

Fresh start for Hinds Co. Board of Supervisors

Hinds County voters have spoken and newly elected Supervisors take their seats

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

The New Year got off to a good start for the citizens of Hinds County as the Board of Supervisors convened at 9 a.m. on January 2, 2024, for their first regular board meeting of the year. There was a feeling in the air of a fresh start – no drama, no outbursts, no infighting – just focus on the people’s business with a commitment to improved communications, teamwork, and addressing the needs of the people.

After a prayer by Rev. Dr. Jesse Horton of Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, and the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Robert Graham led the process for nominating and electing a new board president and vice president.

After receiving a nomination from Wanda Evers, Robert Graham, who was reelected without opposition for his fifth term as District 1 Supervisor, was voted in by the board as its new president and presided over the meeting.

Incumbent District 5 Supervisor Bobby McGowan, who prevailed in the run-off election for another term, nominated himself for president of the board, but the nomination failed.

Graham nominated Wanda Evers, who prevailed in the August run-off for District 4 Supervisor, for board vice president. She was voted in by the board as



L-R: Supervisors Robert Graham, Anthony Smith, Deborah Butler Dixon, Wanda Evers and Bobby McGowan

the new vice president. District 5 Supervisor McGowan also nominated himself for VP, yet his nomination was not seconded.

The board approved the bonds for the board. Other bond approvals followed, including for health and safety, public welfare, water & sewer, garbage disposal, fire protection, chancery clerk, circuit clerk, surveyor, sheriff, coroner, purchasing clerk, assistant purchasing clerk, receiving clerk, inventory clerk, etc.

Graham then provided all supervisors with two minutes each if they wanted to share any com-

ments about their agendas. District 2 Supervisor Anthony Smith thanked his supporters and spoke of the need for rebirth in Hinds County, “We need to change the way we are doing things. I’m getting out in the community and talking to homeowner’s associations. We need to work as a team, a collective effort to represent all citizens.”

District 3 Supervisor Deborah Bulter Dixon indicated, “I’m a former House Representative for District 63 and I want to thank the voters... and there is going to be some changes in Hinds

County.”

District 4 Supervisor Wanda Evers said, “I would like to thank everyone who supported me for this run...we are going to make great changes as Supervisor Dixon and Smith said...we are working as a team and we are going to make sure that the needs of the people are taken care of... you all have to remember that we serve you, you don’t serve us, and that’s what we are here for.” District 5 Supervisor McGowan shared, “Thank God for waking

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Civil rights leader removed from movie theater for using own chair

By Ben Finley
The Associated Press

A civil rights leader was escorted by police out of a North Carolina movie theater after he insisted on using his own chair for medical reasons, prompting an apology from the nation’s largest movie theater chain.

The incident occurred Tuesday in Greenville during a showing of “The Color Purple.” The Rev. William Barber II said he needs the chair because he suffers from ankylosing spondylitis, a disabling bone disease.

Barber, 60, leads a nonprofit called Repairers of the Breach, which focuses on issues including voter suppression and poverty. He also co-chairs the national Poor People’s Campaign,



Rev. William Barbour

which is modeled after an initiative launched in 1968 by the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

During an hour-long news conference Friday, Barber spoke in support of people with disabilities and the need for businesses to provide the accommodations required under

the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“I know that if I cannot sit in my chair in a theater in Greenville, North Carolina that there are thousands of other people who will be excluded from public spaces in this nation,” Barber said.

Barber said managers at the AMC theater asked an armed security guard and local police officers to remove him after he stood firm on using the chair. Barber said he agreed to be escorted out after officers said they’d have to close down the theater and arrest him.

Barber said he left his 90-year-old mother behind with an assistant to watch the film. Video of the incident shows Barber talking to an officer be-

fore walking out of the theater.

“This is not about me personally,” he said. “Though it happened to me personally, this is about what systemic changes, policy changes (and) training needs to be done to ensure this happens to no one.”

Greenville police said in a statement that a caller from the theater said a customer was arguing with employees and the theater wanted him removed. After a brief conversation with a responding police officer, “Barber agreed to leave the theater voluntarily,” police said. No charges were filed.

AMC apologized in a written statement, saying it welcomes and works hard to accommo-

Barbour
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How close are we?

Cornerstone of white takeover attempt in Jackson greenlighted by Federal Judge, then halted



Bust of Thurgood Marshall at the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building In Washington, D.C. COURTESY OF WWW.AOC.GOV

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

U.S. District Court Judge Henry Wingate had promised previously that he would render a ruling by the end of the year on House Bill 1020, which was signed into law by the Mississippi Governor on April 21, 2023; and immediately challenged by the NAACP and multiple other plaintiffs – and he did just that on the evening of December 31, 2023.

“In this court’s eye, Plaintiffs have failed adequately to plead injury – in fact – and therefore failed to establish standing altogether. Okpalobi v. Foster, 244 F.3d 405, 425 (5th Cir. 2001) (en banc) (finding that “if any one of the three elements (required for standing) is absent, plaintiffs have no standing in federal court.”). This court, accordingly, need not address the merits and requirements regarding Plaintiffs’ motion for injunctive relief. That motion (Docket no. 110), therefore, is DENIED. Seeking to salvage various claims, especially their claims against the Chief Justice, Plaintiffs filed a motion to amend their complaint (Docket no. 80). This court, unpersuaded by any arguments in favor of such, hereby DENIES that motion to amend, “read a portion of Judge Wingate’s 12-page ruling in Case 3:23 – cv – 00272 – HTW – LGI Document 135.

Yet once again, immediately, NAACP and the other plaintiffs, appealed Judge Wingate’s ruling to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and were granted temporary relief – “IT IS ORDERED that the motion for an injunction pending appeal is CARRIED WITH THE CASE. The alternative motion for a temporary administrative stay is GRANTED until noon Friday January 5, 2024. The district court is DIRECTED to issue a final appealable order by noon Wednesday

January 3, 2024. Nothing in this order is to be construed as indicating any view on the merits of any issue.” as reported by WLBT. Then on January 3, 2024, Judge Wingate held a status conference attempting to clear up confusion in response to plaintiff’s “Renewed Motion for Preliminary Injunction Pending Appeal,” and *The Mississippi Link* reading directly from his Order, Wingate denied the motion.

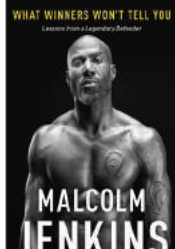
And so, HB1020 is not settled, just yet anyway. Mostly white Republican legislators, not residing in Hinds County – but from all over the state – purport to address Jackson’s crime problem by installing a white-led police force to ride herd in a predominantly Black city and install an additional court system with judges and prosecutors appointed by the White Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Judge and the White Mississippi Attorney General.

Now the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, which as noted previously by *The Mississippi Link* newspaper, is a court made up of 74+% White judges, will weigh in. That’s where we are.

If you are one of those asking where else this is going on in the State of Mississippi, the answer is nowhere. This treatment is reserved for Jackson and Jackson only. If you are one of those asking if the White republican legislators in Mississippi ever fulsomely attempted to help Jackson with any of its challenges, to offer assistance, or to seek dialogue – the answer is no. They just did what they wanted to do. Everything in Mississippi is about race, and HB1020 is no exception – White Supremacy in action.

The NAACP has taken a stand for the interests and rights of oppressed people for 115 years and counting.

Takeover
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A Life Well Lived

Christopher S. Little

December 19, 1983 - December 17, 2023

Though hundreds gathered in the field of Jim Hill High School Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m. to reflect on the life and musical legacy of Christopher Little, there were many, friends, community leaders and colleagues along with family, who attended his homegoing service, Saturday, December 30, 2023.

Little died Sunday, Dec. 17 unexpectedly according to reports. Many who knew him said the news of his unexpected departure sent a shockwave of crying and other emotions around the City of Jackson and on social media, especially among his students. His homegoing service was held at New Horizon Church International where Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr. serves as pastor. Brian Jefferson officiated the service.

Obituary
A beautiful melody began when Christopher Sanchez Little was born on December 19, 1983 to the late Luretha “Tudney” Little and the late Lindsey “Dip” Henderson in Jackson, Mississippi. He was affectionately known

by his family as “Scoona.” Christopher accepted Christ at an early age at the Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church in Benton, MS. Christopher attended Clausell Elementary School, Hardy Middle School and Murrah High School, all of which ignited his love of music. Christopher participated in honor bands and honor societies throughout his matriculation in the Jackson Public School District, most notably being the All-State, Capital District, and All-City Honor Bands.

After graduating from Murrah in 2002, Christopher not only marched in the “Sonic Boom of the South” at Jackson State University, but he also actively participated in the Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Brass Quintet, Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra. While at Jackson State, Christopher served as the section leader for the Baritone Section. He was a charter member of the Pi Nu Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha established in 2004.

Christopher earned a Bachelor

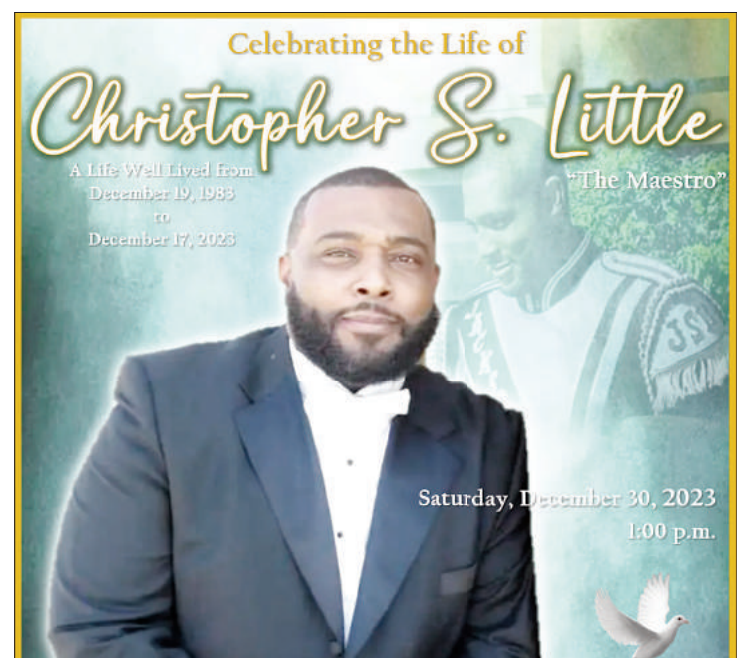
of Music Degree in 2006 and a Master’s in Music Education Degree in 2008, from Jackson State University. He was currently pursuing a Doctoral Degree at the University of Mississippi.

Christopher’s musical career began at Siwell Middle School in 2006. He was hand-picked by Charles Bradley to become his predecessor upon his retirement in 2010. Under his direction, the bands consistently received superior and excellent ratings at local and state marching/concert evaluations at both the middle and high school levels. Christopher took pride in his band’s ability to perform both contemporary and classic wind band literature. His students also regularly placed in honor bands throughout the state and receive millions of dollars in scholarship offers from varying colleges and universities every year. During his tenure, the band received a \$28,000 grant from Hollands Opus Foundation in 2014 for new instruments.

