

Honoring Women's History Month

Press conference highlights calls for maximum sentences in Rankin County Goon Squad case



Damien Cameron's mother Monica Lee said a few words. Damien died while in custody of members of the Goon Squad. PHOTOS BY DR. JAY



Eddie Parker speaks briefly to the press

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

In a stirring press conference held Monday, March 18, attorneys Trent Walker and Malik Shabazz, representing victims Michael Jenkins and Eddie Parker, called for the "stiffest of sentences" against former Rankin County deputies and a Richland police officer, collectively known

as the "Goon Squad." The group faced charges for a brutal assault that has sparked outrage and calls for accountability within law enforcement across Mississippi and the nation. Shabazz, articulating the gravity of the assault, emphasized the ongoing emotional and physical suffering of Jenkins and Parker, stating, "A message must be sent

to police in Mississippi and all over America," highlighting the need for severe consequences to deter such criminal conduct in the future. The accused, former deputies Brett McAlpin, Christian Dedmon, Hunter Elward, Jeffrey Middleton, Daniel Opdyke, and former Richland police officer Joshua Hartfield, pleaded guilty

to charges including conspiracy against rights, obstruction of justice, and deprivation of rights under color of law, among others. With their guilt established, the focus now turns to their sentencing, with potential sentences ranging significantly, reflecting the severity of their actions.

Goon Squad
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Rankin NAACP hosts another town hall on police brutality

Call for action against Sheriff Bryan Bailey amidst Goon Squad sentencing this week

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Fifty residents gathered at the Brandon Library, 1475 W. Government Street, from 6:30-8 p.m. on March 19, 2024, to renew the call for the removal of the Rankin County Sheriff from office. This is the fourth such gathering hosted by Rankin County Branch NAACP over the past year, since the raid of the home of Eddie Parker and his friend, Micheal Jenkins, at 135 Conerly Road in Braxton on January 24, 2023. These two black men endured unspeakable torture at the hands of five Rankin County sheriff deputies and one Richland police officer – all six of them white.

Attorney Malik Shabazz, leader of Black Lawyers for Justice, headquartered in Greenbelt, MD, and Rankin County born and raised attorney Trent Walker, were the featured speakers. They took turns recounting facts of the case and laying out the larger picture of decades long violence against citizens of Rankin County by the self-proclaimed Good Squad, and disputing prior statements of Sheriff Bryan Bailey, that he was unaware of this second-shift centered



Rankin Branch NAACP President Angela English

unit's activities. "Today, there were important actions in the Federal Courthouse in Jackson, relating to Rankin County – good news for you who live in Rankin County, especially those that have been in fear of police brutality or racism or discrimination. You can know that today there is some justice in this state, in this county and

in this country. If you can get some justice in Rankin County, you can pretty much get it anywhere in America," per Shabazz.

He went on, "As a person who lawyers police brutality cases often, we usually see officers who kill and are not indicted. Sometimes they get a year, or three years, or probation, but here we have something unique that has come out of Rankin County. These six officers are going to jail for a long time following their reign of terror...and why, it's because of vigorous advocacy of attorneys like Trent Walker and myself and the advocacy of Angela English and the NAACP...we believe in these people, and refused to believe the lies that were put forth in the cover-up by the Rankin County Goon Squad."

He questioned how this could happen in Rankin County, or if this is just a group of six little rogue officers hiding their actions. He indicates finding more and more cases where this has happened before, concluding a pattern of gross neglect and deliberate indifference to su-

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Finally, a long-term contract to Richard's Disposal

4-3 vote prevailed over the antics and dysfunction of City Council



Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba



Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes at council meeting March 19, 2024. PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

After years without a long-term solid waste collection and hauling contract, Jackson City Council voted 4-3 at Tuesday's special meeting for the city to execute a contract with Richard's Disposal, Inc. – the firm that has been providing our garbage collections services for the last two years.

There is an amendment to remove carts from the contract, which was put forth by Ward

1 Councilman Ashby Foote, which could potentially reduce the contract amount by roughly \$4.3 million. That will have to be negotiated between Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba and Richard's Disposal, but the six-year contract will proceed on April 1, 2024.

Numerous other amendments were made by Ward 3 Councilman Stokes, and all of them failed. One was to simply

Contract
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Black Press Week galvanizes advocacy, celebrates legacy and mobilizes voters



NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. adds fire to his State of the Black Press address at the National Press Club on March 15, 2024. PHOTOS BY MARK MAHONEY

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

In a stirring celebration of 197 years of unwavering advocacy, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) convened for Black Press Week to celebrate the March 16, 1827, founding of Freedom's Journal. This year's

observance, which featured the NNPA's annual Board of Directors meeting and a visit to the White House, resonated with the theme "Getting Out the Black Vote."

The NNPA is the trade association of the more than 250

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JMREPA honors legend educators in honor of Women's History Month

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Jackson Metropolitan Retired Educational Personnel Association (JMREPA) honored three of their members Tuesday at the Golden Key Multipurpose Center located at 3450 Albermarle Road. The honorees were joined by JMREPA family, members and friends at 2 p.m. to celebrate the many accomplishments of the honored legends that included Gwendolyn Nero Loper, Christine Naylor Stevens and Lela Rayborn.

Gwendolyn Loper is a cum laude sociology graduate of Tougaloo College, with a master's degree in social work from Howard University in Washington D.C. After receiving her MSW, she actively participated in the civil rights movement through projects at the national and local levels. She was a "first" in a number of areas during her career. She was the first African-American social worker hired at the Mississippi Veterans Medical Cen-



Honorees (L-R) Lela Rayborn, Christine Stevens and Gwendolyn Loper pose with a few of their family and friends after receiving certificates of honor. PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON

ter (now Hudspeth Regional Center) in 1965; the first African-American woman elected to the presidency of the Jackson YWCA Board of Directors in 1974; and the first African-American woman appointed to a major Board of Mental Health. She is a member of Farish Street Baptist Church and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (Jackson Alumnae Chapter.) Her personal motto: "Nothing is Impossible for God."

Christine Stevens, a devoted member of Pearl Street A.M.E. Church

in Jackson, received her BA degree from Mississippi Industrial College (now defunct). She completed further college work at JSU and Indiana University, and earned her master's degree in library science from Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA. She was a high school community college and elementary instructor throughout the state of Mississippi for 34 years, which included 21 years in Jackson Public Schools. Her personal motto: "Do all I can, while I can, and for all

the people I can and pray that what I do will speak for me."

Lela Rayborn, a native of Kemper County, received her degree from Jackson State College, now Jackson State University. Her professional career of 34 years was spent as an English teacher and librarian. She served with distinction in Kemper County, Rankin County and Jackson Public Schools. She has served with distinction through the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, on the lo-



Rev. Ricco Vance speaking directly to the honoree

cal, state, regional and national levels. As the 30th president of the MS State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and Youth affiliates, she was successful in initiating a historical filing system for the State Federation and building website. Her favorite scripture is "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." (Psalm 121:1)

The speaker for the occasion was Rev. Ricco Vance.

The speaker for the occasion was Rev. Ricco Vance. Prior to getting into his scriptural message he started off by moving closer to the honorees and asking the question, "What can I say to three women who were around before I came around and are still making an impact in this world today? As young people look at your longevity of life, they can't help but realize God has been on your side. You didn't wait for congress to come up with some laws to do what you did, but you did what you did because God said you could."

JSU Day at the Capitol

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Jackson State University staff, alumni and former students celebrated JSU Day at the Mississippi State Capitol Tuesday, March 19 from 8 a.m. to noon.

JSU Day at the Capitol provides a platform for the university to discuss its legislative priorities with Mississippi Lawmakers.

A news release was sent out Monday from JSU Division of Institutional Advancement call-

ing on all alumni and supporters to unite in their JSU Blue & White and make a powerful statement together by gathering 1000 strong voices to champion the funding of JSU's priorities. Senator Sollie Norwood invited all alumni to attend and gather in room 113 beginning at 8 a.m.

JSU President Marcus L. Thompson, Ph.D., JSU Director of Bands Roderick Little, Ph.D., JSU National Alumni Association President Patrease Edwards, along with JSU student lead-



JSU alumni, staff and former students

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

ers and JSU retiring Volleyball coach Rose Washington were introduced on the Senate and House floors at 10 a.m.

Dr. Roderick Little, director of Jackson State University Sonic

Boom of the South, was honored at the capitol with a presentation of Senate Resolution 33, commending he and the band, for their awesome performance with rock legend Usher during



JSU Sonic Boom performing at the Capitol

the "Apple Music Super Bowl LVIII Halftime Show," in Las Vegas, Nevada, on February 11, 2024, and for their invitation to participate in the 136th Tournament of Roses Parade presented

by Honda on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, in Pasadena, California.

The JSU Sonic Boon of the South performed at 11:15 a.m. outside the Capitol.

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Goon Squad

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Eddie Parker (left) stands with attorney Trent Walker and Michael Jenkins (right)

Jason Kirschberg, representing Daniel Opdyke, shared that his client has accepted responsibility and feels deep remorse for his actions. However, the victims and their legal team are pushing for sentences that reflect the heinous nature of the crimes committed.

The crimes have been linked to a pattern of violence,

with an Associated Press investigation revealing multiple violent encounters involving the deputies since 2019. These incidents have resulted in two deaths and significant lasting injuries, underscoring a troubling pattern of abuse.

Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey described the actions as the worst case of police brutality he has ever seen, promising changes within the department. Yet, Jenkins and Parker, along with their supporters, are calling for his resignation and have filed a significant civil lawsuit against the department.

As the community braces for the sentencing, there is a collective call for justice and accountability. The case has not only shed light on the actions of the so-called "Goon Squad" but has also amplified the national dialogue on police brutality and the urgent need for systemic reform.

The victims, supported by their families and advocates, are seeking the maximum sentences for the defendants, viewing the upcoming decisions as a pivotal moment for justice in Mississippi and a benchmark for law enforcement accountability nationwide.

As the nation watches, the outcomes of this case could have profound implications for the fight against police brutality and the quest for justice and reform within law enforcement agencies across the United States.

NAACP

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Attorneys Trent Walker and Malik Shabazz – counsel for Eddie Parker and Michael Jenkins. PHOTO BY CHRIS YOUNG

pervise and monitor, implying the Goon Squad was run alongside Sheriff Bryan Bailey; in partnership – a racist white supremacy network. "Bryan Bailey as the sheriff of Rankin County, and as a person free from prosecution, your days are numbered."

Walker began by extending thanks to Judge Tom Lee, indicating there were no slaps on the wrist today – "and I have it from a trusted source that some in the community were expecting a slap on the wrist because old coaches and old habits can die hard." Referring to today's sentences – "Hunter Elward, 31, was sentenced to about 20 years in prison, while Jeffrey Middleton, the 46-year-old leader of the so-called "Goon Squad" that abused the men, was given a 17.5-year prison sentence," per the Associated Press – the Department of Justice, the United States Attorney's Office, and Judge Tom Lee, were not in a slap on the wrist mood. We are grateful and expect that same tone to continue over the next two days when the remaining four Goon Squad members will be sentenced."

