



State House trailblazer from Deovolente hailed as ‘one in a million’

Her portrait, the first of a woman to hang in the State Capitol

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

Many are still buzzing about “A Night of Jubilee” held Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, in honor of the retired history-making Rep. Alyce Griffin Clarke after 38 hard-working years of legislative service.

Presented by the Connecting The Dots Foundation, Inc., the stellar 6:30 p.m. event was held in the downtown Jackson Convention Complex. Family, friends, colleagues, constituents and others from around the state, and beyond, gathered to celebrate the retirement of the lady who grew up in a small Mississippi community called Deovolente.

Just where is Deovolente? “It is French,” Clarke told *The Mississippi Link* during an interview from her home, Tuesday, Jan. 30. “It is located seven miles north of Belzoni, Miss. I was raised there but I was actually born in Yazoo City. There were no midwives near my community.”

Marilyn Luckett, founder of Connecting the Dots Foundation, said, “I am delighted, thrilled and joyful about the outcome.”

“I am a lover of Historic Preservation,” Luckett continued. “When Rep. Clarke shared with me that she was planning to retire, my immediate thought was how can we preserve a permanent place in history for her that our children, grandchildren and com-



L-R: Ryan C. Mack, artist of the portrait, Alyce Clarke and Marilyn Luckett

PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

munity could visit for decades to come?”

She had visited the Capitol and noticed that there were no portraits of women on the wall. “I couldn’t think of a more deserving, a more beautiful woman than Rep. Alyce Griffin Clarke to hang on the wall of the Capitol,” she said. “Then I asked myself, why stop there? A bust in a museum would be another way to remember her. Planning her celebration was a labor of love.”

Clarke was asked about her feelings on the foundation’s and its sponsors’ ‘labor of love.’ She said, “I am still just quite honored. I just couldn’t believe it. I had no idea all of that was being done just for me.”

The event, emceed by WLBT’s legendary news anchor Maggie Wade and veteran newscaster Walt Grayson of WJTV-12, included key individuals who were called to the stage to offer reflections and congratulatory remarks.

Several videotaped presentations were also shown. Among them was one from her son Demarquis Johnntrell Clarke from the East Coast who expressed his love, admiration and how proud he is of her.

Other videotaped salutes were shown from U.S. House of Representative Bennie Thompson in Washington, D.C.; former Gov. Ray Mabus and others.

Organizers themed the celebration: “May the works I’ve done

speak for me.” Many said what a befitting theme. Her works, they say, have spoken loudly across the years.

For those who remotely possible have not heard of this Mississippian, she said, “I am just someone who did whatever my constituents said I needed to do for them; that’s what I tried to do. I always thought that was the only way to serve.”

With degrees in home economics from Alcorn State University and Tuskegee University, Clarke made history as the first African-American female elected to the Mississippi House of Represen-

Clarke

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Zero-sum mentality pervasive and expanding in America

The browning of this country has pivoted the shrinking white majority to all or nothing mode. Deep down, despite being a country of immigrants, they believe America is theirs.

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Many times, *The Mississippi Link* newspaper and other members of The Black Press have written about what is typically referred to as the browning of America. Other media outlets have done likewise, and scores of books have been written on the topic, which has become oh so real when reviewing the results of each new Census, every ten years. (See chart.)

In those sixty years, white population as a percentage of overall United States population has declined nearly 31%. Black population has increased roughly 2%, and other races have increased nearly 29%. Between the 2000 and 2020 Census alone, people of

	White		Black		Other races	
1960	158,880,333	88.6%	1,884,861	10.5%	1,613,908	0.9%
2020	191,577,684	57.8%	41,099,710	12.4%	98,771,885	29.8%

Hispanic or Latino origin climbed nearly 20%.

“So between now and 2030, whites as a proportion of the population will get smaller, and the minority race groups will all keep getting bigger. Eventually, whites will become a minority, dropping below 50% of the U.S. population in around the year of 2045,” per Dudley Poston, professor of sociology at Texas A&M University and a demographer, as published by PBS on January 2, 2020.

Few places don’t have population fluctuations over time. Racial diversity also fluctuates over time in many countries. But in the land

of the free and the home of the brave – the shining city on the hill – you better believe that change, as reflected by shifts in population and racial makeup, is not acceptable to huge swaths of the temporarily still white majority. Anything and everything that can stop or slow the white decline is now being engaged. Anything and everything designed to continue this country’s progress, racial equity, and fairness, is under full scale attack.

When America elected its first president of color, the false veil of fairness and equality began to slip away. The government and her in-

stitutions, including The Supreme Court, are now called into question. Confidence in lawmakers, our governmental representatives, declined sharply – they won the vote of the people to gain office, but the vast majority of Americans are not satisfied with the decisions they make in Washington. Tribalism has kicked in. Citizens don’t believe in other citizens.

On January 27, 2017, while reporting on the impact of the Obama years, Gallup.com reported, “In 2016, prior to that year’s presidential election, a new low of 56% of Americans said they had trust and confidence in their fellow citizens when it comes to making decisions in our democratic pro-

Zero-sum

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Empowering in 2024: NNPA Conference concludes with praise, prominent sessions and invigorating outlook



President/CEO Dr. Ben Chavis praised the conference as one of the best of his 10-plus year tenure. Publishers also took the opportunity to salute retiring NNPA executive administrator Claudette Perry, whose massive workload includes organizing NNPA conferences and conventions, with a standing ovation during the association’s board meeting.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) concluded its 2024 annual Mid-Winter Training Conference January 27 at the B Ocean Resort and Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where publishers, editors, sponsors, partners and visitors, shared four days of workshops and fellowship that promise to strengthen the iconic Black Press of America as it heads toward its bicentennial.

Representing 250 African-American owned newspapers and media companies in the United States, the NNPA’s theme for this year’s conference was “Empowering in 2024: The Black Press, The Black Vote and Black America.”

The conference provided attendees with valuable insights into performance-driven tools and methodologies aimed at expanding and monetizing their businesses. Workshops, presentations and discussions featured prominent figures from various fields, making it a comprehensive and enriching experience for participants.

Reflecting on the conference, NNPA Chairman and *Westside Gazette* Publisher Bobby R.

Henry Sr., said he’s expecting bigger and better things for the Black Press. “As the chairman of our beloved association, hosting the NNPA members – the Black Press of America – in Florida’s Broward County in Fort Lauderdale was a true honor,” Henry stated. “In these challenging times, the Black Press confronted bigotry and hatred, understanding the need for collective action. The *Westside Gazette* and the NNPA, through the NNPA’s National Town Hall meeting, aimed to reaffirm the historic bond between Blacks and Jews in America, rooted in the shared struggle for civil rights and freedom.”

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis added that the NNPA, members of the Anti-Defamation League, and others planned the Town Hall, which included U.S. Reps. Deborah Wasserman Schultz and Sheila Cheffius-McCormick, ADL Senior Vice President National Affairs Max Sevillia, and professor emeritus of the Department of Psychology at Florida International University, Dr. Marvin Dunn.

The highly anticipated event took place at the African-

NNPA

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Institute takes action to address persistent COVID-19 vaccination disparities

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Areas

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Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

Zero-sum

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cess. In 2009, 73% had such trust and confidence.”

What did America having a president lacking white skin reveal about us? Demographers say that continuous white decline is not going to change. It is the reality. So today we see countless efforts to control the base of power.

Let’s look at just a few. Does anyone truly believe the abortion issue is wholly predicated on morality or perceived morality anymore? The Kaiser Family Foundation reported 2021 data reflecting that 30% of nationwide abortions were white women. Does a day ever pass when we don’t hear about immigration or migration? History.com tells us that over 12,000,000 immigrants came through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1954, that’s an average of 1,000,000 per year. In 1965 President Johnson signed the Immigration and Nationality Act, ending the national origin quotas enacted in the 1920s which favored some racial and ethnic groups over others. In 2022, per migrationpolicy.org, 1,018,349 legal permanent residents entered the United States.

The list of weapons to maintain the white power base continues. What are redistricting battles all about? What is trying to erase slavery’s existence all about? What is banning books – in some cases even encyclopedias and dictionaries – all about? What is attacking university presidents all about? What are efforts to not celebrate Feb-

Clarke

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ratives in 1985. According to her biography, there were three other women in the legislature when she arrived. Two of whom had majored in home economics as well. “However, being the only woman of color didn’t create any camaraderie,” she said. She remembers serving for a lengthy period of time before learning that the White female representatives had a special bathroom for their use...never bothering to tell their lone African-American female colleague.

During her tenure, Clarke arose above such racial challenges. Focused on serving all the people of Mississippi and especially her constituents in District 69 of Hinds County, she chaired the Ethics Committee (2008-2012), the PEER Committee (1995-1996), and the State Library Committee (2000-2004). She also served as vice chair of the Drug Policy Committee, Education Committee, Interstate Cooperation Committee and the Ways and Means Committee.

She introduced more than 1,500 bills. Several of which she is widely known for through her sometimes-difficult bipartisan efforts. They include the 1986 BornFree Act; creation of the Mississippi International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program; the Alyce G. Clarke Drug Court Act; the Alyce G. Clarke Mississippi Lottery Law; and the creation of Mississippi first pediatric palliative care center. According to her biography, the palliative center will be named the Alyce G. Clarke Center for Medically Fragile Children.

Speaking of the Mississippi Lottery, Clarke fought for it for 19 years before it finally passed in 2018. She said she saw in other states where the lottery was helping with transportation, education and other needed improvements, so why not Mississippi. Today, as the longest-serving woman in the Mississippi Legislature, Rep. Clarke is affectionately referred to as “The Queen of the Capitol” and “The Mother of the Lottery.”

ruary as Black History Month all about? What is mass incarceration, and lifetime denial of voting rights for ex-felons, all about? What is racially disproportionate lending all about? What is voter suppression all about in a country whose foundational document begins with the words – We the People? The list grows larger by the year.

A little over a year ago, a US News-Harris online poll of 4,085 adults revealed that 47% of white American’s do not believe that systemic racism exists. However bizarre this poll result may strike us, we know deep down that it’s more accurate than not. The same poll shows 80% of African Americans believe systemic racism does exist, as do more than 70% of Asians and Pacific Islanders, and nearly 70% of Hispanics. The horror of nearly half of the white adults polled not believing that systemic racism exists in America lies in its believability. This is not ignorance – were it not for the reality we see every day, the horror of that sentiment would blind us.

As a nation, we must find a way to accept and embrace the truth that “all men are created equal,” and are especially so in God’s eyes. Not doing so, continuing to embrace a zero-sum mentality – dividing and canceling others because of their differences – continues to enslave our society in the greed of selfishness and threatens democracy each day.