Christopher was deemed an “Outstanding Citizen” by the City Council of Jackson, MS.

He was also one of three teachers chosen throughout the nation by McAlister’s Deli as an “Outstanding Teacher” during Teacher Appreciation Week in 2019. Christopher served as a dutiful Director of Bands at Jim Hill High School until his untimely death on December 17, 2023.

Christopher was a distinguished musician that dedicated his life to sharing his love of music with others through teaching, composing musical scores and transforming the impact of bands through professional learning. He had a vision to advance the band programs in Jackson Public Schools. This was evident by his role as the Fine and Performing Arts Coordinator in JPS. He was a member of the MS Band Masters Association since 2006. He was currently serving on the executive board as a member-at-large. Christopher was the past president of the Capital District Band Director’s Association, a member of the National Music Educator’s Association (formerly MENC) and the International Tuba and Euphonium Asso-



Little
ciation (ITEA). Christopher was also a member of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Incorporated. He was the co-founder of the MS Music Institute established in 2011.
Christopher was a kind a compassionate young man. He was always respectful to others and very hard working. He was a mentor and a father-like figure to many of his students and band members. Christopher’s legacy will be etched in the hearts of all who knew him.
Christopher’s melodic harmony will continue to flow in the hearts of his loving wife, Anslesia Scott-Little; two daughters, Auiyna and Alizah; two brothers, Antonio (Andrea) Little, and Marvalion Berry; one niece, Aniyah Little; one nephew, Austen Little; two uncles, Marvin (LaVeca) King and Daniel Smith; two aunts, Glovas Little and Deborah Johnson; one great uncle, James King; one great aunt, Lena Winford; his in-laws, Jamie (Yolanda) Scott; friend, David Hubbard, Sr.; best friend, Dr. Racheá A. Williams; and a host of cousins, relatives, and friends.
Christopher was preceded in death by his parents, Luretha Little and Lindsey Henderson; his maternal grandmother, Doris Smith; an uncle, Joseph “Domike” Little; and an aunt, Venicelon “Niecy” King.
See photos on page 3.



Less worrying and more living.



MISSISSIPPI

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Takeover

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The NAACP is a multi-racial organization of which this writer is a member. Its mission in the 21st century is “to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination,” per their website.

Thurgood Marshall founded the Legal Defense Fund in 1940 and served as its first director-counsel. He was the architect of the legal strategy that ended the country’s official policy of segregation and was the first Black U.S. Supreme Court Justice. He served as Associate Justice from 1967-1991 after being nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Three years before his retirement from the highest court in the land, Justice Marshall spoke to the American Bar Association in Washington, D.C. This is part of what he shared about racism in America on August 8, 1988 – nearly 36 years ago: “Racism is broader and stronger than before. We’re not gaining ground, we might be losing... I don’t care about the Constitution alone, or the Declaration of Independence, or all of the books together – it’s not that important. What is impor-

tant is a goal, toward which you are moving. A goal that is a basis of true democracy, which is over and above the law. It is something that won’t happen, but you must pray for it and work for it. And that goal is very simple.

“That goal is that if a child, a Negro child is born to a Black mother in a state like Mississippi or any other state like that – born to the dumbest poorest sharecropper – is by merely drawing its first breath in a democracy, there and without any more, is born with the exact same rights as a similar child, born to a White parent of the wealthiest person in the United States. No, it’s not true. Of course, it’s not true. It never will be true. But I challenge anybody to take a position that that is not the goal that we should be shooting for. And stop talking about how far we have come and start talking about how close we are,” per C-Span.org.

Are his words still not true today? Do the residents in a predominantly Black city have the exact same rights as others? Do they have the right to their own policing via an elected mayor? Do they have the right to elect their own judges? Every other city in Mississippi does.

Little

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PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Board

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Atty. Gail Wright Lowery. PHOTOS: CHRIS YOUNG

us up this morning...I’d like to thank my constituents for voting for me...we will continually work for you.”

Judge Winston Kidd, Senior Hinds County Circuit Court Judge, was introduced to request the reappointment of Attorney Gail Wright Lowery as Chief Public Defender. “Four years ago, Senior Circuit Judge Tommie Green appointed Gail Lowery to this position, and she has done a wonderful job, and I signed an order last week to reappoint her and I am here today to ask the board to ratify that order.” The matter was motioned, seconded and passed unanimously.

Judge Winston thanked the board for their action and asked that everyone keep his colleague Judge Faye Petterson in prayer as she lost her mother this morning.

District Attorney Jody Owens announced that on January 22, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. there will be a special briefing for the Board of Supervisors and the Hinds County Legislative

Delegation to address the shift in crime in the county.

The board was then in executive session at 9:20 a.m. and returned at 10:05 a.m. Upon returning, Attorney Tony Gaylor announced that in executive session several things happened: he was reemployed as board attorney, Chambers & Gaylor Law Firm was hired as special counsel, Blackmon & Blackmon law firm was hired as special counsel, the Espy Law Firm, PLLC, was hired as special counsel, Lure Berry was appointed the interim county administrator for a period of 90 days, Rod Hill of IMS Engineers was reemployed as the county engineer, Worth Thomas Consultants and Keystone Strategies were both employed as lobbyists for Hinds County, Dion Quinn was appointed as interim county road manager and public works director for a period of 90 days, to name a few.

Gaylor announced that the board approved Martin Luther King Day to be observed on January 15th of this month. He also announced that the board has adopted a policy to have two regular board meetings (1st and 3rd Mondays), and two work sessions (2nd and 4th Tuesdays). Later, Graham elaborated on the suggestion he credits Dixon with, moving to two work sessions that will be divided into four categories of discourse: discussion, updates, proposals and presentations and citizen concerns. He added that once we get to our agenda at the regular and special board meetings, it will be considered a consent agenda, and the only thing we will do at those meetings is to give up or down votes. This will shorten those meetings. He emphasized how the board intends to bring the citizens stability and civility.

Prior to adjournment, the board voted to increase their salary from \$54,000 to \$56,000. The legislature approved the funds last year, but for to be enacted the board must vote on it and they did.

Barbour

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date guests with disabilities, WRAL reported.

“We are also reviewing our policies with our theater teams to help ensure situations like this do not occur again,” the statement said.

Barber said he’ll meet next week with the chairman of AMC Entertainment Holdings, Adam Aron, after Aron reached out to him. Barber said he is “hopeful it will lead to just and good things for those with disabilities.”

Barber previously served as president of the North Carolina NAACP, leading protests over voter access at the statehouse that got him and more than 1,000 people arrested for civil disobedience. He stepped down from that role in 2017.

Barber is now a professor at Yale Divinity School. He said Friday that he tells his students they must care about people.

“There’s no way to follow Jesus without learning to pay attention to whoever is broken and vulnerable in society,” Barber said “Because that’s where God shows up.”



COMMUNITY FORUM

Discussion on Proposed Head Start Program Changes

Tuesday, January 9, 2024
6:00 – 7:30p.m.
258 Maddox Rd, Jackson, MS

YOU’RE INVITED!

Parents, Staff, Board And Policy Council Members, Agency Partners, And Community Members

Hinds County Human Resource Agency - Project Head Start

is hosting a Community Forum to discuss its Change In Scope enrollment proposal. Those in attendance will be able to share their thoughts, offer constructive feedback, and help in the decision making process of the final proposal. Your attendance and comments are strongly encouraged.

C. Ruston



Newly elected Hinds County officials sworn in

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Newly elected Hinds County officials took their oath during a joint swearing-in ceremony Friday, December 29, 2023. It was held at the Hinds County Circuit Courthouse, located at 407 E. Pascagoula Street, Jackson, MS, Courtroom #1 at 9 a.m.

The Honorable Winston L. Kidd, Senior Circuit Judge, called the ceremony to order, after which Dr. Jerry Young, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, gave the convocation.

Following greetings on behalf of the county by District 1, Supervisor Robert Graham, the Honorable Circuit Clerk Eddie Jean Carr, recognized all state, city and municipal elected officials in attendance, as well as members of the clergy.

After a roll call of elected officials by Judge Kidd, the oath of office ceremony began, starting with the Board of Supervisors.

District 1 Supervisor Robert Graham's oath was administered by Circuit Judge Debra Gibbs; District 2, Anthony Smith by Judge Winston Kidd; District 3, Deborah Dixon Butler by Circuit Judge Adrienne Wooten; District 4, Wanda Evers by Circuit Judge Faye Peterson and District 5, Bobby McGowan, by Justice Court Judge, Pearlie Brown Owens.

The Oath of Office for Chancery Clerk Eddie Jean Carr, Circuit Clerk Zack Wallace and County Prosecutor Gerald Mum-



Supervisor Robert Graham sworn in by Circuit Judge Debra Gibbs



Supervisor Debra Dixon sworn in by Circuit Judge Adrienne Wooten



Supervisor Bobby McGowan sworn in by Justice Court Judge Pearlie Brown Owens

ford were each administered by Judge Kidd.

The Oath of Office for District Attorney Jody Owens was

administered by Justice Court Judge Pearlie Brown Owens, followed by the swearing in of Election Commissioners. District 2



Supervisor Anthony Smith sworn in by Judge Winston Kidd



Supervisor Wanda Evers sworn in by Circuit Judge Faye Peterson



Chancery Clerk Eddie Jean Carr sworn in by Circuit Judge Winston Kidd

Commissioner Bobby McClure Graves was sworn in by Judge Kidd and District 4 Commissioner Yvonne Horton was sworn

in by Justice Court Judge Pearlie Brown Owens.

Justice Court Judge Kenny Lewis, District 4, was sworn



Circuit Clerk Zach Wallace sworn in by Circuit Judge Winston Kidd



County Prosecutor Gerald Mumford sworn in by Judge Kidd



District Attorney Jody Owens sworn in by Pearlie Brown Owens



Justice Court Judge Pearlie Brown Owens sworn in by Judge Edward Watson



Sheriff Tyree Jones sworn in by Judge Faye Peterson



Hinds County Tax Collector Eddie Fair sworn in by Circuit Judge Winston Kidd



Commissioner Bobbie Graves McClure sworn in by Judge Winston Kidd



Dr. Jerry Young, pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, giving invocation.



Rev. Arthur Sutton, pastor, Progressive Baptist Church, giving benediction.



Commissioner Yvonne Horton sworn in by Justice Court Judge Pearlie Brown Owens



Justice Court Judge Kenny Lewis sworn in by Circuit Judge Faye Peterson

PHOTOS BY JAYJOHNSON

in by Circuit Judge Faye Peterson. Justice Court Judge Pearlie Brown Owens was sworn in by Judge Edward Watson.

As the ceremony was coming to an end, Sheriff Tyree Jones received the Oath of Office from Circuit Judge Faye Peterson and Tax Collector Eddie Fair received his Oath of Office from Judge Kidd.

