



O.J. Simpson, iconic athlete and central figure in American legal history, dies at 76



Simpson

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

O.J. Simpson, a towering figure in both the sports world and the annals of American legal history, has lost his battle with cancer at the age of 76. His family confirmed his death in a statement issued early on Thursday, April 11. "On April 10, our father, Oren-

thal James Simpson, succumbed to his battle with cancer," read the statement shared by Simpson's family. "He was surrounded by his children and grandchildren."

Simpson's life story, a blend of unparalleled athletic achievement and enduring controversy, began in San Francisco, California, on July 9, 1947. His rise to promi-

nence began at the University of Southern California (USC), where his prowess as a college football star catapulted him into the national spotlight. His remarkable talent on the field, including a legendary game-winning touchdown against rival UCLA, solidified his status as one of the most electrifying athletes of his era.

Simpson's professional career initially experienced difficulties after the Buffalo Bills selected him with the first overall pick in the 1969 NFL draft. However, under the guidance of coach Lou Saban, he flourished, achieving feats that would etch his name in football history. Notably, Simpson's record-

breaking 1973 season, during which he became the first player to rush for 2,000 yards in a single NFL campaign, remains an indelible mark of his athletic prowess.

Off the field, Simpson's magnetic personality and commercial appeal transcended sports,

Simpson

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Not a morsel of basic human regard for African American colleagues

Mississippi Senate stained by confederate-minded member, Angela Burks Hill



State Senator Angela Burks Hill
(PER MS LEGISLATURE WEBSITE)



The statue of former Governor Bilbo



Senator Hillman T. Frazier

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Try as we may to turn the corner on Mississippi's blatant racism and confederate-minded thinking and actions, there are those - elected by the people - who will not budge. Not only do they force Mississippi to remain at the bottom, never being able to realize its phenomenal potential, but they also continue cracking the whip whenever possible, letting you know exactly who they are, where they stand, and what they think of even their colleagues who don't look like them. God help them when they arrive at the pearly gates.

And so it was last week at the Capitol - the seat of power and control over the lives of all Mississippians - where minorities are grossly underrepresented as a percentage of population, and where certain legislators make it their life's work to keep it that way.

In the upper chamber while addressing appropriations for departments in FY25 - specifically HB1776, focused on appropriations for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History - the white Republican Senator representing District 40 (Pearl River and Stone), Angela Burks Hill, offered Amendment 1 to a Committee Amendment,

seeking to stop expenditure of any funds by the department unless they publicly display the statue of former Governor Theodore Gilmore Bilbo. The statue of one of Mississippi's fieriest racists apparently sits in a closet somewhere collecting dust, no longer in public view.

Just the week before, she killed a bill to reauthorize certain felons, who had already served their time, with voting rights, per reporting on April 8, 2024, by The Mississippi Free Press. We all know that Mississippi's minority population is about 40%, yet 62+% of those incarcerated are minorities.

The behaviors of Senator

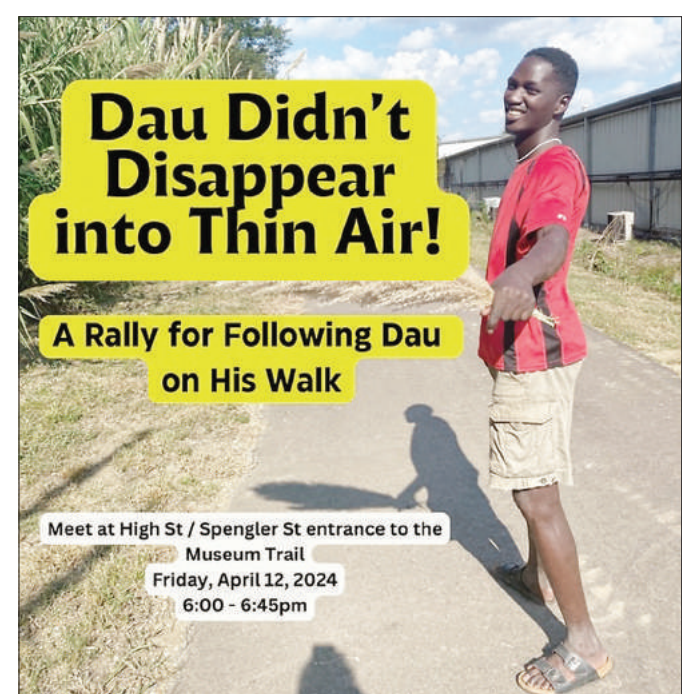
Hill, and others who think like her, must be held up to the light of day, so that people know exactly who it is that keeps all of Mississippi shackled. In nautical terms, a ship at-sea yet barely able to maintain steerage because it won't stop dragging the anchor of racism and oppression.

Just hours after The Mississippi Link newspaper became aware of Senator Hill's failed behavior, this writer met with Senator Hillman Terome Frazier, a Democrat representing District 27 (Hinds) for forty-four years and counting.

Human

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Second rally calls for reunion of missing Dau Mabil with friends and family



On Friday, Karissa Bowley, wife of missing Dau Mabil, rallied and poured out their concerns for him to return home and for community to continue to come forth with evidence of his disappearance.

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

"Where is Dau Mabil?" That's the lurking question that spouse Karissa Bowley and supporters continue to raise since he went missing three weeks ago. According to Karissa, Dau routinely would leave his phone plugged into his charger. His frequent walks in Jackson's Belhaven Heights neighborhood, however, came to a halt on March 25.

Karissa and community supporters participated in "A Second Rally for Following Dau on his Walk" on Friday, April 12, 2024, from 6:00-6:45 p.m. They gathered on downtown Jackson's Museum Trail to share the place where they most recently saw Dau in footage, and where he stopped to check on his corn seedlings. According to Karissa, this rally was meant to encourage community and authorities to continue the search.

"The emphasis of this rally is: Dau is strong and would fight to find any of his neighbors. Dau did not just disappear into thin air, we must follow his trail. All the entities working on this case must work together and cooperate so that Dau's whole search team is not its own worst enemy," Karissa said in her appeal.

Karissa is calling for community transparency and police accountability. She believes that the community "is doing all that they can" in their outreach for Dau's return. She wants those in the community who have not seen his baby corn seedlings to come see them. "He is growing [the corn] for all of us and was checking on it often," she voiced.

A picture from a surveillance camera reveals Dau wearing blue Adidas joggers, an orange shirt, and a yellow hoodie around his waist. That was just before 12:30 p.m. on March 25. Since that picture, there has been no sign of Dau.

John Jibol, Dau's cousin, issued a special appeal to Dau. "We love you. Please contact me. You know my number - the same number I've had for 20 something years. You can reach out to your brother. You can reach out to anybody in the community. We love you; we miss you," he said.

Marion Geissinger, a supporter, explained that "more answers" are needed for Dau's search. He went missing in "broad daylight." Geissinger noted, "This disappearance just doesn't make sense."

One of Dau's friends - Gary Brown - mentioned that he and the community are wor-

Mabil

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US Senator Laphonza Butler and US District Judge Carlton Reeves named 2024 spring commencement speakers for JSU

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson State University announces two distinguished alumni will keynote the 2024 Spring commencement ceremonies. United States District Judge Carlton W. Reeves will serve as the speaker for the graduate student ceremony on Friday, May 3 at 9 a.m. CT in the Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center; and United States Senator Laphonza Butler will serve as the speaker for the undergraduate student ceremony on Saturday, May 4, at 9 a.m. CT at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

United States Senator Laphonza Butler, a native of Magnolia, Mississippi, was selected by California Governor Gavin Newsom to fill the senate seat in 2023 following Dianne Feinstein's death. For nearly two decades, she was an organizer and leader in the labor movement.



Butler

Prior to her appointment, Butler was the first Black woman to be named president of EMILY's List, an American political action committee that aims to help elect Democratic female candidates into office who support abortion rights.

During her tenure, EMILY's List recruited and supported over 600 women to run for elected office. Prior to leading EM-



Reeves

ILY's List, Senator Butler served as a strategist to organizations, companies, and candidates, including playing a key role in Holly Mitchell's campaign for LA Supervisor.

Butler joined SCRB Strategies, a California-based political consulting firm, as a partner in 2018. At SCRB, she played a central role in Kamala Harris's 2020 presidential campaign. She

has been a political ally of Harris's since the latter's first run for California Attorney General in 2010, when she helped Harris negotiate a shared SEIU endorsement in the race.

At the age of 30, Butler was elected president of California's largest homecare and nursing home workers union SEIU local in 2015. As president, she helped orchestrate the increasing California's minimum wage to \$15 an hour and securing paid sick days for the state's home care workers. She grew the union's membership to over 325,000 making it the largest homecare worker union in the country.

Butler earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Jackson State University in 2001.

United States District Judge Carlton W. Reeves, a native of

Commencement

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Angel Jackson drafted in the 2024 WNBA draft



The Black Box: Writing the Race



Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

Rev Eric D. Williams now Executive Pastor of Farish Street Baptist Church

A circle complete, the pastor returns home to the fullest embrace

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Visiting with the newly installed Executive Pastor of the Historic Farish Street Baptist Church on April 13, 2024, brought forth so many truly significant names, dates, and locations – Rev. Eric D. Williams’ story embodies them all and so much more. Each new date, event, connection, and assignment in his life has provided him the opportunity to grow and serve, all while concurrently preparing him for the next assignment, yet it is much deeper than that.

The love, acceptance, and support he has received along this road is difficult to capture in words – it is written clearly across his face as he shares its profound impact. And now it is truly felt by him that a circle has completed. God’s loving plan has brought him home. Home to Farish Street Baptist Church. And home to Jackson, to some of the most loving and influential people in his life.

Rev. Williams has a twin brother - Derick, an older brother - Timothy, and a younger sister - Sherlyon. Born in Monticello, MS, in August 1971 to Elizabeth Williams, the daughter of Carlee and Josephine Williams; his loving grandparents, his family attended South Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Prentiss. He knew then: “I knew



Rev. Eric D. Williams stands behind Dr. Hickman M. Johnson just prior to assuming the pulpit for the first time as Executive Pastor during April 7 services.

I was going to be a preacher, but I did not want to do it.”

He graduated from Prentiss High School in 1989. His mother and his grandmother were both teachers, and he said, “I thought I would be a teacher.” Even still, he wasn’t sure what his future would hold – resistance perhaps. He went on to study education at Jackson State University, where Farish Street Baptist Associate Minister Dr. Marion Y. Talley was one of his teachers. He graduated in 1997 with a bachelor’s in education.

The story goes back now to Rev. I. L. Lylyon, and he concedes not being certain of the spelling of the name because he was so very young. Lylyon lived in Jackson but pastored South Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Prentiss. He was an enormous influence on the Williams family, with the pastor having a room in the home of his grandparents to ease his burden when travelling.



Reverends. Johnson and Williams at Communion Table, organist Larry Robinson in background.

His grandmother, Josephine would stay with Lylyon when she was in school in Jackson, and she would attend College Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Naturally, hearing stories from his mother and grandmother, when he went to Jackson State University, he attended and then joined College Hill in the early 1990’s when Rev. Hosea J. Hines was pastor there.

He remembers the organist at College Hill, Miss Carrie Bell Oatis. There were so many connections between College Hill and his hometown: “The embrace I received there is with me to this day. My life, my story, cannot be adequately told without the context of the church. In their own way they kept me focused – Malena and Robert Dow, Lenora Reed, Carlena Rodgers, Lena Mary Smith, and so many others.”

“When I confessed my calling to Pastor Hines, he gave me opportunities. In 1997, I was li-

censed as a minister under Pastor Hines and after completing my studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center at Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, I was ordained under Rev. Hosea J. Hines in 2001. The Lord had put me in a place where I can learn, and in my last year at ITC, the Dean and President at the time, Dr. William T. Perkins told me that Dr. Hickman M. Johnson at Farish Street Baptist Church was looking for an Assistant to the Pastor.

I was interviewed in December 2000. We had lunch at Piccadilly, and I’m not one to pass up a free lunch,” he shared grinning. He started leading worship, preaching, and teaching Wednesday noon and evening Bible study. A bond was formed, a mentor 30 years his senior, creating opportunities, providing guidance and support wrapped in Christ’s love.

At some point, Rev. Johnson will assume the role of Pas-



Rev. Eric D. Williams, who once served as Assistant to the Pastor here, is now the Executive Pastor at Farish Street Baptist Church. PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG

tor Emeritus. Having accepted the pastorate at Farish Street in 1968 - 56 years ago this coming August. Johnson’s presence in the pulpit defies adequate definition and is known throughout the country. His contributions as a shepherd beyond the pulpit are equally extraordinary.

Rev. Johnson is from Tennessee and went to Morehouse. Rev. Williams is from Mississippi and went to Morehouse. Johnson served as Chaplain at historic Tougaloo College in the last 1960’s; Williams served in many roles at Tougaloo, including interim Chaplain from 2002-2007. Rev. Williams went on to pastor two churches – in Tennessee, of course: Greater Pleasant View Baptist Church in Brentwood, TN, and then The Mother Church of Nashville’s African American churches - Historic Spruce Street Baptist Church, until now becoming Executive Pastor at Farish Street. In addition to pastoring, he has served the Sunday

School Publishing Board for the last 15 years as a program coordinator and director – the official publisher of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and a host of other local, state, and national affiliations. Remember, early in his story, when it was uncertain – would he be a preacher or a teacher? God took care of that over 20 years ago – surely, he is both.

