



Debra McGee serves as keynote speaker at New Hope Baptist Church Women's Day service

Janelle Jefferson chosen as New Hope Mother of the Year



Debra McGee: "Everything we do for God is essential to our personal growth." PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON



L-R: Deacon and layman Calvin Hill, Pastor Young, Janelle Hannah Jefferson, Woman of the Year and Deacon and layman Robert Patterson PHOTO: NEW HOPE FACEBOOK

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

"Christian Women Edifying, Empowering and Equipping Others for Outreach Ministry" was the theme for the Women's Day service at New Hope Baptist Church, held on Mother's Day, May 12, 2024. The speaker for the occasion was Debra McGee, vice president and director of Business Development at Bank-Plus in Jackson.

Most of the women in the congregation at the Beasley Road location where Dr. Jerry Young serves as pastor, were dressed in

white, with pink corsages.

After the call to worship by Pastor Young, Joann Mickens took to the podium to serve as program guide.

Cheryl Carpenter and Ashley Molden welcomed visitors and recognized special guests. The occasion was given by Annie Gail Myles.

A Mother's Day tribute was given by Deacon Calvin Hill, at which time he announced that Janelle Hannah Jefferson had been chosen Woman of the Year.

Jefferson, who is a native of Kosciusko, MS currently serves

as a board member of Hinds County Resource Agency and is a leader in secondary education. She has served as a room mom for several years, a high school band booster club president and an elementary school PTA president. In her latter role, she led the effort to have the school's name changed from Jefferson Davis to Barack Obama I.B. Elementary School.

Jefferson, who was listening from the choir stand for the surprise announcement, was tearful as she exited the choir to receive roses and a plaque presented by

Deacon Hill and Deacon Robert Patterson, both members of the Men's Ministry.

Debra McGee took to the podium after being introduced by Erica Hendricks as the keynote speaker.

McGee stated when first asked to serve as keynote speaker she was reluctant to accept the invitation, but a friend told her that she had been doing God's work behind the scene for a long time and it was time to emerge from behind the scenes and step out.

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What do you do? Fight...



Archie at brother's wedding while out on bail in 2021.



Archie at mother's house before heading to apply for a job while out on bail in 2019.

By Othor Cain
Guest Writer

Famed gospel singer Donnie McClurkin penned the song 'Stand' which famously asks,

What do you do when you've done all you can

And it seems like it's never enough?

And what do you say

When your friends turn away

And you're all alone?

Tell me, how do you handle the guilt of your past?

Tell me, how do you deal with the shame?

And how can you smile while your heart has been broken

And filled with pain?

Tell me what do you give when you've given your all?

Seems like you can't make it through.

McClurkin responds with:

Child, you just stand when there's nothing left to do

You just stand, watch the Lord see you through

Yes, after you've done all, you can. You just stand.

For Joshua Archie, the lyrics to that song go beyond just standing. It also means fighting. Fighting until he has nothing left to fight with.

"I want to know that I gave everything I had and as long as I know that [that I did], whatever happens, I will be ok," said Archie.

Archie, who had just turned 21 back in 2012 at the time of the alleged incident, is fighting to overturn his conviction of capital murder and conspiracy to commit armed robbery. He is charged with the shooting death of 68-year-old Robert Adams during a robbery at

the Party City store in Ridgeland, MS in 2012.

After two mistrials, Archie, who is now 32, was released in February 2019 on a \$250K bond. He was rearrested in August 2021, after losing his third trial when a Madison County jury found him guilty.

Last month, while the state's highest court upheld his conviction, all nine justices agreed that Archie's alibi evidence warranted the giving of the alibi instructions. Where they disagreed is on a technicality called 'harmless error.' [More on harmless error later in the story].

Archie differs with the opinion to uphold his conviction and so does Hunter Aiken, an appellate attorney with the Mississippi Office of Public Defenders. One of Archie's main points he attempted to convey in his appeal was that Circuit Judge Steve Ratcliff was wrong for refusing his request to include jury instructions on his "alibi theory of defense" and on "reasonable doubt." Aiken supports that theory wholeheartedly, even writing in his brief, "The trial court erred in refusing to instruct Archie's jury on his alibi theory of defense. Viewing the conflicting evidence in the light most favorable to Archie and drawing all reasonable inferences in his favor, there was a sufficient evidentiary basis to support the instruction and for a reasonable juror to find facts in accordance with Archie's alibi theory. Accordingly, the trial court erred in refusing to instruct the jury on alibi, and this Court should

Archie
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Jackson celebrates Economic Development Week: A glimpse into the future of the Capital City

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

The City of Jackson, along with local businesses and educational leaders, hosted its annual Economic Development Week from May 6 to May 10, 2024. A series of events across the week, including educational workshops, networking opportunities and insightful tours, offered participants a deep dive into the economic potential of downtown Jackson.

