

Jackson's own Meredith Coleman McGee has done it again

Billie Holiday: Jazz Singer, her 13th book in 11 years; and 2024 is just starting

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

The Book Release Party, hosted by the author at her South Jackson home, January 27, 2024, was uplifting, inspiring and deeply informative. Meredith Coleman McGee is a treasure, and to watch her and listen as she shared about the writing of this 266-page biography of Billie Holiday, while standing before her fireplace in her jammed packed den, was a gift. It was a Master Class in professionalism, poise, determination and achievement. She wore Asian Lillies in her hair since there are no live gardenias available, like Lady Day wore. Born in Los Angeles, after her parents' exodus from the inferno of racism and violence in the early 60's Mississippi, she returned at age five. From work as a paralegal, to founding the Heirs United Investment Club, to serving on numerous boards and commissions, to establishing her own small press and publishing scores of poems and books, she stands out in a crowd despite being soft-spoken and unassuming. That's the special mojo of Meredith Coleman McGee. It's



Author and publisher Meredith Coleman McGee
PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG

rare not to see her at community events focused on helping others or on the arts. Coleman McGee acknowledges that Billie Holiday: Jazz Singer, "is the biggest book in my life, so far" – her 13th book, seven of which are children's books. "Billie Holiday died over sixty-four years ago. She was a historic figure, and her place in music is larger than life. At age 18 she be-

came the defining voice in jazz – an ordinary girl in Harlem," said Coleman McGee. She went on to convey a beautiful story of how Holiday was discovered by John H. Hammond, a record scout for Columbia Records, while she was walking from table to table in a restaurant singing for tips and without a microphone, trying to help her mother pay rent. After bringing in other Columbia

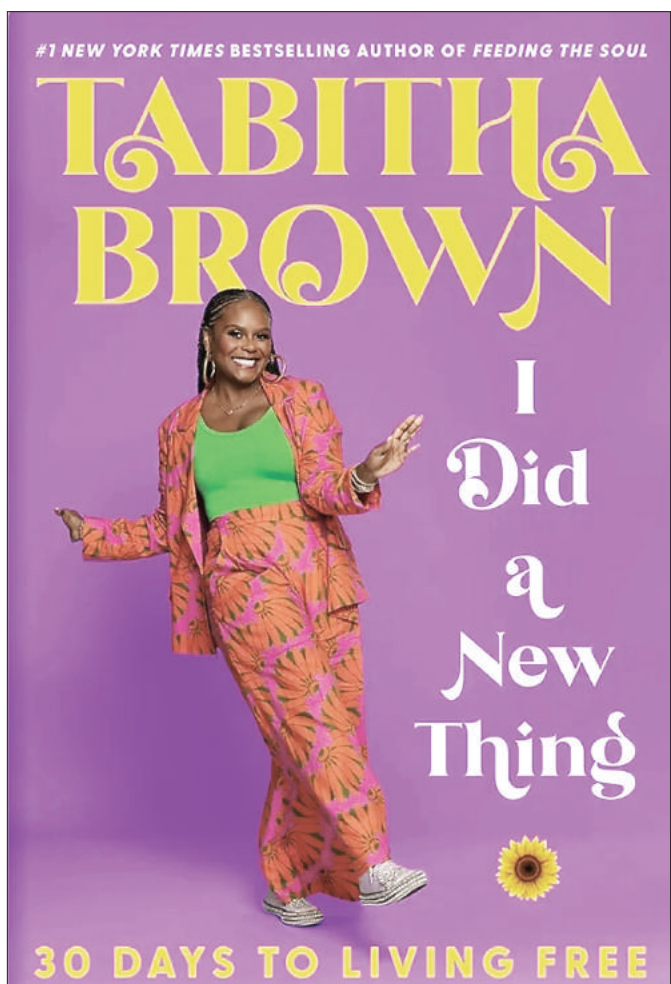


Singer/songwriter/recording artist Tawanna Shaunte

staff to witness her sing, they offered her a recording deal because of her sound – the embedded drawl and phrasing that were so different from Ethel Waters and Bessie Smith. Yet it was Commodore Records who recorded Strange Fruit with the Café Society house band, in 1939, when patronage of New York clubs were still segregated.

McGee
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Tabitha Brown's book tour ignites passion in Jackson with a record-breaking event



Tabitha Brown's "I Did a New Thing" book cover

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D
Editor

In an evening that will be etched in the hearts of many, Jackson, Mississippi welcomed Tabitha Brown, the *New York Times* Bestselling author of "Feeding the Soul," to the Jackson Convention Center February 5. The event, which celebrated the release of Brown's latest masterpiece, "I Did a New Thing: 30 Days to Living Free," was nothing short of spectacular, drawing the largest audience the book tour has seen to date.

This memorable night was made possible through the collaboration of the Mississippi Book Festival, Visit Jackson, Lemuria Books and Jackson State University, presenting a sold-out crowd that filled the venue with energy and anticipation.

The evening kicked off with an electrifying performance by the Sonic Boom of the South Marching Band, playing "Get Ready" in Brown's honor, setting a vibrant tone for the event. The connection between Brown and her audience was palpable, further sweetened as the crowd sang "Happy Birthday" to the beloved author, creating a moment of communal joy and celebration.

"I Did a New Thing: 30 Days to Living Free" is Brown's invitation to readers to break free from the confines of fear and limitation, urging them to step into a life of freedom and authenticity. Her book serves as a roadmap for personal growth, encouraging readers to take daily steps towards their dreams. All attendees were

given a copy of Brown's book upon entrance. As a special touch, each attendee received a copy of Brown's transformative book as they entered, providing them with the tools to start their journey towards liberation and authenticity from the moment they stepped through the door.

Throughout the event, Brown shared wisdom and insights that resonated deeply with her audience. "Your dream won't let you rest," she proclaimed, highlighting the intrinsic push towards achieving one's dreams. She inspired the attendees with a simple yet profound directive: to do "one thing every day towards your dream," emphasizing the significance of persistence and daily action.

Brown also shared personal stories that touched the hearts of many, including an emotional recount of her mother's influence on her journey to live out her dreams.

Among the attendees was Quiana Holmes, a life coach and the owner of On Q Consulting, who shared her exhilarating experience of the evening.

"I was ecstatic to attend the Tabitha Brown 'I Did a New Thing' book tour in Jackson, MS. Witnessing her in person, sharing her motivating tales, was nothing short of a dream come true," Holmes remarked. She further praised Brown's authenticity and warmth, noting how she made every attendee feel seen, appreciated and loved.

Brown
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IN MEMORIAM

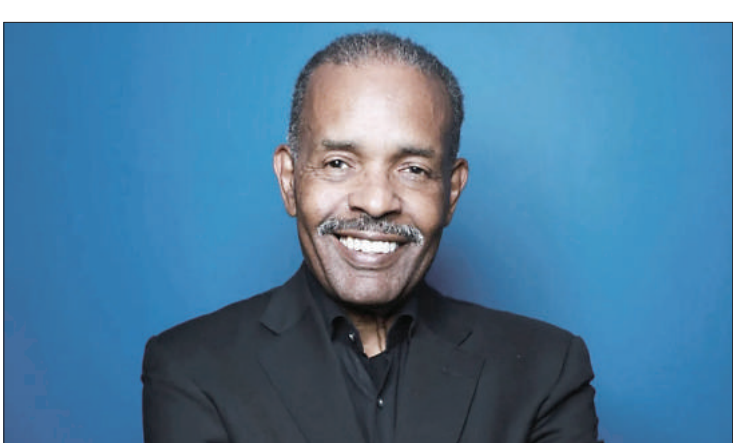
Tributes pour in for host, activist Joe Madison

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Tributes continued to pour in throughout Friday for Joe Madison, the talk show host, activist and philanthropist known as "The Black Eagle." After a lengthy bout with prostate cancer, the popular SiriusXM host died Feb. 1. He was 74.

Madison's death comes as America observes the start of Black History Month. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), stated, "On behalf of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, representing the Black Press of America, we express our profound condolences to the family of Joe Madison. As a trailblazer and consistent freedom fighter journalist and broadcaster, Joe Madison embodied the essence and courage to speak truth to power."

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris also offered their thoughts. "Whether it was a hunger strike for voting rights or his advocacy for anti-lynching legislation that I was



Joe Madison, "The Black Eagle," Radio Hall of Famer, Human and Civil Rights activist and author
PHOTO: JOEMADISON.COM

proud to sign in 2022, Joe fought hard against injustice," Biden stated.

Harris offered her reflections about Madison. "Madison aligned his platform with his purpose. Through his decades-long career in radio, he championed the fight for equity and justice. Our nation is better because of his voice," Harris said.

According to his official bio, the native of Dayton, Ohio, was an all-conference running back at Washington University in St. Louis where he was also a bari-

tone soloist in the university choir and a disc jockey at the campus radio station. He earned his bachelor's degree in sociology, becoming the first person in his family to graduate college.

At age 24, he became the youngest executive director of the NAACP's Detroit branch before being appointed the organization's National Political Director and eventually being elected to the National Board of Directors where he served for 14 years. During his tenure at the NAACP, Madison led hun-

dreds of volunteers on a series of successful voter registration marches, including a cross-country "March for Dignity" from Los Angeles to Baltimore. The marches garnered thousands of signatures for an anti-apartheid bill in Congress.

Madison's radio career began in 1980 at Detroit's WXYZ. He continued his broadcast journey to WWDB in Philadelphia, WWRC and WOL in Washington, DC. The popularity of his WOL program led to syndication on the Radio One Talk Network and its XM satellite channel which merged with Sirius to become SiriusXM in 2008. In 2023, Madison celebrated his 15th anniversary with SiriusXM.

In 2015, Madison set the Guinness World Record for the longest on-air broadcast, 52 hours. During the record-breaking show, he raised more than \$250,000 for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Five months later, Madison made history again by broadcasting live from Cuba and

Madison
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Commissioner De’Keither Stamps speaks to group playing Bingo at community library

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Adults and senior adults gathered at the Medgar Evers Library Friday, February 2, for a fun activity of playing Bingo and winning prizes, an event which is held monthly at the library located at 4215 Medgar Evers Blvd. in Jackson.

The group of attendees seemed very honored to have not only Councilman Kenneth Stokes as a guest but also Commissioner De’Keither A. Stamps who was a keynote speaker, prior to their competitive game of ‘first to call Bingo.’

Darlene Lomax and Eddie James, both supporters of the library, greeted the guests followed by a brief prayer from adult librarian James Hampton III. Lomax said, in her greetings, “Because this is the Medgar Evers Library, it will always be here.”

Several Jackson/Hinds Libraries have recently closed, and it seemed Lomax was telling the guests that the library was there to stay, given the history of Civil Rights Leader Medgar Evers.

Prior to bringing up Council-



Commissioner Stamps and Councilman Stokes
PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON



Darlene Lomax and James Hampton



Eddie James



Stamps with his mother Debra Stamps



Stamps with Little Explorers' preschoolers

man Stokes to say a few words, fireman Eddie James in his greetings stated, “We are here on day number two of Black History Month.” He commended Councilman Stokes for all he does in keeping the memories of Medgar Evers, Charles Evers and Martin Luther King, Jr. alive.

He later told *The Mississippi Link*, “Anything that has to do with the name Medgar Evers, I want to be there. He gave his life for us.” He referred to Councilman Stokes as the ‘The Big Boss Man’ and said, “Councilman Stokes has no fears of no

man.” Councilman Stokes in bringing Commissioner Stamps forward told the guests, “This man will make sure you are not being cheated with your light bill or gas bill.

Commissioner Stamps made history when he was elected the first Black commissioner in Mississippi.

He said to the attendees, “This young man grew up in the projects. Dr. King is gone, Medgar is gone, Aaron Henry is gone but a young soldier like De’Keither Stamps is here.

Stamps said in his remarks he

didn’t have to look up to leaders like LeBron James and others as role models. He stated, “I had role models. I had parents.” His mother, Debra Sturgis Stamps, was at the table with her Bingo card, smiling as he spoke.

Stamps went on to say, we may not have had a whole lot of money but we had a whole bunch of love.” He said he really appreciated the Georgetown Community and Councilman Stokes of whom he said, “You may not like how he says some things but he’s not lying to you.”

Stamps went on to say it is important to teach our kids our

history. “We have too many people not paying their tax.”

He explained it as he was taught growing up. “You have to be twice as good as the other fellow, so we have to train our children to work and expect our leaders to lead from the front. We must not accept anything but excellence.”

Stamps encouraged the group to send every councilperson, every supervisor, the mayor and every elected official a message saying “we will not accept foolishness from anyone because in order for us to move forward, we must do so in the spirit of ex-

cellence.” He continued, “Many of those we give homage to, gave their lives, sacrificed their time, their money and their families for us to get where we are today.”

As Stamps was leaving the library, he was greeted outside by a group of children from a pre-school day center. He paused to take a photo with the preschoolers from Little Explorers.

Pre-school teacher Pam Tillman Brown said, in celebration of Black History Month, “The students will be coming to the library every week in February for stories regarding BHM.”



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Madison

Continued from page 1



Joe Madison (left), the talk show host, activist and philanthropist known as “The Black Eagle,” shares a happy moment with fellow journalists and activists Roland Martin (center) and Rev. Mark Thompson.

becoming the first American radio host to do so in more than 50 years.

In 2021, Madison went on a 73-day hunger strike to encourage passage of voting rights bills. Unbeknownst to his listeners, he was fighting prostate cancer during his hunger strike. When asked if he understood the danger he was in, he replied, “I am willing to die.”

His bio further noted that a few months after his hunger strike, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act passed in the Senate with the help of Madison’s continued push on the radio. His efforts were noticed by many, including the then Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who publicly thanked him for another fight for justice.

Madison and his wife Sharon have been married for more than 45 years, and they re-

sided in Washington, D.C. Their blended family included four children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In a statement, Madison’s family invited fans and friends to send condolences.

