



Divisive concepts

Proclaimed white guilt driving anti-diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in the land of the free, home of the brave

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey gave a commendation to Ashley M. Jones, in the storied state Capitol building, December 1, 2021. Jones had been named Poet Laureate of Alabama by the Alabama Writers Cooperative. The very first African American named in the 91-year history of the high honor. In her early 30's, Jones was also the youngest ever, per numerous sources. She will hold the position from 2022-2026.



Ashley M. Jones, Poet Laureate of Alabama
PHOTO: [HTTPS://ALABAMAWRITERSCOOPERATIVE.ORG](https://alabamawriterscooperative.org),



Governor Kay Ivey
PHOTO: [HTTPS://GOVERNOR.ALABAMA.GOV](https://governor.alabama.gov)

The New York Times wrote, in part, on October 21, 2021, "The poet Ashley M. Jones wants far more than financial reparations to compensate for centuries of slavery and its legacies — though she would take a check. To her, true reparations require an enormous cultural evolution. "You think money can ever repay what you stole?" she asks in her third poetry collection, "Reparations Now!" which was published in September. "Give me land, give me all the blood you ripped out of our backs, our veins." "Give me the songs you said were yours but you know came out of our lips first," she writes shortly after.

"Give me back Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X and Medgar Evers. Give me back the beauty of my hair. The swell of my hips. The big of my lips. Give me back the whole Atlantic Ocean. Give me a never-ending blue. And a mule."

A phenomenally talented African-American woman — a published poet, fearless, bold

and elegant — acknowledged and commended in Alabama. Was Alabama turning a corner toward change, social justice, equity — or was this high honor an anomaly in an otherwise non-progressive state?

Fast-forward two and half years, on March 20, 2024, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey "signed legislation that would

ban diversity, equity and inclusion programs at public schools, universities and state agencies and prohibit the teaching of "divisive concepts" including that someone should feel guilty because of their race or gender," per the Associated Press.

The Census tells us that Al-

Alabama
Continued on page 3

Concerning Women History Month

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

While the month of March has been set aside as Women's History Month, we should be saluting and remembering Black women in particular who bore the burden of racism and humiliation that went with being seen as chattel when other women were still seen as women, even without the recognition of citizenship.

to raise children and much of the time as single parents because of racism so often removing the father from the home by design. So often these Black mothers spent their best hours each day taking care of other people's children and families, at the expense of their own.

Their lives were often a reflection of Langston Hughes statement: "Life ain't been no crystal stairs" for most; but like Maya Angelo wrote, These Black women could say "But still I rise."

The real cause for the celebration of Black women in particular is that they still rose

Baltimore Key Bridge catastrophe: A city's heartbreak and a nation's alarm



A portion of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore collapsed after a large boat collided with it early Tuesday morning, and multiple vehicles fell. Photo and video, 11Alive Baltimore

By Stacy M. Brown
NINPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

In one of the ultimate nightmares, the Francis Scott Key Bridge, an iconic lifeline for Baltimore's bustling metropolis, was ripped apart in a clash with a container ship, unleashing chaos in and around Charm City and tragedy for at least seven families. The once-sturdy structure crumbled like paper beneath the vessel's onslaught, sending vehicles plummeting into the depths of the Patapsco River around 1:30 a.m. EST.

Officials immediately declared that they didn't suspect terrorism or any sabotage.

Emergency crews raced against time, battling the elements to rescue survivors trapped in the wreckage. At 8:30 a.m., two individuals were reportedly rescued while the search intensified.

One of the victims emerged unscathed, while the other fought for life in the clutches

of critical injuries.

"We're facing an unprecedented crisis," declared Baltimore Fire Chief James Wallace, his voice heavy with emotion. "Our priority remains the search and rescue efforts to locate those still missing."

Gov. Wes Moore wasted no time declaring a state of emergency and mobilizing resources and support from across the nation. "We stand united in the face of tragedy," he proclaimed, rallying a city reeling from the catastrophe.

The collision, captured in chilling detail on video, sent shockwaves nationwide, prompting an outpouring of support and solidarity. Helicopters buzzed overhead, casting their searchlights upon the river's surface as rescuers scoured the waters for signs of life.

As the day wore on, ques-

Continued on page 3

Connecting the Dots Foundation, Inc. celebrates National Women's History Month with notable women

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

There comes a time in her life when a woman must plot her own path. As she evolves — not a carbon copy of others — she comes to know who she is. She has learned to walk in her own light. In her truth, she has a glow like no other person with whom she has heard about, or has had contact. Therein lies the beauty of her authentic self which stands out to others.



Dr. Marilyn Luckett, PHOTO COURTESY OF CONNECTING THE DOTS FOUNDATION, INC.

In deference to Women's History Month, Connecting the Dots Foundation, Inc., under the leadership of Dr. Marilyn Johnson-Luckett (founder and CEO) held in high regard six Mississippi women for their dedication, professionalism and passion for their chosen fields. They were brought to the podium at Jackson Convention Complex Center in downtown Jackson last Saturday evening at 6 p.m. Vision, experience and potential ushered them to their honoring amidst a supportive crowd.

second or minute to waste, they chartered the evening's course. They held the audience captive throughout their enchanting stories of the honorees' contributions to their communities, Mississippi and beyond.

humanitarian. The President Emerita headed Tougaloo College for 17 years. Prior to that time, she was the interim president, vice president for institutional advancement and founding director of the George A. and Ruth B. Owens Health, Wellness and Human Resources Center. She was the first African American appointed to commissioner of the Workers' Compensation Commission and executive director of the Governor's Office of Federal State Programs. Additionally, the International Women's Forum (2018) recognized her as one of five women who impact the world.

Allison Morris Cox — executive director of the Jackson Housing Authority — is president of Mississippi Association of Affordable Housing Providers. The University of Mississippi alumna realized the need for affordable housing, despite inequities dispersed in America as a Northwest Housing Authority employee. Stiff competition among the nation's Housing Authorities prodded her as an employee by Jackson Housing Authority to

Dots
Continued on page 3

Melanie Christopher of WJTV -TV 12 and Troy Johnson of WAPT - TV 16 served as program guides with aplomb. With not a

Inside

Lady Tigers show valiant effort versus UCONN and Coach Reed is praised

Page 15

Pride and Joy

Page 14

Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

Mississippi Humanities Council Recognizes 2024 Humanities Award Recipients

By Tonja Murphy
Contributing Writer

The Mississippi Humanities Council creates opportunities for Mississippians to learn about themselves and the larger world and enriches communities through civil conversations about our history and culture.

Saturday, March 22, the council held their 2024 Public Humanities Awards Ceremony at the Two Mississippi Museums located at 222 North Street in Jackson.

Dr. Stuart Rockoff, MHC executive director, served as presider of the program. Douglas Sullivan-Gonzalez, MHC board chair extended a welcome to the attendees.

This year's Humanities Award recipients exemplify the best and brightest whose work has deepened Mississippians' understanding of the humanities and broadened engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy and other humanities subjects.

The Mississippi Humanities Council recognized the outstanding work of the following individuals and groups:

Pam Junior, retired director of the Two Mississippi Museum, received the Cora Norman 2024 Award. The reward was created to honor the first director of the Mississippi Humanities Council,



Awards were presented to (L-R) Pamela D. C. Junior, Dr. Tammy Greer, Julian Rankin, Vickie Roberts Ratliff, LaShetta Wilder and Dr. Christian Pinnen. PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

and celebrates individuals who have made a significant lifetime contribution to the public humanities.

Dr. Christian Pinnen, Mississippi College associate professor in the Department of History and Political Science, received the Humanities Scholar Award. This award recognizes scholars who have made significant contributions to the public humanities in Mississippi.

Tammy Greer, University of Southern Mississippi American Indian Research Center director, received the Humanities Educator Award. This award recog-

nizes an individual who reaches beyond the traditional classroom to create opportunities to share the disciplines and values with the humanities in larger communities.

LaShetta Wilder, director of Education at the Mississippi Department of Corrections, received the Humanities Partner. This award recognizes people or organizations that have collaborated with the Humanities Council to provide programming that reaches new or expanded audiences.

Reflecting Mississippi Award, Bridging Winona and The Walter Anderson Museum of Art honor

people or organizations that have worked to create a more accurate and inclusive narrative about the state. This award was presented to Vickie Roberts Ratliff on behalf of Winona, MS and LaShetta Wilder on behalf of The Walter Anderson Museum of Art.

Also recognized were 30 recipients of the 2024 Humanities Teacher Awards, which honor outstanding faculty in traditional humanities at the state's institutions of higher learning. They were recognized by Dr. Ebony Lumumba, MHC board member.

According to the reaction of attendees, the recognition of award



Dr. Ebony Lumumba announcing Teacher Award winners



Dr. Stuart Rockoff, MHC executive director



Nellie Mack Band members – Bernard Jones, Malcolm Shepherd, Mike Grayer and Nellie Mack

recipients was well deserved and fulfills MHC's motto that the humanities are for everyone.

The Mississippi Committee for the Humanities was established in 1972 with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It aimed to develop and endorse a new state humanities councils' system that could fund and execute public humanities programs at the grassroots level.

During a period of federally enforced integration, the MHC played a crucial role in promoting social change in Mississippi by organizing and supporting interracial meetings and providing grants to communities to address desegregation and other vital issues.

However, the MHC's impact on the community was more important than the funding.

Less worrying and more living.

Blue Primary Care
WOMEN'S WELLNESS MISSISSIPPI

bcbsms.com | @BlueCrossBlueShieldofMississippi

Alabama

Continued from page 1

Alabama is 64.7% white. Glancing at their legislature webpage, only 26 of 103 photos of lower chamber members and only 6 of 35 photos of upper chamber members were not pale – so 76.82% of their legislators are white – doing battle to warp the moral arch of justice. Pretending that American history, Alabama history is filled with examples of social justice. Their need for supremacy runs deep, delusionally deep.

Defying any image that makes sense, Alabama is not alone. The national agenda to slash – like a whip through flesh – anything that creates a more level playing field for minorities is on the chopping block. On March 2, 2024, NBC News wrote, “Republican lawmakers in more than 30 states have introduced or passed more than 100 bills to either restrict or regulate diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in the current legislative session, according to an NBC News analysis.

They write, “Following the murder of George Floyd in May 2020 and the national protests that followed, schools, companies and individuals sought more solutions to become more racially and socially inclusive. But those efforts have invited a backlash, with conservative media outlets, politicians, lawyers, and social media influencers now countering DEI efforts in several industries, from higher education institutions to airlines.”

“Advocates for the anti-DEI movement have called such policies and programs unconstitutional, holding that focusing on diversity and inclusion only divides Americans and fosters “white guilt.” These efforts are part of the larger conservative push against “wokeness.” The anti-DEI efforts follow, and have gained momentum from, the backlash to Black Lives Matter and the implementation of laws to limit what can be taught about race in schools.”

Not shockingly, 100% of these anti-DEI bills are brought by white Republicans. None are brought by minorities or Democrats. What are they afraid of? How do they justify their wrongheadedness to their offspring? It reminds of the tried-and-true adage – people of quality don’t fear equality. And with each new affront to equality, America suffers. No suffering is more acute, more blistering, than for African Americans who are forced over and over again to ask the question of themselves that white people in America never have to ask – why does my country hate me so much?

“We don’t need to persuade most businesspeople on diversity,” Marc H. Morial, president of the National Urban League, previously told NBC News. “We just have to encourage them to be courageous and not be intimidated by politicians, mainly a bunch of politicians, billionaires and right-wing actors.”

