obligation bonds in one or more taxable or tax-exempt series for the purposes set forth therein, including, but not limited (a) repairing, improving, adorning and equipping the Arts Center of Mississippi and the Russell C. Davis Planetarium and for other authorized purposes in connection with same including constructing, improving and paving streets, sidewalks, driveways, parkways, walkways and public parking facilities (the "Construction Project") and for other authorized purposes under the City Bond Act and Sections 31-25-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and supplemented from time to time (the "Bank Act" and together with the City Bond Act, the "Act"); (b) providing for the payment in full or in part of the outstanding \$7,500,000 (original principal amount) Mississippi Development Bank Special Obligation Bonds, Series 2022 (City of Jackson, Mississippi General Obligation Planetarium Improvement Bond Project), dated December 22, 2022 (the "2022 Bank Bonds") and the corresponding \$7,500,000 (original principal amount) General Obligation Bond (Planetarium Improvement Project), Series 2022, dated December 22, 2022 (the "2022 City Bond" and together with the 2022 Bank Bonds, the "Series 2022 Bonds"); (c) pursuing an additional subsidy for the Construction Project by participating and utilizing federal New Markets Tax Credits pursuant to Section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and/or Mississippi Equity Investment Tax Credits pursuant to Sections 57-105-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and/or supplemented from time to time (the "MS NMTC Act") (collectively, the "NMTC Financing") to finance the Construction Project, (d) authorizing the use of a Public Entity (the "Public Entity"), including but not limited to the Jackson Redevelopment Authority (the "JRA") to be utilized as defined specifically pursuant to § 57-105-1 (7)(b)(iii) of the MS NMTC Act; (e) entering into or approving various leases, loans and other financing arrangements with the Public Entity for the purpose of utilizing NMTC Financing as may be approved by further action of the Governing Body; (f) providing for capitalized interest, if necessary, for the Bonds (defined herein), and (g) paying the costs of borrowing associated with the issuance of the Bonds, the Loan and/or the NMTC Financing (collectively, (a) through (g), the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project is in accordance with and in furtherance of the provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body, acting for and on behalf of the City, is authorized pursuant to the Act to provide funding for the costs of the Project through the issuance of either (a) general obligation bonds of the City, in one or more taxable or tax-exempt series in a total aggregate principal amount of not to exceed Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$9,500,000) (the "Bonds"), (b) a general obligation bond of the City to be sold to the Mississippi Development Bank (the "Bank"), in one or more taxable or tax-exempt series, in a total aggregate principal amount of not to exceed Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$9,500,000) (the "City Bond"), and/or (c) by entering into a taxable or tax-exempt loan(s) with the Bank to borrow money from the Bank in a total principal amount not to exceed Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$9,500,000) (the "Loan"); and

WHEREAS, as of July 1, 2023, the assessed value of all taxable property within the City, according to the last completed assessment for taxation, was \$1,286,103,862, and the City had outstanding bonded and floating indebtedness as subject to the fifteen percent (15%) debt limit prescribed by Section 21-33-303 of the City Bond Act, as amended, in the amount of \$99,270,000, and outstanding bonded and floating indebtedness as subject to the twenty percent (20%) debt limit prescribed by Section 2133-303 of the City Bond Act, in the amount of \$99,270,000; and

WHEREAS, the Bonds, the City Bond and/or the Loan, when added to the outstanding bonded indebtedness of the City, including any indebtedness of the City issued subsequent to the adoption of this resolution but prior to the issuance of the Bonds or the City Bond or entering into the Loan, will not result in bonded indebtedness, exclusive of indebtedness not subject to the aforesaid fifteen percent (15%) debt limit, of more than fifteen percent (15%) of the assessed value of all taxable property within the City, will not result in indebtedness, both bonded and floating, exclusive of indebtedness not subject to the aforesaid twenty percent (20%) debt limit prescribed by Section 21-33-303 of the City Bond Act, in excess of twenty percent (20%) of the assessed value of all taxable property within the City, and will not exceed any constitutional or statutory limitation upon indebtedness which may be incurred by the City; and

WHEREAS, there has been no increase in said bonded and floating general obligation indebtedness of the City since July 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest of the City for the Governing Body to provide funding for the Project by borrowing money through the issuance of the Bonds or the City Bond and/or by entering into the Loan; all in accordance with the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is authorized and empowered by the City Bond Act and/or the Bank Act employ Butler Snow LLP to serve as Bond Counsel to the City in connection with the issuance of the Bonds or the City Bond or in connection with entering into the above-described Loan for the purposes set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is authorized and empowered by the Act to issue the Bonds or the City Bond or to enter into the Loan for the purposes herein set forth and there are no other available funds on hand or available from regular sources of income for such purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY, ACTING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Governing Body, acting for and on behalf of the City, hereby declares its intention to (a) issue and sell the Bonds, and/or the City Bond to the Bank, in one or more taxable or tax-exempt series, in the total principal amount not to exceed Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$9,500,000), and/or (b) enter into the Loan with the Bank to borrow money from the Bank, all in total principal amount not to exceed Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$9,500,000).

SECTION 2. The Bonds and/or the City Bond will be issued and/or the Loan will be entered into to raise money for the purpose of financing the Project, as authorized by the Act.

SECTION 3. The Bonds or the City Bond may be issued in one or more series and, if issued, will be general obligations of the City payable as to principal and interest out of and secured by an irrevocable pledge of the avails of a direct and continuing tax to be levied annually without limitation as to time, rate or amount upon all the taxable property within the geographical limits of the City. The Loan will be payable from legally available revenues of the City and will not constitute an indebtedness of the City within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory restrictions, limitations, or provisions, and the taxing power

of the City will not be pledged to the payment of the Loan.