The Alyce G. Clarke Mississippi Lottery Law has been “a big winner” for Mississippi. According to information from the Mississippi Lottery Corporation, “Now, approaching five years of sales November 2024, the MLC has surpassed the \$2 billion mark in gross sales. Since inception, the MLC has returned more than half-a-billion dollars to the State of Mississippi for roads, bridges and education since sales began Nov. 25, 2019. Direct beneficiaries include more than \$377 million to the Highway Fund and more than \$142 million to the Education Enhancement Fund.” *To view the published financial reports of the Mississippi Lottery Corporation, visit: <https://www.ms-lottery.com/media/reports/>*

Friday’s celebration for the retired Lady Statesperson did not end with the jubilee. She was treated to a private performance in her home from her young nephews of the group, the Motown Extreme, who had traveled from the West Coast to pay tribute to their aunt. “Oh, they were wonderful,” said Clarke. “They are traveling the country to help HBCUs with fundraising efforts. I am so proud of them for that.”

Clarke, a strong proponent of HBCUs, shared that her first college application was to Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU). Her mother Fannie Alice Griffin (now deceased) graduated from MVSU. “I thought it would be good to honor my mother, but I received a scholarship from Alcorn. That’s how I ended up there.”

A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Incorporated, Clarke said, “It would be wonderful if we would get more of our good students to attend HBCUs.”

To learn more about her nephews’ efforts to help HBCUs, visit: <https://motownextreme.com/>

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NNPA

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American Research Library and Cultural Center in Ft. Lauderdale, and Chavis and others, noted that they planned the Town Hall well before Hamas’ October 7 attack in Israel. “We knew that, with the rise of anti-semitism and with the rise of hatred in America, particularly against Black people in America, we needed to do something,” Chavis proclaimed. The Holocaust Museum of Southern Florida sponsored a lively reception one day after the Town Hall.

Pfizer Rare Disease conducted a lunch talk Thursday, Jan. 25, on “Sickle Cell and ATTR-CM.”

During the luncheon The PGA Tour demonstrated its’ commitment to education by sponsoring two \$5,000 scholarships on behalf of NNPA for HBCU students, Jasmine A. Hall of Bethune Cookman University and Victoria Gisel Montanet of Florida A & M University. The awards were presented by NNPA 2nd Vice Chair and publisher of *The Mississippi Link*, Jackie Hampton and PGA Director of Communications & Content Strategy, Adam Loberstein.

During the conference, Carolyn Fox, the managing editor of the *Tampa Bay Times*, discussed “Revenue Generating Strategies in the Publishing Digital Age” in a public session. A fireside chat between Chavis and Stephanie Childes, vice president of Diageo, explored “Harnessing the power of community, the Black Press, and inclusive corporations,” in which the popular spirits company reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Black Press of America and educating all on responsible drinking.

Pfizer Rare Disease conducted a lunch talk on “Sickle Cell and ATTR-CM” while another panel emphasized “The Black and Brown Vote.”

Google News Initiative led a discussion on “The Power of Audience to Generate Revenue” and Hyundai sponsored a breakfast and informational session, including a film presentation and a panel discussion. Additionally, a panel sponsored by Reynolds held a poignant discussion on “The Importance of Racial Impact Studies.”

An energetic Millennial Panel on “Digital Creative Storytelling” included Lafayette Barnes of the *Bridge* newspaper, Micha Green of the *Washington Informer*, NNPA social media correspondents DaNiesha Bell and Dawn Montgomery, and *New York Beacon* Publisher Ashley Smith.

Niele Anderson, the founder and CEO of PLB Media Inc., hosted a “Scaling-Moving from Print to Digital” session discussing the importance of being relevant and profitable in a digital world and riding the 2024 election revenue wave.

The NNPA 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award Gala went to *Greene County Democrat* (Alabama) publishers Carol and John Zippert. “The Black Press are storytellers,” Carol Zippert said in accepting the award. “We tell our own story, and if we don’t, folks are gonna tell it the way they want. If the lion told the story, it would be different from the hunter’s story.”

Chavis praised the conference as one of the best of his 10-plus year tenure. Publishers also took the opportunity to salute retiring NNPA executive administrator Claudette Perry, whose massive workload includes organizing NNPA conferences and conventions, with a standing ovation during the association’s board meeting.



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January 26, 2024 • Jackson Convention Center • Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Zion Chapel donates property for Hiram Rhodes Revels Plaza

The historical site was signed over to the City of Natchez in special ceremony

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Officials of Zion Chapel A.M.E. Church donated a portion of the church's M.L.K. Triangle property to the City of Natchez in a special ceremony Thursday, Jan. 25, at the church. The property will be dedicated to the memory of the late Rev. Hiram Rhodes Revels, an early pastor of Zion Chapel who became the first African American to serve in either house of the U.S. Congress. He was also the first president of Alcorn State University.

Pastor Birdon Mitchell and members of the church board of trustees joined Mayor Dan Gibson in signing the property over to the city. Mitchell and Gibson were joined by Norma West, trustee pro tempore; LeVera Allen, secretary for the Trustee Board; Herman Sidney Ransom, trustee; and Ernest Tony Fields, trustee.

West presented the official offer of the property on behalf of the church and its trustee board.

"We consider it an honor to give this gift, a portion of the Martin Luther King Jr. Triangle property, to the city of Natchez for the purpose of creating a community park in honor of Hiram Revels to be called Revels Plaza," she said, noting the park will be "a place that our community and city will be proud of."

Mitchell said he was thankful for the opportunity to honor Revels. He expressed gratitude to the church and to the city.

"Our bishop and board of trustee for the Mississippi conference are all on board with this, and they voted unanimously that we could do this along with the city," he said. "I think this is a new day for Revel's Plaza."

The donated property is located at N. Dr. M.L. King and St. Catherine streets. It is across the street from the church, which is at 228 N. Dr. M.L. King. Though currently known as "The M.L.K. Triangle," the new and improved site will be called "Hiram Rhodes Revels Plaza."

According to Gibson, it will be a "future city park at the gateway to Historic Downtown Natchez."

The white two-story, historical building that sits on the west side of the property, will remain under the owner-



Hiram Revels Plaza: This rendering shows the planned statue of Hiram R. Revels, who became the first African American to serve in either house of the U.S. Congress.



(L to R) Rev. Birdon Mitchell, pastor; Norma West, trustee pro tempore; LeVera Allen, secretary for the Trustee Board; Herman Sidney Ransom, trustee; Ernest Tony Fields, trustee; and Mayor Gibson.



(L-R) Ernest Tony Fields, trustee at Zion Chapel A.M.E. Church. Mayor Dan Gibson signing document



Norma West, trustee pro tempore at Zion Chapel A.M.E. Church, signs legal documents to transfer a portion of the M.L.K. Triangle property to the City of Natchez. She is pictured here with the Rev. Birdon Mitchell, left, pastor; LeVera Allen, secretary for the Trustee Board; and Herman Sidney Ransom, trustee.

ship of the church, according to church officials. The building houses Don's Barber Style Shop on the first floor. It is owned by Don Gordon, who attended the ceremony at Zion Chapel.

According to Gibson, Gor-

don is one of many who supported the project from the very beginning, "even though it could affect the parking for his barbershop." Gibson assured everyone that Gordon's business will not be leaving.

"Don Gordon is not going

anywhere," he said. "He's going to continue giving haircuts. The church is holding on to that building because Don's barbershop has to continue."

"But just in front of that barbershop, Revel's Plaza will now take shape. They may not have mention of Revels in Washington, D.C., yet, but we will have a major park dedicated to him right here at the front door of this church."

Transferring the church property to the city is similar to how property was deeded to the city by the heirs of Stephen Duncan for what is now Duncan Park, Gibson explained.

"Just as with Duncan Park, the city can never sell this piece of property," he said. "The property has to be used for the good of the people as a park honoring Hiram Revels. And if at any time the city goes back on that agreement, then this property will revert back to the church."

The park will include a statue of Revels. The planned development of the site is part of the city's official 2018 Downtown Master Plan, which was initiated to help revitalize the historic downtown area.

Several groups have been working on the project since 2018. They include Downtown Natchez Alliance and Natchez Friends of the Riverfront.

Mitchell thanked Chesney Doyle who was instrumental in organizing the city's downtown master plan effort.

Speaking after the ceremony, Doyle said there were many who played a role in the city's master plan.

"The visioning process for what ultimately became the city's downtown master plan began in 2015 with a group of about 25 people, some of whom are here tonight," she said as she noted the attendance of Darrell White, Alderwoman Sarah Smith, Monroe Sago and Eddie Burkes, among others.

"It was under Mayor Butch Brown's administration, after a motion and a second made by former city Alderman Tony Fields and Alderwoman Smith, that we got the unanimous greenlight to proceed," Doyle said.

"Sometimes sustainable development, growth, and change is a marathon, not a sprint, and always, always it must involve community engagement. The marathon is not over yet, but thanks to Mayor Gibson and the current city Board of Aldermen – I see Ben Davis, Felicia Irving and Valencia Hall here tonight – the finish line for Revels Plaza is truly in sight!"

Using prescribed fires for battlefield landscape management

Vicksburg National Military Park conducting the prescribed fires



Vicksburg NMP Prescribed Burn near Illinois Memorial

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The National Park Service (NPS) will be conducting prescribed fires to manage vegetation in select areas of Vicksburg National Military Park from Wednesday, January 31 to Friday, February 2, 2024, weather dependent.

Areas for prescribed fires will include large grassy areas in the South Loop, near the Illinois Memorial and Shirley House, the western slope of Fort Hill, along Graveyard Road, and at Thayer's Approach. The area of prescribed burns will include approximately 133 acres.

National Park Service fire crews from the Mississippi River Fire Management Zone based in Tupelo, MS and Vicksburg National Military Park staff will help conduct the burns. Prescribed fires allow fire managers to conduct a safe burn under optimal conditions with sufficient resources available to meet specific objectives for the management of battlefield resources. The overall objectives are to maintain the conditions of the battlefield as experienced by the soldiers who fought here; perpetuate the open space character of the landscape; maintain wildlife habitat; control invasive exotic species; reduce shrub and woody species components and reduce fuels in wooded areas to reduce fire hazard.

No prolonged road closures are anticipated. It is possible that smoke conditions might reduce visibility to a level that would require a temporary closure of limited areas to ensure public and firefighter safety. On the days of the burns, runners and walkers are encouraged to use alternative routes due to the potential for smoke. Up-to-date information on this and any other closures and fire activity will be posted on the park's social media sites.

The timing of the prescribed fires is dependent on conditions within required weather parameters such as wind, temperature and relative humidity. The prescribed fires will be conducted from approximately late morning through the afternoon, followed by patrol and monitoring to ensure the fire is completely out.

