

# Congressman Thompson commends House passage of crucial stopgap measure



Thompson

By Jackie Hampton  
*Publisher*

In a press release dated September 30, 2023, Congressman Bennie Thompson (2nd District D-MS) announced he was pleased that the House of Representatives had taken decisive action to prevent a looming government shutdown by swiftly passing a crucial stopgap measure. This legislation secures government funding for the next 45 days, averting a potentially devastating crisis.

Thompson was the only member of the Mississippi delegation to support this measure, representing his commitment to thousands of Mississippi government workers and families who would face tremendous hardships.

*The Mississippi Link* appreciates his leadership in putting the country first. Minnie Garrett, copy editor, stated, “Congressman Thompson has always placed people above politics and ‘The Link’ thanks Representative Thompson for his vote on the resolution that kept the government open.”

In the press release, Thompson stated,

“This emphasizes the unwavering dedication of my Democratic colleagues and myself to the American people. I want to stress the strong support from our side of the aisle, in stark contrast to the decision of over 90 Republicans who voted against this bill, putting us on the brink of a government shutdown.”

Thompson noted, “I remain steadfast in prioritizing the stability and welfare of our nation.”

The stopgap measure will provide certainty and stability for businesses, consumers and federal workers, ensuring that the government can continue to provide essential services, such as Social Security, Medicare and national security, as well as funding for domestic disaster relief.

Thompson added that he hopes the Senate will also pass the stopgap measure quickly, to avoid any further uncertainty or disruption. He also urged his Republican colleagues to put aside partisan differences to ensure that the government can continue to operate efficiently.

# Racism – let’s talk about it

How important is it to talk about racism? In Mississippi lo and behold there are signs of progress – more pastors and more hearts are desperately needed.



UN PHOTO/PAULO FILGUEIRAS, VIA WWW.UN.ORG

By Christopher Young  
*Contributing Writer*

How do you live in a world, a society, or even a state where people are discriminated against because of their race or ethnicity, and not talk about it? Isn’t there a certain sickness in not talking about it – that whole thing about sins thriving in darkness. What impact does silence bring? Does it reduce racism? Does it increase racism? Does silence paralyze us in the status quo? How important is it to talk about racism?

Here in Mississippi its easy to see racist behavior, to see and hear prejudiced people. We recall that it took the state 148 years to ratify the 13th Amendment to the Constitu-

tion...” the amendment was ratified after three-fourths of the states backed it in December 1865. Four remaining states all eventually ratified the amendment – except for Mississippi.

Mississippi voted to ratify the amendment in 1995 but failed to make it official by notifying the U.S. Archivist,” per [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com) on February 18, 2013. It was referred to as an error, an oversight, to not have the 1995 resolution sent to the Federal Register to make it official.

Occasionally I’m reminded by a life-long and incredibly sage and insightful Missis-

*Racism Continued on page 3*

# Massive resistance revisited to compare progress toward equality

On the eve of Mississippi’s General Election, a look back at then and now

By Christopher Young  
*Contributing Writer*

“If we can organize the Southern States for massive resistance to this order (Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka), I think that in time the rest of the country will realize that racial integration is not going to be accepted in the South,” Harry Byrd, Senator from Virginia, February 1956.

Sixty-five years later, FBI Director Christopher Wray spoke to the Senate Judiciary Committee, saying in part, “domestic terrorism was ‘metastasizing’ across the country, reaffirming the threat from racially motivated extremists,” per the *New York Times* on May 2, 2021. He condemned the January 6th insurrection and indicated that agents had opened 2,000 domestic terrorism inquiries in recent years.

Certainly, there are many differences in these two men and what they had to say, but the commonality is clear – the intent and the recognition of harm done to others, and all racially motivated.

Looking back, despite the horrific destruction of the Civil War, the Supreme Court was no friend of integration over the next many decades, ultimately siding with white supremacy in their decisions. Then came the May 17, 1954, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka ruling – the landscape had changed and “the Supreme Court unanimously invalidated racial segregation



Ella Baker, a leader of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, at 1964 National Democratic Convention.



March for Voting Rights at Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, AL in 1965 PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

in public education, saying that segregating public schools were ‘inherently unequal’ and violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.” The Southern racial caste system now

had a massive chink in its armor, as discussed by The Equal Justice Institute (<https://eji.org>).

Virginia Senator Byrd pushed his Southern Manifesto – willful disobedience and disruption

to block any form of school desegregation – along with his colleagues comprised of 19 Senators and 82 Representatives. Their Southern Manifesto declared the Brown ruling a clear abuse of judicial power and a violation of States’ Rights.

Some of the “tactics called for included: 1) white parents trying to deny black children equal education by voting to close and defund public schools, 2) transferring their children to private white only schools, 3) harassing and violently attacking black students while their own children watched or participated,” according to Segregation in America, a report filed by EJI in 2018.

The introduction to the report, states, “Segregation in America documents how millions of white Americans joined a mass movement of committed, unwavering and often violent opposition to the Civil Rights Movement. EJI believes that understanding this mass opposition to racial equality, integration, and civil rights is central to confronting the continuing challenges of racial inequality today.” The full report can be found at [www.segregationinamerica.eji.org](http://www.segregationinamerica.eji.org).

In a section of the report, entitled, ‘The inequality that remains,’ it shares in part, “Because our nation failed to confront the narrative of racial difference in the decades after the assassinations of national civil rights leaders and the rise of pol-

*Resistance Continued on page 3*

# JSU alumna Laphonza Butler to fill Senate seat of the late Sen. Dianne Feinstein, appointed by Gov. Gavin Newsom



Butler returned to her alma mater, Jackson State University to serve as keynote speaker for the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Political Science in April. PHOTO BY WILLIAM H. KELLY III

By Rachel James Terry  
*Director of Public Relations, JSU*

California Gov. Gavin Newsom selected Jackson State University political science graduate Laphonza Butler to fill the seat of the late Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Acting President of JSU Elayne H. Anthony, Ph.D. was elated when she heard that Butler, a JSU graduate

had been selected. She told *The Mississippi Link* newspaper, “JSU is very proud that one our alums has become the newest member of the United States Senate.” She went on to say, “We congratulate Ms. Laphonza Butler on her awesome appointment”

Butler is the president of

*Butler Continued on page 3*

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Alcorn pulls out overtime victory 23 to 20 over Alabama State, prepares for homecoming

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Night Train to Nashville

THE GREATEST UNTOLD STORY OF MUSIC CITY

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# New Horizon Church International presents WOW Wednesday – Ordination Service

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

New Horizon Church International (1750 Ellis Avenue #200, Jackson, Miss. 39204) held its WOW Wednesday – Ordination Service at 7 p.m. on September 27, 2023. The service was one of celebration for one ordained elder and eight ordained associate ministers who underwent training. Ordained as elder was Elder James Holman. Ordained associate ministers were: Ministers Cardell Bell, Simon Portis and Rashida Walker. Ordained pastors were Pastors Titus Braboy, Allan Cole, Denesia Lofton, Gene Washington and Tanna Williams.

Though the occasion was one of commendation, it brought with it caution. Bishop Ronnie Crudup, Sr – the church’s overseer – voiced that the ordained will experience surprises throughout their ministerial journey. However, remembering and relying on God for guidance – rather than themselves – was key to Christian maturity.

“Ordination is a big thing. It takes years to demonstrate maturity in the Lord. Ordination is



New Horizon Founder and Senior Pastor Ronnie Crudup offering the charge to ministers and spouses during the Ordination service.

also about a spiritual awakening: people filled with the spirit of God. It also means ‘the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few (Luke 10:2),’” said the bishop.

Explaining that while forging ahead, there will be things that will give the ordained pause, Crudup never fell short of words. He referenced responsibility and accountability. In their Christian walk, the ordained must be mindful that their role is to appease God, not people. Cloaked in His armor, despite storms, is the mechanism for withstanding the tests placed in their paths.

Noting that the office in which the ordained were called, Crudup made it known that theirs was a dual obligation. They must teach, encourage and provide for the Lord’s family. Further, they must seek the lost sheep that have gone astray. While emphasizing the need for the ordained to do the work as good and faithful servants, the overseer said, “The people you shall oversee are the sheep of God that He bought. See to it that you never cease your care, your diligence, until you have done everything in your ability to care and that

you have clearly determined by God’s grace to give yourself totally to God.”

In his prayer for the ordained and their spouses, Crudup asked God to invoke His spirit upon them and to make them a powerful team for His glory. “Take them far and wide. May they lack nothing to do your will, Lord.”

It’s customary that the ordained receive stoles and pins. Once all were awarded, Crudup charged, “Wear the stole and pin with dignity and respect. “Remember who you are.”

Executive Pastor Jason Goree

delivered the address and expressed excitement for the ordained. “I’m encouraged because you have survived every attack the enemy set against you. He didn’t want you to see this moment, but you survived it. Don’t trust your feelings. You’ve got to get up and fight because this is bigger than you. You’re standing on the shoulders of every elder that has come before you. Don’t let the shoulders down.”

While proclaiming that those ordained had power over every scheme placed in their path by the enemy, they must trust “the

things that [they] stand on and must demand themselves to be great. They are called to operate in full control. Not only must they preach, but they must “preach like [they’ve] never preached before.” Also, they must have a commitment to serve. Goree charged the ordained spouses and families present to become prayer warriors and intercessors for those extolled.

Among those witnessing the occasion were persons who reacted. Joycelyn Coward of Brandon stated, “This was a remarkable experience for me. I was able to receive in one setting knowledge of what it takes to undergo such a process as this. It’s no joke. I wish the elder and ministers well.”

John Height of Ocean Springs claimed, “The questions raised by Bishop Crudup to determine commitment from the elder and ministers gave me a lot to think about. To take a role seriously is what the Lord wants. I hope the ordained will live up to their responsibility. People are suffering and need guidance.”



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## New Horizon

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Executive Pastor Jason Goree (L) and Sr. Pastor Ronnie Crudup (R) laying hands on minister.



Ordained as associate minister during ceremony is Rashida Walker (R) with husband Felix Walker (L)

## Racism

Continued from page 1

Mississippi – a man who was born in 1942 in Jackson, that “everything is about race in Mississippi.” Can the same be said about other Deep South states? Perhaps, but Mississippi seems to occupy a unique space for hatred of minorities, especially African Americans – for many citizens here the journey from supremacy to equality happens grudgingly, at best.

Was it an error or oversight that it took Mississippi 130 years to ratify the abolishment of slavery, and then another 18 years to make it official? Abhorrent behavior like this does not occur in a vacuum, it always occurs against a backdrop of similar behavior. Racism sizzles still in Mississippi today – but God forbid we talk about it.

In the contradiction of all contradictions, Mississippi is “highly religious” according to the Pew Research Center’s Religious Landscape Study. They look at four measures to make the determination and then do the rankings: 1) Religious attendance, 2) Frequency of prayer, 3) Belief in God, and 4) Self-assessment of the importance of religion. “Based on these measures, two states were determined to be the most religious. Both Alabama and Mississippi came out on top. In each state, 77% of residents were believed to be “highly religious.”

Sometimes you just have to stop and take a few deeps breaths when you read things like this. Can you imagine the positive change in our state that could be realized if that 77% translated to anti-racism and pro-equality behaviors? Life changing! Mississippi could shed its sordid reputation of racism and oppression, and in the process become a new mecca in the United States.

In the English Standard Version

of the Bible, the Gospel of John, proclaims “If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth,” 1 John 1:6. And 1 John 3:11 says, “For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we are to love one another.” It sure seems like in Mississippi far too many people, who all claim to be Christians, have inserted their own permanent caveat – for them the Gospel says; “that we are to love one another, ‘except if the other is black.’ If that were not the case, we simply wouldn’t be sizzling, would we?

While there is no question as to the generational potency of racism in Mississippi – that there surely is a cauldron on racist thinking and behavior here – we do find racism in other parts of the world.

The United Nations website homepage says, “75 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the urgency of combatting racism and racial discrimination remains.