In his closing remarks, prior to calling on his pastor, Rev. Arthur Sutton of Progressive Baptist Church to offer and benediction, Judge Kidd thanked Dr. Jerry Young for always being so supportive.

Rev. Sutton reminded the sworn in officials that they had been chosen by the people to do the job for which they were elected. He asked that their character stand in line with their voice. The elected officials and attendees applauded. Rev. Sutton reiterated something Dr. Young had previously stated. He referred to it as 'Young-ology' and not 'Sutton-ology.' He stated, "Dr. Young said, you must have a vision, you have to have some integrity, you have to have some structure, and with all that, you should have some accountability."

Sutton challenged the sworn-in officials first by saying "I'm not calling you for any favors, I just want you to do the job of which you were elected and if you do, then what you were elected to do, then you won't be a one term official."

With that Rev. Sutton said, "Let us pray."



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade slated for Jan. 15 in Natchez

Leola Harris and Chief Cal Green named co-grand marshals



Chief Cal Green



Leola Harris

By Roscoe Barnes, III
Cultural Heritage & Tourism Manager

Retired educator Leola Harris and Natchez Police Chief Cal Green will serve as co-grand marshals for the 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade, which is set for 3 p.m. Monday, January 15, 2024, in downtown Natchez.

“This will be an exciting event and a great way to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,” said Jacqueline Marsaw, who chairs the parade committee. “We will have a broad range of participation by individuals and by many different groups. We invite everybody to come out and be a part of this important event.”

In addition to Dr. King, several people will be recognized for their work in the struggle for civil rights. Marsaw said the honorees include U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.); Philip West, former mayor of Natchez; Barney J. Schoby, the first black elected to serve on the Adams County Board of Supervisors; and the late Rev. Leon Howard.

“We want to honor those who fought for civil rights,” Marsaw said, adding their work should never be forgotten.

The parade is sponsored by The Natchez Branch of the NAACP. It is an annual event held for the entire Mis-Lou community.

Marsaw said the parade route will be the same as in 2023 and previous years, beginning with the lineup for the parade at 2 p.m. on Broadway Street.

The parade route will begin at North Broadway and Franklin Streets and will travel along Franklin to N. Dr. M.L. King St., where it will turn left and proceed up to Minor Street, where it will end.

At the conclusion of the parade, trophy presentations will be given at the corner of Dr. M.L. King and High Streets for the best float, the baddest vehicle, bands and dance groups.

Both the float contest and vehicle contest will have first-through fifth-place awards presented, Marsaw said.

The deadline for registration to

participate in the parade is Monday, January 10, 2024

In a flyer distributed for promotion, Marsaw said that certain groups that participate are asked to make a donation of \$50 “for unlimited entries.” These groups include churches, civic organizations, sororities, fraternities, Mardi Gras krewe, clubs and businesses. Other entry fees include \$10 for a single car or truck. The fee for horses is \$5 per horse.

Motorcycle participants are asked to contact Lee Ford via Marsaw at 601 443-1350.

Marsaw said there is no cost or entry fee for the groups that provide entertainment for the parade. These groups include bands, the ROTC, and dance teams.

Anyone desiring to make a donation or pay an entry fee is asked to make all checks payable to the Natchez Branch NAACP and send them to Natchez Branch NAACP, P.O. Box 733, Natchez, MS 39120.

For more information on the parade, call Chairperson Jacqueline Marsaw at 601 443-1350.

2024 election qualifying period begins

Mississippi Link Newswire

In a press release issued by Michael Watson, Secretary of State, candidates could begin qualifying January 2, 2024, for the 2024 Election for the offices of President, U.S. Senate, U.S. Representative, Supreme Court Justice, County Election Commission, Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Commission and Mississippi Levee Commission.

Candidates may access the Secretary of State’s official 2024 Candidate Qualifying Guide which provides essential information for those seeking elected office. Candidates should familiarize themselves with the legal qualifications required to seek and hold office, as well as the qualifying procedures.

The qualifying deadline for all candidates for U.S. Senate, U.S. Representative and the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Commission is January 12, 2024, at 5 p.m.

The qualifying deadline for the Presidential Preference Primary is January 15, 2024, at 5 p.m.

Non-partisan judicial offices and Election Commissioners are required to qualify by February 1, 2024, at 5 p.m.

General Qualifications for Office

A candidate for judicial, county district or school district office must be a qualified elector (registered voter) of the State of Mississippi and of the district, county or county district of the office for which the candidate seeks election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, § 250.*

A candidate for U. S. Senate or U. S. House of Representatives must be a resident of the State of Mississippi as of the date of his/her election to office.

All candidates for office must never have been convicted of:

Bribery, perjury or other infamous



crime, being defined as a crime punishable by a minimum of one (1) year confinement in the state penitentiary, unless pardoned for the offense. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, § 44.*

A felony in a court of this state; or, of a felony in a federal court or of a crime in a court of another state which is a felony under the laws of this state on or after December 8, 1992; excluding, however, a conviction of manslaughter or a violation of the United States Internal Revenue Code or any violation of the tax laws of this state, unless the offense also involved the misuse or abuse of an office or money coming into a candidate’s hands by virtue of an office. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, § 44.*

Additional qualifications by office may be found in the Candidate Qualifying Guide.

2024 Election Dates

March 12, 2024 – Presidential Preference Primary; Primary Election Day

April 2, 2024 – Primary Runoff Election Day

June 4, 2024 – General Election Mississippi Levee District Commissioner

November 5, 2024 – General/Special Election Day

November 26, 2024 – General/Special Runoff Election Day

Woman who was shot in the head during pursuit sues Mississippi’s Capitol Police

Mississippi Link Newswire

A woman who was shot in the head while she was a passenger in a car fleeing from police has filed a federal lawsuit against a state-run department in Mississippi’s capital city.

Sherita Harris was shot in the head during an August 2022 pursuit that began after a traffic stop in Jackson, according to a lawsuit filed Wednesday in the U. S. Southern District of Mississippi. Two officers from the Capitol Police, who patrol an area home to many government buildings, stopped a car driven by Harris’ friend for running a red light.

The lawsuit, which alleges excessive force, says an officer began firing into the car after the traffic stop.

A spokesperson for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, which oversees the Capitol Police, did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment. Police have not confirmed whether Harris was shot by an officer, NBCNews.com reported.

The officers have said the car Harris was in fled after they exited their patrol vehicle and that they heard gunshots coming from the car as they gave chase, court records show. One of the officers fired at the vehicle and it crashed into a curb.

The driver exited and began running on foot, according to the records. Officers said they saw a black object in his hands and shot him. After arresting him, they discovered the black object was a cell phone. The officers never found a gun, but later claimed in a court hearing that the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, which examines police shootings, recovered a weapon elsewhere.



Attorney Carlos Moore

After arresting the driver, the officers said they found Harris slumped over in the passenger seat of the car. She was transported to a hospital, where she required surgery to remove bullet fragments from her head, the lawsuit says. Harris still suffers with her speech, gait and cognitive abilities, the lawsuit says.

She has not been charged with a crime, but the driver was charged with aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, according to NBCNews.com.

The Mississippi Attorney General’s Office is reviewing the episode for potential violations that could result in charges for the officers involved. The officers have been cleared to return to work while the office conducts its review.

Carlos Moore, Harris’ attorney, has called for federal prosecutors to investigate the case. The lawsuit seeks \$3 million in damages.

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Harvard President Gay resigns amidst scandals and plagiarism allegations



Claudine Gay

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Harvard President Claudine Gay has resigned, making her tenure the shortest in the university's history. The decision comes after just six months and two days in office, amidst mounting allegations of plagiarism and criticism over her handling of antisemitism issues on campus.

Harvard University spokesperson Jonathan L. Swain declined to comment on Gay's decision, but Harvard's official student newspaper confirmed the move.

The first Black president in the storied university's nearly 400-year history, Gay faced scrutiny over various incidents, including the administration's response to the October 7 Hamas attack and allegations of plagiarism in her scholarly work. The controversy escalated after her congressional testimony on December 5, where she faced criticism for evasive answers regarding antisemitism.

The Harvard Corporation had previously expressed unanimous support for Gay after "extensive

deliberations" following the congressional hearing. However, the recent plagiarism allegations and ongoing controversies seemingly led to a change in circumstances, resulting in Gay's resignation.

Just the second woman to lead Harvard, Gay expressed her decision in a letter to the Harvard community. "It is with a heavy heart but a deep love for Harvard that I write to share that I will be stepping down as president," she stated.

Accusations of plagiarism surfaced in the past month, with a new and unsigned complaint published in *The Washington Free Beacon* adding to about 40 previous allegations. The complaint highlighted issues in Gay's scholarly work, including her doctoral dissertation from 1997.

The controversy gained traction through conservative media, with accusations suggesting inadequate citation in approximately half of the 11 journal articles on her resume. The university acknowledged instances of insufficient citation but stopped short of labeling it "research misconduct."

Gunfire erupts in Colorado Supreme Court break-in following controversial Trump ballot decision

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In the early hours of Tuesday, January 2, police arrested an individual for entering the Colorado Supreme Court building and discharging a firearm within the premises, according to an official news release from the Colorado State Patrol.

The break-in and shooting come about two weeks after a 4-3 ruling by the Colorado Supreme Court, resulting in the removal of former President Donald Trump from the state's 2024 ballot. The court's decision was grounded in interpreting the 14th Amendment's "insurrectionist ban," deeming Trump ineligible to hold office.

The incident unfolded between 1:15 a.m. and 3 a.m., concluding with the unnamed suspect surrendering to law enforcement. Authorities didn't report any injuries from the shooting, but the incident underscored the continued violence engulfing American politics.

Recent statements by President Joe Biden highlighted his concerns about Trump's embrace of political violence. Biden, preparing for a potential 2024 rematch against the twice-impeached and four-times indicted former president, emphasized Trump's threat to democracy, which hit a low point with his challenges to election integrity and pursuit of political opponents.

"He's threatened to use the U.S. military on the streets of America," Biden said during a recent fundraiser in Bethesda, Maryland. "Once again, he embraces political violence instead of rejecting it. We can't let this happen."

Further, data analysis indicates a significant increase in



Protesters outside the Colorado Supreme Court Building, January 2, 2024

threats against public officials nationwide, with 83% of Americans expressing concern about political violence. This rise is mainly associated with Trump's fervent supporters, contributing to a climate where challenging the former president carries political and personal risks for elected officials.

The threats have increased as Trump's legal problems worsen.

In 2023, the former president was slapped with four indictments and 91 felony charges, many of them stemming from his alleged attempts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Biden.

Additionally, a civil jury found Trump responsible for sexually assaulting a writer, and a judge ordered him to pay \$5 million. In a separate civil business fraud trial in New York, a judge found that Trump and his company committed widespread fraud. He is currently

weighing whether to levy fines of as much as \$250 million against Trump and prohibit the Trump Organization from doing business in the Empire State.