A combination of hoses, mowed areas and fire engines will be used to create a buffer and fire break to protect monuments and other cultural resources. National Park Service staff will monitor air quality and smoke impacts as well as visibility on nearby roads.

www.nps.gov

About Vicksburg National Military Park. Vicksburg National Military Park preserves and tells the story of the Civil War Campaign for Vicksburg, the history of Vicksburg from 1862 through Reconstruction, and Vicksburg National Cemetery.

This turning point in American history helped determine the outcome of the Civil War, and its impacts continue to transcend our culture today.

For more information visit www.nps.gov/vick.

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Celebrating 20 years of service in the Greater Jackson Area.

JPS hosts Pre-K to 2nd grade scholars and families at Literacy & Pajama Night

Special to the Mississippi Link

A Literacy and Pajama Night was held at Van Winkle Elementary School January 11, 2024. The event was organized by JPS Partners in Education (Parent and Family Engagement Center), in partnership with the Mississippi Children's Museum.

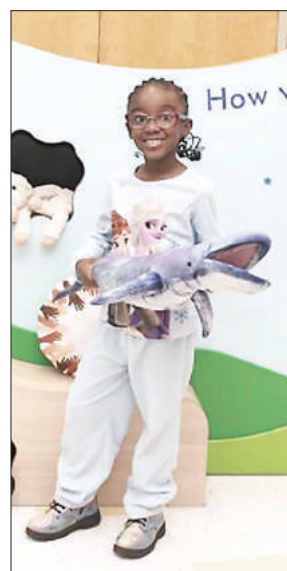
Parents and their pre-K through 2nd-grade scholars were treated to an evening of fun activities centered around early childhood literacy and games that inspired reading. Each scholar wore pajamas and was given the opportunity to have their photo taken with the beloved mascot and literacy advocate, Rocky the Reader.

The staff from Van Winkle and the Mississippi Children's Museum modeled techniques for parents to establish a routine of reading to their children at home. The Children's Museum introduced Rocky's House and its cast of characters. Rocky guided parents through three primary methods of language and literacy development: playing, talking and reading.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Mu Sigma Chapter and City Heart Church donated stuffed animals that were given to each scholar who attended.

Age-appropriate books were also given out from the JPS Rise Grant program, and each student was encouraged to go home and read to their new "stuffed friend."

Door prizes included free school supplies, backpacks and tickets to the Mississippi Children's Museum.



Hinds County School Digital Media big winner in TSA High School competition



Congratulations to Hinds County School Digital Media from The Mississippi Link newspaper for being big winners in the Technology Student Association (TSA) High School district competition.

TSA competitions provide an opportunity for students to take learning beyond the classroom and explore topics of career interest. They were big winners in the following categories:

- 1st place for Music Production
- 1st place for On Demand Video
- 1st place for Fashion Design
- 2nd place for Digital Video Production
- 3rd place for Digital Video Production

Local students host inaugural book discussion

Special to the Mississippi Link

Ninth-grade students and literary enthusiasts Elizabeth Stallworth and Jolie Stallworth recently hosted their inaugural book club discussion at Word and Worship Church Saturday, January 27, 2024. The twin sisters led an impactful dialogue, delving into the profound themes of Alice Walker's acclaimed work, "In Search of Our Mother's Gardens."

Fueled by their genuine love for literature, the Stallworth sisters initiated the book club to share their passion for reading and engage in enlightening discussions with fellow book enthusiasts.

Jolie Stallworth expressed, "We created the book club because we love reading books and discussing what we've learned with others."

Elizabeth Stallworth said, "The book discussion was designed to be a safe place for the community to share their ideas and learn from one another."

The interactive session featured an exchange of ideas as

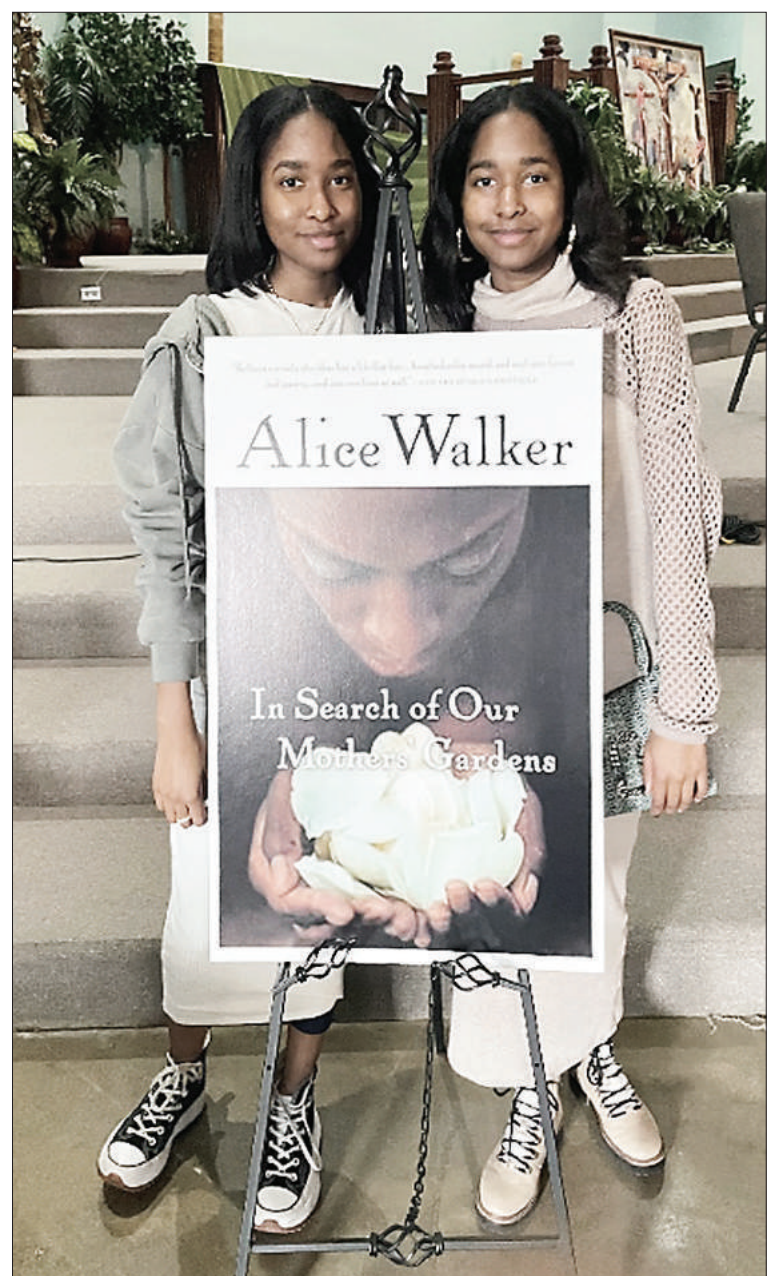
attendees delved into the depths of Walker's womanist theories and explored the rich tapestry of themes woven into her literary masterpiece.

Jolie said, "We selected this book because we love Walker's passion for Black women. While reading this book, we gained a lot of knowledge about life and people. Elizabeth said, "It was my vision for us to gain confidence, laugh, and for the participants to share their stories and ideas."

The Stallworths, who are students in the Jackson Public School-Tougaloo College Early High School program, expressed their admiration for authors Angie Thomas and James Baldwin. Jolie said, "Thomas is my favorite because her story is about girls like me." Elizabeth added, "Baldwin is very deep and transparent about the struggles of our people."

The next book club discussion is at 2 p.m., February 24, 2024, at Word and Worship Church and will feature Colson Whitehead's, The Nickel Boys.

Refreshments will be served.



Avid readers Elizabeth Stallworth and Jolie Stallworth recently hosted a book club discussion on Alice Walker's In Search of our Mother's Gardens. The twins are ninth-grade students at the Tougaloo College Early College High School program.

DeKeither A. Stamps: Breaking barriers as Mississippi's first Black Public Service Commissioner

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D.
Contributing Writer

In a historic turn of events, DeKeither A. Stamps has been elected as the first Black Public Service Commissioner in Mississippi, marking a significant milestone in the state's political landscape. This landmark achievement is not just a personal victory for Stamps but a beacon of progress and hope in a state that has not seen a Black individual elected to a statewide office since the Reconstruction era.

Stamps' election is a testament to the evolving political climate in Mississippi. His victory chips away at the longstanding wall of resistance in a state with a complex history concerning race relations and political representation.

"Being elected the first black public service commissioner holds great significance. It represents progress, inclusivity and the breaking of barriers," Stamps re-



Commissioner DeKeither A. Stamps PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER OFFICE

marked. This achievement is not just about shattering a racial glass ceiling; it's about redefining what is possible in a state historically marked by racial divides.

Mississippi's delay in electing a Black individual to a statewide office since Reconstruction is rooted in a multifaceted history of racial discrimination and political gerrymandering. Insti-



Commissioner Stamps being sworn in surrounding by his family while his daughters Kristian and Kennedy Stamps hold the Bible. Photos provided by the Public Service Commissioner Office

tutional barriers, such as voter suppression tactics and districting that dilute minority voting power, have historically marginalized Black political candidates. This systemic exclusion has been a significant obstacle, making Stamps' election all the more groundbreaking.

Stamps is keen on prioritizing equitable access to essential utili-

ties as a cornerstone of his tenure. He emphasizes, "My plans are centered around ensuring equitable access to essential utility services, such as clean water, reliable and affordable energy, and natural gas expansion into rural areas of the District."

By focusing on these fundamental needs, Stamps aims to address longstanding disparities

and ensure that progress benefits all communities, especially those historically underserved.

Stamps' journey to office is not just a personal triumph but also a source of inspiration for younger generations, particularly those from underrepresented communities. "I encourage young people to believe in the power of their voice and the impact they can


make," he asserts.

Stamps sees his role as a catalyst for encouraging more young, diverse voices to engage in politics. His election is a powerful reminder that running for office is a noble endeavor and that fresh perspectives are crucial for positive change.

DeKeither A. Stamps' election as Mississippi's first Black Public Service Commissioner is a historic and hopeful moment, symbolizing the state's potential for progress and inclusivity. It reflects a growing recognition of the importance of diverse representation in positions of power and the ability to overcome longstanding barriers.



As Stamps embarks on his mission to serve the public and foster equitable access to essential services, he also stands as a symbol of possibility, inspiring future generations to engage in shaping a more inclusive and equitable society.

In Memory and Honor of Mrs. Ella Louise Watson Robinson



As God sovereignly chose February 2, 2021 to be the day you were called home to Heaven, we accept His will, but we will always remember your magnificent and splendid life with us. "Your life was a blessing. Your memory a treasure. You're loved beyond words and missed beyond measure!" We love you Motherdear!

