



Angela English, Rankin County NAACP president



Trent Walker, co-counsel for Micheal Jenkins and Eddie Parker

Rankin NAACP unwavering, sheriff must go

Just ahead of “state sentencing” for Goon Squad, call for action to remove Rankin County sheriff gaining traction

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Gathering yet again on Saturday, April 6, 2024, the Rankin County NAACP held a Town Hall focused on two items: the state sentencing of Goon Squad members, scheduled for 9 a.m. on

April 10, at Rankin County Circuit Court, and the removal from office of Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey. This marked their third Town Hall specifically focused on these issues.

Rankin County NAACP President Angela English led the

meeting, emphasizing her goal of keeping the public informed about the state sentencing and other ongoing activities. “Let’s pack the house for the sentencing, to let Michael (Jenkins) and Eddie (Parker) know that we’ve got their back, and we don’t intend

for this to ever happen again.”

The seemingly unimaginable abuse of power by five Rankin County deputies and one Richland police officer – all white – on January 24, 2023, shocked the

Rankin
Continued on page 3

Millions across North America awed by total solar eclipse phenomenon

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

The eagerly anticipated celestial spectacle of a total solar eclipse finally descended upon North America after a seven-year hiatus, captivating millions of skywatchers Monday. With its grand entrance at the Mexican beachside resort town of Mazatlan, the eclipse marked the beginning of a mesmerizing journey along the “path of totality,” stretching across various regions of the continent.

Eclipse enthusiasts congregated at numerous vantage points along the path, which spanned from Mexico’s Pacific Coast through Texas, traversing 14 other U.S. states before reaching Canada. Cities like Wilmington, Del., Philadelphia, Penn., Baltimore, Md., and New York City witnessed citizens stepping outside their usual routines to behold this historic event. Similar scenes unfolded in urban centers across Illinois, Ohio and Texas, where individuals paused to witness the cosmic marvel.

At a duration of up to 4 minutes and 28 seconds, the 2024 total eclipse exceeded its predecessor’s duration in 2017, which lasted up to 2 minutes and 42 seconds. According to NASA, total eclipses can range from a fleeting 10 seconds to an astonishing 7-1/2 minutes.

Other cities along the path of totality, such as San Antonio,



Glimpse of eclipse from Renaissance in Highland Colony, Ridgeland, MS at approx. 1:55 p.m. Monday
PHOTO BY JAYDEEP INGLE

Austin and Dallas in Texas; Indianapolis, Indiana; Cleveland, Ohio; Erie, Pennsylvania; both Niagara Falls, New York and Niagara Falls, Ontario, along with Montreal, Quebec, hosted eager eclipse-watchers. Approximately 32 million people in the United States reside within the path of

totality, with federal officials predicting an additional 5 million to witness the phenomenon.

Numerous eclipse-watching events unfolded at bars, stadiums, fairgrounds and parks along the eclipse’s trajectory, offering diverse opportunities for people to experience this rare event. Sci-



H. T. Drake at 101 years old views the eclipse with daughter Denise on the porch of his home in Tougaloo, MS at 2:00 p.m. Monday. PHOTO COURTESY OF DENISE DRAKE



Paulette Patton watches eclipse from her patio in Collegeville, PA at 2:59 EST PHOTO BY ROY L. PATTON, PHD

entists estimated that the entire process, from the initial moment the moon begins to obscure the sun to the culmination of totality and the subsequent return to normalcy, took about 80 minutes.

Veteran eclipse observers have described the moments preceding totality as ominous, with shadows taking on a peculiar

Eclipse
Continued on page 3

College Hill observes 117 years of service by “Reflecting Celebrating Envisioning”



Dr. Marcus L. Thompson



Pastor Chauncey Jordan Sr.
PHOTOS BY DANIELLE GARRETT D'ANGELIQUE PHOTOGRAPHY

By Daphne Monix Higgins
Contributing Writer

More than a century ago, a specific oak tree stood tall on the south side of Florence Avenue in West Jackson, in an area formally known as Gowdy, Mississippi. It was there that College Hill M. B. Church was formed and 117 years later, the tree is gone but College Hill continues to stand strong at 1600 Florence Avenue in Jackson, Mississippi.

To commemorate its longevity of spiritual service to its members and community, the College Hill family began its 117th anniversary celebration (worship service) held Sunday, April 7, 2024, which included a day filled with memories and praise. The morning began with Sunday School and continued into the special worship service.

During service, historical reflections were shared and a video presentation spotlighted the origin of the church’s humble beginning and its physical transformation. Photos from the early years to the present highlighted the church’s ministries, leadership, fellowship,

growth and rich legacy. Special guest, the Jim Hill High School Ensemble, performed two soulful renditions while also surprising the church’s pastor, Rev. Chauncey Jordan, Sr., with a plaque naming him as the official pastor of the Jim Hill High School Choir.

During the program, two academically outstanding students, Tobias Barnes and Katenna Smith, were recognized as the first and second place recipients (respectively) of the Sam Bailey Scholarship Award. Church service awards were also presented. Shirley Davis was presented the “Most Valuable Player Award” and LaGrace Barnes received the “Member of the Year Award.”

The day’s sermon was delivered by the president of Jackson State University, Dr. Marcus L. Thompson. Dr. Thompson immediately noted his personal connection with College Hill before citing the program’s theme: “Returning to Our Christian Roots: Reflecting. Celebrating. Envisioning.” before moving into the church’s chosen scripture, Psalm 89:1 – “I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.” He then noted the original connection between JSU and College Hill and its continued bond.

The JSU president who is also the pastor of Seven

College Hill
Continued on page 3

How Mississippi’s Jim Crow laws still haunt black voters today

By Daja E. Henry
In partnership with The Marshall Project

Charles Caldwell was never meant to have a voice. Mississippi’s White ruling class made sure of it.

He was part of Mississippi’s silenced majority in 1860 – over 436,000 enslaved people to 354,000 White people – who would be granted full citizenship after the Civil War.

By 1868, Caldwell was one of 16 Black delegates at the state’s constitutional convention. By December 1875, he was assassinated.

His murder was part of the Mississippi Plan, an effort by outnumbered White men to maintain political control. White supremacists used lynchings, massacres and intimidation to silence the formerly enslaved, then cemented racism into the state’s 1890 constitution to further restrict the Black vote.

Part of the plan haunts Black voters today. Felony disenfranchisement, in Section



A view of the Supreme Court of Mississippi and the Mississippi State Capitol dome in Jackson, Miss.
PHOTO BY RORY DOYLE FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

Jim Crow
Continued on page 3

What will she do?

Page 15

Books for Poetry Month

Page 14

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Dr. London Branch, musician, mentor and friend

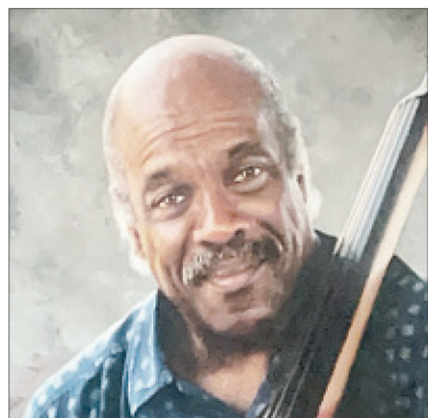
By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Family, friends, former students, colleagues, church members, musicians and mentees, are remembering the legacy that Dr. London Branch left behind in the Jackson, Mississippi community and beyond.

Dr. Branch, retired Jackson University professor and renown musician, transitioned from his earthly home Monday April 1, 2024 at 3:15 p.m. at St. Dominic's Hospital.

Rev. Andrew Lewis, a mentee and a very special friend of Dr. Branch, shared with *The Mississippi Link* that prior to his passing, Dr. Branch had expressed his desire to have his memorial service at JSU's Rose McCoy Auditorium. On behalf of the Branch family, Rev. Lewis made the official request in a letter to JSU President Dr. Marcus Thompson.

Rev. Lewis stated in his letter, "I have known Dr. Branch for approximately 40 years. When we met he had just moved to Jackson, Mississippi to begin his tenure at Jackson State University and minister of music at College Hill Missionary Baptist Church. 1984 was the year that I started my formal music training. A few years later, I switched to the double bass and returned home for the summer from Texas. Dr. Branch called my grandmother and offered me an opportunity to attend a two-week string workshop at Jackson State University. My grandmother told him we did not have the money. Dr. Branch quickly advised that she should send me anyway. It was during that workshop, the summer before my ninth grade, that Dr. Branch offered me a scholarship to Jackson State University should I be interested once I graduated high school."



Branch

Lewis described Dr. Branch as a gentleman, exemplary educator, multi-gifted musician, and a walking library. He stated that so many people benefited from his wisdom and knowledge.

Lewis wrote, "Although Dr. Branch was a great educator, there is another trait that I observed as a young man that made a significant impact on me. I watched him take care of his mother, Maggie Branch. She was a wonderful and brilliant lady. I'm not sure how long she used a wheelchair; however, I remember that Dr. Branch took care of his mother even amid his professional responsibilities. That always stood out to me." These are the sentiments Lewis shared with Dr. Thompson. The request was granted. Dr. Branch's wishes will be honored.

This writer recalls how Dr. Branch welcomed the Girl Scouts of College Hill into his home to learn life long lessons from his mother. She taught us the best way to boil an egg and other cooking tips such as how to cut up a chicken. Sometimes we had sleepovers at the house and late at night she would tell us scary stories. The girls looked forward to those visits and sleepovers.

Rodney Jordan, upon hearing of the

passing of Dr. Branch, posted online: "I want to salute my mentor who has made his transition. Dr. Branch visited Westwood High School in the 1980's and he asked me to play for him. I played a Beethoven Sonata. He offered me an opportunity to study with him and I took it. This would be one of the best decisions I ever made." Jordan stated Dr. Branch was the complete musician, having mastered composition, arranging, conducting, trumpet, piano, bass and a 'world-class whistler.' Jordan said of Dr. Branch, "He changed the lives of countless young musicians. He was a perfect role model. His life was a life full of giving and I am grateful."

Dr. T. J. Robinson, retired V.P. at JSU, stated he met Dr. Branch while working on his Ph.D. in 1972 at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Dr. Branch, who was on the faculty at SUI, invited Dr. Robinson and his wife Forestine to his church, Olivet Free Will Baptist Church, where he and his wife joined under watch care. Dr. Robinson received his doctorate and returned to Jackson in 1974.

Dr. Branch worked for a while at Mississippi Valley State University and later worked at JSU after Dr. Robinson introduced him to Dr. Jimmy James who at that time was over the music department. Just as Dr. Branch had invited Dr. Robinson and his wife to his church while in Carbondale, Dr. Robinson returned the gesture and invited Dr. Branch to visit his church, College Hill M. B. Church, pastored by Dr. R. E. Willis. Dr. Branch became a member of College Hill and served as minister of music.

