

Pioneers of Progress: celebrating five figures in Black History from Mississippi



By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D.
Editor

Mississippi, a state with a deep and complex history, has been home to many influential African-American leaders who have made significant contributions to civil rights, politics, education and the arts. Among these remarkable in-

dividuals, five stand out for their enduring impact and the trails they blazed for future generations. This article shines a spotlight on their achievements, starting with Robert Walker, the first black mayor of Vicksburg, and exploring the lives and legacies of four other notable figures.

Robert Walker: A Trailblazer in Politics

The election of Robert Walker as the first Black mayor of Vicksburg in 1988 represented a significant turning point in the political history of Mississippi.

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Bridging the gap

Secretary Becerra and Congressman Thompson’s collaborative efforts to enhance rural health held at Tougaloo College



Health & Human Service Secretary Xavier Becerra at Tougaloo College



Congressman Bennie Thompson (2nd District) PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D.
Editor

In a significant move to demonstrate the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to improving the health and well-being of rural communities, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra visited Tougaloo College in Mississippi, Monday, February 26, 2024. This visit was a part of the Investing in America Tour, aimed at showcasing the impact of President

Joe Biden’s policies on communities throughout the nation, especially those historically marginalized or overlooked, such as rural areas.

During his visit, Secretary Becerra, along with Congressman Bennie Thompson (MS-02), participated in a roundtable discussion with healthcare providers and patients. This conversation focused on the unique healthcare challenges faced by rural communities in Mississippi, highlighting

the administration’s proactive measures towards healthcare improvement. The event, which was open to the media, underscored the administration’s dedication to transparency and open dialogue.

The visit highlighted several key HHS initiatives aimed at enhancing healthcare access and reducing costs for rural populations. Notably, through the Inflation Reduction Act, an estimated 73,000 Mississippians are expected to save an

average of \$364 annually on prescription drugs starting in 2025.

Additionally, in Fiscal Year 2023, the HHS, via the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), allocated approximately \$173 million towards rural health improvement. This funding supported a variety of projects, including a \$90 mil-

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Farish Street Baptist Church celebrates “African Americans and the Arts”



Gail Gettis with her art PHOTOS BY CARMEN CASTILLA

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Farish Street Baptist Church, pastored by Reverend Hickman M. Johnson, held its final 2024 celebration of Black History Month Sunday, February 25.

The theme for the celebration, “African Americans and the Arts,” featured guest soloist Katie Graham of Atlanta, Georgia, and two Mississippi artists who are natives of Jackson.

Graham sang selections in tribute of BHM with the power of the late and great American gospel singer Mahalia Jackson.

The featured artists, Gail Gettis and Johnnie Mae Mayberry, Ph.D., are both retired art educators and seasoned

visual artists.

The program coordinator, Alberta Smith, introduced and provided a brief biographical overview of the visual artists. Both Gettis and Mayberry spoke about their people and experiences that provided inspiration for their artistic endeavors, past and present. Samples of their artwork were displayed in the church sanctuary.

A reception followed in the fellowship hall, where other works were available for viewing and purchase, including Dr. Mayberry’s recently published book, God Said, “It is Good!” The book has a spiritual message from biblical passages, Genesis 1: 1-27, adorned with her own illustrations.



Johnnie Mae Mayberry, Ph.D. displaying one of her art pieces



Alberta Smith, program coordinator and Gail Gettis, artist

Rewriting history is a morally perilous pursuit

White Christian conservative nationalists are trying hard, yet truths of America won’t change

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

The most recent wave of culture wars is disturbing. They force us to reflect on what America has been, what it is, and what it is moving toward. How often have we heard utterings about America being an idea? An idea, so says the Declaration of Independence, that we are all created equal. While progress has surely been made toward realizing that idea, that progress has always had to be fought for, and many times, died for.

The playing fields of education, employment, advancement, housing, economics and governance have never been equal. Sadly, even that truth doesn’t sway white conservative nationalists, the vast majority who are Christian, from zealously endeavoring to keep us unequal. Their goal is undefeatable



Camp Claiborne entry near Forest Hill, LA PHOTO BY CHRIS YOUNG

COMMENTARY

superiority in what they view as their country.

There is an underbelly in America that does, on its good days,

seem to believe in fairness and equality. On the rest of the days though, no anti-equity mechanism is exempt from their targeting, because the belief that America belongs to them trumps any pro-

gressive thinking. That becomes then, their superseding value. They believe America is a Christian nation, which really says to h-e-double hockey sticks with religious freedom. Extremism, once at the fringes of our society, has a gathering wind in its sails, solidly conservatives and a numbing number of Christian evangelicals are in its folds.

Remember when wearing a W.W.J.D. (What Would Jesus Do?) bracelet was all the rage? A moral imperative to behave with the love of Jesus is now being abandoned, and the captains of this ship are white Christian conservatives. We know what Jesus says.

The list of their actions; behaviors first borne in thinking and beliefs, is exhaustive; both shock-

Claiborne Continued on page 3



‘Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories’ – BHM exhibit still on display at the Fannie Lou Hamer Library

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Fannie Lou Hamer Library is inviting the public to view its Black History Month Exhibit display which has been on display in February and will continue throughout the month of March.

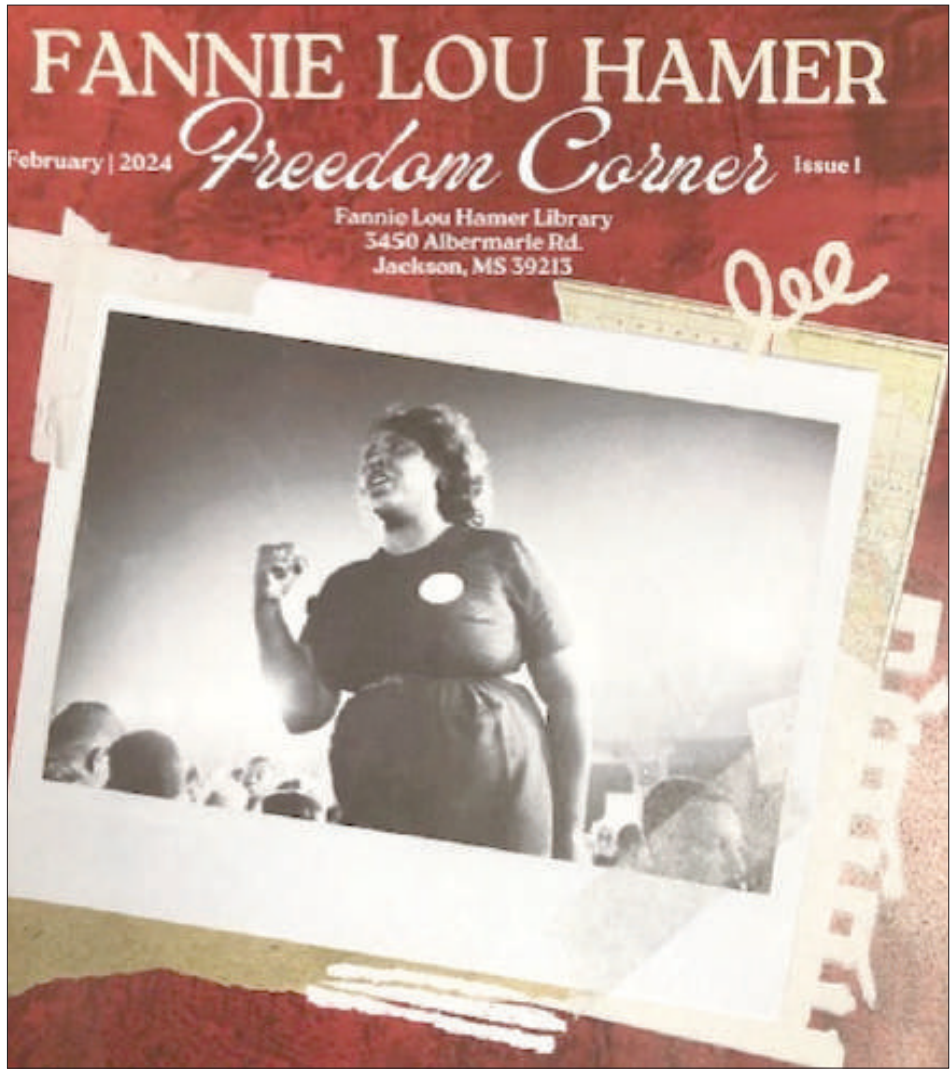
Branch Manager Rosemary Luckett stated, “This is the first year for the Fannie Lou Hamer’s Freedom Corner exhibit, the theme being, “Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories.”

The display is sponsored by the Social Action and Educational Development Committee Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and can be viewed from Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. inside the library in the Golden Key Senior Center, located at 3450 Albermarle Road, Jackson, MS.

Luckett said that this Black History project mainly targets children PK to 12th grade. Nevertheless, it is a great educational opportunity for everyone.

Throughout the month of February, patrons have been able to test their knowledge of the trailblazing women on exhibit, while at the same time given an opportunity to enter and win a \$25 gift card by scanning a QR Code and answering questionnaires provided each week.

“We must continue to celebrate, educate, enlighten and elevate our community regarding Black History. We will celebrate National Women’s History Month in March by providing even more incredible women’s stories,” Luckett said.



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Secretary Becerra and Congressman Thompson meeting with health professionals. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

Becerra highlighted the necessity of federal

Despite opposition from certain political figures, such as Governor Tate Reeves who has expressed resistance to expanding government-run healthcare, the Biden-Harris Administration remains focused on its goal to improve health outcomes for rural Americans. This visit to Mississippi not only reaffirmed the administration's strong commitment to health equity but also facilitated crucial conversations and laid the groundwork for future actions to meet the healthcare needs of rural communities, ensuring no American is left behind in the pursuit of a healthier nation.

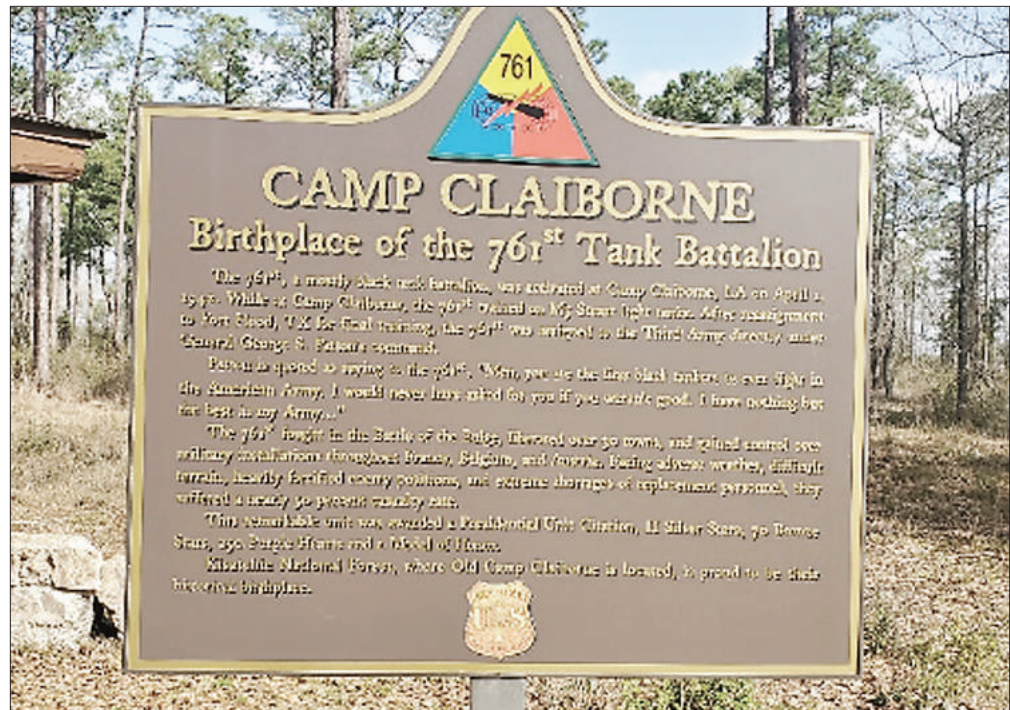
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Medgar Evers: A Martyr for Justice

As the first field secretary of the NAACP in Mississippi, Medgar Evers dedicated his life to dismantling Jim Crow laws and promoting civil rights. His assassination in 1963 by a white supremacist shocked the nation and

These five figures from Mississippi embody the resilience, courage and determination that have driven the struggle for equality and justice in America. Their contributions extend far beyond the borders of their state, leaving a lasting impact on the nation's history and continuing to inspire future generations to pursue a more equitable and just society.