In honor of Ella, a scholarship has been established to aid youth aging out of Foster Care. For more information about how you can donate to that scholarship fund, please contact Paula Bass at singhymnstohim@yahoo.com. You may also mail your contribution payable to From Widow To Winner, P.O. Box 12076, Jackson, MS 39236 or make a donation to the fund at www.fromwidowtowinner.com. This scholarship for foster care youth assures that her legacy for loving children and wanting the absolute best for them will live on for generations to come.



Storytellers remember the 1963 school children protesters' cries against inequities in their Mississippi home towns

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

During the turbulent '60s, it was difficult for young, African Americans living in Mississippi to process the setbacks of discrimination. Many of them were shielded by their parents and others from hostile environs that lurked around them in the state. They were allowed to play within the confinements of their neighborhoods but were prohibited from "crossing the tracks." On that other side were white neighborhoods that had their own "cultural" standards.

Storytellers who were growing up back in the day recall de-testing "White Only" and "Colored Only" signs in public view for usage. Signs on water fountains, front doors and back doors specified who would be allowed to enter. Separate restrooms with their signs were in place for the races.

In 1963, African-American school children protested against these inequities that had consumed them throughout their lives. They laid their grievances on the conscience of the community. These children were saying to officials that they wanted to be seen, heard and respected.

The Civil Rights Act had not yet appeared. It made its debut in 1964. Further, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (voice of non-violent resistance) had not delivered his speech at the Mississippi State Capitol. That occurred in 1965.

Irrespective of these latter phenomena, Mississippi high school, African-American pro-



Alma Stokes was a 7th grade middle school protester who was too young to be jailed in Parchman farm in sunflower county. Recalling ill-treatment of African Americans, she and many of the young fought against second-class citizenship. Learning from the elders how to stay safe, and at the same time, resist the status quo, was a life-long lesson.

testers, saw the significance of speaking collectively to city police, school principals, school administrators, school teachers and their communities. Protests came in the form of school walkouts that bumped heads with authoritative figures.

In Jackson, Lanier High School, Brinkley High School and Jim Hill High School, children walked out.

"The students' walkout was planned because we wanted better things for our families, better jobs, better books for us to read and better housing. During that time our books were sent to us from Central High School, where the white children were going to school. We were given torn up books, books with pages missing and the front and back part of books gone. [Many of the hand-me-down books were filled with chewing gum glued to them and pages written on them]," said storyteller – Margie K. Thompson, Jackson resident.

Thompson explained that her parents and grandparents disapproved of the "leftovers" that were passed down to the African-American students. "We wanted to be able to go down-

town in Jackson, Mississippi and shop where we wanted to shop... in all of the downtown area. We wanted to be able to try on dresses, shoes, pants and whatever we wanted to try on. We wanted to go in Woolworth and dine like the white people and order our lunch just like them, she continued.

Storyteller Alma Stokes recalls what was happening in Natchez when she was approximately a 13-year-old 7th grader. Like Thompson, she reminisced about discrimination. "There was still a struggle in almost everything for people of color, jobs, education...the ballot box and laws passed. It brought disappointment and discouragement," stated the Sadie B. Thompson schooler.

Stokes attended civil rights meetings in churches throughout Natchez with her older siblings, enjoyed listening to civil rights activists like Medgar Wiley Evers and his brother – Charles Evers. She loved locking arms with others and singing freedom songs like "We Shall Overcome" and "Ain't Gone Let Nobody Turn Me Round." She looked forward to those kinds of gath-



Margie K. Thompson shares her 1963 Lanier High School days of protest when she was age 14 in the 9th grade. She learned how she and other students were impacted by segregation. "My parents and grandpartents told me and my siblings that 'if the other kids walk out, y'all better be in that line with them.'"

erings. To her, they were safe havens.

"Those meetings were designed to encourage [us] to not give up the fight. Leaders advised us on how to be safe, to form lines and how to stay together while on the streets. There were always policemen. I guess [they were] trying to keep order or peace. The younger ones of us didn't participate in some events because parents knew there would be trouble, like when they loaded [older protesters] up and sent them to Parchman prison, which was a scare tactic to stop the marches," Stokes recollected.

On the day of the walkout, youth in these two cities had freedom songs in their hearts and left their classrooms in droves, despite "nervous" principals, teachers and administrators who seemingly didn't know what to do. They were mainly hesitant because they did not want to lose their jobs. Yet, Stokes warns, "Know your history, never allow another's fear to make you fear." She realized during the walkout at Sadie B. Thompson School that "those who tried to oppress and distress for so long knew what would happen when that

power and control was taken."

Thompson remembered walking with the protesting students out the doors of Lanier High – onto Maple Street – while singing "We Shall Overcome." As they sang and marched toward Whitfield Mill Rd (now Medgar Evers Blvd.), there were news reporters, police office and paddy wagons. The officers were armed and ready to take the protesters to jail.

"We needed something to protect us. Some students went in the cafeteria and discovered the glass Borden milk bottles the cooks used to serve us our lunch every day. Some students decided to use the milk bottle for protection because the officers began to spray us with water, beating and arresting students. They [arrested the students, placed them in the Paddy wagon and took them to the temporary jail – the Fairground – that they had created for us. That Fairground was packed with student protesters from Lanier, Brinkley and Jim Hill. Though I was too young to be locked up, two of my siblings and one cousin went to jail. When my father got off work and went to the Fair-

grounds, they wanted to stay. Later, however, he returned and took them home."

Both Thompson and Stokes – miles apart – learned that banding together for justice is a good cause. Despite setbacks and broken promises, moving beyond injustice with collective measures bridges gaps and heals wounds.

Thompson and Stokes concur that since 1963, Mississippi has seen significant progress in the political participation of African Americans. The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibited racial discrimination in voting, was a major milestone in this regard. The act gave African Americans access to collective political power and helped increase their voter registration rates in Mississippi.

While there are numerous miles to continue the struggle for justice, since 1963, Mississippi has made significant improvement in education for African Americans.

According to the BBC, the percentage of African Americans who have completed four years of higher education has increased from 4% in 1962 to 26% in 2019. Though this is true, Mississippi's public schools have been underfunded for centuries. This has negatively impacted the education of African Americans.

Each generation bears the burden of learning from the past. Each generation must contribute to humanity significant strides. Each generation is accountable for taking care of its needs for survival.

Three Black U.S. Army reservists killed in drone attack near Syrian border

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Three Black American reservists from the 926th Engineer Brigade, based at Fort Moore, Georgia, lost their lives in a drone attack on a U.S. base near the Jordan-Syria border. Pentagon Deputy Press Secretary Sabrina Singh identified the fallen soldiers as Sgt. William Jerome Rivers, 46, of Carrollton, Georgia; Spc. Kennedy Ladon Sanders, 24, of Waycross, Georgia; and Spc. Breonna Alexsondria Moffett, 23, of Savannah, Georgia.

The tragedy occurred at the logistics support base at Tower 22 of the Jordanian Defense Network, where approximately 350 U.S. Army and Air Force personnel are stationed. That base plays a crucial role in providing support for the coalition's efforts against ISIS, according to Central Command.

The attack marks the third drone strike on the outpost in the past six months, with the first two occurring in the latter half of the previous year being unsuccessful.

Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, said the murders of the three Black reservists cut deeply.

The U.S. government has determined that Iran was responsible for the attack, prompting President Joe Biden to vow a response. "There will be a response," Biden declared.

In her last conversation with her mother, Sanders reportedly expressed aspirations to elevate her military career upon returning home



Pentagon Deputy Press Secretary Sabrina Singh identified the fallen soldiers as Sgt. William Jerome Rivers, 46, of Carrollton, Georgia; Spc. Kennedy Ladon Sanders, 24, of Waycross, Georgia; and Spc. Breonna Alexsondria Moffett, 23, of Savannah, Georgia.

from the Middle East. She also revealed her intention to purchase a motorcycle. Sanders was actively involved in coaching soccer and basketball in her hometown of Waycross, Georgia, and worked at a pharmacy. She was pursuing college courses to become an X-ray technician.

Sanders' parents shared that she volunteered for deployment to experience different parts of the world. With a history of military service in the family, Sanders had previously deployed to Djibouti and later volunteered for Kuwait, including a stint in Jordan near the Syrian border.

Rivers enlisted in the Army Reserve in 2011 as an interior electrician, according to the U.S. Army Reserve Command Public Affairs Office.

He served "with courage, honor, and a deep sense of duty, embodying the best of New Jersey and our nation," said Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.). "His death is a profound loss to his family, friends, colleagues and our entire country, and a reminder of the heavy debt we owe to our military families for their sacrifice."

U.S. Rep. Andy Kim (D-N.J.), who represents Will-

ingboro, said in a statement that Rivers served this country and local community with great honor and bravery. "We are indebted to him and his loved ones for their service and sacrifice," Kim stated. "We will never forget what Sergeant Rivers and his fellow fallen soldiers, Spc. Kennedy Ladon Sanders and Spc. Breonna Alexsondria Moffett, gave for our nation. May their memory live on in our continued service to our military families."

Moffett reportedly was no stranger to the military as both of her parents were veterans.

"I was like no you should, but you know she went anyway, because of her dedication to her county, she really really honored her job," Saryha Truell, one of Moffett's lifelong friends, told WTOCTV.

"We are reminded that the brave men and women who defend our great nation put their lives on the line each and every day to keep our country safe," said Brig. Gen. Todd Lazaroski, Commanding General of the 412th Theater Engineer Command.

"Their service and sacrifice will not be forgotten," Daniels stated.

Dexter King died believing that the truth of his father's killing will someday rise

By Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds
TriceEdneyWire.com

Not another King dying far too soon. This was the immediate reaction of many at the news that Dexter Scott King, the youngest son of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, had died from prostate cancer at age 62. In 2007 his sister Yolanda died at age 52.

At the time of his death, Dexter had served as both chairman of The King Center and President of the King Estate. In that capacity he engaged in legal intellectual property fights with corporations, federal agencies, and court suits with family members to protect his parents' legacy. His strongest crusade, however, was his battle to bring to justice those responsible for his father's murder.