Jeremiah 3:15 comes to mind. The King James version says, “And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” Before meeting Rev. Williams, this writer had never even heard the word, homiletics, let alone know what it is. The Reverend holds a master’s degree in divinity and studied homiletics – and he is masterful in the pulpit.

When you hear his story, including the indescribable difficulty of losing his mother and grandmother, and now watch the complete embrace by the Farish Street faithful, it is undeniably clear that Rev. Eric D. Williams has lived his life in the arms of angels. As our visit came to a close, the most obvious question was asked - how are you doing with all this, this elevation, following in the footsteps of a legend? His response was so authentic: “I haven’t focused on that yet... I just do what is in front of me.”

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Simpson

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propelling him to a cultural icon. His groundbreaking endorsement deals, such as the memorable Hertz rental car campaign, revolutionized celebrity advertising and broadened his appeal to a diverse audience.

However, Simpson's legacy became irrevocably entangled with controversy following the brutal murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman, in 1994. The ensuing "Trial of the Century," characterized by its intense media scrutiny and stark racial divisions, captivated the nation, and resulted in Simpson's dramatic acquittal.

Despite winning the criminal case, Simpson's life continued to be filled with upheaval, including his subsequent civil liability for the murders and his 2008 conviction on robbery and kidnapping charges.

In the following years, Simpson's story remained a subject of fascination, inspiring numerous television adaptations and documentaries that sought to unravel the complexities of his life and legacy.

Mabil

Continued from page 1

ried about Dau and his entire family. "He has a lot of people he's very close to. We pray to find him alive."

At this time, police maintain that foul play is not suspected for Dau's missing. He is 6' 1" and weighs 145 pounds. A reward of up to \$2,500 is being offered from Crime Stoppers. On the other hand, persons with any information about Dau Mabil's missing are asked to contact the Capitol or Jackson Police Department.



MISSING
DAU MABIL
6'1" 145 lbs.

Belhaven resident left home on Monday, 3/25, around noon to go for a walk in the Belhaven - Belhaven Heights area and never returned. Last seen wearing orange long-sleeved T-shirt, yellow fleece hoodie (tied around his waist), and blue athletic pants with white stripes. Please check cameras in the area.

Please Contact Us!
If you have information to help in this case, call Crime Stoppers at 601-355-TIPS (8477). You can also submit a tip by going to www.P3tips/116.
Also call: Karissa (wife) at 601-566-5739 Capitol Police at 601-359-3125

Human

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Senator Frazier began service in the House of Representative in 1980 and has served in the Senate since 1993. Only one other legislator currently serving has served as long as Senator Frazier. He and Representative Percy W. Watson, a Democrat representing District 103 (Forrest) were sworn in together in January 1980. Can we even begin to calculate the number of times these two African American legislators have witnessed and felt the sting of racism by those who are technically their peers, but whose skin is pale?

Being privileged to be invited to sit with Senator Frazier in his office on April 12, 2024, brought it all to the forefront. You can search the world over and not find a finer man. And a word of counsel for those that need it, Senator Frazier doesn't speak to his visitors from behind his desk, he sits beside them.

Another Senator who was present for the voice-vote on Hill's amendment was Senator John Horhn, representing District 26 (Hinds and Madison) since 1993. He shared, "The vote was so encouraging, maybe only about seven members voted in favor, but we had an overwhelming no vote. There was a time when it would have been closer, but we all knew when she (Senator Hill) brought it up that it wouldn't pass." Encouraging, indeed. Here's a link to her amendment: https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2024/pdf/sam/HB1776_S_Amend_01_to_Cmte_Amend_01.pdf

In a legislative session when so much is on the line – healthcare, education, Medicaid expansion, ballot initiative, downgraded credit rating – to name just a few, and having an extra

month in session to do things that lift all Mississippians, but we still spend precious time dealing with the remnants of our confederate past. And sure enough, on April 12, 2024, our Governor – only reelected by less than 27,000 votes – signed a proclamation declaring April as Confederate Heritage Month. It pairs with Confederate Memorial Day – the last Monday in April – a state holiday.

How about this – how about a concurrent resolution at the start of the 2025 session honoring the legacy of African American legislators in the Mississippi legislature. It would serve as a long overdue acknowledgment – let's make it an embrace – by our white legislators of our black legislators. Could Senators Hob Bryan (D-7) and David Blount (D-29) draft the resolution? These white men seem to always vote in favor of justice and equality, yet casting a morally correct vote is surely only an expected minimum. When asked by telephone on April 15, what it felt like to hear Hill's amendment, Senator Blount said, "It was a shock. Former Governor Bilbo was one of the most notorious racists of the 20th century. We need to remember history, but it is inappropriate to display that statue."

Okay, great answer, let's go further now. The question becomes, is there anything you could do with your white wrappers to help your black colleagues be treated with higher levels of dignity and respect – the way they always treat you? Give it some thought. Draft the resolution. Get it on the record. Just imagine for a moment if your moccasins were reversed.

Commencement

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Yazoo City, Mississippi, assumed office on December 30, 2010. Prior to his nomination by President Barack Obama, Judge Reeves was engaged in the private practice of law with Pigott Reeves Johnson, P.A., a law firm he co-founded in 2001.

In 2022, President Joe Biden nominated Judge Reeves as Chair of the United States Sentencing Commission. He and six other Commissioners were confirmed the same year. The Commission collects, analyzes, researches, and distributes information on federal crime and sentencing issues and serves as an information resource for Congress, the executive branch, criminal justice practitioners, the academic community, and the public.

Judge Reeves's career began as a law clerk to Justice Reuben V. Anderson of the Mississippi Supreme Court. He also served as staff attorney to the court and then as an associate with the Phelps Dunbar law firm before serving as Assistant United States Attorney and Chief of the Civil Division for the Southern District of Mississippi.

A former president of the Magnolia Bar Association and Magnolia Bar Foundation, Judge Reeves is a three-time recipient of the Magnolia Bar's highest honor, the R. Jess Brown Award, the Mississippi Bar's Curtis E. Coker Access to Justice

Award as well as The Brown, Young & Hall Award of the Jackson Branch NAACP.

He was named Distinguished Jurist of the Year in 2014 by the Mississippi Association for Justice and in 2016 received the Mississippi State University Department of Political Science & Public Administration and the Pre-Law Society Distinguished Jurist Award. Judge Reeves was the 2019 recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law.

Judge Reeves earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, magna cum laude, from Jackson State University in 1986 and a juris doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1989.

He and his (late) wife, Lora, also a 1986 JSU graduate, have one daughter, Chanda, a 2016 Jackson State alumna.

"Both Judge Carlton Reeves and Senator Laphonza Butler's accomplishments are shining examples of the excellence and impact our institution fosters. Their dedication to public service, leadership, and advocacy embodies the spirit of Jackson State, and I have no doubt that their words will leave an indelible mark on our graduating students as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives," said Jackson State University President Marcus L. Thompson, Ph.D.

Rev. Dr. Freddie Haynes Resigns from New Presidency of Rainbow/PUSH Coalition

Renowned Pastor Just officially assumed the reins from Rev. Jesse Jackson in February

TriceEdneyWire.com

Less than a year after the fanfare announcement that he will succeed the Rev. Jesse Jackson as leader of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, the Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III announced his resignation this week amid what insiders described as a painful financial situation.

Few details were available at Trice Edney News Wire deadline, but according to Dr. Haynes' April 16 statement titled, "Public Resignation Statement," he said the following as he resigned from the organization that announced him as Jackson's successor last July and formally installed him Feb. 1.

"After continued prayer and deliberation, I have decided to step down from the position of Chief Executive Officer and President of Rainbow Push Coalition (RPC), effective immediately. I remain committed to honoring the rich history of RPC and the legacy of its esteemed leader, the incomparable Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr., and, most significantly, to the calling and pursuit of social justice. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have expressed their support since my appointment in July of last year. Rest assured that my work in the fight for liberation and freedom continues. Yours in the struggle, Frederick D. Haynes III"

Neither Rev. Haynes nor Rev. Jackson, who has been ill with Parkinson's disease, could be reached for comment by deadline. Sources close to RPC said the organization has been stricken with insurmountable financial problems.

Dr. Haynes still serves as the Senior Pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas.

On its website, RPC describes itself by saying, "We protect, defend, and gain civil rights by leveling the economic and educational playing fields, and to promote peace and justice around the world."

According to its written history, The Chicago-based organization, founded in 1971, "is the product of a social justice movement that grew out of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's (SCLC) Operation Breadbasket. Founded by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Operation Breadbasket sought to combine theology and social justice and to effect progres-



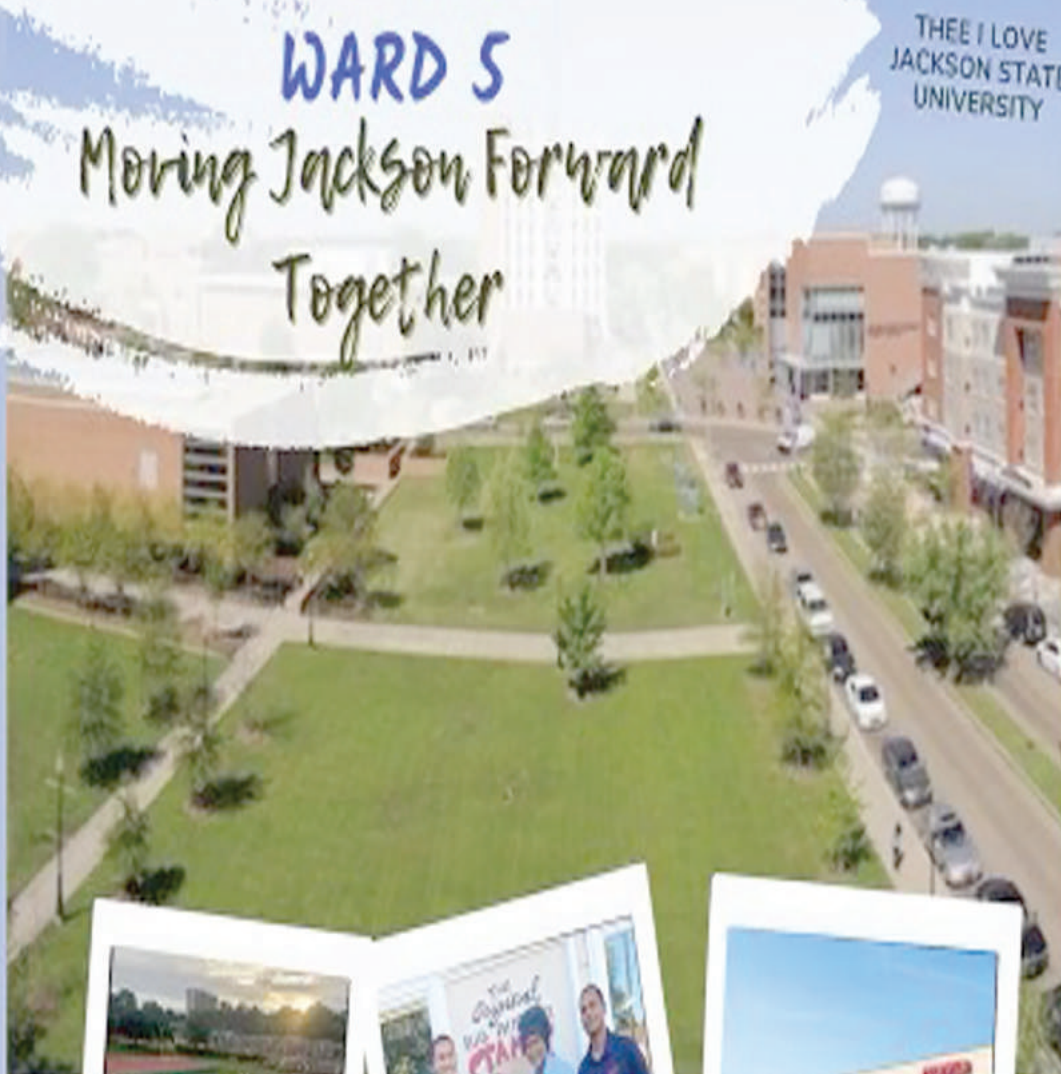

Rev. Dr. Freddie Haynes

sive economic, educational, and social policy in America. In 1966, Dr. King appointed Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. to serve as the first director of Operation Breadbasket in Chicago."

According to a news release, Haynes' sold-out installation event on Feb. 1 this year, "featured VIP program participants and attendees from all over the country, including Roland Martin, Rev. Al Sharpton (NAN), Shavonne Arline-Bradley (NCNW), Dr. Michael Sorrell, Dr. Amos Brown, and Dr. Ron Daniels."