The week kicked off with an official proclamation and a Kick-off Breakfast at the Hinds County Economic Development Authority office Monday, celebrating regional community growth efforts. The festivities continued with a "lunch and learn" session at the Capitol Club Tuesday, where professionals, students and local business owners gathered to learn about the fundamentals of economic development.

A networking mixer was held at Cathed Distillery Wednesday evening, providing a lively ambiance for professionals to share ideas and inspiration. However, the highlight of the week was the bus tour Thursday, which began at 9 a.m. from Union Station.



Christopher G. Pike, executive director, JRA and Yolanda R. Owens, FUSE Executive Fellow pose for photo after the bus tour at Union Station. PHOTO BY EDELIA CARTHAN PHD

Christopher G. Pike, executive director of the JRA, initiated the tour, which included stops at significant landmarks and proposed development sites in downtown Jackson.

The tour's route included significant landmarks and development sites, such as a drive-by of the Atmos Building. Attendees learned about the property's history and acquisition, with insights provided by the JRA

team. The tour also stopped at Jackson State University to discuss proposed developments on campus, followed by a look at the plans for the Convention Center and Planetarium.

A special part of the tour was dedicated to the Farish Street Historic District. Participants disembarked at 202 N. Farish Street, walked the 200 block, where Dominika Parry discussed the green space initia-

tive, supported by insights from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) and historical insights from local experts.

The tour concluded at Union Station around 11:45 p.m., where participants were treated to a boxed lunch and a mini charette hosted by Woolpert to discuss the day's findings and future de-

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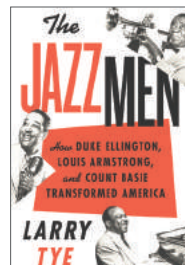
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Veterans of Foreign Wars hosts annual Loyalty Day program



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Valley North celebrates Spring Fling

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Valley North Sub-Division located in Jackson, MS is described by Nextdoor Neighborhood Network as a friendly neighborhood known for its peaceful environment and well-kept homes. The area is known for its strong sense of community and the beautiful, mature trees that line the streets.

The community held its Spring Fling Saturday, May 4, 2024. There were approximately 30-40 homeowners joining in on 'Meet Your Neighbor Day.'

Homeowner Caroline Dace said, "Valley North just keeps on striving to excel." She stated the previous Saturday was trash pick-up day where individual families picked up trash on the side of the street.

The Valley North Homeowners Improvement Association and its families helped to make the neighborhood gathering as festive as a major holiday. First Responders joined in the festivities along with Hinds County District 1 Ward Supervisor Robert Graham.

Dace stated it is very special when the 'downtown officials' come to the Valley.

"The festive food was so inviting, you would have thought it was the 4th of July. Yet, we were celebrating meeting our new neighbors on the 4th of May. Everyone certainly enjoyed meeting and greeting each other," she stated.

Dace summed it up by saying when neighbors get involved and congregate, it makes for a better neighborhood. "You get to know who lives next to you; down the street and around you."

She encourages other communities to do the same.

"And after the spring, continue to keep the neighborhood clean," she said.



Homeowners with First Responders who stopped by on Spring Fling Saturday and Meet Your Neighbor Day



Pick-up Day in Valley North before the Spring Fling



Tracie Archie and neighbors with First Responder
PHOTOS BY CAROLINE DACE AND TRACIE ARCHIE



(L-R) Sup. Robert Graham, Assoc. President Marvin Hicks and homeowner Melvin Butler

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Archie

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reverse and remand this case for a new trial.

Aiken supports the evidence Archie presented, including phone device, tower service and records that pinged Archie's phone being at his mother's apartment in Northeast Jackson at the time of the incident and not at Party City in Ridgeland. However, the expert phone witness was not able to share information in the third trial.

Still fighting.

Last week Archie filed a motion for a rehearing, which is rarely granted. But his faith is strong. "I believe if I continue my pursuit and stay focused on Christ that my outcome will be favorable," Archie said. He strongly believes those errors should be investigated and that he should be granted a new trial.