Threats against members of Congress have escalated over recent years, reaching about 9,700 in 2021. The trend persists as the calendar turns to 2024, with ongoing concerns and increased security expenditures among candidates for the House and Senate.

According to a recent Navigator poll, most Americans are concerned about political violence, with 85% saying they are worried about its future.

Democrats exhibit a higher level of concern than Republicans, associating terms like "January 6," "Trump," and "white supremacy" with political violence, researchers found. Republicans are perceived as

more likely to use political violence, with differing opinions among independents.

"Some of the recent increase in American violence (both political and otherwise) might be attributable to the pandemic. But the spike in threats began well before COVID-19," Vox's senior correspondent, Zack Beauchamp, wrote. "Something else is going on — something that's raising the temperature of American politics, making people feel more angry, afraid, and like they need to take political matters into their own hands."

That "something," Beauchamp stated, is Donald Trump. "No figure in American politics commands Trump's devoted following; no figure is as capable of heightening the stakes of American politics to the breaking point," Beauchamp concluded.

Nikki Haley doesn't mention slavery when asked what caused the Civil War; later walks that back

The Associated Press

Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley was asked at a New Hampshire town hall about the reason for the Civil War, and she didn't mention slavery in her response. She walked back her comments hours later.

Asked during Wednesday night's town hall in Berlin what she believed had caused the war — the first shots of which were fired in her home state of South Carolina — Haley talked about the role of government, replying that it involved "the freedoms of what people could and couldn't do."

She then turned the question back to the man who had asked it. He replied that he was not the one running for president and wished instead to know her answer.

After Haley went into a lengthier explanation about the role of government, individual freedom and capitalism, the questioner seemed to admonish Haley, saying, "In the year 2023, it's astonishing to me that you answer that question without mentioning the word 'slavery.'"

"What do you want me to say about slavery?" Haley retorted before abruptly moving on to the next question.



Haley

Haley, the former United Nations ambassador and South Carolina governor, has been working to become the leading alternative to Donald Trump for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination. It's unclear whether her comments will have a long-term political impact, particularly among the independent voters who are crucial to her campaign.

She backpedaled on her Civil War comments 12 hours later, with her campaign disseminating a Thursday morning radio interview in which she said, "Of course the Civil War was about slavery," something she called "a stain on America." She went on to reiterate that "freedom mat-

ters. And individual rights and liberties matter for all people."

Her GOP rivals quickly jumped on her original comments, even though most of them have been accused of downplaying the effects of slavery themselves.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' campaign recirculated video of the original exchange on social media, adding the comment, "Yikes." Campaigning in Iowa Thursday, DeSantis said that Haley "has had some problems with some basic American history" and that it's "not that difficult to identify and acknowledge the role slavery played in the Civil War."

DeSantis faced criticism over slavery earlier in the year when Florida enacted new education standards requiring teachers to instruct middle school students that slaves developed skills that "could be applied for their personal benefit."

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the only Black Republican in the Senate and DeSantis' then-rival for the GOP presidential nomination, rejected that characterization, saying instead that slavery was about "separating families, about mutilating humans and even raping their

wives."

Make America Great Again Inc., a super PAC supporting Trump's campaign, sent out a release saying Haley's response shows she "is clearly not ready for primetime." The group also included an X post from Florida Rep. Byron Donalds, a Black Republican who supports Trump, reading "I. Pstt Nikki... the answer is slavery PERIOD. 2. This really doesn't matter because Trump is going to be the nominee. Trump 2024."

Trump did not mention the two centuries of slavery in America at a 2020 event marking the 223rd anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. He instead focused on America's founding having "set in motion the unstoppable chain of events that abolished slavery, secured civil rights, defeated communism and fascism and built the most fair, equal and prosperous nation in human history."

Issues surrounding the origins of the Civil War and its heritage are still much of the fabric of Haley's home state, and she has been pressed on the war's origins before. As she ran for governor in 2010, Haley, in an interview with a now-defunct activist group then known as

The Palmetto Patriots, described the war as between two disparate sides fighting for "tradition" and "change" and said the Confederate flag was "not something that is racist."

During that same campaign, she dismissed the need for the flag to come down from the Statehouse grounds, portraying her Democratic rival's push for its removal as a desperate political stunt.

Five years later, Haley urged lawmakers to remove the flag from its perch near a Confederate soldier monument following a mass shooting in Charleston, South Carolina, in which a white gunman killed nine Black church members who were attending Bible study. At the time, Haley said the flag had been "hijacked" by the shooter from those who saw the flag as symbolizing sacrifice and heritage.

South Carolina's Ordinance of Secession — the 1860 proclamation by the state government outlining its reasons for seceding from the Union mentions slavery in its opening sentence and points to the "increasing hostility on the part of the non-slaveholding states to the institution of slavery" as a reason for the state removing itself from

the Union.

On Wednesday night, Christale Spain — elected this year as the first Black woman to chair South Carolina's Democratic Party — said Haley's response was "vile, but unsurprising."

"The same person who refused to take down the Confederate Flag until the tragedy in Charleston, and tried to justify a Confederate History Month," Spain said in a post on X, of Haley. "She's just as MAGA as Trump," Spain added, referring to Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan.

Jaime Harrison, current chairman of the Democratic National Committee and South Carolina's party chairman during part of Haley's tenure as governor, said her response was "not stunning if you were a Black resident in SC when she was Governor."

"Same person who said the confederate flag was about tradition & heritage and as a minority woman she was the right person to defend keeping it on state house grounds," Harrison posted Wednesday night on X. "Some may have forgotten but I haven't. Time to take off the rose colored Nikki Haley glasses folks."

Why you should not brush off the dentist this year

StatePoint

When scheduling annual physicals, screenings, vaccinations and other preventive care, don't forget about another critical part of overall health that gets neglected all too often: dental care.

A recent study from the National Library of Medicine revealed that nearly half of American adults postponed their scheduled dental visits during the pandemic. Even prior to the public health emergency, at least one-third of U.S. adults didn't see their dentist annually.

"Now is a great time to schedule an appointment with your dentist," says Dr. Cary Sun, chief dental officer, Cigna Healthcare. "Brushing off dental care can have serious implications for your health and wellness. Even forgoing recommended teeth cleanings can lead to gingivitis, gum disease and cavities. This can also escalate into bigger problems, like the need for root canals or crowns, or even tooth loss."

Even with dental insurance, extensive treatments can amount to thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses,



Many dentists now offer headphones and sunglasses to soothe anxieties in the chair.

compared to little or no out-of-pocket expense for preventive care, such as exams and cleanings. A recent study found that high out-of-pocket costs are the top reason people delay dental care – a good reason to see the dentist for an annual checkup sooner rather than later.

Studies also show that oral health has connections to overall health, including an impact on cardiovascular health. Research links gum disease to inflammation that can come before heart attacks, strokes and sudden vascular events, according to Penn Medicine.

With all this in mind, review your dental plan for available benefits.

Don't have dental insurance? Dental plans can be purchased year-round and there are many affordable options. If you have a comprehensive plan through your job, it may cover care such

as exams and cleanings, and other necessary treatments like crowns, root canals, gum therapy, extractions and orthodontics (braces).

If you are between jobs or self-employed and are in need of a dental plan, online tools can help you comparison shop, and brokers can help you purchase an individual dental plan. You can also contact insurers directly to learn more about their options for individuals.

Finally, if you are afraid to see a dentist – which millions of Americans are – there are plenty of ways to address that, too. Many dentists accommodate fearful patients, offering headphones, sunglasses and other items to soothe anxieties. There are also new approaches, such as teledentistry, that allow you to see a dentist at home through imaging and communication technologies. This doesn't replace in-person care, but can help allay dental fears.

For those with dental plans through Cigna Healthcare, Cigna Dental Virtual Care is available through its partnership with dental.com, which provides a nationwide network of on-call, in-network den-

tists 24/7. Using this platform, Cigna Healthcare customers can get a video consultation, and licensed dentists can triage urgent situations such as pain, infection and swelling, and prescribe medications including antibiotics and non-narcotic pain relievers.

Cigna Dental customers can also use their smartphones to screen for potential oral health issues anytime and at no cost. Powered through its dental.com partnership, a new technology called SmartScan provides step-by-step instructions to help patients take guided photos of their teeth and mouth. While not a replacement for an in-person dental examination, SmartScan analyzes the photos to identify potential issues such as plaque buildup, possible cavities or tooth damage.

"It's a perfect time to take control of your oral health. Innovations in dental care make it easier than ever to gain peace of mind from a checkup, or to catch the little problems before they become major, painful and expensive ones," says Dr. Sun.

More information is available at cigna.com and cigna-dental.com.

Agency works to reduce tobacco disparities among Black men in the Mississippi Delta

The Institute for the advancement of Minority Health

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable disease and mortality in the United States. Smoking rates are significantly higher among Black men than any other ethnic group. Recent data from the American Lung Association reveals that 20.9% of African-American men engage in cigarette use. This is concerning because tobacco use is a barrier to the adoption of a healthy lifestyle.

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health is leading the charge to reduce health disparities associated with tobacco use among African-American males twelve and older in the Mississippi Delta. Through a comprehensive community-based strategy, the institute will collaborate with key stakeholders to address tobacco cessation challenges specific to Black men. This includes the establishment of regular community engagements with the Black Men's Health Equity Council.

The Institute will host a series of outreach activities, implement a comprehensive needs assessment to identify tobacco resources, and utilize local input to develop tobacco advocacy tailored to Black men in the Mississippi Delta. Planned initiatives include increasing access to tobacco cessation resources in disadvantaged and underserved communities and launching social marketing campaigns to disseminate culturally competent messaging to African-American men aged twelve and older.

Funded in part by a grant from the Mississippi Department of Health, Office of Tobacco Control, the Institute will host quarterly activities designed to increase knowledge and transform the behavior of Black men who use tobacco. Sandra Melvin, CEO of the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health, emphasized the organization's commitment, stating, "We intend to build capacity that will provide the community with the tools needed to reduce tobacco inequities and increase health equity among Black men in the Mississippi Delta area."

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 details regarding the Institute's tobacco program, contact Lorrie Davis at ldavis@advancingminorityhealth.org

If you require support to quit smoking, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

By Vince Faust

Tips to Be Fit

If having a baby is on your to-do list this year there are some things you want to think about. With so many things that can go wrong with children and pregnancy sometimes it scares me. But I also know that pregnancy and birth have been taking place for thousands of years. And we have tons of great new information I read about everyday that can help with a pregnancy.

One of the first tips I gave out was information about folic acid. Folic acid is a naturally occurring B vitamin that helps a baby's neural tube, which is the part of a developing baby that becomes the brain and spinal cord to develop properly. It must be taken before and during early pregnancy when the neural tube is developing. If you can have a baby and you are sexually active you should be taking in at least 400 micrograms of folic acid everyday.