Rev. Sharpton who was keynote at the event, said in his speech, "Look at the time we are in: everything that was gained in the '60s is now under threat...They talked about affirmative action, women's rights, diversity, inclusion, voting rights, like somebody woke up and gave us that. Nobody donated anything to us. We fought for everything we got and we need to get back to fighting right now. And that's why I've come to celebrate Freddy, because we need fighters in the pulpit... We need a fighter like Freddy Haynes."

Vice President Kamala Harris, at the Rainbow/PUSH convention where Haynes was announced last July, said, "I am so confident in his leadership and his ability to carry on the greatest traditions of this organization and to meet the challenges of this moment."

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Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter celebrated Finer Womanhood

Special to The Mississippi Link

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated was founded on January 16, 1920 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, DC, with principles: Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood. Finer Womanhood Observance for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated is celebrated each year from the last full week of February through the end of March. During this period, Zeta places an emphasis on "Finer Womanhood in our communities."

The members of Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter (ADZ) in Jackson, were excited to launch their annual Finer Womanhood observance period with a host of virtual and in-person events for their sorority members, adult and youth auxiliaries, and the community. ADZ's workshops welcomed members from across the Jackson Metropolitan area, across the state of Mississippi, as well as, from Illinois, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

The first workshop was a vir-



Photos taken at New Hope Baptist Church.



Brunch en Blanc et Blue held at Jackson Medical Mall.

tual session, "Zeta Closet 101: Are You Zeta Ready?," held on Thursday, February 29, 2024, for Zetas only.

On Sunday, March 3, 2024, a private in-person workshop on Zeta Ceremonies and Rituals 101 was held on the campus of Tougaloo College for members of Alpha Delta Zeta and their undergraduate members of Nu Beta at Tougaloo College.

The last virtual workshop was held on Thursday, March 7, Parliamentary Procedures 101:

Basic Rules on How to Make a Motion. This session was open to all Zetas and their female adult auxiliary, Zeta Amicae. ADZ was excited to have two of their newer members lead this workshop, Andreka Hollins (Spring 2022) and Greta Mack-Harris (Fall 2023).

Both presenters for this session, Murial Brinston, RP and Cynthia Bell, RP, as well as the Chapter President, Judge Eleanor Faye Peterson, RP, who gave the closing remarks, are all Reg-

istered Parliamentarians. Participants enjoyed the interactive role-playing exercises at the end of the session.

Worship Service was held at New Hope Baptist Church on Beasley Road, where Dr. Jerry Young, president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., serves as pastor. Immediately afterward, the group had lunch at Piccadilly's Restaurant on the I-55N Frontage Road.

While visiting New Hope, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter donated

\$2,100 to New Hope Christian Elementary School. Pastor, Dr. Jerry Young and First Lady, Sister Helen Young accepted the donation from ADZ Chapter President, Judge Eleanor Faye Peterson and Finer Womanhood Committee Co-Chair, Sonia Odems Butler.

ADZ held its first "Brunch en Blanc et Blu" private chapter event on Saturday, March 16. It was held at the Jackson Medical Mall. Chapter members were divided into teams where each

team was responsible for decorating their own table and developing their own menu. On Sunday, March 17, ADZ invited the community to join them for their final in-person workshop, Sign Language 101: Basic ASL Communication, held at Westside Community Center in Jackson.

The members of Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter offered "thank yous" to their sorority members, auxiliaries, and community for allowing them to publicly celebrate being FINER in 2024!!

PHOTOS BY ANITA YOUNG



Rep. Zakiya Summers responds to Hinds County Board of Supervisors action to maintain precincts

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The following statement is attributed to Rep. Zakiya Summers (MS-68) regarding precincts located in District 68 as well as in the Jayne Avenue greater community:

"I applaud the three Hinds County Supervisors who heard the cry from the West

Jackson community and took action to right the wrong committed during a February Board meeting to close and merge 10 precincts. I am especially grateful to Supervisor Wanda Evers for standing on the right side of history to reverse the initial action.

Voter suppression is committed in different forms. When precincts are closed, it not only causes an undue burden on seniors, voters with disabilities, and voters without transportation, but also congests polling locations with long lines, creates confusion, and costs

voters. As Former President Barack Obama encouraged, we should always stand committed to making it easier to vote, not harder.

I also want to thank my colleagues and the greater community of Jayne Avenue Neighborhood Association for exercising their advoca-

cy, raising their voices, giving concern to the cause, and remaining steadfast in our collective efforts to urge the Board of Supervisors to fix this mammoth issue.

As I consistently state, voting is the cornerstone to our democracy and it must be defended and protected."



Summers

Amendments and more amendments

2024 legislative session enters final weeks of not serving or representing the people

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Amending legislation is the norm during every legislative session in Mississippi and around the country. Members of both lower and upper chambers of the legislature submit bills, the bills are typically assigned to committees for study and review, votes are taken, and if the bill passes it is transmitted to the other chamber for similar consideration. Amendments are the norm – adjustments, compromise, time limitations – plenty of amended bills make it to the governor and become law. Others make it to the governor but can be vetoed. Many others die on the calendar – not making sufficient progress by an agreed upon calendar date. The key calendar dates become especially significant in states with part-time legislatures like ours. Currently only ten states have full-time legislatures, per www.ballotpedia.org.

does the amending impact the core of the proposed law – is it a few tweaks here and there, or is it a full gutting of the legislation to the extent the amended bill doesn't even resemble the original? We need to remember that this back-and-forth process is what politics is – on its surface – all about. The people vote for the political candidates who have announced on their campaign platforms where they stand, they take office with an oath to serve and then they exercise their will, their vote, presumably serving the people who elected them. Seems simple enough, right?

Oh, but there is so much more to it. Here in Mississippi, fairness, and equity for all, simply does not exist – not in 1790, 1890, 1990, and not in 2024. Everything is about race in Mississippi, yet far too many white people in positions of power would have you believe that is simply not the case. These folks lack honor, but are elected, nonetheless. Jesmyn Ward,

twice a National Book Award winner – the only African American to do so - a prolific author having grown up in DeLisle, and now being compared with Faulkner and Welty, said it most truthfully in an interview with The Atlantic in March 2018, "Racism is built into the bones of Mississippi." Jesmyn Ward is honorable, she tells the truth – no amendments.

So, when bills are gutted by amendments, even bills authored by Republicans, like Senator Jeremy England's Senate Bill 2575, "Campaign finance; reform," the picture becomes clearer about who many of these part-time legislators are serving and representing. They don't want the public to know about the outside money coming to their campaigns; or who is trying to influence their votes. Here is a white Republican trying to bring more transparency to the campaign funding process and a majority of his own Republican colleagues don't say no, they just gut the bill, making

it impotent – keeping the cloudy status quo in place - keeping their power in the dark.

Things like this are not serving the voters, and we must do better lest we reside on the bottom for eternity. Too many white Republicans don't want the very state they collect a paycheck from, to do better. Truthfulness and transparency take a second seat to power, privilege, and control. This time last year, Mississippi Today reported that 72% of Mississippians want the ballot initiative restored, yet do you see progress to do so? Fourteen months ago, they similarly reported that 80% of Mississippians, including 70% of Republicans want Medicaid expanded – accept more funds from the federal government to provide health insurance for 200,000 working poor – based on their polling with Sienna College. Yet the old-minded guard at the Capitol stand in the way, exerting their control – exerting the mindset built into their bones, bootstraps and all that - and

all while our healthcare system hemorrhages. They ignore the State Economist who documents that full expansion would be a boon for us.

Statista.com says that Mississippi's debt was \$7.53 billion in 2022, up \$4.31 billion from 22 years earlier – an 134% increase - yet during last year's election campaign, incumbent Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hoseman did television commercials staring into the camera ticking off a list of purported accomplishments, including - "we paid off \$500 million dollars in state debt."

State data at https://www.lbo.ms.gov/pdfs/fy24_bulletin.pdf indicates the FY23 debt service amount was \$433,923,299 million, and the recommended amount for FY24 is \$437,396,754 million – both well short of what the people were told. Afterall, who's going to check? Most just ignorantly plod on along - the Mississippi way. These legislators count on it.

A suggested amendment sounds like this: Mississippi is a debtor state because we spend more money than we make, year after year. We in the Republican-majority want what we want, and we take care of our own. We keep the state in chains because we surely don't want any minorities to be advancing in any way – that's in our bones. As far as the debt goes, we'll keep restructuring it, using our downgraded AA and Aa2 bond ratings and just keep on paying the debt service which will keep the chains on taxpayers longer. I promise to run our state like a business – a business managed with such malfeasance that we rely on taxpayers from around the country to keep us on life-support year after year. We're very conservative, except when we liberally steal federal dollars intended for the poor. We're so conservative that we don't hold hearings on the largest fraud in state history. We Republicans take care of our own. Please keep electing us!

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson urges Department of Justice to open an investigation into the "Disappearance of Jackson Resident, Mr. Dau Mabil"

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Tuesday, United States Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) requested the United States Department of Justice to open an investigation into the disappearance of Jackson, Mississippi resident Mr. Dau Mabil.

"After receiving calls from concerned constituents, I am committed to leveraging all resources to support a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding Mr. Mabil's disappearance. Therefore, I urge the Department of Justice to work with state and local officials."

The following letter was sent to The honorable Merrick B. Garland:

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2402

DELIVERY METHOD: EMAIL: doj.correspondence@usdoj.gov

April 17, 2024

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Re: Formal Complaint and Request for Assistance in the Case Involving Mr. Dau Mabil of Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Attorney General Garland:

I am writing this letter about a missing person, Mr. Dau Mabil in Jackson, Mississippi. Your immediate attention is necessary because I have been informed your immediate attention is necessary because of the circumstances surrounding his disappearance.

Many individuals and civil rights organizations in the Jackson area have contacted my office about this case. Mr. Dau went missing on March 25, 2024ⁱⁱⁱ. He is a 37-year old African male, who is married to Mrs. Karissa Bowley, a white female. On April 13, 2024, a news report published an article that a fisherman found human remains in the Pearl River not far from where Mr. Mabil went missingⁱⁱⁱ. I have been informed that these remains could be those of Mr. Dau.

Again, I am requesting your immediate assistance and attention to this case before evidence is lost or destroyed. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me or my Chief of Staff, Dr. Timla G. Washington, in my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-5876.

Sincerely,

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Ex-police officer, facing charges in a Mississippi slaying after a chase into Louisiana, denied bond

The Associated Press

A former police officer arrested in connection with a Mississippi slaying after leading law enforcement agencies on a chase into Louisiana was denied bond during a court hearing Friday.

Marcus Johnson, 33, faces a murder charge in the death of 25-year-old Carlos Collins, according to news outlets in Jackson. Police said Collins was attacked with an axe before being shot multiple times early Tuesday at an apartment complex in Jackson.

His public defender argued Friday that Johnson acted in self-defense.

Johnson was arrested on Wednesday after a chase that began when a Warren County, Mississippi, sheriff's deputy spotted him in a car in the Vicksburg area around 5:45 p.m. That began a chase, at times reaching speeds as high as 100 miles per hour (160 kph). It ended roughly 50 miles (80.5 kilometers) to the west in Rayville, Louisiana, where authorities were able to deflate his tires, WAPT reported.

Jackson Police Chief Joseph Wade said Johnson had worked for the Jackson Police Department for eight months and quit in September of 2013 while facing disciplinary charges.

Collins was a registered nurse from Yazoo City. Collins' family told WAPT that several restraining orders had been filed against Johnson.



Marcus Johnson
HINDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Member:

Trump doubles down on racist remarks, advocates for 'white immigration only'

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Former President Donald Trump has reignited controversy with inflammatory remarks suggesting a preference for immigrants from predominantly White nations while denigrating those from Latin America, and primarily Black nations.

At a private event, Trump reportedly joked about welcoming immigrants from "nice" countries like Denmark, Switzerland, and Norway, again demonstrating his racial bias in immigration policy.

Trump's comments, revealed by New York Times correspondent and CNN analyst Maggie Haberman, highlight a troubling stance on immigration that aligns with his past rhetoric.

The twice-impeached and four-times indicted former president's insinuation that only immigrants from certain nations are desirable for entry into the United States drew swift condemnation from the Biden-Harris campaign.

"[The comments] are alarming," said James Singer, a spokesperson for the Biden-Harris campaign. Singer also noted how Trump has repeatedly praised dictators and declared he'd be a dictator on day one if he's re-elected. Trump's campaign declined to comment about what the presumptive GOP nominee said at the private dinner.

"Why can't we allow people to come in from nice countries,



Mexico–United States barrier at the border of Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego, USA. The crosses represent migrants who died in the crossing attempt. Some identified, some not. Surveillance tower in the background. © TOMAS CASTELAZO, WWW.TOMASCASTELAZO.COM / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS / CC BY-SA 4.

I'm trying to be nice," Trump reportedly said. "Nice countries, you know, like Denmark, Switzerland? Do we have any people coming in from Denmark? How about Switzerland? How about Norway?"