“Joe dedicated his life to fighting for all those who are undervalued, underestimated and marginalized. On air he often posed the question, ‘What are you going to do about it?’ Although he is no longer with us, we hope you will join us in answering that call by continuing to be proactive in the fight against injustice. The outpouring of prayers and support over the last few months lifted Joe’s spirits and strengthened us as a family. We continue to ask for privacy as we gather together to support each other through this difficult time.”

McGee

Continued from page 1

The song became one of the most impactful protest songs in history.

When answering a question about her research for the book, she pointed to a stack of over a dozen books and a stack of articles well over a foot high – representing a portion of her research material.

She shared a Holiday quote, “No two people on earth are alike, and it’s got to be that way in music, or it isn’t music.” She shared how Holiday’s stage name came about when she was just 17. Her birth name was Eleanora Harris (Fagan/Gough), and her father’s name was Clarence Holiday. He called her Bill as a child as she was tomboyish, and also, her favorite silent film actor was Billie Dove – hence Billie Holiday.

Another special treat was having Tawanna Shaunte, who wrote the forward to the book, in attendance to support the author. She graciously accepted the re-

quest to read the foreword aloud for the audience.

Shaunte is a multi-talented singer-songwriter, recording artist and much more. Intermingled with sharing about being asked to write the foreword and doing so, she recalled that she was just sixteen when she was first inspired by Billie Holiday and then broke forth in song with the first verse and the chorus of one of Holiday’s signature songs – “God Bless The Child.” She said, “Who doesn’t remember ‘Them that’s got shall have, Them that’s not shall lose, So the Bible said and it still is news ... Mama may have, Papa may have, But God bless the child that’s got his own, that’s got his own.’”

Touching upon aspects of Holiday’s often tumultuous life that ended with heart failure at age 44, she ends the foreword saying, “...reflects light on society’s complexities as a reminder that you don’t have to

Brown

Continued from page 1



Sold-out crowd at the book signing downtown Jackson Convention Center

PHOTOS BY DR. JAY

Holmes highlighted the immense success of the event in Jackson, saying, “Despite the skeptics who doubted Jackson’s suitability for such an event, it turned out to be her biggest and most passionate stop on the tour. Tabitha herself was overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible turnout and the love she received, making the evening truly extraordinary.”

Brown’s message, “You’re still here. You have work to do,” reverberated through the Convention Center, serving as a rallying cry for those in attendance to recognize their purpose and potential. Brown’s ability to intertwine her personal journey with universal themes of resilience and determination left a lasting impression on her audience.

It highlighted Jackson’s vibrant culture and its support for influential voices like Tabitha Brown’s.

As the night drew to a close, attendees de-



JSU's award-winning Sonic Boom of the South

parted with a sense of empowerment and a renewed commitment to their dreams. The success of this book tour stop in Jackson is a reflection of Brown’s profound impact as an author, speaker and beacon of positivity, inspiring individuals to live freely and pursue their dreams with unwavering courage.



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Forward Lookers Federated Club celebrates 38 years of prosperity

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

At their 38th Annual Heritage Luncheon celebration, Forward Lookers Federated Club shared high-spirited moments with a packed, enthusiastic crowd at Hilton Jackson Hotel (1001 East County Line Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39211) Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 11 a.m. On that particular hill, club members honored their roots by sharing their beginnings, acknowledging their present-day activities and conceiving the future. The wonderment of mental states stemmed from accomplishments that had been made from brainstorming, co-operating, collaborating and partnering. Members understood throughout the years that “a whole is greater than the sum of its parts” (Aristotle). Such synergy has allowed Forward Lookers Federated Club to sustain. Synergy, then, was what brought the club to the theme: “Reflecting a Regal Past, Projecting a Bright Future.”

To adhere to the theme, Honorable Bennie G. Thompson (Representative to the United States Congress from the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi) was the keynote speaker. Like Forward Lookers Federated Club, Thompson is a servant with integrity and valor. Selected by his colleagues, he is the first Democratic and first African American to chair the Homeland Security Committee.

In 2021, the speaker was chosen by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to chair the Select Committee to investigate the January 6th Attack on the U. S. Capitol. The bipartisan committee thoroughly investigated facts and sought to prevent this kind of attack in the future. Hundreds of thousands of records and 1,000 inter-



U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson, guest speaker, received the Forward Lookers Federated Club's Legacy Award presented to him by Malena W. Dow.
PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

views were reported about overturning the 2020 Election.

A Tougaloo College and Jackson State University graduate, Thompson “has been a distinguished Alderman in his hometown, Bolton, Miss., Hinds County Supervisor and Mayor of Bolton, Miss.”

The congressman identified with listeners in his interconnectedness. He, like Forward Lookers Federated Club, had sustained in his home town, the state of Mississippi and the country. He said, like the club, “I’m determined to carry out the great work for the people of Mississippi and the entire country.”

The speaker noted the essentiality of Forward Lookers Federated Club’s work while – rather than retrogressing – progressing. “You’ve been able to get our young people to do a lot of things that they would not have been able to do.

Education is our way out. We have all-black committees and almost black committees, but the funds go to the people who don’t look like us,” he said. He commented that committee members are responsible and accountable for funds being channeled in the right places.

The Congressman urged the organization to “dialogue all over this state. Help educate our voters out there. [You] have progressed at the federal level. Come up with a program for the homeless.”

Of unification, Thompson said that while philosophies may vary and opinions may be good, they must be supported to sustain themselves. He charged all to remember, “We still have a long way to go. As a people, we have to get along. Move “I” out of the way, and focus on “we.”

Thompson ended: “I’ll be here for as long as you’ll have me. I’ll tell it like it is. I love to make a difference. Put the right people in office, and they’ll get things done.”

In appreciation for his sacrifice and service, Thompson received Forward Lookers Federated Club’s Distinguished Legacy Award. Members pledged to continue to uplift him in support of his service to humanity. They also appealed to God to guide and protect the congressman.

Other service award recipients were acknowledged.

Uplift Award recipient was Theresa Hence-Parks who serves on numerous Forward Lookers Federated Club committees. She is a volunteer and donor at Stewpot Community Services; Gateway Rescue Mission and Salvation Army; the American Cancer society; supporter of the annual Race for the Cure; and active participant in the Mississippi Diabetes

Walk.

Honorable Debra Hendricks Gibbs, 7th Circuit Court District Judge – Heritage Award recipient – allocated state funding for District 72 in millions of dollars. She backs increased funding for IHL institutions, Community Colleges, and Education K – 12. Supporting Tougaloo College and the Tougaloo Community has reaped million-dollar project requests for repairs, renovations and infrastructure.

Cindy Ayers Elliott, Service Award recipient, is the USA Today Woman of the Year 2023, Southern Federation of Farmers, Mississippi Farmer of the Year 2022, and Mississippi Business Journal Top 50 Businesswomen in Mississippi, USDA Conservation Notes, Hinds County. Elliott desires to use her farm as an educational tool for people not accustomed to new ways of farming.

Sarrah Bell – 5th grade math teacher at Green Elementary School – is the first year’s recipient of “The Adopt a Teacher Educational Grant.” Her principal, Terrance Hill, called her an innovative teacher who supersedes duties in a dynamic, enriching student learning environment for active student engagement.

In honor of founder – Clara Alexander Jackson, Forward Lookers Federated Clubs also provided five scholarships to students at historically HBCU’s in Mississippi. Thus, recipients of Clara Alexander Jackson Memorial Scholarship are as follows:

Jermerious Lofton (Alcorn State University) desires to be a teacher who empowers individuals to make meaningful, worldwide contributions.

Paige Hodges (Jackson State University) wants to light up the faces of her students while reflecting on their endless

possibilities.

Malinda Pittman-Crosby (Mississippi Valley State University) aspires to become an elementary educator while inspiring and teaching young children how to become proficient and avid readers.

Arterria Turner (Rust College) wants to teach because she “believes in the power of education and believes that there is a dire need to improve the education system in many schools.”

Darian Pierce, Jr. (Tougaloo College) “desires a positive, committed impact on the community and to reveal to young students that there is a useful life in all fields of professions.”

Leadership Team (2023-25)

Monocia “Monica” Conners, president; Irene Booker, vice president; Mattie J. McQuarter, secretary; Ruth Huddleston, assistant secretary; Bonnie M. Harris, corresponding secretary; Debra Rayborn, financial secretary; Theresa Hence, treasurer; Evelyn Leggett, chaplain; Malena W. Dow, parliamentarian; and Mary J. Collier, immediate past president.

Malena W. Dow presented the Legacy Award to Thompson. When asked her opinion of his address, she commented: “I admire him because he’s able to tell the truth without looking down on people and not making excuses for our people. I admire his forthrightness. He is able to reach all the people – from the White House to the outhouse...to the neck of the woods...I want the university students to get to know Bennie Thompson. If you’re going to be a scholar, then you’re responsible for being aware of your own culture.”

For membership inquiry, email colliermarij@yahoo.com.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





Republican lawsuits challenge mail ballot deadlines. Could they upend voting across the country?

By Christine Fernando,
Emily Wagster Pettus and Jack Dura
Associated Press

Republicans are challenging extended mail ballot deadlines in at least two states in a legal maneuver that could have widespread implications for mail voting before the presidential election in November.

A lawsuit filed last week in Mississippi follows a similar one last year in North Dakota, both brought in heavily Republican states before conservative federal courts.

Democratic and voting rights groups are concerned about the potential impact beyond those two states if a judge rules that deadlines for receiving mailed ballots that stretch past Election Day, Nov. 5, violate federal law.

They say it's possible such a decision would lead to a nationwide injunction similar to one last year when a Texas judge temporarily paused the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the abortion pill mifepristone.

"This effort risks disenfranchising Mississippi voters, but we don't want that to also be precedent for other states," Abhi Rahman, communications director of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, said in response to the most recent lawsuit.

Mississippi and North Dakota are among several states that accept late-arriving mailed ballots as long as the ballots are postmarked on or before Election Day, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. That includes political swing states such as Nevada. Some states, including Colorado, Oregon and Utah, rely heavily on mail voting. Former President Donald Trump has long railed against the use of mail voting, in particular when many states expanded its use during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, when the Republican lost his reelection bid to Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump has falsely claimed that changing vote tallies after Election Day are an indication of widespread fraud. In the wake of his loss, several Republican-controlled states moved to tighten rules around mail voting.

The Republican National Committee, the Mississippi Republican Party, a member of the state Republican Executive Committee



A lawsuit filed last week in Mississippi follows a similar one last year in North Dakota.

AP PHOTO/FILE

and an election commissioner in one county filed a federal lawsuit Friday against Secretary of State Michael Watson and six local election officials.

The suit challenges a Mississippi law that says absentee ballots in presidential elections will be counted if they are postmarked by Election Day and received within five days. It argues that Mississippi improperly extends the federal election beyond the election date set by Congress and that, as a result, "timely, valid ballots are diluted by untimely, invalid ballots."

"Federal law is very clear — Election Day is the Tuesday after the first Monday in November," RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel said in a statement announcing the lawsuit. "However, some states accept and count ballots days and days after Election Day, and we believe that practice is wrong."

RNC spokesperson Gates McGavick said the group hopes for a ruling before the presidential election that state deadlines allowing ballots to be received after Election Day violate federal law.

"This case could have major ramifications in future elections — not just in Mississippi but across the country," he said.

The Democratic National Committee said it is watching the cases closely and will fight any attempt to disenfranchise voters.

"Democrats will always stand on the side of voters against unlawful attacks on Americans' fundamental right to make their voices heard at the ballot box,"

DNC deputy press secretary Nina Raneses said in a statement.

Democratic state Rep. Bryant Clark called the Mississippi lawsuit "another effort to try to stifle votes and stop the votes of a certain segment of the population."

He said the suit may also lead to similar efforts across the country.

Thessalia Merivaki, a political science professor at Mississippi State University, said the state's mail voting process is already difficult to navigate and that eliminating the five-day window would "unfairly punish" voters.

In North Dakota, a similar federal lawsuit against the state election director was filed by the conservative Public Interest Legal Foundation on behalf of a county auditor, Mark Splonskowski, who cited what he said is a conflict between state and federal law. A court is expected to decide soon whether he has the legal right to bring the lawsuit.

Foundation spokesperson Lauren Bowman said while the lawsuit deals with North Dakota's law, a ruling that finds extended ballot deadlines violate federal law would affect other states with similar policies.

State Election Director Erika White has asked the case to be dismissed. Her attorneys characterized the county auditor's lawsuit as "a bid to overthrow long-standing North Dakota law and rewrite it according to his own preference."

Attorneys with the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division filed a statement of interest in the case defending the existing

state law, saying it was consistent with federal law and ensures that military and overseas ballots would be counted.

North Dakota Republican Secretary of State Michael Howe declined to comment, citing the pending litigation.

Republican state Sen. Kristin Roers said the lawsuit could have unintended consequences, such as for military voters, and would effectively penalize voters who live in areas with slow postal service.

"I don't see that this is something that is a huge, glaring issue in our election system," she said.

Richard L. Hasen, a University of California, Los Angeles law professor and election law expert, criticized the legal basis of the lawsuits. In the Mississippi case, he said the RNC appears to be trying to gain a political advantage because it "believes late-arriving mail ballots are more likely to favor Democrats."

He noted that the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which includes Mississippi, has historically been quite conservative "and not protective of voting rights."

"It would be a far reach for a challenge to Mississippi law to lead to a national injunction against this," he said. "But it's possible."

The Associated Press receives support from several private foundations to enhance its explanatory coverage of elections and democracy.

Fernando reported from Chicago, Pettus from Jackson, Mississippi, and Dura from Bismarck, North Dakota.

Auburn star apologizes to Freeman after thinking actor was Ole Miss fan trying to rattle him



Auburn forward Johni Broome, front right, reaches out and apologizes to Academy Award-winning actor and Mississippi fan Morgan Freeman, second from front left, after falling into him while going after the ball during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Mississippi, Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, in Oxford, Miss. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS

The Associated Press

Auburn's Johni Broome met one of his favorite movie stars and apologized to Morgan Freeman for how it happened.