In righteous juxtaposition, on March 27, 2024, yet another museum will open in Montgomery, courtesy of Equal Justice Initiative (EJI). The Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, located on a 17-acre site, combines historical artifacts, contemporary art, original research, and first-person narratives to provide an authentic and historically significant space that explores the institution of slavery, the lives of enslaved people, and the legacy of slavery in this country, per BirminghamTimes.com. Do you suppose Governor Kay Ivey will be on-hand to offer a commendation?

Bridge

Continued from page 1

tions swirled amidst the debris. What caused this cataclysmic collision? Was it a tragic accident or something more sinister? Authorities moved swiftly to quell speculation, assuring the public that there was no evidence of foul play.

Yet, as investigators combed through the wreckage, unease lingered. In the heart of the chaos, families clung to hope, their prayers echoing across the cityscape. At a nearby convenience store, relatives of the missing gathered in anguished vigil, their eyes filled with tears, their hearts heavy with fear.

The Francis Scott Key Bridge, once a symbol of progress and connectivity, now stands as a monument to tragedy. Built to withstand the test of time, it succumbed to forces beyond its control, leaving a city grappling with the enormity of its loss.



Baltimore Fire Chief James Wallace and Mayor Brandon Scott



Maryland Gov. Wes Moore

Dots

Continued from page 1



Allison Morris Cox
PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT



Attorney Vangela Wade



Eden Desotell and Allie Schultz of Ballet Magnificat! render a graceful performance.



Representative Alyce G. Clarke



Honoree Cynthia Goodloe Palmer expresses gratitude.



Councilwoman Virgi Lindsay



Olivia Bonds – Miss Sweetheart America 2022-2023



Sykes Elementary School music educator – Kurtina Cyntel Maholmes

create its first Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program that has grown to assisting more than 1,100 people monthly and expends more than \$7,000,000 annually. The honoree corresponds with minority contractors in the revitalization of ongoing community and state projects.

Cynthia Goodloe Palmer attended Tougaloo College and later studied at Belhaven University and Phillips College. The distinguished recording artist was the first gospel singer to perform at the famous Royal Albert Hall and the first gospel singer to sing at the Jewish synagogue in Dayton, Ohio. Her performance record reveals a sojourn of 35 of the United States, Alaska, Canada, Bermuda, Trinidad, Tobago, Germany, France, Brazil and Holland. Palmer is a 3-time award winner at the Mississippi Gospel Music Awards, and she has sung to women who were on death row at the Alabama State Prison. Since 2012, she has been the executive director for the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Right Movement.

Councilwoman Virgi Lindsay has outstandingly served the Belhaven Community. For 15 years, she was the first executive director of the Greater Belhaven Foundation. Hence, Belhaven was named one of ten Great Places in America. She became Woman of the Year by the Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women. The two-time Ward 7 city councilwoman is a University of Southern Mississippi graduate and was a public relations and marketing director at Jackson Public Schools and the Mississippi Arts Commission. She volunteers at Downtown Jackson Partners Advisory Board, We Will Go Ministries, Belhaven Home and Garden Club.

Attorney Vangela M. Wade, president and CEO of the Mississippi Center for Justice (MCJ), a nonprofit, public interest law firm, advances racial and economic justice. She has grown MCJ’s programming, grown its revenue, and expanded its national voice. The 30-year veteran in Mississippi law seeks systemic solutions to ensure equity in the lives of Mississippians. She was recently appointed to the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine’s Planning Committee for Empowering Justice 40 communities. Wade led MCJ to receive the 2022 National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division’s 50th Anniversary Impact Award. In 2021,

the Black Voices for Black Justice Fund chose her as one of 19 national Black Voices for Black Justice honorees and recognized her with a \$50,000 honorarium, which she donated to the MCJ education project. Wade earned her law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Representative Alyce G. Clarke (special honoree) has an esteemed and laudable 38-year legislative career in the Mississippi House of Representatives. Clarke, the first African-American female elected to the Mississippi Legislature, has served Mississippians with honor and intrepid dignity. Despite discrimination, she stood tall in her work with her colleagues for the good of Mississippians. An astute politician, Clarke introduced over 1,500 bills. She worked tirelessly to push the state’s most impactful programs to fruition. The 1986 “Born Free Act,” the Mississippi’s International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, the Alyce G. Clarke Mississippi Lottery Law are a few that come to mind.

The district 69 community champion has an exemplary 60-year record of service. Sprinkled among those services are: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Pecan Tree Park Neighborhood Association; National Multiple Sclerosis Society; Alcorn State University Alumni Association; Jackson Takes a Stand (Jackson State University) Advisory Council; National Association of Drug Court Professionals; Connecting the Dots Foundation; and National Association of Mississippi Public Health Association. Among the special honoree’s awards are: the only female portrait which hangs in the state’s capitol; Fannie Lou Hamer Award; Medgar Evers Award; Outstanding Volunteers Award; Policymakers Leadership Award; Leadership and Community Service Award.

Other elements of the event occurred. In addition to awards presented to the event’s honorees, \$1000 scholarships, along with \$1500 Alyce G. Clarke scholarships, were distributed. Entertainment was rendered by the Tougaloo Jazz Ensemble, Kurtina Cyntel Maholmes, Eden Desotell and Allie Schultz of Ballet Magnificat and Olivia Bonds (Miss Sweetheart World 2024).

Further, Governors Tate Reeves, Ray Mabus and Ronnie Musgrove, and Congressman Bennie Thompson, provided well-wishes to Connecting the Dots Foundation and attendees.

Saturday
APRIL
13, 2024

SOUTH JACKSON PARADE

9AM

AND FESTIVAL



Meet City Councilman Brian Grizzell

Bring Out Your Family And Friends

Starts at Mcdowell Rd between Suncest Drive and ends at Cardozo Middle School on Mcdowell Road

Food trucks, Vendors, Mom and Pops stores, Pop Up Shops and Local Businesses Are Welcomed



Southern Echo, Inc.




Contact Earnest Ward at 601.201.3020 or Johnny Byrd at 601.720.9965

www.ASJN.org



Celebrating 75 years of tradition and excellence: The Mighty YE's Diamond Gala

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D
Contributing Writer

On March 23, 2024, the Jackson Convention Center was abuzz with excitement, elegance and a profound sense of brotherhood as the Upsilon Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. celebrated its 75th Diamond Anniversary. This grand gala wasn't just a celebration; it was a heartfelt homage to 75 years of tradition, excellence and, most importantly, the unbreakable bonds of friendship and love that have been the cornerstone of the fraternity since its chartering March 25, 1949, at Jackson State University.

"The event brought together over 500 attendees, including brothers from various generations, their families and friends, as well as dignitaries from local, state and national levels. This diverse gathering, spanning ages 19 to 97, illustrated the chapter's broad and impactful reach across decades."

Ronald Moore (SP '01 YE), encapsulated the essence of the

night, stating, "The YE 75th Diamond Anniversary gala was a celebration of love and friendship; honoring brothers and supporting our scholarship endowment." His words echoed the fraternity's foundational belief that friendship is essential to the soul, a belief that has forged deep connections among its members.

Ronald Moore himself was honored with the Dr. John A. Peoples Award, Most Outstanding Brother of The Mighty YE 2024, a testament to his contributions and the respect he commands within the fraternity. The event was skillfully steered by Timothy W. Rush Sr. (SP '83), the 75th Anniversary gala chair, and Curtis Augustine (FA '84), the co-chair.

Their leadership ensured an evening that was not only memorable but also meaningful, emphasizing the fraternity's commitment to scholarship, community service and the upliftment of their members.

Rush Sr., who joined the

chapter in Spring '83, played the pivotal role of master of ceremonies, guiding the attendees through an evening filled with recognition, memories and forward-looking aspirations. The event was graced by the presence of distinguished members and leaders, including Paul Williams (SP '88) and Malachi O'Neal (SP '23), with an invocation delivered by Cory Watts (SP '97), setting a reflective and reverent tone for the evening.

A highlight of the gala was the detailed recounting of the chapter's history and its significant impact over the decades, presented by Cameron Bennett (SP '23), the chapter's Keeper of Records and Seal, alongside Shawnell Handy (SP '22), the Basileus. Their speeches underscored the chapter's enduring legacy and its contributions to the community and the broader Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

The gala also served as a platform to honor the exceptional service and achievements of its members. The 42nd Grand

Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Ricky Lewis ('81 NU MU), was among the key dignitaries recognized, alongside Larry Burks (SP '74), who represents the YEA Affinity Group. Robert L. Woodson (SP '81), the YEA president, and Patrease Edwards, president of JSUNAA, were also acknowledged for their contributions and leadership.

A poignant moment of the evening was the presentation of the 75th Anniversary Ring to Dr. John A. Peoples, Jr., an esteemed member whose dedication and service were celebrated by Lee A. Bernard, Jr. (FA '69) and Arwyn Peak (SP '23). Further, Eric Nelson (SP '02) and Gabriel Thurmond (FA '77) honored members with over 50 years of service, embodying the chapter's deep appreciation for long-standing dedication.

Entertainment for the night was superbly provided by Gerald Richardson & Band, ensuring that the celebratory mood was kept alive with music and

dance. The Que Comedy Corner, led by Scoop Dawson (SP '09), added a light-hearted and joyful dimension to the evening.

The guest speaker, Derrick Johnson, ('20 Omega Mu Mu), the 19th president and CEO of the NAACP, delivered a compelling charge, resonating deeply with the fraternity's values and the evening's theme of honor and responsibility.

Michael C. Weaver (SP '99), an advisor, lauded the event as "a stellar event of great magnitude," highlighting its style, authenticity, and the unique "MIGHTY YE FUNK" that permeated the evening. Similarly, Theresa Kennedy, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated (FA '99), reflected on the beauty of honoring the elders and the chapter's enduring legacy, touched by Derrick Johnson's powerful message.

The 75th Diamond Anniversary weekend, under the guidance of Zuri Williams (SP '97) and the dedicated efforts of many others, was more than just

a series of events; it was a heartfelt celebration of the bonds of brotherhood that have sustained the Upsilon Epsilon Chapter for three-quarters of a century. It was a weekend that honored the past, celebrated the present and looked forward to a future where the chapter continues to make a significant impact on its members and the communities they serve.

As attendees left, the sentiment was clear: the 75th Diamond Anniversary Gala of The Mighty YE was more than just an event; it was a reaffirmation of the bonds that have sustained the Upsilon Epsilon Chapter for decades. It was a night that underscored the importance of love, friendship and commitment to the ideals that Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. holds dear. A beautiful night, indeed, and one that will be remembered for years to come.

To review the YE 75th Diamond Anniversary Souvenir Book digital copy, scan the QR code below on the picture page.

PHOTOS BY EDELIA J. CARTHAN, ED.D



Rep. Bennie G. Thompson votes to keep the government working for the American people

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (MS-02) voted to pass a package of six funding bills Friday, March 23, that will help Americans cope with inflation, support hard-working families, protect women's

rights, reinforce America's global leadership and ensure the safety and security of our communities.

"As House Democrats continue to prioritize people over politics, I am proud to have voted for a bipartisan govern-

ment funding package that invests in critical government programs and services supporting the people of Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District. I am pleased to see both Democrats and Republicans agreeing that keeping

the government open is a wise decision," said Rep. Thompson.

This government funding package includes the following bills:

- Defense
- Financial Services and

General Government

- Homeland Security
- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
- Legislative Branch
- State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs.



Thompson

Collaborative Design Forum created for Capital City's Parks and Trails

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Visit Jackson supported Great City's Jackson Parks & Trails Design Forum, Thursday March 21, at the Jackson Convention Complex (JCC) in the City With Soul.

The forum, also sponsored by the JCC, the City of Jackson and the Community Foundation for Mississippi, was created to serve as a vibrant platform for collaboration, fostering dialogue between city officials, park and recreation professionals, architects, landscape architects, engineers, urban planners and dedicated community members.