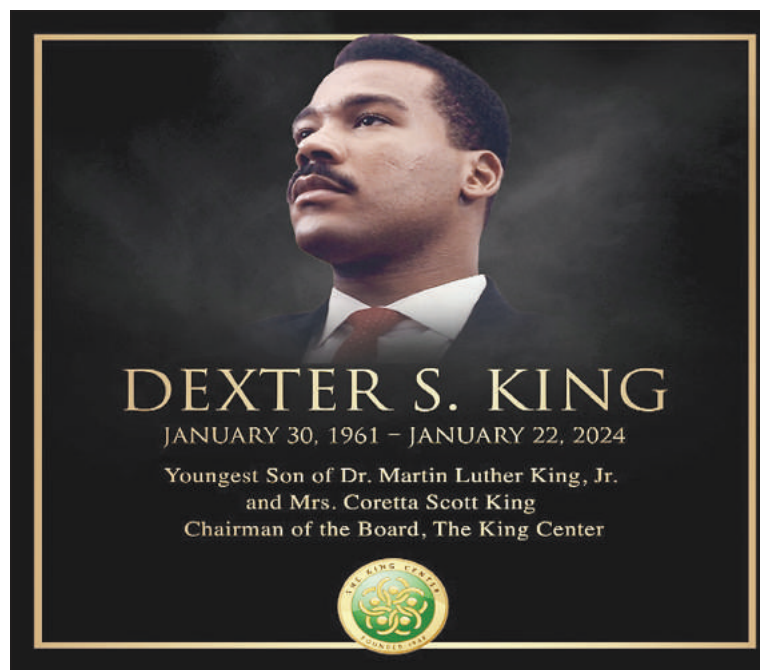
Born in Atlanta Jan. 30, 1961, he was named after Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, where his father served in his first pastorate and helped launch the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott. He was the second-born son of Dr. King and Mrs. King and was only 7 years old when his father was assassinated in Memphis April 4, 1968.

For years, Dexter King – who has an amazing resemblance to his globally acclaimed father, confessed that when he "looked in the mirror he saw his father's face trapped in mine." In his memoir "Growing Up King," he spoke of gazing upon the writing on his father's crypt, "Free At Last," and feeling that same sense of freedom. Yet he was freed in a different way – not in death – but in the resolution of living his best life on his own terms and not becoming a prisoner of the King name.

As a journalist and later biographer of Coretta Scott King, I was in and out of the King household since the seventies watching their becoming years. As a teenager Dexter used to love talking about one day becoming a businessman and he started his first enterprise, a music company where he hired himself out as a disk jockey for weddings. In later years, his zest for business skills took root at the King Center, where he sometimes took the reins of the King Center with his siblings helping it to become a beloved world house of peace and non-violence.

Coretta King said all four siblings – Martin III, Yolanda, Dexter and Bernice had inherited specific qualities from her and their father. Yolanda had a love for the performing arts and became an actress. Martin III, a social justice activist; Bernice, a call to ministry and pastoral and organizational leadership; and Dexter, a drive to master the complexities of life by pushing forward, overcoming the most difficult problems, even when at the very root he had to overcome himself.

Confronted with the fear of death, instead of running from it, he freed himself by running into it. At age 16, he started working at a funeral home, the same one that buried his father. The experiences in the mortuary he attributed to his quest to come to terms with death and dying. To understand the intricacies of the criminal justice system, in 1982, for a short spell, he became a police officer



Journalist, Dr. Barbara Reynolds, (center) with Martin Luther King III (left) and the now late Dexter Scott King (right, wearing hat) in their younger years.

in Atlanta. His stance to wear a uniform with a sidearm shocked the principled non-violent, anti-gun workers at the King Center. But he was determined to understand the system from the inside out.

Dexter also wanted to test his acting abilities. With his uncanny resemblance to his father, he portrayed him in the 2002 television movie "The Rosa Parks Story." His love for the creative arts drew him to relocate to California but he also continued his work with the King Center and commitment to the King family legacy.

As deftly as he helped free himself from fear and tradition, he also took responsibility for freeing his family, especially his mother, from digging their graves with their forks. He became a strict vegetarian, giving up sugars and starches until his body craved natural foods. He said he was bothered that his grandfather, Daddy King, might have lived a longer life had he eaten differently. At her son's insistence, Coretta, who had mastered the art of rich Southern style cooking, became a vegetarian.

Once when I traveled with her to a Florida spa, I was dismayed that for a week, they served nothing but raw vegetables and veggie smoothies. Yet, she also believed her strict regimen eased her pain from gout and other discomforts, prolonging her life. She died at the age of 78.

Both mother and son shared an intense determination to prove to the nation that James Earl Ray did not kill Martin Luther King Jr, that his murder was the result of a conspiracy involving the U.S. government and the assassins should be held accountable.

In the early 1990's I picked Dexter up at the DC airport and took him to the National Press Club where I had helped arrange a briefing on the assassination.

He spoke about his plans to meet with Ray and that he believed Ray's claim of innocence and, based on other evidence, felt along with other family members, that Ray was not the lone assassin.

On December 8, 1999, Dexter and Mrs. King, on behalf of the family, pursued a civil suit in Memphis. A jury of six Whites and six Blacks unanimously implicated U.S. government agencies in the wrongful death of Dr. King. The shocking evidence convinced the jury that Dr. King had been the victim of assassination by a conspiracy involving the Memphis Police Department as well as local, state and federal government agencies, and the Mafia. The jury also concluded, just as Dexter had argued all along, that Ray was not the shooter, but had been set up as a patsy to take the blame.

This news, where both Dexter and Mrs. King testified, should have rocked the world, but unfortunately it landed like the noise of a feather hitting the ground. The verdict and shocking testimony were virtually ignored by the media – as it is today.

Dexter was often criticized for his insistence on following up on details ignored by the press, but he argued that it was hard for him to believe looking into his father's murder was somehow illogical.

Yet, even in this failure, Dexter believed as his mother did, that they had both freed themselves of the guilt of not pushing for the truth.

So many times, they had heard their father and husband say, "Truth crushed to earth shall rise again." And they left this world believing that one day it would.

The Rev. Dr. Dr. Barbara Reynolds is co-author of the memoir, *Coretta Scott King: My Life, My Love, My Legacy*.

Triumph over Adversity: Journalism scholars receive prestigious PGA TOUR/NNPA scholarship

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In a celebration of resilience and determination, Victoria Gisel Montanet and Jasmine Hall, two outstanding journalism majors, were awarded the PGA TOUR/National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) \$5,000 scholarship during the NNPA's 2024 Midwinter Training Conference held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, January 24-27, 2024.

Montanet, a broadcast journalism major at Florida Agriculture Mechanical University (FAMU), has a passion for her chosen field of studies.

"From an early age, I've always been fascinated by the power of journalism and its potential to raise unheard voices, support social causes and educate the public," Montanet emotionally stated.

Hall, a senior at Bethune Cookman University majoring in mass communications and multimedia journalism, has overcome significant obstacles, such as the devastating emotional toll of her father's abandonment. Hall's dedication to her educational journey has earned her the recognition and financial support she deserves. "I'm a persevering, hardworking student who will do whatever it takes to succeed in my education despite the obstacles," Hall stated.

Both Montanet and Hall acknowledged the \$5,000 scholarship money as a vital lifeline in their educational journeys, providing much-needed financial support to



(L-R) Bobby R. Henry, Sr., chairman NNPA; Victoria G. Montanet, FAM-U scholarship recipient; Adam Loberstein, director, Comm. & Strategy, PGA Tour; Jackie Hampton, 2nd vice chair, NNPA; Jasmine Hall, Bethune Cookman scholarship recipient; Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr., president & CEO, NNPA

fuel their pursuit of excellence.

"The PGA TOUR is thrilled to continue its partnership with the NNPA and Black Press," declared Adam Loberstein, the communications and content strategy director for the PGA TOUR. "We're honored to work alongside the NNPA to help present college scholarships to these two talented and deserving students. We look forward to working with Jasmine and Victoria."

"The NNPA recognized the exceptional potential of the scholars," said NNPA 2nd Vice Chair and *The Mississippi Link* Publisher Jackie Hampton. She expressed admiration for both students.

"Victoria has a passion for this field and credits FAM-U for providing her with a tough curriculum, hands-on experience and priceless mentorship opportunities, all of which have served to amplify her passion and dedication to this field," Hampton stated.

Highlighting Montanet's experience, Hampton

recounted her time as the entertainment anchor and weather reporter for TV-20 News, showcasing skills in writing scripts, conducting interviews and producing news segments. Montanet's commitment extends to community service, where she utilized her journalism abilities to raise awareness about vital social issues at the PACE Center for Girls and the Kearney Homeless Center.

Hampton emphasized Hall's incredible comeback, which included a semester withdrawal. She returned with tenacity and hard work, yielding an impressive GPA of 3.8.

Hall's experience in filming miniseries for her class, participating in field trips with the Bethune Cookman production crew, and photographing celebrities has contributed to her well-rounded education.

"As a multimedia major, I am a hardworking, dedicated student who will do whatever it takes to succeed in life, 'live or die,'" Hall exclaimed.

GRAY AREAS

HOW THE WAY WE WORK PERPETUATES RACISM & WHAT WE CAN DO TO FIX IT

ADIA HARVEY WINGFIELD, PhD

BOOK REVIEW:

GRAY AREAS:

HOW THE WAY WE WORK PERPETUATES RACISM & WHAT WE CAN DO TO FIX IT

BY ADIA HARVEY WINGFIELD, PHD

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Well. This wasn’t what you wanted. It was supposed to be better than this, wasn’t it? But it’s not anywhere close to what it should be. No, you expected different and that’s not right. Read the new book “Gray Areas” by Adia Harvey Wingfield, PhD, and you might have to think about this again.

There you are, logged into your work computer after a long weekend and it hits you: an email or IM from a racist who uses vile words and hides behind a pseudonym. It happens,

and for many Black employees in America today, it happens so often that it’s become “a core part of the Black experience...”

But hey, your jobsite established diversity programs and workshops on inclusion, right? Yes, but the truth, says Wingfield, is that they don’t help; in fact, she believes that those well-intended workplace efforts actually “perpetuate and maintain racial divides.”

Part of the problem is that today’s workplace thrives on “cultural, social and relational aspects.” These are things built into most workplaces, but that

ignore Black experiences.

There are four classes of culture at work and, for various reasons, any or all of them can “make it hard for Black workers to fit in...” by subtly forcing them to hide their true selves.

Social aspects in the workplace deal with connections, mentors and relationships. It’s not what you know, but who, and networking – something with which Black workers sometimes struggle – is key. And relational aspects relate to “soft skills” and leadership abilities, although most top-echelon positions in corporate America are filled by

white men.

So what can a supervisor or CEO do to make the workplace less racist?

End mandatory diversity training, Wingfield says, and hire diversity managers instead. Admit and anticipate racial issues. Don’t let employees or customers get away with bigotry against your workers. Start a mentoring program in your workplace and strive to promote workers of color to top positions.

With these, and other ideas, Wingfield says, “We can do better.”


Reading “Gray Areas” is a little bit of a struggle.

For an African-American reader, author Adia Harvey Wingfield, PhD shares the lives and words of several people at various kinds of workplaces, but the case studies mostly repeat what you probably already know. It’ll get your dander up, but it won’t tell you much.


On the other hand, CEOs and supervisors need to absorb what’s inside this book, to glean understanding from the various viewpoints and experiences and to uncover that which they may not see. Just know that, aside

from end-of-chapter bullet-points, advice is pretty well buried – although golden nuggets do exist. For instance, if you’re a people-watcher, it’s interesting to see how different folks deal with difficulties at work. On that, readers may come away wishing that Wingfield’s subjects could’ve networked among themselves.