Continued from page 1



Historical marker for 761st Tank Battalion placed in 2023

PHOTO BY CHRIS YOUNG

There are endless examples of truths. They are simply not subject to being rewritten. Just one is highlighted here for three reasons: because the fullest recognition was so long in coming, because it was action supporting America con-

Do you wonder if any of the white Christian conservative nationalists, with their white supremacy agenda, which is obviously anti-Christian, know and appreciate that it was African Americans who were out front in defeating the Axis Powers in Europe in World War II? Truth is not negotiable in the eyes of Him that presides over us. These white Christian architects of disinformation, who are tearing America apart, should meditate on the words of Mother Teresa, “God does not require that we be successful only that we be faithful.”



Jack & Jill Day at the State Capitol

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Chapters of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated gathered at the Mississippi State Capitol for its annual Jack and Jill Day.

Chapters, which consist of the Jackson MS Chapter, Mississippi Gulf Coast Chapter and the North MS Chapter, were joined by the organization's Southeastern Regional Legislative Chair, Dee Dawkins-Haigler of Atlanta, Georgia.

Launched in 2010, Jack and Jill Day at the State Capitol is an initiative of the national organization to continue to let their voices be heard on behalf of children through an active legislative advocacy agenda.

This year's Day at the Mississippi Capitol focused on the areas of the C.R.O.W.N. Act (Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair), Gun Control, Voting Rights and Mental Health.

The day began with a luncheon where the chapters heard from Representative Justis Gibbs who is one of the newest members of the Mississippi House of Representatives and an alumnus of Jack and Jill.

The chapters also addressed their legislative issues with a legislative panel consisting of Representatives Zakiya Summers, Otis Anthony, Chris Bell and Robert Johnson and Senators John Horhn and Rod Hickman.

Children and parents used the day as an opportunity to write letters to their legislators further addressing the issues of legislative advocacy.

The day concluded with a tour of the Capitol and a visit to the House Gallery.



Jack and Jill members at the Mississippi State Capitol

PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY



Jack and Jill of America



Jack and Jill of America



Jack and Jill of America

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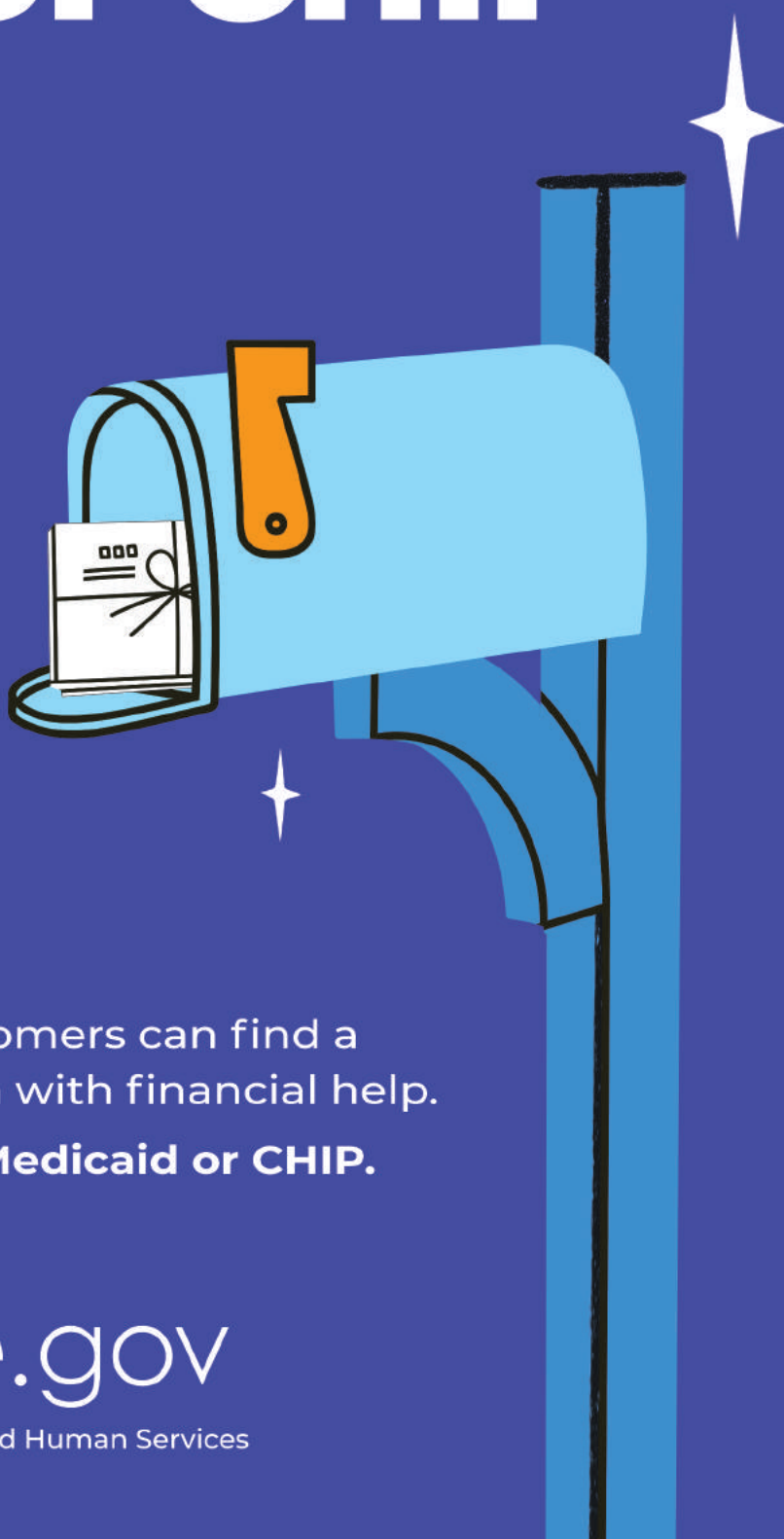
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Sam Bailey Scholarship Banquet held at College Hill Church

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

"Honoring the Legacy: In Pursuit of Excellence" was the theme of the annual Samuel L. Bailey Scholarship Banquet held at College Hill M.B. Church Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024. The pastor is Rev. Chauncy L. Jordan, Sr.

This yearly event honors the late Samuel L. Bailey, a civil rights advocate who worked for racial equality in Mississippi. LaTasha Clark presided over the event.

The guest speaker for the occasion was Dr. Aisha Nyandoro, founding CEO of Springboard to Opportunities, a non-profit based in Jackson, MS that has pioneered a "radically resident-driven" approach to ending generational poverty. She was introduced by Deaconess Debra



Tobias Barnes and Kateena Smith
PHOTOS BY CAROLYN SMITH

McGee, chair of the Sam Bailey Scholarship committee.

Dr. Nyandoro spoke first of her background. She came from a long list of activists. Her family, as they sat down for dinner



Aisha Nyandoro, Ph.D., Keynote Speaker

always discussed ongoing issues and ways to solve those issues. She spoke of how, after speaking directly to local residents that were a part of her affordable housing project, The Magnolia

Mother's trust was formed.

Her focus was about changing the script about poverty and power.

Her work extended outside of Mississippi also. She told of her fight for such policies as expanded Child Care and for federal income for single mothers. She encouraged the attendees to become active in the fight for equality, to strive to make a difference, to promote self-worthiness. She stated it not necessary big things we should tackle, that even the smallest changes can make a big difference.

The highlight of the evening was the awarding of the Samuel L. Bailey Scholarship and the Dr. Shirley Bailey Johnson Book Stipend, which was named after the daughter of Sam Bailey, (now deceased who like her father was

a civil rights activist. The scholarships were presented to the recipients by Jennifer Steele-Wilson, a member of the scholarship committee.

The winner of the Sam Bailey Scholarship in the amount of \$2000.00 was presented to Tobias Barnes, an active member of College Hill. Barnes wrote in a required essay for the scholarship entitled "Ordinary Man", "The first thing an "ordinary" person can do to positively affect society is to not hold yourself to historical/generational standards."

The winner of the Shirley Bailey Johnson book stipend in the amount of \$1,000.00 was awarded to Kateena Smith, also an active member of College Hill.

Acknowledgements and congratulations were extended to

the awardees from Malena W. Dow, a member of the committee as well as Pastor Jordan who included in his remarks appreciation to the committee, the attendees, the hostess committee and the speaker.

Pastor Jordan, from the pulpit Sunday morning continued acknowledgments and appreciation for the Saturday night event. He asked the planning committee and the hostess committee to stand and be recognized for the elaborate event. The congregation, most of whom wore African attire this last Sunday of BHM 2024 applauded those being recognized. Pastor Jordan, in speaking of the Saturday night speaker, whom he referred to as a trailblazer said, "Before you die and go to heaven, you need to hear Dr. Aisha Nyandoro speak."

PHOTOS BY JIMMY COLEMAN



Collis Hill Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A. Honors Dr. Robert Smith - Civil Rights Trailblazer

Sunday, February 25, 2024 • Church Fellowship Hall • 1653 Moncure Marble Rd., Terry, MS • (Elder Kevin Ware, Pastor)

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





Contaminated water throughout Mississippi

State wants to takeover Jackson’s water system yet not speaking about statewide water contamination

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

The report by Consumer Reports titled Mississippi Tap Water Testing by Location was published in August 2023. Mississippi Today partnered with some others to get the word out immediately, yet it’s been six months, and do we hear any talk about this report by our elected officials or the Heath Department?

Testing was performed in all 82 counties for arsenic, lead and PFAS (Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances).

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1940s. They have been used to make nonstick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, some firefighting foams and products that resist grease, water and oil.

“During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water and air. Most PFAS (including PFOA and PFOS) do not break down, so they remain in the environment. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment,

County	Location	Arsenic (in ppb)	Lead (in ppb)	PFAS (in ppt)
Alcorn	Corinth	.432	.032	92.5
Carroll	Vaiden	.021	.065	51.6
Lamar	Hattiesburg	.045	.245	47.43
Harrison	Gulfport	.106	.287	45.7
Forrest	Hattiesburg	.044	2.63	43.6

Excerpt from the 82-county report, the five counties where testing reveals highest PFAS levels: (ppb = parts per billion, ppt = parts per trillion)

PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals all over the world and are present at low levels in a variety of food products and in the environment. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.”

Consumer Reports shares that “the most closely studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS). Rather than ban all PFAS, the Environmental Protection Agency initially put health advisories on those two chemicals at 70 parts per trillion in drinking water, which have since been updated to well under one ppt for PFOA and for PFOS. EPA’s newly proposed regulation would limit them to four ppt each. A 2020 study suggests up to 200 million Americans are drinking these forever chemicals beyond one part per trillion – a level that some experts

have proposed as a safe limit for drinking water.”

If the EPA sets a limit at four ppt, then based on the Mississippi test results, a majority of the state will not have safe tap water.