In addition to his discriminatory remarks, Trump blasted Latin American immigrants, likening them to notorious gang members. Critics have said such language perpetuates harmful stereotypes and exacerbates divisions within society.

Further, Trump's speculations about the future of American democracy have raised alarms. Suggesting that the 2024 election could be the last one in the country's history, Trump's comments continue

his concerning trend of authoritarian rhetoric that undermines democratic norms.

"This could very well be the last election this country ever has," Trump said, echoing sentiments often heard at his rallies.

Trump's engagement with billionaire backers on taxation matters has further highlighted concerns about cronyism and inequality. By prioritizing tax cuts that primarily benefit the wealthy, opponents said Trump's policies perpetuate economic disparities and favor the interests of the elite.

The Biden-Harris campaign noted the list of billionaires backing Trump, arguing that they're scammers, racists, and

extremists. Among them:

John Paulson wants to cut Social Security and opposed financial regulations to protect Americans after the 2008 crash, which he profited from.

Robert Bigelow, who complained he couldn't evict tenants out of his buildings during the pandemic and supports Florida's extreme Don't Say Gay law.

John Catsimatidis, who compared taxes on the wealthy to Hitler killing Jews and his business, has been forced to pay millions in lawsuits over unfair labor practices and consumer safety violations.

José "Pepe" Fanjul refused to fire his assistant, who was married to two (!) KKK lead-

ers, commenting via a company spokesperson that "we wouldn't terminate them for that."

Jamie McCourt pocketed over \$10 million from her stock shares before public citizens were made aware of the pandemic's severity, all while Trump played down the virus.

Former GOP Senator Kelly Loeffler, who touted 2020 election lies, backed an anti-LGBTQ adoption agency and supported ripping away health care from millions of Americans by repealing the Affordable Care Act.

Robert Mercer opposed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, calling it a major mistake, and believed the government was backward for helping "weak

people get strong."

New York Jets owner, Jeff Yass has avoided \$1 billion in taxes and wants to privatize Social Security.

Woody Johnson has repeatedly disparaged women for their looks and questioned why the Black community celebrates Black History Month.

Steve Wynn, who was accused by dozens of workers of sexual misconduct.

Chicago Cubs owner Todd Ricketts, who made his money screwing over retirees by shedding pension obligations and health care promises, opposes the idea that the "government can serve to protect the public's well-being."

Phil Ruffin fought against housekeepers trying to unionize at his Vegas hotel (jointly owned by Donald Trump) and furloughed more than 4,000 of his own employees without pay.

Wilbur Ross, whom the Biden-Harris campaign said made his fortune laying off American workers and using bankruptcy to strip retirees of health benefits.

Meanwhile, Singer said its vital American voters reject Trump's authoritarian impulses and uphold the values of democracy and inclusivity.

"Independence Day in Donald Trump's America will apparently no longer be July 4," Singer stated. "He's promised publicly he'll be a dictator on his first day, and now privately muses about this November's election being our country's last."

Diverging paths on tax policy: Biden's Transparency vs. Trump's Secrecy

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

April 15th was Tax Day, and the ideological differences between President Joe Biden and the twice-impeached former President Donald Trump couldn't be starker. Transparency is another issue, with Biden being open and direct about his finances and Trump remaining evasive.

Their contrasting views set the stage for a heated debate over the role of taxes in economic recovery and wealth distribution.

Biden's Commitment to Transparency:

President Biden has chosen to lead by example, announcing his plans to release his income tax returns on the IRS filing deadline. In a speech in Scranton, Pennsylvania, administration officials said the president will advocate for a tax system in which the wealthy bear a more significant burden to reduce the federal deficit and fund vital programs for the poor and middle class.

Before the trip, Biden took the opportunity to contrast his financial background with Trump's, emphasizing his modest means during his decades-long career in public service. "I was largely without money for much of my career, unlike my predecessor," Biden stated, asserting his belief in financial transparency and accountability for public officials.

Trump's Defense of His Tax Policies:

In stark contrast, Trump continues to resist calls for transparency, arguing that his previous financial disclosures are sufficient. He maintains that low taxes for the wealthy will stimulate investment and job creation. Trump has repeatedly defended his tax cuts for the mega-



The tax policies proposed by Biden and Trump reflect the broader ideological differences between the Democratic and Republican parties. Biden's plan aims to make the tax system fairer by increasing taxes on the wealthy and corporations while providing relief to working families. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

rich, claiming they are beneficial for an economy grappling with inflation.

"Does anyone here think the tax code is fair? Raise your hand," Biden challenged during a speech at Washington's Union Station. "It added more to the national debt than any presidential term in history."

Biden's Tax Proposals:
Biden aims to strike a balance, proposing to maintain most of the existing tax breaks while implementing tax increases for the wealthy and corporations. His budget proposal this year targets an additional \$4.9 trillion in revenues over the next decade, with plans to trim forecasted deficits by \$3.2 trillion.

Biden has also introduced a controversial "billionaire minimum income tax," targeting households with a net worth of at least \$100 million. This proposal directly challenges billionaires like Trump, who has been reluctant to release his personal tax information.

Comparative Financial Disclo-

sure

While Biden has publicly released over two decades of his tax returns, Trump's reluctance to do so has drawn criticism. Recent disclosures have revealed that Trump paid only about 4% of his income in federal taxes in 2018, a rate significantly lower than Biden's nearly 24%.

Expert Opinions and Economic Analysis:

Economists remain divided on the effectiveness of Trump's tax policies. While Trump argues his tax cuts will spur economic growth, many experts disagree. A recent Oxford Economics analysis suggested that continuing Trump's policies could slow growth and increase inflation.

Political Implications:

The tax policies proposed by Biden and Trump reflect the broader ideological differences between the Democratic and Republican parties. Biden's plan aims to make the tax system fairer by increasing taxes on the wealthy and corporations while providing relief to working families.

In contrast, the Republican Study Committee's extreme budget proposal prioritizes tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations. This approach has raised concerns about potential tax increases for middle-class families and cuts to essential social programs like Medicaid and Social Security.

A Taxing Election:

Biden advocates for a fairer tax system that invests in the middle class and addresses income inequality, while Trump's policies prioritize tax cuts for the wealthy. The upcoming decisions on tax policy will shape the economic landscape and define the future trajectory of the United States, and voters will decide just how much America's wealthy and not-so-well-to-do are taxed.

Lawmakers and clergy call for urgent solutions to energy affordability crisis at Rev. Al Sharpton's 2024 National Action Network Convention (NAN)

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Reverend Malcolm T. Byrd, Senior Pastor at Mother AME Zion Church joined former Senator Mary Landrieu, former Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, and former Congressman Kendrick Meek to shed light on the urgent need for affordable energy solutions in the fight against climate change.

The Honorable Donald Cravins, former Under Secretary for Minority Business Development at the U.S. Department of Commerce, moderated a panel at Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network (NAN) Convention called "Affordable Energy is a Civil Rights Issue: Why we can't leave Black and Brown voices out of the clean energy conversation."

The NAN Convention galvanized leaders around critical issues in the ongoing fight for civil rights. Chief among these was the ability of Black and Brown Americans to keep the lights on with mounting energy prices and the rise in extreme weather conditions – from winter storms to record-breaking heat in the summers.

Rev. Byrd kicked off the affordable energy panel, which comes seven months ahead of the 2024 election, by describing his experience with this firsthand. Byrd shells out a staggering \$6,000 every ten days to keep his NYC congregation warm with fuel oil during the winter, while a natural gas pipeline is nearby. It's imperative for Byrd's congregations, a sanctuary for the Black community, to withstand energy costs without the added burden of impractical energy solutions.

Unfortunately, Byrd's experience is not unique. Many families struggle to pay the bills in the winter, having to decide if they will heat or eat. According to the Department of Energy, low-income households, a demographic in which Black and Brown Americans are disproportionately represented, contribute an average of 8.6% of their income to energy bills, compared to 3% for non-low-income households.

"We need to pay attention closely

in this energy conversation," said Sen. Landrieu. "We need to make sure this energy transition is affordable, or the bill will come due to the poor and the middle class."

The panelists discussed how natural gas in combination with renewables can lower emissions, create job opportunities, and address energy disparities among Black, Brown, and low-income Americans.

"Natural gas is a clean-burning fuel," explained Rep. Meek. "We become a stronger country by allowing individuals to have the dollars to send their children to school and do the things they need to do to improve the situation for their families, and not have to pay through their nose to stay warm in the winter time."

As Mayor Nutter described his experience navigating complex energy solutions while leading one of the biggest cities in the country, he also articulated the opportunity presented by reliable energy sources like natural gas.

"We need to make sure there is affordable, reliable, dependable energy source for folks," said Mayor Nutter, pointing to both the need for affordable energy and the opportunity for economic growth for communities nationwide. "Someone has to run that plant, someone has to rehabilitate those pipes. Those are jobs."

"It's about clean energy. It's about affordable energy," said Rev. Malcolm Byrd in his powerful closing remarks. "It's about us being able as a people to keep the landmarks in our communities, to let future generations know, this Church was paid for by a grandmother that fried chicken and fried fish and did what she had to do to give us this institution. And we are not going to sell it, we are not going to lose it, because we cannot afford the oil prices."

As legislators craft energy solutions, the panelists emphasized, Black and Brown perspectives must be at the center of these conversations, so clean energy policy can better the livelihoods of all communities nationwide.

How to erase negative self-talk and feel better

StatePoint

It's been four years since the collective trauma of the pandemic created widespread grief, anxiety and isolation, but the psychological wounds of this period have not fully healed.

The American Psychological Association reports continued elevated rates of anxiety and depression among Americans, and mental health experts say that negative self-talk plays a large role in these conditions and other psychological issues. The good news? Individuals can work on subtracting a harmful inner monologue from the equation.

"Simple tools can help people break the cycle of negative self-talk and find some inner peace," says Elizabeth Scott, PhD, a wellness coach, health educator and author of "8 Keys to Stress Management."

That's why Pilot Corporation of America (Pilot Pen) is supporting the Erase Self-Negativity Initiative in partnership with key mental health and wellness experts, including Dr. Scott, and with guidance from America's largest grassroots mental health organization, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

As part of the initiative, Dr. Scott and NAMI have created a guided exercise to help individuals begin their journey toward erasing the disempowering influence that negative self-talk has on their lives. The exercises include writing down the negative beliefs one holds



Download guided exercises to erase negative self-talk and promote positivity.

about them self and then destroying or erasing the writing, a practice that has been found by research to be helpful in minimizing those beliefs.

"Simply externalizing these negative thoughts empowers us to rewrite our narrative and opens the door to giving ourselves more grace," says Dr. Scott.

Dr. Scott stresses that similar to maintaining physical health, consistency is key with mental health. This is why every April 10 will be recognized as National Erase Self-Negativity Day and the initiative will use the 10th of each month, as a day to start or revisit the writing exercise and reflect on personal progress.

Here's what's needed to get started:

1. A quiet, restful location,
2. A desire to create change
3. Paper
4. A FriXion erasable pen, which offers more than just the

ability to write and erase completely; but also symbolizes the power individuals have to change things and write more positivity into their story.

The Erase Self-Negativity Worksheet can be found by visiting eraseselfnegativity.com. For additional resources to understand how common, and treatable mental health issues can be, visit nami.org.

"While we can't control the negative messages we might receive from the outside world, we can work on what we tell ourselves," says Dr. Scott.

"With just a few minutes of quiet time, we can harness the transformative power of writing in a way that will challenge the damaging assumptions we hold about ourselves and foster more self-compassion."

Download guided exercises to erase negative self-talk and promote positivity.

Institute helps Delta residents Spring into Health



Institute staff members (l-r) Tiffany Givens, program manager; Miracle Vance, community outreach specialist; Yolanda Raymond, tester/counselor, and DaChe Kight, PrEP Navigator provided services at a recent health fair in Belzoni, MS.



"Hold still, please!" Yolanda Raymond, test/counselor, implements testing during the health fair at Upper Room Fellowship Ministries in Belzoni, MS.

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health is committed to reducing health disparities in Mississippi...one community at a time. On Saturday, April 13, 2024, staff traveled to the Mississippi Delta and provided COVID-19 PPE on the go kits, HIV tests, health resources, and incentives.

Hosted by the Upper Room Fellowship Ministries, the Spring into Health wellness fair was free and catered to underserved residents throughout the Belzoni community.

For more information regarding Institute services, contact Tiffany Givens at tgivens@advancingminorityhealth.org.

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health

was established in 2019 to reduce health disparities among disadvantaged and underserved minority populations in Mississippi through the development of collaborative partnerships with community stakeholders and the implementation of evidence-based public health interventions with a particular focus on health equity.

The Mammogram Maze

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

In 2009, the US government recommended that women who are 50 to 74 years old and at average risk for breast cancer should get a mammogram every two years. Women who are 40 to 49 years old should talk to their doctor or other health care provider about when to start and how often to get a mammogram. Women over age 74 were told they don't need routine screenings.

In late 2011 the Canadian government basically echoed the same recommendations. Not everyone agrees with the new recommendations. The American Cancer Society (ACS) is one of those groups that don't agree with the government's recommendations. The ACS maintains that all women should have annual mammograms after age 40.