Should you decide to tackle this book and its information, taking extra time to think and absorb will help immensely. Do that, let yourself cogitate, and “Gray Areas” could be everything you’ve wanted.



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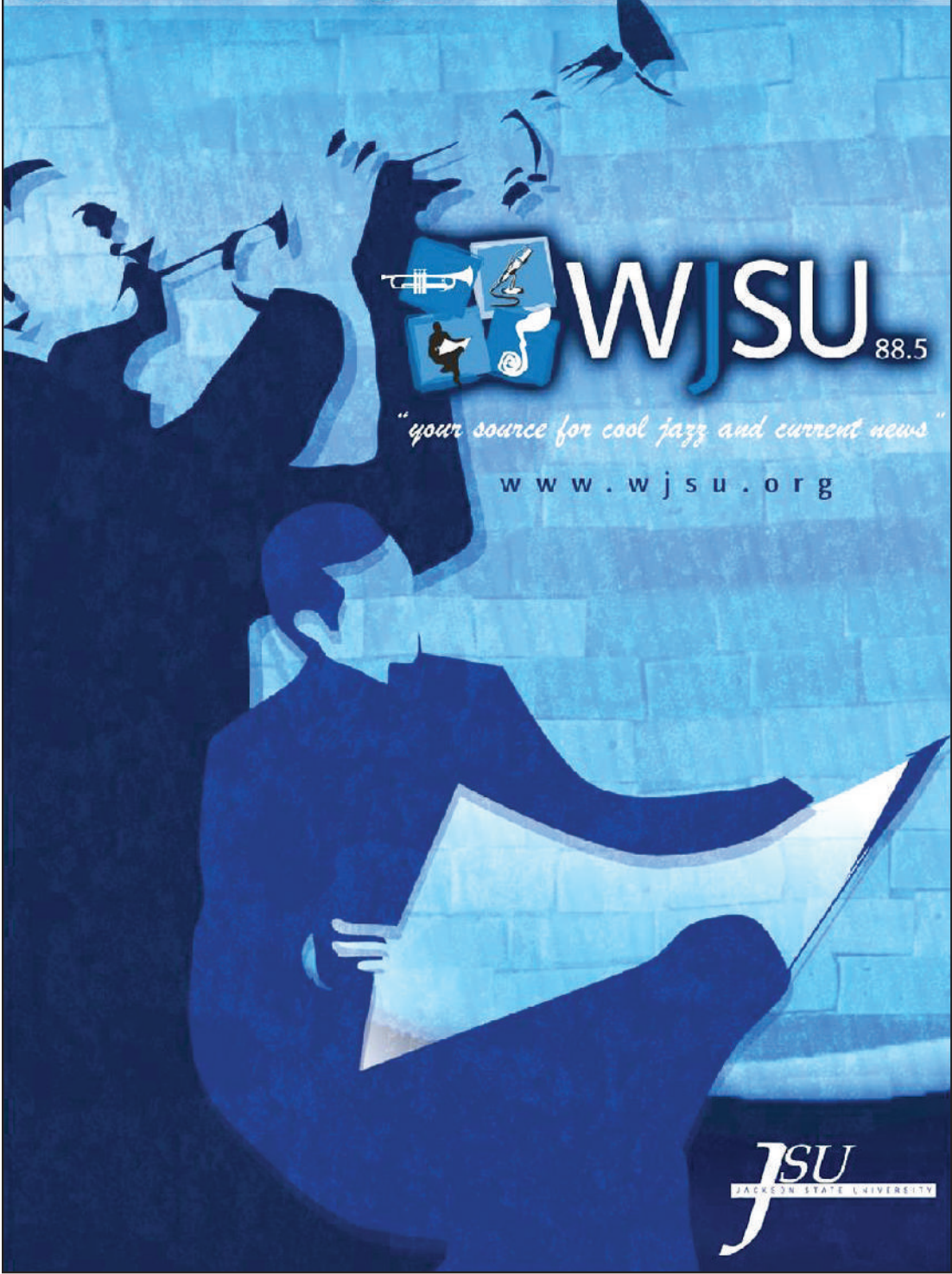
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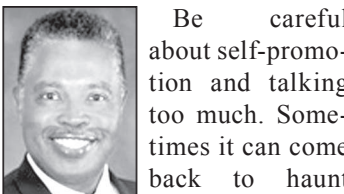


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Ron DeSantis started out with a roar and ended with just a murmur. What happened?

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



Be careful about self-promotion and talking too much. Sometimes it can come back to haunt you. It's better to start off in the back and be asked to come to the front.

We all know people who specialize in talking about themselves. In today's world of high-octane media, it's about getting 'likes and "shares." I have always believed that your good work and deeds should speak for themselves.

The debates are over Republican primaries have already been held in Iowa and

New Hampshire. South Carolina will be coming up soon. It will give the candidates another chance to see where they stand.

There were roughly a dozen candidates who started off some months ago with high aspirations for becoming the next president of the United States of America. Their platforms were similar as their main goal was to go after President Joe Biden. That refrain became a bit stale, so they started to go after each other.

The only candidate that had a steady stream of criticism for Trump was Chris Christie, former governor of New Jersey. Everyone else had cold feet and didn't want to agitate Trump.

The name calling and verbal jousting were on full display. One candidate in particular, Vivek Ramaswamy, an investor and author, would begin his bashing saying when, "I become president." I guess it made him feel pretty good to utter his name and president of the United States of America in the same breath. Ramaswamy is now long gone and forgotten.

One by one, the Republican nominees dropped out of the race. They spent millions with no tangible results. Lay-offs and not face-offs have happened over the past few months. Volunteers, once hopeful, became hopeless for a lost cause.

Shortly after the Iowa Cau-

cus, there were three candidates left. They were Donald Trump, Nikki Haley, former governor of South Carolina, and Ron DeSantis, governor of Florida. Now there are only two candidates.

Breaking news came in last week saying that DeSantis was suspending his campaign and that he was endorsing Trump.

Was that a surprise he was endorsing Donald Trump? I hope not. DeSantis was in the Trump camp all along. He just took a long break from being governor to pretend he was running for president.

During his campaign, his message was uninspiring and un motivating. He was talking loud and saying nothing. He has been Mr. T's mouthpiece

for much of his career and never created an identity of his own. He was unpopular on the campaign trail and is also unpopular in his home state of Florida.

He had the money but didn't have the magic to sustain his candidacy. He had no innovative ideas and no solutions for the issues of the day. He is now left to assume his original position and that is to be a "Trump volunteer."

Some are suggesting he is a potential presidential candidate in 2028. He and other Republican hopefuls are in Trump's shadow. If Trump remains relevant, DeSantis and the others will receive the crumbs from the table.

As the November election

draws closer, will he campaign for the former president? If I were in his shoes, I would be a bit embarrassed to stump for someone who has stepped on me so hard. It would just look strange to advocate for a person you wanted to kick to the curb just a few months ago.

Additionally, I muse about how the GOP sees Governor DeSantis and whether they want to toss him a political life jacket? Obviously, he doesn't have any shame. He has already sold his soul and his judgment is waning. What's left?

At one point, DeSantis had the bright lights on him. Now, he may only have a few parking lights shining dimly on him.

Biden-Harris Administration's LNG decision - the hope young people have been anticipating

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



James Hiatt lives in an area along the Mississippi River in Louisiana that has been dubbed "Cancer Alley." Teeming with chemical plants and oil and gas refineries, the air the residents of this area breathe contains more carcinogens than anywhere else in the country.

One of those oil and gas facilities is the Calcasieu Pass liquified natural gas (LNG) terminal, which has further devastated public health, local livelihoods and marine wildlife. Last week the Biden-Harris administration's Department of Energy (DOE) paused the permitting of new LNG projects. The decision stops the gas industry's plans for the even larger CP2 LNG terminal right next door.

This move was perhaps the boldest rebuke ever from a US president against the oil and gas industry. President Biden, Vice President Harris and Secretary of Energy Granholm – whose support for the move was especially crucial – did the right thing.

Millions of us are celebrating, along with James Hiatt, who says, "I'm thankful for this pause in granting gas export licenses; the DOE has finally heard the wake-up call. The gas industry was planning to inundate my hometown with LNG terminals."

American families' pocketbooks will be thankful as well. Any word

you hear from the fossil fuel industry or the politicians in their pockets about how this decision harms American consumers or the economy is a lie.

As Hiatt points out, "exporting LNG drives up domestic energy costs, affecting everything from home heating to food prices."

Pausing the LNG boom will keep global energy markets more stable. It will help move economies and electric grids towards using less expensive and more resilient renewable energy sources. It will keep 681 coal plants worth – or 548 million gasoline-powered cars worth – of planet-warming greenhouse gasses out of our atmosphere each year.

All of this is critically important. But so is James Hiatt's point about the "finally heard wake-up call."

For years, activists, along with scientists and others, have been sounding the alarm to get those in power to wake up. Some of the most powerful voices have been those of young people. And we should all appreciate what it has taken for those young people to maintain their determination.

The American Psychological Association defines "eco-anxiety" as "a chronic fear of environmental doom." In 2021, Lancet Planetary Health surveyed more than 10,000 young people, ages 16 to 25, in 10 countries. Anxiety about climate change impacted the ability of more than 45 percent of these young people to function in their daily lives; 75 percent were "frightened" of the future. And it exposed a key feature

of eco-anxiety: hopelessness.

Half the young people in the study described feeling helpless and powerless. Now, we know that despite the fear, young activists have been among our fiercest leaders in the fight against the climate crisis. They have not given in to the lingering despair. But, as a piece on eco-anxiety in the *Harvard Political Review* pointed out, young people have felt like they are alone in the fight. And, "if no one is listening and no change is happening, then pushing forward can feel hopeless."

That is why, aside from the emissions numbers ... aside from the economic and energy security benefits ... the Biden-Harris administration's LNG decision is a win for hope. And hope is a powerful thing.

In his statement about the decision, President Biden said, "We will heed the calls of young people and frontline communities who are using their voices to demand action from those with the power to act."

This victory for climate-concerned people the world over – and the planet itself – is proof that organizing works. Grabbing the bullhorn and telling your story – even if the crowds don't listen right at first – matters.

This LNG decision is a momentum builder. And a clarion call for even more organized action on the climate crisis – especially from young people.

Ben Jealous is the executive director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ban-aids are not for deep wounds

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



One of the most precious memories I have from my childhood is my mother bandaging my minor knee scrape resulting from a fall, with a band-aid. While in pain my tears could have flooded our neighborhood. I felt better knowing that a band-aid was going to make my ouch so much better. I remember trying my best to keep my band-aid on while at school, during recess, at home, taking a bath and playing outside because it was a symbol that my minor scrape was being healed. I did not want a new band-aid; the old one was too connected to my healing and heart.