Archie is relying on Rule 40 of the Mississippi Rules of Appellate Procedure that provides "the motion for rehearing should be used to call attention to specific errors of law or fact which the opinion is thought to contain[.] Specifically Archie argues that the Supreme Court failed to address the issue regarding the trial court's failure to grant the alibi instruction and that the facts noted in its opinion is not sufficient to affirm the appellant's appeal.

Aiken also supports this refiling and continued in his brief: "Archie offered instruction D-5, which would have instructed the jury on his alibi theory of defense and provided as follows: The Court instructs the jury that Mr. Archie has raised the defense of alibi to the charges against him. Alibi means not being at the scene of the crime when the crime was committed, and it is a legal defense. In other words, Mr. Archie has asserted that he was somewhere else when the crime was committed.

Mr. Archie does not have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he was somewhere else when the crimes were committed. The State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Archie was present and did commit the crime of capital murder.

If you have a reasonable doubt whether Mr. Archie was present on the date and time when this crime was committed, then you must find him not guilty."

Archie strongly believes that the Supreme Court used what is known as 'Harmless Error' to affirm its decision. In United States law, a harmless error refers to a ruling by a trial judge that, although mistaken, does not meet the burden for a losing party to reverse the original decision of the trier of fact on appeal or warrant a new trial. Essentially, even if an error occurred during the trial, it won't necessarily invalidate the conviction if the evidence of guilt is overwhelming. However, this doctrine has been criticized for sometimes allowing tainted convictions to stand, as illustrated by cases like that of Alejandro Garcia-Lagunas. In his case, despite the government's reliance on racist testimony, the court upheld his conviction, deeming the constitutional error "harmless."

"The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in my case and those dissenting said the harmless error ruling was used inappropriately," Archie said. Archie is hoping his new filing will garner traction and attention and feels the four



Archie with friends after second mistrial, Feb. 29, 2019.



Archie received Top Product and Marketing Award Oct. 29, 2019 while working at Wilson Auto Group while out on bail.

justices that dissented, people should listen and hear them.

Justice Coleman wrote the dissenting brief for the Supreme Court. Writing in part: "As the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has written, "A defendant is always entitled to have his theory of the case, if it could amount to a lawful defense, fairly submitted to the consideration of the jury," United States vs Flom, 558 F.2d1179,1185 (5th Cir.1977).

Error is harmless when it is trivial, formal, or merely academic, and not prejudicial to the substantial rights of the party assigning it and where it in no way affects the final outcome of the case..."Cath, Diocese of Natchez-Jackson v. Jaquith, 224 So. 2d 216, 221.

Throughout its harmless error analysis, the majority views the evidence in the light most favorable to the State and treats Archie's alibi evidence as though it cannot be believed. The majority errs by doing so."

As Archie continues to fight, *The Mississippi Link* will continue following this story and bring you additional updates as they are warranted.

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She thanked her friend Kathy Jackson for those encouraging words as she stepped out and shared her thoughts on the importance of encouraging and embracing others. She told the audience, "Everything we do for God is essential to our personal growth. Edification is part of what we do as Christian women, lifting each other up and offering words of encouragement and hope."

McGee told the audience that One's faith must not be placed in man or material things. In making her point she quoted biblical passage 1 Peter 3: 3-4: "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

As she closed her message McGee stated that Christians should be creating a legacy to leave for future generations.

"May we continue to be women who edify, empower and equip one another, filling each other up with love."

A special presentation was given to



New Hope Baptist Church Women's Day choir PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

McGee by Alma Miller, Women's Missionary Union president.

Pastor Young, in his remarks, stated how much he appreciated the Women's Day choir, the program committee, all the participants and the speaker whom he commended for such a great message.

The program planning committee included Emma Adams, Jerlen Canada, Deborah Davis, Gisele Gentry, Joann Mickens, Alma Miller, Ruth Patterson and Greta Terry.

See photos page 4.

Development

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developmental prospects. Citizens actively participated and provided their feedback on the city's developments.

The week concluded Friday with an open house at Visit Jackson, where residents explored behind-the-scenes efforts to boost tourism and attract visitors to the community.

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba remarked, "We remain committed to ensuring our residents and business owners are not only prepared to succeed in the modern economic climate but are also given the opportunities they deserve. Since their success is our success, we are excited about this year's Economic Development Week and I commend the organizers and partner agencies for making this happen."