There are studies that support the idea of yearly mammograms. The government's research seemed to point to the idea that the risks of testing outweighed the benefits: "Yearly Mammograms for Women: A Comprehensive Perspective".

1. Mammograms, The Gold Standard:

Mammography is a well-established screening tool for detecting breast cancer. It involves taking X-ray images of the breast tissue. Here are some key points:

Frequency: Traditionally, women have been advised to undergo mammograms annually starting at age 40 or 50, depending on guidelines from different organizations.

Benefits: Early detection: Mammograms can identify breast cancers at an early stage, improving treatment outcomes.

Reduction in mortality: Regular screenings lead to reduced breast cancer-related deaths.

Limitations: False positives: Mammograms can sometimes indicate abnormalities that turn out to be benign.

False negatives: They may miss some cancers, especially in dense breast tissue.

2. Digital Breast Tomosynthesis (DBT):

DBT, also known as 3D mammography, is an advancement over traditional 2D mammography. Here's what you need to know:

How it works: DBT captures multiple X-ray images from different angles, creating a 3D reconstruction of the breast tissue.

Advantages: Improved cancer detection: DBT enhances visibility, especially for invasive cancers and architectural distortions.

Reduced recall rates: Fewer false-positive results mean fewer unnecessary follow-up tests.

Better visualization of dense breasts: It benefits women with dense breast tissue.

Considerations: Increased radiation exposure: DBT involves more X-rays than standard mammography.

Longer interpretation time: Radiologists need more time to analyze DBT images.

3. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI):

MRI is a powerful imaging technique that uses magnetic fields and radio waves. Here's how it relates to breast health:

Indications: High-risk women: MRI is recommended for women with a strong family history of breast cancer or certain genetic mutations (e.g., BRCA1/2).

Screening in dense breasts: It complements mammography in dense breasts.

Advantages: Sensitivity: MRI is highly sensitive in detecting breast cancers.

No radiation: Unlike X-rays, MRI doesn't involve ionizing radiation.

Limitations: False positives: MRI can lead to additional biopsies due to its high sensitivity.

Cost and availability: MRI is expensive and not universally accessible.

4. Thermography:

Thermography is a lesser-known technique that measures temperature variations on the skin's surface. Here's what you should know:

Principle: Cancer cells generate heat, and thermography detects these temperature changes.

Controversy: The use of thermography for breast cancer screening remains controversial.

Lack of evidence: There's insufficient scientific evidence to support its effectiveness as a standalone-screening tool.

Complementary role: Some practitioners use it alongside other methods, but it's not a replacement for mammography or MRI.

5. Ultrasound: This technique, which is commonly used in conjunction with mammography, uses sound waves to emit a picture of breast tissue. It emits no radiation.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) Screening Guidelines for Breast Cancer:

These are MSK's latest guidelines for breast cancer. They may be different from those of other groups of experts. We use an approach that saves the most lives. The type of screening you have and your screening schedule are based on your personal risk for breast cancer.

6. If You're at Average Risk for Breast Cancer:

Starting at age 20, become familiar with how your breasts look and feel. Knowing your breasts will help you notice changes.

Get a breast exam from your healthcare provider every year starting at age 25.

Starting at age 40, have a

mammogram or tomosynthesis (3D mammogram screening) every year. First, talk with your healthcare provider about the pros and cons of getting screened.

If your mammogram shows you have dense breasts, they may recommend additional screening tests. These can include an ultrasound or a mammogram with contrast. Contrast is a special dye used in imaging scans that makes it easier to see differences in your breasts.

If You're at Intermediate Risk for Breast Cancer:

Starting at age 20, become familiar with how your breasts look and feel. Knowing your breasts will help you notice changes.

Starting at age 25, get a breast exam by your healthcare provider every 6 months.

If you have or had atypical hyperplasia (ADH) or lobular neoplasia, start getting screened at age 30. If you were diagnosed at age 30 or older, start getting screened at the time of diagnosis.

Get a mammogram or tomosynthesis every year:

Your healthcare provider may recommend more imaging, such as an ultrasound, contrast mammography, or an MRI especially if you have dense breasts.

If You're at High Risk for Breast Cancer:

Starting at age 20, have a breast exam by your healthcare

provider every 6 months.

Have a mammogram or tomosynthesis every year. Start no later than 10 years before the youngest age that a close blood relative was diagnosed with cancer. Do not start earlier than age 25.

Have an MRI every year and alternate with a mammogram every 6 months.

If you had radiation treatment, have your MRI, and mammogram or tomosynthesis, at the same time or every 6 months. Screening should begin 8 years after radiation treatment.

If you had top surgery and were assigned female at birth, talk with your healthcare provider about screening.

If you're having or had gender affirming hormone therapy, talk with your healthcare provider about screening.

Regular mammograms remain crucial for early breast cancer detection.

Women of any age who have a family history or personal history of breast cancer or other cancers should talk with the doctor about the annual use of thermography, because it can detect early slight changes in your breast tissue.

Then based on your circumstance, you and your doctor can determine if you need a mammogram every 1-to-3 years. You and your doctor will also need to discuss timing and type of mammogram best for you.

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)."

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

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

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

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

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

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

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bid 3260 Lawn Care Services

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) Monday, April 29, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project Lawn Care Services will be held at 101 Near Street, Jackson, MS 39203 on April 12, 2024, 3:00 P.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 JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All bid openings will be recorded and uploaded to the JPSD 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.

4/18/2024, 4/25/2024

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT ZONING CASE NO. 4254

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 Jack's Family Restaurant, LP has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit within a C80-C2 (Limited) Commercial Subdistrict to allow for a drive thru restaurant for the property located at 2365 Highway 80 W. (Parcel 220-8-1), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Part of Lot 2, Harvey Place Subdivision, a plat of which is recorded in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book B at Page 89 thereof, in Section 7 and 8, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the East line of Ellis Avenue with the South line of U.S. Highway 80 as both were laid out and improved as of 1971; run thence Southeasterly and along the Southern right of way line of U.S. Highway 80 for a distance of 440.1 feet to a point on the East line of Lot 2, Harvey Place Subdivision; run thence South 0 degrees 53 minutes West and along the East line of the aforesaid Lot 2 of Harvey Place Subdivision for a distance of 417.50 feet; thence turning to the right through a deflection angle of 89 degrees 23 minutes run North 89 degrees 44 minutes West for a distance of 373.5 feet to the East line of Ellis Avenue; run thence Northerly and along the East line of Ellis Avenue for a distance of 634.05 feet to the Point of Beginning and containing an area of 4.58 acres. LESS AND EXCEPT therefrom a triangular parcel of land in the Southwest corner of said property and more fully described in that certain Warranty Deed from J.D. Drake, et al to the State Highway Commission of Mississippi on November 19, 1962 and recorded in Book 1398 at Page 12 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

LESS AND EXCEPT: 35,548.8 square feet or 0.82 acres in Lot 2 of Harvey Place Subdivision, a plat of which is recorded in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book B at Page 89, the subject property being more fully described by metes and bounds as follows:

From the NE corner of Lot 2, Harvey Place Subdivision proceed South 00 degrees 53 minutes West along the East line of Lot 2 for 1297.1 feet to a point on the South line of the Right of Way for U.S. Highway 80; thence North 60 degrees 15 minutes West along the South line of the Right of Way for U.S. Highway 80 for 440.1 feet to a point on the East line of the Right of Way for Ellis Avenue as it is laid out, improved and in use on this date, said point being the NW corner of the subject property and the Point of Beginning for its description. Continue thence South 00 degrees 12 minutes East along the East line of the Right of Way for Ellis Avenue for 260.0 feet; thence North 89 degrees 48 minutes East for 168.0 feet; thence North 00 degrees 12 minutes West for 163.2 feet to a point on the South line of the Right of Way for U.S. Highway 80; thence North 60 degrees 15 minutes West along the South line of the Right of Way for U.S. Highway 80 for 193.9 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Together with an easement on, over and across the 0.82 acre property less and excepted above which was conveyed by Acorn Development Company to Sue Thomas Washburn recorded in Book 4522 Page 674. This easement is for the purpose of ingress, egress, general and guest parking and the right to erect a reasonable number and size of business signs thereon relating to its motel operations as recorded in Book 4522 Page 674.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 28th day of March 2024.

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

4/4/2024, 4/18/2024

Sudoku

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

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

© Feature Exchange

Sudoku Solution

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

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LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT ZONING CASE NO. 4253

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 Carter's Compassionate Transitional and Supportive Housing dba Hagar's Housing has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit within a C-3 (General) Commercial District to allow for the operation of an emergency shelter for the property located at 4456 W. Northside Dr. (Parcel 803-5, 803-5-2, 803-5-3 and 803-10), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A parcel of land situated in the Southeast 1/4, Section 14, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, Hinds County, Mississippi, said parcel being a part of Parcel 12 of FAE Subdivision, as shown in Plat Book A at Page 37 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi, more fully described as follows:

Commencing at a point marking the Southeast corner of Section 14, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, Hinds County, Mississippi, said point being 7.0 feet South of the center line of an 80 foot right-of-way road, namely: West Northside Drive, as same now exists; run thence Northerly 47.0 feet to an iron pin located on the North line of mentioned West Northside Drive, said pin being the Southeast corner of that certain parcel of land of Charles A. Trest as described in Deed Book 1588 at Page 36; thence turn left through an angle of 89 degrees 15 minutes and run Westerly along the North line of West Northside Drive 494.15 feet to an iron pin, said pin being the Southwest corner of the Creston Parcel as described in Deed Book 1800 at Page 240, and said pin being the Point of Beginning of the land herein described; thence continue Westerly 83.46 feet to an iron pin; thence turn right through an angle of 89 degrees 15 minutes and run Northerly 522.02 feet to an iron pin; thence run right through an angle of 90 degrees 40 minutes and run Easterly 83.46 feet to an iron pin on the West line of the Creston Parcel mentioned; thence run right through an angle of 89 degrees 20 minutes and run Southerly 521.90 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 1.00 acres, more or less.

AND:

A certain parcel of land of the South end of Lot 12 of the FAE Subdivision in Sections 13, 14, 23 and 24, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, and as shown by the survey thereof on file and of record in Surveyors Record Book A at Page 37 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of said County, Jackson, Mississippi, and reference to which is hereby made in aid hereof and being further described by metes and bounds, to-wit:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 14, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, Hinds County, Mississippi, run thence North 47.0 feet to the North boundary line of Northside Drive; run thence Westerly along the North boundary line of said Northside Drive 265.48 feet to the Point of Beginning of the land herein described; turn thence to the right through an angle of 89 degrees 15 minutes and run a distance of 952.64 feet to an iron pin; turn thence left through an angle of 89 degrees 20 minutes and run a distance of 228.66 feet to an iron pin; turn thence to the left through an angle of 90 degrees 40 minutes and run a distance of 952.30 feet to a point on the North boundary line of said Northside Drive; turn thence left through an angle of 89 degrees 15 minutes and run along the North boundary line of said Northside Drive for a distance of 228.67 feet back to the Point of Beginning, said land herein described being situated in the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 14, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, Hinds County, Mississippi, and containing 5.00 acres, more or less.

LESS AND EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY:

A parcel of land situated in the Southeast 1/4 of Southeast 1/4 of Section 14, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, Hinds County, Mississippi, said parcel being a part of Parcel 12 of FA E Subdivision as shown in Plat Book A at Page 37 in the office of the Chancery Clerk, Hinds County, Mississippi, more fully described as follows:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 14, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, Hinds County, Mississippi, run thence North 52.0 feet to the North right of way line of Northside Drive; run thence Westerly along the North right of way line of said Northside Drive 265.48 feet to the Point of Beginning of the land herein described. Thence continue to run Westerly along the North right of way line of said Northside Drive for a distance of 158.85 feet to a point. Thence through an inside deflection angle to the left of 172 degrees 45 minutes run 22.27 feet to a point. Thence through an inside deflection angle to the left of 102 degrees 10 minutes run Northerly for a distance of 265.16 feet to a point. Thence through an inside deflection angle to the left of 109 degrees 02 minutes run 22.27 feet to a point. Thence through an inside deflection angle to the left of 174 degrees 33 minutes run Easterly for a distance of 191.60 feet to a point. Thence through an inside deflection angle to the left of 71 degrees 57 minutes run Southerly for a distance of 339.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 28th day of March 2024.

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

4/4/2024, 4/18/2024

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 JPSD 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 JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Also, until further notice, all opening will be recorded and uploaded to the JPSD 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

ORDER DENYING ROBINSON INDUSTRIES, INC. A REZONING FROM I-1 (LIGHT) INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO R-5 (MULTI-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5420 LYNCH ST. EXT. (PARCEL 825-483) TO ALLOW FOR A MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, CASE NO. 4232.