As someone who grew up in Rankin County, those who want to say this was an isolated incident – I don't want to hear it. I don't want to hear crocodile tears from Bryan Bailey in these interviews pretending like you are crying, I don't want to hear that you have a department with 250 employees, and you can't keep up with them all. What we have here is a culture where officers come and go as they please and everybody accepts it, and they cover for it. I can't tell you the number of people who took a guilty plea because they felt it was my word versus theirs. This department needs to be dismantled and the first piece that needs to fall is Bryan Bailey."

Angela English stated, "We already knew there is no way in the world that all this could take place and Bryan Bailey didn't know about it. The poison, the culture has existed for decades, and Bryan Bailey was a chosen vessel to continue it. He was trained by Lloyd "Goon" Jones in Simpson County – you can watch it on Youtube at Jones' funeral – Jones was notorious and Bailey was mentored by him, and so the snake has the venom in his head not his tail, the only way to get rid of the poisonous culture and environment is to take the snakes head off."

English is now working with others to determine the required number of signatures need to remove Bailey from office – but reported there has been some purging going on, "So we will figure out how many signatures we need, and I will deliver them to the Governor."

She stressed that she has heard from many white people – this is not just a black thing, it's a white thing too, it's a civil rights issue.

Last week English received the Activist of the Year award at the NAACP IMAGE Awards in Los Angeles.

Contract

Continued from page 1

replace Richards name in the contract and replace it with National Collection Services (owned by Jackson businessman Lee Bush, Sr.) was to adjust the term of the contract to coincide with the current mayor and councilmembers' terms in office, another was to scratch through the monthly price of the contract and replace it with a lower price, and finally, to award the low-bidder the contract and make Richard's their sub-contractor – all failed.

Voting in favor of the long-term contract with Richard's Disposal, as amended, were Ward 2 Councilwoman Angelique Lee, Ward 4 Councilman Brian Grizzell, Ward 6 Councilman Aaron Banks and Ward 7 Councilwoman Virgi Lindsay. Voting against the contract were Ward 1 Councilman Ashby Foote, Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes, and Ward 5 Councilman Vernon Hartley.

Early in the process, City Attorney Drew Martin, in this position for just over 30 days, indicated that National Collection Services (NCS) did not meet the qualifications put forth in the Request for Proposal, leaving Richard's Disposal as the only bidder who met the qualifications. Some members of the council questioned how this could have happened, and eventually the mayor provided evidence, in the form of a handout received by The Mississippi Link newspaper, that NCS did not submit the materials required to meet the qualifications.

Councilman Hartley complained that a "lack of competition drives our ability to get the lowest price." Councilman Foote also seemed concerned about the price of the contract and folded that mindset into his amendment to remove the carts from the contract, "There are tens of thousands of carts already in the city, not getting more can be a big savings for many people already struggling with a high bill." Our readers will recall that these two councilmembers, as well as Councilman Stokes, have always been staunch supporters of Waste Management, whose exorbitant prices over the years are the very reason Mayor Lumumba issued a new RFP two and half years ago.

Richard's 2021 bid was \$765,000 per

month. Their current contract under emergency circumstances is \$808,000, and their bid for the long-term contract is \$891,000. The 2021 Waste Management bid was \$1,116,720. These folks didn't seem to care about the price when Waste Management had the contract, yet now it's of great concern to them.

When Mayor Lumumba reminds them of this, the subject seems to get changed quickly. Perhaps these three councilmen don't have enough regard for the citizens they are charged with serving. Perhaps they don't think the taxpayers see clearly what's going on. Using the numbers above, provided by the mayor's office, The City of Jackson has saved nearly \$8 million by contracting with Richard's instead of Waste Management over the last two years.

Councilman Foote asked the City Attorney how many times Richard's has sued the City of Jackson. The answer was that Richard's has sued once over not being paid for their services. The other two legal matters were Richard's appealing decisions of the City Council. Foote posited, "The precedent is that is you get Jackson tangled up in the legal system, then you have a better chance of doing business with them ... I think that is an adversarial setup that is detrimental to future long-term relationships with the business community. gotta give Mr., Richard's and his legal team credit ... got us tied in knots ... I find it very troubling."

Attorney Martin responded that the law allows that when someone who is dealing with the City and is dealt with unfairly to have legal remedy." Foote hammered on, "We've got to get out of this loop of being tied up in grievances and spending money on legal fees...it undermines the confidence of other businesses that want to do business with Jackson ... that's why the top-tier garbage companies did not participate in the RFP."

Obviously, Foote does not think Richard's is a top-tier company and had no hesitation sharing that as Mr. Richard's sat ten feet in front of him.

Part-way through the 40-item agenda, the council voted unanimously on a proclamation for an immediate and permanent cease-fire in Gaza.

Black Press

Continued from page 1

African-American owned newspapers and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America. While six new publishers were accepted for membership, the week of activities included the Black Press Archives and Gallery of Distinguished Newspaper Publishers enshrinement ceremony, a visit down memory lane, and the State of the Black Press Luncheon at the National Press Club.

Highlighting activities was the NNPA's partnership with Howard University. At the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, African drummers led a procession into the Founders Library for a ceremony to enshrine Zora Neale Hurston in the Gallery of Distinguished Black Publishers. A journalist, author and folklorist, Hurston helped publish the inaugural issue of Howard University's newspaper in 1924 and joined the Howard Literary Club. Among other accolades, Hurston was counted as one of the preeminent writers of twentieth-century African-American literature.

During the week, guests were treated to a fascinating discussion and tour of Howard University's Black Press Archives Digitization Project. Senior Project Manager Brandon Nightingale illuminated the painstaking process of digitizing over 2,000 newspaper titles, preserving the Black experience for future generations.

At the heart of the week's observance was the State of the Black Press Luncheon, held at the prestigious National Press Club. The event opened with a compelling video montage tracing the civil rights struggle, and setting the stage for impassioned speeches and reflections, including a video tribute from South Carolina Democratic Congressman James Clyburn.

Longtime aide to Rev. Jesse Jackson, Shelly Davis, and White House Director of Black Media, Rodericka Applewhite, were among those in attendance. Applewhite led publishers to the White House for a special gathering.

The week received widespread support from partners and sponsors, including Reynolds, Pfizer, the Google News Initiative, the American Petroleum Institute, Comcast NBC Universal, Diageo, Nissan, Hyundai, General Motors, T-Mobile, and AARP. Their collective commitment to social responsibility underscored the importance of collaboration in advancing the cause of justice and equity.

Dr. Benjamin Talton, director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, paid homage to the resilience of Black publishers, while the Rev. Mark Thompson, serving as the master of ceremonies, skillfully guided the proceedings, where guests also heard remarks from AFRO Publisher Dr. Frances Toni Draper and NNPA Chairman Bobby Henry. The keynote address by NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., stirred the audience to its core.

"Our cause is to publish and speak truth to power," declared Chavis, his words resonating with conviction and urgency. "We will not bow down to the reappearance of the flags of the Confederacy or the flags of Nazism, racism or anti-Semitism."

Chavis urged Black publishers and citizens to seize the power of the vote as a tool for change. "Our cause and purpose are to work hard and get the vote out in America," he proclaimed, echoing the sentiments of generations past who fought tirelessly for justice and equality.

"I get emotional when I think about all of our people who swung from trees, and people today dare to talk about swing states," said Chavis, now in his 11th year as NNPA's president and CEO. "We've been swinging from trees, we've been swinging from branches, trying to get equality, freedom and justice, not just for ourselves but for all of God's people."

Chavis surprised the gathering by breaking the news that an original NNPA book about the Transatlantic Slave Trade is scheduled for release on June 19, and Select Books, Inc., has provided an exclusive NNPA-Black Press of America imprint.

"Our cause and purpose are to work together for our people's continued liberation and advancement," Chavis continued. "I'm concerned about the suffering going on in the Middle East, but I don't hear a word about suffering in Africa; or about the millions of people who have died in the Congo. We've been so conditioned not necessarily to accept our suffering but conditioned to see our suffering as normal. The Black Press must call out the abnormality; we must call out those things that are not right. Our cause and purpose are to work hard and get the vote out in America."



The NNPA visits the White House during Black Press Week.

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The Administrators of Hinds County School District brought gifts and expressed appreciation to the Hinds County School District board members for the work that they perform to make Hinds County Schools continue to go from good to great.

Board members included Robbie Anderson, Mary Killingsworth, Carolyn Samuel and Kayla Banger. Dr. Linda Laws was not present in person, but on zoom.



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Two Black men tortured by Mississippi officers call for toughest sentences

By Michael Goldberg
Associated Press/Report for America

Two Black men who were tortured by six Mississippi law enforcement officers called on a federal judge Monday to impose the harshest possible penalties against the disgraced former lawmen.

The former law officers admitted in August to subjecting Michael Corey Jenkins and Eddie Terrell Parker to numerous acts of racially motivated, violent torture.

Prompted by a neighbor's complaint in January 2023 that Jenkins and Parker were staying in a home with a white woman, the group of six burst in without a warrant and assaulted Jenkins and Parker with stun guns, a sex toy and other objects.

After a mock execution went awry when Jenkins was shot in the mouth, they devised a cover-up that included planting drugs and a gun. The Rankin County Sheriff's Department then supported the deputies' false charges, which stood against Jenkins and Parker for months.

U.S. District Judge Tom Lee will sentence two defendants each day, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after twice delaying the proceedings.

An attorney for Jenkins and Parker called Monday for the "stiffest of sentences."



Attorney Malik Shabazz said in a statement. "A message must be sent to police in Mississippi and all over America, that such criminal conduct will be met with the harshest of consequences."



Michael Corey Jenkins, right stands with his mother, Mary Jenkins, as she calls on a federal judge at a news conference Monday, March 18, 2024, in Jackson, Miss., to impose the harshest possible penalties against six former Mississippi Rankin County law enforcement officers who committed numerous acts of racially motivated, violent torture to her son, Michael and a friend Eddie Terrell Parker in 2023. The six former law officers pleaded guilty to a number of charges for torturing them. (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis/statement.)

"Michael Jenkins and Eddie Parker continue to suffer emotionally and physically since this horrific and bloody attack by Rankin County deputies," Malik Shabazz said in a statement. "A message must be sent to police in Mississippi and all over America," he said, that such criminal conduct "will be met with the harshest of consequences."

At a news conference Monday, Jenkins and Parker said they continued to suffer as a result of what they endured.

"It's been very hard for me, for us," Jenkins said. "We are hoping for the best and preparing for the worst."

The officers charged include former Rankin deputies Brett McAlpin, Christian Dedmon, Hunter Elward, Jeffrey Middle-

ton and Daniel Opdyke, and Joshua Hartfield, a former Richland police officer. They pleaded guilty to charges including conspiracy against rights, obstructions of justice, deprivation of rights under color of law, discharge of a firearm under a crime of violence, and conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Most of their lawyers did not immediately respond to emails requesting comment Monday. Jason Kirschberg, representing Opdyke, said: "Daniel has accepted responsibility for his actions, and his failures to act. He has admitted he was wrong and feels deep remorse for the pain he caused the victims."