One of the best ways to get enough folic acid is to take a multivitamin with 400 micrograms of folic acid. You should check the label to be sure of the amount of folic acid it contains. You also can get folic acid from your diet.

- Fortified breakfast cereals such as Total and Product 19
- Lentils
- Asparagus
- Spinach
- Black beans
- Peanuts (only if you do not have a peanut allergy)
- Orange juice (fresh or from concentrate is best)
- Whole grain breads and pasta
- Romaine lettuce
- Broccoli

According to the March of Dimes, "If all women took adequate folic acid before conception and during pregnancy, the number of babies born with a neural tube defect could drop by as much as 70 percent." Some studies also suggest that folic acid can protect women and men from heart disease, cervical and colon cancer and possibly breast cancer.

Can birth defects be prevented? The causes of most birth defects are not known, but there are a few things a family can take to reduce their risk of having a baby with birth defects. Big on the list is a pre-pregnancy visit with your family doctor. You should have a check

up once a year anyway. During your visit, your doctor can obtain valuable information about you and your family history. This can help identify risk factors for birth defects or inherited genetic conditions. Your doctor can then do the appropriate testing and screening prior to or during pregnancy. During a pre-pregnancy visit or yearly health exam, your doctor can take a good look at not only your health and lifestyle, but your family's also. This will guide you in any changes that could improve your chances of having a healthy baby and a healthy family.

During your first visit, your doctor will check your blood and urine for conditions that could harm you and your baby. These can include COVID-19, hepatitis, syphilis and possibly other sexually transmitted infections. You can also be tested for the HIV virus that causes AIDS. This visit should also determine if you have any antibodies, which will show whether or not you are immune to rubella (German Measles) and chickenpox. Both of which can cause birth defects if the mother is infected for the first time during pregnancy.

Your blood count is checked for low red blood cell count, a condition called anemia, which could cause you to feel especially tired and possibly increase your risk of preterm delivery. Your blood type test also determines whether you carry a protein called the Rh factor on your red blood cells. If you lack the Rh factor, you are Rh negative and usually need treatment to protect your baby from any potentially dangerous blood problem.

As many as 10 percent of pregnant women have bacteria in their urine, which may indicate a urinary tract infection. Most women have no symptoms of a urinary tract infection. This infection can travel to the kidneys, where it can pose a big risk to you and your baby. These infections can be treated with antibiotics that are safe for you and your baby. Sugar and protein in your urine can be signs of serious problems. Sugar in your urine can indicate diabetes. Protein in your urine can indicate high blood pressure.

These tests may be called routine, but they play an important role in protecting your health and the health of your baby. Your doc-

tor should repeat the urine test at each prenatal visit and your blood test for anemia at least once more during your pregnancy.

A few other factors that a woman who is pregnant or planning pregnancy should consider is to avoid alcohol, stop smoking, avoid people who smoke and street drugs. All of these factors can increase your risk for birth defects and other pregnancy complications. You should also not take any prescription medications, over-the-counter medications or any herbals without first checking with your doctor.

Exercise can help ease muscular aches, pains and other discomforts women sometime experience during pregnancy. Check with your doctor to make sure you can exercise while you're pregnant.

If you already workout you will probably need to modify your workouts by cutting back on the amount of time you exercise and the amount of energy you exert. For example, if you take aerobic dance classes you may need to slow your pace and workout for 20-30 minutes rather than 45 minutes.

If you're not in shape, during pregnancy is not the time to start a strenuous workout program. If your doctor approves, you can start walking, swimming, cycling on a stationary bike or do low impact aerobics 3 to 4 times a week. During pregnancy the body goes through hormonal changes that increase the laxity of the ligaments around the pelvic area, making it easy to over-stretch them. Avoid sharp quick movements and jumping during exercise. Exercises to avoid include tennis, heavy lifting, high-speed movements, kicking and strenuous aerobics.

Always be sure to warm-up slowly before you exercise and cool down slowly at the end of your workout. A warm up and cool down are extremely important. Each helps keep blood flow to the uterus from decreasing below safe levels. To warm up do a slow pace exercise at the beginning of your workout such as slow walking. To cool down you can do the same thing.

Drink water before you exercise and wait one or two hours after eating a meal before you exercise.

You should also keep your heart rate under 140 beats per minute and don't let yourself get overheated.

This means the use of saunas and hot tubs are not allowed during pregnancy. After your third month of pregnancy eliminate exercises that have you lie on your back from your workout.

Always use your best judgment. If you feel like you're overdoing it, you probably are. Make your doctor aware of any uncomfortable feelings you have when you workout. Not everyone can workout during pregnancy.

Along with folic acid (a B vitamin), you need iron, zinc, iodine, vitamin A, vitamin D and calcium.

Eating a well-balanced healthy diet is essential during pregnancy. What you eat affects you and your baby. If you eat a healthy well balanced diet before pregnancy you'll only need to add about 400 calories daily. This most likely can be increased by one glass of milk and 30 grams of protein (approximately 3-4 oz. serving of chicken, or fish) a day. You should choose a diet that includes a variety of healthy, low-fat, nutritious foods. Fruits, vegetables, whole-grain breads, whole grain pastas, low-fat milk products, and low-fat protein should be eaten daily.

If you don't eat red meat or take in enough calcium your doctor may recommend a supplement to help provide you with the nutrients you need. Iron is important because it can be stored by your unborn baby to help supply the iron needed through those first 6 months after birth. Calcium is extremely important in building strong bones and teeth while your baby is developing.

Practicing relaxation and stress reduction techniques is also recommended for a healthy pregnancy. Researchers have found evidence that emotional stress may constrict the blood supply to the uterus and placenta, the baby's sole source of oxygen and nutrients.

For those of you who own a cat, arrange for someone else to empty the litter box. Cat excrement can transmit a disease called toxoplasmosis. If you're infected while pregnant, your baby may be still-born, born prematurely, or suffer serious damage to the brain, eyes or other parts of the body.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

Healthy Babies 2024

P R E S E R V E D

Shift happens

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



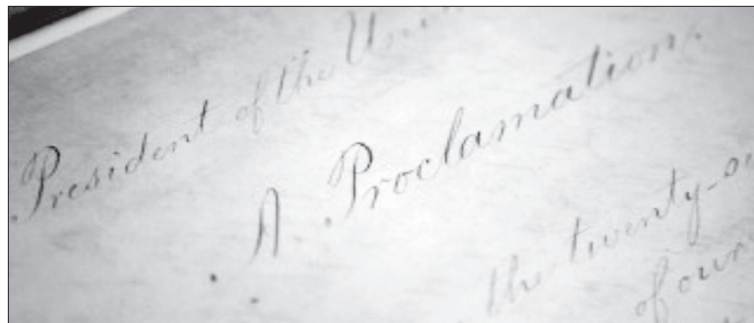
Nearly 30 years ago, I decided to learn how to drive a standard transmission so I could have more choices when it came to buying a car. I was very nervous at first because I didn't want to strip the gears of my friend's car who was teaching me. Even though I saw him cringe when I shifted gears sooner than was necessary, he was patient enough to teach me one important thing: the car would tell me when to shift by how it sounded and by how it felt. At first it was hard for me to catch on because I was so focused on shifting based on the speed the car was going. As a result, I couldn't tell the

difference in the way the car sounded in first, second or third gear. However, the more I practiced, I began to notice the different sound the car made when it was ready to shift to a higher gear. Interestingly, I've found myself dealing with similar lessons of being able to sense and then obediently respond to God's shifts in various areas of my life. Whether it was a change in where I live or the focus of my professional projects, I've learned that it's not enough to recognize the shifts, it's also important to follow through on the shifts. For example, over 15 years ago, whenever I prayed about the focus of my annual writing conference, I kept receiving as a response that I needed to do something with writing. However, I dismissed those thoughts and

continued to focus on singles and relationships. In fact, one year I spent the most money than in previous years on radio and newspaper ads promoting my singles conference but still saw a turnout that was the lowest of all the years I'd hosted it. I was upset about the loss of money but more concerned because it was obvious that I'd missed God. The next year, I shifted my conference focus on writing and publishing. And unlike previous years where I relied heavily on the media to create awareness of the conference, I diligently prayed and fasted that God would be true to his word to make the conference a success. Just a few days before every conference, I had peace of mind that God would be faithful to His word. God always answered my prayers

and obedience by increasing the writing conference attendance each year. Daniel 2:21 reminds us that God "changes times and seasons." Just like my driving lesson, it is important to listen and obey as God shifts. Whether it is in relationships, career choices or health concerns, keep in mind as we begin another year that God's shifts are designed to take us to a new level of faith and reassurance in the promises in His word. Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

What does Watch Night mean for Black Americans today? It dates back to the Emancipation Proclamation



The original Emancipation Proclamation is shown on display in the Rotunda of the National Archives in Washington, Feb. 18, 2005. The tradition of Watch Night services in the United States dates back to Dec. 31, 1862, when many Black Americans gathered in churches and other venues, waiting for President Abraham Lincoln to sign the Emancipation Proclamation into law. It's still being observed each New Year's Eve, at many multiracial and predominantly Black churches across the country. AP PHOTO/EVAN VUCCI, FILE

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The tradition of Watch Night services in the United States dates back to Dec. 31, 1862, when many Black Americans gathered in churches and other venues, waiting for President Abraham Lincoln to sign the Emancipation Proclamation into law, and thus free those still enslaved in the Confederacy. It's still being observed each New Year's Eve, at many multiracial and predominantly Black churches across the country. What is the historical background of Watch Night services? As the Civil War raged on, Lincoln issued an executive order on Sept. 22, 1862, declaring that enslaved people in the rebellious Confederate states were legally free. However, this decree – the Emancipation Proclamation – would not take effect until the stroke of midnight heralding the new year. Those gathering on the first Watch Night included many African Americans who were still legally enslaved as they assembled, sometimes in secrecy. "At the time, enslaved Black people could find little respite from ever-present surveillance, even in practicing their faith," explains the National Museum of African American History and Culture. "White enslavers feared that religion, which was often used

to quell slave resistance, could incite the exact opposite if practiced without observance." How have Watch Night traditions evolved? Over its 160-year history, Watch Night has evolved into an annual New Year's Eve tradition – it not only commemorates freedom from slavery, but also celebrates the importance of faith, community and perseverance. This description from the African American museum offers some details: "Many congregants across the nation bow in prayer minutes before the midnight hour as they sing out 'Watchman, watchman, please tell me the hour of the night.' In return the minister replies 'It is three minutes to midnight'; 'it is one minute before the new year'; and 'it is now midnight, freedom has come.'" The museum notes that the Watch Night worship services were traditionally followed by a "fortuitous meal" on New Year's Day, often featuring a dish called Hoppin' John. "Traditionally, Hoppin' John consists of black-eyed peas, rice, red peppers, and salt pork, and it is believed to bring good fortune to those who eat it," the museum says. "Some other common dishes includ candied yams, cornbread, potato salad and macaroni and cheese."