Pike emphasized the inclusive nature of these efforts.

"We just want to encourage the citizens to be plugged in...what the future of Jackson could be. This is a community-

driven process."

This sentiment highlighted the week's overarching goal: to engage the community in shaping the vibrant future of Jackson through a collective vision and diverse initiatives.

As Economic Development Week in Jackson drew to a close, the energy and optimism were palpable among all who attended. The variety of events, from the transformative bus tour to engaging workshops and networking sessions, not only showcased the city's potential but also fostered a spirit of collaboration and community input. As Jackson looks to the future, the insights and feedback gathered throughout the week will undoubtedly play a crucial role in shaping a vibrant and prosperous city. With the community's continued involvement and the dedication of local leaders, Jackson is set on a path of dynamic growth and exciting opportunities.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Lumumba to announce that City of Jackson wins nationwide search to host a major new multicultural arts event

The Mississippi Link Newswire

On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 3 p.m., Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba will be joined by First Lady of Jackson, Dr. Ebony Lumumba; the First Lady of Mississippi, Elee Reeves; Blaine Waide, executive director of the National

Council for the Traditional Arts; and several leaders from Jackson's arts and culture community to make a special announcement about a new signature multicultural arts event coming to downtown Jackson.

The announcement event

will be held at the Mississippi Museum of Art, The Art Garden, 280 South Lamar Street in Jackson. (Rain location, Mississippi Museum of Art Lobby.)

Special musical guests will be on hand to give a flavor of what's to come.

CORRECTION

May 9, 2024 publication

Mayor Lumumba & First Lady Lumumba interview

It was recapped in the interview published May 9th that Mayor Lumumba attended Morehouse College located in Atlanta, GA after graduating from Callaway High School in Jackson; however Mayor Lumumba attended Tuskegee University located in Tuskegee, AL after graduating from High School. (We apologize for the error.)

Jackson Metropolitan Retired Education Personnel Association



Jackson retired educators served as testing proctors and hall monitors during the recent MAAP Assessment (state testing) at Powell Middle School. Pictured (l to r) are Marilyn Minter (president), Jesse Hubbard, Doris Alexander, Mary Anderson, Johnny Gray, Vera Watson, Bettye Haney and Wilburn Smith, instructional coach and state testing coordinator

New Hope Women's Day

New Hope MB Church • 1555 Beasley Rd., Jackson, MS • Dr. Jerry Young, pastor

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON



Racial bias did not shape Mississippi's water funding decisions for capital city, EPA says

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it found "insufficient evidence" that racial discrimination shaped decisions made by two Mississippi agencies about water system funding for the state's majority-Black capital city of Jackson.

The EPA's Office of External Civil Rights Compliance issued its findings this week about the investigation it started in October 2022 into the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Mississippi State Department of Health.

The EPA announced its probe weeks after the national and state branches of the NAACP and nine Jackson residents filed a complaint alleging the state had a "practice of systematically depriving Jackson the funds that it needs to operate and maintain its water facilities in a safe and reliable manner."

Jackson's water system nearly collapsed in late August 2022 after heavy rainfall and flooding exacerbated longstanding problems. Many people in the city of 150,000 lacked water for drinking, flushing or bathing for several weeks.

A federally appointed administrator has been in charge of Jackson water since late 2022 and the federal gov-



Johnson

ernment has approved \$600 million for improvements to the city system.

The EPA wrote in its findings Monday that it investigated specific questions, including whether the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's funding of water infrastructure and treatment programs is discriminatory.

The department's executive director, Chris Wells, said Wednesday that his agency was already following federal regulations.

"The evidence overwhelmingly



Wells

shows that the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality did everything right," Wells said. "These allegations were entirely false and have been a distraction to the mission of our agency."

The Health Department said in a statement that it is "committed to the equal opportunity for all counties, municipalities, districts and other water organizations" to have access to a loan program for water system improvements.

Derrick Johnson, national president

of the NAACP, lives in Jackson.

"The NAACP is outraged at the inadequate findings presented by the EPA this week," Johnson said in a statement Thursday. "Since day one of this crisis, we have been on the ground, speaking with residents and community leaders. One thing remains clear - racial discrimination and neglect have left a majority Black, capital city in crisis."

Johnson said the NAACP hopes Mississippi government leaders will enact EPA's recommendations, including that the Health Department assess its loan terms to ensure that communities with the greatest needs have access to water funding.