“Every day, each and every one of us can stand up against racial prejudice and disrespectful attitudes. Let’s build a world beyond racism and discrimination, where we all exercise our human rights,” [www.un.org](http://www.un.org). The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, says, “Wherever we see racism, we must condemn it without reservation, without hesitation, without qualification.” Standing up and speaking out is anti-silence.

There is an interesting phrase in the Road to Fight Racism section of the United Nations website: “Racism harms not just the lives of those who endure it but also society as a whole. It deepens mistrust, casting suspicion on all sides and tearing apart the social fabric.” Isn’t that phrase a reflection

of what we see in Mississippi every day? Harm brought unceasingly to our African-American brothers and sisters. And a society that is deeply harmed as well; last in everything that matters, extreme poverty including children, highest incarceration rates in the world, healthcare collapsing in rural areas, grift and fraud by elected officials.

Here’s what they say can be done about it: Avoid being silent, start conversations, change the narrative, and raise awareness.

There is a growing grassroots movement afoot in the United States, black and white pastors coming together and working together, and we need to support these initiatives. Two examples, in this case Methodists: The North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church offers a list of nine practical things your church can do to combat racism. You can find out more at <https://nccumc.org/media-center>.

And right here in Jackson, Pastors Domini Henry (Anderson United Methodist Church) and Bruce Case (St. Luke’s United Methodist Church) are working throughout Mississippi, bringing groups together for discussions centered on storytelling and empathy building with over 65 pastors since before the pandemic. Thus far over 700 people have participated in the project entitled, Dismantling Racism – Ending Racism for Good.

There are signs that hearts are changing, slowly yes, but more steadily over time. Let’s talk about it.

Contact Pastor Henry at [domini@andersonumc.org](mailto:domini@andersonumc.org) or Pastor Case at [jbrucecase@gmail.org](mailto:jbrucecase@gmail.org) for more information.

## Resistance

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iticians opposed to civil rights signaled the end of the Civil Rights Movement, white opposition rebranded itself while racial inequality grew.

In 2016, the rate of African American unemployment (8.4 percent) was nearly double the rate for white Americans (4.3 percent). A 2017 study concluded that ‘discrimination against black job applicants hasn’t changed since the 1990s.’ In part due to high rates of joblessness, 22 percent of African Americans live in poverty, compared to 9 percent of white Americans. The racial wealth gap nearly tripled between 1984 and 2009, and today, for every \$00 of wealth held by a white family, a black family has just \$.04.

For a fleeting moment, racial justice challenged the American conscience and became a critical issue for this nation. But a generation later, racial injustice was again a burden that black communities bore in resegregated isolation, while many white Americans actively defended the status quo or avoided serious engagement with racial issues entirely.

The number of white adults reporting ‘no interest’ in the issue of employment discrimination against Black Americans rose from 13 percent in 1964 to 34 percent in 2000. The expression of racial apathy in the post-civil rights era is one new way in which white Americans can deny having negative feelings toward racial minorities while indirectly supporting the racial status quo. Thirty-eight percent of White Americans agreed that the nation has already made the changes necessary to achieve equal rights while

only 8 percent of Black Americans said the same,” all per [www.segregationinamerica.eji.org](http://www.segregationinamerica.eji.org).

“Black Americans’ resistance to racial inequality has deep roots in U.S. history and has taken many forms – from slave rebellions during the colonial era and through the Civil War to protest movements in the 1950s, ‘60s and today. But Black Americans have also built institutions to support their communities such as churches, colleges and universities, printing presses and fraternal organizations. These movements and institutions have stressed the importance of freedom, self-determination and equal protection under the law,” per the Pew Research Center on January 20, 2023.

As we approach Mississippi’s General Election on November 7th, we must resolve to exercise our right to vote. According to The Brennan Center, there have been at least 569 bills in 49 states to restrict and suppress voting in the last three years alone.

“Let’s be clear: Voter suppression is real. From making it harder to register and stay on the rolls to moving and closing polling places to rejecting lawful ballots, we can no longer ignore these threats to democracy,” said Stacey Abrams in 2019.

Only months before his death in 2020, Representative John Lewis was quoted saying, “The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it,” per the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

## Butler

Continued from page 1

EMILY’s List, the nation’s largest resource for women in politics devoted to helping pro-choice Democratic women run and win at every level of government. She will make history as the third black woman to serve in the Senate and the first openly LGBTQ+ person to serve in the chamber representing California.

Butler grew up in Magnolia, Mississippi, and earned her bachelor’s degree in political science from Jackson State University in 2001. In April, she returned to her alma mater to serve as a keynote for the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Political Science.

Mary Coleman, Ph.D., served as chair of the JSU political science department from 1996-2005. She recalls Butler excelling as a student and a human being. She described her as a trailblazer and citizen of the world.

“Laphonza entered JSU in 1997 with a clear commitment to be useful. She studied and joined organizations, but mostly, she read, listened and probed with a desire to think about how to translate book learning into consequential actions for herself and others,” Coleman said.

The retired professor described Butler as one who sought to chart her own path


and build durable pathways for Americans not-to-the-manor born.

“As a second-generation college student from modest beginnings, she was intentional, focused and analytical. Her mother’s educational journey informed her own; it motivated and pushed her into greater self-efficacy. She imagined herself in the future of the community and nation and did not surrender to hollowed-out opportunities,” Coleman said. “I was honored to know her, to teach and mentor her along with scores of other faculty at JSU.”

For two decades, Butler’s leadership in Democratic politics, labor movement, and campaign strategy empowered women as she devoted her life to helping them find their voices.

Butler has built her professional career primarily in California, where she led the nation’s largest union – Homecare Workers’ Union, SEIU Local 2015.

Before her role at EMILY’s List, Butler was the director of Public Policy and Campaigns in North America for Airbnb. Additionally, she was a partner at SCRB Strategies, a political consulting firm, where she collaborated with various candidates and served as a senior advisor to Vice President Kamala Harris’s presidential campaign.



JODY

OWENS

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

I would like to extend my gratitude to the citizens of Hinds County for electing me as the Democratic Nominee for District Attorney. We are proud of our accomplishments, but there is still much progress to be made. VOTE Tuesday, November 7th, 2023 and join me in the fight for a safer Hinds County!

Paid for by Friends of Jody Owens



# City of Jackson Police Chief Joseph Wade honored at Meet and Greet at Collis Hill COCHUSA



Law enforcement officers standing with seated officials Moore, Owens, Horton, Wade, Grizzell and Jones

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

The Collis Hill Church of Christ Holiness, USA, pastored by Elder Kevin Ware, held a Meet & Greet event in honor of City of Jackson Police Chief Joseph Wade, Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 6 p.m. The event was planned by Faye Jackson, a member of Collis Hill.

“Chief Wade is a native of Terry who lived directly across the street from the church” stated Jackson, who has known the chief his entire life. Jackson said she came up with the idea of honoring the town’s native son and asked Elder Ware if she could plan a celebration in his honor and he agreed.

The event was well attended by several City of Jackson police officers, members of the community, as well as friends and family.

Also noted in attendance were Police Chief of Terry Anthony Moore; Jackson State University Police Chief Herman Horton, Hinds County Sheriff Tyree Jones; Hinds County District Attorney Jody Owens; City of Jackson Deputy Chief Vincent Griz-



Chief Wade and Bishop Blake Hill greet each other with a hand shake as Pastor Kevin Ware looks on. PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Faye Jackson, planner of the event, gives the occasion.

zell and Bishop Glake Hill, The church is located at Christ Holiness, South Central Diocese. 1653 Moncure Road in Terry.



In Your Community

## AARP Cares Conference.

AARP Mississippi invites you to the AARP Cares Conference on Wednesday, October 11 at 10 a.m. at the Jackson Convention Complex, located at 105 East Pascagoula Street. Family caregivers face many challenges caring for parents, spouses, and other loved ones. This free conference offers information and resources to help you on your caregiving journey. Lunch will be served.

### AARP Cares Conference

Wednesday, October 11 at 10:00 a.m.  
Jackson Convention Complex  
105 East Pascagoula Street, MS 39201

To register, visit [www.aarp.org/ms](http://www.aarp.org/ms)

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# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

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- BUS DRIVERS**  
DURHAM SCHOOL SERVICES  
1-800-950-0485
- CAFETERIA WORKERS**  
CHARTWELLS  
601-857-7030

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Elizabeth Foster  
efoster@hinds.k12.ms.us  
www.hinds.k12.ms.us

## RAYMOND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Raymond High School, in partnership with Ranger Pride PTSO, congratulates their August Students of the Month. We extend a special thanks to the sponsor Sal and Mookie’s for providing each student with a gift card.



Pictured l-r: Ebony Cavett, choral directress at Terry High School and Byram Middle School and Pertrina McIntosh, choral directress at Raymond High School and Carver Middle School



# Natchez Museum of African American Culture encourages tourists to tell true stories

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

Located in a historic area in Natchez, Miss. (301 Main Street) is Natchez Museum of African American Culture (NMAAC). The concept of preserving Natchez African American history and culture began in 1979 by Mary Lee Davis-Toles. Eleven years later (1990) the museum was established by Davis-Lee and her constituents: Patricia A. Washington, Josie Gilchrist-Camper, Flora Terrell and Mary White.

At the museum lies the rich history and culture of people of African origin and descent in the Southern US. Housed within the walls are the contributions they made in the growth of Natchez and the nation. Together, the museum and these exhibits occupy approximately 10,000 square feet of space.

Information relayed to the public dates back to 1716 with the incorporation of the City of Natchez and the link to present day events. These events disclose exhibits that cover the era of slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, 20th Century wars and the Civil Rights era.

“We show Natchez in the antebellum years. We developed through three different cultures – French, English and Spanish. There were artisans, settlers and slaves,” stated Bobby L. Dennis, the museum’s director who served as storyteller to tourists.

Despite cultures, Natchez was incorporated under Spanish rule. Forks of the Road (the second largest slave market in the Southern US) had a role in the international slave trade. It sold slaves that were basically born of slaves in America that had no ties to Africa. Natchez underwent a shift in slavery. According to Dennis, unlike common perception – or misconception – Mississippi’s origins are not found in the mansions of antebellum plantations, but in the fight to survive colonial disorder. Free people of color were always a part of that story, and their frequent absence in Natchez’s printed history should be

remedied.

A short film presents an overview of the Mississippi Constitution. The Mississippi Hall of Fame reveals contributions by three noted individuals. John Roy Lynch was the first black member in the state’s House of Representatives and the first to deliver the keynote address among his constituents at the Republican National Convention. The Rev. Hiram R. Revels, a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was an American Republican politician, and the first president of Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Alcorn State University). Richard Wright – native of Roxie, Miss. – graduated as valedictorian from Smith Robertson School (now Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center) and was an American author of novels, short stories, poems and non-fiction. He focused mostly on racial themes, especially related to the plight of African Americans suffering discrimination and violence during the late 19th to mid-20th centuries.

NMAAC has been the launch pad for many eminent, successful and inspiring children since its inception. “We never give you the dynamics of what [men or women brought with them] before they were slaves. There is a need to understand how we have struggled to survive and tell our stories to the children,” said Dennis.