On the federal charges, Dedmon and Elward each face a maximum sentence of 120 years plus life in prison and \$2.75 mil-

lion in fines. Hartfield faces a possible sentence of 80 years and \$1.5 million, McAlpin faces 90 years and \$1.75 million, Middleton faces 80 years and \$1.5 million, and Opdyke could be sentenced to 100 years with a \$2 million fine.

The former officers agreed to prosecutor-recommended sentences ranging from five to 30 years in state court, but time served for separate convictions at the state level will run concurrently with the potentially longer federal sentences.

An investigation by The Associated Press published in March 2023 linked some of the deputies to at least four violent encounters with Black men since 2019 that left two dead and another with lasting injuries.

Shabazz said the false charg-

es against the victims weren't dropped until June. That's when federal and state investigators began to close in on the deputies, and one of them began talking. They were fired shortly thereafter, and prosecutors announced the federal charges in August.

Prosecutors say some of the officers nicknamed themselves the "Goon Squad" because of their willingness to use excessive force and cover up attacks.

Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey called the crimes by his deputies the worst case of police brutality he had ever seen. For months, Bailey said little about the episode. After the officers pleaded guilty in August, Bailey said the officers had gone rogue and promised to change the department.

Jenkins and Parker have called for his resignation, and they have filed a \$400 million civil lawsuit against the department.

"I relive this every day," Parker said. "Every time I turn on the TV. Every time I get on the phone, every time I'm on social media, people are telling my story."

The spellings of Brett and McAlpin have been corrected.

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

Mississippi ex-police officer pleads guilty after making man lick urine off jail floor

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

A former Mississippi police officer pleaded guilty Thursday to a federal misdemeanor charge after authorities said he forced a man he had arrested to lick urine off the floor of a jail cell.

Michael Christian Green, 26, lost his job as a Pearl Police Department patrol officer in late December, four days after security cameras showed the violent encounter in Pearl, a suburb of the capital city of Jackson.

Green — who has a large

cross tattooed on one arm and the word "Blessed" tattooed on the other — stood calmly before a federal magistrate judge Thursday and did not dispute any of the accusations read aloud by a federal prosecutor.

When Judge Andrew Harris asked how Green was pleading on the charge of deprivation of civil rights, he responded: "Guilty, sir."

Earlier Thursday, Pearl Mayor Jake Windham held a news conference and condemned Green's brutality against a person in detention.

"I don't understand how you

treat someone like that," Windham said.

Although court documents did not mention race, Green is white and a Pearl spokesperson said the man he arrested is Latino.

A charging document was issued March 4 and unsealed Wednesday. It says Green arrested the man Dec. 23 after a disturbance at a store in Pearl.

Security footage in the police department showed that once the man was in a holding cell, he knocked on the cell door and tried to tell Green that he needed to urinate, according

to the court document. After waiting for some time, the man went to the back of the cell and urinated in a corner, the document said.

The man who was arrested is identified in the court document only by his initials, B.E. The security camera footage showed Green telling B.E. that he would beat him with a phone.

"You're fixin' to go in there and you're going to lick that p—— up," Green said, according to the court document. "Do you understand me?"

Green took the man back into the cell and told him to get on the ground and "suck it up," then used his phone to take videos of B.E. while the man got on the ground and licked his own urine, the document said. After the man gagged multiple times, Green told him, "don't spit it out," according to the document.

"Green did not have a government interest or law enforcement purpose in ordering B.E. to lick his urine," the federal charging document said.

The city of Pearl said in a statement Thursday that officials learned about the "disturbing event" during Christmas weekend and opened an investigation, using an independent attorney. Windham said Green resigned Dec. 27.

"The proper thing to do was to take the gentleman to the restroom and to not do anything of this magnitude and violate his civil rights," Windham said.

A federal prosecutor said the victim was not in court Thursday, although authorities



Former City of Pearl, Miss., police Officer Michael Christian Green walks out of the federal courthouse in Jackson, Miss., Thursday, March 14, 2024, after pleading guilty to a federal misdemeanor charge after authorities said he forced a man he had arrested to lick urine off the floor of a jail cell. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS

reached out to see if he wanted to attend Green's hearing.

Green remains free on bond until his May 24 sentencing. He faces up to one year in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Harris ordered Green to surrender his Mississippi law enforcement certification.

Windham said Green had worked for the Pearl Police Department for about six months after having worked at other law enforcement agencies in the Jackson area.

It's rare for law enforcement officers in Mississippi be charged with brutality, although authorities typically

investigate several cases each year of shootings by police. Pearl is in Rankin County, where six white former law enforcement officers — including some who called themselves the "Goon Squad" — pleaded guilty last year to federal charges in a racist assault on two Black men.

Windham said Thursday that the Pearl Police Department handled its own investigation quickly.

"I think there's a stark contrast between the Pearl Police Department in this incident and the Goon Squad," Windham said.

The Mississippi Link™

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Member:



25 million Black and Latino voters are missing or incorrectly listed in U.S. voter databases

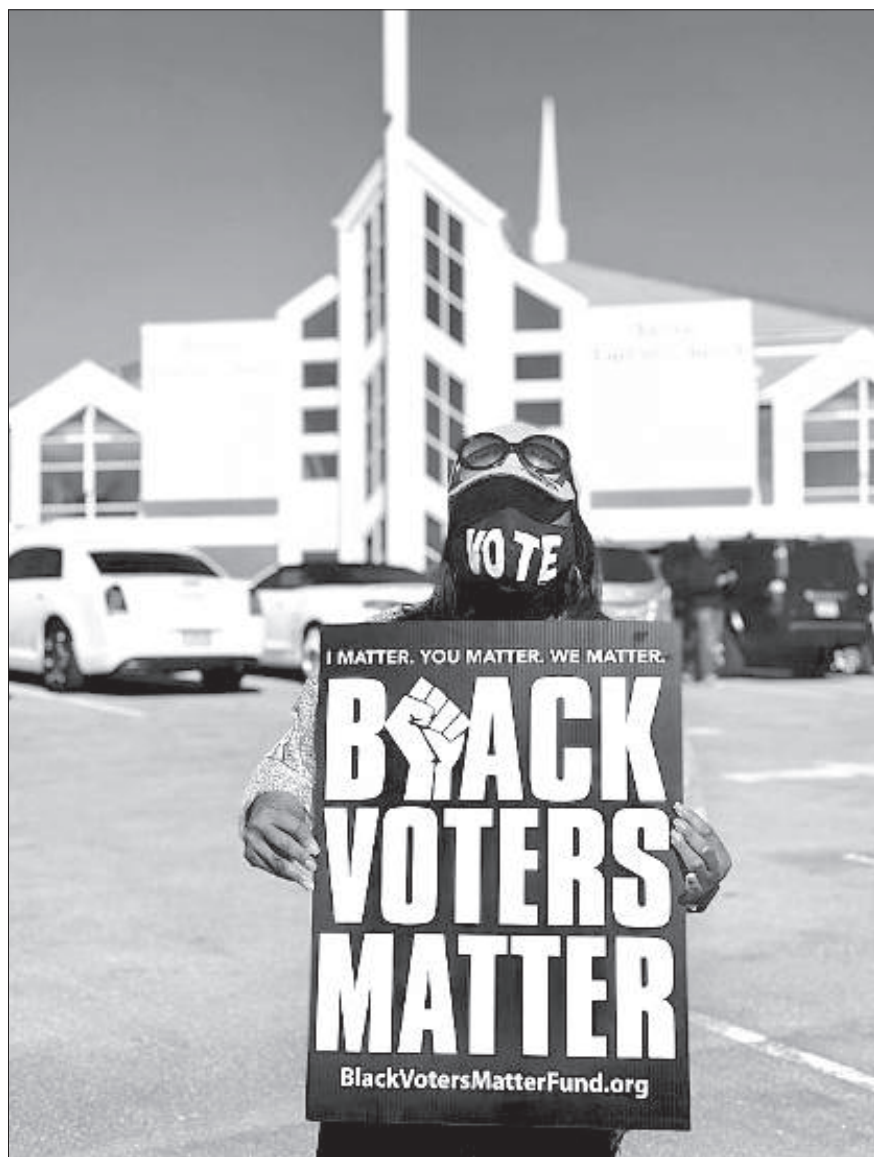
By Stacy M. Brown
*NNPA Newswire Senior
 National Correspondent*

An eye-opening report titled “Surfacing Missing Voters: Addressing Data Systems, Tools and Engagement Models that Invisibilize Black and Brown Communities,” authored by Miriam McKinney Gray for the Democracy & Power Innovation Fund (DPI), has unveiled a concerning reality: Nearly 25 million Black and Latino eligible voters are effectively absent from voter databases, making them virtually unreachable by traditional outreach methods.

The revelation is crucial as America heads toward the all-important November general election between Democratic incumbent Joe Biden and the twice-impeached and four-times indicted former president Donald Trump.

Drawing from U.S. Census data and a recent Stanford study, the report estimated that approximately 24.76 million Black and Latino voters are either missing or inaccurately listed in databases sold by vendors.

The disparities revealed in the report are stark, with 40 percent of Black and Latino individuals missing from voter outreach efforts, compared to only 18 percent of white individuals. The paper-thin margins seen in recent crucial races serve as evidence that such glaring disparities in representation could significantly impact the results of future elections. During the 2020 election, Biden beat Trump in the popular vote by approximately 81.2 million to 74.2 million votes, or a 51.3 percent to 46.9 percent margin.



“For instance, almost half of eligible Black and Latino voters won’t be seen or contacted by traditional campaigns. This is a five-alarm fire for our democracy,” said Miriam McKinney Gray, founder and CEO of

McKinney Gray Analytics, who analyzed the data based on U.S. Census records and a Stanford study.

“The only way many people will learn about the election is through independent power-building orga-

nizations. Groups like Voces de La Frontera in Wisconsin and Detroit Action are using friends-and-family organizing to find missing voters and manually rebuilding lists of voters who have been wrongly purged from government voter rolls.”

Twenty-five million Black and Latino people “are invisible to the very campaigns that want their support. From our research on Black values, we know who they are and the tools needed to reach them,” said Dr. Katrina Gamble of Sojourn Strategies. “It’s not too late to change course, but that takes breaking barriers that campaigns have blindly accepted for decades. We think democracy is worth it, and so are the people who have been excluded.”

Gamble is conducting groundbreaking nationwide research into the differences in values and political behavior of the Black electorate and analyzing clusters or segments of Black voters for the first time.

All involved said the report spotlights the systemic marginalization of Black and brown communities within the ostensibly inclusive, data-driven digital systems of voter engagement prevailing in the United States. It identifies aggressive voter purges and biases inherent in vendor-generated models appended to voter files as key factors exacerbating this invisibility.

According to the Democracy & Power Innovation Fund report, “One serious consequence of missing or incorrect data in purchased voter databases is that it distorts the algorithms that assign vote propensity scores to individual voters.”