Broome, who scored 15 points in the 16th-ranked Tigers' 91-77 victory over Mississippi Saturday night, tried to save a ball from going out of bounds in the second half when someone in the front row grabbed his jersey.

Thinking it was an Ole Miss fan trying to rattle him, Broome brushed the person's arm away.

It turned out it was Freeman, the Academy Award-winning actor who is a big Mississippi fan and attends many Rebels games.

"I kind of got his hand off," Broome told reporters. "I saw who it was and I'm a big movie guy. I probably watched one of his movies on the plane coming here."

"But I realized it was him and I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I'm a big fan. I'm sorry.' He said, 'Just keep playing.'"

Broome, calling a personal foul on himself, went back over to Freeman during the game.

"I'm just like, 'I'm sorry, again,'" Broome said. "He said, 'You all good. Just keep playing.' He's a very good guy. Love him."

Broome and his Auburn teammates erased a 13-point deficit in the first half with a dominating second half to power past Freeman's favorite team. The Tigers improved to 18-4 overall and 7-2 in the Southeastern Conference, while the Rebels dropped to 18-4 and 5-4 in league play.

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IMMC unveils ‘Journey to Understanding’: A bold exhibit on Palestine and Israel amid global peace efforts

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D
Editor

At the heart of downtown Jackson, the International Museum of Muslim Cultures (IMMC) stands as a beacon of knowledge and understanding. Recently, the museum unveiled its groundbreaking exhibit, “Journey to Understanding: Palestine and Israel Unveiled,” amidst a time of heightened global focus on the conflicts and quests for peace in the region. The exhibit’s opening was marked by a poignant press conference Thursday, February 1, drawing attention not only to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict but to broader issues of equality, peace and human rights.

“Our team has dedicated the last three months to assembling this exhibit, pouring over every detail to ensure we tell a story that’s both compelling and educational,” shared Emad Al-Turk during the event. “We invite you to explore the exhibit further by clicking on the QR codes available. There’s so much to learn and understand.”

The exhibit’s launch coincides with significant global movements, including South Africa’s International Court of Justice’s actions concerning allegations of genocide against the Palestinian people by Israel. It serves as a timely reminder of the ongoing struggles and the urgent need for empathy, dialogue and action towards peace.

During the conference, Okolo Rashid, the co-founder and



Emad Al-Turk, co-founder, International Museum of Muslim Cultures, 201 E. Pascagoula St., Jackson, MS



(L to R) Kalif Wilkes, Najla Salahuddin, Shannon Easter, Okolo Rashid, Emad Al-Turk and Sababu Rashid

transitioning executive director of the museum, delivered a powerful message that resonated deeply with all present. “What we are witnessing today is a child being killed in Gaza. Every ten minutes, a child is killed in Gaza,” Rashid stated, highlighting the dire situation and the human cost of the conflict.

Rashid invoked the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., emphasizing the relevance of his message in today’s context. “It is time to break the silence, right, on the demand of our conscience. That’s where we are in this situation,” she quoted. Rashid extended Dr. King’s message beyond the immediate conflict, reflecting on his call to action against racism, extreme

materialism and militarism. “It’s been 57 years. Where are we? We are farther than when King spoke. We must have a ceasefire. We must allow humanitarian aid to reach those in need. This is not just about Palestine. This is about what it means to be human.”

The discussion that followed Rashid’s remarks was intense and engaging, with questions and comments from the audience that underscored the exhibit’s significance and the museum’s role in fostering a deeper understanding of these complex issues.

As the event concluded, an invitation was extended to all. “We invite you to come visit us at 201 East Pascagoula Street in downtown Jackson and on-

line at www.muslimmuseum.org. This exhibit, ‘Journey to Understanding: Palestine and Israel Unveiled,’ is not just an opportunity to learn but a call to reflect on our shared humanity and the values we hold dear. Together, we can embark on a journey towards empathy, dialogue and peace.”

Through its latest exhibit and the thoughtful words of its leaders, the International Museum of Muslim Cultures invites everyone to engage with the stories, struggles and hopes of those in Palestine and Israel. In doing so, it aims to be a catalyst for change, urging all to consider what it truly means to be human and how we might work together to create a more just and peaceful world.



Okolo Rashid, co-founder, International Museum of Muslim Cultures
PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON

Historic partnership taking place at Mississippi Capitol

Reuben V. Anderson Institute for Social Justice at Tougaloo College partners with Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus, promoting advancement

By Julian D. Miller, Esq.
Special to the Mississippi Link

The Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus (MLBC) has established a historic partnership with the Reuben V. Anderson Institute for Social Justice at Tougaloo College (Anderson Institute) to implement a Legislative Black Caucus Internship program.

The goal of the program is to give nine outstanding public policy and pre-law undergraduate students of the Anderson Institute at Tougaloo College and Jackson State University an experiential learning experience to understand how the legislature operates and how laws are proposed and passed. Most importantly, the interns will work with MLBC and the Anderson Institute to establish an affirmative policy vision in the areas of economic justice, educational equity, public health equity, criminal justice equity, and voting rights for the development of future legislation.

The program is coordinated by Senator Rod Hickman and Rep. Darryl Porter of MLBC along with Atty. Julian D. Miller, founding director of the Anderson Institute and assistant professor of Political Science at Tougaloo College and Dr. Lauren M. Long, director of the Eric H. Holder Public Policy Program of the Anderson Institute and assistant professor of Political Science at Tougaloo College.



(First Row) Julian D. Miller, Esq., Rokiyah Hobbs, Alexandria Williams. (Second Row) Ashley Horton, Sha’Nyla Wilson, Avery Robinson, Jaiden Joseph, Senator Rod Hickman. (Third Row) Destiny Ivory Markita Shell, Montae’l Williams, Representative Darryl Porter
PHOTO BY ARNOLD LINSAY, MS SENATE PRESS SECRETARY

Interns will be randomly paired with a legislator or group of legislators based on the needs of the MLBC as determined by the Outreach and Internship Committee. The goal is to expose the interns to both chambers of the Legislature and to a variety of committees and legislative policy topics – with an emphasis on the topics students of the Anderson Institute at Tougaloo are already working with their current public policy projects. Their responsibilities during this session would include:

This internship program is the culmination of the transformative, student-led work that the Anderson Institute has carried out on behalf of Tougaloo and the surrounding community.

In nearly four years, our phenomenal scholars and staff of

the Anderson Institute have:

- Developed and supported the establishment of the first Institute for Social Justice, public policy program and Minor in Public Policy and Administration, certificate of law and legal studies program, Advocacy Training Program (for Tougaloo public policy students), Policy and Advocacy Fellows Program (adult professionals leading advocacy training program for students), and post-grad program in the 154-year history of the college; supported the reestablishment of the Bennie G. Thompson Leadership Development Program with the first ever community-based, participatory research program for student fellows established in 2020;
- Developed and implemented

the only worker-owned, student-run, urban, BIPOC-led food system and on-campus farm on an HBCU campus in the country complete with national partnership with Feeding America

- Lead a \$6.6 million NIH grant partnership with Tufts University for Food as Medicine project in the Mississippi Delta, which is one of the largest studies of its kind in the country
- Established partnerships with a couple of the largest corporate law firms in Mississippi to establish experiential learning programs and mentorships for pre-law students – including the state’s first ever diversity pipeline program for undergraduate pre-law student at Forman Watkins & Krutz law firm in Jackson and a two-week, corporate law externship with

Watkins & Eager law firm in Jackson

- Leveraged approximately \$5.6 million in new grant investment in Tougaloo to develop student-led, policy projects in the areas of economic justice, criminal justice equity, public health equity, and educational equity as well as for our pre-law and leadership development programs
- Led the largest after-school enrichment and mentoring program serving students of Jackson Public Schools
- Conducting groundbreaking policy research and program implementation related to living wages alongside local elected officials in the impoverished Mississippi Delta region
- Researched and developed policy recommendations for the U.S. Farm Bill
- Currently leading transformative voting rights and youth get-out-the-vote initiatives with multiple state and national voting rights organizations
- Received local and national media exposure for the above-mentioned programs featured on PBS News Hour, Non-Profit Quarterly, Harvard Magazine, HBCUYou on PBS, WJTV, and in a book by a NY Times best-selling author called The Moment

- From 2019 to 2024, we have had 1000% enrollment growth going from 9 to nearly 106 students in pre-law and public policy programs, with 60 pre-law students, 33 students in the public policy program, and two separate cohorts of 10 leadership development fellows, which represents approximately one-fourth of the overall student body
- 32 students have been accepted and enrolled into prestigious law and graduate schools on scholarship, including Harvard Law (third student in the college’s history), Columbia, Tufts, Vanderbilt Law, George Washington Law, University of Alabama Law, etc.; produced the first and only HBCU Fellows to study at Columbia University in the school’s history
- Over 14 formal and informal partnerships have been established with prestigious law and graduate schools, including Harvard Law School, Yale Law School, George Washington University Law School, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Brown University School of Public Affairs, Tufts University, Case Western University Law, Southern Illinois University Law, Southern University Law Center, Vermont Law School, Vanderbilt Law School, University of Mississippi School of Law, Mississippi College School of Law and Pepperdine Law School.

After a stroke

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

The recovery time after a stroke is different for everyone. This process can take weeks, months or even years. Some people will have a full recovery. For others it's a long-term or lifelong adjustment. Only 79% of people survive 2 years, 61% survive 3 years, 5% survive 16 years and only 1% survives 20 years.

After a stroke you are still the same person, but a stroke will change the way you respond to things in your everyday life. You may never go back to the way you were before a stroke, but you can make continuous improvement. It is sometimes hard for the people around you if they feel you've changed.

A stroke can affect you emotionally. You may laugh or cry for no reason. These changes are hard to adjust to, especially for those closest to you. Emotional and personality changes usually get better with time.

Long-term effects of stroke vary. The effects of a stroke depend on the stroke's severity and the area of the brain affected. They can include cognitive symptoms like memory problems and trouble speaking. Physical effects can include

weakness, paralysis and difficulty swallowing.

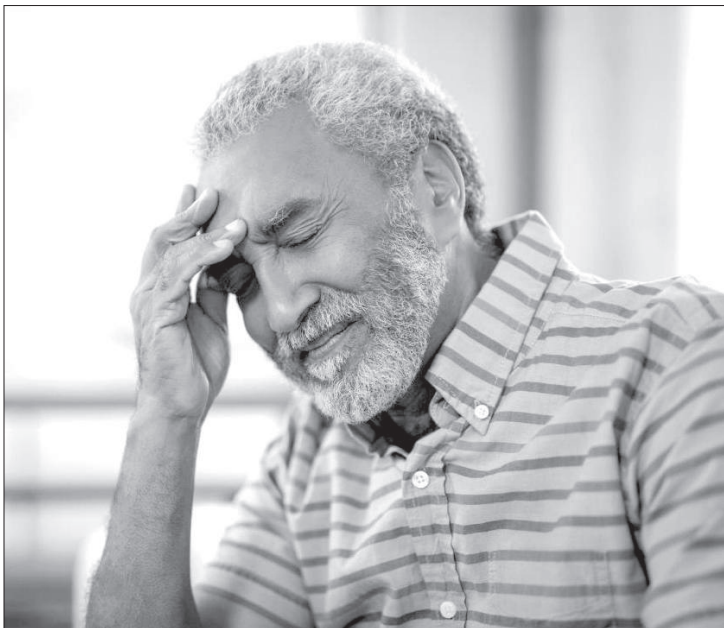
Stroke is the third leading killer in the United States and the 1# cause of adult disability. 750,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke in the United States. 160,000 of these people will die. There are 5.5 million US stroke survivors.

While some stroke victims can recover completely, more than 2/3 of all survivors will have some type of disability.

Every 45 seconds in the US, someone has a stroke. The economic impact can cost as much as \$40-\$70 billion per year. While women account for 6 in 10 stroke deaths, Black Americans are affected by stroke more often than any other US group.

Black Americans are twice as likely to die from stroke as White Americans. 50% of all nursing home admissions are stroke victims. The number one reason for nursing home admissions is stroke. According to the American Stroke Association, 80% of all strokes are preventable.

A stroke or "brain attack" occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain burst or is clogged by a blood clot or some other par-



ticle. Ruptures and blockages prevent the brain from getting the blood and oxygen it needs. Without the blood and oxygen it needs, nerve cells in the brain die within minutes.

Stroke Prevention Guidelines

1. Know your blood pressure. Have it checked at least annually. If the lower number (your diastolic blood pressure) is consistently over 80, talk to your doctor.

2. Find out if you have arterial fibrillation. Arterial fibrillation (AF) is an irregular heart-

beat that changes how your heart works and allows blood to collect in the chambers of your heart.

3. If you smoke, stop. Smoking doubles the risk for stroke. If you stop smoking today, your risk for stroke will immediately begin to drop. Quitting smoking today can significantly reduce your risk of stroke from this factor.

4. If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation or don't drink at all. Studies now show that drinking up to two alcoholic drinks per day can reduce your

risk for stroke by about half. More alcohol than this each day can increase your risk for stroke by as much as three times.

5. Find out if you have high cholesterol (a soft, waxy fat (lipid) in the bloodstream and in all body cells). Know your cholesterol number. If your total cholesterol level (LDL and HDL) is over 200, talk to your doctor. You may be at increased risk for stroke.

6. If you are diabetic... Follow your doctor's advice carefully to control your diabetes. Having diabetes puts you at an increased risk for stroke; by controlling your diabetes, you may lower your risk for stroke. Diabetes may be controlled through careful attention to what you eat and exercise.

7. Exercise. Include exercise in your daily activities. A brisk walk for as little as 30 minutes a day can improve your health in many ways, and may reduce your risk for stroke. Try walking with a friend; this will make it more likely that you'll make it a habit. If you don't enjoy walking, choose another exercise or activity that you do enjoy, such as biking, swimming, golf, tennis, dance or aerobics. Make time each day

to take care of yourself by exercising.