SECTION 4. The Governing Body proposes to direct the issuance of all or any portion of the Bonds or the City Bond or to authorize the Loan in the amount and for the purposes and secured as aforesaid at a meeting of the Governing Body to be held at its usual meeting place located at the City Hall in the City, located at 219 S. President, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock a.m. on September 26, 2023, or at some meeting or meetings subsequent thereto; provided, however, that if ten percent (10%) or Fifteen Hundred (1500), whichever is less, of the qualified electors of the City shall file a written protest with the City Clerk of the City (the "City Clerk") against the issuance of the Bonds or the City Bond or the authorization of the Loan on or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on September 26, 2023, then the Bonds or the City Bond shall not be issued or the Loan shall not be entered into unless approved at an election on the question thereof called and held as is provided by law; provided, further, that if no protest is filed, then the Bonds or the City Bond may be issued and sold in one or more series or the City may enter into the Loan without an election on the question of the issuance thereof at any time within a period of two (2) years after September 26, 2023.

SECTION 5. In full compliance with the City Bond Act, the City Clerk is hereby directed to publish a copy of this resolution once a week for at least three (3) consecutive weeks in The Mississippi Link and/or The Clarion Ledger, both newspapers published in and having a general circulation in the City and qualified under the provisions of Section 13331, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, with the first publication being not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date set forth in Section 4 of this resolution, and the last publication being made not more than seven (7) days prior to such date.

SECTION 6. The City Clerk of the Governing Body shall be and is hereby directed to procure from the publisher of the aforesaid newspaper the customary proof of the publication of this resolution and the required notice and have the same before the Governing Body on the date and hour specified in Section 4 hereof.

SECTION 7. The Governing Body does now find, determine and adjudicate that all conditions, acts and things required by the Act, the MS NMTC Act and the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi to have existed and have been performed precedent to and in connection with the adoption of this Intent Resolution have been performed in regular and due time, form and manner as required by law.

SECTION 8. Butler Snow LLP is hereby engaged to serve as Bond Counsel to the City in connection with the issuance of the Bonds or the City Bond or in connection with entering into the above-described Loan for the purposes set forth herein.

SECTION 9. If any one or more of the provisions of this resolution shall for any reason be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any of the other provisions of this resolution, but this resolution shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provision or provisions had not been contained herein.

[Remainder Left Intentionally Blank]

Councilperson Lindsay made the motion and Councilperson Banks seconded the motion to adopt the foregoing resolution, and the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

Yea: Virgi Lindsay, Aaron Banks, Vernon Hartley and Ashby Foote
Nays: None.
Absent: Angelique C. Lee, Brian C. Grizzell and Kenneth Stokes

The President of the Council then declared the resolution passes and adopted this the 22nd day of August 2023.

APPROVED BY:
/s/ Aaron Banks

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL
/s/ Chokwe Antar Lumumba
MAYOR

ATTEST:
/s/ Angela Harris
CITY CLERK

08/31/23, 09/07/23, 09/14/23, 09/21/23,

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
LOUIS COOPER, DECEASED
LOUIS M. CLARK, PETITIONER CAUSE NO.-P2023-375

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary on the Estate of LOUIS COOPER, deceased, having been granted to me on this 25 day of August 2023 by the Chancery Court Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi, as Executor of the Estate of LOUIS COOPER, deceased, Notice hereby given that all persons having claim(s) against said Estate to present such claim(s) to the Clerk for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days of the First Publication of this Notice, or they will be forever barred.

Respectfully submitted,
Louis M. Clark

Chester Ray Jones, Esq., MS B# 3141
Attorney for the Estate of LOUIS COOPER deceased
Counselor and Attorney-At-Law
Post Office Box 5141, Jackson, Mississippi 39296
(601) 953-649, E-Mail chetjones4545@yahoo.com

08/31/23, 09/07/23, 09/14/23

LEGAL

MV Transportation, Inc.
Letters of Interest from DBE Firms

MV Transportation, Inc. (MV) is proposing as a prime contractor in response to the City of Jackson, JTRAN Transit System, RFP NO: 2023-3 project located in Jackson, MS. The proposal due date is 09/26/23. We would appreciate letters of interest from Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms who are currently certified, active and without restrictions with the Mississippi Unified Certification Program (MUCP) for the following services: Uniforms, Vehicle Servicing, Towing, Janitorial and Landscaping Services. For more information, assistance with bonding, lines of credit, insurance, to receive a copy of the RFP, or to receive a quote form and scope of work detail, please contact Aleena Beaty at MVDBE1@mvtransit.com or (972) 689-8831. The DBE Quote Deadline is September 18, 2023, at 5:00pm CST.

09/14/23

PROTECT

WHAT MATTERS MOST

Whether you are home or away, protect what matters most from unexpected power outages with a Generac Home Standby Generator

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Good for a limited time. See dealer for full terms and conditions.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(844) 316-8630

FREE 7-year Extended Warranty* – A \$735 Value!

*For qualifying customers. See dealer for details. Offer good while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

GENERAC



FREE INTERNET

Qualify today for the Government Free Internet Program

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

maxsip
CONNECTS

CALL TODAY (855) 215-7081

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

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



Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB

1-855-532-0066

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-in Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082166 NSCB 0082999 0083446



FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT



LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING AARON HONEYSUCKER A REZONING FROM C-1 (RESTRICTED) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND C-2 (LIMITED) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO R-4 (LIMITED MULTI-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT WITH A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITY FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1990 PLEASANT AVE. (PARCEL 99-30), CASE NO. 4195.