This cross-section of expertise focused on a shared vision: transforming Jackson's outdoor spaces into thriving hubs for recreation, connection and well-being.

"The Design Forum was a great opportunity to listen and learn from leaders and volunteers working on inspiring efforts throughout Jackson," said Taylor Nicholas, Great City Mississippi Foundation's executive director. "The purpose of the event was to better connect projects, leaders and stakeholders who all share a collective belief in enhancing the quality of life for the entire Jackson community."

Great City is committed to support-



ing a more vibrant Jackson through outdoor opportunities for economic development, recreation and more connected communities.

"The spirit of collective ambition was palpable throughout the forum," said Dr. Rickey Thigpen, Visit Jackson's president & CEO. "Some break-

out sessions not only provided a platform for learning about the vision for each project, but it gave attendees the opportunity to share potential solutions for the challenges they faced. This event undergirds Visit Jackson's current efforts to produce a destination masterplan."

The projects and presenters included:

- Buddy Butts Park**
Friends of the Mississippi River Basin Model
- Town Creek Greenway**
Jackson Redevelopment Authority
- South Jackson Parks**
New Horizon Ministries, Inc.
- LeFleur's Bluff Park**
Mississippi Children's Museum
- West Jackson Parks**
City of Jackson, Revitalize Mississippi
- Sportsplex**
Jackson Medical Mall
- Museum Trail Greenway**
Jackson Heart Foundation
- Margaret Crigler Park**
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
- Battlefield Park**
Friends of Battlefield Park
- Fondren Parks**
Fondren Renaissance Foundation
- Riverfront Park**
Great City Mississippi Foundation
- Parham Bridges Park**
LeFleur East Foundation
- North Jackson Riverfront Park**
Mississippi Communities United for Prosperity

Louisiana man held in shooting death of GA man on Greyhound bus in MS

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A Louisiana man has been arrested and charged in the shooting death of a Georgia man aboard a bus traveling through Mississippi.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation said in a news release Monday that the fatal shooting happened at about 11 p.m. Sunday as the Greyhound bus was on Interstate 10 near Ocean Springs, and

the suspect was captured about 3 a.m. Monday after local deputies saw him crossing the interstate.

Rashad Price, 26, of Slidell, Louisiana, is charged with murder in the killing of Jay Jackson, 25, of Decatur, Georgia. Price was being held without bond Monday in the jail of Jackson County, Mississippi. An employee at the jail said booking docu-

ments did not show whether Price was represented by an attorney.

The MBI news release said that after the fatal shooting, Price demanded that the bus driver stop so he could be released. The driver went to the nearest exit and called 911, the release said.

No other passengers were injured.



Greyhound bus

Subscribe TODAY 2659 Livingston Road • Jackson MS, 39213
601-896-0084 • www.mississippilink.com

The Mississippi Link

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
e-Mail _____

1 year 2 year 3 year

\$32 1 year subscription
\$64 2 year subscription
\$96 3 year subscription

Thank you for your order. Order a subscription for a friend!

The Mississippi Link™

Volume 30 • Number 23
March 28 - April 3, 2024
© copyright 2024. All rights reserved.

Publisher.....Jackie Hampton
Editor.....Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D.
Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett
Sports Editor.....Tim Ward
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson
Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster:
Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link,
P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information,
please call (601) 896-0084.

The Mississippi Link accepts no responsibility for unsolicited materials and in general does not return them to sender. Manuscripts and photographs submitted for publication are welcome by The Mississippi Link, but no responsibility can be taken for sources considered to be authoritative, because the publication cannot guarantee their accuracy. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content, is prohibited.

Member:

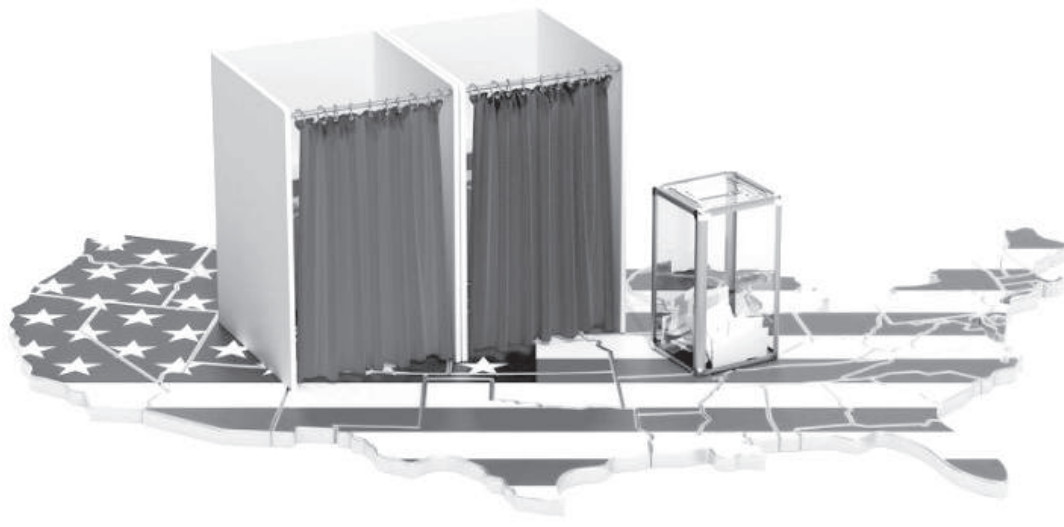
Biden and allies forge legal arsenal amid fears of Trump's election sabotage

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In the shadow of a contentious political landscape, President Joe Biden and his close circle have reportedly embarked on a strategic campaign to fortify their defenses against potential electoral sabotage. With a wary eye on the twice-impeached and four-times indicted Donald Trump's lingering ambitions and a Republican Party fueled by the specter of the "Big Lie," Biden's team is meticulously crafting legal strategies to navigate a potential showdown in the 2024 presidential election.

According to a detailed report in Rolling Stone, years before Trump's formal announcement for the 2024 race, clandestine maneuvers and overt machinations were underway within the ex-president's camp to tilt the electoral scale in his favor. This extensive groundwork, conducted covertly and publicly, has set the stage for a potentially volatile showdown in November.

Democratic Party elites, grappling not only with Biden's dwindling poll numbers but also with the looming threat of



electoral subversion, are intensifying their efforts to thwart any attempts at a coup.

Citing sources familiar with Biden's concerns, Rolling Stone reported that officials have revealed an ongoing apprehension that Trump may resort to nefarious means to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, particularly in a closely contested election.

With memories of the tumultuous aftermath of the 2020 race still fresh, Biden's inner circle is bracing for a potential reprise of Trump's scorched-earth tactics, buoyed by a relentless assault

on truth and democratic norms.

"President Biden has been worried, for a while now, that Donald Trump is going to try to steal the election, if it's very close on Election Day," a source familiar with Biden's thinking told Rolling Stone. "If that ends up being the case, we... also expecting the Republican Party to go into overdrive to help him steal it. We are continuing to build out the infrastructure to ensure that doesn't happen – again – if President Biden wins and Trump and MAGA Republicans try to confuse [everyone] and sow chaos."

Following Biden's victory in 2020, Trump and his allies unleashed a barrage of legal challenges, conspiracy theories, and outright attempts to overturn the election results, culminating in the violent insurrection on January 6. While their efforts ultimately faltered, the specter of electoral subversion looms large, especially in the event of razor-thin margins in key battleground states.

Insiders from the Trump and Biden camps anticipate a nail-biting finish in November, with the outcome hinging on a mere sliver of votes.

Advisers to both candidates told Rolling Stone that they foresee a contentious battle unfolding, with Trump's team primed for an electoral "knife fight to the death." Biden's preparations for such a scenario date back to his candidacy's infancy, with a dedicated cadre of legal experts brainstorming strategies to counter every conceivable threat to the democratic process.

Biden's allies reportedly are leaving no stone unturned in their efforts to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process. Partnering with the Democratic National Committee and a vast network of legal experts, they erected a formidable bulwark against potential acts of subversion.

Draft pleadings and legal motions tailored to address various Trump-related emergencies are already in place, focusing on critical swing states like Georgia, Arizona and Pennsylvania. Biden's team has maintained close communication with outside counsel and local law firms, ensuring they remain vigilant against any attempts at electoral malfeasance.

Despite the exhaustive prepa-

rations, the spectacle of a Jan. 6-style power grab continues to haunt Biden's camp. With a laundry list of nightmare scenarios and a relentless commitment to defending democracy, Biden and his allies are steeling themselves for a protracted battle to ensure that the people's will prevails come Election Day.

A spokesperson for the Democratic National Committee told the publication that the national party is also setting aside "tens of millions of dollars in a robust voter protection program to safeguard the rights of voters to make their voices heard against relentless attacks from Donald Trump and the GOP."

"Meanwhile, the Trump campaign and the RNC have invested in an army of conspiratorial, election-denying legal staff to undermine our elections and make it harder for Americans' ballots to be counted," the DNC spokesperson said. "We won't let Republicans get away with these baseless attacks on our democracy, and we will continue to use every tool at our disposal to strengthen our democracy as MAGA extremists attempt to tear it down."

Alabama Republicans pass controversial anti-diversity legislation

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Alabama Republicans have stirred controversy with the passage of a divisive bill targeting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (D.E.I.) efforts in public colleges. The legislation slashes funding for diversity programs and imposes restrictions on discussing "divisive concepts" related to race and gender within educational settings.

Met with widespread support in the State Legislature, the bill faced vehement opposition from various quarters. Democrats, student groups, and civil rights advocates condemned it as an assault on free speech and diversity initiatives, particularly poignant given Alabama's history of segregation and racism.

"The advancements that we



have made... in this country, they're slowly rolling it back," remarked State Representative Juandalynn Givan, a Democrat, expressing concerns over the bill's implications.

Furthermore, the legislation prohibits transgender individuals from using bathrooms aligned with their gender identity on public university campuses, aligning Alabama with

a broader right-wing campaign targeting D.E.I. programs nationwide.

With the bill's passage, dissent persists. Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin urged

student-athletes to consider institutions prioritizing diversity and inclusion, suggesting potential repercussions for Alabama's educational institutions.

"Would you be cool with your child playing at schools where diversity among staff is actively being discouraged?" Mayor Randall Woodfin asked, emphasizing the importance of diversity in educational settings.

Meanwhile, students rallied against similar anti-D.E.I. measures at the University of Louisville, fearing academic restrictions and scholarship implications.

"Unfortunately, I'm not surprised by the empty words we've been given," remarked protester Elizabeth Hinsdale. "If I am not able to study what I want to at this university or any in Kentucky, I'm left with

no choice but to transfer out of state," added Savannah Dowell, expressing concerns about potential academic limitations.

Several states across the country have passed or proposed anti-DE&I bills that target diversity training, curriculum content, and initiatives aimed at promoting inclusivity in various sectors.

States such as Texas, Florida, Iowa, Oklahoma and Tennessee have advanced or enacted legislation restricting discussions on topics related to race and gender in educational institutions, public workplaces and government-funded programs.

"We cannot, without equivocation, support any legislation that limits the university's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts," declared President Kim Schatzel, echoing concerns raised by students.

From raids to revelations: The dark turn in Sean 'Diddy' Combs' saga

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Following the federal raids on the residences of rap mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs in Miami and New York, the hip-hop community remains shocked by the barrage of disturbing revelations surrounding the music icon. The raids believed to be the culmination of a protracted investigation prompted by a lawsuit filed by Combs' former protege, Cassandra "Cassie" Ventura, have brought to light a troubling pattern of alleged sexual misconduct and abuse.