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‘One step at a time,’ the Garrettes open their new, needed community business

Mississippi Link Newswire

Dressed in royal blue business suits, standing in their front yard, on the sunny afternoon of Dec. 27, 2023, on rural Ebenezer Road in Lexington, Mississippi, Alfred and Ida Garrette welcomed a small community crowd to the opening of their new business: A & I Transportation Service, LLC.

“We appreciate you all coming to share with us today,” said Alfred Garrette. “This has been a one-step-at-a-time process. We didn’t give up.”

The Garrettes first sought guidance on starting their business from the Community Students Learning Center’s (CSLC) Small Business Administration’s Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP) nearly two years ago.

With dual collaboration between CNPP and community partner Jackson State University’s Small Business Development Center, the Garrettes worked diligently to get their business started. “We did everything that was asked of us because we wanted to make sure everything was legal and in order,” said Alfred Garrette.

He told the audience that A & I Transportation Service, LLC is Medicaid and Medicare approved to transport patients to and from their doctor’s appointments within a 150-mile radius.

A & I Transportation Service, LLC also recently applied for membership with Mississippi Transportation Management (MTM), the state of Mississippi’s non-emergency transportation (NET) manager.

The Garrettes will also provide transportation to grocery stores and other needed places. However, the customers will have to pay out of pocket for those services.

Ida Garrette already has years of healthcare transportation service experience from



New business owners Alfred and Ida Garrette perform the ribbon-cutting of their business, A & I Transportation Service, LLC, as invited guests look on. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CSLC



The Honorable Lexington, Miss. Mayor Robin McCrory (left) shares her excitement over the Garrettes' new business.



CNPP Director Antwan Clark (left) is among the well-wishers of dignitaries, relatives and community members who turnout to support the Garrettes.

her previous work. She said they are hoping to help fill a great need in the rural commu-

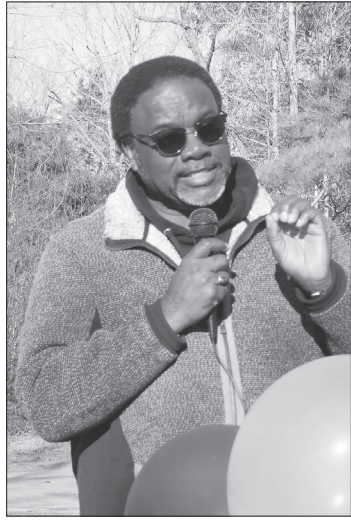
nities. “Having transportation is so important,” she said.

Both the Honorable Mayor



The Garrettes are joined by family, friends, officials and other invited guests for a photo opportunity.

Robin McCrory and Holmes County Supervisor President LeRoy Johnson were on hand



Holmes County Board of Supervisors President Leroy Johnson (District 4) salutes the Garrettes for starting such a needed business.



Director of JSU Small Business Development Center Rickey D. Jones (left) joins the Garrettes behind their new business sign.

such a service in Holmes County. “So many people, especially the elderly, really need such services,” said Mayor McCrory.

“This is also an opportunity to grow Holmes County,” said Supervisor Johnson, who represents District 4 where the business is located. “Rural communities are in trouble when it comes to available transportation. I salute Ida and Alfred. Thank you for having the initiative, the courage and determination to start A & I Transportation Service.”

CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer, who serves as the SBA Coalition Coordinator for the CNPP, told the Garrettes how proud she was of them for not giving up, and she assured them that the center will continue to serve them with needed technical assistance for their business. “We are still here for you,” Greer said. CNPP Director Antwan Clark reiterated their commitment to the Garrettes also.

Leroy Riley, the tax professional for the Garrettes, also commented. “We need to get behind them, support them, and help them all that we possibly can,” Riley said.

Director Rickey Jones of JSU Small Business Development Center said, “Everything was not easy, but Mr. and Mrs. Garrette had the right hearts for what they were trying to do. It was a pleasure working with them. This truly is a great day.”

For more information or for service, call A & I Transportation, LLC at (662) 822-8725 or (662) 770-7820. You may also email: aitransportationservices@hotmail.com

For more information about CNPP, call Antwan Clark at (662) 834-0905.

For more information about JSU Small Business Development Center, call Rickey Jones at (601) 979-1100.

New Stage Theatre announces Spring 2024 class schedule



The Mississippi Link News Wire

New Stage Theatre, Mississippi’s professional theatre located in Jackson, Mississippi, announces its winter and spring 2024 class schedule.

The winter session of Kids Studio begins January 20 and runs through March 2. The spring session of Kids Studio begins March 23 and runs through May 4. Participants in Kids Studio are able to choose which session they would like to sign up for.

Youth Acting Troupe begins January 27 and runs through May 18. Classes are available for youth, grades 1st through

12th.

Youth Acting Troupe: Saturdays, January 27-May 18; 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at New Stage’s Warehouse Theatre, 1000 Monroe Street. The class cost will be \$450 for 14 session and the class is geared towards grades 6th-12th with no previous acting experience necessary.

Scene studies and a spring Shakespeare show are all on the menu for the Youth Acting Troupe this year.

Students have performed plays at New Stage’s Warehouse Theatre, Belhaven Park, the Willie Morris Library, Highland Village, the Mississippi Museum of Art, the Pearl

Library, The District and the Mississippi Children’s Museum. All skill levels welcome.

Kids Studio: Saturdays, January 20-March 2; 9 to 11 a.m. or March 23-May 5; 9-11 a.m. at New Stage, 1100 Carlisle St. The class cost will be \$225 for seven (7) sessions and is geared towards grades 1st-5th. Students may choose sessions they’d like which include activate the elements of story through creative play, group improvisation and problem solving. Join us for Kids Studio, a theatre class for 1st-5 th grades.

In an energetic and immersive class setting, students will

be on their feet learning the basics of storytelling, building self-confidence, creativity and collaboration. Students will use acting exercises, craft projects and their limitless imaginations to bring stories to life. Family and friends are invited to a demonstration that showcases favorite acting exercises and stories on the last day. All skill levels welcomed.

“New Stage Ed has a reputation for offering first rate professional classes for youth,” said Artistic Director Francine Thomas Reynolds. “We receive five-star reviews such as ‘This program has not only enriched my son’s life but has created

something magical in him. We are so very proud of his accomplishments and personal growth. We’d highly recommend this program to anyone who has a child with an interest or passion for acting and performing arts.”

Feedback from students and parents consistently state that the experience we provide builds confidence and teaches valuable acting skills while still being fun.”

New Stage Theatre is Mississippi’s professional not-for-profit theatre. Winner of the 2019 Governor’s Award for Excellence in Theatre, the education department strives

to equip people interested in theatre with the opportunity to develop and strengthen their acting skills, in a professional environment, taught by educated and experienced theatre veterans. The emphasis of these classes is on the progression of theatrical skill, so that participants in the classes continue to enhance their skills and grow as actors.

For more information or to reserve a spot in one of the theatre’s exciting acting classes, click online at www.newstagetheatre.com/educate/classes or contact 601 948-3533 ext. 226, or mtillman@newstagetheatre.com



LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4241

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Michael Holliman has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit within a R-2 (Single & Two Family) Residential District to allow for the placement of a manufactured house on property located at 0 Powell Rhodes Dr. (Parcel 107-194) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

37.5 FT W/S WHITFIED MILL RD X 100 FT S/S POWELL RHODES DR
IN LOT 2 TANNER SUBN OF LOT 6 RICHARD GRIFFITH SUBN

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO JANUARY 17, 2024.

WITNESS my signature this 22nd day of December 2023.

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

1/4/2024; 1/18/2024

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4240

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Tonia Louisville-Jones & Roddrick Jones, Sr. have filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the operation of a community recreational (event) venue within a C-3 (General) Commercial District on property located at 6204 N. State St. (Parcel 709-37) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

LOTS 6 7 & 8 BLK B BEVERLEY HGTS PT 1 LESS TO CITY FOR ST

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

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WITNESS my signature this 22nd day of December 2023.

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

1/4/2024; 1/18/2024

Professional Paralegal
Legal Advocate
James Scott
769-990-3874

1/4/2024

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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, JANUARY 10, 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.

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

ADJOURNMENT

12/28/2023; 1/4/2024;

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
EVA D. ERVIN, DECEASED CAUSE NO.: P2023-417

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 24th day of October, 2023 by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Administratrix of the Estate of Eva D. Ervin, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this the 20th day of December, 2023.

TASHI CATCHINGS, ADMINISTRATRIX OF
THE ESTATE OF EVA D. ERVIN, DECEASED


TASHI CATCHINGS

1/4/2024; 1/11/2024; 1/18/2024

LEGAL

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.

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 MEDIUM TO HEAVY DUTY LOW OR NO EMISSION TRANSIT BUSES (RFP)#2023-04." 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

12/7/2023; 12/14/2023; 12/28/2023; 1/4/2024; 1/11/2024; 1/18/2024; 1/25/2024; 2/1/2024

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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.

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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

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

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B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
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Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
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257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
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DOLLAR GENERAL
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HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE
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CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON
DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY
SERVICE STATION
at Exit 78
CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

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Week of December 31, 2023



Happy New Year to all. Let's make resolutions for civility, honesty and prosperity

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



We celebrated Christmas 2023 with gift-giving and a variety of other ways with family and friends. Telephone calls were made and text messages were sent extending season's greetings.

Being in the 4th quarter has given me a lot of Christmas memories. I am thankful to my parents for teaching me about the real reason for the season and that was the birth of Jesus Christ. Yes, we did receive our share of bikes and skates, but we also understood the importance

of Christian traditions during this time.

You will probably agree that the marketing of Christmas 2023 started in September. What happened to Thanksgiving? Spending money online and in stores overshadowed many experiences that we had many years ago.

One experience that has truly stood the test of time is making resolutions for the New Year. Upon reflection, I was well into adulthood before I began to make New Year's resolutions. I believe that I had good intentions, however my good intentions didn't last very long. In fact, the month of January didn't end before my resolution was a blur.

In a recent Forbes Health\One Poll, it found that three months was the average time that a person kept a New Year's resolution. Ninety days is laudable since we live in such hectic and challenging times. The same survey found that 13% of us kept our resolutions for the entire year. Personally, I don't know anyone who kept their resolution for the entire year. Kudos to the select few that did.

We know some of the most popular New Year's resolutions. They involve health and behavioral issues. Do your best for as long as you can. When you feel yourself slipping, contact a counselor or a trusted friend.

We should remember that we do not have to wait until the end

of the year to make a resolution. At any time throughout the year if we believe that we can make a change for the better, then we should. There is no timetable on being a better person and making better decisions.

Last year, we had a mix of things happen in the United States of America and in the world. If we focus on America, we still live in the greatest country in the world. We are free.

There are people in the world that would gladly take our place. We wake up free, go about our day free and go to bed free. I know that despite our problems, we still have basic freedoms that cannot be taken away.