WHEREAS, Robinson Industries, Inc. has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 5420 Lynch St. Ext. (Parcel 825-483), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to allow for a multifamily residential development; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council on January 22, 2024, remanded the Case to the Planning Board to allow for discussions between the applicant, the residents and the leaders of the Westhaven Community, regarding the requested rezoning and the plans for the subject property; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing on February 28, 2024, has recommended denial of the request to rezone the property from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to allow for a multifamily residential development; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, March 18, 2024 to consider said change based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on October 26, 2023 and November 9, 2023 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on February 28, 2024, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board recommended the denial of the rezoning of the above described property from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to allow for a multifamily residential development; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that such changes would not be in keeping with sound land use practice and to the best interest of the City and that there has not been a substantial change in the land use character of the surrounding area that justifies rezoning the property and there is not a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the request in said application since any previous City Council action.

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

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

TRACT I: A parcel of land situated in the West half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 2, Township 5 North, Range 1 West and also part of Lot 1 5, Westhaven Subdivision according to a map or plat on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi at Jackson, in plat Book B at Page 71, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Southeast Corner of Lot 10, Westside Industrial Heights according to a map or plat on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 18 at Page 19 and from said point run Easterly along the North line of Lynch Street and on the Easterly extension of the South line of said Westside Industrial Heights, for a distance of 161.68 feet to the East line of Peach Place; continue thence Easterly along the North line of Lynch Street on an extension of the last mentioned course, for a distance of 100 feet; turn thence to the right through an angle of 00 degrees 37 minutes and continue Easterly along the North line of Lynch Street, parallel with the 30 feet North of the centerline thereof, for the distance of 100 feet; turn thence to the right through an angle of 2 degrees 03 minutes and continue Easterly along the North line of Lynch Street; 30 feet North of and parallel with the centerline thereof, for a distance of 100 feet; turn thence to the left through an angle of 80 degrees 54 minutes and run Northerly and parallel with the East line of Peach Place for a distance of 200 feet; turn thence to the left through an angle of 99 degrees 29 minutes and run Westerly and parallel with the North line of Lynch Street for a distance of 100 feet; turn thence to the left through an angle of 80 degrees 31 minutes and run Southerly 200 feet to the point of beginning.

TRACT II: A parcel situated in the West Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 2, Township 5 North, range 1 West, Hinds County, Mississippi, and also a part of Lot 15 Westhaven Subdivision according to a map or plat on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book B at Page 71 and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Southeast Corner of Lot 10 Westside Industrial Heights according to a map or plat on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 18 at Page 19, and from said point run Easterly along the North line of Lynch Street and on the Easterly extension of the South line of said Westside Industrial Heights for the distance of 161.68 feet to the East line of Peach Place; continue thence Easterly along the North line of Lynch Street on an extension of the last mentioned course, for a distance of 100 feet; turn thence to the right through an angle of 00 degrees 37 minutes and continue Easterly along the North line of Lynch Street, parallel with and 30 feet North of the centerline thereof, for a distance of 100 feet; turn thence to the right through an angle of 2 degrees 03 minutes and continue Easterly along the North line of Lynch Street, 30 feet North of an parallel with the centerline thereof for a distance of 100 feet; turn thence to the right through an angle of 00 degrees 23 minutes and run Easterly along the North line of Lynch Street, 30 feet North of and parallel with the centerline thereof, for a distance of 100 feet to the point of beginning, thence turn right through an angle of 00 degrees 33 minutes and run Easterly 100.0 feet; turn thence to the left through an angle of 80 degrees 54 minutes and run Northerly for a distance of 400 feet; turn thence to the left through an angle of 99 degrees 29 minutes and run Westerly for a distance of 200 feet, turn thence to the left through an angle of 80 degrees 31 minutes and run Southerly 200 feet; thence left 99 degrees 29 minutes and run Easterly 100.0 feet; thence turn right 99 degrees 29 minutes and run Southerly 200.0 feet to the point of beginning.

is hereby denied the petitioned rezoning of the of the property located at 5420 Lynch St. Ext. (Parcel 825-483) from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to allow for a multifamily residential development.

President Banks moved adoption; Council Member Foote seconded.

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

ATTEST: Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Council Meeting on March 18, 2024 and recorded in Minute Book "6Y, Pages 1114-1116".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 12th day of April, 2024.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

4/18/2024

LEGAL

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

Angela Dawson, Plaintiff(s) VS Martez Taylor, Defendant(s) Civil Action Number G 2024-11

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 Edwards 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

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING CLIFTON BURNS A REZONING FROM C3 (GENERAL) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO CMU-1 (COMMUNITY) MIXED-USE DISTRICT, PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3243 MEDGAR EVERS BLVD. (PARCEL 409-4) TO ALLOW FOR THE ADAPTIVE REUSE OF THE PROPERTY. CASE NO. 4233.

WHEREAS, Clifton Burns has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 3243 Medgar Evers Blvd. (Parcel 409-4), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from C-3 (General) Commercial District to CMU-1 (Community) Mixed Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the adaptive reuse of the property; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the property from C3 (General) Commercial District to CMU-1 (Community) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the adaptive reuse of the property; and

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

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on October 26, 2023 and November 9, 2023 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on December 20, 2023, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described property from C3 (General) Commercial District to CMU-1 (Community) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the adaptive reuse of the property; and

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

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

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

BEG SW COR LOT 16BLK A SHADY OAKS SUBD NE ALONG LOTS 16 & 3.200. 16 FT TO DELTA DR NW 239.6. FT SW 128.2 FT TO WHITFIELD MILLRD SE 233.5 TO POB PT SW 1/4 NW 1/4 SEC 28 T6N R1E PT LOTS 1 2 3 16 & 17 BLK A SHADY OAKS SUBD

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the of the property located at 3243 Medgar Evers Blvd. (Parcel 409-4) from C3 (General) Commercial District to CMU-1 (Community) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the adaptive reuse of the property. However, that before for any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

Vice President Lee moved adoption; Council Member Lindsay seconded.

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

ATTEST:

Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Council Meeting January 22, 2024 and recorded in Minute Book "6Y, Pgs. 761-762".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 14th day of February 2024.



Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

4/18/2024

LEGAL

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

ANGELA LEE DAWSON TAYLOR VS. MARTEZ DEONTE TAYLOR

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 3rd 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.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024 AT 12:00PM IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

New Business A. CASE NO. HPFC-24-2 LOCATION: 1506 GREYMOND ST (PARCEL 15-157-1) HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: CHRIS GILMER REQUEST: INSTALL A TRANSPARENT IRON ROD FENCE IN THE FRONT YARD OF THE PROPERTY.

B. CASE NO. HPNC-24-5 LOCATION: 927 BELLEVUE PL (PARCEL 22-8) HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN HEIGHTS APPLICANT: JENNIFER WELCH REQUEST: REPLACE ROTTEN PORCH FLOOR BOARDS AND ANY OTHER NECESSARY PORTIONS OF THE PORCH.

C. CASE NO. HPNC-24-6 LOCATION: 1709 PEACHTREE ST (PARCEL 11-29) HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: MIKA HUNTER REQUEST: REPLACE MULTI-COLORED SLATE ROOFING TILES WITH BRAVA BRAND SLATE ROOFING TILES.

II. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION A. VOTE FOR JHPC RULES AND PROCEDURES TO GO BEFORE CITY COUNCIL. B. OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

4/18/2024, 4/25/2024

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

Woodrow Wilson Avenue Resurfacing Project
Martin Luther King, Jr Drive to Mill Street Bridge

Federal Aid Project Number: STP-0250-00(053)LPA/108075/701000

Sealed bids will be received by the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi at the Office of the Municipal Clerk, 219 South President Street, P. O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 P.M. (Local Time), May 21, 2024, for supplying all labor and materials (as specified) necessary for WOODROW WILSON AVENUE RESURFACING PROJECT Federal Aid Project No. STP-0250-00(053) LPA/108075-701000, at which time said bids shall be opened and read aloud.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

Mill and overlay with sidewalk and ADA improvements, replacement of curb & gutter and island paving. All other related items of work required to complete the project as shown and specified in the Contract Documents.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

Contract time shall be 150 working days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. Liquidated Damages will be assessed in accordance with the Schedule of Deductions table in Section 108.07 of the 2017 Edition of the Mississippi Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged and women's business enterprises (DBE/WBE) will be afforded the full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. The award of this contract will be contingent upon the Bidder satisfying the DBE/WBE requirements as prescribed by the Contract Documents.

The attention of the bidders is directed to the Contract Documents governing selection and employment of labor. Minimum wage rates have been determined by the Secretary of Labor and are subject to Public Law 87-581, Work Hours Act of 1962, as set forth in the Contract Provisions.

The Proposal and Contract Documents in their entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the Municipal Clerk, prior to the hour and date above designated. Each Bidder must also deposit with his proposal, a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of his bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. No bidder may withdraw his bid within ninety (90) days after the date of the actual bid opening, without the City of Jackson's consent. The successful bidder shall furnish a payment bond and performance bond each in the amount of 100% of the bid. Bidder shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City.

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the "Mississippi State Highway Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, 2017", together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications. The attention of Bidders is directed to the provisions of Subsection 102.07 pertaining to irregular proposals and rejection of bids.

The 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.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and other Contract Documents are on file and open to public inspection in the office of the Engineering Division, Department of Public Works, Warren Hood Building, 4th floor, 200 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, and at SOL Engineering Service, 340 Edgewood Terrace Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39205. Copies of the Contract Documents, Contract Drawings and Contract Specifications may be procured Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com, upon payment for each set, which will not be refunded.

The award of a Contract, if made, will be to the lowest and responsible qualified bidder whose proposal complies with all the requirements prescribed herein and in the Contract Documents. The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

Robert Lee, P.E.
City Engineer

4/18/2024, 4/25/2024

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Jackson ("City") is seeking to develop a safe place for those currently living in encampments and unstable housing structures in The City of Jackson. This RFP is for the development of a 60-unit public facility that will provide heat and air conditioning within a supportive and resource rich space.

Detailed information pertaining to the submission of a response to this request for proposals may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Development, Suite 229 Warren Hood Building: 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, or by contacting Jhai Keeton at 601-960-1172 or email jkeeton@city.jackson.ms.us

Responses will be received by the City of Jackson, Office of the City Clerk at 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205 until 3:30p.m., Central Standard Time May 14, 2024. Each proposer must submit a signed original six (6) printed copies and an electronic copy (thumb drive w/ pdf) of its proposal. Official proposal documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic responses can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com For any questions relating to the electronic response process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting and professional services. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all person doing business with the City.

Jhai Keeton, Director Department of Planning and Development
City of Jackson, Mississippi

4/11/2024, 4/18/2024



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- DOLLAR GENERAL**
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Terry Road

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Week of April 14, 2024

Why MAGA Policies Are Detrimental to Black Communities

By Ron Reynolds
Texas State Representative



As a representative deeply invested in the well-being of my constituents, I feel compelled to shed light on the harmful impact of the MAGA agenda. While its proponents claim to champion America's greatness, the reality is far from uplifting, especially for Black Americans.

Let's be clear: Make America Great Again (MAGA) is not a call for progress; it's a thinly

veiled attempt to turn back the clock on the hard-fought gains of marginalized communities, including Black Americans. From voting rights to healthcare to economic opportunity, the policies espoused under the guise of MAGA pose a direct threat to the advancements we've made in the pursuit of equality and justice.

Take voting rights, for example. MAGA proponents peddle baseless claims of widespread voter fraud to justify voter suppression tactics that disproportionately target Black voters. The purpose of restrictive vot-

er ID laws, purging voter rolls, and limiting early voting hours is to silence marginalized communities and maintain the status quo of power and privilege.

Healthcare is another area where the MAGA agenda falls short for Black Americans. The relentless attacks on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) threaten to strip millions of Americans, particularly those in underserved communities, of access to affordable healthcare. For Black Americans who already face disparities in healthcare access and outcomes, the repeal of the ACA

would be nothing short of disastrous.

And let's not forget about economic opportunity. While MAGA proponents tout a booming economy, the reality is that Black Americans continue to face disproportionately high rates of unemployment, poverty, and wage stagnation. The tax cuts and deregulation championed by the MAGA agenda only exacerbate these disparities, further widening the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

The most insidious message of MAGA is the underlying

idea that America was somehow greater in the past—a past marred by slavery, white supremacy, segregation, and systemic racism. For Black Americans, the nostalgia of MAGA is not just misguided; it's deeply offensive. It ignores the struggles and sacrifices of generations past who fought tirelessly for civil rights and equality.

As a nation, we cannot afford to romanticize an era of oppression and inequality. We must instead confront the injustices of the past and work towards a future where every American, regardless of race or

background, can thrive. This means rejecting the divisive rhetoric of MAGA and embracing policies that promote justice, equality, and inclusion for all.

So, to my fellow Black Americans, I urge you to see through the empty promises of MAGA and recognize it for what it truly is: a dangerous regression that threatens to undo the progress we've made. Let's unite in opposition to hate, white supremacy, and division and strive toward a future where all citizens can experience the full potential of America.