"This is 100 percent about Cassie's lawsuit," a well-connected individual in the hip-hop community told the Informer. "Cassie's lawsuit wasn't just about Cassie being victimized, which she was. Cassie's lawsuit gave the police a case with solid, irrefutable evidence." Ventura's lawsuit, which some reports suggested Combs settled for a jaw-dropping \$100 million, initially

drew attention to what some industry insiders described as "crimes" committed by Combs.

The Ventura lawsuit exposed Combs as a serial abuser who paid men for so-called "freak-offs," including directing them to assault Ventura sexually. The lawsuit also detailed other forms of violence that sources said immediately caught the attention of law enforcement. "When this got out, the blowing up cars, the guns stuff, police called Cassie's people because they hadn't heard anything credible about Puff until then," the source said. "They told Cassie's lawyers in no uncertain terms that they were going to act. Naturally, they did their due diligence and here we are. Puff's kids in cuffs, he's on the run, and is pretty much the modern-day O.J. [Simpson]."

While Combs hasn't been arrested, media members tracked his private plane to Antigua and other island destinations that reportedly have no extradition treaties with the United

States. After the raids, a TMZ journalist spotted Combs being detained briefly by federal authorities at an airport in Miami. Part of Ventura's claims included, "In February 2012 ... Mr. Combs told Ms. Ventura that he was going to blow up Kid Cudi's car and that he wanted to ensure that Kid Cudi was home with his friends when it happened."

"Around that time, Kid Cudi's car exploded in his driveway. Ms. Ventura was terrified as she began fully comprehending what Mr. Combs was willing and able to do to those, he believed had slighted him." Cudi later confirmed the story to the *New York Times*. Law enforcement officials confirmed that the investigation encompasses various potential crimes, including sex trafficking and firearms.

Since Ventura's lawsuit, numerous other accusers have made similar allegations against Combs, spanning decades. Lawsuits have detailed alleged coercion, rape, and other forms of

abuse by the Bad Boy Records founder.

Despite Combs' vehement denials, mounting legal battles and public scrutiny prompted him to step down as chairman of his cable television network, Revolt. Combs' online marketplace, Empower Global, highlighting Black-owned brands, remains active but currently displays no available products.

Earlier this year, Combs opted to retract a lawsuit he had filed against Diageo, a settlement reached with the London-based spirits giant. In his lawsuit, he alleged Diageo failed to fulfill promised investments in Ciroc vodka and DeLeon tequila, which he had endorsed. Combs asserted that Diageo treated these brands as inferior "urban" products and leveled unfounded accusations of racism against the company's leadership.

According to court documents, Combs alleged that Diageo executives cited race as a factor in restricting distribution



Sean 'Diddy' Combs

to predominantly "urban" neighborhoods. Further, he claimed that some leaders within Diageo harbored resentment towards him for his financial success.

Diageo countered Combs' claims in response, denouncing them as "false and reckless" attempts to extort additional funds from the company.

Despite the legal dispute, Combs' reputation suffered a significant blow, mainly after initiating the lawsuit. Subsequently, Diageo assumed full ownership of Ciroc and DeLeon following the lawsuit's withdrawal.

After the raids on his homes where authorities handcuffed and temporarily detained two of his children, criticism of

Combs intensified. Renowned artists like 50 Cent and former Bad Boy rapper Ma\$e publicly condemned his behavior, while resurfaced interviews with superstar Usher have added fuel to the fire.

Usher's chilling testimony of his time at what he described as "Puff Flavor Camp" painted a vivid picture of the disturbing atmosphere surrounding Combs. "I got a chance to see some things ... I don't know if I could indulge and even understand what I was looking at," Usher recounted in a resurfaced 2016 interview with Howard Stern. Asked whether he would send his kids to "Puffy Flavor Camp," Usher exclaimed: "Hell no!"

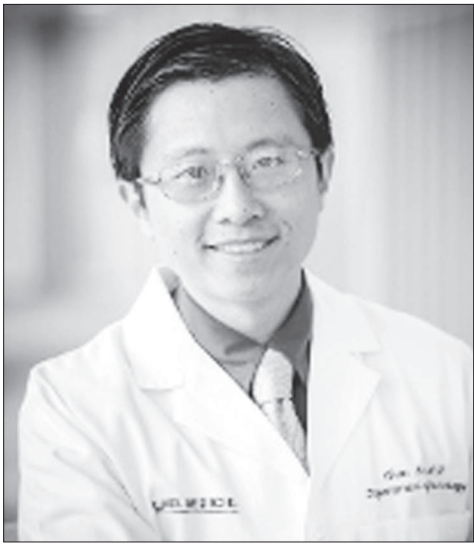
African American veterans with PTSD had higher risk of re-hospitalization after stroke

The Mississippi Link Newswire

After a stroke, African-American veterans previously diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) were significantly more likely to be re-hospitalized than those without PTSD. PTSD did not raise the risk of post-stroke readmission in white veterans, according to research published today in *Stroke*, the peer-reviewed scientific journal of the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association.

“Our findings highlight the important things we can do to improve post-stroke care, such as focusing on high-risk populations, reducing modifiable risk factors, achieving stricter Type 2 diabetes control and access for veterans who may need prescription medication treatment,” said Chen Lin, M.D., M.B.A., senior author of the study, a staff neurologist at the Birmingham Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center, and an associate professor of neurology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

PTSD is a mental health disorder that develops in some people who have experienced or witnessed a shocking, scary or dangerous event and leads to intense anxiety, flashbacks or other symptoms whenever events or situations trigger memories



Chen Lin, M.D., M.B.A.

of the original trauma.

Previous studies have shown that people with PTSD have a higher risk of heart disease and stroke and they also develop stroke at younger ages than the general population. And while there have been other studies showing a higher risk of re-hospitalization after stroke among Black adults this is the first study to analyze how PTSD affects outcomes after stroke, particularly the need for re-hospitalization.

“In those with PTSD, there are worse outcomes in general among African-American veterans than white veterans. We looked at veterans with PTSD after they had a stroke. The main goal was to determine

whether those with PTSD and stroke have different risks for stroke recurrence or hospital readmission, and also to see whether race affected readmission rates,” Lin said.

Using a Veterans Health Administration database, researchers analyzed African-American and white veterans with stroke, comparing readmission rates in those with and without a PTSD diagnosis. Among the findings:

- African American veterans with PTSD had a 10% greater risk of readmission, which was considered significant compared to those without PTSD.

- White veterans with PTSD had a 5% greater risk of readmission than those without PTSD, which was not statisti-

cally significant.

- Type 2 diabetes or illicit drug use was significantly associated with a higher risk of re-hospitalization after stroke among African-American veterans, while the same risk factors were not significantly associated with risk of re-hospitalization among white veterans.

- Congestive heart failure or high cholesterol were significantly associated with higher risk of re-hospitalization after stroke among white veterans, while these same risk factors were not significantly associated with re-hospitalization among African-American veterans.

- High blood pressure, a pre-

vious heart attack and narrowing of arteries outside of the heart were risk factors that increased the risk of post-stroke readmission in both African-American and white veterans.

“We were expecting to see PTSD playing a role in all veterans, so we were surprised at the difference between African-American and white veterans in both the impact of PTSD and other risk factors,” Lin said.

“In both the African-American and white populations, there are important health conditions that can play a role in the risk of readmission after a stroke. Post-discharge care after stroke is always a challenge – people find it hard to get to the clinic, especially if they have disabilities limiting their walking and driving ability. However, there is certainly a role for more targeted care focused on the modifiable risk factors, such as Type 2 diabetes and illicit drug use,” Lin said.

Study details:

- Researchers analyzed previous national data for 93,651 veterans (average age of 68.8 years; 97% male; 22.4% African American adults; 62.9% were white adults) hospitalized at any VA medical center in the U.S. for a first stroke of any type between 1999 and August 2022.

- Of those, 18% were readmitted to a VA hospital during

an average follow-up period of 5 years.

- Almost 14% of stroke patients were also diagnosed with PTSD.

- Researchers considered several risk factors to better understand the hospital readmission data, including the presence of congestive heart failure, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, narrowing of the arteries outside of the heart, Type 2 diabetes, illicit drug or alcohol abuse, previous heart attack or a history of smoking.

The study is limited because it reviewed an administrative database of the Veterans Administration, so the findings may not be generalizable to civilians who may have PTSD for different reasons. The results may not be generalizable to female, Asian American or Native American veterans, who made up a very small percentage of the dataset of veterans with stroke in this study.

Co-authors, disclosures and funding sources are listed in the manuscript.

Studies published in the American Heart Association’s scientific journals are peer-reviewed. The statements and conclusions in each manuscript are solely those of the study authors and do not necessarily reflect the Association’s policy or position.



Does sugar make you fat?

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Sugary Foods won’t necessarily cause weight gain, according to a study from the Centre for Nutrition and Food Research at Queen Margaret University College in Edinburgh. In the study, researchers divided participants into two groups. Everyone was given a low-calorie, low-fat eating plan, but while one group’s diet was low in sugar, the other group consumed as much as 10% of daily calories from sucrose. Both groups lost about one-half to three-quarters of a pound per week for eight weeks. So go ahead and satisfy that sweet tooth. Just don’t go overboard and blow your calorie budget in the process.

“Will switching to diet soda help me lose weight? I have been dieting a lot lately, but I have not been noticing any results.” *Lois, Atlanta GA*

You’ll save 150 calories per can. It takes 3,500 calories to lose a pound of fat. It would take you about 23 days to lose 1 pound. Switching from regular to diet soda is a good move. Changing to diet soda won’t make a huge difference.

If you’re serious about weight loss evaluate your eating habits as a whole. Regular exercise is crucial. You can lose weight by cutting calories alone, but you’ll probably gain it all back unless you work out.

“I’m a 5ft 5in college student who weighs 145lbs. I recently lost 15lbs in 10 weeks by eating 1,200 calories a day of foods such as yogurt, soup and frozen dinners and by keeping active with walking and yoga. I’m proud of myself for losing the weight but I’m afraid that if I increase my calories, I will gain the weight right back. I know I need to eat more for good

nutrition, but how can I prevent weight gain?” *Mark, Jackson MI*

You’re right that you need to eat more than 1,200 calories a day. You’re eating fewer calories than your body needs to sustain itself, let alone perform your daily activities and exercise.

To avoid regaining the weight you’ve lost, boost your daily intake gradually by 150 calories. Stay at 1,350 for two weeks and then add another 150 daily calories for two weeks. Increase your caloric at this rate until you’ve reached at least 1,800 calories. I want you to choose nutrient-dense foods. Yogurt and soup don’t have much fiber and neither do frozen dinners. High-fiber foods such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains can help with weight loss by making you feel fuller and giving you vital nutrients you need.

If you find yourself gaining weight as you increase your caloric intake, start exercising more. Be sure to include strength-training exercises in your workout program. Developing more muscle will boost your metabolism and help prevent regaining of unwanted weight. The important thing is to develop eating habits and an exercise program you can stick with for the rest of your life.

“Will I burn more calories if I wear ankle and wrist weights while doing house work? I’m trying to lose 10lbs. I don’t belong to a gym.” *Mary, Chicago IL*

The extra calories you may burn aren’t worth the risk. Walking with ankle weights can increase your risk injury to your hips, knees, ankles and feet. Wrist weights can cause shoulder and elbow injuries. The American Heart Association recommends 30 minutes of exercise every day. I recommend a combination of aerobic and strength training

that taxes your body 4 to 5 times a week.

“I run in place in front of my TV for 30 minutes each night. Is this as effective for fitness and weight loss as working out with weights and running outside?” *Alice, Pittsburg PA*

Running in place isn’t a good form of exercise. You’re not moving forward biomechanically. Your motion isn’t natural and there’s a lot more impact on your joints. Running in place puts you at greater risk for stress fractures, knee problems and other injuries. You may also experience calf cramping because you spend a lot of time on your toes. If you don’t want to run outside think about buying a treadmill.