A memorial service for Dr. London Branch will be held on the JSU Campus in the Rose McCoy Auditorium, April 20, 2024 at 11 a.m.

Celebrating the Life of Joseph Bartee, Jr.

July 12, 1969 – April 2, 2024



Bartee

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. - Psalm 1:1

Joseph Bartee, Jr. was born July 12, 1969, in Jackson, Mississippi to the union of Reverend Joseph Bartee, Sr. and Mary Ann Bartee. He was the middle child of three children born to this union. He accepted Christ as his Savior at an early age at College Hill Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor R.E. Willis.

Joseph Bartee, Jr., but if you knew him (JoJo), had a wonderful childhood. He grew up in Jackson where he attended Jackson Public Schools, graduating from Provine High School. After high school JoJo pursued a degree at Alcorn State University. He received an associate degree from Augusta Technical College in electricity. He moved to Memphis, Tennessee in the early 2000's where he resided for over 15 years. He was extremely passionate about his ca-

reer in trucking and was over the road for over 20 years until he retired in 2015. When he wasn't spending time with family and friends, he traveled the country in his truck. He also owned and operated his own trucks and after retirement donated them to a local small business owner.

Joseph loved to have a good time and was the life of the party. JoJo was the definition of a "socialite" when he partied with his friends and loved ones. If you ever got to go out to eat with him, he insisted on paying and making sure you enjoyed yourself. He loved traveling to the "Coast" and eating seafood, dressing, soul food and any type of pasta. His presence shined in every room he stepped foot in. Joseph loved the Lord and was recently talking about re-dedicating his life.

Joseph departed this life Tuesday, April 2, 2024, in Jackson, Mississippi.

He is preceded in death by his mother Mary Ann Bartee and grandparents. Joseph leaves to cherish his memory his father, Joseph Bartee, Sr. (Jackson, MS); daughters, Nekesha Bartee (Little Rock, AR) and Crystal Love (Jackson, MS); son, Charles Jones (Jackson, MS); sister, Dr. Sylvia Bartee (Charlotte, NC) brothers, Tony Bartee (Jackson, MS) and Thomas Lindsey (Cleveland, OH); niece, Sheila Allen (Charlotte, NC); and nephew, Aaron Allen (Los Angeles, CA). He also leaves a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends to cherish his memories.

Services were held April 9, 2024 at College Hill Baptist Church.

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Rankin

Continued from page 1



Mary and Melvin Jenkins – parents of Micheal Jenkins

conscience of many, but certainly not all – savagely beating, terrorizing, and sexually assaulting two black men in multiple ways and eventually shooting Michael Jenkins in the mouth, planting evidence, destroying evidence, and collaborating on a coverup – all done without any type of warrant, per numerous sources.

The six members of the Goon Squad; deputies Brett McAlpin, Jeffery Middleton, Christian Dedmon, Hunter Elward, Daniel Opdyke and Richland Police Officer Joshua Hartfield, all pleaded guilty and were sentenced under federal charges for civil rights offenses, between March 19-21, 2024 in US District Court in Jackson.

“Also, although trials are ending after April 10, the petition to get Bryan Bailey out of the Sheriff’s Department is an ongoing process. It has not ended, in fact, we have ramped it up and we have pressed on the gas to make sure that he knows that we are not stupid and we know that he is not as stupid as he is pretending to be, and that he knows that we know that there is no way his two top men could be in control of all these horrendous acts and he not know – he not hear anything in his position as sheriff. And if that is the case, that clearly is a sign of poor leadership, poor supervision...we expect him to do what he knows is right in the best interests of Rankin County...if he truly loves Rankin County and is so sorry, why would he stand in his place and allow all the negativity to be imposed on Rankin County,” says English. She also shared that “Department of Justice, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, Kristen Clarke has assured me that their investigation is not over by far.”

Attorney Trent Walker, a native of Rankin County, reviewed the horrific criminal incident, spoke about the federal sentencing, and spoke as best he could about what the state sentencing would look like. “The sentencing recommendations that had been negotiated between the attorneys for each of the six defendants and the attorney general’s office, may or may not be followed by Judge Ratcliff. I practice in front of Judge Ratcliff, I think that he is a good man, and I would be really surprised if these gentlemen receive a slap on the wrist at the state level, after being handled so seriously at the federal level – I just don’t believe that that’s about to happen.”

The parents of Michael Jenkins, Mary and Melvin Jenkins, were invited to the Town Hall and spoke – Mr. Jenkins saying, “I’d like to thank God for allowing me to be here today and talk about what happened...I thank the NAACP, the lawyers, brother Clerk, the newspeople for keeping this in the news, I’ve had the BBC from Argentina call, a reporter from Europe came all the way to New Orleans to do an interview with us...I love all you all and I thank God for all you all. My family and my son, you wouldn’t believe the hell that we’ve been through...me and my wife used to sit out on our porch, but now you don’t know who is lurking, whose gonna run up in the yard and start shooting. I’m hoping my son gets what he deserves...what person gets tased over thirty times, gets shot in the mouth and still lives? Thank God.”

Mary Jenkins added, “I thank everyone who came tonight and Mr. Walker, and all these reporters that have stuck with us during these trying times. We’ve gotten threatening phone calls. If Mr. Baily didn’t know what was going on in his sheriff’s department, then he should have. Sure, he should be removed. I thank you all. My son is doing better and I thank God for that. When I called and tried to get in touch with my son, I called Rankin County and they were so rude...they told me that Michael was their property, like he was a piece of furniture. From that moment on I was determined that I was going to get justice. When police do these things, you don’t know where to turn.”

Among numerous questions from the audience, *The Mississippi Link* newspaper asked President English about her take-aways from this and how her branch has galvanized for action. She indicated, “There are several branches represented here today. I have never been prouder to be a member of an organization in my life. The NAACP has not survived all these years by happenstance. We have some of the strongest members, it’s all of us, it’s a collective effort...when you listen to Mr. & Mrs. Jenkins, if you are not moved to do something there is something wrong with you, something wrong with your heart, your mind.”

Reverend Todd Allen indicated that both his sons attended Rankin County Schools and churches. “I’ve been away for seven years and during that time I’ve watched the over-policing of Hinds County...Capitol Police and all that, based on the premise that Hinds County was more criminal than Rankin County. Thank you for being so courageous, because you are not standing up against Bryan Bailey, you’re standing up against a few hundred years of state-sponsored violence. The Bible says let justice roll down like a river – I just don’t think it needs to stop at the Pearl River.”

College Hill

Continued from page 1

Springs United Methodist Church in Raymond, Miss., addressed the congregation by citing three components. In the first one, “Reflecting: The Greatness of God’s Love,” Thompson reminded those present that Christian love reflects God’s love. God’s love is no ordinary love. He identified God’s love as great and it endures forever. His second component of the sermon, “Celebrating: Our Response to God’s Love,” is a reminder that celebrating is a natural response to God’s Love and there are three responses to celebrating God’s love: Response #1- Singing Praises, Response #2 - Trusting in God’s Promise, and Response #3 - Bearing Witness. He ended with the third component, “Envisioning the Future,” by asking that we all envision a future where love reigns supreme, where justice flows like a mighty river and mercy abounds. He said, “This is our guided vision as believers in Jesus Christ. Hope lies in envisioning our future. We must have faith that God is going to do a new thing.”

Denise Griffin-Whittington, the 117th Anniversary and Homecoming chair, exclaimed her joy in the celebration. She said, “The Church Anniversary and Homecoming Celebration was a blessed opportunity to reflect on the rich history of College Hill and to celebrate the faithfulness of God. We enjoyed reconnecting with former members and friends as we envision and anticipate what is to come in the life of our church family.”

See photos on page 4.

Rev. Todd Allen
PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG

Eclipse

Continued from page 1

sharpness and sunlight assuming an eerie hue. Just before totality, a phenomenon known as “shadow bands” may manifest, creating shimmering patterns akin to those seen at the bottom of a swimming pool.

As totality approaches, stars become visible in the midday sky, while the abrupt darkness causes temperatures to plummet.

“When a solar eclipse reaches totality, nocturnal wildlife sometimes wakes up, thinking that it’s nighttime, and non-nocturnal wildlife might think it’s time to head to sleep,” NASA officials wrote on the agency’s website.

The final glimpse of brilliant sunlight before totality creates the enchanting “diamond ring effect,” wherein a bright spot appears along the lunar edge as the sun’s corona forms a luminous ring around the moon.

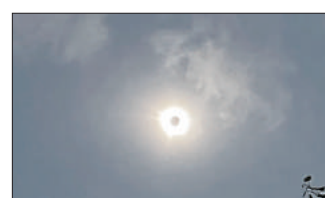
According to NASA, the next solar eclipse that can be seen from the contiguous United States will occur Aug. 23, 2044.



Nikki Burns Brown and mother Stella Jones in Garland, TX



Socrates Garrett, Silbrina Wright, Candace Mayes, Rosalyn Burke and Tracey Dobbins preparing to watch the solar eclipse from the Garrett Enterprise Office Complex on Livingston Road in Jackson, MS PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON



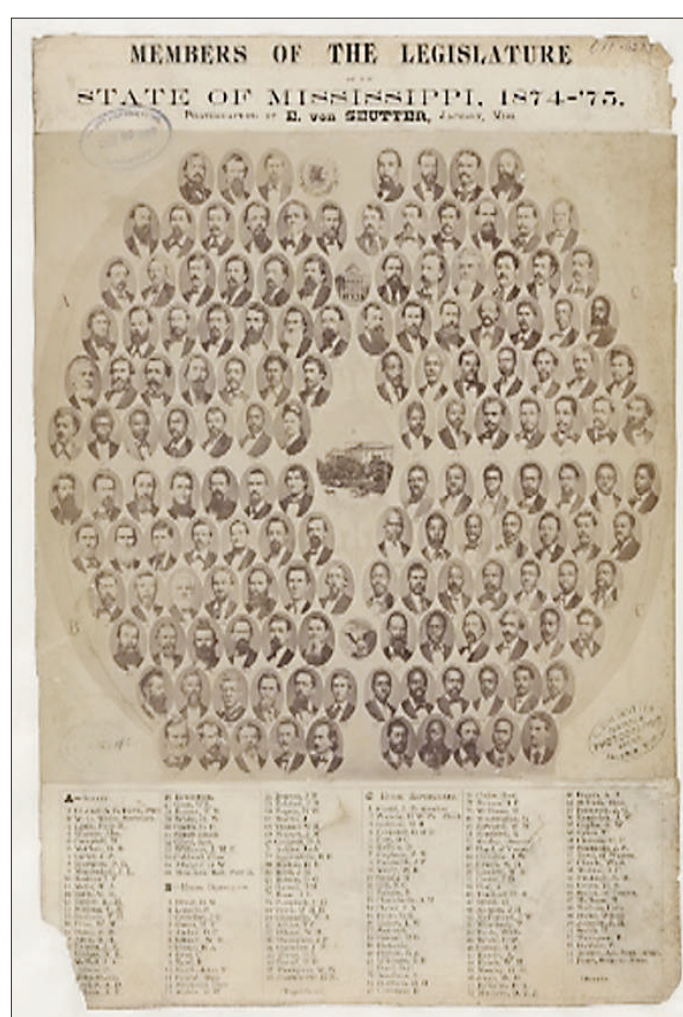
Eclipse from Browns' mother's backyard PHOTOS BY NIKKI BURNS



Mississippi Link publisher Jackie Hampton views eclipse outside her office in Jackson, MS at approximately 2:53 p.m. PHOTO BY ROSALYN BURKE

Jim Crow

Continued from page 1



Charles Caldwell, one of 16 Black delegates at the state’s post-war constitutional convention in 1868, pictured within a montage of the Mississippi Legislature in 1875. Caldwell was assassinated in 1875 part of “the Mississippi Plan” to maintain White political control.