The Environmental Working Group also lists PFAS Contamination Sites at Columbus Air Force Base in Lowndes County, Camp McCain in Grenada County, Naval Air Station Meridian in Lauderdale/Kemper Counties, Key Field Air National Guard Base in Meridian, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport in Rankin County, Camp Shelby in Forrest County, Gulfport Naval Construction Battalion Training Center, Gulfport Regional Airport and Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi – all sites where firefighting foam is stored, trained with and used in the event of actual fire.

“Between 2005 and 2013, a

science panel assessed links between exposure to PFOA and a number of diseases, and found probable links between exposure and thyroid disease, higher cholesterol levels, kidney and testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis and pregnancy-induced hypertension. Other research on various PFAS has found links to liver damage and kidney disease,” per Consumer Reports.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality mentions “the EPA’s PFAS roadmap outlines the federal process forward to regulating PFAS, and MDEQ will continue to prepare for any actions that may be warranted once federal regulations on PFAS are finalized,” per <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/water/groundwater-assessment-and-remediation/pfas-information>.

The Biden Administration has taken numerous steps in the last three years to address this issue,

and “in February 2024, EPA released two proposed regulations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to protect communities from PFAS and other emerging chemicals of concern. These rules would add nine PFAS to the list of RCRA hazardous constituents and would assure that EPA’s regulations clearly reflect EPA’s and authorized states’ authority to require cleanup of the full range of substances that RCRA intended,” per EPA website.

Mississippi does not require testing of water systems for PFAS. Of course, this must change, yet that did not stop Attorney General Lynn Fitch from filing suit, as many other states did, against industrial giants 3M, DuPont, Chemours and others, per the New York School of Law, State Energy and Environmental Impact Center in 2020. Numerous sources report that 3M and others have already paid out tens of billions of dollars that will go toward cleaning water systems.

Somehow it just doesn’t add up that more folks are not talking about this hazard to the general health and welfare of our state. In the last two days I’ve spoken to a long-term state senator,

a relatively new state representative, a Jackson City council member, a Hinds County supervisor and several others who are quite involved in community affairs – not one knows anything about this issue.

Meanwhile, as this statewide issue seems to be residing in relative silence, the second state takeover attempt of Jackson’s Water System is taking place. Senate Bill 2628 – “Mississippi Capitol Region Utility Act” – is in committee. During the last legislative session it died on the calendar, and this year’s iteration, by the same author, Senator David Parker (R-02), calls for the outright purchase of the entire system from Jackson. Ted Henifin, the third-party administrator of Jackson’s water and sewer operations is in favor of the legislation, per *Clarion-Ledger* on February 23, 2024.

Telling these people that Jackson is not for sale means nothing to them. Henifin did not respond to *The Mississippi Link* newspaper’s PFAS inquiry.

Interestingly, Consumer Reports indicated that the highest PFAS level in Hinds County are in Jackson – 19.26 – concerning, yet well below the highest contamination levels in the state.

Mississippi takes a step towards Medicaid expansion with House Bill 1725

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D.
Editor

In a landmark move for health care in Mississippi, House Speaker Jason White has introduced House Bill 1725, aimed at expanding Medicaid in the state. This pivotal legislation is slated for discussion in the House Medicaid Committee this week, marking a significant moment in the state’s legislative history.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) Action Fund, a staunch advocate for Medicaid expansion in Mississippi, has been at the forefront of this cause for over a decade.

Sonya Williams Barnes, SPLC Mississippi Policy director, expressed enthusiasm about the legislative progress. “After years of tireless advocacy, it’s heartening to see Medicaid expansion taking center stage in

our legislative discourse. We commend Speaker White and Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann for their leadership on this issue,” Barnes stated. The SPLC Action Fund’s polling indicates a strong public support for Medicaid expansion, with over 61 percent of Mississippians in favor.

The need for Medicaid expansion in Mississippi is urgent. The state grapples with

one of the most precarious healthcare systems in the nation, characterized by a scarcity of active physicians and the highest poverty rate in the U.S. The absence of Medicaid expansion has led to hospital closures, mirroring the adverse health outcomes and financial struggles seen in other states resisting expansion.

Additionally, the recent loss of Medicaid coverage for

22,000 Mississippians in 2023 highlights the critical need for legislative action to safeguard health protections for the state’s most vulnerable populations.

The SPLC Action Fund urges the legislature to consider the benefits of Medicaid expansion without imposing work requirements, which could further complicate access to essential health care for work-

ing Mississippians.

As House Bill 1725 moves through the legislative process, there is renewed hope for the hundreds of thousands of Mississippians who stand to benefit from expanded health care coverage. This legislation represents a pivotal step towards strengthening Mississippi’s health care system and improving the health outcomes for its residents.

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Eating for good health

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

People ask me all the time what kinds of foods they should eat and should they take supplements like vitamins daily. What I tell them is that most people, though there are exceptions, do not need a whole list of supplements if they eat right on a regular basis. Supplements are not substitutes for a healthy diet.

Eating a balanced diet protects you against many diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Eating a variety of foods and consuming less salt and saturated and trans-fats, are essential for healthy diet.

There are circumstances when the use of supplements may be indicated such as pregnancy, menstruation, illness, food allergies, use of medication, prolonged periods of stress or nutritional deficiencies.

For the average person a good diet will provide most of what your body needs in the way of nutrients.

For some people, a total change in diet may be necessary to get in most of the nutrients they need to be healthy. With others, it's a matter of adding a few foods to the diet. But, for most people trying to balance a diet means adding some foods to their diet while giving up others. Depending on how motivated and disciplined a person is these changes may have to take place over a long period of time rather than all at once to insure they become lasting habits.

If you look up diet in the dictionary you will find a defini-



tion, which states; "diet (b) habitual course of feeding." This habit of eating nutritious food should be your goal.

Here is some useful information, based on WHO recommendations, to follow a healthy diet, and the benefits of doing so.

Breastfeed babies and young children

A healthy diet starts early in life – breastfeeding fosters healthy growth, and may have longer-term health benefits, like reducing the risk of becoming overweight or obese and developing diseases later in life.

Feeding babies exclusively with breast milk from birth to six months of life is important for a healthy diet. It is also important to introduce a variety of safe and nutritious complementary foods at six months of age, while continuing to breastfeed

until your child is two years old and beyond.

Eat plenty of vegetables and fruit

They are important sources of vitamins, minerals, dietary fiber, plant protein and antioxidants. People with diets rich in vegetables and fruit have a significantly lower risk of obesity, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and certain types of cancer.

Eat less fat

Fats and oils and concentrated sources of energy. Eating too much, particularly the wrong kinds of fat, like saturated and trans-fat, can increase the risk of heart disease and stroke.

Using unsaturated vegetable oils (olive, soy, sunflower or corn oil) rather than animal fats or oils high in saturated fats (butter, ghee, lard, coconut and palm oil) will help consume healthier fats.

To avoid unhealthy weight gain, consumption of total fat should not exceed 30% of a person's overall energy intake.

Reduce salt intake

Keeping your salt intake to less than 5h per day helps prevent hypertension and reduces the risk of heart disease and stroke in the adult population.

Limiting the amount of salt and high-sodium condiments (soy sauce and fish sauce) when cooking and preparing foods helps reduce salt intake.

How does a person achieve goals? First, write down your goals on paper. It's a good idea to keep a journal or food diary. Then write down the steps you must take to reach your goals. The next thing you have to do is follow the action steps you've listed to help you reach your goal.

For someone who has been

eating poorly for a long time these goals may take several months and a lot of patience to achieve. But, if you're serious and do it one meal at a time, you will see changes in what your body craves. You'll also learn to like those foods you've neglected in the past. Trust me, I see it happen all the time, even with kids.

The body needs carbohydrates, fats, protein, vitamins, minerals, fiber and water to be healthy. Without proper nutrition and exercise, optimal health cannot be attained. Carbohydrates, fats and protein supply energy (calories) necessary for work and normal body functions. Vitamins, minerals, fiber and water do not have caloric value but are still necessary for normal body functions.

Carbohydrates provide energy for work. There are a few types of carbohydrates. Carbohydrates such as candy, soda pop, cakes and corn chips can rob the body of nutrients. They are commonly referred to as empty calories. Other carbohydrates such as air popped popcorn, whole grain breads, cereal, pasta, fruits and vegetables provide many valuable nutrients. Many are an excellent sources of fiber. You should choose complex nutritious carbohydrates.

Fats or lipids also provide energy. Fats help insulate body heat, provide shock absorption, supply essential fatty acids and transport the fat soluble vitamins A, D, E and K. Dairy products such as milk and cheese

are basic sources of fat. So are meats and nuts. The low fat varieties are the best choices when adding these foods to your diet. Saturated fats and hydrogenated fats should be avoided. These fats are solid at room temperature. Monosaturated fats are preferred over polyunsaturated fats. Monosaturated fats are found in olive oil and canola oil.

Proteins are the main substances used to build and repair tissues such as muscles, blood, internal organs, skin, hair, nails and bones. They are part of hormones, enzymes and antibodies. Protein helps maintain normal body fluid balance. Protein may also be used as an energy source but only if there are not enough carbohydrates and fats available. This usually happens when the body is being starved. Primary sources of protein are meats, dairy products such as low fat milk and cheese, nuts, beans, soy products, some breads and cereals.

The average American consumes 40% fat 30% carbohydrates and 30% proteins daily. The average diet should consist of 15% fat, 20% protein and 65% complex carbohydrates. Saturated fats should make up less than 10% of your total fat intake.

Eighty percent of premature heart disease and stroke can be prevented through your life choices and habits, such as eating a healthy diet and being physically active.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

Maternal child health coalition hosts virtual training session



The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health's Maternal & Child Health Coalition presents

An Examination of Maternal Mortality in Mississippi

March 14, 2024 at 11:00 am

Guest Speaker
Teresa Tran
MIS State Dept. of Health



zoom
Meeting ID: 857 8878 7548
Passcode: 867913

For more information, contact Tolendine Barnes at tbarnes@advancingminorityhealth.org or at 769-572-5263.

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority's Health's Maternal and Child Health Coalition invites the public to attend an upcoming virtual training session to discuss critical issues surrounding maternal health in the State of Mississippi.

The session, An Examination of Maternal Mortality in Mississippi, will be held at 11 a.m. March 14, 2024, via Zoom.

Participants can join using the information below:

Zoom Meeting ID: 85788787548
Passcode: 867913

The session presenter is Teresa Tran with the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Tran will provide valuable insights into the factors contributing to maternal mortality in Mississippi and discuss potential strategies to address this pressing issue.

What foot and ankle issues warrant a doctor's visit

StatePoint

Most people have a foot or ankle problem at one time or another. So how do you know when to seek help?

Many symptoms – even those you can tolerate – require the professional attention of a foot and ankle surgeon to keep the underlying condition from worsening. According to Danielle Butto, DPM, FACFAS, a board-certified foot and ankle surgeon and a Fellow Member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS), "It's important to remember that foot health is an important part of your overall health. You need to take care of your feet, which includes going to the doctor when you have pain, sustain an injury or develop a condition needing professional evaluation and treatment."

Here are five examples of when you should make an appointment with your foot and ankle surgeon.

1. When you have diabetes: Living with diabetes means being more prone to a variety of conditions that affect the feet, including foot sores and ulcers. At the same time, diabetic nerve damage makes it harder to detect when there's a problem. Regular visits to a foot and ankle surgeon should be part of your holistic diabetes treatment plan. The doctor can screen for the loss of protective sensations in the feet, as well as diagnose and treat any structural issues leading to ulcers and wounds. Swelling, temperature and color changes in the feet, and calluses, are all telltale signs an ulcer may be around the corner and warrant a trip to a foot and ankle surgeon.