"The NAACP remains committed to using every tool at our disposal to ensure that all Black Americans have access to clean drinking water," Johnson said.

The EPA examined state water fund loans to Mississippi communities between 1989 and 2021 and evaluated those based on the percentage of Black residents. Jackson's population was about 56% Black and 44% white in 1990, and the city's current population is about 82% Black and 15% white, according to the Census Bureau.

The EPA wrote that "funding for Jackson did not decrease as the racial

composition of Jackson changed during the period analyzed" and the analysis found "no statistically significant relationship between loan amount and race across the state over time."

The Department of Environmental Quality provided water loans to Jackson 13 times since 1990 - every time the city applied.

"Although Jackson falls on the lower end of per capita funding ... there was no significant relationship between loan amounts per person and race over time," the EPA said.

The EPA also wrote that "the impacts of the water crisis fell disproportionately on the majority Black community of Jackson," but "there is insufficient evidence to establish a relationship between the amount of funding disbursed by MDEQ to Jackson over time and the racial composition of the community."

Jackson received three loans from a water improvement fund administered by the Health Department between 1997 and 2022, and the department told the EPA it never failed to approve completed applications from the capital city.

"For the years Jackson received loan awards, it received a large proportion of the total funding available for those years," the EPA wrote.

Great City Mississippi applauds state legislature for approving more public safety resources in Jackson

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Great City Mississippi Foundation applauds the Mississippi State Legislature for continuing to invest in public safety in Hinds County. The Legislature has approved, and Gov. Tate Reeves has now signed, multiple appropriations bills during this legislative session that will continue to make our capital city safer.

"We would like to extend our gratitude to Gov. Tate Reeves, the Hinds County Delegation, and all of the other state leaders who made these resources possible during this session," said



Taylor Nicholas, executive director for Great City Mississippi. "Mississippi is stronger with a strong capital city, and we are grateful for the people who continue to invest in Jackson. Public safety is crucial to the health and

vitality of our city, and with resources like these, we can work together to continue to see Jackson and Mississippi thrive."

The Legislature approved two new assistant district attorneys (ADA) in Hinds County and one criminal investigator. Combined with the additional ADAs approved last session, this brings the total number to 16 Hinds County ADAs, 14 of which are permanent and 2 of which are temporary.

The Office of the State Public Defender received funding for 3 additional full-time public defenders for Hinds County in this

session.

These resources will contribute to a reduction in the timeframe of moving defendants through the system.

The Legislature also appropriated \$500,000 to the Hinds County Sheriff's Office to purchase body cameras and additional vehicles. They also expanded the Capitol Complex Improvement District (CCID) to encompass a larger area, which includes three schools (Spann Elementary, Jackson Academy and McLeod Elementary) as well as the Kroger on I-55.

"These new resources are

boosting the ongoing efforts to enhance public safety, a collaboration among state leaders, law enforcement, and organizations like Great City Mississippi," stated Chris Gillard, a board member of Great City Mississippi and former colonel director of the Mississippi Highway Patrol and assistant commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

"Our initiatives are proving effective. Previously, a crime committed in Hinds County might not go to trial for 3-4 years. Now, with these improvements, cases are typically resolved within about 18 months. This signifi-

cant reduction in trial wait times is a major improvement. We aim to keep up this momentum and continue making Jackson a safer place for everyone."

Great City Mississippi is a non-profit organization working to see Jackson thrive. The foundation is comprised of local business and community leaders who work with local, state, and national leaders with a focus on public safety, infrastructure, quality of life, and economic and workforce development in Jackson.

To learn more, visit greatcityms.org

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Plans unveiled for memorial honoring victims of racist mass shooting at Buffalo supermarket

By Carolyn Thompson
Associated Press

A permanent memorial honoring the 10 Black victims of a racist mass shooting at a Buffalo supermarket will feature interconnected stone pillars and arches, and a windowed building where exhibitions and events will be held, community and elected leaders announced Monday.

The design, "Seeing Us," by Jin Young Song and Douglass Allgood, was revealed a day

before the second anniversary of the attack. It was selected from among 20 submissions to the 5/14 Memorial Commission, which was established months after an 18-year-old white gunman opened fire at a Tops supermarket on May 14, 2022.