241 of the state’s constitution, permanently strips the right to vote upon conviction for several low-level crimes that the drafters of the 1890 constitution felt would be mostly committed by Black people. The clause has since been expanded and interpreted to cover 102 crimes.

Over the past 30 years, approximately 55,000 Mississippians have lost their rights to vote due to felony disenfranchisement. About six out of 10 are Black, according to state conviction records reviewed by The Marshall Project - Jackson.

Why was voter disenfranchisement created? In 1890, state Rep. James K. Vardaman, who would later be elected governor, said, “There is no use to equivocate or lie about the matter. ... Mississippi’s constitutional convention of 1890 was held for no other purpose than to eliminate the [n-word] from politics.”

Yet as the civil rights organizing in the 20th century stripped away most voting restrictions, felony disenfranchisement remained. A bill to restore voting rights to some nonviolent offenders died in the state Senate on April 2, 2024.

“Movements change, but commitments don’t,” said Flonzie Brown Wright, the first Black woman in the state elected to public office in a racially mixed town. “Call it whatever you want to call it,” Brown Wright told The Marshall Project - Jackson. “But the common denominator is: Let’s [not] give these minorities any power.”

Civil rights gains – and new ways to stop them

Mississippi is one of 13 states that imposes a lifetime voting ban. In most of those states, lifetime disenfranchisement is for violent crimes or government corruption. In Mississippi, a single felony conviction for writing a bad check takes away the right to vote. Across the nation, courts and state legislatures have restored voting rights for people convicted of felonies. Mississippians last amended Section 241 in 1968 – to add murder and rape as disenfranchising crimes.

The Mississippi Plan effectively suppressed the Black vote in the 19th and 20th centuries, and its offshoots continue to evolve, historians say. Between 1875 and 1892, the number of Black voters plummeted. About 67% of eligible Black men had been registered in 1867. Fewer than 6% were registered by 1892, according to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Starting early in the 20th century, Black Mississippians left the state in droves. By 1940, Black people were no longer a majority. The Black vote in Mississippi remained largely dormant until the 1960s. Black people who remained in Mississippi faced much of the same oppression as their ancestors: lynchings, beatings, intimidation and imprisonment. After a 1963 voter registration workshop, civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer was arrested, sexually assaulted and beaten so brutally that it left her with kidney damage and a permanent limp.

The federal Voting Rights Act passed in 1965, protecting the right of Black citizens to vote. By 1968, 60% of eligible Black Mississippi residents had registered to vote, and Missis-



sippians elected their first Black state legislator since Reconstruction, according to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Carroll Rhodes, a civil rights attorney, said that following the Voting Rights Act, local officials devised devious ways to make it difficult for Black people to register and vote.

Brown Wright won her race for the elections commission in Canton, MS in 1968, despite a rule change that required her to win votes across all parts of Madison County, instead of just the single district she would represent. After she took office, she said the board routinely denied her poll worker nominees who had been community activists and disqualified Black candidates. She sued to overturn the discriminatory actions and won. White people “never intended for Blacks to supersede or give the perception that we were in the process of gaining some semblance of equality. It was never intended to be,” Brown Wright, now 81, told The Marshall Project - Jackson.

Mass incarceration as modern voter suppression

At the same time that Mississippi’s civil rights activism gripped the nation, a conservative movement laid the foundation for tough-on-crime rhetoric that eventually took hold among both major political parties and fueled the escalation of arrests and mass incarceration. The key to the new rhetoric was erasing any mention of race. Instead, this new movement championed by both political parties used crime as coded language to exploit white supremacists’ fears and target Black people, attorney and civil rights scholar Michelle Alexander wrote in “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.”

Tough-on-crime rhetoric fueled initiatives like the war on drugs and harsh sentencing. Mississippi now incarcerates more people per capita than any other state. About 60% of incarcerated people in the state were Black in 2022. Though not all incarcerated people have lost their right to vote, a lack of information about who can and can’t vote makes it difficult for many affected by the legal system to access ballots.

However, lawmakers in both parties have tried to change the law. In 2008, and again in March 2024, the Mississippi House passed bills to restore voting rights to the disenfranchised for some nonviolent offenses, but both failed in the state Senate. In 2023, a U.S. Circuit Court panel ruled the lifetime voting ban unconstitutional, but an appeal is pending, leaving the law unchanged.

“There will always be a constant struggle. I learned that early on,” said Rhodes, the civil rights attorney. “The forces that want to undo the progress that’s been made will always be there.”

Visit *The Marshall Project - Jackson* at <https://www.themarshallproject.org/jackson/> for more stories about the Mississippi justice system.

Published in partnership with *The Marshall Project*, a non-profit news organization covering the U.S. criminal justice system.

College Hill observes 117 years of service

Sunday, April 7, 2024 • College Hill Baptist Church • Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE GARRETT, D'ANGELIQUE PHOTOGRAPHY



Anderson United Methodist Church celebrates 110 years of service by hosting Women of Virtue Conference

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

In honor of 110 years of ministry, service, discipleship and kingdom building, Anderson United Methodist hosted an inaugural Women of Virtue Conference beginning at the Jackson Convention Complex on East Pascagoula Street, April 5th and 6th, and ending at Anderson United Methodist Church, 6205 Hanging Moss in Jackson, on April 7th.

The purpose of the conference was for women of all

Christian denominations across the state to gather in a safe, spiritual environment to reflect, relax and rejuvenate while being informed and inspired to live a healthy, God-centered life.

Conference participants enjoyed enlightening and insightful workshops and sessions on topics such as marriage, missions, prayer, trauma, single life and self-worth.

A conference awards luncheon was held Saturday from 12 p.m.-2 p.m. The keynote speaker was Bishop Denise

Anders-Modest, with Maggie Wade and Verlecia Gavin serving as program guides.

Conference participants also experienced Christian entertainment that made them laugh, sing and shout with featured guests Maurette Brown, Karen Clark Sheard, Brian Courtney Wilson, Benjamin Cone III and Christian comedian Small Fire.

The conference, chaired by Felicia Gavin and honorary chair First Lady Erma Cook, was the vision of three women of the church, Chair Lady

Gavin, Trivia Jones and LaShunna McInnis. Gavin presented the idea to Anderson's senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Stephen Cook, and he immediately said, "Move forward, I am all in."

The conference concluded Sunday, April 7th at Anderson United Methodist Church, with a dynamic worship service beginning at 10:15 a.m. led by Bishop Sharma Lewis, who provided a soul-stirring closing message. The conference culminated with a 'Sister2Sister brunch.'



Baseball Hall of Fame to honor Hank Aaron with statue unveiling; U.S. Postal Service to issue commemorative stamp

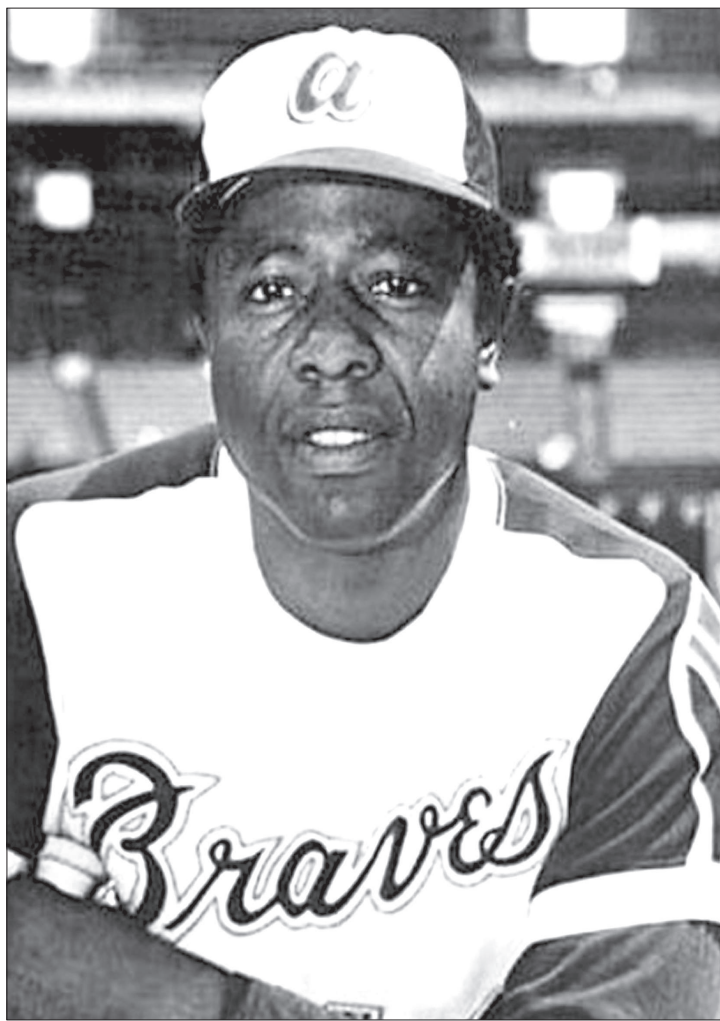
By Stacy M. Brown
 NNPA Newswire Senior
 National Correspondent

In conjunction with the opening events for the new exhibit, "More Than Brave: The Life of Henry Aaron," at the Atlanta History Center, Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board Jane Forbes Clark announced plans to unveil a bronze statue of Aaron at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown on May 23. The statue honors Aaron's remarkable contributions both on and off the field.