2. When children experience pain: When it comes to pediatric foot problems, early intervention is key to long-term successful treatment. As a parent, you may find distinguishing between growing pains and injuries or deformities difficult. But foot and ankle surgeons stress that pain isn't normal and if it lasts more than a few days or is severe enough to limit your child's walking, it should be evaluated. Foot problems commonly experienced by children include flat feet, ingrown toenails, calcaneal apophysitis and plantar warts.

3. When you're at risk for falling: Falls have become the leading cause of injury deaths among Americans 65 and older, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While the reasons falls occur are numerous, painful foot conditions are a contributing factor, as they make it difficult to maintain balance and coordination.



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) NATALIE_BOARD / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

Fortunately, many such conditions are treatable. See a foot and ankle surgeon to alleviate pain and reduce your risk of a life-changing fall.

4. When you can benefit from medical advances: A loss of cartilage once meant a loss of functionality. Today, joint reconstruction surgery with cartilage regeneration offers real hope for long-term functionality, nurturing the body's own ability to heal itself—with a little boost from technology and a knowledgeable surgeon. Likewise, new surgical techniques for ankle arthritis, including arthroscopic ankle surgery, total ankle joint replacements and bone or cartilage replacement, are helping people stay active. Finally, platelet-rich plasma therapy can promote the healing of bones, cartilage, blood vessels, tendons and tissue for many patients, and is associated with easier recovery than traditional treatments. If you suffer from a foot and ankle ailment, ask your healthcare provider about game-changing medical advances.

5. When pain is sidelining you: It's important for athletes and fitness enthusiasts to rest and recover rather than push through foot and ankle pain caused by an overuse injury. If the pain doesn't improve in three to seven days however, it's time to see a foot and ankle surgeon for evaluation and treatment.

With the highest level of education, training and board certification, foot and ankle surgeons are the leaders in surgical and non-surgical foot and ankle care.

For more information, or to find a foot and ankle surgeon near you, visit FootHealthFacts.org, the patient education website of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024 AT 11:00AM IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

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

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

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

New Business
A. CASE NO. HPNC-24-2
LOCATION: 912 GILLESPIE ST (PARCEL 15-8)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: KENNETH PITTS
REQUEST: TO REPLACE LUDOWICI ROOFING TILES WITH GAF TIMBERLINE HD ARCHITECTURAL SHINGLES.

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

ADJOURNMENT

2/22/2024, 2/29/2024

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE FOR RESORT AREA

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. 67-1-72 notice is hereby given that application is being made for the following described area to be recognized as a "Qualified resort area" is being filed for an area located in Jackson, Mississippi, known as Cathead Distillery, more particularly described as follow, to wit

BEG INT N/L SOUTH ST & E/L FARISH ST N 60.15 FT TO POB N 472.45 FT SE/LY APP 451 FT S 89.7 FT NW/LY 58.22 FT SW/LY 6 FT NW/LY 39.53 FT SW/LY 68.27 FT NW/LY 78.5 FT NW/LY APP 28 FT SW/LY 8.4 FT SE/LY 35 FT S 242.2 FT W APP 42 FT N 79.15 FT W/LY 123 FT TO POB ALL LOTS 1 2 3 4 PT LOTS 5 7 8 9 & 23 CAPITOL FERT & MFG CO SUBN LESS TO CITY FOR ST LESS TO INDIV
BEG N/S SO ST 338.8 FT E OF FARISH ST N/LY 364.3 FT TO R R E/LY 265.4 FT S/LY 148.2 FT W/LY 110 FT S/LY 188.5 FT W/LY ON N/S SO ST 150.7 FT TO PT BEG ALL LOTS 15 16 & 17 & PART LOTS 14 18 22 & 23 CAPT FERTILIZER MFG CO SUB LESS 10 FT S/S TO ST
BEG 149.5 E & 228.06 FT N INT E/L FARISH ST & N/L SOUTH ST N 12 FT WLY 35 FT N 7 FT SELY 107.94 FT NLY 68.27 FT SELY 37 FT N 10 FT SELY 57 FT S 80.06 FT WLY 194.31 FT TO POB PT LOT 23 CAPITOL FERTILIZER & MFG CO SUBN

As required by Miss. Code Ann. 67-1-72, the content of the application shall include: (1). A map of the above described area clearly marked to indicate the specific area under consideration; (2). Reasons why parcel 79-29 should be classified as a Resort Area, to include the fact that Jackson, Mississippi, is an area that attracts tourists and vacationers because of its historical and scenic attractions and facilities and that Cathead Distillery regularly attracts people sampling its smooth vodka, burbon and touring their rustic facility, (3). Assurance from the Chief of Police, Jackson, Mississippi, and or the Sheriff, Hinds County, Mississippi, that said law enforcement agencies will enforce the Local Option Alcoholic Beverage Control Division in the Farish Street Entertainment District; (4). Endorsements from three(3) civic clubs in the area under consideration, (5). A certified copy of the Order as entered on the minutes of the Jackson, Mississippi City Council, regarding said Resort Area Classification for parcel 79-29, (6). Proof of Publication of legal notice and all public opinion responses.

Approval of the described area as a resort area will permit the operation of open bars in the area. Expressions of Opinion are requested of residents in the area. Any person wishing to request a hearing before the Board of Tax Appeals on the resort status of the area described herein must request a hearing in writing and it must be received by the Department of Revenue within (15) fifteen days from the first date this notice was published. Requests shall be sent to Chief Counsel, Legal Division, Department of Revenue, P. O. Box 22828, Jackson, MS 39225. Notice is hereby given that approval in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi and that decision on the application rest not with the City of Jackson, Mississippi, but with the State of Mississippi pursuant to the laws of the State of Mississippi.

Applicant: Cathead Distillery
422 South Farish Street
Jackson, MS 39202

THIS, the 22nd day of February 2024

Chloe Dotson, BUPD. MURP, Director of Planning and Development

2/22/2024, 2/29/2024

LEGAL

Advertisement
CITY OF JACKSON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
FOR MOSQUITO ABATEMENT SERVICES

The City of Jackson (City) is requesting proposals from qualified Service Providers to provide mosquito abatement services.

It is the City's intent to evaluate the proposals based on technical merit, experience, and price and to choose the Service Provider whose proposal provides the best value to the City. The City reserves the right to waive any irregularities, reject any and/or all proposals, in whole or in part, when, in the City's opinion, such rejection is in the best interests of the City.

Specifications are available for inspection at the Office of the Municipal Clerk, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Specifications and are available for download through Central Bidding online at www.centralbidding.com and at the City of Jackson website, www.jacksonms.gov/bid-opportunities/.

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 EBO 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 Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1055. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Room 223, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi.

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 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, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

All documents shall be submitted in a sealed envelope or box marked "Mosquito Abatement Services." The Cost Proposal shall be submitted in a separate sealed envelope that will be submitted in the same sealed envelope or box as the Technical Proposal. This sealed envelope shall be clearly labeled "Cost Proposal" and include the name of the proposer on the outside of the envelope.

Electronic proposals MUST be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

All proposals (both electronic and physical hard copies) must be received no later than 3:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time, on March 19, 2024. All physical hard copies shall be submitted to the attention of:

If by hand delivery:
City of Jackson
Office of the Municipal Clerk
219 South President Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

If by mail:
City of Jackson
Office of the Municipal Clerk
Post Office Box 17
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

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

2/22/2024, 2/29/2024

LEGAL

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

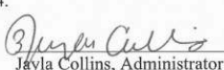
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF CHARLIE FLOYD
ROBINSON, JR., DECEASED CAUSE NO: P2024-82 T/1

JAYLA COLLINS, ADMINISTRATOR

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on February 20, 2024, by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Administrator upon the Estate of Charlie Floyd Robinson, Jr., Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probation and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 21st day of February, 2024.

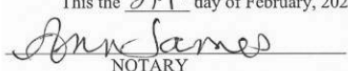

Jayla Collins, Administrator

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction

aforesaid, the within named, Jayla Collins Administrator for the Estate of Charlie Floyd Robinson, Jr., deceased, who having been by me first duly sworn, states that the above is true and correct as therein stated.

This the 24th day of February, 2024.


NOTARY

Damon Stevenson, Stevenson Legal Group, PLLC
1010 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39202
Telephone: (769) 251-0207, Facsimile: (601) 608-7872



MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

2/29/2024, 3/7/2024, 3/14/2024

LEGAL

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

Angela Taylor, Plaintiff(s)

VS

Civil Action Number G2024-119 T/1

Martez Taylor, Defendant(s)

SUMMONS
(By Publication)

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Martez Taylor

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by

Plaintiff(s), seeking Divorce

Defendants other than you in this action are:

You are required to mail or hand deliver a written response to the Complaint filed against you in this action to Angela Taylor, Plaintiff(s), whose address is 1140 Autumn St Jackson ms 39212.

YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE 15 DAY OF February, 2024 WHICH IS THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS SUMMONS. IF YOUR RESPONSE IS NOT SO MAILED OR DELIVERED, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT.

You must also file the original of your Response with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time afterward.

Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this 8th day of Feb., 2023.



EDDIE JEAN CARR, Chancery Clerk
P. O. Box 686, 316 S. President St.
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

By: K Howard, D.C.

2/15/2024 2/22/2024 2/29/2024

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

99046-031924 Armed Security Guard Service

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV

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

The above must comply with the City's specifications. Copies of proposal forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Division, 200 South President Street, Room 604, Hood Building, and Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of Bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

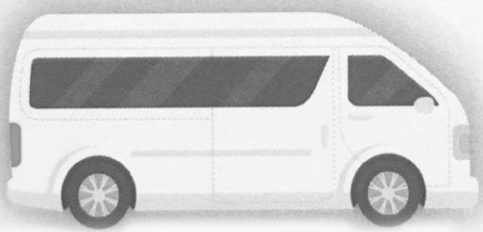
The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1851. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, and Jackson, Mississippi.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all Bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any Bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best company submitting the lowest net price in accordance with specifications. The award could be according to the lowest cost per item; or to the lowest total cost for all items; or to accept all or part of any proposal. Delivery time may be considered when evaluating the Bid proposal. In those cases where it is known prior to advertising that the City's intention is to award according to the lowest total cost for all items, or in some variation thereof, statements to this affect will be included on the proposal form. Absence of such statement means the City will make that determination during the Bid review.

Monica Oliver, Purchasing Manager
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1028 or 960-1025

2/29/2024, 3/7/2024

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3840 ROBINSON ROAD - JACKSON, MS 39209 - PHONE: 601-398-1162

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING SONIA D. FERRERAS A REZONING FROM R-1A (SINGLE-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO R-5 (MULTI-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5755 HORTON AVE. (PARCEL #723-67-3) TO ALLOW FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS OF THE ADJACENT PROPERTIES, CASE NO. 4215.

WHEREAS, Sonia D. Ferreras has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 5755 Horton Ave. (Parcel #723-67-3), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, from R-1A (Single-family) Residential District to R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to allow for consistency with the Zoning classifications of the adjacent properties; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the property R-1A (Single-family) Residential District to R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to allow for consistency with the Zoning classifications of the adjacent properties; 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, August 21, 2023 to consider said change, based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on July 6, 2023 and July 20, 2023 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on July 26, 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 has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described property from R-1A (Single-family) Residential District to R-5 (Multi-family) Residential; and

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

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

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

BEG NW COR LOT 55 BLK B FERNWOOD SUBN W 318.13 FT S 150 FT TO POB S 202 FT W 180 FT N 204 FT E 180 FT TO POB PT LOTS 59 & 60 BLK B FERNWOOD SUBN

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the property located at 5755 Horton Ave. (Parcel #723-67-3) from R-1A (Single-family) Residential District to R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to allow for consistency with the Zoning classifications of the adjacent properties. However, that before any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

SECTION 2. That the 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.

Council Member Foote moved adoption; President Banks seconded;

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Lee and Lindsay.
Nays – None.
Absent – Hartlev 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 August 21, 2023 and recorded in Minute Book “6X, Pgs. 696-697”.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 25th day of September, 2023.