“I’ve been working out with a personal trainer at my gym for three months with good results, but my trainer talks way too much and offers lavish praise when it’s not warranted. I’d like to switch trainers but don’t want to change gyms or my workout times. What explanation can I give my trainer? The situation is awkward because I continue to run into him.” *John, Bensalem PA*

Just be diplomatic. Tell your trainer that you’ve enjoyed your results, but you are going in a different direction with your fitness. Remember you’re the one paying for the service. If you’re not getting what you want out of it you have the right to go elsewhere. You don’t need to justify your decision. Most trainers will take it in stride.

Before you hire another trainer interview a few possibilities. Size them up to see if there is a good personality match. There has to be some chemistry.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

Looking to feel better? Consider adding an iron supplement

StatePoint

Anyone looking to dramatically and easily improve their overall health and wellness would be wise to consider adding an iron supplement to their diet.

A Common Problem

Although few people ever think about their iron intake, assuming eating enough leafy greens or taking a multivitamin will suffice, iron deficiency is the most common nutritional shortfall globally, including in the United States, where it is estimated that 1 in 5 people need more iron to function properly. This holds true across all age ranges and physical conditions, from senior citizens to infants to performance athletes, but most notably this is the case for women of childbearing age.

Why Your Iron Levels Matter

Without sufficient iron, the body cannot produce enough hemoglobin – the substance in red blood cells that enables them to carry oxygen to tissues and organs, which can impact nearly every system in the body, even leading to death in the cases of extreme anemia. Iron deficiency can also exacerbate many health conditions, especially cardiac, pulmonary and circulatory problems, and it plays a critical role in conditions like restless leg syndrome, ADD/ADHD, celiac disease and Crohn’s disease.

That said, the symptoms of less severe iron deficiency can be harder to pinpoint. They include:

- Tiredness or lethargy
- Weakness
- Irregular heartbeat or shortness of breath
- Headache, dizziness, lightheadedness
- Unusual food cravings and appetite changes
- Appearance issues like thinning hair, pallor, dark circles, or brittle nails
- Behavioral issues like excitability, inability to focus, or irritability, especially in children

Choose Wisely

Adding an iron supplement is an easy way to address a host of pressing issues, but buyer beware – not all iron supplements are created equal. Even those who know they need iron may not take supplements because they are notoriously bad-tasting and can cause significant gastrointestinal



distress, essentially trading one problem for another. The supplement market is also largely unregulated, resulting in many companies producing inferior products or making unsubstantiated claims about the effectiveness of their products.

So how can you find the best supplement for you and your family? The short answer is to ignore the marketing hype and trust medicine. Follow your doctors’ advice and look for an iron supplement that has been clinically proven to be safe, effective and well-tolerated in all age groups.

One such product is NovaFerrum, which offers a range of iron supplements for all age groups. Founded by a father whose preemie daughter refused to take the supplement she needed, NovaFerrum features a distinct chemical composition formulated to nearly eliminate the gastrointestinal side effects common in other iron supplements, a patented taste-masking technology and great-tasting flavors made from natural ingredients, like raspberries and monk fruit. Available in pharmacies and on Amazon, NovaFerrum is widely recommended by pediatricians, hematologists, gynecologists and general practitioners and has earned more than 10,000 five-star reviews.

From enhancing your appearance and providing an immune system boost to giving you the stamina and focus you need to complete tasks with confidence, adding an iron supplement is one of the best ways to improve your overall health and wellbeing.

For more information, visit novaferrum.com.

HUGE 2-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
Wednesday, March 27th & Thursday, March 28th • 9am
 1042 Holland Ave • Philadelphia, Mississippi
 Live Online and Onsite Bidding

Day 1: Selling Dump Trucks, Truck Tractors, Specialty Trucks, Trailers, Pickups, Vehicles, Misc. & More

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# 835
 10% Buyers Premium on the first \$5000 of each lot and then a 3% buyers premium and the remaining balance of each lot.

boost INFINITE
 Brought to you by DISH

Get Boost Infinite
1-844-255-0047

INFINITELY BETTER WIRELESS!

- Plans starting at \$25/mo
- Unlimited Talk, Text and Data
- America's Smartest Network
- Smart Switching Between 3 Wireless Networks

Get the latest iPhone every year with unlimited wireless for **\$60/mo**

- iPhone 15 included with no trade-in needed to get started
- Unlimited Talk, Text and Data
- Free upgrade to the latest iPhone EVERY YEAR.

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

© Feature Exchange

MCAN

Mississippi Classified Advertising Network
 To place your statewide classified ad order, call MS Press Services at 601-981-3060

For Sale

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-316-8630 today to schedule a free quote. It is not just a generator. It is a power move.

Home Improvement

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior and Military Discounts. Call 1-866-479-1028

SAFE STEP North America is #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-532-0066

Insurance

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1 - 8 5 5 - 3 9 7 - 7 0 4 5 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/mspress)

FREE AUTO INSURANCE QUOTES for uninsured and insured drivers. Let us show you how much you can save! Call 833-396-2834

SAVE ON YOUR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT! FREE QUOTES from top providers. Excellent coverage. Call for a no obligation quote to see how much you can save! 855-454-6649

Medical Supplies

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 844-821-3242

Miscellaneous

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-400-8263

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS, SERVICE, or PRODUCT STATEWIDE through Mississippi Press Services with one call, one order, one bill service. Stretch your advertising budget with group buying power through our discount ad networks. Call 601-981-3060.

Services-General

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS HOME INTERNET with EarthLink. Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, and data plans up to 300 GB. Call 866-831-4021

GET BOOST INFINITE! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data for just \$25/mo! The power of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call today and get the latest iPhone every year on us! 1-844-255-0047

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-628-3143

SWITCH AND SAVE UP TO \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-844-954-4517

LOOK!

Place Your Classified Ad STATEWIDE
 In 95 Newspapers!

STATEWIDE RATES:
 Up to 25 words.....\$230
 1 col. x 2 inch.....\$525
 1 col. x 3 inch.....\$785
 1 col. x 4 inch.....\$1050

Nationwide Placement Available

To Place Your Ad Order Call:
MS Press Services
601-981-3060

Week of March 17, 2024

REAL Learning Institute hosts 'Appreciating Black Poetry-Freedom Summer Revisited'

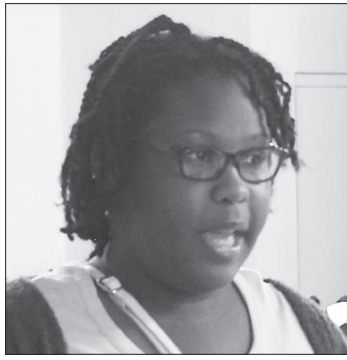
By Janice K. Neal-Vincent, Ph.D.
NNPA Newswire Contributor

To rejuvenate the "fight spirit" of 1964 Mississippi, REAL Learning Institute hosted its sixth session of Freedom School Saturdays April 23, 2024, from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Mzee Asinia Lukata Chikuyu, founder, emphasized the importance of youth understanding the poetic word from the pens, key boards and platforms of Black authors. He went on to say that not only do many write their poems, but they read and/or perform them for knowledge, understanding and discussion.

"With three generations, 60 years, missing the experience of Freedom Summer, it's time to introduce, re-educate and reinvigorate the fight for Human Rights for Afrikan People. Our arts is a major key in that reinvigoration of our fighting spirit," articulated Lukata. He then proceeded to bring forth the event's participants.

The poetry lineup included youth and adults who willingly talked and shared selections with parents, youth and friends who paused to attend the session at North Farish Street's Afrikan Art Gallery.



Iyanu Carson

Meredith Coleman McGee – author, poet, publisher and founder of Community Library Mississippi, emphasized history as a significant component for youth's learning across time. "Learning history helps youth understand how our past is related to the present and our future. Getting youth involved in the arts builds character and prepares youth to speak in public, and also helps foster leadership abilities," McGee said.

On that note, McGee introduced her mentee, 11-year-old Iyanu Carson, a fifth grader at Casey Elementary School. Iyanu has been writing poetry since she was eight and in the third grade. She read two of her poems, "Empowerment"



Janice Neal-Vincent

and "Glory." McGee's second mentee, Tyleeann Hines, is a 12-year-old student at Kirksey Middle School who has been awarded the title, "Miss Sixth Grade." Hines has been a part of Community Library Mississippi since she was five. She is a founding member of the Learning Tree Book Club which was established at a Spring Break Reading Fair at Pearl St. AME Church in March, 2018. She opted to demonstrate her public speaking skills by reading a speech that she penned about DeAnna Tisdale-Johnson who is listed historically as the youngest newspaper publisher in the Black Press.

Ten-year-old Naomi Cain was my mentee who made her



Meredith Coleman-McGee

poetic debut at Afrikan Art Gallery. She performed from memory the following poems by prolific Black poets: Maya Angelou's "And Still I Rise," Langston Hughes' "Mother to Son" and Euseni Eugene Perkins' "Hey, Black Child." She sees herself as a "poetic prodigy" and aspires to hone her poetic skills for future, lifelong experiences.

Those reacting to the Black Poetry-Freedom Summer event gave it high marks. Patricia K. Coleman marveled at the youth's presentations and was impressed with insightfulness of the elders. She further noted that she was going to return to the Afrikan Art Gallery for more sessions.

Brittany Cain, Naomi Cain's



Naomi Cain

mother, said that she was proud of her daughter's performance and was pleased that she appeared before an audience to "feel" the poems with them. "The audience made a difference," she claimed.

"Appreciating Black Poetry-Freedom Summer Revisited" was a success and very well received. The artists had amazing messages and natural talent. Iyanu Carson, Tyleeann Hines and Naomi Cain were the students who wowed the audience with their recitations. Meredith Coleman-McGee, Mzee Asinia Lukata Chikuyu and Dr. Janice Neal-Vincent offered seasoned recitals to the crowd," noted the elder.

Chikuyu elaborated further that all of the artistic ex-



Tyleeanna Hines

pressions were lessons about "Ourstory" and complimented the spirit of 1964's Freedom Summer. "Walking our students through Mississippi and American Black History is critical to Preppin' Them for Life, and the Appreciating Black Poetry event went a far way towards achieving our goal," he concluded.

The Freedom Summer School Saturdays Project meets every second and fourth Saturday at the Afrikan Art Gallery, 800 North Farish Street, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. It is open to middle and high school students.

For more detail, contact Jean Collier at 759-572-7441 or Mzee Lakata at 601-345-6678.

Federal Judge finished handing down prison terms of 10 to 40 years of White former officers in torture of two Black men

By Michael Goldberg and Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

A federal judge, Thursday, finished handing down prison terms of about 10 to 40 years to six white former Mississippi law enforcement officers who pleaded guilty to breaking into a home without a warrant and torturing two Black men in an hour long attack that included beatings, repeated uses of stun guns and assaults with a sex toy before one of the victims was shot in the mouth.

U.S. District Judge Tom Lee called the culprits' actions "egregious and despicable" and gave sentences near the top of federal guidelines to five of the six men who attacked Michael Corey Jenkins and Eddie Terrell Parker in January 2023.

The case drew condemnation from top law enforcement officials in the country, including Attorney General Merrick Garland. In its grisly details, local residents saw echoes of Mississippi's history of racist atrocities by people in authority. The difference this time is that those who abused their power paid a steep price for their crimes, the victims' attorneys said.

"The depravity of the crimes committed by these defendants cannot be overstated," Garland said Thursday.