WHEREAS, Aaron Honeysucker has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 1990 Pleasant Ave. (Parcel 99-30) in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, from C-1 (Restricted) Commercial District and C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District with a Use Permit to allow for the development of an event venue (community recreational center); and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the property from C-1 (Restricted) Commercial District and C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to R-4 (Limited Multi-Family) Residential District with a Special Exception to allow for the development of a residential community facility; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, January 23, 2023 to consider said change, based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on December 1, 2022 and December 15, 2022 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on December 21, 2022, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described property from C-1 (Restricted) Commercial District and C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to R-4 (Limited Multi-Family) Residential District with a Special Exception; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council after having considered the matter is of the opinion that such changes would be in keeping with sound land use practice and to the best interest of the City and that there has been a substantial change in the land use character of the surrounding area that justifies rezoning the property and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the request in said application since any previous City Council action; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council after having considered the matter is of the opinion that the documents are in order, and that the recommendation of the Planning Board to approve a Special Exception to allow for a residential community facility within a R-4 (Limited Multi-Family) Residential District does support the promotion of the public health, safety, morals, the general welfare of the community and the granting of such not adversely affecting adjacent property owners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. That the property located in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, more particularly described as follows:

A certain tract or parcel of land situated in the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 34, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, on the east side of Pleasant Avenue, formerly Livingston Road, fronting 75 feet on said avenue and running east between parallel lines 522 feet, more or less, to the center of Potter's Creek, said property being bounded on the north by property formerly owned by Ma Sayles, subsequently owned by Rebecca Fleming and Maggie Little, bounded on the south by property formerly owned by J B Van Zandt, and being a of the Charles Phillips property and purchased by W A Sayles as a commissioner's sale and also conveyed to him by Mary Turner, as shown by deed recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk at Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, in Book 225, at page 355; and being the same property conveyed by William A. Sayles to William W. Sayles on February 19, 1951, by deed recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk aforesaid in Book 696 at page 431, and being the same property conveyed by William W. Sayles to A. D. Fobbs by deed recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk dated August 3, 1951, and recorded in Deed Book 718 at page 619 of said records, reference to all of said records being hereby made in aid of this description.

And being the said property as described in warranty deed recorded in Book 7186 at page 4631, (the "property").

The property is conveyed subject to, and there is accepted the warranty of this conveyance, those certain recorded oil, gas or mineral leases, royalty reservation or other mineral conveyances, all recorded restrictive covenants, building restriction, right-of-way, zoning ordinance or easement affecting the property.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the property located at 1990 Pleasant Ave. (Parcel 99-30) from C-1 (Restricted) Commercial District and C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to R-4 (Limited Multi-Family) Residential District with a Special Exception to allow for the development of a residential community facility. However, that before any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

SECTION 2. That the copy of publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by the petitioner.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its passage and after publication of same by the petitioner.

Council Member Banks moved adoption; Council Member Lindsay seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Hartley and Lindsay.
Nays – None.
Absent – Grizzell, Lee and Stokes.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Zoning Council Meeting January 23, 2023 and recorded in Minute Book #6W, Pgs. 575-577.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 14 day of March, 2023.



Angela Harris
Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

09/14/23

LEGAL

Advertisement For Bids
JTRAN TRANSIT SYSTEM: TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES
CITY PROJECT NO. RFP#2023-03

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk 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, September 26, 2023, for Operations and Maintenance Services for the public transportation system in the City of Jackson (as specified) necessary for REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2023-03.

The term of the contract will be for four (4) years with an option to renew for three (3) 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-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 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2023-03."

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 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

08/31/23, 09/07/23, 09/14/23, 09/21/23

MCAN

Mississippi Classified Advertising Network

To place your statewide classified ad order, call MS Press Services at 601-981-3060

For Sale

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES today with a GENERAC Home Standby Generator. \$0 Money Down plus low monthly payment options. Request a FREE QUOTE - Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-316-8630

TROUBLE HEARING YOUR TV? Try TV EARS - Voice Clarifying Wireless TV Speaker. Better than a soundbar and/or turning the TV volume way up. Special, limited time \$50 off offer. Call TV Ears. Use code MBSP50. Call 1-833-994-0778

Home Improvement

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior and Military Discounts. Call 1-866-479-1028

IF YOU HAVE A PRODUCT or SERVICE to advertise, try these statewide classifieds for a big reach at a budget rate. 601-981-3060

METAL ROOFS. Completely installed \$4750* Siding/Windows 40% Off. LIMITED TIME. Factory Warranty. Free Estimates. Credit cards accepted. SR/Military discounts* 1500 sq ft. CALL NOW!! 800-664-4856

SAFE STEP. North America is #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-532-0066

Insurance

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1 - 8 5 5 - 3 9 7 - 7 0 4 5 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/mspress)

Insurance

FREE AUTO INSURANCE QUOTES for uninsured and insured drivers. Let us show you how much you can save! Call 833-396-2834

Medical Supplies

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 844-821-3242

Miscellaneous

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-400-8263

Pets / Livestock

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

Services - General

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS HOME INTERNET with EarthLink. Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, and data plans up to 300 GB. Call 866-831-4021

FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-855-215-7081

SWITCH AND SAVE UP TO \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-844-954-451

Services - General

SWITCH TO DISH and get up to a \$300 gift card! Plus get the Multisport pack included for a limited time! Hurry, call for details: 1-877-628-3143

Services - Medical

My Caring Plan's local advisors have helped thousands of families with unique needs find senior living. Can you afford 2k a month in rent? We can help for free! Call 855-552-4204

Place Your Classified Ad
STATEWIDE


STATEWIDE RATES:
Up to 25 words.....\$230
1 col. x 2 inch.....\$525
1 col. x 3 inch.....\$785
1 col. x 4 inch.....\$1050

**Nationwide Placement
Available
Call MS Press Services
601-981-3060**

Week of September 3, 2023

What factors are involved in when and if we should retire from the workforce?

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

 Being able to retire has always been a part of the American dream. This long held belief was passed on to me in my early years of growing up in North Carolina.