“Traditional campaigns regularly

and intentionally leave out people with low vote propensity scores, deeming them not worth the investment. To put it plainly, this approach is wrong,” stated Ranada Robinson, Research Director for New Georgia Project.

Similarly, Prentiss J. Haney, senior advisor to the Ohio Organizing Collaborative, highlighted the limitations of relying solely on political industry databases, noting that such dependence leads to the exclusion of millions of Black and Latino voters and inaccurate race modeling.

To address these disparities and ensure a more equitable electoral process, the report proposes philanthropic investments in community-based data collection, support for antiracist modeling efforts, and adopting broad relational organizing strategies.

The report called for concerted efforts to rectify the systemic biases ingrained within existing data systems and engagement models. The author asserted that a failure to address these issues risks perpetuating the disenfranchisement of marginalized communities and undermining democratic principles.

“The people unseen by voter files are still capable, if organized, to make moves and wield their latent power,” added Joy Cushman, senior advisor to DPI. “People deemed ‘low propensity’ by models and the political industry are defying the odds and still turning out to vote. And many are doing even more than that: they are becoming active members and leaders in power-building organizations, mobilizing their friends and family to vote as well.”

Ancestral Echoes: ‘American Rot’ shines light on Dred Scott decision’s consequences

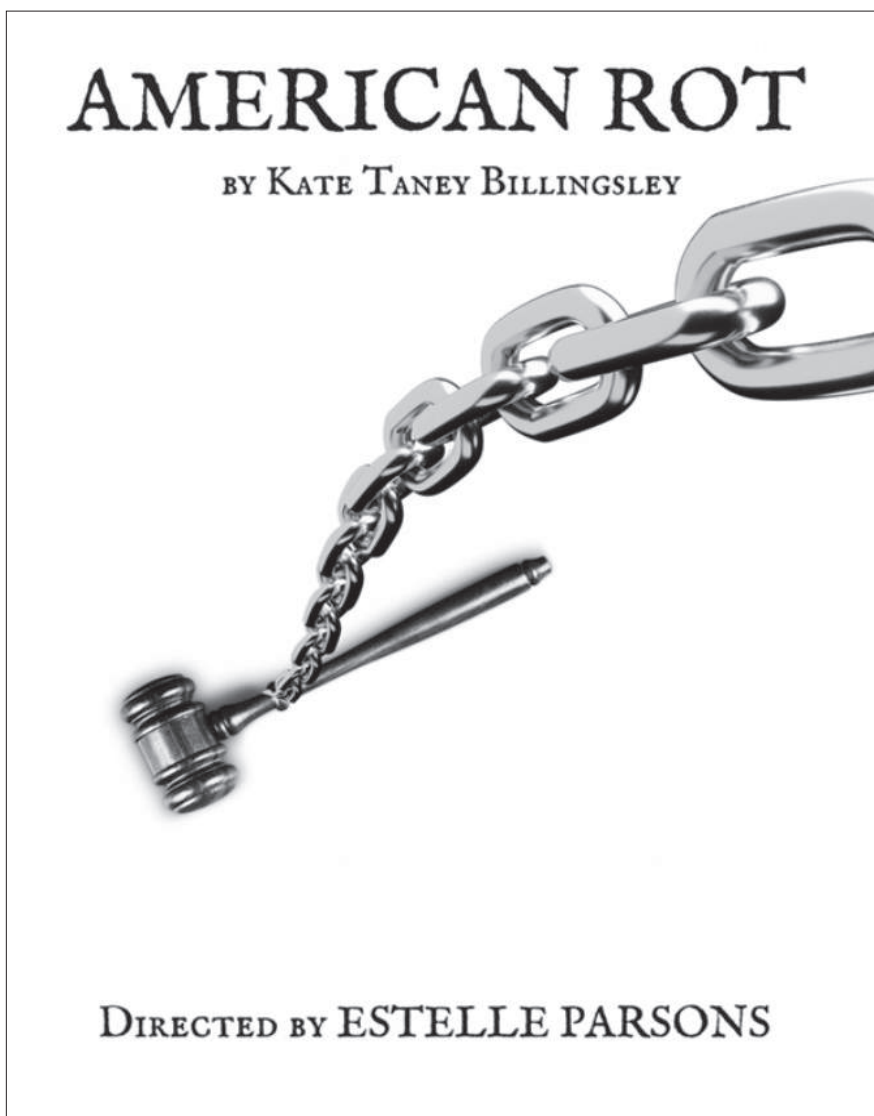
By Stacy M. Brown
*NNPA Newswire Senior
 National Correspondent*

In a moving exploration of America’s racial reckoning, writer and actor Kate Taney Billingsley unveils her family’s deep-rooted connection to one of the most infamous decisions in U.S. Supreme Court history. The gripping narrative delves into the legacy of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, whose pivotal role in the Dred Scott decision of 1857 reverberates through generations.

In the historic ruling, the high court declared that enslaved people are not citizens of the country and, consequently, are not entitled to any rights or protections under federal law. Chief Justice Roger B. Taney delivered the majority opinion on March 6, 1857, in the case of Dred Scott v. Sandford, marking a significant setback for the abolitionist movement and intensifying the debate over slavery.

The case, which began in 1846 with Dred Scott and his wife Harriet suing for their freedom in St. Louis Circuit Court, had been a protracted legal battle that captured the entire nation. Scott, an enslaved Black man, and his wife argued that they should be free as they had resided in free territories where slavery was prohibited. What initially appeared to be a straightforward lawsuit between private parties soon escalated into a broader legal and political showdown.

As the case made its way through the courts, it grew in scope and significance, reflecting the deepening



The gripping narrative delves into the legacy of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, whose pivotal role in the Dred Scott decision of 1857 reverberates through generations.

divide between the North and South over the issue of slavery. By the time it reached the Supreme Court, it had become a symbol of the broader ten-

sions and conflicts tearing the nation apart.

Along with Taney’s majority opinion, the Court declared that Congress

had no authority to ban slavery in federal territories, which entrenched the institution of slavery in American society.

Billingsley’s introspective journey unfolds on the stage of La MaMa’s Ellen Stewart Theatre in New York with the world premiere of “American Rot,” a riveting play that navigates the complexities of trans-generational trauma and the enduring ramifications of white supremacy. Set against the backdrop of a diner off the New Jersey Turnpike, the play’s narrative weaves together the lives of descendants from both sides of the Dred Scott decision, helping to capture the raw emotions and confrontations that ensue when history’s wounds are laid bare.

“I inherited this generational trauma in the family,” Billingsley reflected during an Associated Press interview about the new play. Through the lens of theater, she grapples with a fundamental question: should her family apologize for the sins of their forebears? This question is the thematic cornerstone of “American Rot,” driving its characters towards a visceral exploration of guilt, responsibility, and redemption.

At the heart of the narrative are the descendants of Taney and Scott, locked in a tense confrontation that transcends time and lineage. Bearing the burden of his ancestor’s infamous ruling, Jim Taney apologizes to Walter Scott. Yet, as tensions escalate and grievances surface, the complexities of racial injustice and systemic oppression come to the

forefront, challenging the very notion of reconciliation.

“This play should move like a freight train,” Billingsley asserted. Through robust dialogue and evocative imagery, critics pronounced that “American Rot” confronts the pervasive nature of white supremacy, dissecting its insidious manifestations in contemporary society.

With reference to current events and social issues, one journalist noted that the play serves as a poignant commentary on the enduring legacy of racial inequality. From the tragic death of Tamir Rice to the pervasive influence of privilege in education, “American Rot” offers a searing indictment of America’s unresolved past and its reverberations in the present.

Yet, Billingsley harbors hope for dialogue and understanding amidst the pain and confrontation. She envisions her play as a catalyst for introspection and conversation, urging audiences to confront the uncomfortable truths embedded within America’s collective consciousness.

As “American Rot” debuts on the off-Broadway stage, various theater critics agree that it transcends the confines of traditional theater, resonating with audiences on a deeply personal and profound level. Many noted that Billingsley’s quest for redemption becomes a universal journey, inviting audiences to confront their own complicity in perpetuating injustice.

“American Rot” runs at La MaMa’s Ellen Stewart Theatre in New York through March 31.

Taking care of teeth brings families peace of mind

NNPA Newswire

Tooth decay is the most common preventable chronic disease among children in the United States. If left untreated, it can negatively affect a child's physical and social development, as well as their school performance. Toothaches and cavities can cause pain, infection, and ultimately affect overall wellness, including children's behavioral health.

Mental health and oral health can be intertwined; mental health conditions like anxiety and depression can lead to poor oral health, and dental health problems often exacerbate behavioral health issues.

As a parent or caretaker, there are steps you can take to protect your child's oral health today – and overall health tomorrow.

Through the dental health benefits provided through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), children will have access to essential oral health care, including regular cleanings, fluoride treatments, fillings, X-rays and more.

Schedule Routine Dental Care



Routine dental care is essential to preventing and treating many of the most common oral health issues children experience. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that a child's first pediatric dental visit occur before their first birthday and that as

they get older, they see the dentist twice a year for cleanings, X-rays and treatment.

Regular dentist visits can help identify and treat potential issues early. Once your child is old enough, visits can also include preventive care like sealants, which help stop cavities

from forming.

Use the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' 'Find a Dentist' tool to find dental providers in your area that accept Medicaid and CHIP.

Practice Healthy Habits at Home

Encouraging good dental hy-

giene is another way you can reduce your child's chances of experiencing negative side effects from poor dental health. Helping them brush their teeth twice a day and flossing regularly can keep cavities, gum disease and tooth decay at bay.

During pregnancy, you can even positively impact the health of your baby by taking care of your own teeth and gums. Daily brushing and flossing and regular dentist visits contribute to overall health and protect your baby's teeth.

Get Insured with Medicaid and CHIP

Your child may qualify for free or low-cost health coverage through Medicaid and CHIP. The Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign wants families to experience the security that comes with knowing their child's dental care and other preventive services are covered.

Medicaid and CHIP cover more than 39 million children in the United States and have helped ensure that more than 94% of the nation's children have health coverage, even when their family may expe-

rience barriers to access like language differences and low health literacy. Enrollment is open year-round, meaning your family doesn't have to wait to see if you qualify.

Dental care isn't the only thing covered – preventive care, emergency care, behavioral health care, vision care, vaccines, prescriptions and pre- and post-natal care are all covered when your child is insured through Medicaid and CHIP.

Eligibility varies by state and depends on family income and how many people are in your household. In most states, children up to age 19 with family income up to \$80,000 per year (for a family of four) may qualify for Medicaid or CHIP. You can learn more about finding coverage at [InsureKidsNow.gov](https://www.insurekidsnow.gov) and explore the Find a Dentist tool to find care near you.

Your child's smile shouldn't be a source of stress. For peace of mind, take care of even the tiniest teeth with regular check-ups, healthy habits and health coverage, like Medicaid and CHIP.

Provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Cocaine

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Today, cocaine is a Schedule II drug, which means that it has high potential for abuse but can be administered by a doctor for legitimate medical uses, such as local anesthesia for some eye, ear and throat surgeries.