Angela Harris
Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

2/29/2024

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LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING OPAL FUELS A REZONING FROM I-1 (LIGHT) INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO I-2 (HEAVY) INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 605 E. MCDOWELL RD. (PARCEL 602-4) TO ALLOW FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS CNG STATION. CASE NO. 4238.

WHEREAS, OPAL Fuels has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 605 E. McDowell Rd. (Parcel 602-4), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to I-2 (Heavy) Industrial District to allow for the installation of a renewable natural gas CNG Station; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the property from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to I-2 (Heavy) Industrial District to allow for the installation of a renewable natural gas CNG Station; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, January 22, 2024 to consider said change based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on November 30, 2023 and December 14, 2023 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on December 20, 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 has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described property from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to I-2 (Heavy) Industrial District to allow for the installation of a renewable natural gas CNG Station; and

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

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

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

Tract 1: The following described land and property situated in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, to-wit:

Part of Lot 3 of the Ellen L. Poindexter Survey in the East ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 21, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as:

Commence at the NW corner of Lot 3 of the Ellen L. Poindexter Survey situated in Section 21, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, said point being on the centerline of the McDowell Road Right-Of-Way (being 80 feet in width) as is presently laid out and existing and proceed thence S 0 degrees 30 minutes W for 40 feet to a point on the South line of McDowell Road; thence S 89 degrees 24 minutes E along the South line of McDowell Road for 80 feet to the NW corner of the Bel Air Enterprises, Inc. property; thence S 0 degrees 30 minutes W along the West line of the Bel Air Enterprises, Inc. property for 976.0 feet; thence S 19 degrees 13 minutes E along the West line of the Bel Air Enterprises, Inc. property for 439.4 feet; thence S 86 degrees 31 minutes E along the South line of the Bel Air Enterprises, Inc. property for 142.8 feet to the SW corner and the point of beginning of the property herein described; continue thence S 86 degrees 31 minutes E along the South line of the Bel Air Enterprises, Inc. property for 961.3 feet to the SE corner of the Bel Air Enterprises, Inc. property; said point being on the East line of Lot 3, Ellen L. Poindexter Survey; thence N 0 degrees 30 minutes E along the East line of Lot 3 for 755.0 feet; thence North 89 degrees 30 minutes W for 960.0 feet; thence South 0 degrees 30 minutes W for 705 feet to the point of beginning of the property herein described.

Tract 2:

6.0035 Acres more or less in Lot 3 of the Ellen L. Poindexter Survey in the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 21, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

Commence at the northwest corner of the said Lot 3 of the Ellen L. Poindexter Survey, said northwest corner being on the centerline of east McDowell Road right of way (being 80 feet in width), and run thence south 0 degrees 30 minutes west for a distance of 40.0 feet to a point on the south right of way line of East McDowell Road; run thence south 89 degrees 24 minutes east along said south right of way line of East McDowell Road for a distance of 970.0 feet to an Iron Pin which marks the POINT OF BEGINNING for the parcel herein described; continue thence along the said southerly right of way line of East McDowell Road for a distance of 158.39 feet to an Iron Pin; thence turn through an interior angle of 89 degrees 39 minutes and run southerly for a distance of 200.0 feet to an Iron Pin; thence turn through an interior angle of 270 degrees 21 minutes and run easterly for a distance of 200.0 feet to an Iron Pin; thence turn through an interior angle of 89 degrees 39 minutes and run southerly along the east line of the said Lot 3 of the Ellen L. Poindexter Survey for a distance of 492.45 feet to an Iron Pin; thence turn through an interior angle of 90 degrees 27 minutes and run westerly along the north line of Miss Jack property for a distance of 493.15 feet to an Iron Pin; thence turn through an interior angle of 90 degrees 01 minute and run northerly along the east line of A-1 Self Storage for a distance of 240.0 feet to an Iron Pin; thence turn through an interior angle of 179 degrees 53 minutes and run northerly along the east line of W. W. Grainger property for a distance of 153.3 feet to an Iron Pin; thence turn through an interior angle of 90 degrees 00 minutes and run easterly for a distance of 140.0 feet to an Iron Pin; thence turn through an interior angle of 270 degrees 06 minutes and run northerly along the east line of the Sandair Corp. property for a distance of 300.0 feet to the point of beginning.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the of the property located at 605 E. McDowell Rd. (Parcel 602-4) from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to I-2 (Heavy) Industrial District to allow for the installation of a renewable natural gas CNG Station. 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.

Council Member Lindsay moved adoption; Council Member Grizzell seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Lee and Lindsay
Nays – None.
Absent – Hartlev 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 January 22, 2024 and recorded in Minute Book “6Y, Pgs. 769-771”.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 15th day of February 2024.



Angela Harris
Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

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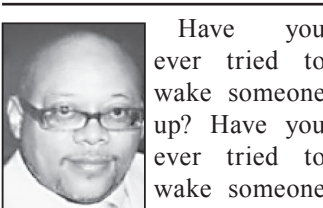
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Week of February 25, 2024

Wake up everybody

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



Have you ever tried to wake someone up? Have you ever tried to wake someone up while he's sleeping? They get cranky. As a matter of fact, there are some who will get down right belligerent.

As a minister and a pastor, as one who has been given the love of God, I feel it's not only my duty, but it's my delight to be able to share the gospel to help people to see this beautiful light. We can't grow weary in well-doing,

for the promise is, if we keep going on, we will reap if we faint not (Read Mark 13:35-37, Matthews 11:22-23).

Jesus experienced the same cranky attitude by people who had just witnessed a mighty miracle. The Bible says, "And when he was come to the other side possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God?"

Jesus cast these demons out of those two who came to Him. Those demons asked Him, "There's a herd of

swine, can we just go into that herd of swine?"

I have to tell you this, there are some things about the scriptures that I don't understand. I don't understand why Jesus would permit those demons to go into the swine, but He did. The scriptures tell us, "The whole herd of seine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished (drowned) in the waters."

Now, a group of people came out to see what had happened, and they saw that these two men were in their right mind; Instead of rejoicing by what Jesus had done, this group of people got upset with Him. They got cranky

with Him because He was trying to wake them up to the good things and what can really be accomplished by the mighty hand of God.

Do you know what they did to Jesus? They said, "Get out of here. Leave us alone." That is what they did; and that is what happens so often when you try to wake people up, spiritually. They get really, really cranky. Jesus came to heal the sick though, and sin is a disease. It is a silent disease that affects the souls of men, and there are times when people, being in this slumber, just don't know what's going on. Sin is like cancer.

PRESERVED Living above see level

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



A few years ago, I had one of my most challenging experiences with my natural vision.

What started out as a normal day for me ended with me having a splitting headache and blurred vision. It started when I thought I might have had my contact lenses in the wrong eyes, so I switched them. But my vision seemed to get worse, so I switched them back.

Also, I did all that I could over the next three days to clean them...but there didn't seem to be a strong enough solution to remove what looked like a cloudy layer on the lenses.

I reluctantly made an appointment with the eye doctor dreading having to buy another pair of contact lenses. I prayed for God to supernaturally heal my eyes on the way to the doctor's office, but God obviously had a more important lesson for me.

When I went to the eye doctor, he was able to clean the lenses and remove most of what had clouded them. He stated that part of my physical discomfort was the fact that I was right eye dominant...and it was my right eye's contact lenses that was the most blurred. The weaker left eye was trying to overcompensate for the temporary weakness of the right one.

He further explained that his great "top-secret" solution that cleansed my contact lens included baking soda. He carefully explained all that he did and recommended that I do the same thing to clean my contact lenses in the future. It was amazing how something as simple as baking soda seemed to be the solution to everything.

Later that day, I did what he said and marveled at the quick improvement to my eyesight. It was still a little fuzzy, but my headache was gone. I thought to myself, how interesting that even though it was the weakest, my left eye was overcompensating for the temporary weakness of the stronger right eye.

I also thought how that fight between my eyes to give me clear vision was similar to our battles with faith. We don't have enough faith that God will do something, and we overcompensate by taking matters into our own hands.

We think we are doing the right thing, but in the end, we cause an imbalance of faith. We say we have limitless faith...but our actions show that we actually have limited faith. Sometimes we also make the mistake of putting our faith in the wrong people or things, all because we want to control the situation.

2 Corinthians 4:18 says, "While we do not look at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary but the things that are not seen are eternal."

Faith, like that dirty contact lens, is what we see the world through. If our faith is blurred, cloudy, distorted or obscured, we make poor decisions because we have poor sight. Like that damaged lens, we have to admit that our faith was shaken and replace our faithless eyes with the faithful eyes of God.

Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.



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Trump’s sneakers deal has taken him to a new level – is it up or down?

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



The former president has gone into some uncharted waters. When you look at the former presidents in this country, you must admit that he is a bit different. A popular expression in today’s lexicon is that he is “special.”

His legal troubles have distinguished him from other presidents. His need for constant attention and adulation is ever present. It appears at times the country can’t get enough of his unpredictable antics.

For example, his ongoing

complaining to judges in his cases would have landed us in the jailhouse. He mocks them in ways that have certainly tested their patience. Can he stop? I don’t think so because that is who he is.

He is a condescending character who has hoodwinked America and is a threat to our democracy. Mr. Trump is a pied piper of poison and pollution.

Last week, he revealed a new pair of sneakers made just for him. It’s a gold-colored high-top and it looks a bit gaudy to me. The shoe sells for \$399 and only 1,000 pairs were made available. When announced, the shoes were gobbled up by his supporters.

The former president said

that he had been thinking about the idea for several years, so this idea wasn’t hatched overnight. When I saw the sneakers report, I laughed without thinking. It was hilarious. His supporters would say that he is crazy like a fox. There is probably some truth to that statement. He does have a penchant for the bizarre and this is bizarre.

I just can’t wrap my mind around a former United States leader having a sneakers deal. Why not a shirt or tie, or maybe even a cheeseburger named in his honor.

Are the folks who purchased them going to step outside in them? I hope not. Please don’t go to the gym in them either.

Mr. T was at an event called

“Sneaker Con” in Philadelphia. The event is billed as The Greatest Sneaker Show On Earth. It was a surprise that he showed up to personally market the shoe. Of course, at his events, there was a mixture of cheers and jeers.

It’s one thing to buy sneakers from a major brand. It is entirely another thing to purchase sneakers from a man who has 91 criminal charges against him.

Bridget Barrett, a University of Colorado professor said, “Plenty of politicians turn their reputations into a money-maker, but typically not at this level of politics. He is more akin to spokespeople and influencers.”

Democrats had a critique on

Trump’s sneakers project as well.

Biden-Harris 2024 Communications Director Michael Tyler said, “Donald Trump showing up to hawk bootleg off-whites is the closest he’ll get to any Air Force Ones ever again for the rest of his life.”

Despite his new venture, his old venture continues to haunt him. He has, in the opinion of many, an electability issue. While he just won the South Carolina primary Saturday, winning a general election will be a different matter.

Whether it’s sneakers or mugs that he is selling, if he is convicted, his chances of winning will decrease overnight. He will go from hopeful to

hopeless. The coming months will be filled with trials and testimonies, all involving the former president.

The sneakers sale is just a distraction. He is trying to divert attention from his problems with the law. He has sold out of his sneakers however he may also be sold out when it comes to the number of people who will testify against him.

The Democrats can’t take a snooze on Donald Trump. If so, they will find themselves on the losing end of this year’s election.

Regardless of what Mr. T does, we must get out to vote in November. Then, those gold-colored high-top sneakers won’t mean a thing.

Protect the pillars of heritage: The battle against SB 2726 and its threat to Mississippi’s HBCUs

By Duvalier Malone
Duvalier Malone Enterprises



In the heart of Mississippi, a battle is underway not just for the survival of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) but for the preservation of a legacy.