I saw senior citizens who once worked for a living retired and happy being at home. I thought to myself this must be a good life. They would share stories with us as children about the good old days. I found them to be both funny and interesting.

During the early years of my working life, I never really thought about retirement. I was too busy providing for myself and later, my family. One of the old school talks that I listened to intently was that it was important to save some money.

Plainly said, you shouldn't spend more than you make. That message resonated with me, so I began a conservative spending lifestyle. I was fortunate to have had some role models in my life who taught me about savings, stocks and retirement accounts.

It also helped that I had parents who gave me the foundation about

spending and saving. That foundation was layered with a neighborhood who had people in it who practiced those habits.

Upon reflection, I cannot really say when I initially thought about retirement. What I did begin to realize was that I was getting older, and I didn't want to work forever.

So gradually, I started planning for retirement. I didn't have a retirement specialist like many people do today. I reviewed my debts and projected retirement funds and decided to retire.

As I neared retirement, I wanted to do it on my terms. As the song lyrics go, I wanted to do it my way. I didn't want anyone to tell me when to go or how to go. Humbly I say that when I did retire that I still had a high degree of competence, compassion and commitment.

It was simply time to close one chapter and to begin another while I was still in my right mind and physically able to do so. You have similar sentiments if you are in a certain age group.

An important part of my retirement planning was to think about what I wanted to do when I retired. I knew I couldn't sit at home and have nothing to do.

If there is one piece of advice that I can give anyone considering retire-

ment is to find something else to do. Something else doesn't necessarily mean being paid for it. Whatever you choose to do, let it be non-stressful.

Remember, you had enough stress while you were working. When we were in the hustle and bustle of work, we had schedules to keep and appointments to make. Now we don't.

As I am approaching overtime in my life, I realize that having a certain quality of life is important physically and mentally.


Another piece of wisdom that I picked up was that there will always be another dollar to chase and another job that you think you can do.

Every day, we hear about Social Security not being as strong as it once was. If we believe the economists, it will not be the staple that it was back in the day. If you have been around for a while, you do have some empathy for those just starting their careers. Being financially literate and watching the economic trends should be on their to-do list.

Retirement is not what it was as it has become a tricky business. It may be a good idea to think about developing a retirement plan because of this ever-changing economic climate. Be prepared and plan early. Find some friends who have similar goals and dreams. You can help each other.

The M&M's in marriage: misunderstandings & miscommunication

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
Guest Writer

 I don't care how much you love your spouse, how in love you are with your spouse, or how long you've been married; all married couples will experience at least one or both M&M's in marriage. The two M&M's in marriage consist of the following: misunderstandings and miscommunication.

The M&M's have caused extensive strain, tension, unrest, tension and frustration in marriages that have led to arguments, fighting, silence, division and turmoil within the home. Unfortunately, there are many married couples who are currently separated, in the process of divorcing or are divorced due to the breakdown of the M&M's. The M&M's are bound to occur in marriage because marriage consists of two imperfect human beings who are growing as one every day.

M&M one is misunderstandings. One of the biggest causes of conflict in marriage is due to misunderstandings. Misunderstandings occur in marriage when a spouse has the wrong perception or impression regarding any problem connected with their spouse. According to the *Marriage.com* website, the following are ten common causes of misunderstandings among couples:

1. Poor listening skills – spouse not being tuned in while spouse is conversing.
2. Disrespecting your partner's feelings – invalidating your spouse feelings.
3. Seeing your partner as a competitor – don't compete with your partner – compliment and work together.
4. Comparing your partner to another person – this is a sign of conflict and can cause trouble.
5. Compatibility problems – both partners value system, mindset and other factors must be like theirs.
6. Assumptions – be patient enough to find out the truth before assuming because it can wreck your marriage.
7. Choice of friends and acquaintances – spouse could be insecure about the possible influence the wrong friends can have or is insecure due to the possibility of losing their spouse to their friends.
8. Finances – if one person is earning higher than the other, their actions might be misinterpreted lots of times because of their financial status.
9. Always claiming to be right – consider where your spouse is coming from before claiming to be right.
10. No quality time with your partner – spouse must be your top priority – needs attention.

All in all, misunderstandings can be prevented in marriage if both people are willing to effectively communicate with each other. However, communication is a major struggle for many couples.

The second M&M is miscommuni-

cation. Psychology Today reports that miscommunication is easily the most common form of communication. In addition, Psychology Today believes that the truth of the matter is that even in the best of relationships with the best of communicators, we miscommunicate more than we communicate. Further, they also suggest that we misunderstand more than we understand. Lastly, they conclude that misunderstanding is the natural state of the world and of intimate relationships like marriage.

What is miscommunication? Miscommunication is the failure to clearly communicate your thoughts, ideas and feelings about anything and everything. There are many spouses who struggle to communicate for the following reasons: mistrust, lack of empathy, fear conflict, pride, arrogance, to deliberately create chaos, to sabotage the marriage, fear being ignored, feel invalidated, some feel like you should be able to read their minds (now look here, many people are like me, I can't read minds, at least not yet, I only read newspapers – *The Mississippi Link*, emails, papers, books, etc.) and some simply miscommunicate because they don't know how to express themselves.

In conclusion, the two M&M's in marriage: misunderstandings and miscommunication will occur in marriage. However, the two M&M's doesn't have to be the reason that you and your spouse not achieve remaining happily married until death do you part. Both spouses must be intentional about going out their way to not only communicate with their spouse but to understand what the spouse is trying to convey.


Therefore, I recommend implementing ways to increase understanding and communication in your marriage. For instance, create some type of vocabulary document for just you and your spouse, play games that requires lots of communication and the need to exercise understanding, read the "Five Love Languages," by Dr. Gray Chapman, write notes and letters to each other, or do it the old fashion way; talk until you get to the bottom line. If these suggestions are both effective, seek marriage counseling.