About 1.7% (or about 4.8 million people) reported using cocaine in the past 12 months recreationally. About 0.5% of 8th graders, 0.3% of 10th graders, and 1.5% of 12th graders reported using cocaine in the past 12 months recreationally. Every year thousands of people died from an overdose involving the recreational cocaine use.

Cocaine is a water soluble, white powdery salt produced from the cocoa plant. Cocaine is used orally, intranasally, intravenously or by inhalation. Intranasal use is when people snort the drug; they inhale cocaine powder through the nostrils, where it is absorbed into the bloodstream through the nasal tissues. Oral use is when they rub the drug onto their gums. Intravenous use is when they dissolve cocaine in water and injecting it releasing the drug directly into the bloodstream. This heightens the intensity of its effects. Inhalation is when people smoke cocaine; they inhale its vapor or smoke into the lungs, where absorption into the bloodstream is almost as rapid as by injection. This fast euphoric effect is one of the reasons that crack became enormously popular in the mid-1980s.

People abuse two chemical forms of cocaine: the water-soluble hydrochloride salt and the water-insoluble cocaine base. Users inject or snort the hydrochloride salt, which is a powder. The base form of cocaine is created by processing the drug with ammonia or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) and water. It's then heated to remove the hydrochloride to produce a smokable substance.

This drug is one of the most addictive drugs available to date. It's capable of destroying a person's life. The drug can be inhaled, smoked injected into the body or swallowed. Cocaine will increase your heart rate, elevate blood pressure and dilate the pupils every time you use it. Though

not everyone experiences good feelings when using cocaine. This euphoric feeling happens because the drug makes the body release large amounts of pleasure producing hormones. The first time you use the drug you'll release more of these hormones at one time then you've ever released in your life. After that first experience no matter how much cocaine you use you'll never feel that intense high again and each time you use the drug it could kill you.

Acute cocaine poisoning results from an overdose of the drug. The user may experience abdominal pain, changes in body temperature, insomnia, anxiety, tremors, vomiting, irregular breathing, convulsions, coma and even death.

The substances used to cut cocaine can lead to visual problems, ringing in your ears and chest pain. Mixing cocaine with other drugs, even prescription drugs, can be fatal.

Snorting cocaine can severely damage the nasal passages and free-basing may damage your lungs. Cocaine will explode and can severely burn your body. Other physical problems include severe weight loss and destruction of your liver. It can also alter cells, which can lead to cancer or brain damage.

The pleasurable effects of the drug are temporary so you become not only physically dependent, but you also become psychologically dependent. This dependence will cause you to suffer from depression, have hallucinations, unpleasant personality changes and develop a serious break with reality.

To start a program you have to admit you have a problem. Staying straight is a challenge you must face the day you decide to quit using drugs. There are no safe levels for cocaine. To get off drugs will take commitment, will power and a plan. Without a plan you will fail. Once you've made up your mind to become drug free there are some steps you can take.

It's difficult to overcome drug abuse on your own and you need a little help from a drug treatment program or a professional.

American Addiction Centers 888-663-1898 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administra-

tion 800-662-4357

Your plan should include getting in shape as it is one means of producing pleasurable hormones in a natural non-abusive manner. When you stop using drugs your body will need something to replace the drugs. Physical activity will help combat the boredom, irritability and the insomnia. You should workout every day.

Good nutrition will also help replace and repair damaged internal organs and help you take back control over your body. Plan your meals so that you get in the foods your body needs daily. There is no substitute for good nutrition.

Make sure you get in eat 2-3 servings of low-fat protein (lean meats, dry beans, eggs), 2-4 servings of fruit, 3-5 servings of vegetables, 2-3 servings of low-fat dairy products and 6-11 servings of whole grains (100% whole grain breads, pasta, brown rice, and cereals) daily. Eat 4-6 small meals daily. Remember, vitamin pills are supplements not substitutes for good nutrition. Drink plenty of water throughout the day.

Working is a good way to keep busy but job dissatisfaction can be a major cause of stress. Instead of using drugs to deal with the stress find things you feel good about doing to help deal with the stress. For example, enroll in a class you'll enjoy or find interesting. Develop a hobby. Volunteer some time with a community organization or groups, such as the Homeless, PAL, The American Red Cross, Special Olympics or The Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation.

Helping others makes you feel good about yourself and helps develop self-esteem. Seek out programs, which satisfy your needs as well. For instance, if you're a drop out or need job training find a GED or job training program. Don't sit around and wait for things to happen, make things happen. Plan activities to fill your day. Do whatever it takes to stay positively motivated.

With each change you make you're a step closer to where you want to be and one step further away from where drugs would have taken you.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.



Hire Mississippi.

Providing safe, reliable natural gas is our job. But fueling safe and thriving communities is our responsibility. That's why we work hard to ensure local suppliers and contractors have the opportunity to work with us.

If you are a Mississippi supplier or contractor interested in doing business with us, please register with us at atmosenergy.com/HireMississippi.

ATMOS
energy.

Your natural gas company

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LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT ZONING CASE NO. 4248

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Kendrick Freeman has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to operate a bar (cigar retail and lounge) within a C-2 (Limited) Commercial District on property located at 1625 E. County Line Rd. - Suite 540, in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

TRACT ONE:

A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 5, TOWNSHIP 6 NORTH, RANGE 2 EAST, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AND ALSO BEING A PART OF LOT 2, BLOCK 51, HIGHLAND COLONY, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT ON FILE AND OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, IN PLAT BOOK A AT PAGE 283; SAID PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINS 312,276.7 SQUARE FEET OR 7.1689 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND IS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF PEAR ORCHARD ROAD WITH THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF COUNTY LINE ROAD (AS BOTH ARE NOW LAID OUT AND IMPROVED, AUGUST,

1983); RUN THENCE EASTERLY ALONG SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF COUNTY LINE ROAD FOR A DISTANCE OF 257.39 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PARCEL OF LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED; CONTINUE THENCE EASTERLY ALONG SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF COUNTY LINE ROAD FOR A DISTANCE OF 191.07 FEET; LEAVING SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF COUNTY LINE ROAD, TURN THENCE RIGHT THROUGH A DEFLECTION ANGLE OF 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES AND RUN SOUTHERLY FOR A DISTANCE OF 175.0 FEET; TURN THENCE LEFT THROUGH A DEFLECTION ANGLE OF 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES AND RUN EASTERLY FOR A DISTANCE OF 161.45 FEET; TURN THENCE RIGHT THROUGH A DEFLECTION ANGLE OF 94 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 41 SECONDS AND RUN SOUTHERLY FOR A DISTANCE OF 455.56 FEET; TURN THENCE RIGHT THROUGH A DEFLECTION ANGLE OF 86 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 30 SECONDS AND RUN WESTERLY FOR A DISTANCE OF 622.63 FEET TO A POINT ON SAID EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF PEAR ORCHARD ROAD; TURN THENCE RIGHT THROUGH A DEFLECTION ANGLE OF 93 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 18 SECONDS AND RUN NORTHERLY ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF PEAR ORCHARD ROAD FOR A DISTANCE OF 434.34 FEET; TURN THENCE RIGHT THROUGH A DEFLECTION ANGLE OF 06 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 47 SECONDS AND CONTINUE NORTHERLY ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF PEAR ORCHARD ROAD FOR A DISTANCE OF 52.27 FEET; LEAVING SAID EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF PEAR ORCHARD ROAD, TURN THENCE RIGHT THROUGH A DEFLECTION ANGLE OF 128 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 44 SECONDS AND RUN SOUTHERLY FOR A DISTANCE OF 110.39 FEET; TURN THENCE LEFT THROUGH A DEFLECTION ANGLE OF 49 DEGREES 29 MINUTES AND RUN EASTERLY FOR A DISTANCE OF 157.89 FEET; TURN THENCE LEFT THROUGH A DEFLECTION ANGLE OF

90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES AND RUN NORTHERLY FOR A DISTANCE OF 217.90 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID COUNTY LINE ROAD; TURN THENCE RIGHT THROUGH A DEFLECTION ANGLE OF 86 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 25 SECONDS AND RUN EASTERLY ALONG SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF COUNTY LINE ROAD FOR A DISTANCE OF 32.46 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

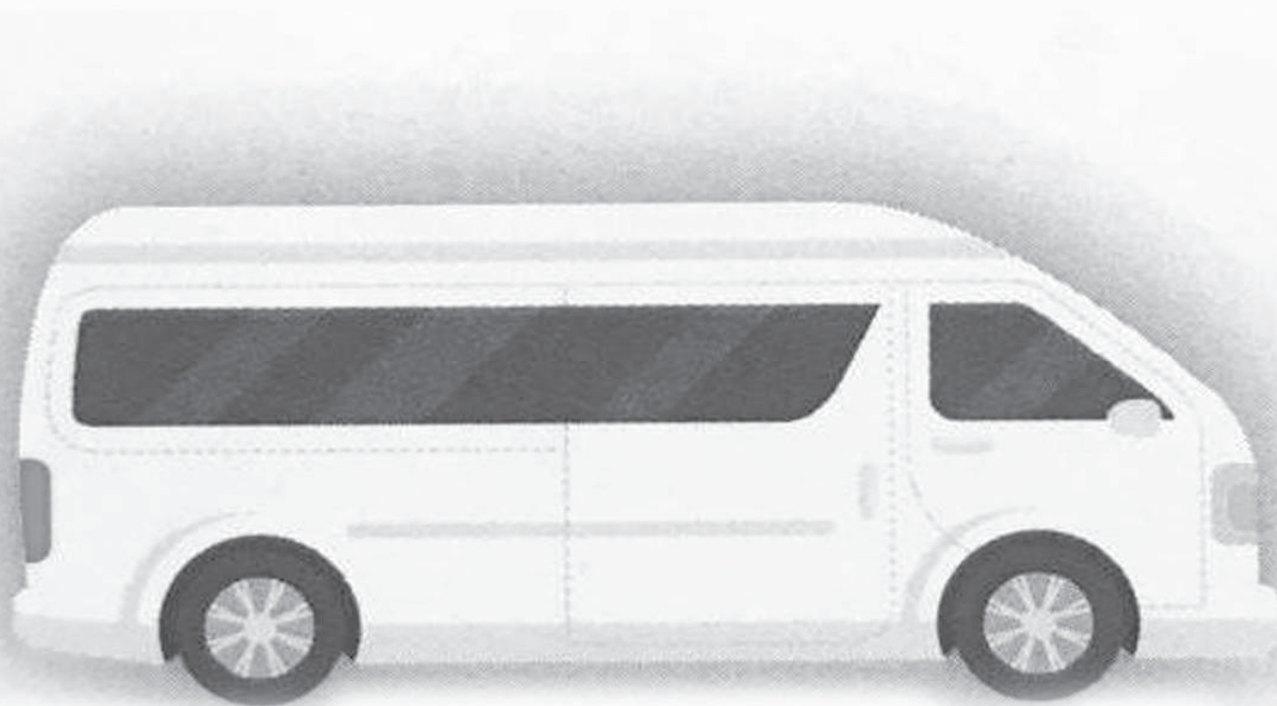
WITNESS my signature this 1st day of March 2024.