8. Enjoy a lower sodium (salt), lower fat diet. By cutting down on sodium and fat in your diet, you may be able to lower your blood pressure and, most importantly, lower your risk for stroke.

9. Ask your doctor if you have circulation problems, which increases your risk for stroke.

10. Symptoms. If you have any stroke symptoms, seek immediate medical attention.

If you think someone may be having a stroke, act F.A.S.T. and do this simple test:

Act F.A.S.T.

FACE – Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

ARMS – Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

SPEECH – Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Are the words slurred? Can he/she repeat the sentence correctly?

TIME – If the person shows any of these symptoms, time is important. Call 911 or get to the hospital fast. Brain cells are dying.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

5 things women should ask their OB-GYN about their heart. Yes, the heart.

By Laura Williamson
American Heart Association News

From the time they reach reproductive age, women are encouraged to visit an OB-GYN at least once a year for a wellness exam that may include screening for breast or cervical cancer, sexually transmitted diseases or other issues involving their reproductive organs.

But a growing body of research suggests there's another organ they should be discussing: the heart.

"Cardiovascular risk assessment is important at all ages, particularly during the child-bearing years," said cardiologist Dr. Afshan Hameed, a professor of maternal and fetal medicine at the University of California, Irvine. "But I don't think awareness is where it needs to be. We need to be bringing it up to every woman who comes in for OB-GYN care."

Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 cause of death in women and a leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths. Many of these deaths could be prevented if a woman's cardiovascular risk was discussed more routinely, but especially before, during and after pregnancy, said Mary Canobbio, a clinical nurse specialist in the adult congenital heart program at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Nursing.

"The average woman contemplating pregnancy does not think her heart is going to be a problem," she said.

Here are five questions women should ask their OB-GYNs about heart health:

Can birth control affect my heart?

While there are many types of birth control, the most commonly prescribed is the oral contraceptive pill. There are three types of pills, all of which involve hormones – either a combination of estrogen and progesterone or progesterone alone.

But oral contraceptives with estrogen have been shown to increase the risk for blood clots, strokes and heart attacks.

Women who have a history of



JUBAPHOTO/E+ VIA GETTY IMAGES

high blood pressure or who have had blood clots are discouraged from taking estrogen, Canobbio said. "Their gynecologist needs to screen them to see which types of birth control are best suited for them. There are alternatives to hormone-based contraception."

How can pregnancy affect my heart, and what should I do to prevent complications?

Ideally, women should optimize their health before becoming pregnant to prevent complications for themselves and their unborn child, Canobbio and Hameed said. That means maintaining a healthy weight, staying physically active, eating a healthy diet, getting blood pressure under control if it's high and making sure blood glucose levels are within the normal range.

"Most women don't think about their heart as they think about pregnancy, but women who have risk factors – such as obesity, high blood pressure or diabetes – should be concerned and talk to their doctor before they get pregnant," Canobbio said. "These women are at higher risk for problems in their pregnancies."

Obesity, for example, can lead to hypertension, or high blood pressure. Many women may not know they have it, she said.

"It depends on how often they see their primary care doctor or OB-GYN before they get pregnant," Canobbio said. "They may not go because they do not think they are sick. We need to work with these women prior to conception to help them lose weight and get blood pressure under control. They may be prediabetic and not know it. These are all risk factors that women going into pregnancy may not know they have."

Having excess weight or obesity increases the risk for gestational diabetes and preeclampsia, a high blood pressure disorder that can harm mother and child. Preeclampsia can advance to eclampsia, which causes seizures. Obesity also raises the risk of having a baby with a heart defect.

Hameed said she has also seen women in her practice who were born with heart defects but did not mention it because they hadn't had any recent problems. Women born with heart defects have a higher risk of giving birth to a child with a heart defect.

Women "may have had heart defects repaired as a child and it never came up again. But this can become important as the patient gets older, particularly when they become pregnant," Hameed said. "A cardiovascular risk as-

essment should be done at every single pregnancy and during the postpartum period."

Canobbio said that's true for every woman – not just those with risk factors or underlying disease.

"Even though women feel healthy, they need to be aware that today we are more concerned about women's hearts prior to getting pregnant," she said.

Women who have risk factors or underlying cardiovascular disease should discuss the potential effects on their pregnancy with their health care team, Hameed said. This includes foods or activities to avoid, how medications may affect their unborn child, what tests they may need to take and any other questions they may have.

If the mother is at high risk, Hameed said, she should also make sure the hospital where she plans to deliver is equipped to handle any complications that may arise during childbirth.

What symptoms during and after pregnancy might be related to my heart?

There are symptoms a woman may experience during and even after pregnancy that could signal cardiovascular trouble, Hameed said. For example, shortness of breath and exhaustion might

be overlooked if the woman assumes she's just worn out from the pregnancy, but they could be symptoms of peripartum cardiomyopathy, an uncommon type of heart failure that occurs toward the end of a pregnancy or in the months that follow.

It can happen to women with no prior diagnosis of heart disease, and because it mimics some symptoms of pregnancy, women may not recognize it as something heart-related, Hameed said.

If I've had pregnancy complications, does this affect my long-term heart health?

Pregnancy complications, also referred to as adverse pregnancy outcomes, include gestational hypertension, preeclampsia, gestational diabetes and babies that are born too soon or too small. Research suggests that women who have had adverse pregnancy outcomes are at greater risk for cardiovascular disease than those who have not.

"Pregnancy is a stress test for the cardiovascular system," Hameed said. Women who develop adverse pregnancy outcomes or blood pressure-related issues during pregnancy "have already gained one risk factor for cardiovascular disease in the future."

A 2021 American Heart Association scientific statement summarized evidence linking pregnancy complications to future maternal cardiovascular disease risks. Up to 15% of pregnant women in the U.S. experience such complications.

"The heart has to work extra hard during pregnancy to support both mother and child," said Canobbio, a co-author of the report. Doing so may unearth weaknesses in the mother's cardiovascular system that should be carefully monitored in the years that follow.

How can menopause affect my heart?

Estrogen is a natural hormone that provides women with some protection from heart disease. When estrogen levels drop during menopause, a woman's risk for cardiovascular disease in-

creases. This makes it another good time to speak with a doctor, who may order tests to identify risk factors that may need to be addressed, Canobbio said. It's also important to look at family history.

"A lot of women don't appreciate that the cardiovascular problems of their parents and grandparents that developed as they aged may become their problems," she said. "If there is a history of heart disease or stroke or high blood pressure, then they should talk to their gynecologist or primary care physician to get an evaluation of where they stand."

Menopause can also cause a lot of symptoms – such as hot flashes, night sweats and sleep disturbances – that are treatable with hormone replacement therapy. Some studies suggest these therapies, taken early in menopause, may provide some cardiovascular benefits, help prevent Type 2 diabetes and protect against bone loss, according to a 2020 AHA report summarizing research in this area.

However, a 2023 study in the journal Hypertension found at least one form of hormone replacement therapy may increase blood pressure risks. And other studies have shown some types of hormone replacement therapy can increase the risk for blood clots in some women.

Canobbio said women should discuss their individual risks and potential benefits of hormone replacement therapy with their health care team, ideally early in menopause.

Regardless of the stage of life they're in, women should ask their OB-GYNs and other members of their health care team about their heart health and what they can do to lower their risks, Hameed said.

"When we look at prevention, there are many steps we can take," she said.

"We have to look at all of a woman's cardiovascular risk factors and help her modify them to prevent the onset of cardiovascular disease in the future."

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

Sealed proposal will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, February 20, 2024, for Security Camera System Solutions which will function as an access control system by integrating alarm monitoring, digital video indoor and outdoor IP security cameras, ID badging, visitor badging and monitoring, and database management into a single platform for the public transportation system in the City of Jackson (as specified) necessary for REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)#2024-01.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Christine Welch, Deputy Director
Office of Transportation

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

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**RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
BEATRICE K. YOUNG, DECEASED** CAUSE NO. P2023-89 G/2

PETITIONER: ROSIE BUCKHAULTER

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI


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

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

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock a. m., on the 29th day of March, 2024, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County before Honorable Tiffany Grove, Chancellor. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

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

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

 EDDIE JEAN CARR
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI

K Howard

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

LEGAL

**Advertisement for Bid 3255
Powell Middle School Phase 2 Project ESSER Renovations**

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) Thursday, March 7, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conferences concerning this project will be held at 3655 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213 on Thursday, February 22, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsdm-projects.com. A \$150.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Charles Bunniran at Allen & Hoshall, Phone: 601-977-8993, or Email: cbunniran@allenhoshall.com.

Also, until further notice, all opening will be recorded and uploaded to the JPSPD web site at <https://www.youtube.com/jpsitv> for public viewing due to covid 19. Vendors will not be allowed to sit in on the bid Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing

time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSPD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

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

2/8/2024, 2/15/2024

LEGAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each proposer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan with the proposal submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a proposer from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1055. Copies of the City of Jackson's Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the program are available at the following location: 200 South President Street, Room 223, Jackson, Mississippi; or can be accessed on City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity webpage.

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

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

Chloe Dotson, BUPD. MURP, Yika Hoover
Director Planning and Development Deputy Director Economic Development

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

LEGAL

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
HONORARY RENAMING 723 ROSE STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF
ROSE STREET AND LYNCH STREET TO ALPHA DELTA ZETA CHAPTER,
ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC. STREET.**

WHEREAS, it is befitting for the City of Jackson to recognize, honor and celebrate individuals and or groups whose lives have had a significant and positive impact in the community; and

WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1920 with five women from Howard University; and

WHEREAS, the Sorority was founded to address societal mores, ills, prejudices, poverty, and health concerns; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in Jackson, MS was founded at 723 Rose Street and 2023 marks the 85th year of its founding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, hereby renames 723 Rose Street to the intersection of Rose Street and Lynch Street to Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Street.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Council Member Grizzell seconded.

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

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting November 7, 2023 and recorded in Minute Book "6Y, Pgs. 318-319".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 5th day of February 2024.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

2/8/2024

LEGAL

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
RESTRICTING THE USE OF TAKE HOME CITY VEHICLES EXCEPT THOSE
DEEMED ESSENTIAL ACCORDING TO THIS ORDINANCE IN ADDITION,
RESTRICTING THE USE OF TAKE HOME CITY VEHICLES OUTSIDE
OF THE CITY LIMITS OF JACKSON WITH NO EXCEPTIONS AND THE
TRANSFER OF ANY VEHICLE FROM ANY DEPARTMENT TO ANOTHER,
WITHOUT CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL.**

WHEREAS, the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi acknowledges its legislative and fiscal responsibility account for the receivables, expenses, and auditing of the city's financial assets; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi acknowledges and does hereby recognize, the need to achieve financial savings for the municipality of Jackson, by cutting cost in the use of vehicles and maintenance due to excessive and unnecessary use of any city employee; and

WHEREAS, the aim and goal of this ordinance is to prevent any waste of unnecessary fuel usage, and to prevent the damage of any city vehicles being utilized during a time that is not pertaining to work of the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi recognizes the importance of keeping a proper audit of its assets; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi recognizes the importance of a vehicle/vehicles being purchased and approved by the City Council within a department staying within the department unless otherwise approved as a transfer of assets by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the only vehicles exempt from the restriction of not allowing employees to take home vehicles and deemed essential of this ordinance are as follows:

All police and certified personnel of the Jackson Police Department, as given permission by only the Chief of the Jackson Police Department.

Employees of the command staff of the Jackson Fire Department, as given permission by only the Chief of the Jackson Fire Department.

Essential employees of the Public Works Director as deemed essential by the public works department for emergency services only.

The Director of Planning and Development & Designated Code Enforcement Manager

The Director of Parks and Recreation

The Mayor of the City of Jackson

WHEREAS, the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi understands the value of employee travel for specific trainings, which shall be approved and managed by Department Director according to a policy approved by the City Attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, upon the violation of this ordinance and any such report of such violation, this matter shall be investigated by the city council according to its statutory authority. Be it also known, that the defunding or decrease of fuel and the budgeted amount for the purchase or lease of vehicles of the department in violation will be considered by the Jackson City council.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi through its legislative and financial responsibility over the cities financial assets approved by the city council restricts the taking home of any city vehicles except those deemed essential and exempt according to this ordinance. In addition, the restriction of taking home a city vehicle outside of the city limits of Jackson, Mississippi is completely prohibited without any exemptions.

BE IT ALSO HEREBY RESOLVED that the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi with its legislative, financial, and auditing authority, in addition with its authority to approve the purchasing of vehicles within departments restricts the transfer of vehicles within departments without approval or amendment to the order purchasing the vehicle for said department of the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Vice President Lee seconded.

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

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting November 7, 2023 and recorded in Minute Book "6Y, Pgs. 325-326".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 5th day of February 2024.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

2/8/2024

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING HARVEY WILLIAMS, SR. A REZONING FROM C80-C3 (GENERAL) COMMERCIAL SUBDISTRICT TO C80-MU (MIXED-USE) SUBDISTRICT TO ALLOW FOR A MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT WITH A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW FOR A COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL CENTER FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2901 HWY 80 W (PARCEL 635-35), CASE NO. 4229.

WHEREAS, Harvey Williams, Sr. has filed a petition to rezone property located at 2901 Hwy 80 W (Parcel 635-35), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, from C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict to C80-MU (Mixed Use) Subdistrict to allow for a mixed-use development with a Use Permit to allow for a community recreational center; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has recommended the approval of the rezoning of the property located at 2901 Hwy 80 W (Parcel 635-35) from C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict to C80-MU (Mixed Use) Subdistrict to allow for a mixed-use development with a Conditional Use Permit to allow for a community recreational center; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, November 20, 2023 to consider said change, based upon the record of the case as developed before the City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on October 5, 2023 and October 19, 2023 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on October 25, 2023, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board had recommended the rezoning of the property located at 2901 Hwy 80 W (Parcel 635-35) from C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict to C80-MU (Mixed Use) Subdistrict with a Conditional Use Permit; and

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

WHEREAS, the Council, after having considered the matter, is also of the opinion that that the proposed use being compatible with the character of development in the vicinity relative to density, bulk and intensity of structures, parking, and other uses; the proposed use would not be detrimental to the continued use, value or development of properties in the vicinity and is in harmony with the Comprehensive Plan and that a Conditional Use Permit be granted to allow for the construction of a community recreational center within a C80-MU (Mixed Use) Subdistrict of the City of Jackson.