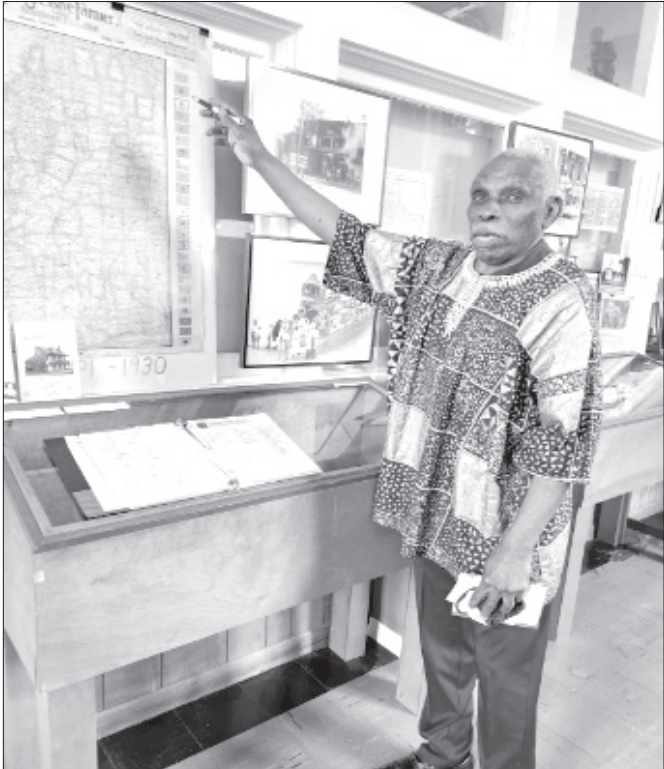
Dennis continued his point when he brought to memory the back-in-the day concept of families sitting together at the dinner table. He charged modern-day African Americans with failing “to pass down our stories to the children.” Such failure has contributed to “distorted history, misplaced values, disrespect and violence.”

Natchez Museum of African American Culture is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (MWF) and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Sat).

*For further inquiry, call 601 493-4550, 601 445-0728, or visit [www.visitnapac.net](http://www.visitnapac.net) or [bobbyden@visitnapac.com](mailto:bobbyden@visitnapac.com).*



Director Bobby L. Dennis addresses the significance of various artifacts at Natchez Museum of African American Culture.



Ivory Phillips, Ph.D. raises questions pertaining to depictions of life in Natchez and other cities.

# Senate confirms MS US attorney, putting him in charge of welfare scandal prosecution

By Michael Goldberg  
*Associated Press/Report for America*

The U.S. Senate on Friday confirmed a U.S. attorney in Mississippi who will oversee the largest public corruption case in the state’s history.

President Joe Biden nominated Todd Gee for the post overseeing the Southern District of Mississippi in September 2022. His nomination stalled until April, when both of Mississippi’s Republican U.S. Senators, Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith, had indicated they would support his nomination. Gee was confirmed Friday in an 82-8 vote, with all votes against him coming from other Republicans.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Mississippi has overseen prosecutions related to a sprawling corruption scandal in which \$77 million of federal welfare funds intended to help some of the poorest people in the U.S. were instead diverted to the rich and powerful.

The former head of Mississippi’s Department of Human Services and former nonprofit leaders have pleaded guilty to state and federal charges for mispending money through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

The scandal has ensnared high-profile figures, including retired NFL quarterback Brett Favre, who is one of more than three dozen defendants in a lawsuit that the

current Human Services director filed to try to recover some of the welfare money.

In a statement posted on social media Friday, Mississippi State Auditor Shad White, whose office investigated the scandal, said federal prosecutors decide whom to charge, and his relationship with them would not change.

“The appointment of Mr. Gee changes nothing in our posture,” he wrote. “We will continue to work with federal prosecutors to bring the case to a conclusion.”

Since 2018, Gee has served as deputy chief of the Public Integrity Section of the United States Department of Justice, according to a White House news release. He was also an assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Columbia from 2007 to 2015.

Darren LaMarca has been serving as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi since his predecessor, Mike Hurst, resigned after President Joe Biden’s election in 2020. Hurst was appointed by former President Donald Trump. It’s common for federal prosecutors to resign when the administration changes.

*Michael Goldberg is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues. Follow him at @mikergoldberg.*

# Upcoming General Election deadlines

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

With the November 7, 2023, General Election quickly approaching, Mississippians need to be aware of upcoming important dates and deadlines.

**Voter Registration**  
The 2023 General Election voter registration deadlines are:

In-person at the circuit or municipal clerk’s office by 5 p.m. Monday, October 9.

Note: Circuit clerk’s offices will be open for in-person voter registration Saturday, October 7, from 8 a.m. until noon.

Mail-in registration applications must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, October 10.

**Absentee Ballots**  
In-person and mail-in absentee ballots are now available through your county circuit clerk’s office for the 2023

General Election.

To verify eligibility, Mississippians can utilize the Step-By-Step Absentee Guide from the Secretary of State’s Office or contact your local circuit clerk. If eligible, ballots will be provided upon request by your circuit clerk.

For those who cannot visit your circuit clerk’s office during the work week, Saturday in-person absentee voting

dates are October 28 and November 4, from 8 a.m. until noon.

**Campaign Finance**  
Periodic Campaign Finance Reports are due by 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 10, in the appropriate office for 2023 candidates and political committees supporting or opposing 2023 candidates.

Mississippi law (MS Code Ann. § 23-15-807(b)(ii) and

23-15-807(e)) requires all candidates for elective office (excluding candidates for federal office) to file campaign finance disclosure reports.

Candidates may file campaign finance reports via:

Email: [CampaignFinance@sos.ms.gov](mailto:CampaignFinance@sos.ms.gov) or [Shelby.Scoggins@sos.ms.gov](mailto:Shelby.Scoggins@sos.ms.gov)

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120, Biloxi, MS 39530

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The Mississippi Link™

Volume 29 • Number 51

October 5 - 11, 2023

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Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett

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Graphics.....Marcus Johnson

Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

Member:

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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](mailto:publisher@mississippilink.com); Please visit our website at: [www.mississippilink.com](http://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.

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# Twenty-seven years later: Suspect arrested in murder of Tupac Shakur

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
*NNPA Newswire Contributor*

Twenty-seven years after the death of one of the most noted rappers in history of the genre, a man has been arrested for the murder of rapper Tupac Shakur. As the years have gone by some suspects have come into the news while others have passed away. On September 29, 2023, a man named Duane Keith Davis was arrested in Las Vegas and charged in connection with the murder of Shakur.

The rapper and actor was killed September 13, 1996 in Las Vegas, at the age of 25, after being shot four times. He died less than a week later at the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada. Since then, Shakur's death has lingered on as a mystery that has never been brought to a conclusion.

Davis is a member of the California-based gang known as The South Side Compton Crips and was a childhood friend of N.W.A. member Eazy-E. During the early '90s, Davis built a friendly relationship with Sean "Diddy" Combs.

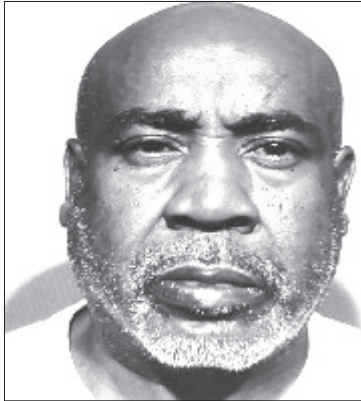
Rumors that someone would be charged in Shakur's death have swirled for years with no arrests made.



Rapper Tupac Shakur was murdered on September 13, 1996.

Tupac's life was short but marked by artistic achievement in music and acting. His family moved to Baltimore and he attended the Baltimore School for the Arts, where he studied acting, poetry, jazz and ballet. In the late 1980s, Tupac moved to California, where he joined the hip-hop group Digital Underground as a backup dancer and rapper. He gained recognition for his skills and charisma on stage.

In addition to his storied music career, Shakur pursued acting and appeared in films such as "Juice" (1992), "Poetic Justice" (1993), "Above the Rim" (1994), and "Gridlock'd" (1997). He received praise for



Duane Keith Davis was arrested Sept. 29, 2023.

his acting talent.

Tupac Shakur was born in East Harlem to Afeni Shakur, a former Black Panther, and Billy Garland. He was given the name Lesane Parish Crooks at birth but later changed it to Tupac Amaru Shakur after he was inspired by the 18th-century Peruvian revolutionary Túpac Amaru II.

*Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent investigative journalist and the publisher of Black Virginia News. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered. She can be contacted at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on twitter at @LVBurke*

# A Proclamation on National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 2023

Cancer touches nearly every family in America, including mine. That is why finding cures and addressing the needs of patients and their families is a central pillar of my Unity Agenda, as I discussed in my very first State of the Union address – it is the kind of goal that can unite us all as Americans, regardless of our differences. During this National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let us all recommit to the work of ending cancer as we know it. May we honor those we have lost, offer strength to those who continue to live with breast cancer, and work to protect the health of future generations.

Nearly 300,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and one in eight women in America will be diagnosed with the disease in their lifetimes. We have made enormous progress in our decades-long fight against cancer — discovering new prevention and early-detection measures and exploring medicines and therapies to extend and save lives. Despite these advancements, a breast cancer diagnosis is not only frightening but also a doorway into a confusing world of appointments, procedures, and expenses. While facing months of grueling treatments, breast cancer patients and their families are flooded with a bewildering amount of medical information to decipher and often have to advocate to receive basic care and attention. On top of these stresses, they also worry about paying their medical bills.

That is why the First Lady and I reignited the Cancer Moonshot and set ambitious goals to cut the overall cancer death rate by at least half in the next 25 years, transform more cancers from death sentences into treatable diseases, and improve the treatment experience for patients and their families. As a first step toward realizing these goals, I established the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) and secured \$2.5 billion in bipartisan funding to drive

scientific breakthroughs in prevention, detection, and treatment for cancer and other diseases. The agency is pioneering partnerships to help disseminate the impact of those breakthroughs to clinics and patients. And recently, it announced research into the use of mRNA technology, an innovative component of the COVID-19 vaccine, to train our own immune systems to fight cancer and other diseases. It will also lead the exploration of novel technologies to enhance the precision and accuracy of surgical procedures involved in removing cancerous tumors from the body. Also, the first class of Moonshot scholars has been selected, which will help build a cancer research workforce that better represents the diversity of America and prepare a new wave of innovators in the cancer field.

Improving treatment options is only part of the fight. We also need to make those treatments affordable for everyone who needs them. That is why I made it a priority for the Inflation Reduction Act to cap out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors on Medicare at \$2,000 per year — including expensive cancer drugs. My Administration has also strengthened Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to expand and protect health care coverage, saving nearly 15 million Americans \$800 per year on health insurance premiums.

Because screening and early detection are critical to saving the lives of breast cancer patients, my Administration remains committed to maintaining and improving the accessibility of cancer care secured in the ACA. This means requiring insurers to pay for cancer screenings — including mammograms — as well as maintaining coverage for cancer survivors and others who have preexisting conditions. In addition, we are doubling our investment and making new alliances with community health centers that provide early detection and support services to

underserved communities. Most recently, we also expanded access to breast cancer screenings for any veteran exposed to burn pits — regardless of their age or family history.

More information is available online at [cancer.gov/types/breast](https://cancer.gov/types/breast) or by calling 1-800-422-6237 to reach information specialists at the National Cancer Institute, who can answer cancer-related questions in English and Spanish.

Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program provides breast cancer screenings and diagnostic services to those with low incomes who are uninsured or otherwise qualify for the program — learn more at [cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/screenings.htm](https://cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/screenings.htm).

For the lives we can save and those we have lost, let this National Breast Cancer Awareness Month be a moment of unity that rallies the country to end cancer as we know it. Together, we can give patients, survivors, and their families the care, hope and support they deserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2023 as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I encourage citizens, government agencies, private businesses, nonprofit organizations and other interested groups to join in activities that will increase awareness of what Americans can do to prevent and control breast cancer and pay tribute to those who have lost their lives to this disease.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.

# Senator Dianne Feinstein, stalwart advocate for gun control and bipartisanship, dies at 90

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

Senator Dianne Feinstein of California, a stalwart advocate for gun control measures and a figure known for seeking bipartisan cooperation during her extensive tenure in the Senate, has died at 90.

Feinstein, renowned as the Senate's elder stateswoman, the longest-serving female senator, and the longest-serving Californian senator, announced her decision to retire in February, sparking both accolades and concerns about her health.

Following her retirement announcement, President Joe Biden commended his former Senate colleague, praising her as a "passionate defender of civil liberties and a strong voice for national security policies that keep us safe while honoring our values."

In late February, when Feinstein was absent from crucial votes, her spokesperson disclosed that she was tending to a health matter in California and expressed hopes for her swift return to Washington.