Brett McAlpin, 53, who was the fourth highest-ranking officer in the Rankin County Sheriff's Office, received a sentence of about 27 years on Thursday. McAlpin nodded to his family in the courtroom. He offered an apology before he was sentenced but did not look at the victims as he spoke.

"This was all wrong, very wrong. It's not how people should treat each other and even more so, it's not how law enforcement should treat people," McAlpin said. "I'm really sorry for being a part of something that made law enforcement look so bad."



This combination of photos shows, from top left, former Rankin County sheriff's deputies Hunter Elward, Christian Dedmon, Brett McAlpin, Jeffrey Middleton, Daniel Opdyke and former Rankin County police officer Joshua Hartfield appearing at the Rankin County Circuit Court in Brandon, Miss., Aug. 14, 2023. Two Black men who were tortured for hours by the six Mississippi law enforcement officers in 2023 called Monday, March 18, 2024, for a federal judge to impose the strictest possible penalties at their sentencing. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS, FILE

The only defendant who didn't receive a prison term at the top of the sentencing guidelines was Joshua Hartfield, 32, a former Richland police officer who did not work in a sheriff's department with the others and was not a member of a "Goon Squad." He was the last of the six former officers sentenced over three days this week, months after they all pleaded guilty.

Before giving Hartfield a 10-year sentence Thursday, Lee said Hartfield did not have a history of using excessive force and was roped into the brutal episode by one of the former deputies, Christian Dedmon. Lee said, however, that Hartfield failed to intervene in the violence and participated in a cover-up.

Lee sentenced Dedmon, 29, to 40 years and Daniel Opdyke, 28, to 17.5 years on Wednesday. He gave about 20 years to Hunter Elward, 31, and 17.5 years to Jeffrey Mid-

dleton, 46, on Tuesday.

Arguing for a lengthy sentence, federal prosecutor Christopher Perras said McAlpin was not technically a member of the Goon Squad but "molded the men into the goons they became."

Parker told investigators that McAlpin functioned like a "mafia don" as he instructed the officers throughout the evening. Prosecutors said other deputies often tried to impress McAlpin, and Opdyke's attorney said Wednesday that his client saw McAlpin as a father figure.

The younger deputies tried to wrap their heads around how they had started off "wanting to be good law enforcement officers and turned into monsters," Perras said Thursday.

"How did these deputies learn to treat another human being this way? Your honor, the answer is sitting right there," Perras said, pointing at

McAlpin.

In March 2023, months before federal prosecutors announced charges in August, an investigation by The Associated Press 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.

The officers invented false charges against the victims, planting a gun and drugs at the scene of their crime, and stuck to their cover story for months until finally admitting that they tortured Jenkins and Parker. Elward admitted to shoving a gun into Jenkins' mouth and firing it in what federal prosecutors said was meant to be a "mock execution."

The terror began Jan. 24, 2023, with a racist call for extrajudicial violence when a white person complained to McAlpin that two Black men were staying with a white

woman at a house in Braxton. McAlpin told Dedmon, who texted a group of white deputies asking if they were "available for a mission."

"No bad mugshots," Dedmon texted – a green light, according to prosecutors, to use excessive force on parts of the body that wouldn't appear in a booking photo.

Dedmon also brought Hartfield, who was instructed to cover the back door of the property during their illegal entry.

Once inside, the officers mocked the victims with racial slurs and shocked them with stun guns. They handcuffed them and poured milk, alcohol and chocolate syrup over their faces. Dedmon and Opdyke assaulted them with a sex toy. They forced them to strip naked and shower together to conceal the mess.

After Elward shot Jenkins in the mouth, lacerating his tongue and breaking his jaw, they devised a coverup. The deputies agreed to plant drugs, and false charges stood against Jenkins and Parker for months.

McAlpin and Middleton, the oldest in the group, threatened to kill other officers if they spoke up, prosecutors said. In court Thursday, McAlpin's attorney Aafra Sellers said only Middleton threatened to kill them.

Sellers also questioned a probation officer about details submitted to the judge. When federal investigators interviewed the neighbor who called McAlpin, that person reported seeing "trashy" people at the house who were both white and Black, Sellers said. That called into question whether the episode started on the basis of race, he argued.

Federal prosecutors said the neighbor referred to people at the home as "those people" and "thugs." The information included in the charging documents, which the officers did not dispute when they pleaded

guilty, revealed some of them used racial taunts and epithets throughout the episode.

Majority-white Rankin County is just east of Jackson, home to one of the highest percentages of Black residents of any major U.S. city. The officers shouted at Jenkins and Parker to "stay out of Rankin County and go back to Jackson or 'their side' of the Pearl River," court documents say.

Attorneys for several of the deputies said their clients became ensnared in a culture of corruption that was encouraged by leaders in the sheriff's office.

Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey revealed no details about his deputies' actions when he announced they had been fired last June. After they pleaded guilty in August, Bailey said the officers had gone rogue and promised changes. Jenkins and Parker called for his resignation and filed a \$400 million civil lawsuit against the department.

Bailey, who was reelected without opposition in November, said in a statement Thursday that he is "committed to the betterment of this county" and will work "with the honest, hard-working men and women currently with this department" to make Rankin County safer.

In a statement read by his attorney Thursday, Jenkins said he "felt like a slave" and was "left to die like a dog."

"If those who are in charge of the Rankin County Sheriff's Office can participate in these kinds of torture, God help us all," Jenkins said. "And God help Rankin County."

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 undercovered issues. Follow him at @mikergoldberg.

Mississippi deputies give state's law enforcement officers disgrace and shame

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



The events you read about and hear about sometimes make you say, did that really happen? It makes you wonder out loud, that can't be.

Our America is going through it right now. At every corner, our sensibilities are being tested and tried. Common sense has become obsolete. What have we become? That's a good question with many answers.

We shake our heads thinking, what's next? It's not 'if' anymore, it's simply 'when' something bad and evil will happen. Is being hopeful these days a

minority view? I hope not.

I heard a man who is running to be president of this country say recently that it's going to be a blood bath. His tone and tenor are getting worse by the day. He has obfuscated and made the landscape dangerous. His actions have empowered men and women to be mean-spirited and hate filled.

This tour of meanness and hate has spread to many states and organizations. One state that has had its share of racial hate is Mississippi. While good and great people live there, unfortunately there is a faction that is giving the Magnolia State a bad name.

Six Rankin County deputy sheriffs tortured and tormented two men for no lawful reason.

The deputies were White, and the victims were Black. The officers were called the Goon Squad by some people there. They were known to apply excessive force when making arrests.

Two questions immediately come to my mind. First, was the excessive force sanctioned by the Rankin County Law Enforcement Department? Second, was race a factor when they assaulted the two African-American men?

It is my opinion the officers in question were never queried about their tactics. They just did whatever they wanted to do. Rules and regulations were not followed.

I do believe race was a factor in the severe beating given to

these Black men. The White officers had an overdose of hate as they took matters into their own hands. I think officers on the inside knew but said nothing.

This heinous incident started January 24 of last year. The allegation was that two Black men were staying in a house with a White woman. Assaults of varying degrees happened. Police photos when taken did not show the damage that these officers inflicted upon the two Black men, Michael Corey Jenkins and Eddie Terrell Parker.

Drugs were falsely planted on them to bring charges against Jenkins and Parker. Unfortunately, there are some who are charged to protect and to serve who only poison and sour. Their intentions are never good, only

bad. They never worry about getting caught because those in power have already been bought.

Some in power are hamstrung by race. It is like having shackles on your legs you don't want to take off.

There is the shackle of racism that makes you hate people because of the color of their skin. There is the shackle of sexism that makes you disrespect women, and there is the shackle of intolerance that makes you opposed to other opinions and views.

U.S. District Judge Tom Lee has sentenced all six members of the Goon Squad. He said, "The officers' actions were egregious and despicable."

Will the Goon Squad be dis-

banded? It would be too noble to believe that racism has suddenly been weeded out of the Rankin County law enforcement center. Sadly, I believe the difference this time is that the officers were caught. Will there be a next time for them to show their disapproval of African-Americans?

Citizens who are Black in Rankin County should be vigilant when it comes to trusting the police. That is my opinion. This is why district and federal judges are needed in social justice cases, especially when they involve race. Justice, sometimes at the local level, will not be served and is often delayed.

Now, Rankin County in Mississippi is in the news for all the wrong reasons.

A full court press to get the lead out

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



There's nothing quite like seeing a kid who was born healthy but now suffers cognitive impairment and is prone to outbursts of anger. As a volunteer restoring six-story walk-ups in Harlem in the early 90s, I saw how lead paint chips and dust were wreaking havoc on the kids in those low-income buildings.

The kids not only lived in a cloud of despair but in a cloud of lead-infused dust. The former made achieving their dreams difficult. The latter made it impossible. Fast forward a few decades and the threat of lead poisoning has continued to manifest in public health crises. It was at the heart of the well-publicized water crisis in Flint, Michigan that started in 2014 ... and the subsequent not-as-well-publicized water crises in Benton Harbor, MI and Pittsburgh, PA just a few short years later.

Now, thanks to community organizers, advocacy groups, the federal government and even some private companies, we're seeing a major push to eliminate the lingering threat of lead. It is thanks to the hard work of activists like Gabriel Gray. Gray is an organizer with Pittsburgh United, a local advocacy group that works on clean water and housing issues. She came to this work during her own city's water crisis.

Only finding out about the crisis once there was a run on bottled water in all the local stores, Gray applied with the Pittsburgh Water and Sewage Authority (PWSA) for a lead line replacement for her home and was denied. Then she started organizing with her neighbors. "Because of the work the Pittsburgh United Our Water Campaign did to hold PWSA accountable, it is now the only public water authority in Pennsylvania to be governed by the state's Public Utility Commission (PUC).

However, my neighborhood borders an area with a different water authority not governed by the PUC - the Wilkesburg-Penn Joint Water Authority. We're now working with Wilkesburg-Penn to stress the importance of equity in its lead line replacement plans, after finding that environmental justice communities had been slower to receive replacements than other communities in that authority's jurisdiction." The increased focus on stopping lead poisoning is also thanks to tireless advocates like my friend Ruth Ann Norton, who heads the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) in Baltimore.

GHHI was recently chosen to administer \$50 million in grants across the mid-Atlantic under the EPA's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking program created by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Norton says, "We can

make homes, schools, childcare centers lead-free, as long as we have a comprehensive approach and flexible funding. And we can do this simultaneously as we address climate work, with some of the same funding. It's an opportunity we need to seize if we're going to end lead's toxic legacy."

There are additional rays of hope thanks to healthcare providers like GHHI partner Penn Medicine's Lancaster General Health. The hospital put \$50 million into a community health improvement initiative to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. With a "goal of identifying and remediating lead hazards in at least 2,800 Lancaster County homes," LG Health is setting an example for the private sector. And the Biden-Harris administration's focus on environmental justice and access to clean and safe water is aiding the national effort.

The IRA and bipartisan infrastructure law offer a treasure trove of federal funding to clean up this mess. There are billions of dollars already flowing to states to improve water infrastructure and make drinking water safer. And billions more in environmental justice and energy efficiency investments that can be put towards lead abatement as well.

Ruth Ann Norton described how states could apply for Climate Pollution Reduction Grants - a \$5 billion program in the IRA - to take a "whole house approach" that makes lead abatement and other key remediations part of a comprehensive approach to building maintenance and electrification. Lead is a global problem.

A recent study by Lancet Planetary Health estimated "5.5 million adults worldwide died in 2019 from cardiovascular disease attributable to lead exposure - a toll more than six times higher than a previous estimate."

That year, the combined price tag of the loss in IQ in children under 5 years old and cardiovascular mortality was an estimated \$6 trillion. There is no cure for lead poisoning other than prevention. The investment in future health makes good economic sense for lawmakers, government agencies, and companies alike. Most urgently, states and municipalities need to take advantage of the funds available through IRA and the bipartisan infrastructure law.