Senate Bill 2726 (SB 2726) looms over our heads, threatening to sever the roots of institutions that have been a beacon of hope and progress for the African-American community.

As an alumnus of Alcorn State and Jackson State, I stand witness to the transformative power of these institutions. They are more than mere educational facilities; they are the custodians of our heritage and the architects of future leaders.

In 2009, Mississippi faced significant controversy when Governor Haley Barbour proposed merging three of the state’s HBCUs – Alcorn State, Mississippi Valley State and Jackson State universities – as a response to a \$700 million budget shortfall. This proposal was met with strong opposition from the HBCU community who argued that such a move would disproportionately impact minority students and undermine the rich legacy and contributions of these institutions.

The backlash highlighted the vital role of HBCUs in providing educational opportunities and cultural heritage preservation within African-American communities.

Fifteen years later, we are presented with SB 2726, proposing the closure of three state institutions by 2028, with HBCUs potentially on the chopping block. This is a misguided attempt that undermines decades of progress in racial equality and educational equity. The bill’s criteria for closure – enrollment data, eco-

nom ic impact and service contributions – fail to capture the intrinsic value HBCUs add to our society. These institutions are more than just academic settings; they are incubators of leadership, culture and resilience.

The bill’s author, Mississippi State Senator John A. Polk of District 44-Lamar, must be directly addressed for spearheading SB 2726, a move that could significantly regress the progress made in educational equity and cultural preservation in Mississippi.

Polk’s push for this legislation signals a grave oversight or, worse, a disregard for the critical role that HBCUs play in creating a diverse and inclusive educational environment. These institutions are not just academic hubs; they are vital for the cultural and historical fabric of the African-American community.

The impact of HBCUs extends far beyond their campuses. Although they represent only 3% of postsecondary institutions, HBCUs account for 10% of Black college enrollments and play an outsized role in cultivating Black professionals. Remarkably, they produce 80% of Black judges, 50% of Black lawyers and doctors, and 25% of Black STEM graduates. These figures not only highlight the efficiency and significance of HBCUs but also underscore their indispensable role in fostering diversity and excellence in critical fields.

Facing SB 2726, we must recognize that diminishing HBCUs threatens not just these institutions but the very fabric of opportunity and progress they weave into our society.

As we debate the future of education in Mississippi, let us not forget the disproportionate contribution HBCUs make toward building a diverse, skilled and equitable workforce.

The fight against SB 2726

is a stand for justice, diversity and the enduring value of HBCUs.

Alcorn State University and Jackson State University were pivotal in my growth, offering a nurturing environment for young black minds and emphasizing education beyond academics. This ethos, encapsulated by my mentor’s words, “We are not just teaching books; we are teaching life,” highlights the unique role of HBCUs. The potential loss of such institutions threatens our community’s essence and future, as underscored by the impactful guidance of Dr. Alpha L. Morris at Alcorn State

SB 2726 isn’t just a bill; it threatens our heritage, rights and dreams. It goes against everything we’ve fought to achieve in education and equality. We can’t let it pass.

It’s time for lawmakers to remember they serve all of us, not just a few. Our unity has always gotten us through tough times. Now, more than ever, we must unite to save HBCUs, the heart of our community and history.

If you believe in fairness and the power of education, act now. Reach out to your legislators, join advocacy efforts, and spread the word about the vital role of HBCUs. Together, we can keep them thriving for future generations.

Do we watch our history get erased, or do we fight to keep it alive? It’s time to act.

Please stand with us to ensure our history and HBCUs are preserved. Our voices can make a difference. Let’s act now.

Duvalier Malone is the author of “Those Who Give A Damn: A Manual for Making a Difference,” a motivational speaker, community activist and CEO of Duvalier Malone Enterprises, a global consulting firm. He lives in Washington, D.C.

The Hallmark couple

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



It is no secret, that one of my favorite movie genres is romantic movies. As many of you know, I love Hallmark Movies, especially their holiday inspired movies. Our daughter especially loves Hallmark Movies because they always depict couples falling in love and living happily ever after.

It seems that most married couples’ relationships begin with the Hallmark experience. What is the Hallmark experience? The Hallmark experience includes the following:

- Love at first sight
- Mild disagreements
- Compatibility
- Patience
- Strong communication
- Lots of joy and laughter
- Temporary break up (s)
- Quick relationship restoration.

Although, I love Hallmark movies, a Hallmark movie fails to depict what happens to couples post engagements and weddings. In other words, Hallmark movies fail to depict the challenges like the ‘for worse’ in marriages. Hallmark tends to illustrate the ‘for better’ like date nights, vacations, trips, working together in peace and harmony, in pre marriages and with other older married couples sometimes shown in the movies, but what about the ‘for worse’?

‘For worse’ in marriages can include unresolved childhood issues, challenges of one or both being enrolled in school, poor choices, bad choices, mistakes, arguments, silent nights, financial struggles, bad investments, challenges of parenting, unemployment, job loss, spouse neglect, spouse abandonment, infidelity, secrets and so much more. In other words, most

marriages, if not all, have had some ‘hellmark’ seasons too. Therefore, is it possible for married couples who have had some ‘hellmark’ seasons to still be designated as a Hallmark couple?

Last weekend my husband and I had the privilege of taking our children on separate date nights. We took our son, who is the eldest, to one of his favorite burger restaurants. We walked in and I jokingly asked the host if they could give us a children’s menu, coloring sheet and crayons for our son. Of course, they laughed and teased us about embarrassing our son. He knows how I am, so he laughed too. I just wanted to have a little fun and help set the tone for the evening.

We viewed the menus and gave the server our order. We talked about sports, haircuts, etc. I was so happy to interact with our bashful son, who did not seem too embarrassed to eat out with his parents. We really enjoyed spending time with him.

The next day we took our daughter, who is fourteen, to one of her favorite restaurants on the reservoir. We went into the restaurant, the host took our names, and informed us that it would be an hour wait because we chose to dine outside. So, my husband suggested we walk on the reservoir until our table was ready. As we were leaving, our daughter informed us of a nearby ice cream parlor that we should try that my sister had introduced her to. Of course, we did, and we enjoyed it. We left the ice cream parlor, returned to the restaurant and discovered that we had three minutes remaining to claim our table. Thankfully, we walked, jogged in right on time, and got to our table.

And do not worry for all the health fanatics, my husband and I ordered healthy entrées

due to eating a little ice cream, and our daughter ordered her childhood favorite – a cheeseburger. Our daughter began the afternoon’s conversations; we talked about everything. We had fun.

But, out of all the things that our daughter said – one thing stood out to me the most. She said, “Ma you and da-da remind me of the Hallmark couples.” I was in awe. I asked her to explain – she said, “You already know what I mean.” I did not want to be accused of doing too much as she often expresses, so I humbly stopped inquiring for further explanation.

Concluding, yes, it is true that my husband and I have had some ‘hellmark’ seasons in our marriage but thankfully, God allowed our daughter to confirm that you can still have a Hallmark marriage if you both are willing to fight for your marriage.

It did me and my husband’s hearts so much good to hear her express what she felt about our marriage. She has no idea of how she encouraged and motivated us to the highest to fight even harder for each other, our marriage and our family.

I considered her sentiments to be a direct message from God, “Let no man put asunder what God has joined together. I desire nothing more than to be our daughter’s Hallmark couple.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.) Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206. Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email: bletsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com or call 601 596-2528.

New Hope Baptist Church succeeds in setting high standards for accountability in its grand finale’ “Back in The Day” 13th Annual Black History Celebration



Keynote speaker, Rep. Justis Gibbs, House District 72



Rev. Dr. Jerry Young (pastor) and Flonzie Brown Wright (project director) render remarks for New Hope Baptist Church's 2024 Thirteenth Annual “Back in the Day,” Grand Finale.’



Children portrayals by New Hope Christian School, Pre-School Division, included Dr. Charles Drew (portrayed by Master Kason Tucker) and Vice President Kamala Harris (portrayed by Miss Kaitlyn Hollins)
PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

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

The warm, winter evening was neither too young or too old when community members gathered at New Hope Baptist Church's Grand Finale' “Back in The Day” Black History Celebration which was held Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6 p.m. Sandra McCall and Claire Evans stood ready at the podium to guide what was about to come. Jim Hill High School Color Guard entered and posted the U. S. and Christian flags. Other program participants were in place and awaiting their time to appear before an attentive audience.

Master Kaleb Smith was prompt in vocalizing to God the need for love and protection. He did not hesitate to mention the Apostle Paul's concern for humankind in his citation of Phil. 3:14. That determination to do the will of God by living up to Christ's teachings was emphasized in the invocation. To “press on toward the mark” to ultimately rest with Christ in heaven once

life is over here, was the aim of pleading to the Almighty God for His guidance.

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (2nd Congressional District), consistent with his interests in Mississippi and national residents, could not have spoken too soon when he emphasized the significance of voting in the upcoming presidential election. Thompson stated that at the local level, “You have the past with Margaret Walker and other folks, but you've got the future in Justis Gibbs. At the end of the day, if you don't vote, you can't complain,” he charged.

New Hope Christian School: Pre-school Division – true to its goal for excellence – brought forth Miss Kaitlyn Hollins and Master Kason Tucker. Listeners had no difficulty recognizing the talented skills of these children. Hollins portrayed Vice President Kamala Harris, and Tucker portrayed Dr. Charles Drew. The audience enthusiastically encouraged the children with thunderous applause and standing ova-

tions.

The “Back in The Day” Black History Committee could not have chosen a better introducer than Master Hart Jefferson who feistily educated listeners about the speaker for the night's occasion.

Representative Justis Gibbs II (an associate at Gibbs Travis PLLC in Jackson, Miss., newly elected and youngest Democratic member of the Mississippi State Legislature, representing District 72), studied at the University of Mississippi School of Law. He assisted with cases involving Mississippi State prisoners and worked significantly on incarceration cases on behalf of those who claimed to be wrongfully convicted. Gibbs was also highly involved in matters at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he obtained his B.S. in political science and legal communications.

When Gibbs, the Free Baptist Church member, approached and stood at the podium, he lived up to the audience's expectations by immediately

plunging into his topic: “I Am Black History.” This fresh approach to a complicated, yet significant matter about the saga of a people who are still fighting for justice, was much needed. “I have been attacked and continue to be attacked. I am Black History. I'm being removed from libraries and classrooms, but I remain in the hearts and minds of my people,” said Gibbs as he held the audience spellbound.

Moving progressively in his address, the orator made it known that down through generations, Blacks have been threatened, scandalized and brutalized. “I've been relegated into a few pages of White history books. Lynch me, burn me, shoot me, kill me... but I am Black history,” stated Gibbs.

Gibbs then charged listeners to look back at their history, take up the cross, and persist in moving the race to its utopia. In a poetic, rhythmical moment, he told them to not dismiss the past but to come to the realization of “a racial identity and

truth and commitment to how you got to where you are.” That would be the only way to deal with today's racial encounters, miseducated matters, and continued injustices.

In his summary, Gibbs shared how he has overcome many obstacles. He learned from a book that he read from cover to cover at Howard University. “This book,” he maintained, “helped me understand the complex struggles and obstacles my people endured. [Hence] when I choose to embrace my history and legacy, I embraced my people.” With that said, the audience rose to their feet and applauded with fervor.

Jim Hill High School Concert Choir was directed by Pamela Byrd-Moody (Director of Music). Byrd-Moody led the choir in two songs that took the audience back to past generations and brought them to events of the day. In them both, listeners were left with a message that shines clearly in Robert Frost's poetic line: “[We] have miles to go before [we] sleep.”

High marks were given by Flonzie Brown Wright (project director) and the Rev. Dr. Jerry Young (pastor).