When you have your soulmate, the best thing that ever happened to you, the love of your life – don't let the M&M's in marriage: misunderstanding and miscommunication destroy your marriage.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.) Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, Instagram: *letsstay2gether4ever* (Dr. LaShunda Calvert), Facebook Dr. LaShunda Calvert, Email *letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com* or call 601-874-6176.

Homelessness, housing and the real solution

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

 To his credit, President Biden has increased the amounts of the housing subsidies for the second time in his administration in an effort to encourage more landlords to provide more rental housing. Homelessness rates vary considerably by state

In California alone, it is reported that there are more than 160,000 homeless people on our streets, including families, and that number is growing each day for one simple reason: a lack of strong renter protection laws and the greed on the part of landlords and developers. While San Diego applauds the major steps taken by the City of San Diego in its recent passage and implementation of its Renters Protection Ordinance and strong efforts to get people off the streets and into housing, the problem continues to outgrow the assistance because of one simple but often undiscussed reason: landlord greed.

It's the landlords in our city and state that have raised rents to the point of making housing almost unobtainable. The rental increases and the

deposit requirements outpace the income of many families and individuals seeking housing. The increases in rents since the moratorium on evictions during the pandemic suggest a pattern of attempting to make up for lost time during the eviction freeze.

In the midst of this crisis, there are more and more high rise apartments being built and sitting empty in San Diego while people live on the streets outside of these structures. Let it be known that not all those people are drug addicts, mentally ill, or criminals.

But enough of the problem. Now for some solutions.

First, there is a need to inventory the building permits that have been issued and that are about to be issued for apartment and condo structures in San Diego and all cities with a homelessness or "unsheltered people" issue. Only then will we have an idea of the number of available units existing and under construction. Second, there is a need to look at who is building those units. Most of these projects are being done by deep pocket investors. While there are some agreements on mixed use of these projects with some set aside for mixed income housing, there is a need for improvement and strengthening such requirements.

Third, the use of credit information and deposits must be tightened up including how evictions on the records of potential renters are handled by prospective landlords.


For example, we know that when the moratorium on evictions was lifted following the pandemic, many landlords implemented pending evictions. That part on the records of people seeking new housing can not be overcome without some interceding legislation noting the circumstances behind the eviction itself. Many of these issues must be looked at from local, state and federal legislative levels. These efforts, plus the dollars being put into housing will make a difference and produce some real results.

These efforts will have to come from the grassroots level of "We the People" with some organized efforts before such people become homeless themselves. Where will you be involved?

It may come as a surprise to many Americans that the state with the lowest level of homelessness is also its poorest. Mississippi with a poverty rate of 19.4%, also has the nation's lowest homelessness rate of about 4 per 10,000 people or an estimated 1,107.

America needs the spirit of 9/11

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

 Twenty two years ago, America was united in its grief over the 9/11 tragedies. There were no two Americas – Democratic and Republican. There was only America in a time of loss and grief. Today,

that is no longer the case.

Grief and loss have become commonplace and terrorists, such as those who attacked all of us on 9/11, have now become "us"; neighbors and fellow Americans now taking to killing fellow Americans for no good or necessary reasons. This is a sharp contrast with the spirit of 9/11, which had us "helping" each other, regardless of politics or the color of

our skin.

The intended attack on the U.S. Capitol was aborted by the brave Americans on United Flight 93 who gave their lives as they crashed the plane in a field in Pennsylvania, to save fellow Americans. This was in sharp contrast to the January 6, 2020 attack on the Capitol, carried out by supporters of a former president; a man who showed no respect for the very

Constitution that he had sworn to "protect and defend."

We have truly become the "Two Americas" that the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders Report identified when issued 55 years ago. That 431-page report became known as The 1968 Kerner Commission. It's a document many Americans could stand to read again or, for many, the first time.

Yes, America needs to return to the collective spirit of 9/11 and its focus on the nation as a whole and not its obsession with one man and those who have joined him in making his quest for power greater than our Constitution and those of us it serves. We need the spirit of 9/11 again and beyond just reading names and ringing the bell once a year for those we lost.

The solution is found in the words of the Bible, 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land".

Our land needs a healing, and with that healing, a return to the Spirit of 9/11.



**Nissan believes in
the power of education.**



nissan-canton.com

**Celebrating
20 years of service
in the Greater
Jackson Area.**

Experts, advocates to discuss voting rights, suppression at LSU Reilly Center event BATON ROUGE



The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs at LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication and partners will host the first installment of season seven of the "Racism: Dismantling the System" series. The new episode, "Equity at the Ballot Box: Discriminatory Obstacles to Voting," will take place Sept. 19, at 3:30 p.m. CT, via Zoom.

Advocates and experts will discuss efforts across the U.S. to curb voting in response to claims of fraud and a stolen presidential election in 2020. Voter suppression and election result subversion measures primarily target racial minorities. Learn about these tactics and how communities are working to shape a more equitable democratic process in the face of efforts to degrade voting rights.

Panelists are as follows: Sara Martin, moderator, Political Science Master's Student, Southern University, Jarret Luter, committee chair, Baton Rouge NAACP Branch Political Action Committee, Ashley Shelton, founder, president and CEO, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, Albert Samuels, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Political Science and Geography, Southern University and Sara Carter, J.D., Equal Justice America Fellow, Brennan Center for Justice's Democracy Program

"States all across the country have passed laws that stymie and restrict one's ability to participate in the most fundamental function of a democracy: voting," said Baton Rouge NAACP Branch President Michael McClanahan. "The disparities minorities battle highlight the long history of bigotry and discrimination that have, and still are, negatively impacting the lives of racial minorities."

"Racism: Dismantling the System" is an ongoing series of conversations about structural racism and solution-oriented action toward equal opportunity and justice in our communities. The series amplifies the voices of community advocates, academics, journalists and more working for social justice in our nation and beyond.