Loving and Embracing the Differences in Our Youngest Learners

By Dr. Calvin E. Moore, Jr., CEO
Council for Professional Recognition



Every parent has certain preconceived ideas of how their child will fit into our complex world. The unexpected joy of parenthood is accepting that each child has unique abilities and challenges—some of which may be difficult to initially understand. I began my career as an early childhood educator and was privileged to teach children from all types of backgrounds and abilities. My professional training gave me the skills to develop personalized strategies for a child who was experiencing learning challenges.

Earning a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, which is based on a core set of competency standards that guide early childhood professionals, really propelled my teaching practice. A key part of earning the CDA is understanding traditional educational models may not be enough to support early communicative development for children with disabilities. In my teaching, I also realized what the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute has reported: "Black families of children with disabilities face additional stress and difficulties because of their multiple marginalized statuses, particularly within the intersection between racism and ableism."

The nonprofit I lead, the Council for Professional Recognition, emphasizes to our early childhood educators that they need to modify their approach to lesson plans and offer tools to better help all children with disabilities thrive. We highlight such insights in "Essentials for Working with Young Children," the textbook for educators pursuing a CDA credential. Yet our responsibility to all parents and society at large means we must do more to share insights, especially with underserved and under-resourced communities. The following is some of our best thinking for families embracing the uniqueness of young children with special needs or accommodations. Much of the advice below can apply to all preschool children.

Embrace Multimodal Communication: Children with disabilities

may experience challenges in verbal communication, but they often excel in other modes of expression. Educators and families should encourage and support various forms of communication, such as sign language, pictures, or other augmentative and alternative communication devices. For instance, if a child finds it difficult to articulate words, they can use picture cards to express their needs, feelings, and ideas. We should emphasize that all forms of communication are valid and valued.

Speak Simply and Clearly to Children: Slow the pace of your speech and repeat statements and questions as needed. Speak simply to children and give them one-step directions. For example, ask a child to "Please clean up your toys" (one step) instead of "Please clean up your toys when you're done. Then go put on your shoes" (multiple steps).

Promote Storytelling and Dramatic Play: We should engage the child in storytelling and dramatic play activities. Storytelling enhances language skills, imagination, and creativity. A good idea is to use props and costumes during dramatic plays to bring stories to life and encourage the child to participate actively. This approach can help build language and communication abilities in a fun and engaging manner.

Encourage Peer Interaction: In both home and classroom settings, we should provide opportunities for children with disabilities to interact with their peers. Encouraging group activities that promote cooperative play and communication is a good step. These interactions can help improve social skills and language development as the child learns from and models their peers.

Use Visual Aids and Schedules: Visual aids and schedules can provide structure and predictability for children with disabilities, promoting better understanding and participation. Visual timetables and daily schedules can help the child anticipate what comes next and reduce anxiety. Additionally, visual aids like flashcards with images and corresponding words can reinforce vocabulary and language comprehension.

Create a Literacy-Rich Environment: Research shows that books have a significant impact on a child's

development, including their cognitive, spiritual, and linguistic skills, as well as their mental and emotional maturation. Both at home and in the early childhood classroom, immerse children in a literacy-rich environment. Surround them with age-appropriate books, brightly labeled objects, and educational materials. Designate a cozy reading corner with comfortable seating and a diverse selection of books that cater to different interests and abilities. Begin with simple, wordless, or photograph-based books. Also select books that appeal to the senses, such as texture or scratch-and-sniff books. Encourage children with fine motor challenges to look at books independently to gain practice holding books and turning the pages.

Most of all, early childhood educators understand (or should understand) the need to involve families in learning. Collaboration between educators and families is essential in supporting language and literacy development. Educators should share progress updates, provide strategies for at-home learning, and encourage families to engage in literacy activities together. This partnership ensures that the child receives consistent support, reinforcing the concepts taught in the early childhood classroom. From my classroom days, I know young children have so much joy and love to share with us. Creating a supportive and inclusive environment for young children with disabilities is vital. The early childhood classroom, along with a nurturing home setting, can serve as a powerful foundation for their future academic and social success.

Dr. Calvin E. Moore, Jr. leads the Council for Professional Recognition, which advances career pathways for early childhood educators through high-quality, competency-based credentialing. The Council recognizes and credentials professionals who work in all types of early care and education settings including Head Start, pre-k, infant-toddler, family childcare, and home visitor programs. As a nonprofit organization, the Council sets policies and procedures for assessment and credentialing. To date, over 1 million Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials have been issued around the world. <http://www.cdacouncil.org>.

Marriage Maintenance: Get Your Engine Light Checked

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



Have you ever had an engine light come on in your vehicle? Moreover, what do you do when your engine light come on? Do you ignore it? Do you rush to the dealership and trade your troubled vehicle in, or do you purchase a new one? Do you take it to the nearest car junkyard and leave it there for mechanics to have a feast collecting car parts? Do you sell it? Do you abandon your troubled vehicle never to return to it? Further, do you do what the average person does, which is get a diagnostic test ran on your vehicle for the purposes of addressing whatever triggered the engine light to come on? What do you do when the engine light comes on in your marriage? Just like car owners, husbands and wives must find out why the engine light has popped on in their marriages.

What does the engine light coming on in your marriage possibly mean? It doesn't necessarily signal that you are having major issues—it could be on for minor reasons like in my case—several weeks ago, my engine light popped on—yes, I initially thought the world was coming to an end but we verified that my car needed a new gas cap. Fortunately, some of you only have minor issues like letting the toilet seat down, leaving dirty dishes in the sink overnight, consuming garlic and not brushing your teeth, gums, tongue, sides, (BRUH, BRUSH UP!)—these are easy fixes at least for those who aren't willing to turn something minor into something major. Also, it could indicate that you failed to maintain proper care and maintenance for your marriage like praying for your marriage and each other, praying together, spending quality time with each other, little to no effective communication, lack of intimacy, not being a part of a marriage ministry, attending events like Family Life Weekend Getaways, seeking professional marital counseling, etc. However, for many, an engine light is on due to a combination of not maintaining proper love and care for your marriage as described above and major issues like, lack of communication, spouse neglect/abandonment, lack of intimacy, infidelity, abuse, financial issues, nagging, etc.

Indicators that the engine light must be checked and diagnosed immediately in marriage are as follows:

- You or both of you have completely checked out of the marriage
- Marriage is about convenience
- Staying married only because of the children

- Little to no communication
- Argue more frequently
- Silence
- Gas lighting becomes the norm
- Avoid being in each other's presence
- Sleeping in separate spaces/beds
- Plan for the present and future without considering your spouse
- Fantasize life solo or with someone else
- Emotional and physical affairs
- Diminished sex life or no sex life
- Looking for divorce attorneys

Filed for divorce
Yes, your marriage is more valuable than a vehicle and yes you can get all the maintenance required for the life cycle of your vehicle and the engine light could still come on. But think about this—what would happen if you didn't properly maintain the upkeep—it could come on sooner and with problems on top of each other. Read these words carefully—EVERY MARRIED COUPLE NEEDS MARRIAGE MAINTENANCE especially to avoid and/or delay an engine light coming on for serious reasons. This—even applies to newlyweds—some have reported their brand-new cars engine lights coming on days after leaving the parking lot. In other words, it doesn't matter how long you've been married or who you are married to—it can be your best friend, soulmate, Mr. Two or Six Pack or Mrs. Shake like Jelly—ALL marriages need proper love and care—jelly will turn to jam.

In conclusion, don't trade your marriage in for someone else, don't abandon your marriage, and don't throw your marriage away with divorce because your engine light is on. Just like a vehicle—go out your way to seek help for your marriage. If you feel that your marriage is in serious trouble and you and your spouse desire help or if you know a couple who is struggling in their marriage and want help—attend our free Marriage Conference at The Restoration Church, 3931 Hanging Moss Road, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206 on Saturday, April 20, 2024. There is NOTHING too hard for God; the engine light came on in our marriage due to major issues that began with maintaining low maintenance in our marriage, etc. but God saved our marriage, so I know He can save your marriage too!

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) on: Instagram: [letsstay2gether4ever](https://www.instagram.com/letsstay2gether4ever) (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email: letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

P R E S E R V E D

The "Answer You Need" but not the one you want

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



A few years ago, I went through a frustrating email exchange with a coworker. It started with her having a few questions about what I taught in my classes. It wasn't really her business but in the spirit of collegiality, I responded to her email. She then sent me another email with more questions.

Hoping to clear up her confusion, I sent her a longer email with more clarity (at least I thought) on those questions. I sent the email satisfied that the dialogue was over and that she had the information she wanted.

However, two days later, she sent me another email restating that I still hadn't answered the questions to

her satisfaction. Now, I was getting irritated because I was now distracted by her emails. I prayed for greater insight into what she wanted as I reread her emails and my responses. One thing became clear: I didn't have an answer to her questions. I was wasting time trying to give her something I didn't have and frustrating myself in the process.

Once I got this revelation, I sent her back an email that stated that I did not have an answer for her and that someone else could help her out. She then sent me another email restating that she wanted an answer from ME. Now, it was bordering on harassment. This time my email response was that that I didn't have an answer and that was MY final answer.

I felt such a great peace of mind when I sent the final email. Yet, she wasn't sat-

isfied and sent me another email reminding me that I still didn't answer her question. I realized that me not having an answer bothered her more than it bothered me that I didn't have an answer.

I chuckled to myself because I saw my being okay with not having an answer as a sign that I'd matured both emotionally and spiritually. Normally, I thought I should always have an answer and that people should have an answer for me. According to my parents, that's part of the reason why I got into so much trouble as a child: I asked too many questions.

Without realizing it, I see how I've done the same thing at times in my relationship with God. I've spent unnecessary emotional and spiritual energy trying to get God to respond without realizing that I'd gotten my answer (silence). Like my co-worker, it

wasn't the answer I wanted, so I persisted in asking questions that had already been answered. Isaiah 58:9 says, "Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say 'Here I am.'" When we call out to God for an answer to a question, sometimes the response is simply "I'm here."

Once we accept God's answer of "I'm here," peace will replace frustration and we will have a more intimate fellowship with him. Even though we may not get the answer we think we want, we will get the answer we need: a closer walk with him.

Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, TX, based author: "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email preserved-bypurpose@gmail.com.

P A R T 2

Where there is no vision, the people perish

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



Is the Holy Spirit directing your life? To see what the Lord has in store for you, you need to have your spiritual eyes fully open. Luke 2:30 reads, "For mine eyes have seen thy salvation." My friends, when your spiritual eyes are not fully open to what the Lord expects of your life, you cannot get all the light that you need to serve the Lord. The problem is, many people are walking around half-blinded, spiritually speaking. They see only what they want to see, they hear only what they want to hear, and they do only what they want to do rather than letting Jesus Christ guide them and point out things in their lives.

When Jesus Christ is in the midst, you can rest assured that things will be done right. I thank the Lord that when Jesus Christ is in the midst, everything is done in decency and in order. When the Holy Spirit is directing people's lives, the light that you see, Jesus Christ shines brightly. You will not have to go to church and say, "Do you think the Lord is going to be here?" He will be in the midst because the people of God love Him. The Church of God is the people within the building, not the building.

Without the light of the Gospel, you would be in spiritual darkness. Many church buildings have been closed because the Spirit of God was not there. First Peter 2:9 tells us, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of dark-

ness into His marvelous light." His light is marvelous and true, and He will guide you into all understanding. If you are saved, you know that you are saved. Your name will not have to be written on a church roll book because you will know deep inside that you are a child of God! People often base their self-concept on their accomplishments. But our relationship with Christ is far more important than our jobs, successes, wealth, or knowledge.

We have been chosen by God as His very own, and we have been called to represent Him to others. Remember that your value comes from being one of God's children not from what you can or have achieved. You have worth because of what God does and not because of what you do. If you live your life the way you are supposed to, people will notice the difference. Making critical remarks is not a mark of a true child of God. How should a saint act?

Ephesians 5:1-2 tells you: "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour." Just as children imitate their parents, we should imitate Christ. His great love for us led Him to sacrifice Himself so that we might live. Our love for others should be of the same kind - a love that goes beyond affection to self-sacrificing service. My friends, when people walk in love as Christ has loved us, they will automatically love the brethren.

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



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Alcorn celebrates MCITY grand opening, advancing high-tech economy in Mississippi

Alcorn State University newswire

A new era of innovation and partnerships is on the horizon as Alcorn State University celebrated the grand opening of the Mississippi Center for Innovation and Technology (MCITY) last week in downtown Vicksburg.

Housed in the historic Mississippi Hardware Building, Alcorn launched three of its latest technology and innovation Centers — the Center for Drone and Advanced Technologies, the Center for Data Analytics and Informatics, and the SMART Asset Integrity Lab.

“The grand opening of MCITY was a great day for Alcorn, as our institution’s participation in this event marked a significant milestone in our research activity,” said Dr. Tracy M. Cook, president. “It provided a platform for Alcorn to demonstrate its commitment to innovation, collaboration, and the pursuit of groundbreaking research. The involvement of our faculty, staff, and students in this event highlights the ex-



Mississippi Center for Innovation and Technology (MCITY) in Downtown Vicksburg

pertise at Alcorn. This collaboration has the potential to boost our research efforts, foster interdisciplinary collaborations, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in various fields.”