Wright stated that she was grateful to be instructed by New Hope's “Back in the Day” “Black History Committee.” Young noted, “These young people were absolutely amazing.” He also referenced Brown Wright as “their governor.”

Prior to offering the closing prayer, the pastor then appealed to senators, judges, other representatives and other attendees to cast their votes in the upcoming election.

“This is probably the most crucial election that we've experienced in our lifetime. There are some people who are determined to erase our history and erase the fact that we [are responsible for] learning our history. How in the world can we put these people into office, and they want to ban the books? If you don't vote, you don't have a voice.”

New Hope Baptist Church is located at 1555 Beasley Road in Jackson, MS 39206.

IN MEMORIAM Flint mourns the loss of longtime city council member Eric Mays

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Eric Mays, a dedicated city council member renowned for his activism during the infamous Flint, Michigan, water crisis and a history of disruptive behavior at public meetings, died Saturday, Feb. 24, at 65. City officials made the announcement, but they did not disclose the cause of the death.

Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley expressed sorrow, saying, “This is a tremendous loss for our community and a shock to all friends and family. As our community grieves during

this difficult time, on behalf of Councilman Mays' family, we ask that community members respect their privacy and allow them time and space to mourn. We continue to lift the family in prayer.”

Initially elected in 2013, Mays played a pivotal role in shedding light on the water crisis that plagued Flint for the past decade. The crisis emerged when the city began drawing water from the Flint River without proper treatment, resulting in severe lead contamination.

In 2015, Mays organized a public meeting that allowed

residents to voice concerns about the city's water quality. The meeting drew hundreds, with many expressing grievances about skin problems from the contaminated water.

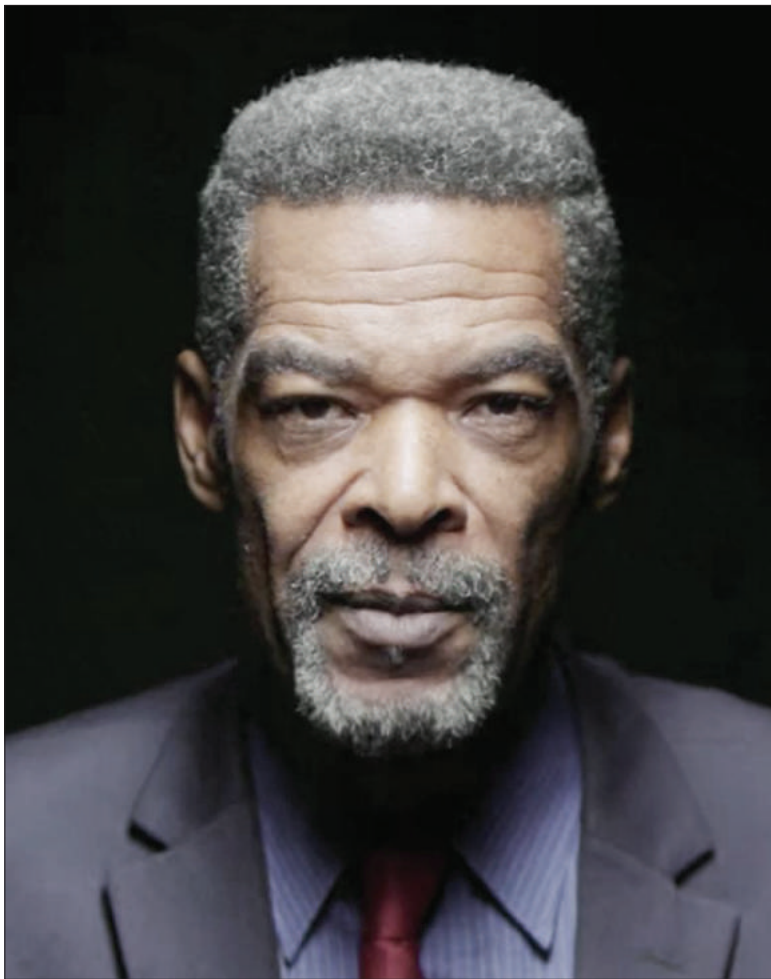
Despite his advocacy work, Mays was often at odds with his fellow council members, gaining notoriety for frequent outbursts that garnered a substantial social media following. Over the years, he was removed from council meetings multiple times, notably in 2015 when police escorted him out for refusing to stop speaking. In 2020, Mays lost a leadership role after making

inflammatory comments during a public meeting, comparing a council leader to Adolf Hitler, and delivering a Nazi salute.

Nevertheless, Mays remained popular in his north side ward and secured re-election in 2021.

His bid for Flint mayor in 2022, however, proved unsuccessful.

In an official statement, city officials acknowledged Mays for his “bold and courageous service” and announced that the flag at City Hall would be lowered to half-staff Monday in his honor.



In an official statement, city officials acknowledged Mays for his “bold and courageous service” and the flag at City Hall was lowered to half-staff Monday, Feb. 26, in his honor.



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Jackson State to host actress Malinda Williams’ summer coding bootcamp for women

The JSU Newswire

Actress, author and entrepreneur Malinda Williams, in a significant move toward fostering diversity and equal opportunity in the tech industry, has launched a groundbreaking coding bootcamp, the E.S.T.E.A.M. Project, on the campus of Jackson State University for women of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

“We are delighted to join forces with Malinda Williams and the Arise and Shine Foundation, Inc., to serve as the host institution for the launch of the E.S.T.E.A.M. Project,” said JSU President Marcus L. Thompson, Ph.D. “The future breakthroughs that our world needs are intertwined with careers in science, engineering, math, technology and the arts. Therefore, it is our honor to help facilitate an event where the power of Hollywood will combine with the type of research excellence that Jackson State University promotes for young women.”

The in-person E.S.T.E.A.M. Project kick-off will take place May 30 through June 2, 2024, on the JSU campus. Women currently enrolled at HBCUs are encouraged to apply and be a part of this transformative journey. Through Williams’ Arise And Shine Foundation Inc., a 501(c)(3) with a mission to serve as a conduit of information, inspiration and empowerment of women in all walks of life, this innovative initiative aims to enable women with valuable coding and technical skills.

“As a professional actress and someone who has experienced firsthand the support of my community, I understand the value of collabora-



Williams

tion and paying it forward,” said Williams. “The Arise And Shine Foundation exists to empower women to reach their goals and coding is a powerful tool – it is the language of the future. The E.S.T.E.A.M. Project will offer young women an avenue to acquire valuable skills to propel them forward in the 21st century.”

The foundation’s pilot program, The E.S.T.E.A.M. Project (Entrepreneurship, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math), is now accepting applications through March 31, 2024. Selected students will kick-off the four-week program with an exciting in-person weekend filled with inspiration, impactful life lessons, skill building and networking. Participants will also explore how coding, app development and STEAM training can help them find success in a variety of career paths. At the core of the curriculum, stu-

dents will learn Apple’s SwiftUI programming language.

The Arise And Shine Foundation is receiving support for the E.S.T.E.A.M. Project from Apple. As part of its Community Education Initiative, Apple is providing the foundation with hardware, scholarships and professional learning assistance. With Apple’s support, the Arise And Shine Foundation will create a space for women to learn from each other and collaborate on projects that pour back into their communities.

The E.S.T.E.A.M. Project is designed around three pillars: upskilling core competencies in technology, fine-tuning soft skills for business success and facilitating connections for industry mentorships. By addressing the gender gap in the tech industry and championing the cause of women in technology, this bootcamp seeks to create a more inclusive and equitable tech landscape.

About the Arise And Shine Foundation

Founded in 2023 by actress, author and entrepreneur Malinda Williams, the Arise And Shine Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that helps fulfill Williams’ vision to be a conduit of information, inspiration and empowerment to women in all walks of life. The foundation partners with educational institutions, corporations and the community to implement and support programs that advance the personal and professional development of underserved and underrepresented women and girls. The work is led by Williams along with founding members and sisters Lisa Sorensen, a communications

The E.S.T.E.A.M. Project HBCU Coding Bootcamp

Do you want to get paid to learn to code using Apple’s SwiftUI?

Applications Open For 2024

Explore a Career in Coding

The Arise And Shine Foundation is committed to helping young women unlock their potential through E.S.T.E.A.M. (Entrepreneurship, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math).

Apply for Arise and Shine’s first cohort for the E.S.T.E.A.M. Project bootcamp learning Apple’s SwiftUI.

Apply Today

APPLICATIONS OPEN MONDAY, JANUARY 22 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2024



Space is limited. To apply and for more information visit: www.asforwomen.org

What: 4-week virtual coding bootcamp with in-person HBCU kick-off weekend

When: May 31-June 2 (in-person) and June 3-30 (virtual)

What You’ll Gain: \$1,000 scholarship, mentorship, all-expenses paid trip to kick-off weekend

Who Should Apply: Women currently enrolled at an HBCU. An interest in coding is helpful but not required

Jackson Public Schools touts accomplishments in the release of its 2022-2023 Annual Report

The JPS Newswire

Jackson Public Schools (JPS) unveils its comprehensive 2022-2023 Annual Report, showcasing a year of significant advancements and transformative initiatives aimed at bolstering both academic achievements and infrastructural developments within the district. This year’s report highlights the district’s dedicated efforts in staff professional development, the impact of capital improvements funded by bonds and ES-SER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds, and a noteworthy update on the academic strides made by students across the board.

Key achievements spotlighted in the report include:

Reading and Mathematics Proficiency

The district celebrates a remarkable increase in reading proficiency, which now stands at 34.3%, reflecting a 7.2% rise since 2019. Mathematics proficiency has also soared to a record high of 30.4%, marking a 6.6% increase within the same period. These improvements underscore the district’s commitment to academic excellence and the effectiveness of its targeted instructional strategies.

Broad-Based Proficiency Gains

JPS reports improvements in proficiency across all grade levels and subjects, indicating a systemic uplift in the quality of education and student performance throughout the district.

Academic and Performing Arts Programs

The district boasts robust academic and performing arts programs, providing a well-rounded education that caters to the diverse talents and interests of its student body.

Enrollment Trends

Despite facing a 21.8% decline in enrollment compared to pre-pandemic levels, JPS remains focused on revitalizing its community engagement and enhancing educational offerings to attract and retain students.

Grant Funding Success

Over \$22 million in grant funding has been secured, allocated towards various initiatives including academic enhancement, social-emotional learning (SEL) programs, the introduction of electric buses, and more, demonstrating the district’s proactive approach in seeking external support to fund its innovative projects.

Capital Improvements and Bond Projects

The report outlines the completion of several bond projects that have significantly upgraded school facilities, directly benefiting students, parents and the wider community by providing modern, conducive learning environments.


Recruitment and Retention of Quality Teachers

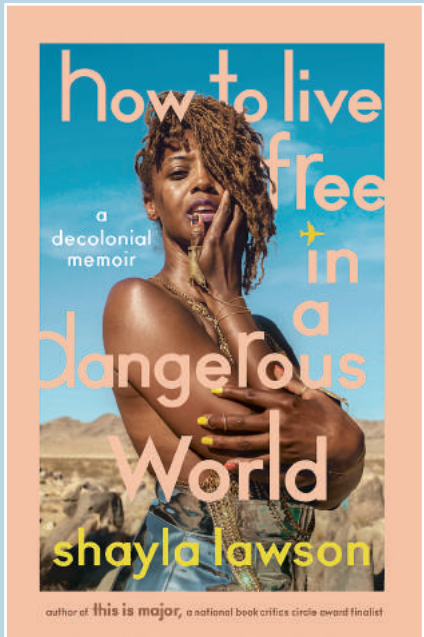
JPS emphasizes its ongoing efforts to build stronger educational teams through the active recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers, ensuring that students receive instruction from dedicated and skilled professionals.