And they need to work with community organizations like GHHI and Pittsburgh United, as well as private companies where appropriate, to make sure the funds are administered correctly and equitably. If there was ever a worthy cause for an "all hands on deck" approach, wouldn't protecting our kids and their futures be it?

Ben Jealous is the executive director of the Sierra Club and a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

Fight now, not later

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



One of my favorite entertainment shows to watch as a youngster, unbelievably, was boxing. I had a real love of boxing. My siblings and I of course would play box with each other; we used socks as gloves while stacking pillows up to ensure that our falls would not result in emergency care. I loved everything about boxing like the threatening speeches made by the components, the gloves, the obvious frustration by the referees, the bouncing from ring rope to ring rope and my all-time favorite was seeing them shove each other from rope-to-rope sometimes into corners.

My excitement for watching boxing did not last exceptionally long but I did learn a lifetime lesson from watching it, which was the importance of starting off fighting early in the match versus waiting later.

I will tell you now, I do not know a whole lot about boxing, but I do know that the beginning of a boxing match helps determine who the winner or champion will be. In other words, the more and better the punches in the first rounds of a boxing match typically equates to who the winner will be. One of the worst boxing matches to watch is seeing one opponent not really putting up a fight until it is too late.

Like boxing, spouses must start fighting in the early stages of their marriage versus waiting too late in the wake of a separation or divorce.

When should a married couple start fighting for their marriage? The fight for your marriage starts on your wedding day. Who should fight for your marriage? The fight requires both spouses to fight for their marriage; it

takes two baby. When does the fight for your marriage end? The fight ends when death do you part.

How do you fight for your marriage? You can fight for your marriage in the following ways:

Pray for your spouse and marriage without ceasing - cover your marriage in prayer

Reflect on your marriage vows as often as possible

Be faithful to your spouse - if you have been unfaithful - help build trust through reassurance, checking in with each other, apologize and make amends as often as possible, etc.

Develop a growth mindset - you both are growing - there are growing pains

Listen to what your spouse is saying and not saying - pay attention - give eye contact - put away all distractions when possible

Develop effective communication Spend quality time with each other Love each other unconditionally

Be patient - remember you both are human

Forgive quickly - try not to hold on to yesterday - it is hard, but it is necessary for having a happy and healthy marriage

Compromise - be willing to meet your spouse halfway - do not have to always have your way

Support each other's endeavors Reduce or eliminate criticism as much as possible

Show appreciation - be grateful - express your gratitude to each other. Examples:

Thank your spouse for cutting the grass, cooking, cleaning, helping with your children's welfare, paying the bills, folding the clothes

Keep people out your marriage - this includes everybody like family, friends, social media, colleagues, etc.

except for those who only provide you effective and fair counsel. Someone once told me that it is best for a couple to be counseled by ones who do not love either spouse - not saying this is right

Date each other - be creative - have fun

Be affectionate - hold hands, hug, kiss, put your arms around each other Laugh with each other

Learn each other's love language. According to Dr. Gary Chapman, there are five love languages: words of affirmation, acts of service, receiving gifts, quality time and physical touch

Be intimate - be romantic - quench your spous's thirst and remember foreplay starts before you proceed to the bedroom.

In conclusion, please fight for your marriage now - do not be like the boxer who waits until it is too late to begin fighting.

My husband recently asked me why I did not fight for him and our marriage during an extremely critical point in our marriage and I explained to him that I could not fight for the both of us - we both needed to fight, and I fought for him and us through praying. I am so happy that we have chosen to fight for our marriage and family, but we have also dedicated our lives to helping other married couples fight now, not later.

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.

ANYTIME ONLINE

Breaking News
Streaming Videos
Interactive Blogs



Visit our newly designed website:
www.mississippilink.com

P R E S E R V E D

Spiritual PTSD - feelings remain ... and the healing begins

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Last week, I shared how one of the aftereffects of spiritual warfare is what I call Spiritual PTSD – Purpose, Strength, Trust and Discernment. Even as I began writing this week's column, I hit a huge wall of writer's block. As I tried to write this week's column, my words just didn't seem to flow, and my thoughts were muddled and confused. This has happened before, so I took a 24-hour break from writing and came back...but still got stuck. Why was this happening?

This week, I wanted to explore more about how each spiritual warfare battle that we survive is specifically designed to teach us things. But since I kept getting stuck when it came to the feelings that the warfare raised, I

thought that maybe that was the issue I needed to write about. For those who have experienced, or were threatened with a physical trauma like war or physical abuse, surviving the battle is often just the first step. The next step is how to deal with the sometimes hard to manage feelings that remain.

After thinking about it some more, I realized that part of the reason I was getting stuck was because I was trying to write about an experience that is quite simply difficult to describe. Words like guilty, fearful, confused, relieved, hopeful and angry do not adequately describe the surviving physical or spiritual warfare. Quite simply, no one wants to admit that they've experienced something so life changing and that they can't adjust to how it's now making them feel. The experiences compare only in how challenging it is to deal with the feelings that remain. Ephesians 6:11-13 tells us how to

prepare for and then fight the spiritual battle but doesn't really go into how to deal with the feelings that might remain after the battle is over.

In my recent experiences with spiritual warfare, I found myself trying to process extreme feelings. I was glad that I had survived, even if I felt that I'd lost the battle. I was fearful of any additional battles, but mostly I was hopeful that the worst was over.

Psalm 30:2 explains, "LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me." Calling to God means you have to be honest about how you are feeling. Before you can get to spiritual PTSD (purpose, strength, trust and discernment), you have to wade through uncomfortable feelings to get to the truth of how you really feel...which is the first step to healing.

Part of the healing process is acknowledging the part that God plays in healing us

after spiritual warfare. Sometimes, God allows us to experience spiritual warfare so things about our character can die and He can resurrect us to reflect the image of Christ. Often God chooses to use those things that we think disqualify us because of spiritual warfare to be the thing that propels us into our future. Once we let those old things die, we then have the great opportunity to see God use that negative thing to be the foundation for us to live again.

Happy Resurrection Week and remember because Jesus died, we can live.

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 causes spiritual death

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



The Apostle Paul, talking to saved people, wrote in Ephesians 2:1, "And you hath he quickened (or made alive, who were dead (spiritually) in trespasses and sins." Those who are saved are very much alive in Christ. They were once spiritually dead, but now they have been quickened by the same spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. When Paul used the word "you," he was referring to Gentiles when he used the word "us," he was referring to the Jews. In this verse we see just two types of people: those who have been quickened and those who are dead in trespasses and sins.

The word that the Apostle Paul used for sin is the Greek word hamartia, which means "to miss the mark." When a man shoots an arrow at a target and misses, that is "hamartia," because he missed the mark.

People commonly have the wrong idea about sin. We all would agree that a robber, a murderer, a molester, an idolater, a drunkard and a gangster are sinners. We would not have any proles agreeing along that line. We know that such people will not go to Heaven in those conditions. They are not even on the road to Heaven.

A lot of people are respectable citizens, and because they are not guilty of any vile sins they think they are still in good standing with Jesus Christ. They probably would resent being called sinners. You never read about them in the newspaper. You rarely see the word sin used. The news, the telecasts and the radio do not refer to the word sin. If someone commits adultery, people soften it by calling it an affair. People call homosexuality a new lifestyle.

The Word of God uses the word sin very plainly for everyone to understand. Adultery and homosexuality are sins, but the world dresses up these sins to get away from that ugly word called sin. Sin is universal, and it visits all. Paul wrote in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." This was not something theologians thought of, but it is the failure to be what one ought to be and could be.

In reality, sin is a killer, and it kills innocence. No one is ever the same when he commits sin. It changes a person. It is like looking into a mirror that has been steamed up. Sin kills ideas that could have been if the person had left sin alone. No doubt, we all can look back upon our lives and see where sin hindered us along some line. Maybe it was a career or something else where you could have advanced, but sin got into your life and caused you to go into debt or took away your finances. When you get saved that is something you have to reap and have to ask God to help you with.

Sin kills the will. At first a man engages in sin because he wants to try it. Except he engages in sin because he cannot help it. Sin works on the will of man until he no longer resists the temptation. Sin brings forth death, just as in the beginning. Romans 6:23 reads, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." You need to realize that the world is full of spiritually dead men and women who walk about, have families, go to church, sing, preach, have jobs, lead in government and fight in the military. The overwhelming majority of people have never been cleansed.

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

New Horizon Church
INTERNATIONAL
A place of love and victory.

Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr.
1750 Ellis Avenue • Jackson, MS 39204
OFFICE: 601-371-1427 • FAX: 601-371-8282
www.nhcms.org

SUNDAY
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Services

WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class

TV BROADCAST
8:00 a.m. - Channel 14 (Comcast)

Prayer Everyday: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

1600 Florence Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi 39204
601-3552670 - 601-355-0760 (Fax)
www.collegehillchurch.org
Chmbo@collegehillchurch.org

COLLEGE HILL
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY
Worship Services
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. in person

Or you may worship with us via Facebook or our YouTube channel at CHMBC

Pastor
Chauncy L. Jordan

Crossroads Church of God
Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others

Sunday Morning
Sunday School: 9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Fellowship following worship service 1st Sundays)

Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046
Church: 601-859-2858

True Light Baptist Church
224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202
Phone: 601.398.0915
WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG

@TRUELIGHTMBCCHURCH
TRUE LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH

THE Light Line PRAYER

JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 6:00 AM CALL: 559-671-2546

VIRTUAL SERVICES AVAILABLE
SMALL GROUP STUDY 9:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE | SUNDAY 10:30 AM
BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM

REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Live Radio Broadcast
WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

"A Church Preparing for a Home Not Built by Man"

New Bethel M. B. Church • 450 Culberston Ave. • Jackson, MS 39209
601-969-3481/969-3482 • Fax # 601-969-1957 • E-Mail: Serenitynbc@aol.com



Nissan believes in the power of education.



Celebrating 20 years of service in the Greater Jackson Area.

nissan-canton.com

JSU student leaders provide peers with tips on diversity and inclusion at national convention

Special to the Mississippi Link

Eight Jackson State University (JSU) students were selected to attend NACA Live, a national convention hosted by the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA). These scholars traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to present on diversity, inclusion and maintaining holistic well-being alongside JSU's Center for Student Engagement and Leadership (CSEL).

JSU students Mya Grimes, Desmond Washington, Karrington Childs, Caleab Pickens, Jessica Bohanna, Anaya Adams, Quandaveous Gilliam and Skylarr Mitchell joined hundreds of schools, artists, agencies, and businesses at NACA Live, where "the best in campus activities" were showcased.

"As a student leader and young professional, the NACA Convention provided me with the opportunity to enhance my communication skills and network with fellow student leaders and professionals beyond the HBCU scene. This exposure will best prepare me for future endeavors in my professional field," said Mitchell, a senior mass communications



Students at NACA Live

major and the current president of the Campus Activities Board (CAB) at JSU.

Her presentation titled "Fostering Diversity and Inclusion: Enhancing On-Campus Events at HBCUs" focused on "encoding diversity and inclusion in higher education," emphasizing Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or HBCUs. This is her second time attending NACA Live, but her first time attending as a presenter.

Grimes, a student-athlete and the current sophomore class

president, says that the knowledge and experiences gained from leading at an HBCU are valuable locally and nationally. She presented alongside Pickens to discuss "Balancing Engagement and Holistic Well Being - A Comprehensive Guide to Active Involvement."