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

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

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

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the property located at 2901 Highway 80 West (Parcel 635-35) from C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict to C80-MU (Mixed Use) Subdistrict to allow for a mixed-use development with a Conditional Use Permit to allow for a community recreational center. The conditions of the Use Permit are that it shall be granted on an annual basis; be granted to Harvey Williams, Sr., the owner/operator of the community recreational center; that subsequent owners or operators of a community recreational center at this location must apply for and receive a new Use Permit; and that compliance with adopted property maintenance, building, fire, law enforcement & Zoning Codes be maintained at all times. However, that before for any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

President Banks moved adoption; Council Member Lindsay seconded.

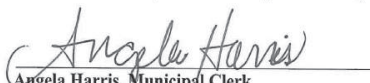

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Hartley and Lindsay.
Nays – None.
Absent – Grizzell, Lee and Stokes.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Council Meeting November 20, 2023 and recorded in Minute Book “6Y, Pgs. 379-381”.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 5th day of February 2024.


Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

2/8/2024

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT
ZONING CASE NO. 4245

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 Bradley Adair has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for a general restaurant within a C-2 (Limited) Commercial District on property located at 4465 I-55 South (Parcel: 437-298) Ste. 102 B, in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Part of Lots 7 and 8 and part of closed Spruce Street of J.O. Trawick Estate Subdivision the map or plat of which is recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 5, at Page 9, being situated in Section 24, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County and described as follows:

Begin at an iron pin marking the intersection of. the South line of Spruce Street with the East line of St. Richards Drive; from said point of beginning run thence l South 89 degrees 56 minutes 24 seconds East along the South line of Spruce Street, a distance of 25.49 feet to an iron pin on the North line of Lot 8 of J.O. Trawick Estate Subdivision the map or plat of which is recorded in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 5, at Page 9; thence North 89 degrees 27 minutes 23 seconds East along the South line of said Spruce Street, a distance of 139.21 feet; thence North O degrees 05 minutes 33 seconds West, a distance of 24.82 feet to the center of a closed section of said Spruce Street; thence North 89 degrees 38 minutes 39 seconds East along the center of said closed section of Spruce Street, a distance of 204.06 feet to the present Westerly right-of-way line of Interstate Highway No. 55; thence Southerly along said Interstate Highway right-of- way line as follows: Southerly along an arc to the right having a radius of 3793.72 feet, a distance of 25.31 feet, said arc has a chord of South 9 degrees 54 minutes 15 seconds West, a distance of 25.31 feet l thence South 89 degrees 34 minutes 51 seconds West, a distance of 9.15 feet; thence Southerly along an arc to the right having a radius of 3784.72 feet, a distance of 57.08 feet, said arc has a chord of south 10 degrees 33 minutes 10 seconds West, a distance of 57.08 feet; thence South 50 degree 07 minutes 03 seconds East, a distance of 10.28 feet; thence Southerly along an arc to the right having a radius of 3793.72 feet, a distance of

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT
ZONING CASE NO. 4242

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 Tommy Caiston has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the placement of a manufactured house within a R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District on property located at 0 Eden Downs Rd. (Parcel: 844-155), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A tract or parcel of land containing 9.25 acres, more or less, lying and being situated in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 21, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the ½ inch rebar found marking the Northwest corner of Lot 375, Cedar Hills Subdivision — Part V: Section B as recorded in Plat Book 27 at Page 18 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi;

Run thence, South 00 degrees 03 minutes 12 seconds East a distance of 1,013.79 feet to the ½ inch rebar with cap set at the POINT OF BEGINNING of the herein described property;

thence, South 00 degrees 22 minutes 40 seconds West a distance of 362.08 feet to a set ½ inch rebar with cap;

thence, North 88 degrees 33 minutes 44 seconds West a distance of 380.62 feet to a set ½ inch rebar with cap at an existing fence corner marking the boundary of that parcel recorded in DB 5587 P 524;

thence, along an existing fence marking the boundary of said parcel as follows:

North 1 1 degrees 06 minutes 40 seconds East a distance of 206.22 feet to an existing 8 inch cedar post fence corner;

North 77 degrees 31 minutes 14 seconds West a distance of 783.81 feet to the ½ inch rebar found marking the boundary of that parcel recorded in DB 7156 P 7356;

thence, along an existing fence marking the boundary of said parcel recorded in DB 7156 P 7356 as follows:

North 20 degrees 40 minutes 04 seconds West a distance of 81.48 feet to a found ½ inch rebar;

North 10 degrees 05 minutes 25 seconds East a distance of 144.31 feet to a found ½ inch rebar;

North 73 degrees 56 minutes 43 seconds West a distance of 221.50 feet to a found ½ inch rebar on the East side of Eden Downs Road;

thence, North 01 degrees 44 minutes 39 seconds West along the East side of Eden Downs Road a distance of 81.80 feet to the found ½ inch rebar marking the Southwest corner of that parcel recorded in DB 5298 p 694;

thence, along the South boundary of that parcel recorded in DB 5298 P 694 as follows:

South 89 degrees 12 minutes 49 seconds East a distance of 647.23 feet to a found ¼ inch rebar;

South 00 degrees 48 minutes 20 seconds West a distance of 298.25 feet to a 4 inch fence corner;

South 88 degrees 58 minutes 03 seconds East a distance of 462.89 feet to the 8 inch fence corner marking the Southeast corner of that parcel recorded in DB 5298 P 694;

thence, South 73 degrees 37 minutes 17 seconds East along an existing fence a distance of 230.85 feet back to the POINT OF BEGNNING.

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, February 28, 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 FEBRUARY 21, 2024.

WITNESS my signature this 1ST day of February 2024.

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

2/8/2024, 2/22/2024

146.6 feet, said arc has a chord of South 12 degrees 10 minutes 01 seconds West, a distance of 146.59 feet: thence Southerly along an arc to the right having a radius of 7613.44 feet, a distance of 76.78 feet, said arc has a chord of South 13 degrees 33 minutes 46 seconds West, a distance of 76.78 feet to the Northeasterly line of the Christ Lutheran Church property; thence North 56 degrees 24 minutes West along the Northeasterly line of the Christ Lutheran Church property, a distance of 416.56 feet to the Easterly line of St. Richards Drive; thence North 42 degrees 10 minutes East along the Easterly line of St. Richards Drive, a distance of 64.4 feet to the point of beginning, containing 69,294 square feet or 1.5908 acres; more or less.

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, February 28, 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 FEBRUARY 21, 2024.

WITNESS my signature this 1ST day of February 2024.

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

2/8/2024, 2/22/2024

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING
ZONING CASE NO. 4243

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 Homewood Company, LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-7 Mobile Home Park Residential District to C-3 (General) Commercial District with a minimum 5' setback Variance from required setback requirements to build a self-storage facility for property located at 5330 State St. (Parcel: 500-1000), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A certain parcel of land lying and being situated in the South ½ of Section 11, Township 6 North, Range l East, City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the South line of aforementioned Section 11 with the Eastern right-of-way of North State Street and run North 27 degrees 57 minutes 10 seconds East along the said Eastern right-of-way 406.45 feet; thence leaving said Eastern line run South 63 degrees 21 minutes 34 seconds East 383.44 feet; thence South 25 degrees 07 minutes 35 seconds West 214.12 feet; thence North 89 degrees 07 minutes 27 seconds West along said South line of Section 11 a distance of 442.39 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 2.8 acres, more or less.

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, February 28, 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 FEBRUARY 21, 2024.

WITNESS my signature this 1ST day of February 2024.

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

2/8/2024, 2/22/2024

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING
ZONING CASE NO. 4244

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 Fairview Inn of Jackson, LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-2 (Single-Family & Two-Family) Residential District to CMU-1 (Community) Mixed-Use District to allow for the sustainability of the subject property and to capture the changing land use dynamics of the area for property located at 734 Fairview St. (Parcel: 12-45), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Twenty (20) feet off the East side of Lots 5 and 6 and all of Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 1 1, 12. 13, 14, 15, and 16, Block 5, Glenwood Place, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof, which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 1 at Page 85, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

LESS AND EXCEPT:
A parcel of land being Lots 15 and 16 and parts of Lots 1 1, 13, and 14 being situated in Block 5, Glenwood Place, a Subdivision according to a map or plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 1 at Page 85. and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Begin at the Southeast corner of Lot 16 and run Westerly along the South line of Lot 16 and Lot 14 a distance of 113.5 feet to a point which is the point of beginning of this description; run thence Easterly along the South line of Lot 14 and Lot 16 to the Southeast corner of Lot• 16; turn thence left 75 degrees 08 minutes, and run Northerly along the East line of Lot 16 and Lot 15 to the Northeast corner of Lot 15; turn thence left 100 degrees 57 minutes and run Westerly along the North line of Lot 15, 13, and 11 for a distance of 157.75 feet to a point; turn thence left 88 degrees 36 minutes and run Southerly a distance of 269.0 feet to the point of beginning on the South line of Lot 14.

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, February 28, 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 FEBRUARY 21, 2024.

WITNESS my signature this 1ST day of February 2024.

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

2/8/2024, 2/22/2024

LEGAL

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT
ZONING CASE NO. 4246

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT
ZONING CASE NO. 4247

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 Brandi Carter has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for a liquor store within a neighborhood shopping center within a C-2 (Limited) Commercial District on property located at 4465 I-55 South (Parcel: 437-298) Ste. A, in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Part of Lots 7 and 8 and part of closed Spruce Street of J.O. Trawick Estate Sub-division the map or plat of which is recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 5, at Page 9, being situated in Section 24, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County and described as follows:

Begin at an iron pin marking the intersection of. the South line of Spruce Street with the East line of St. Richards Drive; from said point of beginning run thence I South 89 degrees 56 minutes 24 seconds East along the South line of Spruce Street, a distance of 25.49 feet to an iron pin on the North line of Lot 8 of J.O. Trawick Estate Subdivision the map or plat of which is recorded in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 5, at Page 9; thence North 89 degrees 27 minutes 23 seconds East along the South line of said Spruce Street, a distance of 139.21 feet; thence North O degrees 05 minutes 33 seconds West, a distance of 24.82 feet to the center of a closed section of said Spruce Street; thence North 89 degrees 38 minutes 39 seconds East along the center of said closed section of Spruce Street, a distance of 204.06 feet to the present Westerly right-of-way line of Interstate Highway No. 55; thence Southerly along said Interstate Highway right-of- way line as follows: Southerly along an arc to the right having a radius of 3793.72 feet, a distance of 25.31 feet, said arc has a chord of South 9 degrees 54 minutes 15 seconds West, a distance of 25.31 feet I thence South 89 degrees 34 minutes 51 seconds West, a distance of 9.15 feet; thence Southerly along an arc to the right having a radius of 3784.72 feet, a distance of 57.08 feet, said arc has a chord of south 10 degrees 33 minutes 10 seconds West, a distance of 57.08 feet; thence South 50 degree 07 minutes 03 seconds East, a distance of 10.28 feet; thence Southerly along an arc to the right having a radius of 3793.72 feet, a distance of 146.6 feet, said arc has a chord of South 12 degrees 10 minutes 01 seconds West, a distance of 146.59 feet: thence Southerly along an arc to the right having a radius of 7613.44 feet, a distance of 76.78 feet, said arc has a chord of South 13 degrees 33 minutes 46 seconds West, a distance of 76.78 feet to the Northeastly line of the Christ Lutheran Church property; thence North 56 degrees 24 minutes West along the Northeastly line of the Christ Lutheran Church property, a distance of 416.56 feet to the Easterly line of St. Richards Drive; thence North 42 degrees 10 minutes East along the Easterly line of St. Richards Drive, a distance of 64.4 feet to the point of beginning, containing 69,294 square feet or 1.5908 acres; more or less.

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, February 28, 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 FEBRUARY 21, 2024.

WITNESS my signature this 1ST day of February 2024.

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

2/8/2024, 2/22/2024

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 Robert M. McGinnis has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for a community recreational center (event venue) within a neighborhood shopping center in a C-2 (Limited) Commercial District on property located at 4465 I-55 South (Parcel: 437-298) Ste 102 C, in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Part of Lots 7 and 8 and part of closed Spruce Street of J.O. Trawick Estate Sub-division the map or plat of which is recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 5, at Page 9, being situated in Section 24, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County and described as follows:

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WITNESS my signature this 1ST day of February 2024.

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City of Jackson, Mississippi

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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8
9					10				
11					12				
13				14			15		
			16			17			
18	19	20							
21				22			23	24	25
26			27				28		
29						30			
31						32			

ACROSS

DOWN

1. Wiels

5. Singer Billy

9. Achy

10. Deer

11. Narrow opening

12. Sandwich cookies brand

13. Excessively ornate

15. Gross national product (abbr.)

16. Last work day (plr.)

18. Limit

21. Environmental protection agency (abbr)

22. Exodus

26. Not ever

28. Lotion ingredient

29. Braid

30. Island

31. Discount

32. Scallion

1. Soviet Union

2. Fly alone

3. Little Mermaid’s love

4. Compensation

5. Cruise

6. Z

7. Type of wood

8. What a small child does

10. Showing displeasure

14. Announcers

17. Sabotage

18. Pennies

19. Musical production

20. Bellybutton

23. Otherwise

24. Single

25. Search

27. East southeast

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

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Crossword Solution

U	S	E	S			J	O	E	L
S	O	R	E			B	A	M	B
S	L	I	T			O	R	E	O
R	O	C	O	C	O		G	N	P
				F	R	I	D	A	Y
C	O	N	F	I	N	E			
E	P	A			E	G	R	E	S
N	E	V	E	R			A	L	O
T	R	E	S	S			I	S	L
S	A	L	E				L	E	E

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Week of February 4, 2024

Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi elects its first woman and first Black person as bishop

The Associated Press

The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi chose Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells as its new bishop Saturday, making her the first woman and first Black person elected to lead the church.