The California Democrat has supported gun control initiatives throughout her career, most notably by spearheading the 1994 campaign for the assault weapons ban, which President Bill Clinton signed into law. She continued to advocate for stringent gun control measures after the ban's



Feinstein

expiration in 2004. As chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Feinstein spearheaded a comprehensive investigation into the CIA's post-9/11 detention and interrogation program, culminating in legislation prohibiting such torture methods.

Positioned as a centrist Democrat, Feinstein won recognition for her efforts to bridge divides with Republicans, a stance that occasionally drew criticism from progressive party members. She diverged from them on several significant issues, including her opposition to single-payer, government-run healthcare and her reservations about the ambitious Green New Deal. These ideological differences came to a head during the confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett in October 2020, when Feinstein's cordial exchange with Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham garnered swift calls for her removal as

ranking member. Ultimately, she did step down.

Feinstein was an advocate for preserving Senate traditions. Yet, in 2021, she expressed a willingness to consider adjustments to filibuster rules if Democrats encountered obstacles in passing critical components of their legislative agenda, such as voting rights reforms, gun control, and the reauthorization of the landmark Violence Against Women Act.

There was mounting pressure for Feinstein to make way for younger lawmakers in recent years, but she steadfastly defended her commitment to represent Californians.

Democratic Representatives Katie Porter, Adam Schiff and Barbara Lee have entered the race for Feinstein's Senate seat.

Feinstein's influence extended far and wide in state and national politics, with her endorsement carrying significant weight. Notably, she suggested Alex Padilla, California's secretary of state at the time, fill Kamala Harris' Senate seat after Harris became vice president. Her husband, investment banker Richard Blum, who died last year, preceded Feinstein. She is survived by her daughter, Katherine Feinstein, a San Francisco County Superior Court judge, her son-in-law, Rick Mariano, and her granddaughter, Eileen Feinstein Mariano.

# Multiple suspects sought after shooting incident at Morgan State Univ.



Tyler Hall, Morgan State University campus. Morgan State is one of the few historically Black institutions nationally to offer a comprehensive range of academic programs, in business, engineering, education, architecture, social work and hospitality management. PHOTO MORGAN.EDU

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
*NNPA Newswire Contributor*

Baltimore police are intensifying their search for multiple suspects involved in a shooting incident that occurred on the campus of Morgan State University, leaving five individuals injured. Among the victims, four are students of the historically black institution.

Baltimore Police Commissioner Richard Worley and Morgan State University Police Chief Lance Hatcher told reporters that the incident happened September 3rd around 9:25 p.m. when university police officers, on their regular patrol, detected gunfire from the campus.

The victims, aged between 18 and 22, which include four men and a woman, sustained injuries that are reported to

be non-life-threatening.

"The entire city of Baltimore's heart aches for the victims and their families, and for our city as a whole," Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott stated.

Multiple windows were shattered during the incident, and school officials said they immediately began active shooter response protocols. Worley said police systematically cleared buildings in pursuit of those responsible.

While there are indications that it could have been more than one shooter, authorities could not confirm whether multiple assailants were involved.

Hatcher said university police received notification of the shooting at approximately 9:27 p.m. and sent the first

public safety alert to the community at 9:30 p.m., followed by four other notifications.

At approximately 11:45 p.m., city police announced via Twitter that the incident was no longer an "active shooter situation." University officials announced via social media that the shelter-in-place order had been lifted, and shuttle services resumed at around 12:30 a.m. Wednesday

Worley emphasized that SWAT officers meticulously combed through every floor of the buildings they searched, conducting two sweeps, before lifting the shelter-in-place order.

Authorities are urging anyone with information to come forward and assist in their efforts to bring those responsible to justice.



# Hidden threats to older adults

By Vince Faust  
*Tips to Be Fit*

As we age we face a lot of physical, emotional and social changes that can significantly impact our well-being. Some are easy to spot but some are not. There are a number of hidden risk factors for older adults. They include drug, alcohol, high stress levels and low coping resources, self-neglect and depression.

## Hidden Risk Factor 1: Drug and Alcohol Use

Substance abuse is a hidden risk factor that disproportionately affects adults. Seniors may struggle with issues related to prescription medications, over the counter drugs and alcohol consumption. Several factors contribute to this problem, such as increased pain management prescriptions, the use of medications and the desire to self medicate for various physical and emotional ailments.

The misuse of drug and alcohol can result in severe physical health issues. Drug interaction, overdose and liver damage from excessive alcohol use is harmful. Seniors are more susceptible to falls and accidents when they are under the influence. This can lead to fractures and other injuries.

Substance abuse can also exacerbate mental health issues for seniors.



Depression, anxiety and cognitive decline can often worsen with drug and alcohol use. The stigma attached to substance abuse can deter seniors from seeking help. This can lead to a cycle of isolation and despair.

Seniors grappling with substance abuse can become socially isolated as family and friends distance themselves due to the associated stigma and challenges in communication. This isolation will further compound their mental health problems, creating

a vicious cycle.

## Hidden Risk Factor 2: High Stress Levels and Low Coping Resources

Seniors often face a number of stressors that include financial worries, health concerns and social isolation. High stress levels combined with limited coping resources can have profound effects on their overall well being.

Chronic stress can lead to a host of physical health issues such as high blood pressure, heart disease and weakened immune function. The aging process itself can make older adults more vulnerable to these conditions. The additional burden of stress exacerbates their risk.

Stress can also take a toll on mental health. Seniors may experience symptoms of anxiety and depression that can further hinder their ability to cope with stressors. If left unaddressed, chronic stress can contribute to the onset or worsening of cognitive disorders like dementia.

High stress levels combined with limited coping resources can diminish a senior's quality of life. They may find it increasingly difficult to engage in social activities, maintain relationships or pursue hobbies. This can lead to a sense of purposelessness and loneliness.

## Hidden Risk Factor 3: Self-Neglect

Self-neglect is another hidden risk factor that can adversely affect seniors. It refers to the failure or refusal to provide oneself with the care and support needed for physical and emotional well-being.

Self-neglect can result in a rapid decline in physical health. Seniors that neglect their basic needs, such as nutrition, hygiene and medical care are at risk of malnutrition, infections and other preventable health issues.

Self-neglect can often lead to social isolation as older adults may withdraw from friends and family members who express concern. Neglected relationships can further exacerbate feelings of loneliness and despair.

In severe cases, self-neglect can raise legal and ethical concerns. Family members and healthcare professionals may need to intervene to ensure the safety and well-being of seniors which can be emotionally challenging for all parties involved.

## Hidden Risk Factor 4: Depression

Depression is a hidden risk factor that affects a significant number of seniors. It often goes undiagnosed or untreated. Symptoms are often mistaken for natural consequences of aging.

Depression can have substantial

physical health implications for older adults. It can lead to decreased appetite, weight loss and a weakened immune system. Depression is a significant risk factor for suicide among older adults.

Depression is also associated with cognitive decline in seniors. It can contribute to memory problems, reduced executive function and difficulty concentrating which diminishes the quality of life.

The emotional toll of depression cannot be understated. Seniors with untreated depression can find themselves unable to enjoy life, engage in meaningful activities or maintain social connections.

To mitigate these hidden risks, older adults need access to comprehensive healthcare that includes mental health services and substance abuse treatment. Social support networks, including family, friends and community organizations, can also play a pivotal role in helping older adults navigate these challenges. By raising awareness of these hidden risk factors and providing the necessary resources and support, we can improve the overall well-being and quality of life for our aging population.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

# COVID-19 was 'Bloody Sunday' for America's racial health disparities, yet, there is little progress

By Hazel Trice Edney  
*TriceEdneyVre.com*

Thousands of black people had protested and many had died at the hands of police, white supremacists and racists as they engaged in non-violent campaigns to win the right to vote.

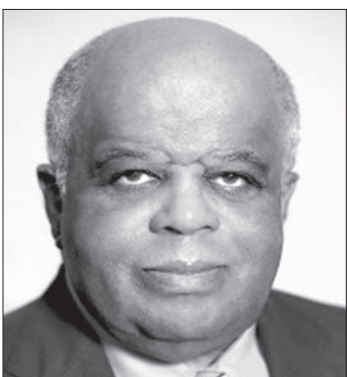
Still, America did not fully sit up and hear their cries until "Bloody Sunday", March 7, 1965. On that day TV cameras showed protestors being brutally attacked and beaten by the Alabama State Police as they marched peacefully from Selma to Montgomery across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

It was only then that the United States government took decisive action. President Lyndon B. Johnson, a week after "Bloody Sunday," adopted the words of the civil rights leaders and declared before the nation in a televised speech to Congress, "We shall overcome."

Within a few months, the United States Congress adopted the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 and it was signed into law by President Johnson on August 6 that year. In a nutshell, the VRA prohibited any activities by anyone to abridge the right to vote.

More than 58 years later, black doctors on the front lines against racism in medicine across the U. S. had hoped that the revelation of racially disparate suffering and death amidst the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID 19) would become the "Bloody Sunday" for revealing the truth about health disparities in America and escalate the long struggle to end them. But that has apparently not happened.

"I compare this now to the civil rights movement. We were really burdened with discrimination and brutality etcetera for many years," says Dr. Louis Sullivan, founder of the Morehouse School of Medicine, and pioneer of the 15-year-old government agency now known as the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities. "But, the incidents such as the Birmingham police treatment of blacks on the Edmund Pettus Bridge revealed to the nation those things that had existed for a long time. So, in a way, I see that the Coronavirus has had the



Dr. Randall Morgan, MD

same impact. Health disparities has been an issue for years. But people have not been aware or haven't really understood or taken it as seriously as many of us who were working with disparities have taken it. But now we are confronting this. And I am hoping that this really results much more in resources and attention and research and care to be devoted to the elimination of these disparities."

Dr. Sullivan is among leading black physicians and HBCU administrators who agree that health disparities in the black community – and the racism at the root of it – has been revealed to be far worse than anyone thinks. They say the disparities still must be dealt with through racial and cultural coalitions, increase in black medical professionals and strengthening of public policies.

"COVID 19 has really pulled the scab off the sore of the underbelly of our mistreatment as black Americans," says Dr. Rahn Bailey, chief of the Psychiatry Department at Louisiana State University. "It's a long story, but a pertinent and a salient one. So when an additional stressor like the COVID 19 or the Coronavirus presents itself, we already have a sub-script in American life where whatever is bad happens worse to African Americans. We have less healthcare access; we have fewer hospitals in our communities; we have less access to providers or specialists; very often we get less optimal medication or management. We have data to support that."

The data indicates racial disparities across the board:

- Exact numbers on COVID 19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths are fuzzy, largely



Dr. Yolanda Lawson, MD

because states initially did not track the pandemic by race. But, the Kaiser Family Foundation reported last year that though racial disparities narrowed as the pandemic subsided, during the surge associated with the Omicron variant in winter last year, disparities in cases once again widened with people of color, including African-Americans at 2,937 per 100,000 people, compared to cases among white people at 2,693 per 100,000. This number is astronomical given that America is approximately 12 percent African-American and 59 percent White. *The New York Times* reported that "during the height of the Omicron variant, Covid killed black people in rural areas at a rate roughly 34 percent higher than it did white people."

The broad disparities continue among other diseases:

- According to the National Cancer Institute, black men die of prostate cancer at twice the rate of White men.

- Although black women have a 4 percent lower rate of breast cancer diagnosis, the death rate for black women is 40 percent higher than white women, according to the American Cancer Association.

- America's leading cause of death, heart disease, causes one of every three deaths in the U. S. But African Americans and Latinos experience "double the rate of premature deaths" from heart disease compared to their white counterparts, according to the National Institute of Health.

- According to the CDC, "black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women. Multiple factors contribute to these disparities, such as variation in quality health-



Dr. Louis Sullivan, MD

care, underlying chronic conditions, structural racism and implicit bias."

- Black children have a "500 percent higher death rate from asthma compared with white children," according to the Harvard School of Public Health.

- The disparities even persist in treatments and care. For example, of amputations, black patients lose limbs at three times the rate of white patients, despite progress in diabetic research, according to the NIH.