"Hank Aaron's impact transcended the game of baseball," Clark stated. "His philanthropy, advocacy for youth empowerment, and trailblazing achievements as an executive have left an indelible mark on society. We are privileged to safeguard his legacy and are honored to unveil this statue as a lasting tribute to an American hero."

Elected to the Hall of Fame in 1982, after a 23-year career with the Braves and Brewers, Aaron's legacy extends far beyond his monumental 715th career home run, which surpassed Babe Ruth's record on April 8, 1974. A 25-time All-Star, Aaron still holds records for the most career RBIs and total bases.

Just how good was Aaron? Even if all his 755 career home



Hank Aaron

runs were removed from the record books, he would still boast over 3,000 hits. The slugger, who died in 2021, made the All-Star team 25 times, established a record with 2,297 RBIs, 1,477 extra-base hits and

6,856 total bases.

Officials displayed Aaron's Hall of Fame plaque during a Truist Park ceremony before this week's Atlanta Braves game against the New York Mets. The statue's creation was



Statue of Aaron outside Milwaukee WI/Aaron Vowels via Wikimedia commons

made possible through a generous gift from supporters Jane and Bob Crotty, with the guidance and approval of Aaron's widow, Billye. The statue will debut during the Hall of Fame Classic celebration over Me-

memorial Day Weekend, coinciding with the May 25 Legends game featuring numerous former big leaguers at Cooperstown's Doubleday Field.

"Henry would be as thrilled as I am to see his statue at

the National Baseball Hall of Fame," expressed Billye Aaron. "His life embodied hope and perseverance, inspiring generations to pursue their dreams despite obstacles. This tribute is a testament to his love for the game and his desire to inspire young boys and girls everywhere."

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has remained dedicated to preserving Aaron's legacy, including the exhibit "Hank Aaron: Chasing the Dream," unveiled in 2009. Additionally, Aaron pledged his entire personal collection to the museum in 2010, with many artifacts now on loan to various exhibitions, including the one at the Atlanta History Center.

The U.S. Postal Service announced that it will issue a commemorative Forever stamp to celebrate Aaron's life and career further. The stamp art will feature a digital painting of Aaron as a member of the Braves, with the selva showcasing him watching the ball he had just hit for his record-breaking 715th home run on April 8, 1974.

USPS said in a statement, "The selva showcases a digital painting of Aaron watching the ball he had just hit for his record-breaking 715th home run on April 8, 1974."

Tennessee State University board disbanded by MAGA loyalists as assault on DE&I continues

By Stacy M. Brown
 NNPA Newswire Senior
 National Correspondent

Tennessee State University (TSU), the state's only public historically Black college and university (HBCU), faces a tumultuous future as Gov. Bill Lee dissolved its board, a move supported by racist conservatives and MAGA Republicans in the Tennessee General Assembly, who follow the lead of the twice-impeached, four-times indicted, alleged sexual predator former President Donald Trump. Educators and others have denounced the move as an attack on diversity,

equity, and inclusion (DE&I) and a grave setback for higher education.

Critics argue that TSU's purported financial mismanagement is a manufactured crisis rooted in decades of underinvestment by the state government. They've noted that it continues a trend by conservatives and the racist MAGA movement to eliminate opportunities for Blacks in education, corporate America and the public sector.

Gevin Reynolds, a former speechwriter for Vice President Kamala Harris, emphasizes in an op-ed that TSU's financial

difficulties are not the result of university leadership because a recent audit found no evidence of fraud or malfeasance.

Reynolds noted that the disbanding of TSU's board is not an isolated incident but part of a broader assault on DE&I initiatives nationwide. Ten states, including Tennessee, have enacted laws banning DE&I policies on college campuses, while governors appointing MAGA loyalists to university trustee positions further undermine efforts to promote inclusivity and equality.

Moreover, recent legislative actions in Tennessee, such as

repealing police reform measures enacted after the killing of Tyre Nichols, underscore a troubling trend of undermining local control and perpetuating racist agendas. The new law preventing local governments from restricting police officers' authority disregards community efforts to address systemic issues of police violence and racial profiling.

The actions echo historical efforts to suppress Black progress, reminiscent of the violent backlash against gains made during the Reconstruction era. President Joe Biden warned during an appearance in New

York last month that Trump desires to bring the nation back to the 18th and 19th centuries – in other words, to see, among other things, African Americans back in the chains of slavery, women subservient to men without any say over their bodies, and all voting rights restricted to white men.

The parallels are stark, with white supremacist ideologies used to justify attacks on Black institutions and disenfranchise marginalized communities, Reynolds argued.

In response to these challenges, advocates stress the urgency of collective action to

defend democracy and combat systemic racism. Understanding that attacks on institutions like TSU are symptomatic of broader threats to democratic norms, they call for increased civic engagement and voting at all levels of government.

The actions of people dedicated to upholding the principles of inclusivity, equity and justice for all will determine the outcome of the ongoing fight for democracy, Reynolds noted. "We are in a war for our democracy, one whose outcome will be determined by every line on every ballot at every precinct," he stated.

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PHOTO VIA TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Racial bias uncovered in kidney transplantation system: Thousands of black patients prioritized after years of waiting

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Five years ago, Arlette Ebanks experienced severe kidney pain that she believed suggested a criminal need for a transplant. Her doctors disagreed, but the 52-year-old Northeast, D.C., resident, and mother of two who worked for the Department of Transportation for more than half of her life until her deteriorating health landed her on permanent disability, had grown ever more anxious as health care providers attempted various measures of maintenance.

Recently, physicians at George Washington University Hospital told Ebanks that she should have been on the transplant list, and understandably, Ebanks wondered why previous doctors hadn't done so. Now, Ebanks knows why. "All this time, all this stress and worry, was all because I'm Black," Ebanks stated with intense incredulity in an interview with the *Washington Informer*.

At issue is a once widely used test that overestimated how well Black people's kidneys were functioning, making them look healthier than they really were. An automated formula calculated results for Black and non-Black patients that were far different from those of others, delaying organ failure diagnosis and, ultimately, proper evaluation for a kidney transplant.

The disparity only exacerbated existing inequities, with Black patients being more



susceptible to needing a new kidney but less likely to receive one. "On the one hand," Ebanks remarked, "I have not only been put on the waiting list, but moved up to where I am now more confident that I will get a new kidney. On the other hand, it's infuriating that we keep seeing how racism in medicine, bias in health care, is causing unnecessary pain and suffering among African Americans."

The U.S. organ transplant network has now ordered hospitals and care facilities to use race-neutral test results only

when adding new patients to the kidney transplant waiting list. Further, the National Kidney Foundation and the American Society of Nephrology told laboratories to transition to race-neutral equations when calculating kidney function.

The policy shift has led to major adjustments, and between January 2023 and mid-March 2024, over 14,300 Black candidates had their wait times recalibrated, resulting in more than 2,800 successful transplants, including Ebanks.

Dr. Nwamaka Eneanya, an assistant professor at the Perel-

man School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Health System, emphasized the detrimental impact of race-based equations on clinical decisions, particularly in assessing renal function.

Dr. Eneanya, a vocal advocate for removing race from medical equations, highlighted the lack of biological differences between races and the inherent flaws in using race-based multipliers. She told her university's newspaper that, despite mounting evidence, many clinicians continue to rely on these outdated practi-

es, perpetuating harm to Black patients.

"Human genome studies have shown there are no inherent biological differences between races," Dr. Eneanya stated. "Those studies reporting that Black people had greater muscle mass were flawed, but no one questioned them."

As the director of Health Equity, Anti-Racism and Community Engagement at Penn Medicine, Dr. Eneanya spearheads internal initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion within the Renal Electrolyte and Hypertension Division. Addition-

ally, she is actively involved in community outreach programs to address racial disparities in kidney disease awareness and screening.

"Not everyone approaches medicine with a health equity lens. Many clinicians are not aware of existing disparities – how Black patients do not get referred to nephrology as early as white patients and do not have sufficient access to transplant [procedures]," she asserted. "In medicine, the tendency is to say, 'This is what a study showed, so this is what we should do,' focusing on biomarkers and statistical tests without examining issues of ethics or health equity."

Dr. Eneanya noted that the revelation of racial bias within the kidney transplantation system underscores the pressing need for reformative measures to ensure equitable healthcare access for all individuals, regardless of race or ethnicity.

"I sit on a joint American Society of Nephrology-National Kidney Foundation task force that is revising formal eGFR reporting guidelines to exclude racial bias," Dr. Eneanya stated. "Many physicians across the country, including some at Penn, have stopped using the race multiplier already. And while the eGFR is a frontline test for kidney function, there are other tests that don't incorporate race. When there is any doubt about the accuracy of an eGFR score, other confirmatory tests that do not use race should be performed."

The new weight loss drugs: Are they safe?

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Millions are Americans are classified as obese. Millions more are overweight. Both groups are at risk for hundreds of bad health conditions. Every year Americans spend over \$70 billion on weight loss. We bought gym memberships, weight loss programs, powders, candy bars, clothing, creams and now medications. Weight loss medications are not new but their effectiveness has improved.

Weight loss medications are medications that help people lose weight by reducing their appetite, increasing their metabolism or altering how their body absorbs or breaks down fat, sugar or calories. There are different types of weight loss drugs, such as stimulants, fat blockers and hormone mimics. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approve some

of them for treating obesity or overweight with other health conditions, while others are still under investigation or not approved for weight loss purposes. Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro and Zepbound are the newest of these types of weight loss drugs.

The safety of weight loss drugs depends on several factors, such as the drug's mechanism of action, dosage, side effects, interactions and long-term effects. Some weight loss drugs may cause serious or even life-threatening complications, such as heart problems, liver damage, kidney failure or increased risk of cancer. Therefore, it is important to weigh the benefits and risks of using any weight loss drug, and to follow the directions and precautions given by the doctor and the manufacturer.

One of the most recent and

promising classes of weight loss drugs are the GLP-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RA), which mimic a hormone that helps reduce food intake and appetite. Some of the drugs in this class include Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro and Zepbound. These drugs are injected once a week or once a month, and have been shown to help people lose up to 15% to 22% of their body weight in clinical trials, as well as lower their blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels. Some analysts predict that these drugs could become the best-selling drugs of all time.

However, these drugs are not without risks. They can cause gastrointestinal side effects, such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or constipation, which may be severe or persistent in some cases. They can also cause low blood sugar, especially in people with diabetes

or who take other medications that lower blood sugar. They can also increase the risk of pancreatitis, gallbladder problems, thyroid tumors, or allergic reactions. Moreover, the FDA is looking into new risks with these drugs, such as hair loss, aspiration and suicidal ideation, based on reports from users and healthcare providers. These drugs haven't been used for very long, little is known about long-term side effects. However, no lasting issues have emerged so far.