Wells was selected from a field of five candidates by delegates from 87 congregations. She will replace Brian Seage, who was elected in 2014 as the diocese's 10th bishop. Seage said the historic vote reflected positive changes within the church.

"This is a historic moment and this marks a new chapter in our history," Seage told the *Clarion Ledger*. "It's the first time we have elected a woman and the first time we have elected an African American as the bishop of the diocese. I think this speaks dramatically for this movement within our church."

Wells ascends to the position after serving as rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in Germantown, Tennessee, where she was also the chaplain of the church's preschool. A native of Mobile, Alabama, Wells graduated from Rhodes College in Memphis with a degree in vocal performance.



Wells SCREENSHOT FROM ACTIONNEWS5.COM

She also holds graduate degrees in law and divinity.

Wells will be ordained on July 20. After the vote, she told the *Ledger* she would

be focused on public service amid reports of declining church attendance.

"I am truly humbled by the confidence that the council

has placed in me, and I am so looking forward to working with the good people of the Diocese of Mississippi," Wells said.

Cleave to that which is good

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



One of the biggest problems in the world is a lack of love. We live in a world in which love's power has lost meaning.

Taking the initiative to love others usually triggers a positive response. But when there is no visible respond, you must remind yourself that you are only responsible for your actions and reactions, not those of others.

Genuine love is a compassionate attitude towards life and the people you find in it. This kind of love nods at strangers, says thank you, and lends a hand when someone falls. It doesn't pretend everything is perfect, but it acknowledges every moment is worth living.

From a young age, we're taught only to say nice things about other people, so when someone says something negative, it catches other people's attention and draws them in. Most of time, people don't say hateful things. Still, jealousy and psychological needs bring out the worst behaviors in some individuals, prompting them to say negative statements about another person, whether truthful or not.

People only remember a small portion of what you say but develop concrete memories of how you made them feel. Sometimes, even if your lack of love toward someone comes from a personal experience of being hurt or could be otherwise justified by most people, it is best to keep it to yourself.

You can't control what others do to you or what happens to you, but you can control your interpretation of the event and how you react.

Love is easy to say. What's harder is following through and letting it show through your actions. That takes effort. Sometimes, it involves setting your pride aside and saying, "I'm sorry." It's hard to hate if you are long-suffering, show kindness, are not envious, and stay meek and humble.

Love is a fundamental law of life, without it, or with it perverted, all other passions or emotions are powerless to give complete happiness to the human race. Love is electromagnetic. Every heart is a storage battery that holds, with tremendous voltage, this mysterious power. Some possess it in greater measure than others, but we all have it.

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

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Celebrating Black History Month despite racial disparities in America

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



What makes race one of the most talked about topics in the United States of America? Why do some let the color of one's skin stand in the way of their humanity?

If you are African American in this country, race has always mattered. My growing up in the South made race a sticking point in almost everything that you did.

Joyfully and thankfully, we had parents who believed that we could achieve. We developed our self-esteem from watching our parents at home and in the public square. No matter their social position,

they moved with confidence and because of them, we did, too.

East Winston in Winston-Salem NC was the community I lived in as I was coming of age. We had role models that gave us inspiration so that we could have aspiration. Everything we needed for the most part was in our community.

We had schools, churches and businesses. However, there were some conveniences that we didn't have yet but our parents found a way and made a way.

The foundation they gave us was really a blueprint for success. It has remained with us through our adult lives. One of those assets was a love for education.

Our Black History education started in our homes. We

learned about men and women in our community who made a difference. Upon reflecting now, I know that seeing men like Carl Russell, a Black city alderman and Lester Ervin, a Black fire chief gave me a sampling of what success looked like.

As I progressed in elementary school, I began to quietly wonder why there were only five days (Black History Week) to celebrate the accomplishments of Black people. I wasn't mature enough yet to have asked my teachers about it.

Black History Week became Black History Month in 1976. History shows that the first official observance came from President Gerald Ford whose words established Black History Month. February was chosen to go along with the birth-

days of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

During this month, we honor men and women like Dr. Charles Drew, Senator Carol Moseley Braun, Representative Barbara Jordan and Granville T. Woods. Countless Black people, because of their creativity, perseverance and wisdom, made this nation a better, more enriched place to be.

For example, when we are driving our cars, remember that Garrett Augustus Morgan invented the traffic signal and the gas mask. Dr. George Washington Carver discovered over 300 uses of peanuts and Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune was the founder of Bethune Cookman College, now University in Daytona Beach Florida.

The importance of our his-

tory cannot be overstated or taken for granted. Obstacles and oppression did not deter these great men and women from creating their masterpieces. Against all odds is a time-honored expression that I believe is synonymous with our history.

African-American parents and grandparents have a moral calling to teach our children and grandchildren their history. It must begin early in their lives. We can't and shouldn't depend upon schools for these early learnings. For example, we must take them to explore Black artifacts and venues. We must take them to see Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

February is one of twelve months that Black History should be honored and high-

lighted. We stand on the shoulders of our ancestors. There could be no Michael Jackson without there first being Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. There could be no Kamala Harris without there first being Shirley Chisholm. Our roots of excellence run deep, and we must keep our history in America's history as they are both inextricably tied together.

There are some politicians who we know are trying their best to marginalize us. We cannot and will not let that happen. Generations not yet born are depending upon us.

As we attend our celebrations, let us be reminded of our civic duty and that is to vote in the November presidential election. We have a voting history in this country, and we must continue it.

Is migration to the United States really a crisis?

Panic versus faith-How many times did we hear "God works in mysterious ways"

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer



A day never goes by when we don't hear about "the crisis at the border." Sometimes it seems like so many of us are salivating for the next crisis to be uncovered.

Isn't that the whole deal behind Breaking News – something new to catch the eye of the public, wrapped in advertising with commercials designed to catch the eye first, and then the pocketbook?

This morning on cable television Breaking News coverage of what's referred to as the border crisis and the Senate's bipartisan \$118 Billion package to create tougher asylum and border security laws was upstaged by Breaking News that King Charles has some form of cancer. This was among the never-ending cycle of shiny objects to focus on.

The website <https://Migrationpolicy.org> claims that 1,018,349 people became legal permanent residents in 2022. 60 Minutes reported this week that "last year US Customs and Border Protection detained or turned away 2.5 million people at our border with Mexico. Do the numbers themselves constitute a crisis? Is it possible there is more to it? Do the citizenships of those seeking entry into America factor in? Do their races factor in? Does their skin color factor in – is it possible that is what makes it a crisis for some Americans?

The reality of declining white population in America over the past sixty years is now inseparable with the behaviors we are witnessing day to day by white people, both in and out of positions of power in this country.

We would have to be living under a rock to not see the divisions being fomented by white Christian Republicans. These folks are all descendants of immigrants –

whether through the front door or the back door – yet it is as solid as concrete in their minds that this is their country, and they boldly exert power over others who don't look like them, in an effort to reverse the trend that is set to make them a minority in America by 2045.

They continue attempts to erase Black History – erase the history of the very people who built this country. They seek to decimate the foundational principle of 'We the People' by suppressing minority voting at every turn with hundreds of pieces of legislation, and in nearly all states. Per <https://worldpopulationreview.org> there are only seven states that have not attempted anti-Critical Race Theory legislation. Mississippi and 17 other states have banned the teaching of the theory that simply and directly speaks to how racism impacted inequalities in America's laws and institutions – a lightning rod issue for neo-Confederates headquartered in the Deep South, but over time who have migrated to all fifty states.

We saw the vicious recent take-down of Dr. Claudine Gay, former president of Harvard, over free-speech and embracing diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. Last year the conservative supermajority Supreme Court gutted affirmative action – race-conscious admissions at universities – which was an attempt by then President John F. Kennedy to reduce racial bias, fifty years ago.

Minority advancement in any form whatsoever is held in contempt by these people – all white people. A description of this behavior, noted in a February 2022 article about white conservatism in *Forbes* magazine, seems an accurate summation: "A larger issue that points to a deeply rooted rage that stems from fear of anything they perceive to be a threat to their racial privilege."

In Reverend Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr's final sermon entitled, "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution, said in part, "It is an unhappy truth that racism is a way of life for the vast majority of white Americans, spoken and unspoken, acknowledged and denied, subtle and sometimes not so subtle – the disease of racism permeates and poisons a whole body politic," per <https://blogs.memphis.edu/benhooksinstitute>.

So much of our country is focused on the southern border – the crisis at the border. It's not a crisis for all of us. Perhaps it's something very different. Perhaps it's the exact opposite of a crisis. Perhaps it's a solution – a solution to what began as America's original sin, and which still lives and breathes as white supremacy. Perhaps it's the hand of God in action – permitting the influx of non-white people to this country in such numbers that white supremacy is extinguished. Imagine that, just for a moment, an America absent white supremacy.

Seeking the counsel of those more learned than this writer is always a good decision. In preparing for this article, I sought out Reverend Dr. Hickman M. Johnson, pastor of Farish Street Baptist Church, and Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr., senior pastor of New Horizon Church International, both in Jackson, who shared their time and thoughts generously.

No one knows how things will turn out with this country's immigration issues, yet we are reminded that for people of faith, God is always involved.

It would behoove us to have less panic and more faith.

Per Bishop Crudup, "If people would put forth a little faith, particularly if white folk in this country that claim Christianity – could put forth a little Christian faith – to believe that God has carried us up to this point, then allow God to carry us on, and not react and let your base instinct kick in."

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



Unfortunately, in some instances many married couples called it quits the month of January. In fact, some reports illustrate that married couples file for divorce in January more than any time of the year. Moreover, many attorneys reveal that after returning to their office post-Christmas, they find themselves bombarded with their voicemails and office visits from spouses inquiring about filing for divorce. In other words, many married couples' union do not last until the month dedicated for Valentine's Day and love, which is February. One or both spouses have simply declared, "I'm done!"

What is the meaning behind I'm done? I'm done simply means just what it says, I'm done. I'm done means it is over, I am over you, I've had enough, I can't do this anymore, it's dead, I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired and I'm finished. I'm done is a declaration that one has grown tired and fed up with what one perceives as a dying marriage. Further, I'm done simply is a confession that the end of the marriage is here and there is no chance of ever continuing the marriage or returning to it in any way besides referencing it in the Divorce Courts. In other words, I'm done is the final nail in the coffin...it's the end of the story, your life story as one in the past and your future as one is bleak.

When is "I'm done," normally expressed in a marriage? How long does it take for a spouse to confess that he or she is done? "I'm done is not an idea/statement that is derived overnight, it sometimes takes months and in most instances years for a spouse to declare the two-word declaration. "I'm done" is often expressed when a spouse's love and patience has been tested countless times and their patience has run out with years of apologies, excuses, manipulation and deceit.

Why do some spouses declare I'm done? Some spouses declare I'm done for the following reasons:

- No communication – you talk about nothing but the weather
- Excessive jealousy – Jealous spouse who always accuses, questions your every move (this can become overbearing and burdensome)
- Bad breath (this is sad – get you a good dentist and they will help you)
- Selfishness – everything is always centered around what is convenient for you
- Consistent nagging – husbands would rather be on the rooftop than deal with a nagging wife – Proverbs 21:19
- Ungratefulness – little to no gratitude about anything – only wants more or expresses what could have been different
- Complaining – always see the bad – never recognize the good

I'm done

- Financial issues
- Gas lighting
- Physical, verbal, mental and emotional abuse
- Physical and emotional affairs – not content with the husband/wife that God gave you
- Addictions
- Spouse abandonment
- Loneliness
- Lack of trust
- Parenting/children issues
- Secrets
- No reciprocation – you're pouring into your spouse and marriage, but your spouse is not pouring back into you and your marriage – there are a lot of thirsty spouses
- Little to no sexual intimacy – husbands always remember that foreplay starts before the bedroom – how you treat your wife can be the difference in you surfing and turfing – woo your wife in how you talk to her, be affectionate, be kind, help with household chores, show that you truly care, date her, can we woo, woo woo... and vice versa wives – if your husband is wooing you as you desire – give that man some milk and cookies – I'm just saying.
- Unforgiveness

How to avoid, getting to the "I'm done?" Getting to this point can be avoided. Avoiding the statement of I'm done starts before the I do's and post marriage. This starts with communication – please communicate before and after you get married about everything from your views on holding grudges, forgiveness, money, parenting, family, dating, your desires from one another regarding quality time, romance, religion, etc. Additionally, invest in your marriage by seeking professional marriage counseling even when things are well, attend marriage workshops like Family Life, join a church marriage ministry, etc.

In conclusion, if you love your spouse and you want your marriage – be done with the same ole lists above and hold one another accountable. Further, become intentional about the healing and restoration of your marriage.

Lastly, if you decide to stay married – be happy and celebrate your life as one everyday. Remember, you both made vows to never declare I'm done but instead you exclaimed that you would be with one another through the good and the bad... until death do you part.

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

Penn Museum buries the bones of 19 Black Philadelphians, causing a dispute with community members

By Graham Lee Brewer
The Associated Press

For decades, the University of Pennsylvania has held hundreds of skulls that once were used to promote white supremacy through racist scientific research.

As part of a growing effort among museums to reevaluate the curation of human remains, the Ivy League school laid some of the remains to rest last week, specifically those identified as belonging to 19 Black Philadelphians. Officials held a memorial service for them Saturday.

The university says it is trying to begin rectifying past wrongs. But some community members feel excluded from the process, illustrating the challenges that institutions face in addressing institutional racism.