- Despite the COVID 19 disparities that drew a new focus to the issue of racial health disparities, ending the racial gaps in deaths is still a struggle, says Yolanda Lawson, MD; an obstetrician and gynecologist, who serves as president of the National Medical Association, which has a membership of more than 50,000 black physicians.

"It's not that as a black OB/GYN I didn't know this. I've always known of the disparities," Lawson said in an interview. "But, I thought with awareness we would see a turn around. We would see changes."

She pointed out that after the videotaped killing of George Floyd by now imprisoned Derek Chauvin, "everybody got onto the equity bandwagon. Yet, here we are still talking and we know that there's still this wide gap."

In addition to racism, pure and simple, researchers have often laid health disparities at the feet of what is called "social determinants;" which, in a nutshell, means common lifestyles of particular groups of people that often stem from systemic racism.

For example, at least one report written jointly by researchers at KFF and the Epic Research Network, said Blacks and Hispanics suffered more infections

and deaths during the height of the COVID 19 pandemic because they were at greater risk of exposure to the virus "due to their work, living and transportation situations. They are more likely to be working in low-income jobs that cannot be done from home, to be living in larger households in densely populated areas, and to utilize public or shared modes of transportation."

Likewise, economic and social circumstances such as poverty and food deserts often lead to illnesses like heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

"And even when there are solutions such as the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which assured that approximately 20-35 million adults, who previously had been uninsured, received coverage by Medicaid, there would still be cracks in the system," says, Dr. Randall Morgan, an orthopedic surgeon who is president/CEO of the Cobb Health Institute, the research arm of the National Medical Association.

"So, it's a tough problem. Oh, it's huge. It's horrible. In some cases it's inhumane," Morgan said. "But, people have to accept what's available for them. And so much of that depends on where you live and what your income is and what your level of education is - the social determinates of health."

Despite the glaring disparities, advocates on the front lines have often run into brick walls when trying to call attention to them and trying to raise funds to end them.

For example, Bill Thomas Jr., an advocate for proton therapy treatment at the Hampton University Proton Therapy Cancer Institute, has been leading a near-futile battle for more money to end cancer disparities as the HBCU's associate vice president for governmental relations.

"We are just trying to figure out how to communicate this particular matter to the General Assembly so they support it financially to save lives," Thomas told WAVY Radio in Virginia during a rally. "We are not building roads, we are not building casinos," Thomas said. "We are trying to ease human suffering and save lives."

In an interview, Thomas

pointed to observations made by former Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, concerning the Commonwealth's underfunding of HBCUs – both public and private. In a recent op-editorial, Wilder quoted a Goldman Sachs report in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* titled, "Historically Black, Historically Underfunded."

Wilder's op-ed stated that "public HBCUs have 54% less in assets per student" than public universities while "private HBCUs have 79% less than private" predominantly white universities.

Like Wilder, Thomas asks the question, "'why the legislature and the current administration cannot redress the wrongs of legal discrimination?'"

Support to undergird the programs of HBCUs could indeed be one of the key answers to the problem of health disparities, Lawson says. With an increase in black doctors, more hospitals in black neighborhoods and more medical programs at HBCUs, health disparities could begin to close, she said.

An NMA program called Project Impact 2.0 has two goals, Lawson says – first, to increase the number of African-American researchers and to increase the numbers of Blacks included in research studies.

But, just like with the civil rights successes, Lawson adds, the battle will take people of all races and walks of life working together.

"We at NMA hope to become a unifying voice. I think one of my strengths is building alliances with others. I think by building alliances, you create louder voices. And I want to call people to task so that it's not just words and great manuscript. I want to see impact at my community level. I think NMA lends to that. We have over 130 state and local societies; we're divided into six geographic regions and we have 26 different medical specialties that are represented within the organization," Lawson says. "We have the infrastructure to do this – to not only bring a voice to the national level in the way of policy and advocacy, but again, make a community level impact. It just has to happen."



P R E S E R V E D

# God has not forgotten

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



A number of years ago, I had a painfully thoughtful conversation with a friend who was trying to deal with a heartbreaking disappointment. I could understand her point of view because I'd often found myself in that same position saying the same words she kept repeating to me, "I hear you, but it still feels like God has forgotten me."

I think sometimes the key to making it through those difficult times is accepting with grace the seasonal blessings of God. Just because we don't get a blessing when we think we should, doesn't mean that we are forgotten by God. It just means that our season hasn't come yet.

As cliché as it sounds, only

God really knows why things do or don't happen for us. But one thing is for sure: God has not forgotten about us or his promises to us. Luke 12:6-7 reminds us that as God takes care of the sparrows and they are not forgotten by God, he also cares for us. "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

Think about the disappointment and frustration that Joseph must have felt when he was sold by his brothers into slavery, falsely accused and sent to jail...and then forgotten about in jail when promised he would be released. Genesis 41 is not clear on what Joseph did for the 2 years he was in jail after being forgotten by the cupbearer.

When he is brought to Pharaoh to interpret the pharaoh's dream, he is very cautious only saying that God would

give the interpretation. This answer indicates that he is no longer the attention seeking youth who openly enjoyed being his father's favorite son.

I always wonder what kind of prayers Joseph prayed while in jail. The names he gives his children years after his release imply that he was honest about the pain that he experienced while forgotten. Genesis 41:51-53 says, "Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."

These scriptures show that Joseph acknowledged God's sovereign hand in his life. We can follow his example that despite what may seem and feel like heartbreaking suffering, God will bless those who remain faithful. While we wait

for and experience the changing seasons of our lives, we have to learn to trust God's voice when we can't see his hand.


Amazingly, Joseph still openly trusted in God...how many of us can say the same thing when we've felt like we've been forgotten by God? Many of us then say, "it's the devil" when in fact it's God waiting for time to catch up with the blessings that he has for us.

*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](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda. You can also listen to her podcast at [www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com](http://www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com).*

P A R T 1

# The life of the christian

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



Christians have no excuse for not assembling themselves at the house of God. Something is wrong when a pastor has to pull to get people to go to the house of God. When God saves us, He gives us the desire to go to the house of God. We should not have to be reminded. Hebrews 10:25 states, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

The child of God has a zeal in his life to go to the house of God and to be on time. When it comes time for the worship services, we should be in our seats. Also, we should be prayed up for the service. If we have begun to get lax about these things, we need to go right back to the throne of grace and ask God to help us.

Have we cooled off in our soul so much that we feel we do not need the grace of God? If we

have, the devil has deceived us. We need to be honest enough to repent and take care of it. We read in Revelation 3:14-19 these words, "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten be zealous therefore, and repent."

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

## Crossroads Church of God

Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



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

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

**Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study:** 7 p.m.

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

## 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.



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## COLLEGE HILL

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### SUNDAY

## Worship Services

9 a.m. Sunday School  
10 a.m. in person



Pastor  
Chauncy L. Jordan

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

## True Light Baptist Church

224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202  
Phone: 601.398.0915  
[WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG](http://WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG)



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TRUE LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH

# 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 Horizon Church INTERNATIONAL

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

[www.nhcms.org](http://www.nhcms.org)

**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.





LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT  
ZONING CASE NO. 4227

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Earlene Hulett Oge has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting an Use Permit to allow for a manufactured home within a R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District on property located at 4608 Old Byram Rd. (Parcel #871-80) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Part of the W ½ of NE ¼, Section 6, Township 4 North, Range 1 East, described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at a point on the South line of the Elton Road, 330 feet measured

Easterly along the South line of said road from the point where the same intersects the west line of the W ½ of NE ¼ Section 6, Township 4 North, Range 1 East, which said point is the Northwest corner of the property now, or formerly, owned by Sam Garner, and running thence Westerly along the South line of said road a distance of 330 feet to a point where the same intersects the west line of said W ½ of NE ¼ FOR A DISTANCE OF 403 feet the Northwest corner of that certain property conveyed to Mrs. Lois W. Pinion, by deed recorded in Book 1493, Page 408, of the records of the chancery clerk of Hinds County, of said Mrs. Louis W. Pinion property 330 feet to a point; thence North a distance of 403 feet to the point of beginning.

There is hereby conveyed all of the land property owned by the undersigned and located in the west half (W ½) of Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of section 6, Township 4 North, Range 1 East, of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO OCTOBER 18, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 28th day of September 2023.

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

10/5/23, 10/19/23

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT  
ZONING CASE NO. 4230

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Dalerikya Freeman has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception for a residential daycare within a R-1A (Single-Family) Residential District on property located at 23 Oakcreek Pl. (Parcel 750-94) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot 30, NORTHPOINTE, PART ONE, a subdivision according to the official map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 26 at Page 2 thereof.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO OCTOBER 18, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 28th day of September 2023.

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

10/5/23, 10/19/23

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT  
ZONING CASE NO. 4229

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Harvey Williams has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict to C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict to allow for a mixed use development and a Use Permit to allow for a community recreational center for the property located at 2901 Highway 80 W. (Parcel 635-35) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Beginning at a point on the southern right -of-way line of U.S. Highway 80, which point is 932.63 feet southeast from the point where the south right-of-way of U.S. Highway 80 crosses the south boundary of the right-of-way of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad, and with this as a point of beginning, run thence southwesterly at right angles to the northern right-of-way line of said highway 451.35 feet, more or less, to the southern boundary of said lands conveyed to Clifford Waterhouse and Lelia Waterhouse by Paul Chambers, Trustee, and Wade H. Creekmore, by a deed recorded in Book 387. Page 553, of the records on file in the office of the Chancery Clerk of the First District of Hinds County, Mississippi; thence run North 89 degrees 37 minutes East 225.2 feet, more or less, to the southwest corner of that certain property conveyed by said Clifford Waterhouse and Lelia Waterhouse to William B. Bufkin, as recorded in Book 488, Page 112. And Book 413, Page 13, of the records in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi; thence run Northeasterly along the Western boundary of the Bufkin lands 343.15 feet, more or less, to the southern right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 80, thence Northwesterly along the Southern right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 80, 197.5 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, which property is located in the East half of the Northwest Quarter and the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section Seven, Township Five North, Range One East, in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO OCTOBER 18, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 28th day of September 2023.

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

10/5/23, 10/19/23

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT  
ZONING CASE NO. 4228

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Kristi Kirkwood has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1A (Single-Family) Residential District to R-2 (Single-Family & Two-Family) Residential District to allow for the construction of a two family residential unit for the property located at 0 Old Canton Rd. (Parcel 564-16) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot 1, Block B, Canton Club Subdivision, Part 1, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 12 at Page 26 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description. And being the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 4584 at Page 507.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO OCTOBER 18, 2023.

WITNESS my signature this 28th day of September 2023.

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

10/5/23, 10/19/23

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
PUBLIC ACCESS GATE(S)  
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

GATE NO. 17

Notice is hereby given to the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi will hold a public hearing on October 24, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall located at 219 S. President Street for the Regular Council Meeting to consider granting approval of the public access gate(s) as outlined in the Jackson Code of Ordinances Section 110-28, Section 5. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Proposed gate will be located at: 2206 Meadowbrook Road, just east of the intersection at East Ridge Drive .

WITNESS my signature this 13th day of September 2023.

Joseph Warnsley Site Plan Chairperson  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

10/5/23

LEGAL

Advertisement For Bids  
TRANSIT FLEET TURNOVER INSPECTION SERVICES  
CITY PROJECT NO. RFP#2023-09

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, October 24, 2023, from qualified providers to conduct a Transit Fleet Turnover Inspection prior to the transition to a new operations and maintenance contractor for Transit Services located at 1785 Highway 80W, Jackson, MS 39204 (as specified) necessary for REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2023-09.

All proposers must have at least five (5) years of experience in transit vehicle inspections. Each proposer must submit six (6) signed copies of its proposal and of the required forms, certifications, and affidavits attached hereto or electronically submit on [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com).

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

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

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

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

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for TRANSIT FLEET TURNOVER INSPECTION, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2023-09."

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](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://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

09/28/23, 10/5/23, 10/12/23, 10/19/23, 10/26/23

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100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s)  
and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an  
endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the US Government.

Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the  
actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the  
puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence.  
We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Charlie Brown

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
P  
A S S S A A A  
Y P K K A Q W S S A S P Q M O Q W P Q U P Q M H Y A Q L  
A S  
H Y P H S N O C W U J M M O D

© Feature Exchange

Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
P Q J I U W X L Y A T V I N Z Q O K R B S H D C E F M G  
H A P P I N E S S I S A N Y O N E A N D A N Y T H I N G  
Y P K K A Q W S S A S P Q M O Q W P Q U P Q M H Y A Q L  
T H A T ' S L O V E D B Y Y O U  
H Y P H S N O C W U J M M O D

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

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

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

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

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

CLINTON  
DOLLAR GENERAL  
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY  
SERVICE STATION  
at Exit 78  
CITY HALL  
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND  
HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
WELCOME CENTER  
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SUNFLOWER GROCERY  
122 Old Port Gibson Street,  
Raymond, MS  
LOVE FOOD MART  
120 E. Main Street,  
Raymond, MS  
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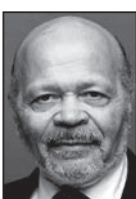
Week of October 1, 2023





## When Hitler got out of prison

By Oscar H. Blayton  
*Pres. Black Chamber of Commerce*



This is a cautionary tale. Most folks know how Adolph Hitler's career as an autocratic dictator ended, but many do not know how it began. It is important to know about the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party because those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it.

So, how did this evil little man with little formal education and no military experience beyond being a corporal in Germany's army in World War I become powerful enough to drive the entire world into chaos, war and disaster?

After Germany's defeat in World War I, one of the conditions of its surrender to the Allies under the Treaty of Versailles was a set of very heavy financial obligations to pay for the destruction it had caused during the war. These obligations were disastrous to Germany's economy and jobs were hard to find. Hitler, uneducated, unskilled and having no other prospects, remained in the German army.

The army made Hitler an intelligence agent and, in 1919, assigned him to spy on the German Workers' Party (DAP). The DAP was an extremely nationalistic, anti-Semitic and anti-Marxist organization. But instead of working to dismantle the DAP, Hitler became a believer while still drawing his army pay for the spying he was supposed to be doing.

As a DAP member, he sought to appeal to the German working class to create a "people's community," where German identity took precedence over

class, religion or other characteristics.

By October 1919, Hitler gave his first speech for the DAP and quickly became the party's most popular speaker. He ceased being a spy for the German army in 1920 and, using his charisma and the politics of grievance, became the party's chief of propaganda.

One of his main targets was the Treaty of Versailles, which placed a heavy financial burden on Germans. His new goal was to bring ultranationalism to the German public. In February 1920, the German Workers' Party was renamed the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP). We all know the NSDAP as the Nazi Party.

By July 1921, Hitler was the leader of the Nazi Party.

In November 1923, Hitler and his Nazi followers attempted a failed takeover of the government in Bavaria, a state in southern Germany. This coup attempt, known as the "Beer Hall Putsch," involved the Nazis storming the Bavarian government building, leaving 16 party members and four police officers dead. Hitler was arrested and tried for high treason, and in April 1924, he was sentenced to five years in prison.

In December 1924, over the objections of his prosecutors, Hitler was released from prison. He immediately began to rebuild the Nazi Party. He met with the prime minister of Bavaria in January 1925 and promised to respect the state's authority. He claimed he would seek political power only through the democratic process. This meeting led to the lifting of the ban on the Nazi Party that had been in place since the Beer Hall Putsch. But

one month after the meeting, Hitler was barred from public speaking by the Bavarian authorities after making an inflammatory speech.

Undeterred by the ban, Hitler continued organizing and enlarging the Nazi Party. And when the stock market in the United States crashed in October 1929, the impact in Germany was catastrophic. Millions became unemployed and banks began to collapse. Doubling down on their platform of grievances, Hitler and the Nazi Party took advantage of the crisis to gain greater support. They promised to lift the burdens of the Treaty of Versailles, strengthen the economy and provide jobs.

By 1930, the Nazi Party had become the second-largest political party in Germany. It became the largest in 1932. Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933 and chancellor and president in 1934. And as is often said, "The rest is history."

This is a cautionary tale because what happened in Germany during the first half of the 20th century could happen anywhere in the world, given the right ingredients.

Ultranationalism in the form of identity politics that promotes notions of supremacy and a baseless sense of entitlement are essential to the recipe for the type of authoritarian leadership that set Germany on its self-destructive path. Grievance politics and a tendency to blame the most vulnerable among us are also key ingredients.

This devil's brew is toxic to any democracy and there are those who today are concocting a poisonous serving of hate, discord and chaos to illegitimately gain the power to

create a world to their advantage and their advantage alone.

We need not be so polite as to shy away from calling out a liar for being a liar. We should never be so timid as to hold back from calling a would-be autocrat a would-be autocrat.

A twice impeached, four times criminally indicted, adjudged sexual abuser stands at the threshold of once again gaining the Republican Party nomination to carry their banner to the highest office in this land, and we must not be so "mannerly" as to not call him out for what he is. Germany chose a leader in the first half of the 20th century that brought their country to ruin. It is not impossible that America can do the same.

Donald Trump has shown the world what he is capable of. His MAGA followers have shown us the depths of their depravity. America is in a very dangerous place at this moment. It serves no purpose and makes no sense to be civil with the uncivil or to be courteous with the discourteous. One does not accept a dinner invitation from cannibals. You will either be forced to eat your neighbor or be served up yourself.

I do believe Donald Trump will be sent to prison. If he is not, then this country is in worse shape than I imagined. But setting aside the absolute worst, the most important question before the American people is, once he is sent to prison, what happens after that?

*Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia. His earlier commentaries may be found at <https://oblayton1.medium.com/>*

## Don't let money be the root

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.  
*Tips for a Good Marriage*



According to Marriage.com financial disagreement/trouble is one of the main reasons for divorce in America. Financial disagreement/trouble in marriage is contributed to some of the following: couples not having sufficient income to help make ends meet, which can lead to arguments, abuse and other extreme measures, poor financial management skills, overspending/one sided spending, economic abuse, addictions, etc. However, most money related issues are due to poor financial management skills with one or both spouses.

There is a simple solution for helping couples overcome financial disagreements/trouble. Let the person who overspends; keep the bank accounts in negatives; don't reveal how money is being spent; waste money on foolish things; overindulges; shopaholic; purchase large items without consulting you first (Dr. Calvert's - 11th Commandment: thou shall not purchase a large item or make a large investment without consulting and establishing an agreement with your spouse); don't pay the bills; use the bill money for personal and selfish reasons; poor credit, make poor investments; no investments; no savings; doesn't see the need for an emergency fund; don't attempt to secure a savings; purchases movies and snacks as my husband did - let them, manage the finances.

This is one problem that I absolutely don't and can't understand until this very moment. Why are money concerns one of the top reasons that couples divorce? Doesn't it just make sense for the one who is the wisest with money to manage it? I'm just asking. If you both are unwise with properly using money, seek financial counseling for financial guidance or study the life of ants. Shockingly, and amazingly, ants can teach us about the importance of planning and preparation.

Proverbs 6:6 states: Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which having no captain, overseer, or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest.

If you have a spouse that recognizes like the ant the importance of planning, saving for retirement, vacations, children's college education, saving for a rainy day, investing, prioritizing, sacrificing to get what you and your family need and sometimes desire, why can't he or she manage the money? If your spouse understands the importance of giving, paying bills on time, establishing good credit, saving, and even investing - let him or her manage the finances in your marriage? If your spouse is willing to let you know ev-

erything down to the penny about your income and financial obligations, why can't he or she manage the money?

Pray, communicate and determine who is wiser with your all's finances? It should not be this is my money versus this is our money. Think like this, how better off would you all be if you both combined your money and worked together to manage the finances?

Could working together with your finances be the difference between buying a home versus renting? Could working together with your finances be the difference of living from paycheck to paycheck? Could working together with your finances be the difference between having a savings versus not having any type of savings?

In conclusion, both me and my husband have strengths and weaknesses related to managing our finances. However, we have learned how to manage our finances together (still learning) due to tough experiences, financial training and financial counseling.

My husband admits that he is not the best at managing money. Therefore, he absolutely has no problem, none whatsoever, in allowing me to manage our finances to this day.

Further, he knows where every penny goes - okay maybe not every penny...ladies. Ladies, ladies, ladies, my aunt have always advised women having their own nest egg, meaning you should perhaps have your own savings and/or bank account.

Husbands and wives, its simple, either manage your finances together or choose the spouse that will manage it efficiently. Of course, because you are human, you will have disagreements and heated debates, but you must learn to work through it.

Is money, the lack of it, excess of it, or the misuse of it, worth losing your spouse and family? Believe me, it will possibly cost more to divorce, etc. Do you know how much better your sex life could be if you would stop fighting about an issue that could be easily resolved.

If you know that money is dividing you - please seek financial counseling/advice immediately regarding your finances, budgeting, saving and investing. Do not let money be the root for divorce in 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, on Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-874-6176.*

## We face challenges when it comes to funding needed programs and avoiding government shutdowns

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



All of us have standards and we use them daily. Our family and friends see them in us. Our colleagues at work see them as well.

How did we gain these standards of behavior and caring. Our parents were our first role models. Now, we are around people who have different ways of doing business.

We are in a political season where norms of the past are fading fast. For example, there were more programs and funding opportunities. Now funding for them has more limitations and regulations. You can probably name some of them.

The American dream is still achievable for us despite what is happening in some of our political circles. We are slowed by these changes, yet we keep pushing to gain our share.

Sadly, there are what I call political pharaohs in the United States of America who do

not want to see our country be prosperous. It is my thinking this selfishness is ruining our beloved nation. Many of our allies now see us as unfeeling and insensitive.

Bickering and postering by the Republican Party were quite evident during the past month. Factions within the GOP led to the government of the world's richest country almost shutting down. What have we become?

It was not until what I call the Wilson Pickett hour (midnight hour) that we avoided a shutdown. It would have been disastrous for our Republic.

We are already losing our leadership position according to some polls. Many countries see us now as a country of infighting. Plainly stated, our political leaders simply cannot get along with each other. Some would say that spirited debate has turned into mean-spirited debate.

We know the government will remain open for 45 days as the bill to keep it open was signed by President Joe Biden. This comes as both the House

and the Senate worked feverishly for something amenable to both parties. The bill did not include funding for Ukraine.

Funding for Ukraine has been a fundamental point of disagreement in the House of Representatives. It will continue to be as funding talks continue over the coming weeks.

Former Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy reportedly backed out of a deal with President Biden to fund Ukraine. Almost fifty other sovereign countries are providing aid to this war-torn country.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle wondered if they could trust McCarthy. His lack of integrity led him down a rough road. Reports surfaced that Representative Matt Gaetz, Republican from Florida, led an effort to remove McCarthy from being the Speaker of the House of Representatives. He was voted out Tuesday.

The last-minute bill that McCarthy brokered with the help of Hakeem Jeffries; Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, ruffled the feathers of hardliners within

the Republican Party. Many believed that McCarthy essentially caved into the pressure of the moment. However, he said late last week that he was willing to give up his leadership role if that would keep the government from not closing.

The American people with this bill passing saw a clear example of what bi-partisan politics and support looks like. The result was obviously a temporary spending bill was passed.

President Joe Biden said, "I'm sick and tired of the brinkmanship. So are the American people."

He is correct. We the people want to see action and not delay tactics by a small group of naysayers.

Looking ahead and down the tenuous road of compromise, November 17th will be the deadline to keep the government open. It must be all hands-on deck, both Democrats and Republicans.

Let's hope that cooler heads prevail and that we don't wait until the very last minute to create a new spending bill.

## Who are we to vote for and why?

By Jannie B. Johnson  
*The Caring n' Sharing School*



Our well dressed, well-meaning candidates are trying to say something without saying anything that might offend somebody. They are trying to stand for some-

thing without taking a stand on the simple things like being honest, trustworthy and responsible. Can we, adults and children, follow their example as they model before us what it means to be civil, good citizens, good workers, law abiding citizens paying their bills and their fair share of taxes, too?