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

3/7/2024, 3/21/2024

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HUGE 2-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
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 1042 Holland Ave • Philadelphia, Mississippi
 Live Online and Onsite Bidding

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Day 2: Selling Dozers, Excavators, Motor Graders, Rubber-tired Loaders, Backhoes, Skid Steers, Compaction Eq., Forklifts, Logging, Service Trucks, Farm Tractors, Attachments, Misc. & More

Deanco Auction 601-656-9768 www.deancoauction.com
 1042 Holland Ave (PO Box 1248) • Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350 Auctioneer: Donnie W Dean, #733, MSG# 6335
 10% Buyers Premium on the first \$5000 of each lot and then a 3% buyers premium and the remaining balance of each lot.

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Growing Mississippi's economy—together.

We live and work in the communities we serve, and we're invested in growing this place we all call home. So we're always looking to partner with local suppliers and contractors to help us bring safer, more reliable energy to the people of Mississippi.

So if you're a Mississippi-based supplier or contractor, we'd like to include you on future proposals for projects. Because no one knows how to better serve the people of this state than you.

If you'd like to learn more about our qualification and insurance requirements, bid and contracting processes and other details, reach out to us at Supplier@SpireEnergy.com, or visit us at SpireEnergy.com/Doing-Business-Spire.

At Spire, we're proud to support Hire Mississippi.



PICK UP
THE MISSISSIPPI LINK
 AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON
BULLY'S RESTAURANT
 3118 Livingston Road

CASH & CARRY
 Capitol Street and Monument Street

CITY HALL
 219 S President St

GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX
 2659 Livingston Road

DOLLAR GENERAL
 3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL
 2030 N Siwell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL
 4331 Highway 80W

DOLLAR GENERAL
 5990 Medgar Evers Blvd

DOLLAR GENERAL
 1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL
 304 Briarwood Dr

DOLLAR GENERAL
 2855 McDowell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL
 104 Terry Rd

J & A FUEL STORES
 3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.

LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
 2325 Livingston Rd.

MCDADDE'S MARKET
 Northside Drive

MCDADDE'S MARKET #2
 653 Duling Avenue

PICADILLY CAFETERIA
 Jackson Medical Mall

SHELL FOOD MART
 5492 Watkins Drive

SPORTS MEDICINE
 Fortification and I-55

MURPHY USA
 6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)

REVELL ACE HARDWARE
 Terry Rd (South Jackson)

WALGREENS
 380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON
A & I
 716 Roby Street - Canton, MS

B & B
 702 West North Street - Canton, MS

BOUTIQUE STORE
 3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS

BULLY'S STORE
 Church Street - Canton, MS

COMMUNITY MART
 743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS

FRYER LANE GROCERY
 Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS

HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
 285 Peace Street - Canton, MS

JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY
 507 Church Street - Canton, MS

K & K ONE STOP
 110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS

LACY'S INSURANCE
 421 Peace Street - Canton, MS

SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
 257 Peace Street - Canton, MS

TRAILER PARK GROCERY
 22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM
DOLLAR GENERAL
 125 Swinging Bridge Dr.

HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE
 5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE
 5777 Terry Road

CITY HALL
 Terry Road

CLINTON
DOLLAR GENERAL
 807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY
SERVICE STATION
 at Exit 78

CITY HALL
 West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND
HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOME CENTER
 505 E. Main Street

SUNFLOWER GROCERY
 122 Old Port Gibson Street, Raymond, MS

LOVE FOOD MART
 120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS

RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY
 126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS

RAYMOND CITY HALL
 110 Courtyard Square, Raymond

RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA
HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP
 Mississippi Hwy 18

PITT STOP
 101 Hwy 18 & 27

BOLTON
BOLTON LIBRARY
BOLTON CITY HALL

Sudoku

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

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

© Feature Exchange

Sudoku Solution

7	2	1	3	8	5	9	4	6
5	9	6	7	2	4	1	8	3
8	3	4	9	6	1	2	7	5
3	4	8	2	1	6	7	5	9
1	5	2	4	7	9	3	6	8
6	7	9	5	3	8	4	2	1
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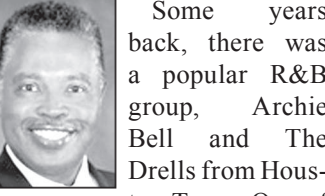
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Week of March 17, 2024

Get ready for the presidential showdown between Biden and Trump

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



Some years back, there was a popular R&B group, Archie Bell and The Drells from Houston Texas. One of their hit songs was, "Gonna be A Showdown." The lyrics were, "Hey, hey there's gonna be a showdown. Hey, hey there's gonna be a showdown, oh yeah." If you are in the 4th quarter of your life, you danced to this record.

months. It won't be in a club, but it might be a part of a political commercial. Simply put, there is going to be a showdown for the presidency of the United States of America. The primary campaigning for the Democrats and the Republicans is over. Independents are still trying to find their way. How they influence election results is going to be a major issue in November. We know with certainty that President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump will be the candidates for the Democratic Party and the Republican Party respectively. Super Tuesday unfortunately sealed the fate of Nikki Haley. Money and time were her en-

emies, so she suspended her campaign Wednesday, March 6. From the onset, former South Carolina Governor Haley was running an uphill race. Her message was anti-Trump however it did not resonate with most Republican voters. The miracle win that she needed never happened. The handwriting on the wall became clearer as she was defeated in her home state. She did win the state of Vermont, however it was too little, too late. As her supporters cheered for her as she made her exit speech, she did not endorse Mr. Trump. Reports say that 79% of Haley's voters say they would

be dissatisfied if Trump was the nominee. So, it begs the question, what will become of those voters who chose Nikki Haley? The Biden campaign says there is a place for them in his campaign. It is my thinking there will be some who vote for President Biden while others may vote for Mr. Trump. There are critics and pundits lining up to say that the former president is not as popular with independent voters. In a recent Quinnipiac University poll, it showed Biden with a small lead over Trump. People of color and women will also play a pivotal role in who becomes the next president. A group of undecided Black voters in North Carolina

said they were not happy with either candidate. A resident of the state said, "I feel like it's a lesser of two evils. It's either a politician who is making attempts to do things for the entire country, or someone who's just about themselves or their party and their people." Still, another resident said, "I don't want to go through another four years of his Make America Great Again and I don't want to go through another four years of Biden being indecisive as to what he's going to do." It is safe to say that both candidates have some heavy lifting to do as they seek to secure votes to be president. Whether you like him or not,

Mr. Trump has galvanized a sizable group of voters. This momentum does not seem to be slowing down. Most are saying that the Republican Party is now his party. However, there are some factors that may derail his bid to become president. Voters will have to decide how his legal problems will impact his bid to become president. Being in and out of court is a clear and present danger. Can he run the country and be in court at the same time? The November election will be one for the history books. Grover Cleveland is the only US president to lose an election and then return to the office four years later.

Democrats, President Biden and the Black vote

By Dr. John Warren
Publisher, San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper



While President Biden appears to be the only hope for America as we know this nation, it does not follow that many who understand this crisis could and will engage in not voting this November out of the feeling that there is no real choice given Biden and Trump on the ballot. The sad truth is that a third party candidate on the Democratic side could almost for certain guarantee that former President Trump would be elected. A Third Party candidate on the Republican side would certainly guarantee that President Biden would be re-elected. Likewise, a stay at home vote on the Democratic side could also guarantee that Trump would be re-elected. Let us not forget that it was the Black vote that put Biden in office. With all he has done to bring the country back from the brink of collapse, including having a Black vice president, he has still failed the Black voter. He has not used the power of his office to break the filibuster in the Senate so that the George Floyd and John Lewis proposed laws could have a fighting chance to become a reality. How is it that a man who spent 36 years in the Senate and 8 years as vice president has failed to learn how to use the power of those positions as such men as the late President Lyndon Baines Johnson did to get the Voting Rights and Civil Rights laws enacted? President Biden was more worked up over the Supreme Court's Decision on Roe vs. Wade than the voting rights and civil rights legislation mentioned above. The President and the Democratic Party should understand that Black people can and will live with Donald Trump if necessary, because our fight for equality and

inclusion has never ended. The Black vote, just like all other votes in an election, needs more than the waving of the flag and promises, many of which have been made before. Dollars must be invested in our Black communities the same way they are being, and will be, invested in other communities to get out the vote. It should be remembered that Black faces in the White House do not mean Black faces at the voting booths. Black voters should also remember that in addition to re-electing President Biden, the Democrats need four more seats in the House of Representatives to restore a democratic majority and to make Hakeem Jefferies the first Black Speaker of the House of Representatives. It takes money to educate a public to save democracy, as we know it, rather than endure the browning of America. At the end of the day, Donald Trump is not the problem but the instrument of an old idea that says America has to be "White in order to be right." This idea only sees "We the People" as White. Fortunately, there are still people in this nation Black, White, Brown, Yellow and Red, immigrants and citizens by birth, who believe that America is all of us, even when we disagree with each other. The Black vote is still strong enough to once again make the difference. The question is, will we get the support necessary to make that vote once again? Go to the polls and re-elect this President who must do more. The issue is not his age, but his commitment to getting our vote. People are not as concerned about "saving democracy" or the number of jobs recovered as much as they are concerned about the value of our dollars, food, rent, housing and gas. If the Democrats reach us where we live on these issues, the salvation of democracy will follow.

Are you a watchman for your home?

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



Today it is necessary to safeguard your home with some type of security/alarm system which encompasses things like dogs, peace be steel as Madea would say, video cameras, video doorbell ringers, etc. Having some type of security system is requisite especially depending on where you reside. Yes, some locations warrant more security than others. However, crime does not discriminate against any zip code. If you do not believe me – watch the news. Further, there are other forms of security systems that many utilize today like smoke detectors, carbon monoxide and radon detectors to protect their homes and families. Why do many take every precaution and initiative to secure their homes? One, it serves as a vital means of home protection. Two, it promotes the safety of their family. Three, it can help increase the value of your home. Four, it is a crime deterrent. Fifth, it can help one get homeowners insurance discounts. Lastly, it is reassuring to the mind. While, thankfully, we have systems in place to help protect our homes and families from burglaries, fires, poisoning, etc., every effort must be taken to help protect and prevent broken marriages and families. Some have cameras on every inch of their homes. Some can watch their homes from almost any location from our cell phones in the world. Furthermore, we have alarm systems with special codes and a promise for law enforcement to check our property if our alarms go off even for false

alarm situations. Yet, still, we have so many broken marriages and families, not due to burglaries, but something similar like the following: God is no longer the center of the family – many have gotten too boogie and educated to acknowledge the need for God. Selfish decisions of spouses as it relates to finances, infidelity, spouse abandonment, spouse neglect, lies and secrets, physical and mental abuse, extreme nagging and accusing, substance and gambling addictions. Parents are allowing technology to rear their children such as cartoons, video games and cell phones. Families don't gather at the dinner tables anymore – there's something special about a family coming together and blessing their dinner together – I feel like preaching – family healing can take place at the dinner table, family bonds can become stronger at the dinner table, gathering at the dinner table can either help keep or turn your spouse/children in the right direction. It's too many hurting and angry parents rearing children; hurt and angry from their past, their childhood and toxic relationships. It becomes a cycle for future generations. If you are an adult who is still angry at your parents for not giving you an extra snack, please seek counseling immediately. Parents are depending on the schools, both public and private, from all zip codes, to rear and shape their children – paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to discover that yes, the school can be a part of a child's village, but it does not train up a child in the way he/she should go. Parents have taken the role of the children and children have taken the roles of the parents.