New York state has committed \$5 million to the \$15 million project, Gov. Kathy Hochul said at a news conference to unveil the design. Buffalo will contribute \$1 million, and

a yearlong fundraising campaign is expected to make up the difference.

"As we approach the solemn two-year anniversary of when our neighbors were senselessly slaughtered solely because of the color of their skin, we re-dedicate ourselves in supporting the East Buffalo community, remembering those we lost, and supporting those who were injured," she said.

Nine shoppers, ranging in age from 32 to 86, and a retired

Buffalo police officer working as a security guard, were killed during the Saturday afternoon attack. Three store employees were wounded.

The Rev. Mark Blue, chairman of the 5/14 Memorial Commission, said the victims' families were consulted during the design selection process.

"What happened on 5/14 was an act of senseless violence and it was an act of hate," he said. "It's my intent to make

sure we have a memorial that the families and the communities can be proud of."

Payton Gendron is serving a sentence of life in prison with no chance of parole after he pleaded guilty to state charges of murder and hate-motivated domestic terrorism. He is awaiting trial on separate federal charges and could receive the death penalty if convicted. He has pleaded not guilty in that case.

To mark the second anniversary of the shooting Tuesday,

Tops Friendly Markets will dedicate another memorial near the store and hold a moment of silence at 2:28 p.m., the time of the attack.

Buffalo artist Valeria Cray and her son Hiram Cray, a faculty member at the State University of New York Corning Community College, created a sculpture called "Unity for the Honor Space" for the memorial. The site also features 10 granite bollards.

From Coast to Coast: Report spotlights growing support for Second Look policies across America

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

A comprehensive analysis by The Sentencing Project has demonstrated noteworthy progress in the "Second Look Movement" nationwide, with an increase in judicial and legislative actions targeted at reassessing long sentences.

Titled "The Second Look Movement: A Review of the Nation's Sentence Review Laws," the report provides a detailed analysis of second look legislation and court decisions in 12 states, the District of Columbia, and the federal government. It also delves into the implications of such laws on youth offenders and emerging adults, along with recommendations for enhancing their application.

According to the report, legislatures in 12 states, the District of Columbia, and at the federal level have implemented policies enabling "second look" judicial reviews. Additionally, courts in at least 15 states have declared lengthy sentences, beyond life without parole, as unconstitutional for youth, while three states have restricted life-without-parole sentences for emerging adults.

Key findings from the report highlight the provisions and recommendations necessary to ensure the effectiveness and fairness of second-look legislation. These include expanding eligibility criteria, implementing fully retroactive provisions, granting judicial discretion in



sentence reduction, and providing timely and accessible review processes.

Among the states examined, six – Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Oregon, Florida and North Dakota – and the District of Columbia, allow courts to reconsider sentences under specified conditions, such as age at the time of the offense and duration of incarceration. Meanwhile, California, Colorado and New York focus their reviews on specific populations, such as military veterans, habitual offenders and domestic violence survivors, respectively.

Moreover, the report underscores provisions allowing for compassionate release for federal inmates based on extraordinary and compelling reasons, as well as for the elderly age alone for those incarcerated in the District of Columbia.

Becky Feldman, Second Look Network director at The Sentencing Project, and author of the report, emphasized the critical role of Second Look legislation in addressing systemic issues within the criminal justice

system. Feldman stressed the importance of these laws in combating mass incarceration, and promoting public safety.

"Second look legislation is imperative to end mass incarceration, accelerate racial justice, and better invest in public safety," Feldman declared.

In response to the growing momentum of the Second Look Movement, The Sentencing Project launched the Second Look Network in March 2023. Comprising over 250 members representing 100 organizations, public defender offices, and law school clinics nationwide, the network aims to provide comprehensive legal representation to individuals serving lengthy sentences. It also seeks to explore litigation strategies to expand second-look opportunities.

Officials noted that, as jurisdictions continue to embrace second-look legislation, the report underscores a shifting landscape in criminal justice reform efforts. With a focus on fairness, equity and rehabilitation, the Second Look Movement could potentially stand out as

a pivotal initiative in reshaping sentencing practices and promoting positive outcomes for incarcerated individuals and communities nationwide.

The Sentencing Project noted that there are currently about two million people in American prisons and jails – a 500% increase in imprisonment over the last 50 years. They said harsh sentencing policies, such as lengthy mandatory minimum sentences, have produced an aging prison population in the United States. Nearly one-third of people serving life sentences are 55 or older, amounting to over 60,000 people.