I remember constantly asking my mother was it time for me to remove it and after a few days at the most, she would say, "you can remove it now." I couldn't wait to see my new knee...the band-aid was ready to come off and I only had a minor scar – could barely see it. I was completely healed.

However, years later, I was cleaning our bathroom and suffered a deep cut under my left thumb; one could almost see the bone. I screamed and panicked; blood sprouted out everywhere and of course I ran to my mother, hoping that a band-aid would do its magic again. When my mother saw the wound, she sadly informed me, "Shunda, band-aids are not for deep wounds like this, you have to go to the hospital." I went to the ER and got seventeen stitches and the hard scar is still visible today.

There are too many married couples trying to heal deep wounds with band-aids, which are temporary fixes in many cases. Deep wounds involve aching and broken hearts, weary hearts and souls, and broken vows.

What causes deep wounds in a marriage?

- Jealously – Jealous spouse who always accuses, questions your every move (this can become overbearing) or another type of jealousy is one who envies your success
- Nagging
- Financial issues
- Gaslighting
- Physical, verbal, mental and emotional abuse
- Physical and Emotional affairs
- Addictions
- Spouse abandonment
- Parenting/Children issues – terrible two's – terrible tweens and teens

– please take a moment and pray for everyone you know who have children in this age group – it's something else – my grandfather once stated, "children start on your lap and then they on your heart."

- Secrets
- No reciprocation – you're pouring into your spouse and marriage, but your spouse is not pouring back into you and your marriage – there are a lot of thirsty

spouses

- Little to no sexual intimacy – husbands always remember that foreplay starts before the bedroom – how you treat your wife can be the difference in you surfing and turfing – woo your wife in how you talk to her, be affectionate, be kind, help with household chores, show that you truly care, date her, can we woo, woo woo...and vice versa wives – if your husband is wooing you as you desire – give that man some milk and cookies – I'm just saying

Many spouses are bandaging deep hurt, deep pain and deep disappointment with band-aid approaches.

Band-aid approaches includes:

- Ignoring it
- Denial – acting like nothing has happened
- Move forward with one another in dating, churching, etc. without addressing the wound
- No communication – refuse to talk about it
- Stay married legally – yet you live two different lives at home and outside of home
- Seek revenge – only makes things worse

When couples utilize ban-aid approaches for deep wounds in marriage it can cause the following impacts:

- Unforgiveness
- Bitterness
- Distancing
- Mistrust
- Affairs
- Addictions
- Separation
- Divorce

In conclusion, like untreated wounds on a human body, untreated wounds in a marriage can be hazardous and detrimental; it can even lead to the death of your marriage. Wounds, especially deep wounds, require extensive care. Some may require stitches while others warrant surgery.

Yes, it hurts to address a wound especially depending on how deep it is. Yes, the healing process may be slow, tedious and painful. However, before you know it, the deep wound will be a minor scar. In other words, the scar will only serve as a reminder that your marriage has been healed. If you love your spouse and your marriage has wounds that have not been properly healed – seek help immediately from a marriage counselor, pastor, and/or me and my husband; we would love to counsel you. Please realize that band-aids are not for deep wounds.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences), Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, Instagram letsstaytogether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert), Facebook Dr. LaShunda Calvert, email letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com or call 601 874-6176.

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Advertisement For Bids
SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM SOLUTIONS
CITY PROJECT NO. RFP#2024-01

Sealed proposal 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, February 20, 2024, for Security Camera System Solutions which will function as an access control system by integrating alarm monitoring, digital video indoor and outdoor IP security cameras, ID badging, visitor badging and monitoring, and database management into a single platform for the public transportation system in the City of Jackson (as specified) necessary for REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2024-01.

The term of the contract will be for three (3) years with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year periods by consent of both parties.

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

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

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

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

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM SOLUTIONS, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2024-01."

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

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

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

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

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

Christine Welch, Deputy Director
Office of Transportation

1/25/2024, 2/1/2024, 2/8/2024, 2/15/2024

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
BEATRICE K. YOUNG, DECEASED

CAUSE NO. P2023-89 G/2

PETITIONER: ROSIE BUCKHAULTER

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF BEATRICE K. YOUNG, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Rosie Buckhalter Petitioner, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Beatrice K. Young, Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock a. m., on the 6th day of March, 2024, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County before Honorable Tiffany Grove, Chancellor. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 29th day of January, 2024.

EDDIE JEAN CARR
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI

K Howard

2/1/2024 2/8/2024 2/15/2024

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE

JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, FEBURARY 14, 2024 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Old Business
N/A

New Business
CASE NO. HPNC-23-12
LOCATION: 1442 GREYMONT ST. (PARCEL 15-143-4)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: SHARON POLLARD
REQUEST: TO REPLACE SHAKE STYLE METAL ROOFING WITH CORRUGATED METAL ROOF.

CASE NO. HPNC-23-21
LOCATION: 300 FARISH ST. (PARCEL 83-3-1)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: FARISH ST APPLICANT: ANDERSON ERVIN
REQUEST: CONSTRUCT NEW TWO STORY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE AS A PERSON HOME ON PARCEL NUMBER 83-3-1. THE NEW RESIDENCE WILL MATCH THE AESTHETIC OF THE BUILDING LOCATED ON 83-3 WITH BRICK AS THE PRIMARY BUILDING MATERIAL FOR THE EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS, ARCH WINDOWS ON THE SECOND FLOOR, AND A LOW SLOPED ROOF TIED TO AN INTERNAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

CASE NO. HPNC-23-23
LOCATION: 205 N LAMAR ST UNIT 15. (PARCEL 84-13-2)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: FARISH ST APPLICANT: KIMBERLY VIVERETTE
REQUEST: INSTALL RAYNOR ALUMNA VIEW AV300 GARAGE DOOR STYLE WINDOWS ON EXISTING STRUCTURE. THIS REQUEST IS IN CONJUNCTION WITH CASE# HPNC-22-34.

CASE NO. HPNC-23-25
LOCATION: 760 ARLINGTON ST. (PARCEL 12-67)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: LOUIS WILKINSON
REQUEST: REBUILD SINGLE CAR GARAGE THAT WAS DESTROYED BY A FALLEN TREE.

CASE NO. HPNC-23-27
LOCATION: 1836 LYNCREST AVE. (PARCEL 9-88)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: MARCUS SANDERS
REQUEST: REPLACE ROTTING SIDING WITH NEW SIDING CALLED LP SMARTSIDE. IT LOOKS AND FEELS LIKE THE EXISTING MATERIAL BUT IT LASTS LONGER WITH VERY LITTLE MAINTENANCE.

CASE NO. HPNC-23-28
LOCATION: 1746 MYRTLE ST. (PARCEL 9-210-1)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: SYLVESTER HUNTER
REQUEST: FULL RESTORATION OF HOME AND REAR GARAGE.

CASE NO. HPNC-24-1
LOCATION: 1227 RIVERSIDE DR. (PARCEL 10-17)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: RODNEY BOYKIN
REQUEST: RENOVATING HOME AND INSTALING A NEW WINDOW IN A NEWLY EXPANDED BATHROOM AND REPLACING AN ALUMNINUM SLIDING GLASS DOOR.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
VOTE FOR CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND SECRETARY.
ESTABLISH REGULAR MEETING TIME FOR THE HP COMMISSION.

ADJOURNMENT

1/25/2024, 2/1/2024

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30p.m., Tuesday, February 6, 2024. The City of Jackson, Mississippi requests proposals from art groups and other community development groups providing services to the citizens in the City of Jackson.

Financial assistance is available to support arts and community development activities designed to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the arts and improve the quality of life among the citizens of Jackson. This solicitation seeks proposals with an emphasis on community exposure, history and education.

Grant awards offered by the City of Jackson shall only represent supplemental funding in support of arts projects and community development-based projects. To be eligible for funding, proposing organizations must have verifiable cash match contributions that equals to at least 50% of project cost.

For the Request for Proposal packet, please contact Beverley Johnson-Durham at 601 960 0383. All proposal must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: Proposal for general funds Arts and Community Based Grants. Proposal packets must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 219 South President Street by 3:30pm on February 6, 2024.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: www.jacksonms.gov and may be picked up at the City of Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Services located at 633 North State Street Suite 423, Jackson MS 39202

By: Pamela Scott, PhD Director
Department of Human and Cultural Services

1/18/2024, 1/25/2024, 2/1/2024

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
JOSEPHINE H. KING, DECEASED

CAUSE NUMBER: 1:15-pr-00409

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE HEIRS-AT-LAW AND WRONGFUL DEATH BENEFICIARIES OF
JOSEPHINE H. KING, DECEASED

You have been made respondents in the suit filed in this Court by CARLOS KING, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOSEPHINE H. KING, DECEASED. You are summoned to appear and defend against the PETITION TO APPROVE FINAL ACCOUNTING, TO DISCHARGE ADMINISTRATOR AND TO CLOSE ESTATE filed against you in this action at **9:00 a.m. on the 27th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024**, at the **HINDS COUNTY CHANCERY COURTHOUSE, 316 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**, and in case of your failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the Petition.

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

Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 1st day of January, 2024.

Hon. Eddie Jean Carr,
Hinds County Chancery Clerk

BY: *Stanley*, D.C.

PREPARED BY:

1/18/2024, 1/25/2024, 2/1/2024

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS
DOWNTOWN MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT, CITY PROJECT NO. 2025

The City of Jackson intends to employ a Hotel Developer, Parking Garage Developer and Mixed-Use Developer for the development of 7.75 acres in Downtown Jackson. The Master Plan envisions an ultimate linkage of downtown together with a complete system of entertainment, greenspace, vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian and an integration with the city's new state-of-the-art transportation network, intended to promote a vibrant, environmentally equitable and sustainable downtown environment. We are seeking developers wanting to create a "place making" as a destination - an experience - that intertwines green space, outdoor entertainment and museum possibilities, parking garage, commercial, mixed-use, retail, a hotel and restaurants. Statement of Qualifications will be accepted by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 p.m., Tuesday March 12, 2024. The proposed contract will include complete Architectual/Engineering services required for this renovation.

Official bid Documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Development firms interested in providing these services may so indicate by furnishing the City of Jackson seven (7) copies of a Statement of Qualification, which should consist of the following:

A cover letter specifying the complete project name, DOWNTOWN MIX USED DEVELOPMENT, CITY PROJECT NO. 2025, the name of the project manager, and the location and address of the office to be assigned the majority of the work.

A resume for each principal member, the project manager, and employee(s) of the firm anticipated to be assigned to the project including consulting engineers. Also, provide an organizational chart and list each person's experience and qualifications, including proof that the Project Manager is licensed as a Mississippi Professional Architect/Engineer and that the firm has met state licensure and certification requirements. Include a business recovery plan in the event of a disaster.