Just like many of us go out our way to buy alarm systems to protect our property like our homes, we also should be willing to go out our way and beyond to safeguard the foundation, the heartbeat and souls of our families living within these same homes. Do you have a system in place to protect and safeguard your family from hoewreckers, I am sorry, I meant homewreckers? Do you have a system in place to help protect and safeguard your children from succumbing to peer pressure, substance abuse and over usage of technology? Do you have a system in place that promotes unity, peace, love and forgiveness in your home? Do you have a system in place to ignite healthy communication with your spouse and children? In conclusion, Ezekiel 3:17 (NIV) states: "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so, hear the word I speak and give them warning from me." How can you be a watchman for your home? You do it by praying without ceasing and making God the center of your marriage and family. You do it with unconditional love. You do it by not putting yourself in a compromising situation that only warrants trouble for your marriage and family. Ask yourself, are you a watchman for your marriage and family? 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: letsstaytogether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com or call 601 596-2528.

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P R E S E R V E D

Spiritual PTSD and life after warfare

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Recent military conflicts in Israel, Iraq and Ukraine have shown that sometimes the hardest

thing to deal with isn't just the battle in a war but might be what happens afterwards. As a result, the news is full of stories of soldiers and their families who have struggled to transition back to normal life after the life changing trauma of war.

Because of the impact of PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder), the military strives to provide more specialized services to current soldiers and veterans. These stories show that it's not just enough to prepare soldiers for war battles, but there also has to be preparation for life after the battles.

But the question remains: How do soldiers successfully readjust to the "usual" after unusual experiences that come from being a soldier in a war? Pretending that things haven't changed won't work because things are not the same.

Psychologists who deal with veterans who struggle with PTSD say that one of the biggest issues is the readjustment from the chaos and uncertainty of war to the peace and consistency of normal life. Often, those suffering from PTSD struggle to honestly admit that things are different. Once they do so, they can then decide if the difference is good or bad and most importantly, how that will impact their lives moving forward.

In terms of spirituality, Christians also deal with some of these same issues of readjustment after spiritual warfare. Christians often talk

(in some cases brag) about being ready for war with Satan. But how many of us can honestly say we are ready for what happens after the spiritual warfare battle? Even if we "win" the battle, we may end up battle weary, scarred, wounded and traumatized. Or we may lose the battle but learn an even more valuable lesson about how to deal with disappointment and loss.

However, like soldiers with PTSD deal with psychological and physical trauma as a result of their experiences in war, I think those of us who have experienced any kind of spiritual warfare can identify with the lingering effects of warfare.

As Psalm 55:17-18 reminds us, "He rescues me unharmed from the battle waged against me, even though many oppose me," one key to surviving spiritual warfare is having the faith to trust God. After

a spiritual warfare battle, I think God wants us to have a renewed respect for His sovereign power and His unconditional love for us. Even though spiritual warfare can be life altering, spiritual PTSD for Christians doesn't have to stand for post traumatic stress disorder. I'd like to think of spiritual PTSD as standing for Purpose, Strength, Trust and Discernment.

For the next few weeks, we'll take a look at spiritual PTSD and how it can impact your life after a spiritual warfare battle.

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.

Sin separates you from God

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



Adam had the best of everything. In Genesis 2:15-17, we read: "And the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of

Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Adam lived to be more than nine hundred years of age, but the day he partook of that tree, he died spiritually. In these verses, we read that God placed man in the garden to take care of it. Therefore, we see that right from the beginning, God ordained for man to work.

The commandment was that of every tree of the garden, Adam could freely eat, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Temptation came with that commandment. The result of disobedience was spiritual death the day that they partook of it. Both Adam and Eve disobeyed and fell under condemnation.

Under the guilt of sin, Adam and Eve did not enjoy the presence of God. That is one main reason that some people do not get into the house of God. They have things wrong in their lives, and they are afraid that God will bring it up through a message, a testimony or a song. Under the

guilt of sin, Adam and Eva did not desire the presence of God as they once did. You can read in Genesis, Chapter 3, that they were aware of their nakedness and tried to cover themselves, and also they hid themselves from the presence of God. They no longer enjoyed sweet communion with God.

For the first time, dishonesty was found in Adam and Eve. When they were approached by God to repent, they blamed their sin on others. This dishonesty exists yet today. If people would really own up to their wrongs, they would get along much better with God. The Prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 59:2, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." This verse says you are separated from God because of your sin.

Life comes when a man or a woman does right and turns from that which is forbidden. Ezekiel said in verse 20 "The soul that sinneth, shall die (he was not talking about physical death, although physical death is sometimes caused by sinful ways). The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him." No one living in sin is alive unto God.

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



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JSU's SGA President Jason Johnson attends Vice President Kamala Harris's Black History Month reception

By Aron Smith
jsu.msnews.com

Jackson State University's SGA President Jason Johnson ended Black History Month by attending an exclusive reception hosted by Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband, Second Gentleman Douglas Craig Emhoff. Held Thursday, Feb. 29, at the vice president's residence, the reception honored and commemorated student leaders from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Representatives from nearly 25 SGAs from prominent HBCUs attended the event, including Alabama State University, Florida A&M University, Howard University and Morehouse College.

"I was very honored to meet a current U.S. vice president who thinks about HBCU students. Knowing that she's a graduate of the same type of HBCU institution that we all came from meant the world to me," said Johnson.

The day began at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building with a policy council presentation focused on enhancing the efficiency of new FAFSA student loan policies on college campuses. According to NerdWallet, due to the FAFSA Simplification Act signed into law in late 2020, the form now contains far fewer questions, a direct data exchange with the IRS and a new formula that could impact student's financial aid packages.

Panel discussions featuring speakers from the White House, covering topics such as science and technology, space, STEM and workforce policy. Speakers also provided insights into the advantages and disadvantages of implementing artificial intelligence (AI) on college campuses and its implications for the future.

Guest speakers included notable celebrities such as actor and producer Terrence Jenkins and



Jason Johnson, the 78th SGA president, stands proud, representing Alpha Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., in front of the vice president's residence. PHOTOS SPECIAL TO JSU



JSU SGA president Jason Johnson at the Black History Month reception hosted by Vice President Harris and husband Douglas Emhoff at their residence.



Vice President Kamala Harris shares a transformative moment from her first week in the White House, describing a helicopter journey from her residence that took her directly over Howard University, her alma mater.



Jason Johnson cherishes a monumental moment, capturing a selfie with HBCU SGA presidents from across the nation.



Jason Johnson, with celebrity actor and producer Terrence Jenkins and actress Keshia Knight Pulliam, joins SGA presidents from diverse HBCUs on the historical front steps of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

actress Keshia Knight Pulliam. They offered insightful professional development advice. The event concluded with an electrifying step show by Morgan State University's Greek life.

After the program, Johnson and other attendees proceeded to the vice president's residence, where Harris shared her initial experiences in the White House and offered valuable advice on

advocating for voices on campuses.

As a JSU student leader, Johnson has devoted numerous hours traveling and networking on behalf of the institution. He credits the opportunities and vast experiences he gained at Jackson State for growing his interpersonal skills. The Michigan native also said he has forged strong bonds with a supportive

circle of friends.

"I always strive to present myself in the best light, with a warm smile, and ensure that I look and speak confidently. Even when addressing challenging issues, I maintain a positive and respectful demeanor, aiming for constructive dialogue and mutual understanding," he shared. "It's crucial to approach discussions openly and tact-

fully to help foster a receptive environment where ideas can be effectively communicated and considered."

Tougaloo announces Commencement and Baccalaureate Ceremony 2024

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D.
Editor

Tougaloo College is set to celebrate the achievements of its graduating class of 2024 with a grand commencement and baccalaureate ceremony. This event stands as a significant hallmark in the academic and personal journeys of the students, embodying the culmination of their hard work, perseverance and dedication. It is a day of joyous celebration for the graduates, their families and the entire Tougaloo College community, as they come together to honor the remarkable accomplishments of these young scholars.

Situated in Mississippi, Tougaloo College has established itself as a beacon of higher education, known for its commitment to fostering leadership and academic excellence. The college's rich history and its role in nurturing future



leaders have made it a cherished institution.

The commencement and baccalaureate ceremonies are not merely celebratory events; they are reflections of Tou-

galoo College's enduring legacy and its bright future.

The baccalaureate ceremony is scheduled for 8 a.m. Sunday, May 5, 2024, in the historic Woodworth Chapel. This

serene setting will be graced by Dr. Cornell Williams Brooks, the Hauser Professor of the Practice of Nonprofit Organizations and Professor of the Practice of Public Leadership and Social Justice at the Harvard Kennedy School. Dr. Brooks, known for his advocacy in civil rights, justice and equality, will impart wisdom and inspiration to the graduates, encouraging them to embark on their next chapter with commitment and courage.

Following the reflective morning, the commencement ceremony will unfold at 10 a.m. on the Campus Green, adjacent to the historic Woodworth Chapel.

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge, serving as the 18th Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, will address the graduates. Her distinguished career and dedication to public service promise to inspire the

graduates, urging them to pursue paths of compassion, integrity and societal contribution.

Tougaloo College extends an open invitation to students, families, faculty, alumni and the wider community, to participate in this grand celebration. The 2024 commencement and baccalaureate ceremonies are not just milestones for the graduates but also a testament to the collective spirit and achievements of the Tougaloo College family.

As the community prepares to gather on May 5, 2024, there is a shared anticipation for the inspiring speeches, the recognition of academic accomplishments and the forward-looking aspirations of the graduates. Tougaloo College is proud to honor the class of 2024, welcoming a future that promises to be as distinguished as the legacy they leave behind.



BOOK REVIEW: EASTER BOOKS FOR KIDS

BY VARIOUS AUTHORS
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By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

How do you know when it's spring? The robins suddenly make an appearance in your back yard. The flowers begin to poke their heads from the ground and in the stores. Mom and dad start making garden plans and grandpa finds his garden shears. Trees begin thinking about sprouting leaves, the temperature rises, and the sun feels nice on your face.

The calendar helps, too, because it tells you when it's East-

ter. So why not get a hop on things and read these great Easter books?