"The room was packed with engaged participants with people waiting at the door to enter. Participants broke off into small groups, got up and active, and from their feedback, gained something from our

presentation - which was the ultimate goal," said Grimes, a St. Louis, Missouri native. "I would not have been able to present with so much passion if I had not had the opportunities in student-leadership, athletics, and being a well-rounded student that JSU has equipped me with."

According to the campus leaders, their time in Pittsburgh was well spent networking and overcoming fears. JSU made history as the first HBCU to host this many educational

sessions for NACA Live.

Childs exclaimed that his peers at other institutions were able to introduce new material to their schools following his presentation. The junior business administration major led a session titled "Setting the Pace for the Year: Creating a Dynamic Welcome Week Experience" with Gilliam.

"My biggest takeaway from the conference is being able to connect with other like-minded individuals who serve in the same position as I do at

their institution. I gained better programming skills, and my presentation went great," said Childs, who currently serves as the assistant director of programming for CAB.

They were escorted by Cateatra Mallard and Kelsey Baker, who serve as the director and assistant director for CSEL, respectively. Mallard was recognized by NACA as the Patsy Morley Outstanding Programmer Award recipient and a 2024 Achievement Award Honoree.



Kelsey Baker with JSU students

Registration open for 6th Annual Moguls in the Making HBCU student pitch competition

NNPA Newswire

Ally Financial Inc. and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), the largest organization exclusively representing the Black College community, have opened registration for the sixth annual Moguls in the Making Pitch competition, Oct. 3 - 6 in Detroit.

Fifty students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) will vie for the opportunity to learn vital business skills while competing for \$185,000 in scholarships, paid internships, laptops, and other prizes. At the conclusion of its sixth year, Ally will have distributed more than \$1 million in awards to students.

Registration is open until April 8. Students can learn more at <http://www.ally.com/go/moguls>.

Moguls in the Making (MITM) was developed in 2019 to provide HBCU students with career-launching busi-



Ally Financial Inc. and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), the largest organization exclusively representing the Black College community, has opened registration for the sixth annual Moguls in the Making pitch competition, Oct. 3 - 6 in Detroit.

ness experience, networking access to executives, internships, and scholarships while also giving Ally a new

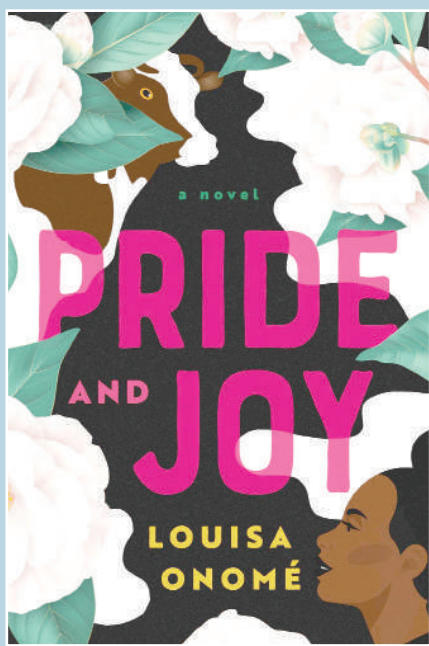
path for reaching diverse talent. Since MITM launched five years ago, Ally has hired 42 of the participants as in-



First Place N.C.AT 2023

terns and 12 as full-time employees, working on teams across the company, from IT and marketing to product

design and development.



BOOK REVIEW: PRIDE AND JOY

BY LOUISA ONOMÉ
C.2024, ATRIA BOOKS
\$27.99 • 336 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You never have just one. That's how it goes when something bad happens: another undesirable event usually follows it, then another, layer by layer until you think you can't handle it anymore. You offer up a prayer, please stop, and eventually, you find your way. You catch a breath. As in the new book "Pride and Joy" by Louisa Onomé, you live to rise again.

Mama Mary Okafor said she didn't want a fuss on her birthday. It was Good Friday, God's

day, and she wasn't competing with Him. Then her daughter, Joy, convinced her that people would also be going to church to celebrate her day, too, and that changed everything.

Mama wanted a party and, good daughter that she was, Joy rented a six-bedroom Toronto mansion for it. She hired caterers, a DJ, florists, there'd be a tent by a swimming pool and cousins and aunts and uncles were coming.

The thought that one little thing might go wrong made Joy feel sick.

She was a therapist, for heaven's sake. She should know how to deal with anxiety brought on by being the imperfect daughter of a Nigerian mother. She should know how to deal with people who'd be asking where her husband – her ex-husband – was.

It would be fine, until it wasn't: Mama went to lie down for a nap and she never woke up. Hours before the party, with caterers on their way and family arriving late, Joy's mother was dead and her brother hadn't yet arrived. Then Joy's Auntie Nan-

cy announced that she'd seen a brown cow on the way to be with Mama at the hospital, and a cow portended a miracle: by midnight the next night, Mary Okafor would wake up and resume her life.

As news spread among Toronto's Nigerian community and the house filled with strangers and family that Joy didn't want to deal with, she wished her twin sister was still alive. Heaven help her, she wanted her ex-husband to come. She dreaded seeing her brother.

Most of all, Joy simply want-

ed her Mama...

First things first: are you going to cry? Maybe, but "Pride and Joy" isn't really a tear-jerker.

Much of what you'll read here is hilariously chaotic, as author Louisa Onomé pulls a great big family together in a large house that somehow gets smaller by the page. This restriction leaves readers with a tight story, despite many layers of irritation, total disorder, culture clashes, intergenerational exasperation and love – heavy on that latter. Even better, we

appreciate the slammed doors, eye-rolling and kissed teeth because Onomé makes the family in this novel complicated but entirely relatable.

You don't have to have a sprawling family to understand that, but you might wish you did after you enjoy this book. Bring tissues, to be sure, because you might need them. Bring a dictionary, too, because Igbo and Italian both feature in here (but only a little).

Overall, if you're looking for a sweet, funny book to read, "Pride and Joy" is the one.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



Services of the Clerk:

- Civil/Criminal Filings of Circuit and County Court
- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

VOTER INFORMATION

[Verify/Update your Registration Today](#)

- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
 - o Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
 - o Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. BOX 327
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: (601) 968-6628
Fax: (601) 973-5547

Jury Duty Recording:

First Judicial District
(601) 969-0052

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 999
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: (601) 857-8038
Fax: (601) 857-0535

Jury Duty Recording:

Second Judicial District
(601) 857-8869

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
(Except on legal holiday)

Website: www.hindscountymys.com
Paid for by friends of Zack Wallace

Cool And Current

WJSU 88.5

"your source for cool jazz and current news"

www.wjsu.org

JSU
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

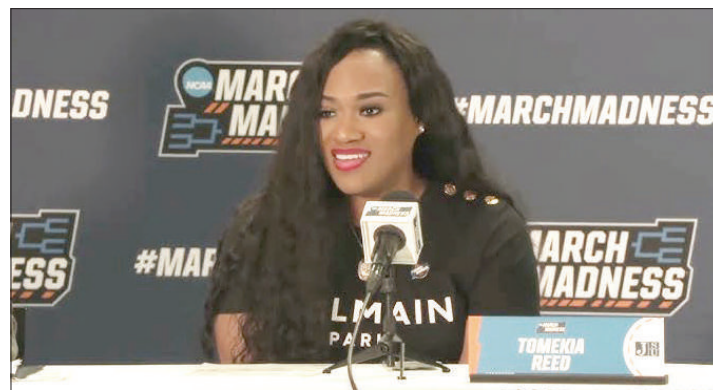


WRTM-FM 100.5 FM, JACKSON'S SOUL, RHYTHM AND BLUES AND SOUTHERN SOUL STATION PLAYING MORE VARIETY, LESS TALK AND THE MUSIC ADULTS WANT TO HEAR!

Lady Tigers show valiant effort versus UCONN and Coach Reed is praised



Coach Auriemma



Coach Tomekia Reed

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

It was a tall task and it would've been historic if they won, but the Jackson State fell short in their game against UCONN. Despite the loss, the players, school, and head coach Tomekia Reed gained national respect for themselves and HBCUS. UCONN won 86 to 64. Uconn lead at the end of the 1st quarter 22 to 8 and extended the lead to 49 to 28 at halftime. JSU came out and played hard in the second half, only losing by 1 point in the third and fourth quarters. Some will say UCONN relaxed, but most teams still extend their leads while relaxing. JSU played hard and showed the grit and determination. Ti'lan Boler paced Jackson State with 25 points, 3 rebounds, 1 block, and 1 steal. Angel Jackson added 13 points with 4 rebounds and Lanier high school graduate Keshuna Luckett, tallied 6 points and 7 assists.

Jackson State was able to force UCONN to commit 15 turnovers, Hayleigh Breland led the way with 2 steals. They also collected 14 offensive rebounds. In the end, Jackson State can look back on a highly success-



UCONN vs JSU

ful season finishing with a 26-7 record, 18-0 in the SWAC, fifth consecutive regular season title, Coach Reed winning third SWAC Coach of the year award and Angel Jackson winning SWAC Defensive Player of the year. Making the SWAC 1st team for the season were, Miya Crump and Ti'lan Boler. Making the SWAC 2nd team for the season were Destiny Brown and

Angel Jackson.

Now that the season is over, some uneasiness has begun. 3 time Coach of the year, Tomekia Reed's contract expires March 31st. The JSU brass has continued to say that they are working hard to keep Coach Reed. UCONN's legendary Coach Geno Auriemma gave Coach Reed an amazing national endorsement during the post game press

conference. His words were replayed over ESPN and CBS and all social media platforms. "I wanted to put myself out there for her," Auriemma said. "I think we need coaches like her to be celebrated and bigger schools do not need to be recycling coaches that are let go by other Power Five schools. And they should start looking outside the box a little bit, because there are a lot



Tilan Boler shoots

of good coaches out there, and she is one of them." "Going undefeated in your league - I don't care what league you play in or who you play against. You play 18 conference games and you win them all, and you win your conference tournament - that's a helluva job, Auriemma said after the game. "And it's not like it's the first time, right? I mean she's been doing this for quite some time there.

Coach Auriemma's words carry more weight than any agent could. Coach Tomekia Reed will surely be pursued by other schools. She's interviewed in the past with other institutions but elected to stay at JSU. Reigning Women's basketball

champions, LSU head coach Kim Mulkey, spoke glowingly about Coach Reed two years ago.

Coach Reed gave an heartfelt message during her press conference about HBCUS. "For me at Jackson State - I not only wanted to put our university on the map - I wanted to put HBCUS on the map," Reed said. We have such a special community that a lot of people overlook. We have a community that's not built on wins and losses, but built on family and love. Tiger nation is holding its breath, they don't want to see Coach Reed leave, while at the same time being appreciative and thankful for all she's done.

JSU Pro Day was a success

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

Approximately 20 football players from Jackson State, Alcorn State, Belhaven, Austin Peay, Delta State, and a few more schools all started the process of moving towards their dream of the playing in the NFL. Representatives from the New York Jets, New Orleans Saints, Carolina Panthers, Minnesota Vikings, Philadelphia Eagles, Jacksonville Jaguars, Chicago Bears, Indianapolis Colts, and Seattle Seahawks were active on the field during the 40 yard dash runs.

Last year the New England Patriots drafted Isaiah Bolden in the seventh round. Bolden was a start at cornerback for Jackson State. The previous year, James Houston was drafted in the sixth round by the Detroit Lions. Who will be next? That's the question, but there were definitely potential NFL players on the field.



New York Jets representative instructs players

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

BEEMS (BOLTON/EDWARDS ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL) BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

The Bolton-Edwards Middle School students (Grades 6-8) showcased famous African Americans to Grades Pre-K -5 through the BEEMS Black History Museum. Students dressed as their exhibit honorees and shared information with the lower grade students as they traveled through the museum.