Knowledge of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) procurement processes, Section 3 requirements, certified payroll, Davis-Bacon Act; and other reporting requirements of CDBG funded projects.

A description of similar type developments completed during the past five (5) years which qualifies the developer for this work.

The City will evaluate the Statements of Qualification based on the following factors listed in their relative order of importance:

Experience of the firm in performing specific services and experience in completing projects funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Qualifications and experience of staff and consultants to be assigned to the project based on requested scope of services.

Size of the firm's professional and technical staff with respect to the services required.

Resume of the firm's current and completed projects of a similar nature.

Equal Business Opportunity participation plan submitted with the Statement of Qualification package.

The City reserves the right to select one (1) consultant or select a short list of consultants from whom more information will be required. The City reserves the right to reject any and all Statements of Qualification, discontinue Contract execution, and/or request additional information with any party at any time prior to final Contract execution. For any Statement of Qualification questions, contact Chloe Dotson via email at cdotson@city.jackson.ms.us

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 proposer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan with the proposal submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a proposer 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 601-960-1055. Copies of the City of Jackson's Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the program are available at the following location: 200 South President Street, Room 223, Jackson, Mississippi; or can be accessed on City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity webpage.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all proposers 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 proposers will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals 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 is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City of Jackson encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City of Jackson, as well as those who seek to contract with the City of Jackson on various projects and/or conduct business in Jackson to assist the City of Jackson in achieving its goal by strongly considering city of Jackson residents for employment opportunities.

Chloe Dotson, BUPD. MURP,
Director Planning and Development

Yika Hoover
Deputy Director Economic Development

2/1/2024 2/8/2024, 2/15/2024, 2/22/2024



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Sudoku Solution

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

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Cryptogram Solution

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
U	R	C	F	D	G	W	B	K	N	I	M	E	Q	J	L	P	S	Y	X	A	O	T	H	Z	V

WITH MY SUNGLASSES ON, I'M
TKXB EZ YAQWMUYDY JQ KE
JACK NICHOLSON. WITHOUT THEM,
NUCI QKCBJMYJQ TKXBJAX XBDE
I'M FAT AND SIXTY.
KE GUX UQF YKHXZ

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Advertisement For Bids

MEDIUM TO HEAVY DUTY LOW OR NO EMISSION TRANSIT BUSES

CITY PROJECT NO. RFP#2023-04


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, February 6, 2024, from qualified providers to manufacture and delivery of medium to heavy duty Low or No Emission Transit Buses, along with training, testing/diagnostic equipment and special tools in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in RFP #2023-04. The Contract shall be a firm-fixed-price contract over the term of five (5) years. 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.

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.

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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



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Sudoku

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

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

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Your only hope of eternal life

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



The Bible lets us know that as one comes to the age of accountability, there is no strength to keep that person from going down the broad road of sin. Some may go further than others.

Sin is stronger than any man who is living without Christ. Man living in sin has no control over his life. He may exercise a little will power in a few things and lay down some unhealthy habits, but he cannot lay down sin on his own. No, it takes the power of God and the Gospel to save a person from sin.

Roman 5:8 tells us that “while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

When we were in sin, we were enemies, not only with one another but also with God. We were hostile toward God. The Apostle Paul said in Romans 5:10, “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son (it took His death to bring life), much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Your only hope of eternal life is with the mighty presence of God’s Son in your life. I want you to notice what Paul said to Timothy con-

cerning eternal life in 2 timothy 1:6-10: “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest (more than 2000 years ago) by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

Too many people are looking for an appearing in the future. Friend, He appears today to every honest heart that cries out to Him; He may not solve every problem the moment you bring them to Him, but He will give you grace to stand and that which is needful in the hour of temptation and trouble. He wants you to live for Him.

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

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Institute takes action to address persistent COVID-19 vaccination disparities

Mississippi Link Newswire

The ongoing threat of COVID-19 remains a significant public health concern. Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that over two-thirds of older adults have yet to receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine.

Responding to these concerning statistics, the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health is actively engaged in efforts to boost vaccination rates in marginalized communities in Mississippi.

As a participant in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Partnering for Vaccine Equity (P4VE) program, the Institute is implementing targeted outreach initiatives throughout the Metro Jackson area and the State of Mississippi. The objective is to increase the number of adults accessing vital vaccinations substantially.

Tiffany Givens, program manager at the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health, underscored the organization's commitment to achieving vaccine equity in minority communities.

Givens stated, "Our goal is to enhance vaccine equity among adults in minority communities. Through strategic part-

nerships, we aim to provide educational resources that promote vaccine confidence and facilitate access for those who need it most."

Additionally, the Institute is conducting a comprehensive community outreach campaign, including a social media initiative, COVID kit distribution, and participation in local events that connect citizens with vaccine providers and influenza resources.

Givens emphasized, "We want to ensure that our community not only has access to vaccines but also the confidence to secure the proper immunizations each year. Through collaborative efforts, we strive to make a meaningful impact in the ongoing fight against COVID-19."

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health was established in 2019 to reduce health disparities among disadvantaged and underserved minority populations in Mississippi through the development of collaborative partnerships with community stakeholders and the implementation of evidence-based public health interventions with a particular focus on health equity.

For more information, contact Givens at tgivens@advancingminorityhealth.org or (769) 572-5263.



Yolanda Robinson and Miracle Vance, from the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health, welcomed attendees to the wellness fair. Health fair participants received free HIV screenings, resources on tobacco cessation, blood pressure/glucose level checks and information regarding COVID-19.

Cellulite

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

"What is cellulite?" is one of the most asked questions. There are a lot of factors that can cause cellulite. Whatever the cause of cellulite, it's important to know that there aren't any miracle products, treatments or medicines that can make it go away.

One of the biggest myths is that cellulite is caused by toxins. Toxins have nothing to do with cellulite. Cellulite is just fat that has pushed itself between the walls of your connective tissue. Nothing, you put on the outside of your body will reduce the fat on the inside. The only way to reduce cellulite is to reduce your fat intake and do some exercise.

What is commonly called cellulite is just a dimpling appearance of fat on your thighs and buttocks. Everyone can develop cellulite. Cellulite is most common in women. It's possible for a woman of normal weight to have more cellulite than an overweight woman.

The area where cellulite develops is made up of a network of fibrous bands on top of fat. The fat pushes through this network of bands and creates a waffled or dimpled appearance. As you age the supportive structure that makes fat appear smooth begins to breakdown. It now takes less fat for the cellulite to show.

Your genetics, sex, age, the amount of fat on your body and your skin's thickness determine how much cellulite you'll develop and how visible it is. As we age, our skin loses elasticity and can make the appearance of cellulite more visible. Excessive weight gain can also make the appearance of your cellulite more prominent.

Cellulite usually develops on your thighs because the area naturally has more fatty tissue.

Other factors that increase the chances for cellulite can include:

- age
- estrogen
- family history
- tissue inflammation
- increased fatty tissue caused by weight gain

- loss of collagen
- poor circulation (a common issue in the legs)
- poor lymphatic drainage
- thinning epidermis (outer layer of skin)

Every year we spent over \$50 billion to get rid of fat. The least affective method was the cellulite creams. Cellulite creams claim to work by helping your body metabolize fat. Cellulite develops deep under your skin and metabolism takes place inside the body, not outside.

Dieting is the most popular way to loose weight. Dieting will never burn fat or calories. Most of the people who lost weight while dieting only gain back all the weight they lost. Some dieters gained back the original weight and about 10 to 15 pounds more.

When you plan to get rid of cellulite you should look at your complete lifestyle.

Nutritionally

You should never take in less than 12 calories per pound of body weight. That means a 100 lb. person should take in no less than 1200 calories daily. This type of eating plan will help keep your metabolism constant. Your metabolic rate determines how fast your body burns calories.

To help get rid of your cellulite, you should drink plenty of water and cut high sodium foods from your diet. Eating plenty of fresh vegetables, fruits and whole grains throughout the day will help to replace fat calories. Eating small meals throughout the day will keep you from overeating.

We should eat foods loaded with vitamins, minerals and fiber but low in fat and calories. These nutrients rich foods include vegetables, fruits, whole grains, beans, peas and low fat dairy products.

It's recommended that we have at least 4 servings each of fruit, vegetables, whole grains and 2 servings of protein. Low fat dairy products are also important. You need at least 2 serving daily.

Get Physical

Exercise also speeds up your metabolic rate. Ideally, you should do an aerobic workout to burn fat and some strengthening re-

sistance exercises to develop and tone muscle tissue to effectively burn fat. If you diet without exercising, your body will feed on muscle to get what it needs. Your body needs the muscle to hold your bones in place.

A good beginner workout should consist of a light aerobic workout like brisk walking and basic calisthenics like push-ups for the chest, back and triceps and crunch ups for the abdominal area.

If you have never worked out or you're out of shape see your doctor to get his approval to start a program. You should always work your way into a program gradually. If you're coming back from a long lay off (over 6 weeks) due to an injury you need to be very careful and follow your doctor's orders.

Aerobics

An aerobics workout is any workout that keeps you moving continuously for 30 minutes. It takes the body 20 to 30 minutes to switch to the fat burning stage during a workout. The average person can comfortably start with 10 to 15 minutes of aerobic exercise. If 10 minutes is too much, start from where you are. Gradually build your aerobic exercise time to 30 to 45 minutes at least 4 times a week. Aerobic exercise is the only affective way to burn fat.

Some examples of aerobic workouts include 30 minutes or more of brisk walking, jogging, bicycling, skating, swimming, walking in a pool, aerobic, dancing, racquetball and jumping rope.

Workouts, which include a lot of stop and go movements, will burn calories but are not considered aerobic. These include karate, volleyball, weight training, sprinting, tennis, ballet and gymnastics.

Resistance Exercise

Not doing muscle-building exercises will make you look worse than when you started your diet. Muscle gives the body its shape. Doing toning exercises with weights or active exercise machines for the whole body 2 to 3 times a week will help to smooth out the dimpled effect caused by

cellulite. Lack of muscle tone will make cellulite more obvious. When you build muscle, it will also help burn fat.

A beginner should start by doing 15 minutes of calisthenics. This should include 2 to 3 exercises for each body part. Push-ups, sit-ups, squats and calf raises are

excellent basic exercises.

No one should ever feel ashamed that they have cellulite or like it is something that they simply must get rid of. Cellulite is perfectly normal and is something that affects over 90% of all women.

The only saure way to lose

weight safely is to exercise and diet at the same time. By dieting and exercising sensibly, you can lose 1 to 1-1/2 pounds of body fat a week. So, get rid of that cellulite safely. Eat right and exercise.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.



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