Hair loss is also a side effect of these weight loss drugs. Anytime you lose a significant amount of weight quickly, hair loss can commonly occur due to deficiencies of essential vitamins or minerals. Consuming a healthy, well-balanced diet while taking these drugs can help prevent hair loss.

Therefore, these drugs are not recommended for every-

one and should only be used by adults with obesity or who are overweight with at least one weight-related condition, such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol. They should also be used in combination with a healthy diet and exercise program and under the supervision of a doctor who can monitor their progress and adjust their dosage as needed. They should not be used by pregnant or breastfeeding women, people with a history of pancreatitis, thyroid cancer or multiple endocrine neoplasia, or people who are allergic to any of the ingredients.

They should also not be used for cosmetic or vanity purposes, as some people have been hoarding or misusing these drugs to lose a few pounds for a big event, such as the Oscars.

Weight loss drugs are not

a magic bullet for obesity or overweight, and they have potential benefits and risks that need to be carefully considered. They are not a substitute for a healthy lifestyle, and they may not work for everyone or in the long term. They should only be used as prescribed by a doctor, and with regular follow-up and evaluation. Before using any weight loss drug, it is advisable to do some research, consult a doctor, and weigh the pros and cons.

To lose weight and keep it off you cannot trick your body by using fad diets, starving it off, or ignoring your need for activity on a regular basis. Changing your diet and getting involved in a regular exercise program may be difficult initially but if you do it a step at a time, starting today, you can make the transition and be on your way to living a healthier lifestyle tomorrow.

LEGAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AB - 1
Bids, EBO and DBE plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

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

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

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

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

Christine Welch, Deputy Director Office of Transportation
4/4/2024, 4/11/2024, 4/18/2024, 4/25/2024

LEGAL

**Advertisement for
RFP 2024-17
High Quality Instructional Materials for Core Curriculum Resources,
Supplement Resources, and Targeted Support for Overage Learners
(English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies)**

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), Friday, April 19, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs/ are opened.

There are two (2) options in which RFP proposals may be obtained. Download from Central Bidding website at www.centralbidding.com for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSP website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSP Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

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

4/4/2024, 4/11/2024

LEGAL

**NOTICE OF APPEAL FOR A REZONING
ZONING CASE NO. 4244**

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Fairview Inn of Jackson, LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-2 (Single-Family & Two-Family) Residential District to CMU-1 (Community) Mixed-Use District to allow for the sustainability of the subject property and to capture the changing land use dynamics of the area for property located at 734 Fairview St. (Parcel: 12-45), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Twenty (20) feet off the East side of Lots 5 and 6 and all of Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16, Block 5, Glenwood Place, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof, which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 1 at Page 85, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

LESS AND EXCEPT:

A parcel of land being Lots 15 and 16 and parts of Lots 11, 13, and 14 being situated in Block 5, Glenwood Place, a Subdivision according to a map or plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 1 at Page 85. and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

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

Said application was heard by the City Planning Board on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 with a recommendation to approve. The opposition has filed an Appeal of the recommendation of the Planning Board. The Case will be heard at the City Council's Zoning Meeting in the Council Chambers, First Floor, City Hall, 219 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 2:30 p.m., on Monday, April 15, 2024.

WITNESS my signature this 21st day of March 2024.

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

3/28/2024, 4/11/2024

LEGAL

**Advertisement for
Bid 3258 Waste Disposal**

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project Waste Disposal will be held at 101 Near Street, Jackson, MS 39203 on April 12, 2024, 8:30 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing mmays@jackson.k12.ms.us, calling (601) 973-8582, or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSP Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All bid openings will be recorded and uploaded to the JPSP web site at www.jackson.k12.ms.us at YouTube: JPSITV for public viewing. Due to COVID 19, vendors will not be allowed to sit in on bids openings.

4/4/2024, 4/11/2024

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

IN RE: VALIDATION OF NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000,000 MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK SPECIAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2024 (CITY OF JACKSON, MS INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION REVENUE BOND PROJECT) (THE SERIES 2024 BONDS")

NO. G2024-362 H/3

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

TO: THE TAXPAYERS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

You are hereby notified that the matter of the validation of the above-described obligation will be heard on the 2nd day of May, 2024, at 10 o'clock a.m., in the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi, at the Hinds County Courthouse in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, at or before which time and date written objections to the validation of the issuance of said obligation, if any, must be filed.

By order of the Chancellor, this the 2nd day of April, 2024.

EDDIE JEAN CARR
CHANCERY CLERK
HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

4/11/2024

LEGAL

**Advertisement for
RFP 2024-18 Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning**

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs/ are opened.

There are two (2) options in which RFP proposals may be obtained. Download from Central Bidding website at www.centralbidding.com for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSP website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSP Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

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

4/11/2024, 4/18/2024

LEGAL

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

Angela Dawson, Plaintiff(s)

VS Civil Action Number G 2024-11

Martez Taylor, Defendant(s)

**SUMMONS
(By Publication)**

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: *Martez Taylor*

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

Plaintiff(s), seeking Divorce

Defendants other than you in this action are:

You are required to mail or hand deliver a written response to the Complaint filed against you in this action to *Angela Dawson*, Attorney for Plaintiff(s), whose address is 3832 Edward Ave

YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE ___ DAY OF ___, 20___, WHICH IS THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS SUMMONS. IF YOUR RESPONSE IS NOT SO MAILED OR DELIVERED, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT.

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

Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this 3rd day of April, 2024.



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

By: *K Howard*, D.C.

4/11/2024, 4/18/2024, 4/25/2024

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

MAR 28 2024

EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK
BY *K. Howard*

ANGELA LEE DAWSON TAYLOR
PLAINTIFF

VS.

MARTEZ DEONTE TAYLOR
DEFENDANT

CAUSE NO. G2024-119 T/1

AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE

COMES NOW, ANGELA LEE DAWSON TAYLOR (herein "Plaintiff"), and SHE files this her Complaint for Divorce against MARTEZ DEONTE TAYLOR (herein "Defendant") and in support thereof would show unto the Court the following, to wit:

1.

That ANGELA LEE DAWSON TAYLOR is an adult resident citizen of Hinds County, Mississippi who is residing at 3832 Edwards Ave. Jackson, MS 39213 and has been so for more than six months next preceding the commencement of this action.

2.

That MARTEZ DEONTE TAYLOR who address and whereabouts are unknown to the plaintiff. The Defendant may be served by publication in accordance with Rule 4(c)(4), M.R.C.P.

3.

That the parties hereto were married on February 18, 2016 in Hinds County, Mississippi. That the parties have separated as of on or about September 4, 2018 in Hinds, Mississippi. Both parties are members of the African American race.

4.

That no children was born of the marriage. The wife is not pregnant and no other children have been adopted and none are now expected.

5.

THE Plaintiff would show unto the Court that she has done everything she could to be a good and faithful wife and to have a happy and successful marriage.

6.

Plaintiff would state that her relationship with the Defendant has been irreparably harmed and that she is entitled to a divorce on the statutory grounds of willful, continued and obstinate desertion for the space of one year and more pursuant to Section 93-5-1, Fourth, of the Mississippi Code Ann. In the alternative, or as a separate ground for divorce, Plaintiff would state that she is entitled to a divorce on the ground of irreconcilable differences as provided by Section 93-5-2, Mississippi Code Annotated.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, that the Plaintiff requests that service be issued by publication as required by law to Defendant, and that after Defendant shall have the proscribed period time to respond to the Complaint, the Court shall hear this cause during a regular term of Court or such other time as the Court shall grant enter a final judgment herein wholly dissolving the bonds of matrimony and granting the parties a divorce absolute of and from each other.

Plaintiff prays for such other further and more general relief as in the premises they may be entitled to receive.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, this the 28 day of March, 2024.

Angela Dawson
ANGELA LEE DAWSON TAYLOR

ANGELA LEE DAWSON TAYLOR
3832 Edwards Avenue
Jackson, MS 39213

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF Hinds

PERSONALLY appeared before me the undersigned authority in and for the County and State aforesaid, the within named SHE who after first being duly sworn states on oath that all matters and facts set forth in the foregoing Complaint for Divorce are true and correct as herein stated; that the Complaint is not filed by collusion of the parties for the purpose of obtaining a divorce.

Angela Dawson
ANGELA LEE DAWSON

TAYLOR
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this the 28th day of March, 2024.



EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK
BY *K. Howard*
NOTARY

4/11/2024, 4/18/2024, 4/25/2024

LEGAL

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Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project Pest Control will be held at 101 Near Street, Jackson, MS 39203 on April 12, 2024, 1:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged.

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Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSPD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All bid openings will be recorded and uploaded to the JPSPD web site at www.jackson.k12.ms.us at YouTube: JPSITV for public viewing. Due to COVID 19, vendors will not be allowed to sit in on bids openings.

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Week of April 7, 2024

P R E S E R V E D

Spiritually speaking and listening

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“So, when are you going to start writing for me? I had no idea that this one simple question posed to me in early 2000 by Jim Washington, at that time publisher and owner of the *Dallas Weekly*, would have a two decades long impact on my professional and personal life.

At the time of the question, I was working full time in radio and had not shared my desire to write with anyone. I wondered, “How did he know to ask me that question at that time?” It took me a few minutes to respond as I was amazed that he asked me about writing at the same time I’d been praying about opportunities to write. His question ironically answered my question of where I would publish my writings.

Unsure of what to write, I



Washington

asked him what kind of writing he was looking for. Washington patiently explained the kinds of stories the newspaper published but encouraged me to write from the heart. Following his advice, I published columns that eventually became my first book, an *Essence* magazine best seller. That book then led to writing workshops, writing conferences, singles conferences and

then a second book. My book led to me being a part of Christian women’s book tour which then led to my focus for my dissertation.

The knowledge I learned from publishing my book I readily shared when Washington wanted to publish his own book. Ultimately, he did publish his own book *Spiritually Speaking* which was a compilation of his spiritually curious and introspective columns.

I share all of this not to brag about myself or my achievements but more importantly to show how one simple question changed my life. When both the person asking the question and the person answering the question are responding to what they hear from God, their worlds change. In my case, the change led to starting a new career as a writer and college English professor.

As others learned about the recent sad news of the passing of Jim Washington, they also shared similar stories on social

media how he touched their lives with his high standards, mentorship and compassion. Reading those posts and hearing those stories reminded me that transformation often starts not with big things but with small things like simple questions asked and answered.

The initial shock and sadness of hearing of his death has been replaced with a deep sense of gratitude for having had the opportunity to work with him.