We can strive more fervently to treat each other better. Dur-

ing the last year, too many people lost their lives to senseless acts of violence. Guns were used to destroy lives and to break up families. Boys weren't allowed to become men and girls weren't allowed to become women.

During 2024, controlling our tempers must become more of a priority. We must be careful of what we say because words do matter and they do hurt. Let's be more intentional about choosing our friends and associates. In 2024, we may have to let some people go if we want to improve our own lives.

Honesty is a trait that will make us feel better about ourselves. We must always expect honesty and truth from our

families and friends. Life is too short to dabble in deceit and indiscretion.

We must also expect honesty from the folks that we elect to public office. Don't be tricked and trumped into thinking anything else. Keep a watchful eye out for them in 2024 and don't let them resurface.

We have prosperity knocking on our door. Let us open it and take full advantage of the opportunities that are presented to us. We have talents and skills that we must claim and use. The future is as bright as you want it to be. Think well of yourself and have confidence in your abilities.

Let's make 2024 a great year. We've only just begun.

President Biden's lasting legacy

By Rep. James E. Clyburn
D-S.C., Chairman, Democratic Faith Working Group



Much ink has been spilled about what President Biden hasn't done with little regard for the successes that would secure any previous administration's legacy as being the most productive since President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society. This administration has secured \$132 billion in student loan debt relief for 3.6 million borrowers, including \$53.5 billion for public servants and nearly \$12 billion for borrowers with disabilities.

However, the prevailing narrative centers on the Republican-led rejection of his targeted student debt relief plan that was upheld by a right-leaning U.S. Supreme Court.

I've heard rumblings that this president has failed the Black community when, in fact, he has invested over \$7 billion in HBCUs in 3 short years, produced the lowest Black unemployment rate on record, and begun the earnest work of closing the digital divide for Black families by making broadband accessible and affordable.

The November Consumer Price Index revealed that inflation fell to 3.1% – down two-thirds from its peak; that consumers are paying less for essentials such as milk, eggs and appliances; and the median gas price has fallen below \$3. With wages higher

than before the pandemic and the creation of 14.1 million jobs, can anyone honestly argue with President Biden's record?

Despite this incredible record, what will arguably become President Biden's greatest and most lasting achievement was reached this month with the confirmation of his 160th judge to a lifetime appointment on the federal bench. I repeat and italicize for emphasis: *160 judges confirmed for lifetime appointments on the federal bench*. This number includes well over 100 women, more Black female appellate judges than all former presidents combined, and roughly 60% being women of color. This number also includes the first Black woman on the Supreme Court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson; the first South Asian woman judge; and the first Navajo federal judge.

It's hard to overstate the importance of this milestone. Every president selects judges whose records reflect the values they hold dear. Donald Trump's Federalist Society-sponsored selections reflected his extremism and penchant for vitriol. Trump's appointed judges are wreaking havoc today, as evidenced by this summer's U.S. Supreme Court overturning of affirmative action and Roe v. Wade. We should all take pride in the fact that under President Biden, the daughter of two public school teachers can ascend to the highest court of the land and that a first-generation

Chicago native can make history as the first Muslim woman on the federal bench.

It's only fitting that this process made possible another glass-breaking moment: this month, Vice President Harris set the record for breaking the most ties in the Senate by a vice president. The record was previously held by John C. Calhoun, a staunch defender of slavery. How poetic is it that the first woman, the first Black American, and first Asian American to be elected vice president of this great country at the behest of Joe Biden, has set a new standard and brought us into the 21st century?

This is what this country is all about: moving the needle closer toward justice at every possible turn.

With President Biden's legislative successes, from clean energy investments in the Inflation Reduction Act to the manufacturing renaissance made possible by the CHIPS and Science Act, to the historic investments for veterans in the PACT Act, we are laying the foundation for a more secure, stable and successful future for our children and grandchildren. But foundations are worth little without a complete structure. When undergirded by the decisions his judicial nominees are capable of rendering, President Biden is framing structures that will ensure that "the greatness of this country will be accessible and affordable for all Americans" for generations to come.

Get back to the dinner table

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



I love spending quality time with my husband and children. I love going to the movies with my family. I love attending church with my family. Furthermore, I love eating ice cream at local restaurants like Bops, Donna's Produce, Sal & Mookies, Dairy Queen (please share any good ice cream parlors/spots that we can check out) with my family. In fact, I established the following rule in our household many years ago: A house is not a home without ice cream. Now, for the health fanatics that are reading this – we don't consume ice cream as much as we previously did – we do it at least once a month – okay sometimes twice a month – it depends; don't judge.

Further, I love dining out and going on family vacations with my family and so much more. However, I cherish gathering at the dinner table with my family in our home more than anything. Although I was reared in a home that was ravished by domestic violence and poverty, we never failed to gather at our dinner table. I don't care if our mother prepared a hotdog for us to eat – me, my siblings, and parents gathered at the dinner table to break bread together until we were grown and in college. I had no idea as a youngster how significant and special it was to gather as a family at the dinner table. I am challenging you spouses to get back to the dinner table with one another and your children.

I too, have carried on the tradition of gathering my family – me, my husband and our children – at the dinner table. On days that I don't cook, which my family would somehow exaggerate as being often – we sometimes get pizza from a local restaurant, but we still gather at our dinner table to eat. When we gather – technology is uninvited. In other words, the television is off, cell phones, laptops, etc. are put away. Yes, our teens possibly feel that we are doing too much or are being extra. Nonetheless, they understand that it is a family tradition that we have been doing since they were babies, and we have no intentions of eradicating the practice any time soon.

Today, many families are failing to gather at the dinner table for various reasons such as: it's not a priority, work schedules, school schedules, fast food convenience options – some have eaten before arriving home, while others eat at home whenever and wherever they choose – den, living room, bedrooms. Moreover, food delivery services have probably also

played an integral role in stopping families from gathering at the dinner table.

Why should spouses and families gather at their dinner table together? Families should gather at their respective dinner table for the following reasons:

- Create lifetime memories
- Enhances family fellowship
- Promotes family unity & bonding
- Family restoration/healing
- Increases and improves family communication – get to ask about each other's day – get to access the latest gossip about the newest fashion, who has and doesn't have the DRIP, parental wisdom is shared about school and life decisions.
- Nutritional and health benefits
- Can encourage and monitor children eating their vegetables and not feeding it to the pets as my husband did as a youngster – he shared his liver, broccoli, etc. with his pet dog, which happened to be conveniently stationed under their dinner table during dinner time
- Helps enforces teamwork: family chores – I cook – my husband and children must help clean; husband manages cleaning the cookware, daughter cleans the table, countertops, load and unload the dishwasher, our son sweeps and mops and I supervise – seriously, I help too with the overall cleaning process.
- Get unwanted constructive criticism about dinner especially related to fried chicken versus baked chicken
- Promotes love
- Passing on a family tradition for future generations.

In conclusion, yes, some people's schedules are not as flexible as others but designate at least one or two times a week for you and your family to break bread together. I promise nothing is as special as a family gathering at the dinner table sharing laughs, sharing the day's challenges, accomplishments, etc. Our children already know that when they move out – my stove is moving right behind them, therefore, we plan to continue gathering at our dinner table as often as possible before that time occurs, which is not too long from now.

Spouses, please get back to the dinner table with your family not just for the holidays but all year long.

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

The Keeper of the Springs

By Jannie Johnson
Caring n' Sharing



In his inspirational classic, Keeper of the Springs, Peter Marshall makes it clear that well-meaning folks can overlook the very cause or the very person who determines the success or failure in a business, the harmony or disharmony in a relationship or the increase or decrease in social problems/crimes.

Marshall's story is about a town that depended on springs for all its water.

High up in the town's hills a strange and quiet forest dweller took it upon him to be the keeper of the springs. He patrolled the hills and kept the springs clean. Fresh, clean, water like a river of life flowed down to the busy town.

One day the city council scanned

the civic budget and found in it the salary of the Keeper of the Springs. They saw no need for this unseen ranger for their town. Therefore, they voted to cut back cost by cutting out the keeper.

With no keeper, the town soon had many problems. The water was not clean, and a green scum soon befouled its stagnant surface. An epidemic of sickness reached into every home.

The council met again and acknowledged its mistake. The council members voted to seek the keeper and beg him to return to the job that they had thought was not needed.

The keeper returned and it was not long before the stench disappeared, sickness waned and convalescent children laughed again.

In the words of Peter Marshall, "Do not think me fanciful, too imaginative, or too extravagant in my language when I say, personally, that I

think of ... God as the Keeper of our springs in America.


But, America has allowed her diversity, inclusion and equity to cause her to make laws that cut back and cut out the Keeper of her springs. She has convinced herself that the unseen God of her fathers is no longer needed in public life. And, His importance in her homes is marginalized. Now she is having a multiplicity of problems. Her social problems are up and safety is down. Fear is all around.

Like the town's council, America needs to acknowledge that she voted the mistake of downsizing God, the Creator of diversity, the Fountain of unity and the Keeper of her springs.

Fellow Americans, what are we going to do for our country that she might restore her Keeper and again experience old-fashioned morality, old-fashioned honesty and old-fashioned kindness?



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Kwanzaa celebration at the Medgar Evers Library

By Gabrielle Adams
Contributing Writer

On the 28th and 29th of December something festive was happening at the public library at 4215 Medgar Evers Boulevard in Jackson, Mississippi. The red, black and green Kwanzaa decorations, full of symbolic meaning, were on the walls, doors and tables. They shared visual space with the Christmas trees still up representing their own holiday season.

But starting around 10 a.m., Thursday, December 28, Coach Andrew Campbell of the Kwanzaa Academy, held annually at the Medgar Evers Community Center, explained Kwanzaa principles to children and adults in the meeting room of the Medgar Evers Library of the Jackson Hinds Library System.

Groups of children recited together the seven principles of Kwanzaa: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith).

The pre-school aged children were later escorted to the Kid Zone in the main part of the library to enjoy a Kwanzaa-themed story time with local au-



PHOTOS BY GABRIELLE ADAMS AND JACKIE HAMPTON

thor, Geneva Scott. Soon afterward, in the meeting room, the music started and line dancing by the older children and adults was led by instructor Aaron Honey-sucker.

At some point during the morning, members of the Jack-

son Fire Department, led by Eddie James, showed up to talk to the children about fire safety and safety in general. They even went outside to get an up close and personal look at the fire truck.

Soon after that, a healthy traditional Kwanzaa lunch of fruit,

vegetables and spaghetti was served.

The celebration continued well into the afternoon as older and young people showed up around 2:30. There were games, movies and Kwanzaa themed crafts for program participants as the af-

ternoon turned to evening.

And the next day, Friday, the 29th, saw more of the same. The lunch menu changed and the activities varied but the celebration of African-American cultural themes continued.

Based on the enthusiasm

displayed by the children and members of the community, the Kwanzaa celebration was very successful. Library staff members and others that helped to plan and execute the plans were very pleased with the two-day event.