In a dash to enhance Mississippi’s competition in the high-tech race, MCITY was created to train the state’s workforce,

serve as a resource for high-tech entrepreneurs, and synergize its efforts for high-tech economic development.

According to MCITY, Mississippi has a low percentage of its workforce in high-tech positions, only 2%. This is the lowest percentage compared to other states in the Southeastern United States. This indi-

cates that Mississippi is being outcompeted in the high-tech economy, resulting in missed opportunities and corresponding salaries.

“The Centers at MCITY will serve as a hub for innovative research, cutting-edge technology, and entrepreneurial spirit,” said Alfred Galtney, director of Research and Sponsored

Programs. “By providing our students and faculty access to advanced resources and collaboration spaces, we aim to cultivate an environment that encourages creativity, problem-solving, and interdisciplinary learning. This investment in our academic infrastructure will undoubtedly enhance the quality of education we offer

and better prepare our graduates for the challenges of the 21st-century workforce.”

Alcorn’s College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences’ Center for Drone and Advanced Technologies aims to train Alcorn students, faculty, and clients with drone applications in soil and plant science.



Alcorn students in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences presented research during the MCITY Grand Opening.

McKinney first JSU student selected as Orrin H. Swayze Scholar

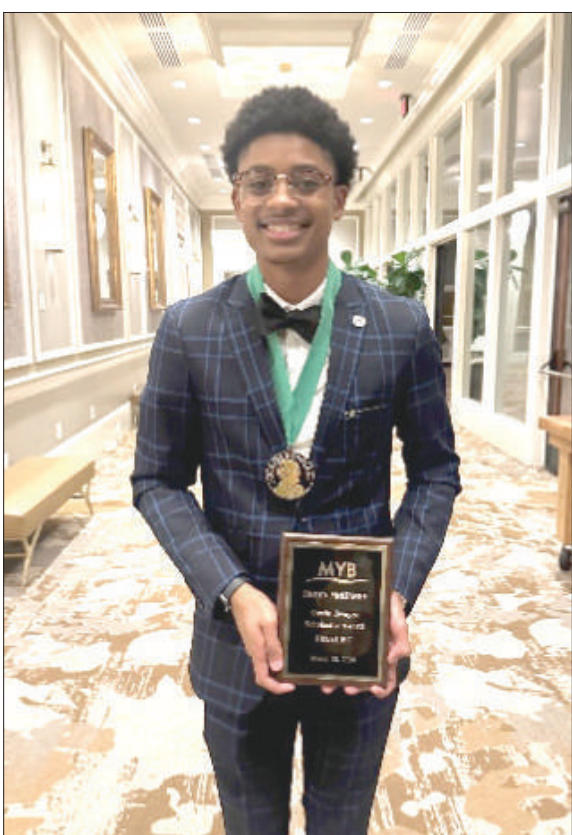
The JSU Newswire

Jackson State University senior finance major Bryan McKinney was selected as the 2024 Orrin H. Swayze Scholar by the Mississippi Bankers Association Education Foundation and the Mississippi Young Bankers section of the MBA.

“We’ve had College of Business students as finalists in the past; however, we are extremely proud that Bryan McKinney finished on top,” said College of Business Dean Fidelis Ikem, Ph.D. “He is a bright young man with a future in the wealth management industry. I’m sure Bryan will excel in his career path like those who preceded him.”

Among other honors, activities, and recognitions, McKinney is a Morgan Stanley HBCU Case competition winner, he won the MYB Leadership Scholarship in 2023, and he is a member of the Sonic Boom of the South.

“It’s an honor to be named the winner of such a prestigious award. Most of all, I’m elated to have been the first student from Jackson State [to win the award] and to be a representative of HBCUs in Mississippi,” said McKinney.



Bryan McKinney



(L-R) Andrew Welch, Walter Johnson, Bryan McKinney, Sanjay Patel & Tyler Goad

McKinney was chosen from applicants across Mississippi to receive the \$5,000 scholarship, which is given annually to Mississippi’s most outstanding banking and finance students. McKinney, who graduates this May, plans to pursue

a career in wealth management and volunteering his time to provide free financial education.

The Orrin H. Swayze Scholastic Awards, first awarded in 1979, are given each year to five outstanding college

seniors majoring in banking and finance at state-supported universities. The awards are presented in honor of Orrin H. Swayze, a widely respected banker in Mississippi and a pioneer in continuing education in the field of banking.

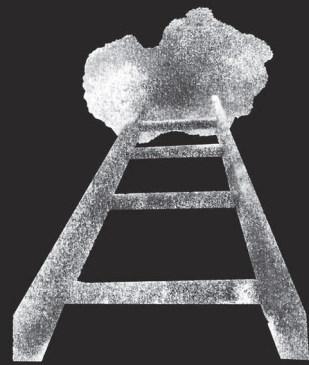
Professors nominate students, and the Mississippi Young Bankers Scholarship Committee selects five finalists. During the MYB convention, interviews are conducted, and the Scholarship Committee determines the Swayze Schol-

ar, who receives a \$5,000 scholarship.

Each of the four Orrin H. Swayze Scholastic Award Finalists receive a \$1,500 scholarship. The Swayze Scholastic Awards are funded by the MBA Education Foundation.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF STONY THE ROAD

HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.



THE BLACK BOX
WRITING THE RACE

BOOK REVIEW:

THE BLACK BOX: WRITING THE RACE

BY HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.
C.2024, PENGUIN PRESS
\$20.00 • 262 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

These days, everybody's got a label maker.

The color of your skin? Punch out a label. The texture of your hair? Punch out a label. The way you walk, talk, or the things you like? No, you know who you are, no labels necessary. Still, as you'll see in the new book "The Black Box" by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., there was a time when the issue wasn't quite as clear.

Nearly ten years ago, when his granddaughter was born, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. asked his son-in-

law about "the box." The child, Gates, Jr. says, is "87.5 percent European" and looks white, but her parents checked a box on her birth certificate to indicate that she is "Black."

"Such is the absurdity of the history of race and racial designations in the United States of America..." he says.

And it's been that way since the beginning.

Purchased by a Boston merchant upon her arrival in 1761, Phillis Wheatley was taught to read and later, she learned to write poetry. In 1772, her owners

endeavored to publish a book of her words but most white people refused to believe that a Black person could write at all, let alone such moving poetry.

One of those white people was Thomas Jefferson, who believed that skin tone mattered in "character, intelligence, and culture."

Says Gates, Jr., "Black people fought back...by creating their own genre of literature..." and more than a hundred of them wrote "book-length slave narratives." Some even went on to lecture about ending slavery. Later, "Black intellectuals" wrote

about and discussed the ideas of colonization and emigration. Others wondered publicly what to "call the race" – Black, Afro-American, Negroes, "colored," or something else?

By the early 1900s, Gates, Jr. says, "art forms were classed" and Black culture had taken a turn toward "politics of disrespectability" that white people weren't supposed to hear or see. This later led to hip-hop, and the works of Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, and "the pioneers of the Black women's literary movement..."

Sit down with "The Black Box," and you're going to be there awhile. This isn't, in other words, a meaningless novel that you're going to forget in two weeks; no, it's something that you'll need time to digest, that'll make you think, and that you'll want to discuss.

With a quick reminder of how the struggle to read and write began with the denial of both, author Henry Louis Gates, Jr. takes readers on a journey to show how the written word was crucial in the resistance to slavery and the formation of culture. This leads

to a fascinating discovery of how Black community historically diverged from white America, especially in the Victorian Age, and how identity figured into it. Readers will also delight in seeing how quietly-created (and quietly public) early-twentieth-century language and writing created today's various genres in literature and music.

"The Black Box" takes a deep dive into its subject, so be prepared to ponder. Casual truly doesn't describe it; in fact, involved would be a more proper label.



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Angel Jackson drafted in the 2024 WNBA draft

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

SWAC Defensive Player of the Year and Jackson State player, Angel Jackson was selected in the third round of the WNBA draft Monday night. The 6'6" forward/center was selected by the reigning WNBA champion Las Vegas Aces. The Aces have won back to back championships winning in 2022 and 2023. One of the best players in the WNBA, A'ja Wilson was finals MVP. Coached by WNBA great Becky Hammon, the Aces are one of the favorites once again for the championship. Candace Parker, Kelsey Plum, Chelsea Gray are a few of the teammates Angel Jackson will have this season.

Tiger nation is proud and gets to brag as for the first time in HBCU history, women have been drafted in consecutive years to the WNBA. Last year, Ameshya Williams-Holliday was drafted by the Indiana Fever. When Ameshya was drafted in had been 20 years since a

HBCU player was drafted into the WNBA. Now in consecutive seasons, JSU and Coach Tomekia Reed have pulled it off.

Coach Reed told HBCU Legends, "I'm extremely excited for Angel," Coach Tomekia Reed told HBCU Legends. "She has always reminded me of a pro athlete with her abilities to score from the outside being 6'6. I totally believe she will have an amazing career at the next level. She has great abilities in protecting the basket as a shot blocker, she runs the floor well and she has done an amazing job playing against P5 opponents. She's versatile being able to play facing the basket and playing with her back to the basket. She's a true pro. I'm excited for her and this opportunity. She's another great representation for our HBCU community and for Jackson State."

Angel Jackson transferred from USC to JSU in 2022. She led the SWAC in blocks with 74 this season. Jackson scored over 240 points, grabbed over 170



Jackson

rebounds to go along with her blocks. Angel will have an excellent chance to make the team. Going to a defending champion

means they see good potential in her and she won't have the pressure of having to come in and be the franchise player.



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Mary Church Terrell Literary Club, Inc. celebrates annual literary luncheon: "Lifting as we Climb"

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Mary Church Terrell Literary Club, Inc. (MCTLC) celebrated their 20th annual literary luncheon at 12 PM, Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the Hilton Jackson Hotel on County Line Road. The luncheon was the vision of former President Charlotte Slaughter Moman when in 2001, under her leadership the first luncheon was held during National Library Week and is still being held during the month of April. "Lifting as We Climb" is the motto of MCTLC, Inc.

Maggie Wade, WLBT-TV Channel 3 news anchor, presided over the luncheon event. After grace by Brendsha Roby, worship committee chair, a welcome was extended by Laura Miller, a member of MCTLC, Inc., followed by greetings from Mary Collier, president of MS State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. and Chris Tanner-Watkins, president of MCTLC, Inc.

A musical selection titled "Memories" was sung by DeAnna Tisdale Johnson, editor of The Jackson Advocate newspaper; during which a video presentation was shown highlighting memories of MCTLC, Inc., a 20th Anniversary Retrospective. The guest speaker, introduced by Leona Bishop, was Pamela Samuels Young, NAACP award winning author, attorney,



Mary Church Terrell Literary Club, Inc. Luncheon Participants PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Maggie Wade, WLBT Anchor presiding



DeAnna Tisdale singing "Memories"



Charlotte Slaughter Moman (L) receiving plaque from Chris Tanner-Watkins



Jacquelyn Brown Staffney (center) receiving flowers and plaque from Chris Tanner-Watkins and Dr. Candice Love-Jackson

ney, and motivational speaker. Samuels is the author of Failure to Protect, a true story of how a government agency ignored the abuse and neglect of physically and developmentally challenged individuals. Special recognition by Chris Tanner-Watkins was presented to Charlotte Slaughter Moman, as the initiator of the first MCTLC Annual Literary

Luncheon. Moman, in a phone interview with The Mississippi Link, given from her home in Pearland, Texas, recalled the first Literary Luncheon which was held in April 7, 2001, when she served as president of the organization. She said at that time most other civic clubs had fundraisers so she presented the idea to the members, and after much

discussion during several meetings, a motion was eventually made and passed to have the luncheon. Moman said she is so proud that the luncheon has continued, adding that the organization has come a long way since she served as president.

She stated, "We need these type organizations more so today than ever before," then

speaking of the censorship of certain books in schools and libraries where children and others should be able to read about the history of slavery and other unpleasant historical events. However, organizations like MCTLC, Inc. can talk about certain books at their luncheon without worrying about censorship.

Having had a very successful career as a former librarian for the Jackson Hinds Library System, Moman is concerned about closings of several libraries in the community. She said it breaks her heart to see some of the libraries that have closed that are critical to the needs of children in some of the neighborhoods where needed the most. Libraries with computers, she explained, where children can use for their studies is especially important since all students cannot afford to have computers at home.

Moman moved to Texas in 2016 after serving several years as Assistant Director of the Jackson Hinds Library System. Even though she at one time had a career goal to become Director, a new avenue was presented to her after she moved to Texas. While shopping at Chico's Women's Clothing one day, a store official walked up to her and asked, "Will you model for us; we need you?"

She thought about it and now models for the clothing store at fashion shows in Houston and surrounding areas in Texas. When The Link asked about moving from being a librarian to being a model, she repeated what Samuels advised the luncheon audience, "Don't let fear block your blessings." In her acknowledgement for the special recognition, she repeated the profound statement.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