Proverbs 19:21 says “Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.” Jim Washington’s life was a powerful example of this scripture. His innovative ways of approaching news and more specifically the *Black Press* illustrated that though he may have had his own plans, he listened to God and was courageous enough to follow God’s voice.

Rest in peace, Jim Washington. May his memory continue to be a blessing.

P A R T 1

Where there is no vision, the people perish

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



We are living in a day in which people are not seeing things as they did previously. At one point in their lives, when they recognized that certain things were wrong, they immediately backed away from those things. There were no questions in their minds. They did not waiver; they avoided the things that were not of God. Today, however, those same things do not look quite as bad to them. They have started to indulge in the same things that were forbidden by the Lord. Some people have adamantly said, “I will no longer partake of those things in my life.” Nevertheless, without the Spirit of God in their lives they do not know what they will do.

We read in James 1:14-15, “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth death.” When sin is finished with you, friend, you will be spiritually dead. Then you will have no hope unless God graciously intervenes in your life.

People would not be making the moves they are making had they not compromised the love for God and the Truth. My friends, if you love the truth, you will stand for it and obey it. Also, if you love the truth,

you will not be swayed by every little doctrinal wind that comes your way. Too many people are swayed by every doctrinal wind that comes along. They say, “I see it this way” or “I see it that way.” The question should be, is it of the Spirit of God? When you are deeply rooted in the things of God you will not be persuaded by every little thing that comes your way.

Where would you be today had it not been for the grace and mercy of God? You have someone to whom you can go, someone to whom you can talk, and someone on whom you can lean. You do not have to face this world alone. There is something about that name Jesus Christ. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

To have clear spiritual eyesight, you need to be rooted and grounded in the Word of God. Your spiritual anchor has to go deep. All the way down to the Rock, Jesus Christ. If you are not anchored in Him, you are anchored in other things. So many people are getting knocked around unnecessarily and in some cases, getting knocked out of this Christian race because their anchors are not deep enough. If you are not anchored in Jesus, you are going to be carried away with the winds of this world.

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

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Women's history is not over, just the month

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



Each year we celebrate Women's History Month in March. My mom, Mrs. Mildred H. Ewers was the first successful woman that I knew. She was a registered nurse in Winston-Salem NC.

Women's History and Black History have some similarities. Each started off as a week. All the while, women have been largely absent from having their accomplishments recognized. Why has it taken so long? That is just one of many questions.

Like anything, if there is no pressure put on the powers that be, nothing will happen. It is my opinion that power only reacts to power. It was the power of the

people that made Women's History Month happen.

According to reports, President Jimmy Carter, in February 1980, issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. The Education Task Force of Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women in Santa Rosa, California planned a women's-themed event during the week of March 8th to correspond with International Women's Day.

In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity according to reports. It honors the extraordinary achievements of women. The theme for Women's History Month 2024 centered around diversity, equity and inclusion. Research has shown that when DEI is included, we all get

better and stronger together.

A report in 2023 showed women made up 41.9% of the workforce and 32.2% in senior leadership positions. More work is being done by advocacy groups to identify more qualified candidates.

Women comprise 74% of all teachers. There are over 3,842,796 teachers in the United States of America. Teaching careers have been one of the most rewarding as teachers are able to shape the minds of future generations. I was fortunate to have teachers who helped to shape my career path as an educator.

I will never forget my teachers at St. Benedict The Moor Elementary School in Winston-Salem, NC as they were all women. My friends and I were fortunate because they gave us the early fundamentals to read,

to write and to think.

My high school and college years were fulfilling because of women like Dr. Manderline Scales and Dr. Maxine Scott. They gave us their best. Their goal was always to make the next generation the best.

In my opinion, it is impossible to keep Women's History Month within the month of March. Celebrations and commemorations must occur throughout the year. Girls and women of all races must know more about whose shoulders they stand on for their own success.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have benefitted greatly from having African-American female presidents. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune founded Bethune Cookman College (now University) in Daytona Beach Florida in 1904.

Since that time, many African-American women have assumed the top job at both HBCUs and (PWIs) Predominately White Institutions.

The record shows that Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy (Johnson C. Smith University), Dr. Ruth Simmons (Brown University and Prairie View A&M University), Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan (Tougaloo College) and Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins (Bennett College) were college presidents and served with distinction.

The mantle of leadership has now been given to new college and university female presidents. Dr. Valerie Kinloch (Johnson C. Smith University), Dr. Rochelle Ford (Dillard University), Dr. Lori S. White (DePauw University) and Dr. Helene D. Gayle (Spelman College) are becoming

trailblazers at their respective institutions.

Women in sports is now one of the most talked about topics in all the land. On Sunday, coach Dawn Staley led the University of South Carolina's women's basketball team to the NCAA Championship. The oldest African American college athletic conference, the CIAA (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) is led by Jacqie McWilliams-Parker. Her innovative stewardship has made it a premier athletic conference.

Let's honor women who are creating new paradigms of success. They are breaking down barriers every day.

This column is dedicated to the women in the East Winston section of Winston-Salem North Carolina who gave me inspiration and motivation.

Love for the Outdoors is a gift that pays forward

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



When we see a 75-year-old white man out in the woods with a group of Black and brown kids from low-income neighborhoods, teaching them about nature, few of us assume he is there because that is where he feels most comfortable.

Probably even fewer of us assume many of those kids look just like the ones he grew up with in public housing projects more than 60 years ago.

Rocky Milburn grew up as one of the few white kids in a mostly Black public housing development in southern Indiana. His family was very poor. They were still poor when they moved into an old farmhouse in the country. That was where Rocky fell in love with the outdoors. Even though his parents struggled financially – perhaps even worse than when they lived in the projects – Rocky did not care.

"We lived right across the street from a creek," Rocky pronounces it "creek," "and I spent my days running the fields. You can kind of say it was my drug at the time." For more than 25 years, Rocky has been an Outings Leader with the Sierra Club's Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) program in Tampa, Florida. The program takes youth from underserved communities on outings such as camping and canoe trips and visits to the beach. Rocky says, "many of these kids live two miles from the beach but have never seen the ocean."

His own experience has taught Rocky the importance of sharing his love of the out-

doors. When the kids stand around Rocky and learn from him about nature, they do not see his age or his race. They see his heart. And they know his heart understands them and the challenges they are facing because he is from the same type of place. People like Rocky, who serve as nature's ambassadors to young people, and people of any age who are nature-deprived, are heroes. The kids in his program learn how to appreciate and be good caretakers of nature. They experience firsthand the lessons nature has to teach us; how being outdoors benefits both our physical and mental health. And they carry these lessons with them throughout their lives.

Levi Randolph attended the Academy Prep Center of Tampa, which has a partnership with the ICO program. While at Academy Prep, a private middle school designed to give bright children from low-income families top-notch educational opportunities, Levi went on his very first camping trip: an outing led by Rocky Milburn. Now an adult, Levi is an outings leader with the Tampa ICO group alongside Rocky.

Levi is paying forward his experience. He is pursuing a career working with animals and investing his time to make sure other kids from his old neighborhood and school get the same chance he had to explore and enjoy nature. This is a story that repeats itself in families and communities in every pocket of our country. And we should encourage and celebrate it.

As someone who comes from a long line of outdoor enthusiasts who passed the love of nature on to me, I try to do the same for my kids.

Whether we are skiing in the winter, paddling and fishing in the summer, or visiting national parks year round, I try to do my part to make sure my family stays connected to the great outdoors. Everyone can do this, whether it is a community affair, a family affair or both.

Vedia Barnett is a disabled Air Force veteran. After suffering a minor stroke, it was reconnecting with the outdoors and her love of nature that gave her a renewed sense of purpose to get back on her feet. "Just hearing the birds and feeling the sun on my face was like giving me life back." Now Vedia works with Sierra Club's Military Outdoors campaign, getting other women veterans outdoors.

She recounts one woman who left the service in the 1970s: "This was the first time she felt like she was in community with veterans who looked like her. And I think it's important even for veterans to understand that all these lands are for us – they're for everybody." Vedia's mom, a Marine Corp veteran, has also gotten involved, bringing senior women veterans in their 70s out to join the group's outings.

This month is Earth Month. It is a perfect time to get outside. Bring your friends and family out there with you. If there is a local program near you that helps get kids – or anyone – outside who doesn't typically have a lot of access to nature, consider chipping in your time. A love of nature is infectious. And it is one infection that is very worth spreading.

Ben Jealous is the executive director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

I'm thinking about having an affair

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



Yes, this is a truthful admission – I'm thinking about having an affair. This confession is not a dream, it's not one's imagination, it's not a game – it's real. The thoughts of stepping outside marriage have become bombarding, nerve wrecking, perplexed and wreckless – which is the perfect storyline for a box office or Netflix movie.

These thoughts began in the heart and the mind taking on its own poisonous metamorphosis process from a minor thought to being consumed by the thoughts of having an affair.

The thoughts of being comforted, touched, hugged, kissed, massaged, caressed and held by someone else other than my spouse have now become my breakfast, lunch and dinner. In fact, when I am with my spouse, I think about who I really want to be with, who I really want to soak in the tub with, who I really want to talk to, who I really want to text, whose social media accounts I really want to follow, who I really want to laugh with, and who I really want to share my future with. In fact, there's an anxiousness to be with this special someone and share a secret that only we would know about.

How do spouses get to the point of desiring to have an affair?

- You are a backburner option to your spouse
- Financial turbulence
- Not content with who God gave you
- Enough is not enough
- Little to no effective communication
- Lacks an emotional/physical connection with spouse
- Disappointments
- Loneliness
- Spouse is critical – gaslighting

- Feel unappreciated
- Spouse fails to acknowledge/compliment you
- Don't spend quality time with each other
- Unfaithful spouse
- Spouse neglect
- Little to no affection
- Little to no romance
- Don't remember the last time you had sex
- Sexual life you do have does not quench your thirst
- Nagging spouse
- Controlling spouse
- Spouse doesn't support you
- Abuse – physical, emotional, sexual, economic – ex. Husband not providing for household
- Lust – this probably should've been number one – big muscles – big booty
- Sabotage the marriage – don't want to be married anymore.

Most spouses would not want to hear or accept the confession of their soulmates contemplating having an affair even if they have fulfilled any of the things described above. That's some strange stuff, isn't it? I just don't understand this strange stuff – if you don't want your spouse to have an affair – then think twice about how you treat your husband or wife. In other words, don't easily push your husband or wife into another man's or woman's arms due to your negative responses and actions. No, you can't force your spouse to have an affair but you sure can help them justify their reasoning behind having an affair. But having an affair is not the solution.