"Research has clearly established that lengthy sentences do not have a significant deterrent effect on crime and divert resources from effective public safety programs. Nevertheless, existing parole systems, like executive clemency, are ineffective at curtailing excessive sentences in most states due to their highly discretionary nature, lack of due process and oversight, and lack of objective consideration standards," said Kara Gotsch, executive director of The Sentencing Project.

"As a result, we've seen legislators consider and adopt second look legislation as a more effective means to reconsider an incarcerated person's sentence in order to assess their fitness to reenter society. While much work remains, we're thrilled to see this momentum across the country."

Questions and grief linger at the apartment door where a deputy killed a US airman



Chantemekki Fortson, mother of Roger Fortson, a U.S. Air Force senior airman, is comforted by family as she holds a photo of her son during a news conference regarding his death, along with family and Attorney Ben Crump, in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Fortson was shot and killed by police in his apartment, May 3, 2024. AP PHOTO/GERALD HERBERT

By Tara Copp
Associated Press

At the apartment door where a Florida deputy shot and killed Senior Airman Roger Fortson, a small shrine is growing with the tributes from the Air Force unit grappling with his loss.

There is a long wooden plank, anchored by two sets of aviator wings, and a black marker for mourners to leave prayers and remembrances for the 23-year-old.

One visitor left an open Stella Artois beer. Others left combat boots, bouquets and an American flag. Shells from 105mm and 30mm rounds like those that Fortson handled as a gunner on the unit's AC-130J special operations aircraft stand on each side of the door – the empty 105mm shell is filled with flowers.

Then there's the quarter.

In military tradition, quarters are left quietly and often anonymously if a fellow service member was there at the time of death.

The 1st Special Operations Wing in the Florida Panhandle, where Fortson served took time from normal duties Monday to process his death and "to turn members' attention inward, use small group discussions, allow voices to be heard, and connect with teammates," the Wing said in a statement.

In multiple online forums, a heated debate has spilled out in the week since Fortson was shot: Did police have the right apartment? A caller reported a domestic disturbance, but Fortson was alone. Why would the deputy shoot so quickly? Why would the police kill a service member?

There are also questions about whether race played a role because Fortson is Black, and echoes of the police killing of George Floyd.

Fortson was holding his legally owned gun when he opened his front door, but it was pointed to the floor. Based on body camera footage released by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, the deputy only commanded Fortson to drop the gun after he shot him. The

sheriff has not released the race of the deputy.

"We know our Air Commandos are seeing the growing media coverage and are having conversations on what happened," Lt. Gen. Tony Bauernfeind, head of Air Force Special Operations Command, said in a message to unit leaders last week.

He urged those leaders to listen with an effort to understand their troops: "We have grieving teammates with differing journeys."

In 2020, after Floyd's death, then-Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kaleth O. Wright wrote an emotional note to his troops about police killings of Black men and children: "I am a Black man who happens to be the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. I am George Floyd ... I am Philando Castile, I am Michael Brown, I am Alton Sterling, I am Tamir Rice."

At the time, Wright was among a handful of Black military leaders, including now-Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. CQ Brown Jr., who said they needed to address the killing and how it was affecting them.

"My greatest fear, not that I will be killed by a white police officer (believe me my heart starts racing like most other Black men in America when I see those blue lights behind me) ... but that I will wake up to a report that one of our Black Airmen has died at the hands of a white police officer," Wright wrote at the time.

Wright, who is now retired, posted a photo on his personal Facebook page Thursday of Fortson standing in matching flight suits with his little sister.

"Who Am I ... I'm SrA Roger Fortson," Wright posted. "This is what I always feared. Praying for his family. R.I.H. young King."

On Friday, many from Fortson's unit will travel to Georgia to attend his funeral, with a flyover of Special Operations AC-130s planned.

Diversity Dilemma: Kim Godwin's exit from ABC sparks debate on Black leadership in television news

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Kim Godwin, a trailblazing figure as the president of ABC News and the first Black woman to lead a major network news division, has unexpectedly resigned, leaving a significant void in the ongoing struggle for diversity in media leadership.

Godwin's departure, a surprising turn of events, comes on the heels of Disney's recent appointment of a veteran executive to oversee ABC News, a move that effectively diminished her authority within the organization.

Despite having recently extended her contract, Godwin's exit raised urgent questions about the representation of Black leaders in television news.