Are we to believe that the

candidates we plan to vote for will make a good difference, why? Why should we think or believe that they have the commitment to do right and go straight in sight, out of sight and in the cover of the night? Do we have any reports or letters of references as to their work ethics, community involvement and domestic lives?

Helen Keller was asked, is there anything worse than being blind. She said, "Yes, having sight but NO vision."

Are we the voters to assume that our candidates will seek divine intervention for the wisdom and vision they need to lead us in the direction we should go as a city, county, state and nation? Why?

What reasons are the candidates giving us, the voters, to believe that they have the inner strength and the moral courage to resist the temptations that will come along with their positions of trust, power, influence and opportunity?

In these un-certain times, we can't afford to trust our future to a party, a candidate or to reason


and eloquence. We need statesmen, and stateswomen who are able and willing to serve the public as public servants, so help them God. Now... who among us will speak that truth to the candidates lest they forget?

Where there is NO truth, there is NO justice and NO solutions to our problems.





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# JPS celebrates improved performance for the second consecutive year

The JPS Newswire

The Jackson Public School District has demonstrated significant academic progress for the second consecutive year. They have achieved an impressive accountability rating of 598 in the Mississippi Accountability Results, coming just one point shy of attaining a “B” grade.

This marks an outstanding increase of 29 points with a total of 23 schools increasing at least one letter grade. The State Board of Education officially endorsed these accountability grades during their meeting on September 28th. The ratings are based on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) assessment, which evaluates proficiency and growth in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and U.S. History, along with other performance measures.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, MAAP assessments were administered to students in grades 3 through 8, as well as high school students. JPS is particularly pleased to report improvements in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, and History across Jackson public schools, including:

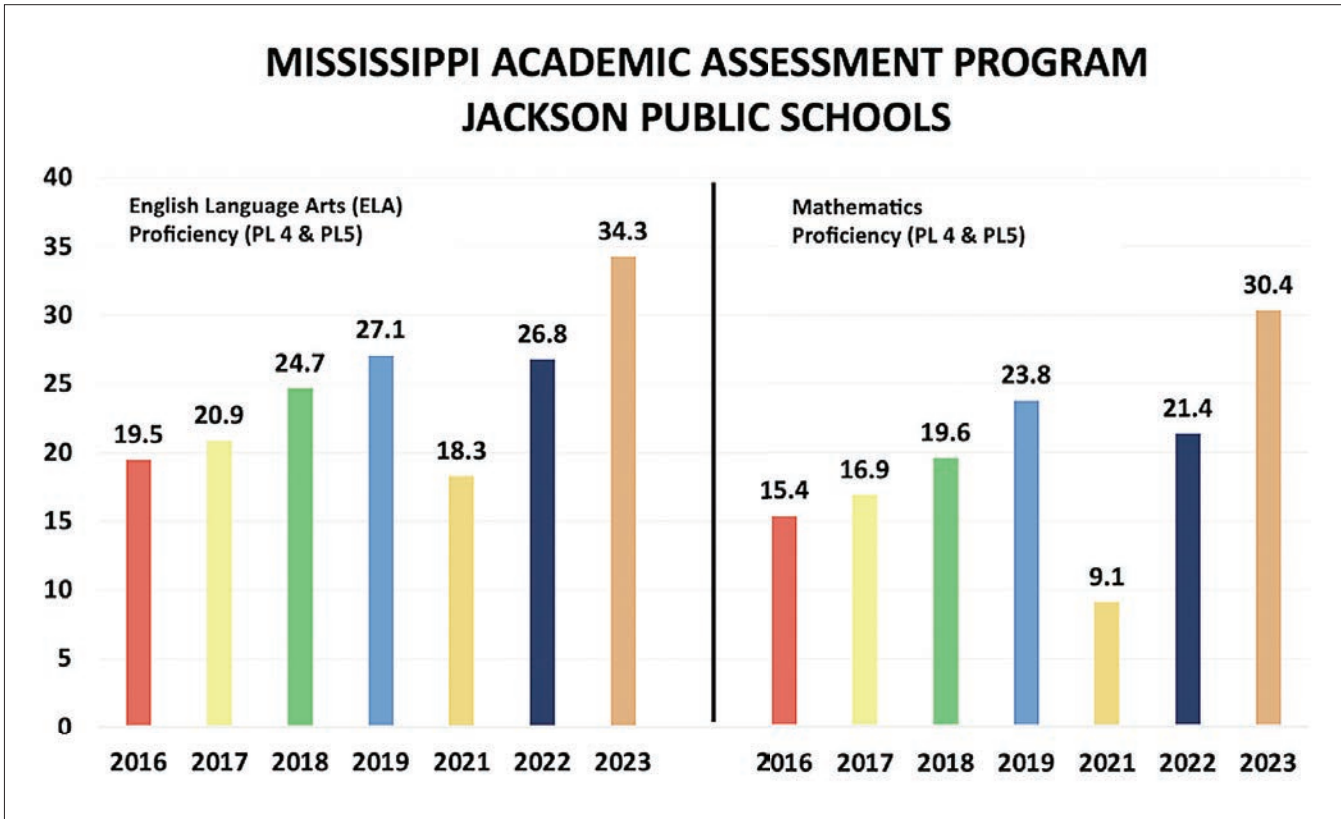
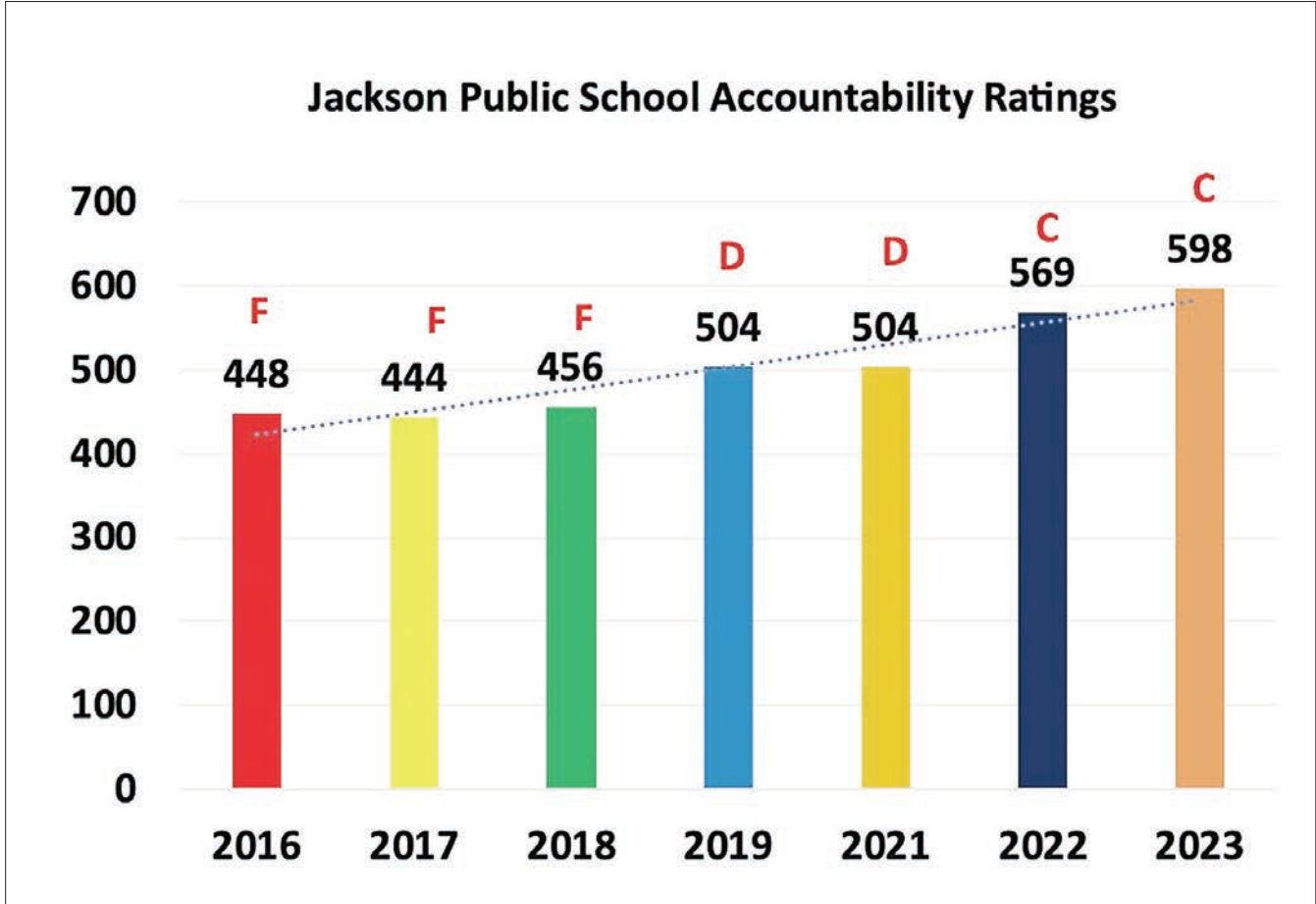
- A notable 7.1% increase in reading proficiency.
- An impressive 8.4% uptick in math proficiency.
- A commendable 7.8% rise in history proficiency.
- A notable 6.8% boost in science proficiency.

Since 2019, JPS has demonstrated an increase in our overall rating, rising from 504 to 598, marking an impressive gain of 94 points. The most substantial increase has been in history proficiency, boasting an extraordinary 23% surge.

This achievement underscores our unwavering dedication to elevating academic outcomes on a substantial scale.

Under the guidance of Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene, Jackson Public Schools has achieved an all-time high on the Mississippi State Accountability Rating. This demonstrates that visionary leadership and high expectations can drive remarkable progress in education.

“This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our students, educators and the entire JPS community,” said Greene. “We are steadfast in our commitment to ensure ongoing progress in student achievement by enhancing teacher effectiveness through data-driven strategies and professional development opportunities.” JPS will continue to push boundaries and set standards of excellence in education.



Jackson Public Schools State Report Card						
Accountability Components	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change from 2019 - 2023
Reading Proficiency	27.1	COVID (No Testing 2019-2020)	18.3	27.2	34.3	7.2
Math Proficiency	23.8		9.1	22.0	30.4	6.6
Science Proficiency	40.7		20.4	33.2	40.0	-0.7
History Proficiency	33.1		23.0	48.3	56.1	23.0
Reading Growth All	49.3			57.0	58.4	9.1
Math Growth All	52.6			69.0	71.1	18.5
Reading Growth Low	55.8			60.3	58.4	2.6
Math Growth Low	62.0			73.4	81.6	19.6
Graduation Rate	74.2		78.7	84.6	84.1	9.9

## MSU dedicates WWII monument at Center for America's Veterans

Special to the Mississippi Link

Mississippi State is honoring World War II veterans, including a number of former students who gave all they had to defend freedom around the world in the early 1940s.

The university unveiled a new WWII monument outside Nusz Hall, home of the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Center for America’s Veterans on campus during a formal ceremony Monday [Oct. 2].

MSU President Mark E. Keenum said the monument dedication is one way for the university to say “thank you” to veterans and all who have served. While the university already has some historic markers commemorating veterans, additional monuments honoring U.S. veterans of other wars also are being planned.

Keenum recalled viewing, as a child, the Purple Heart which his great grandmother kept in her home after it was awarded to his great uncle, Alvin Jeffords, who was killed during WWII.

“I can’t imagine as a parent sending my teenage son off to war and him not coming back – the pain and the hurt that I know she felt from that. But he gave his life and all of his future years – decades of life and his future family that he most certainly would have had – to defend this nation and the freedoms that we so frequently take for granted,” Keenum said. “I recognize and realize the suffering and sacrifice that’s involved in defending this nation.”

Keenum recognized current service members who are committed to answer the call for “whatever it may be,” and thanked other veterans attending the dedication.