- Why affairs should not be an option:
 - Big mistake
 - Doesn't align with your marriage vows
 - Spouse becomes an enemy
 - The outsider becomes an imposter to your spouse – you get fooled
 - Trust dwindles
 - Mutilates your spouses' hearts
 - Hurts your children, fam-

- ily, friends
 - Poses serious health risks for you and spouse – STIs, STDs and other diseases
 - Breaks up your home
 - Lose who God gave you – your good thing, your soulmate
 - You lose yourself.

- Alternatives for not having an affair:
 - Pray
 - Listen to the song, "Let's Straighten It Out."
 - Communicate about everything
 - Seek counseling – professional marriage counseling, pastoral counseling, join a local church marriage ministry like ours, attend marriage workshops like Family Life ASAP
 - Fight for your marriage.

In conclusion, 'I am thinking about having an affair' is not my personal confession, thank God. (Remember I am a writer and consider myself a comedian; therefore, I love to add twists to my articles every now and then for my husband's sake and yours). I love my husband and I am content with him.

However, 'I am thinking about having an affair' is a confession that many spouses are strongly contemplating today but please let me reassure you that having an affair is not the answer – having an affair is a temporary fix for wounds that will only get deeper and worse. 'I'm thinking about having an affair' is a thought that you must put to death, or it will possibly be the death of your marriage and family.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.), Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS 39206, Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert), Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert, Email: letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com or call 601 596-2528.

Mississippi Children's Museum announces program expansion

Celebrating being named one of the top three children's museums in the country

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Children's Museum announced an expansion of their educational and workforce development program April 5, one month after being named one of the top three children's museums in the United States by USA Today. The LIFT is the museum's educational arm and focuses on statewide outreach, workforce development, STEAM, and literacy training for teachers as well as provides educational opportunities for students.

"The Mississippi Children's Museum is a gift to not only Jackson, but the entire state of Mississippi," said Michael L. Cormack Jr., Jackson Public Schools Deputy Superintendent. "We are so proud that they are getting the national recognition they deserve. Thousands of visitors benefit from the museum's innovative exhibitions and features each year, and as this expansion shows, their work is not done. We are proud to have a group so focused on the success and development of the children and educators of our state."

In February, USA Today named the Mississippi Children's Museum the third best children's museum in the country as part of their 2024 Reader's Choice Travel Awards. Twenty museums were nominated by a panel and then the nominees were voted on by museum supporters and USA



Guest speaker Ashlee V. Davidson, VP of Communications for Lockheed Martin, addresses the crowd at the business luncheon.

Today readers.

Mississippi Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann said, "We are so proud to be the home of the Mississippi Children's Museum and want to continue to support the work they do to invest in the children of our state."

Other state and museum officials are proud of the expansions.

"I'm proud to host my friends

from the Mississippi Children's Museum here at the State Capitol today," said State House Representative Shanda Yates, District 64. "You won't find a group of people who care more about the next generation of Mississippians. They are constantly looking for ways to help our children learn, grow and develop, which creates a better future for all of us."

"We are truly honored to be named one of the best children's museums in the country," said Susan Garrard, Mississippi Children's Museum president. "Not only are we dedicated to making sure our museum remains a top tourist destination, but we are expanding our focus on education, outreach and workforce development. The Mississippi Children's Museum

is an incredible place for children to play, but it is so much more than that. We are continuing to grow and invest in the future generations of Mississippians by providing top-of-the-line educational opportunities for students and teachers alike through The LIFT program."

The museum revealed plans for the expansion including two new features: The City Lab and

The Nest. The City Lab will be The LIFT's interactive STEAM exhibit gallery used to provide hands-on training in digital technologies and computer science for both educators and students. This gallery will demonstrate how children's passions and interests can be turned into fulfilling careers that positively and sustainably impact the future of our state.

Meanwhile, The Nest will serve as an inspirational educator resource center for current and upcoming educators both from urban and rural school districts, supported by access to high-quality instructional materials through in-person and digital networking. In The Nest, educators will have access to a library of lesson plans, STEAM experiments, and other valuable resources to aid their classroom teaching.

The Mississippi Children's Museum is also expanding its after-school program, which currently serves more than 130 students in Jackson and Meridian. The museum provides a safe and inspirational after-school environment with enriching programs spanning architecture, coding, art and more.

"Through programs like The LIFT, we are doing more than providing activities for children to do in the here and now—we are setting them up to be successful adults," said Garrard.

To learn more about The LIFT, visit thelifms.org.

Stokes on the anniversary of Dr. King's assassination



Councilman Kenneth Stokes at Freedom Corner PHOTO BY JAMES HAMPTON III

By James Hampton III
Contributing Writer

Addressing the press Thursday morning, April 4, 2024, after a short yet earnest wreath laying ceremony by the City of Jackson, MS Councilman of Ward 3, Kenneth Stokes, pledged, "...as long as blood keeps flowing in my body, I'll be out here for Medgar Evers and for Dr. King every year."

Despite beautiful weather conditions the mood was somber among the few citizens gathered at Freedom Corner – Medgar Evers Boulevard and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive around 10 a.m.

"Today is a sad day in the history of Black people. This is the day Dr. King was assassinated," declared Stokes while standing beside the monument honoring the two Civil Rights Movement martyrs whose memories linger at that corner. As he spoke, the councilman moved and adjusted the freshly lain black and gold wreath under the monument whose message read simply "WE LOVE YOU DR. KING."

After an impromptu interview between Stokes and WAPT journalist Ross Adams, the gathered attendees slowly dispersed while the memory of the murdered Civil Rights leaders lingers on.

Quanyatta Benson's bridal shower – an affair drenched in magnificence and taste

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

Bridal shower goers took to the streets and set out to join forces with each other to share a few moments of bliss Saturday, March 30. Their time was well-spent on the road. Whether motoring down I-20 West, I-55, Hwy. 51 or Highland Colony Park, their routes carried them to Ridgeland, Mississippi's round-about into Enzo Osteria – the perfect spot to have a good time with soon-to-be bride, Quanyatta Benson.

The invited guests poured into Enzo Osteria's and were greeted by a restaurateur who led them to the bridal shower room. There, they beheld the beauty of Benson – a smiling lady, crowned and dressed in fuchsia. Eyes couldn't help but admire her poise, sophistication and dignity, welcomed elements for the majestic moment of sharing.

The timely, simple, but classy theme for Benson and her entourage was "Boho and Blush." This unique platform of expression welcomed females and males, while allowing room for warm spacing, pattern mixing, game playing and gift giving. Chairs and tables were arranged for the assemblage to comfortably move about, to sit at ease at their tables and to chat one to the other. Green, pink, ivory and yellow artifacts sprinkled the bridal shower into a world of calm.



Bride-to-be Quanyatta Benson surrounded by family and friends.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANA RICE

Kenitra Lee, Benson's sister, was the event organizer and host. She racked the guests' brains with timed bridal games that were scrambled, number-related and bridal-related. Each game triggered thought-provoking responses such as, "Oh, my gosh," "I don't know any of this," and "What is this?" In their curiosity, some guests flipped their pages over to see if there were hints of answers. This resorted to laughter and another puzzle for them – as there were no clues to be found. Not only was this an inevitable wakeup call, but time was running out, and they were losing out with no answers on their pages.

For the most part, guests were startled when they learned what the correct answers were. It was as though a bombshell had been dropped. Following their pause, such comments resorted to: "I should've followed

my first mind;" and "I never would've thought that."

Gift bags were given to game players with the highest points. They were filled with timely luxuries such as room spray, beauty cream, towelettes, hand sanitizers and toilet seat covers. Throughout the gathering, the party fellowshiped and was treated with delicious food such as tossed salad, pasta, shrimp, skinless chicken strips and desserts.

Servers treated the soon-to-be bride and her entourage with royalty. They wasted no time putting them at ease within the intimate setting.

The invaluable moment was a time to remember. It was so precious that it cannot be replaced. It left fond expressions, good treatment and interlocking family and friendship ties.

Benson was pleased with the turnout and vocalized her pride and joy. She remarked that

there could not have been a better day and time for family and friends to spend time with her. "I thank everybody for coming and celebrating [this] great time with me," she said.

Several days thereafter, ladies looked back at the bridal shower.

"I really enjoyed myself. The shower was nice and elegant. The scenery and decorations were beautiful. The food was delicious. It was nice to be around family and friends, and to see them enjoying the games," voiced Tasha Oliver, Benson's cousin.

Host Lee reflected on "good moments" shared with family and friends. She expressed pleasure in hosting the event. "The 'intimate gathering' was 'full of love from friends and family members,'" she said.

The guests showered Benson with many gifts.



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Mom inspires Hinds CC nursing scholarship recipient

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Emmani Williams points to her mother as inspiration for entering the Associate Degree Nursing program at Hinds Community College. As the 33rd recipient of the Carla McCulloch Nursing Scholarship, she now has someone else to inspire her.

Williams, 20, of Byram said she was proud to follow in the footsteps of students like Carla and of her mother who is a licensed practical nurse working in a nursing rehabilitation center.

"I was encouraged by my mom to become a nurse because she's a nurse. She influenced me a lot when I was little," Williams said. "I plan to become a pediatric nurse.



Emmani Williams, center, is shown with Nursing & Allied Health Center instructors including, from left, Audrey Murray, Mel Pinter, Andrea Edwards, Whitney Nesbit, Elola Maberry and Wendy Lingle

I love kids and like working with kids."

Since 1991, the Carla Mc-

Culloch Scholarship has been given to a second semester Associate Degree Nursing stu-

dent. It was created by her parents, Larry and Carol McCulloch, formerly of Magee but

now residents of Roanoke, Va. Carla graduated high school from Simpson Academy and was a Hinds nursing student at the time of her death in an April 1991 accident.

"We knew our daughter was a good fit for being a nurse because she was a very compassionate person and very funny. She loved to laugh and she loved people," Carol McCulloch said.

Dene Bass Cook, retired nursing clinical instructor, said Carla encouraged classmates when they were thinking of quitting nursing school.

"She'd have her arm around that student and she would look them straight in the eye and she would say, 'No. You are not going to quit, don't

let her intimidate you,'" Cook laughed. She said Carla turned out to be one of the top performing students in her class. "She was the kind of nurse I'd want taking care of me."

Andrea Edwards, director of the Associate Degree Nursing Program, said Williams is the same kind of student as Carla McCulloch.

"Much like Carla, (Williams) is highly motivated, enthusiastic and caring. Her leadership skills are exemplary, and she's always prepared for class and lab, always punctual," she said.

To learn more about the nursing program available at Hinds visit the website at www.hindscc.edu/pathways/health-sciences/practical-nursing.