Chances are, you know all about the Easter Bunny. You can guess what he looks like, what he wears, and what he eats. But what if you make a mistake? In "I am NOT the Easter Bunny!" by T.L. McBeth (Flamingo Books, \$12.99), a "regular bunny" sure looks like the real thing. He acts like the Easter Bunny. He wears a plaid vest and bow-tie, he hops along a trail, he carries a basket, he

buys eggs at the grocery store and then he paints them. He swears he's absolutely not the Easter Bunny, but who's he kidding? Not your 3-to-5-year-old. This is the kind of book that's so much fun and so funny, you won't mind reading it all year 'round.

Sometimes, there's more to someone than meets the eye, especially when it comes to cute. In "The Cutest Brave Little Bunny" by Joy Steuerwald (Nancy Paulsen Books, \$18.99), a cute little "huffle" of bunnies is born

on the farm one day. They're all so cute and that littlest one is especially so – although he swears he's not. He's absolutely not cute. He's brave, resourceful, smart, and well, he's kind of mean. Is it possible to be brave and resourceful and smart and fun... and nice, too? This story is adorable and a little bit sassy, and your 3-to-6-year-old will love knowing how it ends.

And finally, what's Easter without a new Easter outfit to wear to church? In "Elijah's Easter Suit" by Brentom Jack-

son, illustrated by Emmanuel Boateng (Doubleday Books for Young Readers, \$18.99), a young boy wants to get a shout-out from his pastor and the adults in his church for wearing the best outfit – but how? He starts at the department store uptown, but nothing looks "quite right." He searches at the local thrift store, but he gets the same results. Even the oldest store in town disappoints him. Then Mama Green and Mr. Brown tell Elijah how they used to find their Easter outfits, and that

gives him an idea. What makes an Easter outfit great? Kids ages 7 to 9 will love this sweet story and the great illustrations.

If these books aren't enough – or if you're looking for something for an older child, a teen, or for your own Easter basket, then hop on over to your favorite bookstore or library. You'll find all kinds of helpers there, who can put the right book directly in your paws. They know the perfect book to make your little bunny the hoppiest this Easter.



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Lady Tigers win SWAC Tournament and punch ticket to NCAA tournament



SWAC tournament champs



Ticket punched!

PHOTOS BY TIM WARD

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

After going 18-0 in the SWAC during the regular season, capturing the 5th consecutive regular season title, Jackson State's Lady Tigers, steamrolled through the SWAC tournament. Jackson State defeated Alcorn State, 68 to 44 in the championship game. JSU did not leave any doubt, holding the Lady Braves to 12 points at halftime. JSU lead 33 to 12 at halftime. They were aggressive, tenacious and focused on winning.

For some players and the coaching staff, the bitter pill of losing on a 35 foot buzzer beater last year in the tournament still bothers them. JSU was not going to let that happen this year.

"This is a really special team," Jackson State coach Tomekia Reed said. "This team held each other accountable and did not accept other players being average. They understand that once everyone accepted their role it was easy to cheer for each other and love one another and become family. I am very proud of my team for the win."



Head Coach Tomekia Reed leads JSU to the NCAA for the third time.

Dominating throughout the tournament, JSU won by an average of 18 points per game. The smallest margin of victory was 9 points against Prairie

View, winning 67 to 58. They defeated Arkansas Pine Bluff 70 to 48 and Alcorn State 68 to 44. For the season, JSU's Lady Tigers finished 21-0 in the SWAC and are currently on a 24 game winning streak.

It is the 9th SWAC tournament championship win overall for the JSU's women and the third for head coach Tomekia Reed.

Reed said, "I reminded them of that feeling against Southern and told them we have to bring the championship back home.

We have to go hard and we cannot lose like that anymore."

Message received. SWAC tournament MVP, Andriana Avent led the way with 17 points, 4 rebounds, and 1 block. JSU finished the game with 10 blocks against Alcorn in the championship game. Angel Jackson registered 6 blocks and grabbed 9 rebounds. Ti'lan Boler, contributed 13 points and 7 rebounds for JSU. Boler earned All-Tournament team honors.

Boler and Avent were joined on the All-Tournament team by Amiah Simmons from Alabama A&M, Zaay Green from Arkansas-Pine Bluff and Destiny Brown from Alcorn State.

Despite not winning the SWAC tournament, Alcorn's Lady Braves made a good showing. They upset Grambling's Lady Tigers 61 to 59 in the semifinals. The Lady Braves finished the season, 12-20 overall and 8-10 in the SWAC. Kiarra Henderson and Nakia Cheatham both scored 10 points in the championship game.

Ticket officially punched! Jackson State was awarded a 14th seed in the NCAA tournament. That is very high for the SWAC. Most experts predicted a 15th seed for JSU. But you also have to factor in that JSU received a national vote twice to be ranked in the top 25 nationally. JSU will play UCONN. Yes, that UCONN. However, the school won over 100 straight games at one point and time isn't the same juggernaut that it once was. Injuries have hurt them over the years. Been seeded 3rd is the lowest UCONN has been seeded since 2005. On the season, UCONN is 29-5.

The game will be played in Storrs, Connecticut this Saturday. Tip off is scheduled for noon. It's the third trip for coach Reed at JSU to the big dance. Jackson State has a real chance to pull the upset this weekend.

Tiger Nation will be rooting for their Lady Tigers this Saturday. Expect a good, tough, battled game. Both teams are gritty and play good defense.

Miles College Women's Basketball team wins first SIAC title; Division II tournament next



The Miles College Lady Bears women's basketball team captured their first SIAC tournament championship Sunday in Savannah, Georgia. PHOTOS: MILES COLLEGE

By Sym Posey
The Birmingham Times

The "win" was historic after the team defeated Kentucky State 75-72 for its first-ever SIAC

title behind tournament MVP Feliah Greer, who scored a career high 33 points.

"It was an amazing feeling to be able to get that recognition for

the school," said head coach Pete Asmond. "I'm proud of these young ladies and I'm so blessed to have this job. These ladies were able to accomplish a goal

that we set earlier in the year." The Lady Bears set several goals at the start of the season. "Winning 20 games, winning all of our home games, and holding

opponents to 60 points a game," said Asmond.

Miles finished 23-6, 14-1 at home and earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Division II

Tournament.

Asmond has been with the team since 2018 and previously coached under Miles' men basketball head coach Fred Watson.



Miles College President Bobbie Knight, holding trophy, celebrates with the Lady Bears women's basketball team after they captured their first SIAC tournament championship.

Capital City Alternative School hosts College & Career Expo

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Jackson Public Schools Capital City Alternative, located at 2221 Boling Street in Jackson, hosted its' first annual College & Career Expo Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. There were approximately fifty exhibitors to include colleges and universities, medical and legal professionals, entrepreneurs and other businesses.

Tanya Mason, Capital City Alternative School principal, stated in a brief interview with *The Mississippi Link*, "We are very excited that colleges and universities as well as other professionals are here to show our scholars how many opportunities are out there for them."

Mason estimated about 130 scholars from Jackson Public Schools were at the expo and 25 additional students from a JPS program called Re-engaging in Education for all to Progress (REAP). REAP provides an alternative path to a high school diploma.

The atmosphere was very welcoming as representatives from colleges and universities gave information re-



Principal Tanya Mason of Capital City Alternative School, is very appreciative of all the vendors that engaged with students during the College & Career Expo
PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON

garding higher educational choices and vendors who were giving information to students that could very well help them to make career choices.

Vanessa White, with APAC College Career Alternative, said several students had stopped by their booth expressing interest in going to work right

after high school. She said, "Kids can have construction careers right out of high school but if they decide they want to go to college later, we can help them achieve that goal as well."

Michael McCarty, a massage therapist, was seen helping a young lady who had upper back pain. He helped her through various techniques such as stretching, back kneading and placing her muscles in a shortened position around her shoulder pads, all to help with relaxation.

Jacob Hatcher and Jordan Robinson visited the booth of Attorney Kendrick Amerson, a criminal defense lawyer with Amerson & Associates. Robinson told Amerson he knew innocent people were sometimes accused of crimes which they did not commit, and he wanted to learn more about the justice system. Amerson explained, "Everybody accused of a crime deserves a defense and I make certain all my clients get the best defense possible."

Dr. Fred Kinsey, of Kinsey Medical Service, specializes in emergency medicine. Having attended Jackson Public Schools and graduating from

Provine High School, Dr. Kinsey seemed very enthusiastic over the number of students interested in the field of medicine. He said, "A lot of the students here expressed they want to go into medicine but they don't know what field of medicine they wish to practice but we are here to give them some guidance."

Dr. Justin Turner, an internal medicine physician and chief medical officer for MS State Dept. of Health also attended Jackson Public Schools and is a graduate of the once Central High School. He stated, "I have a real passion of giving back and helping kids. I tell them, it's not always about how you start but more so how you finish. Being able to meet these students where they are and letting them know I once was a kid trying to find my way and here is where I am now."

Both Dr. Kinsey and Dr. Turner had a chance to talk with a black male, 18 years old, who is interested in being a RN. He was interested in the pay raise nurses have gotten over the past several years.

Geno Lee, president of the Big Ap-

ple Inn, and his wife Angie, had several students stop by their display to learn about the culinary field. Lee told the students, "If you love good food and if you want to know about the restaurant field, or about owning your own restaurant, you can find a career in loving food."

Bill Stamps, Jr., operations manager of Stamps Burgers, currently located at 1808 Dalton Street, stated his grandfather started the business in 1970 as a grocery and meat market. He said, "It transitioned to burgers in 1986 and is now known as having one of the best burgers around."

Owner of Jubilee Home Bakery, Erica Cornelius, started decorating cakes when she was 11. She stated she is looking to launch decorating classes for all ages and based on the tempting homemade items at her booth, Jackson Public Schools students might just want to enroll in those classes, once they are available.

Principal Mason said, "We are so appreciative of the overall participation from students and with all the people that have engaged with our students."



Army National Guard representatives welcome students



Reggi Harris, Hinds recruiting coordinator



Erica Cornelius, Jubilee Home Bakery



Dr. Kinsey and Dr. Turner



Atty. Kendrick Amerson (R) with students Hatcher and Robinson



Lynda J. Robinson, undergraduate recruitment events coordinator and recruiter



Bill Stamps of Stamp's Burgers



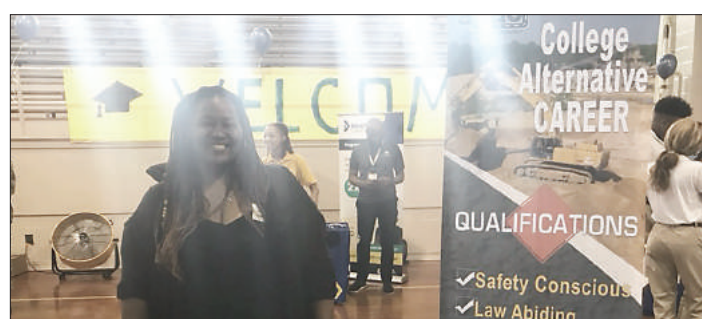
Mary Grant Lee, Ed.D., asst. professor, School of Education, Supervisor & Instruction



Tyler Polk, Mississippi State University



Geno and Angie Lee, Big Apple Inn



Vanessa White, APAC College Career Alternative



Michael McCarty, massage therapist