The series is hosted in partnership with the Loyola College of Music and Media at Loyola University New Orleans, Southern University and A&M College's Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences, Louisiana Budget Project, NAACP Louisiana State Conference and the LSU Office of Diversity & Inclusion.

"Among the many challenges facing our democracy, equal and fair access to voting is high on the list. Restrictive voting policies lock too many voters out of the process, falling hardest on communities of color," said Carter. "I hope this conversation can shed some light on policy reforms to help ensure that every eligible American exercises their fundamental right to vote."

The episode will take place on Zoom and will be broadcast live on the Louisiana Budget Project's Facebook page. Admission is free, but you must register in advance on Eventbrite to receive the Zoom meeting access code. The episodes will also be recorded and uploaded to the Manship School's YouTube channel. For more information, contact acharbonnet1@lsu.edu.

The Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs is partnership-driven, action-oriented and dedicated to exploring contemporary issues at the intersection of mass communication and public life. Its interdisciplinary approach draws together experts from diverse fields to advance research and dialogue. The intent is to inspire our communities to think deeply, take action, develop solutions and broaden knowledge. Underlying the Center's endeavors is to strengthen and advance the Manship School's national and state leadership in media and politics. Follow us on Facebook @ReillyCenter, Twitter @ReillyCenter, Instagram @lsureillycenter and LinkedIn LSU Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs.

Alumni Spotlight: MVSU alums, who were born conjoined twins, share their story of life, love and survival

By LaTunya Evans,
Communication Specialist
Mississippi Valley State University newswire

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) graduates Lillian Matthews-Hollins, and Linda Matthews-Wilson recently celebrated their 50th-year high school reunion in March, which was a great deal for the twin sisters who were not expected to live long after birth.

On September 14, 1955, a 29-year-old doctor named Clinton Battle arrived at the Matthews' home to deliver what he thought was one baby. Shortly after beginning the delivery process, Battle quickly realized that there were two babies instead of one, and they were joined together. Battle delivered the twins, and John and Missouri Matthews of Indianola, MS., became the proud parents of these special babies.

Lillian and Linda were born connected from the sternum to the navel and shared a liver. They became the first conjoined twins, also known as Siamese twins, to be successfully separated at just five weeks old, and both survived the surgery.

"We were guinea pigs when it came to separating us because they did not think we would survive the surgery," explained Linda.

"They were just experimenting, and luckily, we survived. They do experimental surgeries all the time, but they got it right with us," Lillian added.

After the separation, three-fourths of their shared liver was given to Linda and one-fourth to Lillian.

As they matured, the pair did suffer from frequent stomach pains, but surprisingly, they did not have to take medication.

"We had certain limitations on what we could do because of the scars where we were joined together, but we did not have to take medicine. There was no reason to," said Linda.

"But when our stomachs hurt, our mother faithfully took us to the doctor when we weren't faking," a laughing Lillian said.

To avoid chores and sometimes going to school, they would complain of nonexistent stomach pains, which their mother believed every time. While some of the complaints were fake, there were times when the pains were real, and the twins would comfort each other and "pass their pain" between one another.

"You could look at our faces, the pain, the moaning and groaning, and know that we were really in pain. We would hold each other's hand and pass the pain off as much as possible. As we squeezed each other's hand, we would say, 'Take the pain, take the pain.' Then, when it was too unbearable, we would squeeze each other's hand and say, 'take



it back, take it back," Linda said.

Eventually, the frequent stomach pains stopped, and Lillian and Linda could be active in sports. While in high school, the pair joined the dance and track team. Their fantastic dance skills and identical faces helped them decide what college to attend after high school.

"We chose Valley (MVSU) because we were offered a scholarship. We were on the Gentry (Indianola) dance team, and Valley came and saw the dance team. Then, we were invited to come to Valley and dance at the basketball game where they played Grambling. We danced, and Mr. (Leonard) Tremell, the band director for Valley, saw us and wanted us in his band. He offered us scholarships to come to Valley," explained Lillian.

"Once we got to Valley, I didn't want to dance because I learned he wanted us at the front of the band. He wanted to feature the twin dancers, but I was not interested in being in front of the band."

Since their interest was not to dance in front of the band, they decided to refrain from participating in extracurricular activities during their first year. By their sophomore year, Linda had a change of heart about dancing and convinced her twin to try out with her.

"She [Linda] wanted to go out for majorette. I was not interested because I was too small to make the line. You had to weigh a certain amount to make the line, and I was not big enough, but I decided to go out with her," said Lillian.

"She said 'Come out with me to try out. Once I make the team, you can quit.' She was confident that she would make the team, and she did. We both did, but I was an alternate, but I turned some heads out there.

Lillian remained on the team for the remainder of the school year but quit right before the spring semester ended.

While in college, they often supported and helped one another, including in the classroom.

If there were classes that one

twin had taken the semester before that the other was taking during the current semester, one would pretend to be the other twin in class since she had completed the coursework the semester prior.

"We would take classes for each other. If I had passed a class over the summer, and she [Linda] started taking that same class the following fall, I would take the class for her, and she did the same for me," explained Lillian.

That ended quickly when one twin stopped completing her end of the bargain.

"I eventually learned from a classmate that she [Lillian] was cutting my classes. They said, 'You know your sister isn't coming to class for you. You can only miss one more class before you fail the class.' You should have seen me running to the dorm to confront her," said Linda.

After confronting Lillian, Linda soon learned she had been skipping her class to lounge in bed. Both decided to return to going to their classes.

In May of 1977, Lillian and Linda graduated from Mississippi Valley State University. Lillian received her Bachelor of Arts in English, and Linda received her Bachelor of Science in Biology.

At first, Linda dreamed of becoming a nurse, but after working for her father as a substitute teacher during the Christmas break, she found her calling in teaching.