“Repatriation should be part of what the museum does, and we should embrace it,” said Christopher Woods, the museum’s director.

The university houses more than 1,000 human remains from all over the world, and Woods said repatriating those identified as from the local community felt like the best place to start.

Some leaders and advocates for the affected Black communities in Philadelphia have pushed back against the plan for years. They say the decision to reinter the remains in Eden Cemetery, a local historic Black cemetery, was made without their input.

West Philadelphia native and community activist Aliy A. Muhammad said justice isn’t just the university doing the right thing, it’s letting the community decide what that should look like.

“That’s not repatriation. We’re saying that Christopher Woods does not get to decide to do that,” Muhammad said. “The same in-



University of Pennsylvania’s Penn Museum hosts an interfaith burial service for 19 unidentified Black Philadelphians whose remains were part of the museum’s display, at Eden Cemetery, Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, in Collingdale, PA. As part of a growing effort among museums to reevaluate the curation of human remains, the Ivy League school laid some of the remains to rest last week. AP PHOTO/JOE LAMBERTI

stitution that has been holding and exerting control for years over these captive ancestors is not the same institution that can give them ceremony.”

Woods told the crowd at Saturday’s interfaith commemoration at the university’s Penn Museum that the identities of the 19 people were not recorded, but that the process of interment in above-ground mausoleums “is by design fully reversible if the facts and circumstances change.” If future research allows any of the remains to be identified and a claim is made, they can be “easily retrieved and entrusted to descendants,” he said.

“It will be a very happy day if we can return at least some of these fellow citizens to their descendants,” Woods said.

At a blessing and committal ceremony later at Eden Cemetery, about 10 miles southwest of the museum in Collingdale, Renee McBride Williams, a member of the community advisory group, said she was “relieved that finally the people who created

the problem are finding a solution.”

“In my home growing up, when you made a mistake, you fixed it – you accepted responsibility for what you did,” she said.

“We may not know their names, but they lived, and they are remembered, and they will not be forgotten,” said the Rev. Charles Lattimore Howard, the university’s chaplain and vice president for social equity & community.

As the racial justice movement has swept across the country in recent years, many museums and universities have begun to prioritize the repatriation of collections that were either stolen or taken under unethical circumstances. But only one group of people often harmed by archaeology and anthropology, Native Americans, have a federal law that regulates this process.

In cases like that between the University of Pennsylvania and Black Philadelphians, institutions maintain control over the collections and how they are returned.

The remains of the Black Philadelphians were part of the Morton Cranial Collection at the Penn Museum. Beginning in the 1830s, physician and professor Samuel George Morton collected about 900 crania, and after his death the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia added hundreds more.

Morton’s goal with the collection was to prove – by measuring crania – that the races were actually different species of humans, with white being the superior species. His racist pseudoscience influenced generations of scientific research and was used to justify slavery in the antebellum South.

Morton also was a medical professor in Philadelphia, where most doctors of his time trained, said Lyra Monteiro, an anthropological archaeologist and professor at Rutgers University. The vestiges of his since-disproven work are still evident across the medical field, she said.

“Medical racism can really exist on the back of that,” Monteiro said. “His ideas became part of how medical students were trained.”

The collection has been housed at the university since 1966, and some of the remains were used for teaching as late as 2020. The university issued an apology in 2021 and revised its protocol for handling human remains.

The university also formed an advisory committee to decide next steps. The group decided to rebury the remains at Eden Cemetery. The following year, the university successfully petitioned the Philadelphia Orphans’ Court to allow the burial on the basis that the identities of all but one of the Black Philadelphians were unknown.

Critics note the advisory committee was comprised almost entirely of university officials and local religious leaders, rather than other community members.

Monteiro and other researchers challenged the idea that the identities of the Philadelphians were lost to time. Through the city’s public archives, she discovered that one of the men’s mothers was Native American. His remains must be repatriated through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the federal law regulating the return of Native American ancestral remains and funerary objects, she said.

“They never did any research themselves on who these people were, they took Morton’s word for it,” Monteiro said. “The people who aren’t even willing to do the research should not be doing this.”

The university removed that cranium from the reburial so it can be assessed for return through NAGPRA. Monteiro and others were further outraged to discover the university had already interred the remains of the other Black Philadelphians last weekend outside of public view, she said.

Members of the Black Philadelphians Descendant Community Group, which was organized by people including Muhammad who identify as descendants of the individuals in the mausoleum, said in a statement they are “devastated and hurt” that the burial took place without them.

“In light of this new information, they are taking time to process and consider how best to honor their ancestors at a future time,” the group said, adding that members plan to offer

handouts at Saturday’s memorial with information they have gathered on the individuals in the mausoleum.

“To balance prioritizing the human dignity of the individuals with conservation due diligence and the logistical requirements of Historic Eden Cemetery, laying to rest the 19 Black Philadelphians was scheduled ahead of the interfaith ceremony and blessing,” the Penn Museum said in a statement to The Associated Press.

Woods said he believes most of the community is happy with the decision to reinter the remains at Eden Cemetery, and it is a vocal minority in opposition. He hopes that eventually all the individuals in the mausoleum will be identified and returned.

“We encourage research to be done moving forward,” Woods said, noting the remains of the Black Philadelphians were in the collection for two centuries and, along with his staff, he felt the need to take more immediate action with those remains.

“Let’s not let these individuals sit in the museum storeroom and extend those 200 years anymore,” he said.

Even if all the crania are identified and returned to the community, the university has a long way to go. More than 300 Native American remains in the Morton Cranial Collection still need to be repatriated through the federal law.

Woods said the museum recently hired additional staff to expedite that process.

AP writer Ron Todt in Philadelphia contributed.

Graham Brewer is a member of AP’s Race and Ethnicity team. Follow him on social media.

Biden-Harris Administration takes steps to address racial wage gap

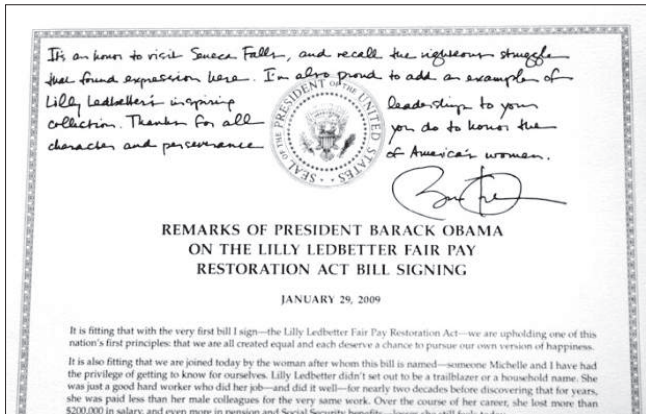
By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Taraji P. Henson’s powerful statement that highlighted the glaring wage disparities faced by Black women in Hollywood perhaps pales in comparison to the meager salaries those in America’s workforce historically contend with. And on January 29, the anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the Biden-Harris Administration unveiled comprehensive measures to tackle persistent gender and racial wage gaps in the United States.

Henson recently emphasized the inequities, stating that “the math ain’t mathing” when it comes to the disproportionate pay differences for Black women in the entertainment industry. Her poignant observation underscored the broader issue of unequal pay in that industry.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris reaffirmed their commitment to equal pay as a fundamental component of their mission to ensure fairness and opportunity for all workers by observing the law that Barack Obama signed in 2009.

The administration said it recognized that women are paid, on average, only 77 cents for every dollar paid to men. The wage gap is even more pronounced for women of color, where African Americans earn only 64 cents and Latina women earn a mere 55 cents for each



On January 29, the anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the Biden-Harris Administration unveiled comprehensive measures to tackle persistent gender and racial wage gaps in the United States.

dollar earned by their male counterparts.

Obama’s legislation, signed on January 29, 2009, responded to the Supreme Court’s decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., which stripped protections against pay discrimination.

“The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act reinstates prior law and emphasizes that pay discrimination claims based on sex, race, national origin, age, religion, and disability ‘accrue’ whenever an employee receives a discriminatory paycheck,” Biden remarked. “This is a crucial step in rectifying historical injustices and creating a fairer future for all.”

Building on the law’s foundation, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is finalizing a rule to eliminate the consideration of an individual’s current or past pay when determining federal employee salaries. Simultaneously, the Fed-

eral Acquisition Regulatory (FAR) Council proposes measures to prohibit federal contractors from seeking and considering applicants’ compensation history during the hiring process.

“The wage disparities faced by women, particularly women of color, are not just statistics; they represent real challenges that demand real solutions,” Harris emphasized. “Our actions today are a commitment to building a more equitable future.”

The Department of Labor’s (DOL’s) Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs will also provide guidance to clarify existing protections against discrimination in hiring or pay decisions for federal contractors.

“Today’s announcements build on our commitment to closing wage gaps, creating a fairer economy, and ensuring that every American has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their gender or race,” Biden declared.

Black father-daughter lawyer team faces disciplinary action amidst racial discrimination controversy

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

An African-American father-daughter pair of lawyers, Jerry and Brooke Girley, are in the eye of Florida’s ongoing racist storm after a judge recommended 30-day suspensions for their vocal criticism following the overturning of a \$2.7 million jury ruling in a racial discrimination case.

In addition to suggesting suspension, Judge Lisa Herndon, presiding over the Florida Bar’s disciplinary case against the Girleys, also ordered the duo to attend a professionalism workshop. However, the Florida Supreme Court holds the key to the final decision, with potential penalties ranging from suspension to disbarment.

The Girleys’ attorney, David Winker, said his clients planned to request a rehearing, pointing out factual inaccuracies in the reports.

Advocates for the Girleys argue that the looming disciplinary action could have a chilling effect on free speech for lawyers in Florida, where Republicans control the governor’s office and both chambers of the state legislature. Jerry Girley previously cited concerns about racial discourse and expression within the state.

The controversy originated from Jerry Girley’s representation of a Black doctor dismissed from AdventHealth in Orlando in 2021. Despite a jury ruling in favor of Girley’s client, the presiding judge overruled the decision, contending a lack of evidence establishing racial discrimination in the dismissal.

The Florida Bar reported that Jerry and Brooke Girley publicly



Attorneys Jerry and Brooke Girley, father and daughter team

criticized the judge’s decision, accusing improper conduct within the court system. The Bar argued that their statements, both in interviews and on social media, undermined public confidence in the judiciary and were prejudicial to the administration of justice.

In her reports recommending disciplinary measures, Herndon asserted that the Girleys had violated their oath of admission to the Florida Bar by failing to show respect to judicial officers and making false statements. She argued that the Girleys’ claims were not First Amendment-protected free speech, in opposition to their arguments.

Founded in 2007, The Girley Law Firm P.A. focuses on civil rights, criminal defense and social security cases. Described as a community trust, the firm advocates for justice and equality for all, irrespective of race, color or creed.

Brooke Girley, an accomplished attorney and media executive, has contributed to significant victories in civil rights cases alongside her father. Passionate about racial equality, she has served in various capacities, including as an adjunct professor and a media executive in the religious space.

Jerry Girley’s background in-

cludes service in the United States Navy, civilian employment with the Orlando Police Department, and a dedication to civil rights issues. He is the president and managing attorney of the Girley Law Firm and serves as general counsel for Freedom Ministries Church.

“The state of Florida has a shameful history of discrimination and bias against racial minorities,” the ACLU of Florida noted on its website. “Though great strides have been made for equality during and since the Civil Rights Movement, racial minorities still face challenges and discrimination in our state.”

The ACLU’s statement continued: “Because so many of Florida’s voting problems, particularly those that became apparent during and since the 2000 Presidential election, fell most heavily on African Americans and language minority communities. Much of the ACLU of Florida work is directed toward correcting voting irregularities that have a disproportionate impact on those groups. The ACLU of Florida also actively supports reforms such as the creation of effective civilian review boards for law enforcement that would bring changes in police policies and practices.”



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JSU’s Director of Public Relations recognized as 2023 Outstanding Professional of the Year

William Kelly III
Specialist, JSU Communications

Jackson State University Director of Public Relations Rachel James-Terry has been named 2023 Outstanding Professional of the Year by the Public Relations Association of Mississippi (PRAM). This annual award by PRAM Central honors the exceptional work and professionalism of chapter members whose accomplishments have made major contributions to the profession.

Recipients further embody the highest degree of professionalism, serve their communities, are committed to advancing the profession, and have outstanding achievements in the practice of public relations.

“I am completely floored to receive this recognition from my peers. Making a difference and leaving an impact in the public

Rachel James Terry, 2023 PRAM Outstanding Professional of the Year

relations industry is something that I strive toward daily. I enjoy the work that I do and serving the Jackson State University

community. So, this acknowledgment just reaffirms my journey and God’s plan. Thank you, PRAM Central. It is an honor,”

James-Terry said.

The awards ceremony occurred Wednesday, Jan. 31, at The Rickhouse by The ManShip, a new private dining and event space in Jackson, Mississippi. The ceremony awarded three of its members, including James-Terry, for contributions as an emerging practitioner, practitioner, or advanced practitioner based on their years of service.

“Rachel is the consummate professional, and she is so deserving of this recognition by the Public Relations Association of Mississippi,” said JSU Associate VP of Marketing and Communications Alonda Thomas. “Her passion for creative storytelling and enthusiasm for enhancing the JSU brand is evident throughout her work. I look forward to her continued success as an industry leader.”

James-Terry has spent over 20

years in the journalism, media, public relations and corporate litigation industry.

A creative innovator, she heads a four-person team responsible for developing public relations strategies that insulate and amplify the JSU brand by sharing effective best practices and ideas. These strategies include publications, collaborations, media outreach, social media and marketing.

James-Terry was named a 2023 Maynard Fellow from The Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding diversity in the news media and dismantling structural racism in newsrooms.

As editor-in-chief of JSU’s alumni publication, “The Jacksonian,” James-Terry was integral in helping the Spring 2023 issue become a finalist for the

2023 PRNews Platinum Award for online publication. JSU was the only university and HBCU among national and international brands in this category, subsequently securing honorable mention.