JPS senior to commit to MS School after receiving \$2M in scholarships nationwide

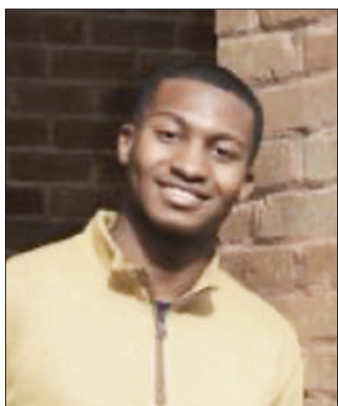
The JPS Newswire

Joshua Paul Johnson, a senior enrolled in Jackson Public School's only early-college high school program, has landed \$2 million in scholarships from universities nationwide. Offers have come from New Jersey's prestigious Seton Hall University to The University of Ole Miss, but the 17-year-old has his sights on Mississippi College and Jackson State University.

With a 4.0 GPA and a 32 on the ACT, Johnson entered the JPS-Tougaloo Early-College High School Program (J-TECHS) through Murrah High School during the pandemic. In four years, he's earned 69 college credits.

Known by his friends as JP, the aspiring engineer began applying for colleges in September 2023. "My mom kept pushing me, but I learned it was a mixture of working hard and smart," JP said. "You need the test scores to kind of carry you through it, but once you have that, then it's just grunt work – doing the essays, applications, dinners – all that."

JP discovered a love for fixing things by growing up watching his dad, an Entergy engineer. "My entire life has been building things with



Joshua "JP" Johnson

my dad," JP laughed. "It just became a lifestyle. To be a problem solver and help people with real-life problems – that's awesome to me.

Principal Ashley Molden, Ed.S, says JP personifies what it means to be a J-TECHS scholar.

"He embodies our Regal Eagle attributes effortlessly," said Molden. "He is honorable, competent, tenacious, hard-working, confident, and has left an indelible mark on the legacy of our school. We are so proud that he and his family accepted the charge we issue each year to our scholars to apply for scholarships on their quest to become our district's next 'million dollar babies.'"

JP also plays the cello and is on the district's swim team.

Spann Elementary scholars learn new exercise moves thanks to Junior League of Jackson grant

The JPS Newswire

With individual brand-new yoga mats, scholars at Spann Elementary School learned new exercise moves inside their classrooms Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

Second-graders smiled as they twisted and turned while doing poses such as backbends and hamstring stretches.

The midday workout was all thanks to one of several mini-grants by the Junior League of Jackson.

This particular grant, For the Health of It, is designed to develop children's fundamental motor skills, movement concepts and motor skills.

The goal was to bring awareness of the value of being physically active, and the ability to display appropriate behaviors and attitudes during activity.

In partnership with the Community Foundation of Mississippi's Education Foundation Trust Fund, the Junior League of Jackson awarded a total of \$100,000 to fund grants applied for by JPS teachers.

"These funds provide our teachers with the resources needed to offer unique learning opportunities and experiences for our scholars," said Thea Faulkner, director of Partners in Education at Jackson Public Schools. "From establishing a Fine Arts Sculpture Carving Club, a trip to the World War II Museum in New



In partnership with the Community Foundation of Mississippi's Education Foundation Trust Fund, the Junior League of Jackson awarded a total of \$100,000 to fund grants applied for by JPS teachers.

Orleans, to an in-depth experience for over 700 scholars in our Open Doors program for intellectually gifted scholars to develop effective skills and success skills through an em-

phasis on etiquette and manners in various business and social settings, to enhance their social development, these opportunities are transformational." We are grateful to the

Junior League of Jackson for their tangible support to Jackson Public Schools' scholars and teachers."

Since 1990, the Junior League of Jackson's Public School Mini-Grants program has provided funding for detailed projects and equipment for applicant teachers and schools. The Community Foundation of Mississippi began partnering with the League in 2004, and together these organizations have provided more than \$2.1 million in grant funding for this initiative.

"We are grateful for this partnership with Jackson Public Schools and the Community Foundation for Mississippi," said Kaitlyn Vassar, president of Junior League of Jackson. "These funds will allow teachers to implement creative, innovative projects in the League's impact areas of early literacy, children's health and social development and have a direct impact on children in our community."

The Junior League of Jackson is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration and training. The League supports over 30 community projects and initiatives throughout the Jackson Metro area, including the Public School Mini-Grants program.



BOOK REVIEW: BOOKS FOR POETRY MONTH BY VARIOUS AUTHORS C.2023, 2024 \$18.99 • VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

On your hands, you got lots of time. You can make a song, you can make a rhyme. Make a long story, make a short one, write what you like, make it simple and fun.

Writing poetry uses your imagination: you play with words, paint a picture, there's no intimidation. Creating poetry can be a breeze, or just reach for and read books exactly like these...

Picture books for the littles are a great way to introduce

your 3-to7-year-old to poetry because simple stories lend themselves to gentle rhymes and lessons. "See You on the Other Side" by Rachel Montez Minor, illustrated by Mariyah Rahman (Crown, \$18.99) is a rhyming book about love and loss, but it's not as sad as you might think.

In this book, several young children learn that losing someone beloved is not a forever thing, that its very sad but it's not scary because their loved one is always just a thought away. Young readers who've

recently experienced the death of a parent, grandparent, sibling or friend will be comforted by the rhyme here, but don't dismiss the words as kiddishness: adults who've recently lost a loved one will find helpful, comforting words here, too.

Flitting from here to there and back again, author Alice Notley moves through phases of her life, locations, and her diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer in her latest poetry collection, "Being Reflected Upon" (Penguin, \$20). From 2000 to 2017, Notley lived in Paris

where she completed her wrestle with breast cancer. That, and her life abroad, are reflected in the poetry here. She also takes readers on a poetic journey on other adventures and to other places she lived and visited. This book has a random feel that entices readers to skip around and dive in anywhere. Fans of Notley will appreciate her new-age approach to her works; new fans will enjoy digging into her thoughts and visions through poems. Bonus: at least one of the poems may make you laugh.

If you're a reader who's willing to look into the future, "Colorfast" by Rose McLarney (Penguin, \$20) will be a book you'll return to time and again. This, the author's fourth collection, is filled with vivid poems of graying and fading, but also of bright shades, small things, women's lives yesterday and today, McLarney's Southern childhood, and the things she recalls about her childhood. The poems inside this book are like sitting on a front porch on a wooden rocking chair: they're comfortable, inviting, and they

tell a story that readers will love discovering.

If these books aren't enough, or if you're looking for something different, silly, or classic, then head to your favorite bookstore or library. The ladies and gentlemen there will help you figure out exactly what you need, and they can introduce you to the kind of poetry that makes you laugh, makes you cry, entices a child, inspires you, gives you comfort, or makes you want to write your own poems. Isn't it time to enjoy a rhyme?



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What will she do?

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

It's no secret that coach Tomekia Reed is one of the best coaches in the country. She's been praised by reigning champion South Carolina's head coach Dawn Staley, last year's champion's head coach Kim Mulkey at LSU, and the legend, arguably the GOAT (Greatest of All Time) women's head coach from UCONN, Geno Auriemma.

She has reportedly interviewed with Tulane University and the University of Tennessee. Tulane hired their coach while Tennessee is still interviewing candidates.

From a financial standpoint, Reed made \$135,000 per season at Jackson State annually for the past 4 years. Since her tenure as head coach, she has won 126 games and lost 54, with 95 of those wins coming in the SWAC. She has only lost 10 SWAC games in 6 seasons at Jackson State.

She didn't add any losses to her SWAC record this season. Jackson State was perfect in the regular season at 18-0 and perfect in the SWAC tournament. JSU finished this season 26-7 capturing a 14th seed in the NCAA tournament.



Coach Tomekia Reed has won 126 games in 6 seasons
PHOTOS BY TIM WARD

JSU played UCONN, who went on to make it to the final four before falling short to Iowa. Against UCONN JSU lost 86 to 64, but gained respect and admiration from UCONN's head coach Geno Auriemma.

Jackson State appeared in

the NCAA tournament in 2021, 2022, and 2024.

Reed is a 5 time regular season SWAC champion, 3 time SWAC tournament champion, appeared in the WNIT and is also a 3 time national HBCU Coach of the year.

There is speculation that



Reed

Jackson State is preparing to offer Reed \$1 million over the next four seasons. That would be a boost of \$115,000 annually, topping her salary out at \$250,000 per year, by far the highest women's basketball coach salary in the SWAC and putting her in the foot-

ball coaches salary bracket. It's well deserved. Comparing that salary nationally to other schools, Buffalo paid their coach \$250,000. Buffalo plays in the Mid-American Conference. LSU's Kim Mulkey is the highest paid women's basketball coach making \$3.2 mil-

lion a year, followed by Geno Auriemma and Dawn Staley who both make \$3.1 million a year. Former Mississippi State coach and current University of Texas women's coach, Vic Schaefer makes \$2.3 million a year. Naturally these are schools and programs with high sports budgets, play in the Power 5 conferences, and support of boosters. In the state of Mississippi, Ole Miss's coach Yo reportedly makes just over \$1 million and Mississippi State's Sam Purcell makes over \$650,000.

At the end of the day, the ball is in Reed's "court." What will she do? Will she return home and look to continue her dominance in the SWAC and elevating Jackson State's women's basketball? JSU captured a 14th seed; will they aim higher? Will she take this momentum and go to another school and "cash in" on great financial rewards?

Does she aspire to win a national championship at a national school? Time will tell. Tiger Nation will hold its collective breath until her decision is made. If she does leave, she will leave the program far better than when she found it six seasons ago.

JSU spring game closes out spring practice

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

Last Saturday, Jackson State concluded spring practice with the annual Blue and White game. Fans attended and the Sonic Boom of the South was in attendance as well.

Jacobian Morgan, the clear starter at quarterback, passed for 293 yards, completing 13 of 21 passes. He was sacked 5 times. 73 of Morgan's 293 yards came on a touchdown to Errick Simmons. Morgan also threw an 11 yard touchdown pass to Jameel Gardner Jr.

Morgan was quarterbacking the white team for Jackson State.

Junior quarterback Zy McDonald completed 10 of 22 passes for 130 yards. Freshman quarterback Ethan Terrell scored on a 16 yard touchdown run. All and all, the game moved along fine; no major injuries and head coach TC Taylor got a final look at the team.

Countdown begins to August 29th. Jackson State opens the season on the road in Monroe, Louisiana against ULM. Kickoff if slated for 7 p.m.



Jacobian Morgan threw for 293 yards



Morgan



Coach TC Taylor preparing for ULM now

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Wax Museum

Raymond/Carver Middle School hosted a Wax Museum showcase. Students on display represented their favorite characters.