"We would sub for our dad during the Christmas break. I worked in a Special Education class for only one day, and my dad was completely shocked at some of the students' activities. Later, he told me that my calling was teaching instead of nursing and persuaded me to get my certification in Special Education, so I did. That is how I ended up in the classroom," explained Linda.

Both Lillian and Linda taught in the public schools before they retired. Linda taught Special Education for 35 years before retiring, and Lillian taught English in the West Tallahatchie School District for 33 years before retiring.

Lillian and Linda gave credit

to MVSU for preparing them for teaching.

"The teachers taught us well. When I began teaching, I was doing certain things, and other teachers wondered where I had learned it. It was Valley," Linda said proudly.

Linda continued to explain how one teacher from MVSU taught her significant queues to look for when dealing with parents that helped her remain safe.

"There was a teacher named Ms. Issac who was tough, but she taught us a lot. One of the first lessons she taught us was to look for how a mom carried her purse. If she walks in holding her purse at the bottom, she has something in it that might be a weapon, so be aware," said Lillian.

Lillian admitted that Ms. Isaac's advice was great, and she adhered to it. Luckily, she never had an encounter of that kind with a parent.

Lillian and Linda agreed that teaching brought them many children who were not theirs biologically but who they loved like their own.

"A few months ago, a former student came to spend the weekend with me and my husband. I enjoyed the company. It was nice. Many students have told me that I am like a second mom to them," said Lillian.

While some of their former students wanted the position of their children, both Lillian and Linda were able to have children of their own.

Growing up, people, including many of their peers, doubted their ability to have children since it was not typical for conjoined twins to have children.

"We did not know if we could have children. People would always ask us if we could have children because they believed we could not. They believed that because we don't have navels, but we do have everything else," Lillian said.

"They were not thinking of the biology of it all. Once I had my first son, I answered that question," added Linda.

Linda was the first of the twins to have children. She has three children, whom she raised with her late husband, Claude Wilson, Sr. They were married for 38 years before his passing in January 2020.

Lillian also raised two children with her husband, Howard Hollins, Sr.

There were many questions and doubts throughout their lives, but Lillian and Linda proved that miracles happen.

"The significance behind our story is that miracles do happen. They happen every day. God said let them live, and we have. We are a testimony to what he is capable of," Lillian and Linda explained together.



BOOK REVIEW: ONE BLOOD: A NOVEL

BY DENENE MILLNER
C.2023, FORGE
\$29.00 • 432 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

One drop. That’s all they said it took to determine someone’s race. Just one drop, the tiniest of amounts, and everything changed: no access, no rights, no cold drink from a fountain on a hot day, no freedoms. No safety. No say in the matter. And in the new novel, “One Blood” by Denene Millner, no way to change it, but time.

The first night Grace saw her Maw Maw catch a baby, she had a mess of feelings: a little sick, scared, but mostly awed

at what Maw Maw called a miracle. Grace was small then, but she paid attention. One day, Maw Maw promised, Grace would be the one catching babies.

Just days after her own mother died, though, the sheriff came for Maw Maw, who’d falsified a birth certificate to protect a newborn from a white man not its father. The sheriff beat Maw Maw and dragged her off, and Grace was spirited away north to Brooklyn, to safety, to be cared for by an auntie who didn’t want her.

Hattie made no bones about that.

She treated Grace no better than a common maid, and she warned that a country gal like Grace had no business in Brooklyn society. Hattie didn’t want the embarrassment of an illegitimate child around, either, and so when Grace got pregnant, Hattie tricked her into losing her baby to adoption.

Lolo never told Tommy the truth because she knew he wanted children.

She’d been terribly muti-

lated down there when she was younger, so she let him think he was the cause of their infertility. She didn’t want children anyhow, but she became a mother with the adoption of a boy first, then a girl, and she didn’t tell either of her children.

On a sunny day when she was thirteen, Rae learned a truth about herself, and she kept it close. She loved her mother, she appreciated Lolo’s sacrifices and didn’t want to hurt her. But as she grew into a woman with the same troubles

she’d seen in her mother’s life, Rae wondered where her blood came from...

Here’s some advice: if you’re not completely immersed in “One Blood” by page ten, you might want to get yourself checked out. There could be something wrong with you.


Covering just a matter of decades, author Denene Millner introduces readers to a family of women, each of whom leave an unknown legacy for the next generation. They do it while dealing with the issues of the day, racism, violence, classism,

and infidelity, and with a little help from the ethereal connection they share – all of which dip and soar throughout this four-part tale. Millner is a great teller, sharing each woman’s story with brutal reality, the kind that can shock you emotionless, but also with a lightness that feels like skipping.


It’s a mix you can’t miss.

Readers who want a novel that includes a little bit of last-century history and current events will eat this book up.

“One Blood” is a book you’ll drop everything to read.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



Services of the Clerk:

- Civil/Criminal Filings of Circuit and County Court
- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

VOTER INFORMATION
[Verify/Update your Registration Today](#)

- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
 - o Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
 - o Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

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

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


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

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

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

Website: www.hindscountymiss.com
Paid for by friends of Zack Wallace

Cool And Current



WJLSU 88.5
"your source for cool jazz and current news"
www.wjlsu.org

JSU
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY



WRTM
SMOOTH 100.5 FM

WRTM-FM 100.5 FM, JACKSON’S SOUL, RHYTHM AND BLUES AND SOUTHERN SOUL STATION PLAYING MORE VARIETY, LESS TALK AND THE MUSIC ADULTS WANT TO HEAR!