Interactive Summer Camp Programming

The successful implementation of interactive summer camp programs is highlighted as a key strategy in engaging students in enriching learning experiences outside the traditional academic calendar, further contributing to their academic and personal growth.

The 2022-2023 Annual Report from Jackson Public Schools illustrates a year filled with both challenges and triumphs. Through strategic investments, innovative programming and a steadfast commitment to educational excellence, JPS continues to forge a path toward a brighter future for all its students. The district remains dedicated to nurturing an environment where every student can thrive academically, creatively and socially, laying the groundwork for their success in the years to come.





BOOK REVIEW:

HOW TO LIVE FREE IN A DANGEROUS WORLD:

A DECOLONIAL MEMOIR

BY SHAYLA LAWSON

C.2024, TINY REP BOOKS / PENGUIN

\$29.00 • 303 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Do you really need three pairs of shoes? The answer is probably yes: you can’t dance in hikers, you can’t shop in stillettos, you can’t hike in clogs.

So what else do you over-pack on this long-awaited trip? Extra shorts, extra tees? You can’t have enough things to wear. And in the new book “How to Live Free in a Dangerous World” by Shayla Lawson, you’ll need to bring your curiosity.

Minneapolis has always been

one of their favorite cities, perhaps because Shayla Lawson was at one of Prince’s first concerts. They weren’t born yet; they were there in their mother’s womb and it was the first of many concerts.

In all their travels, Lawson has noticed that “being a Black American” has its benefits. People in other countries seem to hold Black Americans in higher esteem than do people in America. Still, there’s racism – for instance, their husband’s family celebrates Christmas in blackface.

Yes, Lawson was married to a Dutch man; they met in Harlem, “not Haarlem,” Lawson is quick to point out, and after the wedding, she became a housewife, learned the language of her husband, and fell in love with his grandmother. Alas, he cheated on her and the marriage didn’t last. He gave her a dog, which loved her more than the man ever did.

They’ve been to Spain, and saw a tagline in which a dark-skinned Earth Mother was created. Lawson said, “I find it ironic, to be ordained a deity

when it’s been a... journey to be treated like a person.”

They’ve fallen in love with “middle-American drag: it’s the glitteriest because our mothers are the prettiest.” They changed their pronouns after a struggle “to define my identity,” pointing out that in many languages, pronouns are “genderless.” They looked upon Frida Kahlo in Mexico, and thought about their own disability. And they wish you a good trip, wherever you’re going.

“No matter where you are,” says Lawson, “may you always

be certain who you are. And when you are, get everything you deserve.”


Crack open the front cover of “How to Live Free in a Dangerous World” and you might wonder what the heck you just got yourself into. The first chapter is artsy, painted with watercolors, and difficult to peg. Stick around, though. It gets better.


Past that opening, author Shayna Lawson takes readers on a not-so-little trip, both world-wide and with observant eyes – although it seems, at times, that the former is sec-

ondary to that which Lawson sees. Readers won’t mind that so much; the observations on race, beauty, love, the attitudes of others toward America, and finding one’s best life are really what takes the wheel in this memoir anyhow.

Reading this book, therefore, is not so much a vacation as it is a journey of discovery and joy.

Just be willing to keep reading, that’s all you need to know to get the most out of this book. Stick around and “How to Live Free in a Dangerous World” is what to pack.





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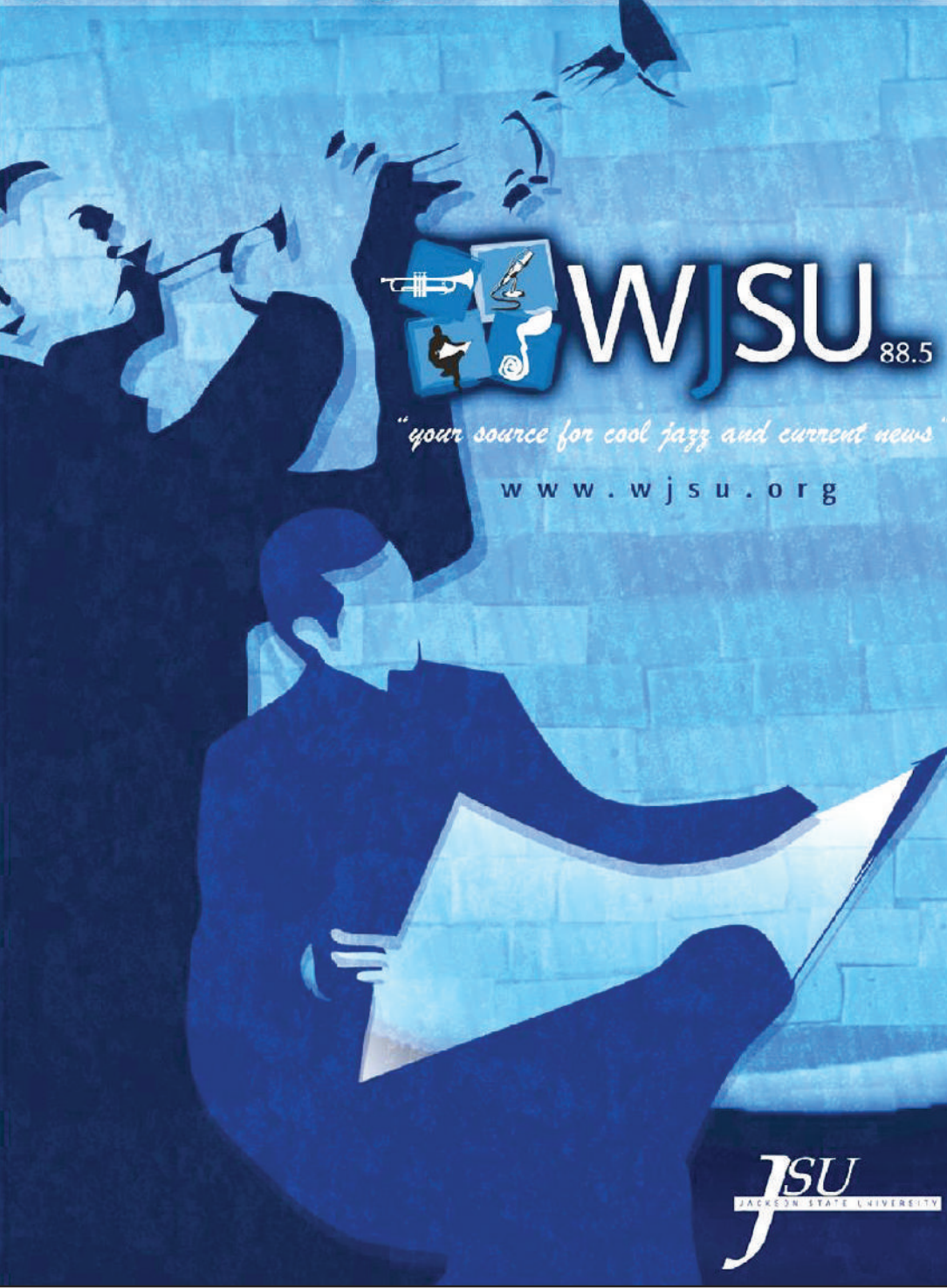
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Canton's boys and girls punch championship game ticket

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

When a school has both of its basketball teams make it to the “BIG HOUSE,” the Mississippi Coliseum, it’s a great season. When those teams both make it to play in the state championship game, it’s an amazing season.

The schools from Exit 119, their rallying cry, both won their final four games and will play for the 5A State Championship Friday night at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. respectively.

The Lady Tigers started off first doing battle with Florence. The game was nip and tuck in the first half. Canton would hold a 1 point lead at the end of the 1st quarter. The lead change hands a few times in the second quarter, with Florence taking a 2 point lead into halftime after a three pointer at the buzzer by Florence’s Faith Quick.

Quick lead Florence in scoring with 13 points. Teammate Kayleigh Chancellor contributed 10 points with 7 rebounds. Starr Amos was a strong inside presence for Florence. She blocked 4 shots and grabbed 10 rebounds. It just wasn’t enough to propel the Lady Eagles into the championship game.

Canton fans held up signs that said “Too Much Canton” throughout the night. In the end, it was absolutely true. Shamira Morton scored 14 points, grabbed 9 rebounds and made 3 steals to pave the way for victory. Na’miya Davis added 11 points and 5 rebounds for Canton.

In the first half, Florence hit three pointers consistently and their full court press was giving Canton problems. The Tigers made adjustments at halftime that gave themselves opportunities to break the press.

Clamping down on defense themselves, Canton forced the three point shots that were falling for Florence in the first half, to become misses in the second half. As the buzzer sounded to end the game, Canton defeated Florence 52 to 38.

Next up is the 5A State championship game versus Laurel. Laurel defeated Pontotoc 53 to 47. Kayllis Walker scored 22 points, grabbed 17 rebounds while blocking 6 shots. The matchup of Walker from Laurel and Morton from Canton in the paint should be epic. Neither player lets down, both are relentless. Game time is 6 p.m. Friday night.

Armed with Mr. Basketball for 5A, Jamarion Fleming and the Canton boys team defeated Wayne County, 64 to 44. The crowd was hyped and intense for their Tigers. With the girls having won early, the city was ready for their boys to do the same.

Wayne County hung tough in the first quarter, only trailing by 6 points to end the first quarter. Canton turned up the heat in the second quarter, forcing turnovers and missed shots from Wayne County. The War Eagles couldn’t stay with Canton as they went in to the half trailing, 36 to 15.

With the win secured, Canton dialed back their defense pressure, but still coasted to a 64 to



Canton fans in full effect



Shamira Morton of Canton



5A Mr. Basketball Jamarion Fleming PHOTOS BY TIM WARD



Deandre Lewis scored 19 points.



Joshua Brown goes up 2.



Na'Miya Davis of Canton

44 victory.

Jamaion Fleming finished with 13 points, 5 rebounds and 2 assists. Fleming also brought the crowd to their feet a couple of times with his highlight reel dunks. Deandre Lewis lead Canton in scoring with 19 points and securing 10 rebounds. Lewis also showcased a crowd pleasing dunk.

Wayne County was led in scoring by Rashodrick Harris with 15 points and with Sadarius Howard adding 11 points with 7 rebounds.

Canton’s fans began chanting “Too Much Canton” as the final seconds rolled of the clock. Next up is the championship game Friday night at 8 p.m. Canton vs Yazoo City.

Yazoo City won their game earlier in the night against Provine. The Indians defeated the Rams 56 to 41. Provine’s boys were the lone representative for Jackson Public Schools (JPS) this year at the coliseum.

Last year Callaway’s girls made it to the championship game but came up a little short.

Yazoo City is currently the



Yazoo City Tamarion Hoover slams it home.

reigning defending 4A champions, but due to reclassifications with the Mississippi High School Association, Yazoo City was bumped up for to 5A. Didn’t seem to be a problem as the Indians make to the championship game in the first year.

Canton and Yazoo split in their two meetings this season. The third and decisive game this

season will be for the gold ball. Coach Carlyle is looking to capture his 7th state championship.

Expect two sold out games. The City of Canton will be out in full force joined by Laurel for their girls, and Yazoo City for their boys.

Next week, we will highlight all the state championship winners.

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

RECRUITMENT TOUR

The Hinds County Career and Technical Center hosted a Middle School Recruitment Tour for Carver Middle School, Utica Elementary/Middle School, Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School and Byram Middle School on February 7th and 9th, 2024. Students visited each Career and Technical Center program and got hands-on experience in some program rotations. The Career and Technical programs currently offered are Health Science, PLTW Engineering, Industrial Maintenance Technology, Digital Media Technology, Business, Marketing and Finance, Law and Public Safety and Automotive Service Technology. *If you would like to learn more about the programs offered, contact Meagan Keyes at marender@hinds.k12.ms.us or Tequia Willis at tbrown@hinds.k12.ms.us.*