She has helped produce segments and manage appearances for local and national media shows, including Good Morning America, MSNBC, Sirius XM’s Sway in the Morning, NPR, and the Biden Inauguration.

James-Terry is an alumna of Jackson State University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in English. She is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership Brand Ambassadors, the Public Relations Association of Mississippi, the Public Relations Society of America, and ForbesBLK.

Michael D. Johnson Foundation announces 2023 scholarship winners; accepting submissions for 2024

Jessie Williams, Grand Winner, Jim Hill High School

Broderick Gholar, 1st Runner-Up, Murrah High School

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Michael D. Johnson Foundation has named the 2023 winners of its annual scholarship for high school senior athletes. Jessie Williams of Jim Hill High School is the grand award recipient which includes a \$1,500 scholarship toward his college educational expenses.

Three students from Murrah were runners-up, and each received a \$250 book scholarship – Broderick Gholar, 1st runner-up; Jaidyn Hill, 2nd runner-up; and De’Jayvion Brown, 3rd runner-up.

The foundation has opened its application period for the 2024 MDJ Scholarship and will be accepting applications through April 1, 2024. School athletic directors, head coaches, teachers or counselors must submit applications to the Foundation by the deadline.

Scholarship winners will be announced at the annual Michael D. Johnson Memorial Foundation Walk, tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday in May.

The MDJ Memorial Foundation Athletic Scholarship is awarded on a competitive basis to graduate

senior athletes from JPS high schools. Candidates must have a 2.5 or higher GPA, demonstrate community involvement and complete an essay as part of the application process.

The foundation established this program, specifically for athletes, in memory of Michael D. Johnson.

Johnson was a Murrah basketball and baseball player whose promising future was tragically cut short by a drunk driver soon after his high school graduation in 2005.

Rosalind Cotton of Clausell named WAPT’s Alyce Clarke Award recipient for January

Alyce Clarke award recipient Rosalind Cotton works closely with a group of her second-grade students at Clausell Elementary.

The Mississippi Link Wire

Rosalind Cotton, a second-grade teacher at Clausell Elementary School, is the January 2024 recipient of the WAPT Alyce Clarke Award. The award recognizes excellence in teaching. Recipients are nominated by principals, colleagues, parents, students or members of the community.

Cotton has taught in public and private school settings for almost 20 years. She serves as a team leader for second grade at Clausell. She has served as

a teacher mentor for aspiring educators completing the practice teaching studies. She received her bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Jackson State University and continued post-graduate studies at the university.

Cotton uses engaging lessons, research-based strategies, and sound teaching practices to ensure all students have equitable learning opportunities.

WAPT’s Alyce Clarke Excellence in Education Award

recognizes an exemplary K-12 educator in their viewing region who reflects exceptional teaching methodologies, positively impacts school culture, and actively engages with their communities.

The award is named in honor of Mississippi’s first Black woman elected to the Mississippi Legislature, Rep. Alyce Clarke. Through the award, WAPT seeks to extend her legacy as a beacon of strength and change in Jackson, Mississippi.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH BOOKS FOR KIDS

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You know your history. You know about slavery and Jim Crow and Harriet Tubman and Malcolm X. You know about all those things, and more. So now make sure your child knows, too, by bringing home these great Black History Month books for kids. Since forever, African Americans have been first-rate gardeners and farmers and in “The Last Stand” by Antwan Eady, illustrated by Jarrett and Jerome Phumphrey (Knopf,


\$18.99), Mr. Earl’s grandson worries about his Papa, who runs a farmer’s market. Two summers ago, there were five people with country roadside stands. Now, it’s just Mr. Earl. What will the people in their community do if there’s no fresh produce or fresh eggs? Who will have peppers for Mr. Johnny or pumpkins for Ms. Rosa? What will happen on the day when Papa’s “too tired” to go to his market stall? This book, and the stories it can lead to, will help your 3-to-5-year-old learn more about ev-

eryday Black history. If your ancestors came North in the Great Migration, then you’ll want to bring “Everywhere Beauty is Harlem” by Gary Golio, art by E.B. Lewis (Calkins Creek, \$18.99). When photographer Roy DeCarava came to New York in the early 1940s, he landed in Harlem. And so, after work every evening, he slipped film into his camera, and he went hunting for treasures – not gold or jewels, but people. A man snoozing on the subway, a little boy drawing with sidewalk


chalk, an artist standing street-side with his wares, not one of them escaped his notice. Looking into the eyes of those people he captured on film, “Roy sees Harlem.” Your 3-to-7-year-old will want to see, too. Be sure to read the biography at the end of this tale, so you can give your child the full, authentic story. And finally, if your 6-to-9-year-old needs to know about a legend, read “Fighting With Love: The Legacy of John Lewis” by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James E. Ransome

(Simon & Schuster, \$18.99). Here, your child will learn that John Lewis was the son of a sharecropper, and he dreamed of a better life. He wanted an education, and he sneaked out and got one. He was a teenager before he heard the words “justice” and “segregation,” and he knew instantly that they were important. When he left on a bus to go to Seminary school, his mother warned him not to get in trouble, but how could he not? “Fighting with Love” is wonderfully illustrated but the

story’s longer and much more in-depth. You may find it in the picture book section for little kids, but older children are the right audience for it. For them, this is a great introduction to Lewis’s life, and to historical biographies in general. If you need more Black History Month reading for your child, or if you’ve got older kids itching to learn more, too, then ask your favorite librarian or bookseller for help. For any age, and any month, that’s the place to find books to know your history.



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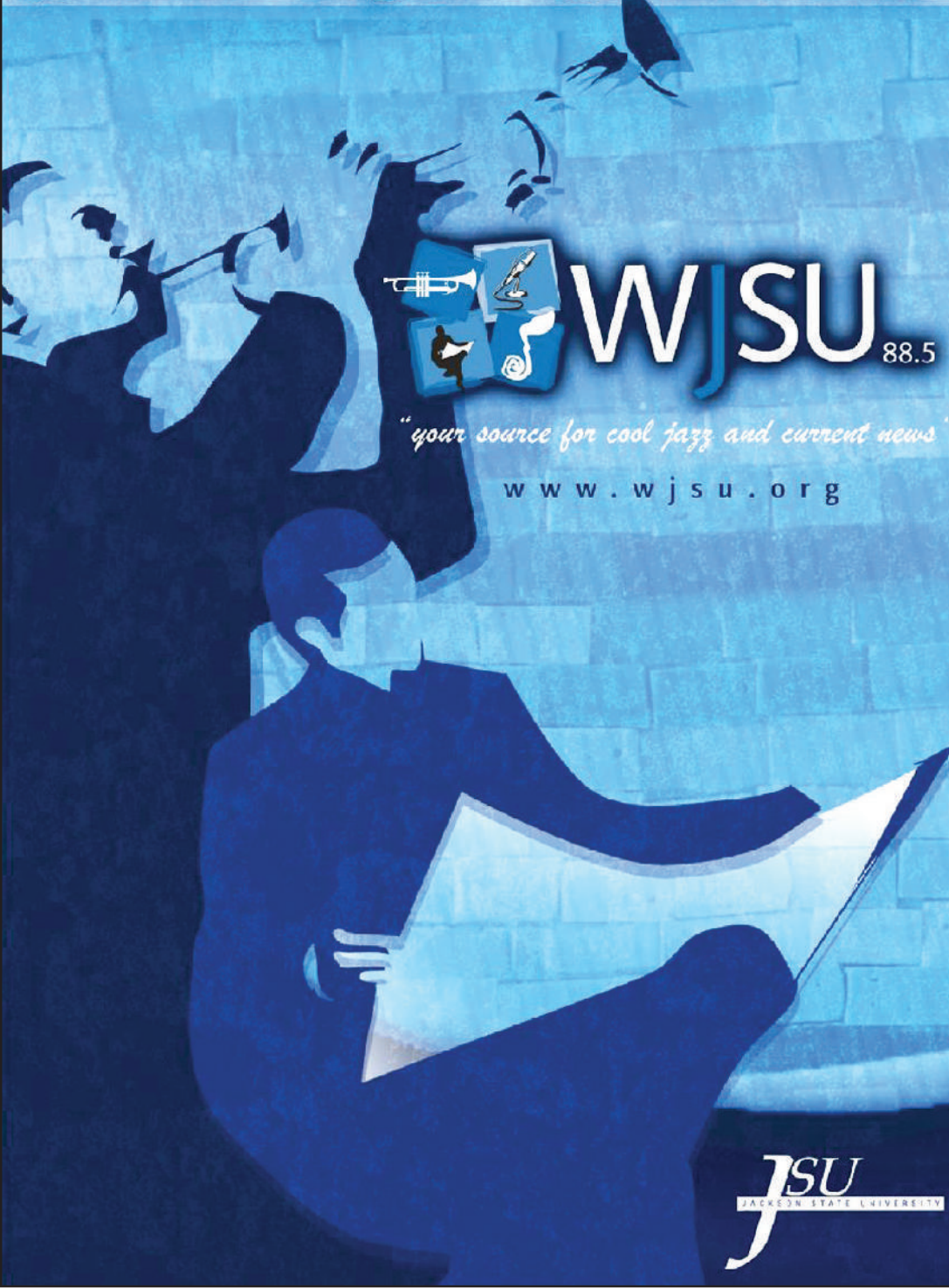
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JSU men’s team loses fourth consecutive game

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

It’s been a tough few weeks for JSU Men’s basketball. Going from 4-1 in the SWAC to now 4-5. Despite the losses, JSU is hovering around 8th place in the SWAC. Out of the 12 schools, they’re in the bottom section, but still only 3 games out of first place.

Here’s how everything looks right now. Southern and Grambling are tied for first place with a 7-2 record. Alabama State and Texas Southern are tied for second place with a 6-3 record. Arkansas Pine Bluff and Bethune Cookman are tied for third place with a 5-4 record.

In a four-way tie for fourth place are, Prairie View, Alabama A&M, Alcorn and Jackson State. A lot of congestion in these standings, the next couple of weeks will be crucial for teams separating themselves for seeding in the SWAC tournament.

Monday night at the Lee E Williams Athletics and Assembly Center, JSU hosted Southern. Southern jumped out to a 15 point halftime lead with the score 37 to 22.

For Southern, Brandon Davis led the scoring with 16 points. Derrick Tezeno added 15, while Antione Jacks also contributed nine points.

JSU’s Ken Evans had 16 points and two steals to lead, with two players scoring double figures. Keiveon Hunt added 11 points and three steals off the bench, and Jordan O’Neal added seven points, two steals and three blocks for Jackson State.

Jackson State outscored Southern 41 to 35 in the second half, but that wasn’t enough to take control and win the game. Southern won 72 to 63.



Coach Mo Williams looking to turn around losing streak.

Some positives for JSU was the fact that their bench scored 23 points and their defense forced 22 turnovers; both season highs. If Jackson State can figure out how to come out with a little more intensity and sense of urgency in the first half of games, they can flip this losing streak around pretty quickly.

JSU travels to Itta Bena this Saturday to play Mississippi Valley State. Valley currently sits 0-9 in the SWAC and on a overall 22 game losing streak this season. It looks to be a good time for JSU to break its losing streak, but you can never take a team desperate for a win lightly. Tip off is at 6 p.m.



JSU Tiger Ken Evans led with 16 points. PHOTOS BY TIM WARD

Lady Tigers improve to 9-0 in the SWAC

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

Sitting atop the SWAC means teams will throw their best punches at you. Monday night was an example of that for the Lady Tigers. Down by 10 points with around 5 minutes left in the game, JSU rallied to win the game, 63 to 58. The Lady Tigers outscored the Southern Jaguars 10-7 to end the first quarter to take a three point lead after the first ten minutes of the contest.

The Jaguars outscored the Lady Tigers 25-7 in the second quarter to give the Jags a 15-point lead to end the first half, 32-17.

Ti’lan Boler led JSU with 20 points and six rebounds in the win. The Tigers had two other players score in double figures. Keshuna Luckett added 16 points, five assists and two steals and Miya Crump contributed with 13 points, seven rebounds, four assists and four steals.

Southern was led by Genovea Johnson who finished the day with 11 points, two steals and seven rebounds. Taylor Williams chipped in ten points, three rebounds and four steals. Aniya Gourdine added nine points and Raven White finished the night with eight points for the Lady Jags.

Going into the fourth quarter, Southern was leading 50 to 34. Tiger fans in attendance were starting to get a little nervous. The Lady Tigers buckled down defensively causing Southern to commit 6 turnovers. JSU converted those turnovers into 10 points.



JSU Lady Tigers coach Tomekia Reed. Tigers rally from 15 points down to win over Southern Jaguars. PHOTOS BY TIM WARD

As the Ladies battle back, the crowd gets into the game. Chants of defense reign through the building. JSU goes on a 9-0 run to cut the lead to 55-54 with 3 minutes left. JSU seals the lead for good with 1:17 left on a jump-shot by Miya Crump.

Southern couldn’t recover

as their two game win streak is snapped. Good, tough, win for JSU.

Next up, the Lady Tigers travel to Itta Bena to battle Mississippi Valley State. Valley is currently 1-8 in the SWAC and 2-20 overall.

Tip off is for 4 p.m.



New Hope Baptist Church
Dr. Jerry Young, Pastor
1555 Beasley Road, Jackson, MS 39206



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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The district’s Kindergarten and 1st Grade teachers from Gary Road Elementary, Utica Elementary, Raymond Elementary, and Bolton-Edwards Elementary School participated in writing sessions where the goals were to...

- Analyze the MS-CCRS standards from Kindergarten to 3rd grade
- Utilize the MDE scaffolding document to understand the expectations of the standard
- Utilize curriculum provided resources and plan writing lessons
- Discuss writing strategies such as shared writing, interactive writing, small group/partner writing, and independent writing
- Discuss graphic organizers and activities to enhance writing instruction

These awesome educators are getting ready for their students to finish the school year strong!