Jackson State rebounds from loss to beat Southern

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

After not putting their best foot forward in Miami, JSU showed tenacity last Saturday in Baton Rouge. The Tigers took down the Jaguars for the fourth consecutive time, winning 27 to 14. Southern tried to “turn the lights” on the Tigers, but even that couldn’t delay their demise. Quarterback Jason Brown was back as the starter after being benched in Miami for Zy McDonald. Brown completed 16 of 26 passes for 184 yards with 1 touchdown. Brown has yet to regain the precision he displayed in the season opener. Against South Carolina State, Brown completed 22 passes in a row, for over 300 yards passing. Jackson State was more determined to run the ball. One of the most consistent players all season has been running back,



Irv Mulligan. Mulligan rushed 23 times for 91 yards with 1 touchdown. Mulligan is a power running back with good speed. He’s aggressive. He’s strong. He’s also versatile; catching 2 passes for 23 yards.

Rico Powers lead the receivers with 76 yards, 63 came on a touchdown pass from Quarterback Jason Brown. Duke Miller caught the most passes with 4. The Darkside Defense was more aggressive. Playing a rival

tends to bring that out, however, their lackluster to the start of the FAMU game had people scratching their heads.

The defense caused 6 sacks and 2 interceptions. Isaac Pepers paced the defense with 5

tackles. BJ Washington secured one of the interceptions and Jaheem Hazel secured the other interception.

Jackson State didn’t start out blazing. It took them a second to get rolling. Almost 30,000

people in attendance, saw Southern actually lead 7 to 0 in the first quarter. It was the home opener for Southern; Jackson State spoiled it.

Jackson State relied on its offensive line to jump start the offense. Same can be said for their defensive line. Controlling the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball was a point of emphasis this week. Head Coach TC Taylor wanted his guys playing physical and they did.

Jackson State is on the road yet again this week, traveling to San Marcos, Texas to do battle with Texas State.

The Bobcats come into their home opener with a record of 1-1.

Tiger fans that have been following the team on the road all season, can’t wait till the WC Gordon Classic and their home opener, September 23.



JSU head coach TC Taylor

Alcorn loses on the road, has home opener this Saturday

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

Alcorn State University traveled to Texas last Saturday to play Stephen F Austin. The Braves fell 38 to 10.

Alcorn utilized the two quarterback system again this week. Tyler Macon and Aaron Allen combined to complete 7 of 18 passes for 84 yards.

Allen was sacked 3 times, however between the two quarterbacks, he threw for 53 yards.

Macon is the more mobile quarterback, gaining 41 yards on the ground on 6 carries.

Jarveon Howard lead the Braves in rushing with 63 yards on 17 carries while scoring the Braves lone touchdown for the day. The Braves mustered 171 yards rushing.

Defensively, despite the score, the Braves played well. Recording three interceptions and 2 sacks, the defense got after it. Alcorn only trailed by 5 points at halftime, 15 to 10. The game was pretty much nip and tuck most of the third quarter.

Late In the third quarter, the Braves gave up their second safety of the game, extending the lead to 17 to 10. Stephen F Austin would reel off 21 unanswered points in 4th quarter to put the game away 38-10.

Alcorn’s home opener is this weekend. The Braves will host McNeese State. Gametime is 6 p.m. A good crowd is expected in Lorman as the Braves go for their first win of the season.



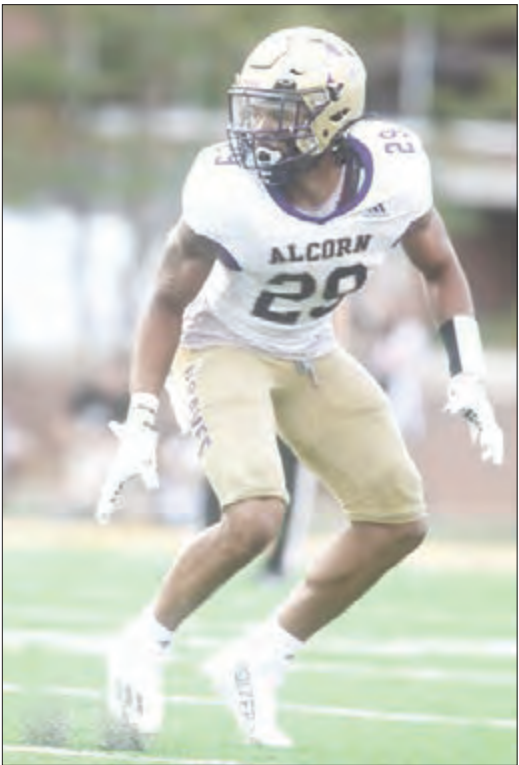
Aaron Allen threw for 53 yards.



Akeem McNair runs the ball.



Cornerback Andrew Smith got an interception.



Robert McDaniels recorded his second interception of the season.

Terry pulls away late in 34 to 18 win over Callaway

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

Last Friday the Terry Bulldogs traveled to the South Jackson Field and defeated the Callaway Chargers. The defense led by Amarrien Bailey’s 13 tackles gave the Chargers problems all night. However, the Chargers didn’t go away quietly. Callaway trailed by 8, 20 to 12 at halftime.

Callaway scores quickly a few minutes into the 3rd quarter, but missed the 2 point conversion. Chargers trailed 18 to 20.

On their next drive, Terry would score pushing the lead back to 27 to 18. The Bulldogs would score again in just before the start of the 4th quarter extending their lead to 34 to 18. Neither team scored in the fourth quarter.

Terry improved to 3-0 on the season while Callaway dropped to 1-2. Next up for Terry, is a home game against the Vicksburg Gators. Vicksburg is 2-1 on the season.

Callaway will travel up to Canton this week. Canton 0-3 so far this season.



Amarrien Bailey made 13 tackles.



Running Back Jordan Magee breaks loose.



Amarrien Bailey



Jeremy Scott



BE ICONIC

ALL-ELECTRIC
2023 CADILLAC LYRIQ

2023 model shown. Orders are full. See Cadillac.com for 2024 model availability details.