MSU Vice President for Strategic Communications Sid Salter also represented families of WWII veterans during the program and shared memories of his late father, Leo Salter, who survived D-Day at the Battle of Normandy, where many close comrades died in high numbers.

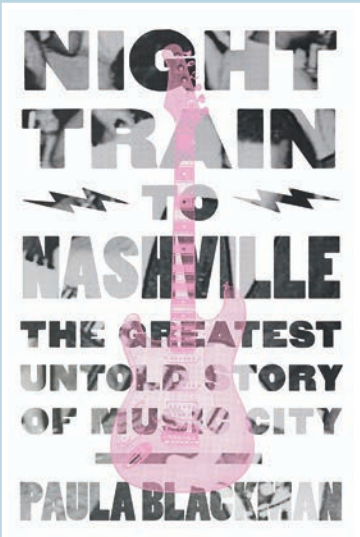
“When Dec. 7, 1941 transpired, he felt the need, because of his connections to Mississippi State – we still were somewhat of a military school back then – he felt the need to enlist and serve and to respond to this attack on our country,” Salter said of his father.

He said for much of the war, his father, who was part of the Signal Corps, enjoyed relative safety but that changed during what he called “the most terrifying ride of his life” in approaching Normandy for combat. His comrade was killed right beside him almost immediately, but Salter said his father continued toward the cliffs overlooking Normandy Beach.

“On that day, 2,600 Americans lost their lives on the beaches of Normandy. My father survived,” he said describing the unimaginably difficult mortal combat that ensued that day.

Salter said 16,000,000 American veterans served during WWII, and about 119,000 of them are left in the U.S. today, with an average age now of 99. About 910 remain in Mississippi.





By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

Deejay, spin those tunes!

A few decades ago, that’s exactly what you wanted: for a “disc jockey” to play your favorite songs on the radio. You’d call the DJ up on the phone to request a song and he might even make a dedication. It was a time when, as in the new book “Night Train to Nashville” by Paula Blackman, radio was a revolution.

As a young man in the early post-World War II years, E. Gab “Blackie” Blackman’s

name surely fit him. Relying on his skills of persuasion, Gab worked as an ad man at a Nashville newspaper and, like every good salesman, he always looked for the next best thing.

Back then, Nashville was as segregated as it got. Case in point: Gab’s boss.

Every day, “Mister Jimmy” pontificated on race and how he thought segregation wasn’t enough, and Gab could clearly see that Mister Jimmy wasn’t looking very far into the future. He wasn’t paying attention to

what was going on in the radio industry or in the new media of TV. Surely, Gab’s boss was missing something.

William Sousa “Sou” Bridgeforth knew that his community was about to change in a big way. He was the owner of a nightclub that catered to Nashville’s black citizens, and for that, he watched what was happening around him. There’d been a riot over a radio in nearby Columbia, and it was a big deal. That radio, Sou knew, wasn’t just a radio.

Just as he’d figured out how

to get a new car at a time when automobiles were scarce, Gab Blackman figured out how to make his future better.

It was a fact that black families were consumers, too. If a radio station played nothing but “race music,” advertisers could tailor their ads to a specific audience. If he ordered nothing but “race music” for the genre’s fans, Gab Blackman could create “a money-making bonanza...”

How much you like “Night Train to Nashville” will depend very much on the kind of



book you like to read.

If you’re a fan of novels or historical fiction, you’ll relish this important story. It’s based on real events and tales told decades ago to author Paula Blackman and her “story telling partners,” which gives this story a viewpoint from both races. There’s a whole range of big names involved in this tale, plenty of nostalgia, and eager dialogue that will take you back decades before it ends on a rather somber note.

If you’re a reader who prefers nonfiction, history, or to-

tal authenticity, though, it’s that dialogue that’ll give you pause. Recreated and wholly-invented conversations may ruin the story for you here; what’s attributed feels hokey and stiff, and though this book is based in fact, some of it clearly is not. That might make a nonfiction reader wince.

Know what you want from this book, then, before you look for it. Are you a novel lover who will enjoy “Night Train to Nashville”? Or are you a nonfiction fan who’ll want to spin it away?



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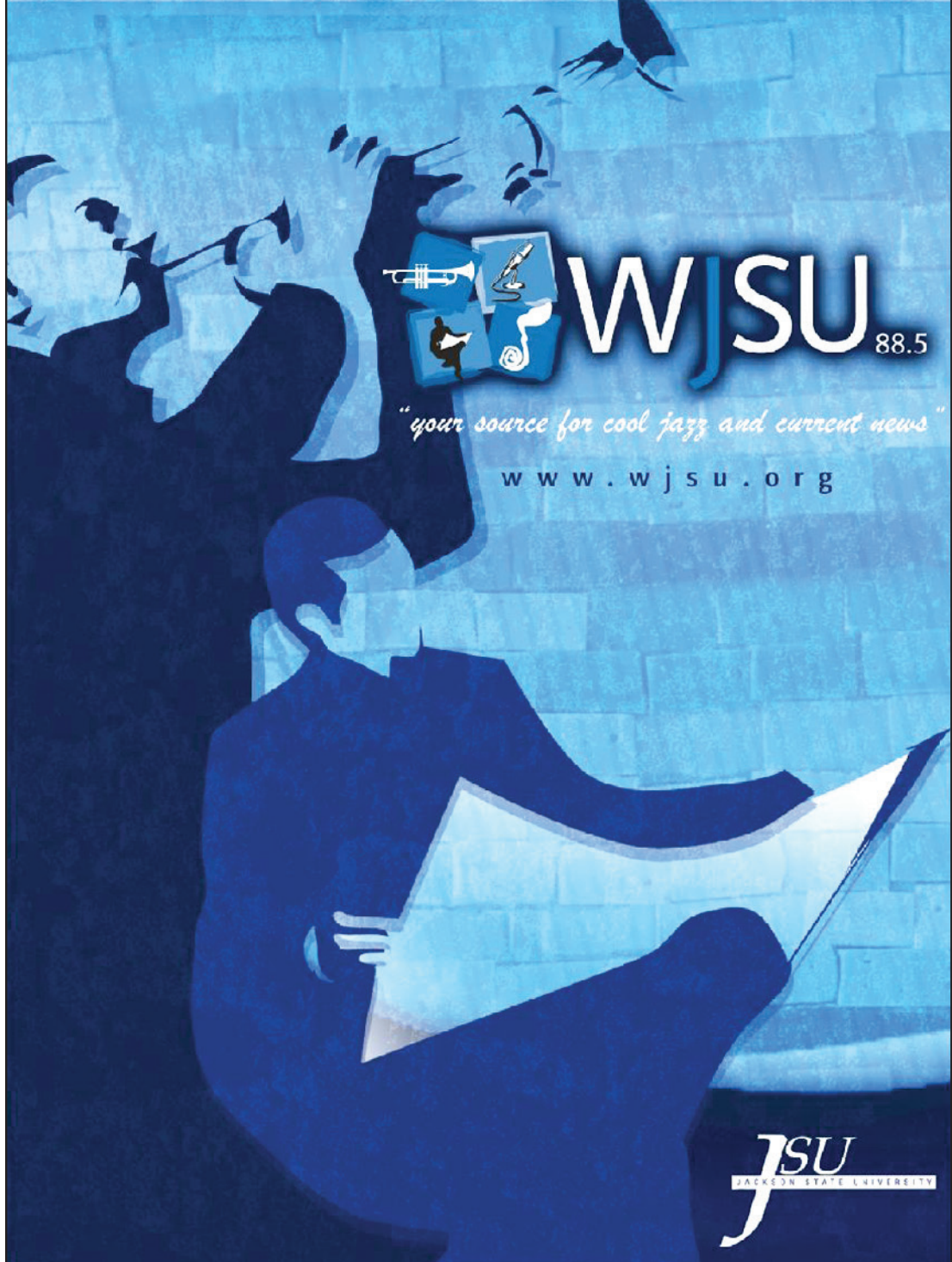
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# Alcorn pulls out overtime victory 23 to 20 over Alabama State, prepares for homecoming

By Tim Ward  
Sports Writer

Alcorn Quarterback Aaron Allen was sensational last week earning him SWAC Offensive Player of the week. Allen completed 32 of 46 passes for 370 yards with two touchdowns. Allen's numbers have improved weekly, which has consequently boosted the Braves' offense.

Allen engineered the Braves into field goal range and Noah Kiani nailed a game tying field goal to force overtime. Kiani was 3 of 4 on field goals and won SWAC Specialist of the Week for his efforts. So far he's only missed 2 field goals and converted all 9 of his extra point attempts this season.

Alcorn was held to a season low 58 yards on the ground, credit Alabama State, but also credit QB Aaron Allen. His efficiency allowed Alcorn to stay in the game. Wide receiver Monterio Hunt caught 6 passes for 109 yards with 1 touchdown.

Alabama State's offensive production came on the ground. The hornets racked 257 yards of rush-

ing on 50 attempts. Using a two quarterback system didn't produce the aerial assault the hornets hoped it would. Dematrius Davis ran the ball 13 times and only passed it 8. He was efficient as the change of pace quarterback.

In overtime, Alcorn would once again put the game on the foot of Noah Kiani. Kiani delivered once again. Alcorn won 23 to 20.

Next up for Alcorn is Grambling this Saturday. This Saturday is homecoming in Lorman. Braves Nation is expected to show up in full force, especially with a nemesis like Grambling coming to town.

This game has SWAC Western Division implications. Grambling is currently atop the West division with a 2-0 SWAC record and 3-2 overall. The Tigers have won their last 3 football games. Grambling seems to be packing an offensive punch scoring less than 31 points one time this season.

Expect a slugfest for homecoming this Saturday. Game time is 2 p.m.



Head Coach Fred McNair



Noah Kiani wins SWAC Specialist of the Week



Wide Receiver Malik Rodgers scores on 49 yard touchdown pass.



Quarterback Aaron Allen won SWAC Offensive Player of the Week.

# Jackson State resumes season this Saturday in Mobile



QB Jason Brown



Coach TC Taylor

By Tim Ward  
Sports Writer

Sometimes a little rest and relaxation coupled with more time to access the team yields great results thereafter. JSU is 3-2 on the season thus far and 1-1 in the SWAC. FAMU gave the Tigers their SWAC loss and JSU rebounded against Southern to gain their first SWAC.

The old expression, "Not sure which team is gonna show up" fits JSU perfectly so far. Dominant week 1, lethargic week 2, back to playing winning football against Southern in week 3, seemingly overmatched in week 4, wins home opener week 5. If that trend holds up, JSU might just lose this week.

Many do not expect JSU to lose this week, but anything can happen. Jackson State is one game out of first place for the

Eastern Division of the SWAC. Alabama A&M, this week's opponent, has the same identical record of JSU; 3-2 overall and 1-1 in the SWAC.

The Bulldogs have won their last two games. They defeated Arkansas Pine Bluff, 31-24 and destroyed Tuskegee 58-3 last week. In order to win the division, A&M must defeat JSU and FAMU, who are both ahead of them in the standings.

Quarterback play, defensive consistency and special teams' nightmares have haunted the Tigers all season. Jason Brown has still remained the starter, but Zy McDonald has come in to replace a few times. McDonald is a more mobile quarterback than Brown. Brown has had trouble getting away from the defense. The Darkside Defense looks formidable

one minute, the next they look uncertain. Coach TC Taylor wants the team to play winning football for a complete game, not just in spurts.

The next 6 games for JSU will determine if they defend their SWAC championship the first weekend in December or if they will give up their throne. Three of the 6 games are on the road, however the last two are at home.

Despite the roller coaster ride, Tiger Nation is standing strong with coach Taylor. Of course, there are the ones who never want to lose who are griping, but that's apart of being successful. Expectations replace optimism. Having the players and staff supported by the university is just as key as stacking up wins.

Game time Saturday in Mobile, Alabama is 3 p.m.





# ALL-ELECTRIC ESCALADE IQ

Preproduction model shown throughout. Actual production model may vary. Available late 2024.