"This celebration at the library was a success because the point of Kwanzaa, if I understand it, is for it to have a cultural impact in the community; and I am really grateful that people chose to gather at the library to celebrate this holiday," said James Hampton III, librarian at Medgar Evers.

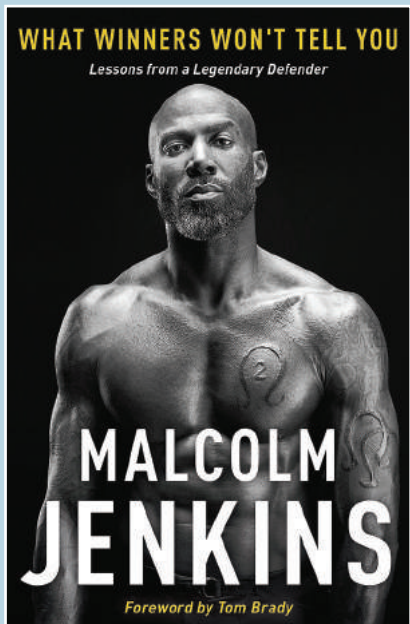
Manager Anne Sanders was very enthusiastic regarding the celebration. She said, "Everything went really well. Everyone came together and worked so well together."

This was the first year Kwanzaa had been celebrated at the Medgar Evers Library.

"It was a very educational event and I would like to see it done every year here at the library. I saw the joy on the faces of people while they were being educated," Sanders said.

While Kwanzaa celebration actually lasts from the December 26th to January 1st, for two consecutive days the community came together and had a good time at their public library.





BOOK REVIEW: “WHAT WINNERS WON’T TELL YOU: LESSONS FROM A LEGENDARY DEFENDER” BY MALCOLM JENKINS C.2023, SIMON & SCHUSTER RDCOVER, \$28.99 • 304 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

It’s as plain as the nose on your face. Right in front of you, that’s where it is – or, at least that’s where success should be but you sometimes wonder if you don’t have all the facts.

You need to research being successful, and do some thinking on it. Or read “What Winners Won’t Tell You” by Malcolm Jenkins, and you can try following the clues.

Hard to believe, but when former NFL defensive back Malcolm Jenkins was a boy, he

tried to quit playing Pop Warner football twice. His father wasn’t hearing it, though; he told Jenkins “You got to finish what you start,” even when you hate it.

The lesson stuck: as a thirteen-year-old, Jenkins went out for track and excelled. He “wasn’t dreaming about being in the NFL” then, nor did he particularly want to play football in college. He “just loved to compete” but later, after a week at football camp caught the attention of the right coach, things were different.

By time he got home from

that camp, a letter with a full scholarship was waiting on his doorstep.

As a 1st-round draft pick, fourteenth overall, for the Saints and later having played for the Eagles, he writes about being strategic in his career, being a good team-player, and about having the confidence to reach beyond and grab for success.

You can be accomplished, too, he says, if you remember that “for fear to win, you have to be afraid...” Don’t let other people’s opinions become “self-fulfilling.” Know

who works for you, and be sure they have your back. Give back to your community. Learn where you came from. Be open to change in your organization and your outlook and trust science.

Finally, collaborate, cooperate and “show up every day to get better.”

Is “What Winners Won’t Tell You” an odd choice for a business book?

Yes... and no.


Deep, deep within this memoir are many interesting and worthwhile nuggets of inspiration and advice, but you’ll

have to look for them. They’re buried inside tales of football – so much so that if you don’t understand football even just a little bit, you’ll be too lost, too fast, and you’ll never find them. Indeed, this book contains more football anecdotes, strategies and swagger than there are the “lessons” promised. Still, the lessons are there for you to find, and the stories serve to illustrate the importance of them.


There’s a bigger issue than hidden lessons, though: readers searching for inspiration will find a lot to rattle them.

Author Malcolm Jenkins adds plenty of needless profanity in this book, and though some can be expected, there’s also a highly disrespectful obscenity about women, and other casual but largely-unnecessary insults flung here and there. Readers who can tolerate that may still find it disrespectful.

If you are obsessed with the game of football or a fan of Jenkins and his incredible talent, you may find this book a must-read. If you’re not a fan, then “What Winners Won’t Tell You” is a just plain “no.”



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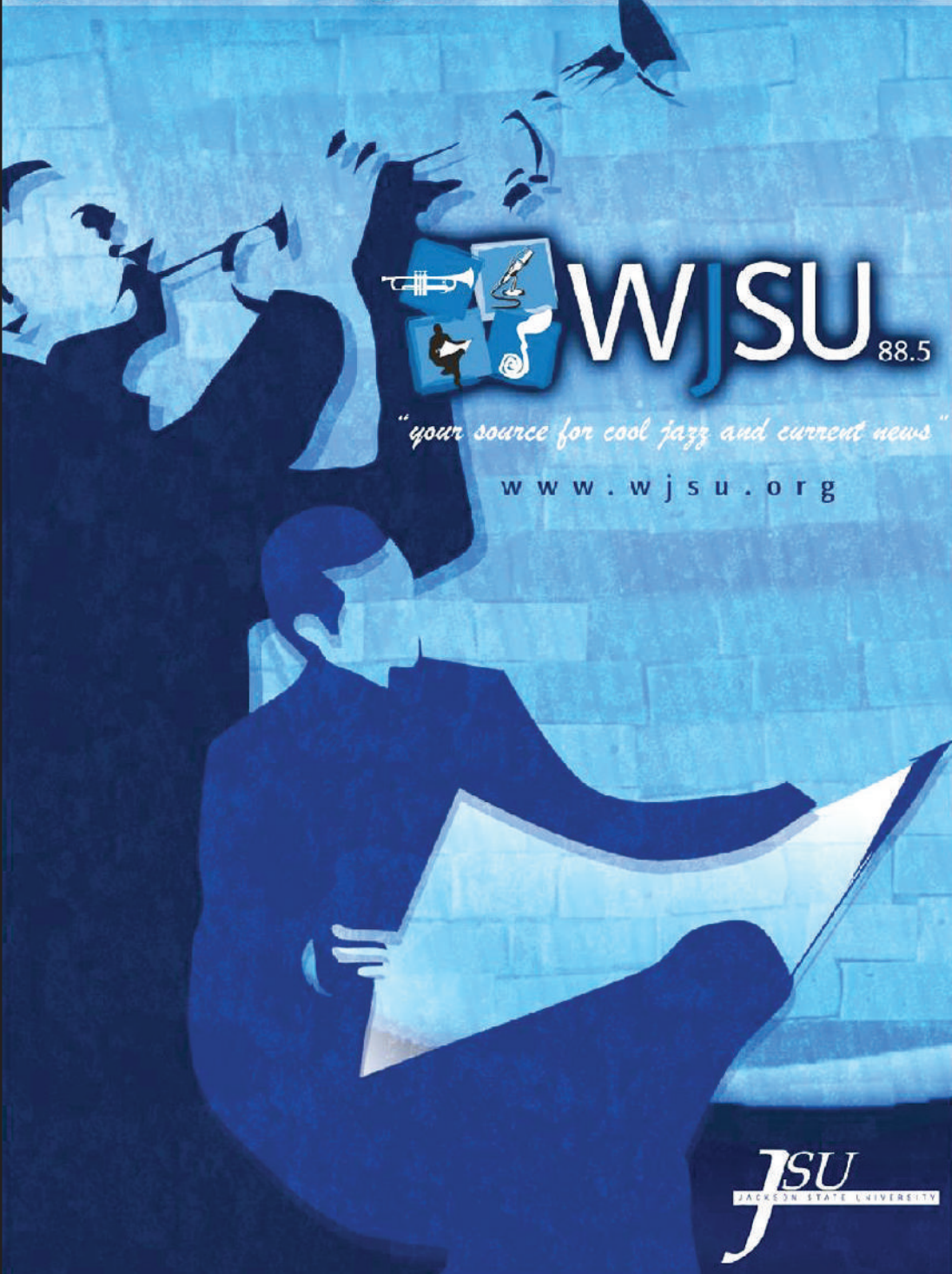
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High School Basketball preparing for road to the Big House



Clinton's Taeler Felton made the Dandy Dozen list.



Ashli Sutton, Callaway Girls head coach



Tony Tadlock, Raymond Boys head coach

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

There are still two months before all the fun at the Big House happens for high school basketball teams, coaches and fans. But the road to getting there starts with district games. Those games are about to commence.

Most teams in the state have played 13 to 15 games so far, especially your top tier schools. Those coaches know the value of getting as much game experience as you can before you head into district play.

Let's catch you up on who's who, so far. Below are the top 10 ranked girls teams in the state.

1. Starkville (14-1)
2. Neshoba Central (16-1)
3. Pontotoc (16-1)
4. Hancock (15-0)
5. Biloxi (16-1)
6. Harrison Central (13-2)
7. South Panola (11-2)
8. Choctaw Central (12-3)
9. Booneville (12-1)
10. Laurel (11-3)

There are some local girls' teams in the metro area doing well this season. Madison Central is 13-3, Callaway is 11-4 and Canton is 13-2. The drive, grit and determination it takes to hoist that gold ball in March is tiresome, but rewarding.

Three lady hoopers in the metro area made the "Dandy Dozen" list for this season. This is the list of the top 12 players in the state. Callaway's Jahanna Wilson, Germantown's

Alana Rouser and Clinton's Taeler Felton were among the young ladies talented enough to be chosen.

Over on the boys' side, Jamarion Davis-Fleming from Canton, Sam Funches from Germantown, DeAndre Lewis from Canton, Eric Paymon Jr. from Raymond and Avery Thomas, Jr. from Terry round out the list of Dandy Dozen boy players from the metro area.

Moving on – there are teams that make the top 10 boys' teams in the state year after year after year. That's a tribute to the coaches' dedication to develop their players. The top ten ranked boys teams in the state are listed below.

1. Raymond (16-3)
2. Pascagoula (15-1)
3. Canton (13-2)
4. Booneville (14-2)
5. Clinton (12-2)
6. Yazoo City (14-2)
7. Olive Branch (15-4)
8. MRA (22-0)
9. Vicksburg (13-3)
10. Hattiesburg (15-1)

A couple of schools such as Madison Central (11-6) and Provine (11-4), both carry double digit win totals. Provine has been relatively consistent in the past few years while Madison Central started turning heads last year.

As the weeks and games pass by, expect to see some tremendous basketball games. Of course, there will be some blowouts, but for the most part, it should be great basketball.



Eric Paymon from Raymond made the Dandy Dozen.



Callaway's Jahanna Wilson made the Dandy Dozen list.

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

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Utica Elementary Middle School academic celebration honored Pre-K-8th grade scholars for their academic accomplishments during Term 1 and on the 2022-23 MAAP Assessment. Scholars were recognized in the categories of Principal’s Honor Roll, A/B Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance. Students who scored Advanced, Proficient and earned notable growth on the MAAP Assessment were presented with plaques and certificates. We are elated with our students’ performance and enjoy taking every opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments.