In an earlier statement, Godwin expressed optimism for the future, stating, "There



Godwin

is more work to be done. Now let's get to it." She did, however, emphasize the value of putting her family first in a memo to staff that the *Wall Street Journal* was able to obtain. She described her departure as a challenging but necessary decision.

"Anyone who's passionate about what we do knows there's no other business like

it, so this was not an easy or quick decision," Godwin wrote. "But after considerable reflection, I'm certain it's the right one for me as I look to the future and prioritize what's most important for me and my family."

Significant difficulties existed during Godwin's time at ABC News, including a notable incident involving two daytime television hosts and internal conflicts within the network. Despite these formidable obstacles, Debra O'Connell, the executive appointed above Godwin, acknowledged, and praised her substantial contributions to the network.

Godwin's journey in the media underscores broader discussions surrounding newsroom diversity and representation.

Denetra Walker's 2022 dissertation, titled "Gatekeeping Blackness: Roles, Relation-

ships and Pressures of Black Television Journalists at a Time of Racial Reckoning," previously shed light on the challenges faced by Black journalists in achieving leadership positions within predominantly white news organizations.

Moreover, 2022 Pew Research study findings highlight the persistent lack of racial and ethnic diversity in newsrooms, particularly in management and leadership roles. The study revealed that most journalists feel their workplaces lack adequate diversity, indicating an urgent need for increased representation of Black leaders in television news.

"On the same question about racial and ethnic diversity, a majority of women journalists (59%) say there is not sufficient diversity in their newsroom, compared with 46% of men," researchers wrote.

UMMC's Dr. Mary Frances Johnson pushes hearing:

An essential tool for daily living

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

Nicole Hernandez (DPT) noted in a recent article that "hearing loss is unique to everyone and can occur at any age, although some types, causes and symptoms are more common than others." While some persons may experience hearing loss in only one ear (unilateral), others are impacted in both ears. Severity can range from mild to profound.

Given this scenario, Hernandez warns that 6.6 million Americans age 12 and older experience severe to profound hearing loss, and 5 million adults ages 60 and older fall prey to hearing loss.

When hearing loss occurs, our health can be greatly impacted. This common, widespread issue is worldwide and need not be taken lightly. Despite this caveat, persons with hearing loss can live normal lives.

An interview with Dr. Mary Frances Johnson, a 13-year employee at University Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), materialized as a result of Hernandez's shared knowledge. A lover of her job, the interviewee commented, "I consider it a privilege to help patients on their journey to better hearing. It is rewarding work to know that hearing healthcare has improved [their] quality of life, and allowed [them] to maintain connections with the people most important to [them]."

Hearing loss can be caused by a number of factors such as (1) the aging process; (2) excessive noise exposure; (3) ear or head trauma; (4) middle ear issues; and (5) certain medications that are toxic to the inner ear. Johnson, however, specified sensorineural as the most common type of hearing decline. Most often caused by natural aging and typically permanent, sensorineural results from damage to the inner ear (the auditory nerve pathway).

Another type called conductive hearing loss results in an abnormality in the outer or middle ear. The good news



Dr. Mary Frances Johnson
PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. JOHNSON

about some conductive hearing losses, however, is that they can be medically corrected.

Johnson maintained that persons of all ages can experience hearing loss, but "noise-induced hearing loss is preventable." She explained that there are many occupations and hobbies that can put us at risk for hearing loss because of loud noise levels. When we are in the midst of loud noise, we can "turn down the volume, distance [ourselves] from the noise source, or wear proper hearing protection."

When asked if it is essential for persons with hearing loss to wear hearing aids, the interviewee commented that some persons delay wearing hearing aids for what may be "personal reasons." She recommended, however, that once a hearing problem is discovered, they should have their hearing tested by a licensed audiologist.

"The audiologist can determine the type and degree of hearing loss, and make the appropriate referrals if medical intervention is needed. There are wonderful conversations and sounds happening every day that you don't want to miss," added Johnson.

Johnson went on to state that although hearing aids do not replace normal hearing, they should be worn "during all waking hours." When this happens, the hearing aid users are on the right track. Thus, wearing hearing aids consistently prompts better acclimation to sound. For instance, wearing

them allows alerts of alarms, sirens, voices, entrances and exits. They should be worn at home as well as in social environments.

What did Johnson say about stereotyping hearing aids users?

"I am seeing less concern about the stigma of wearing hearing aids, because ear-level devices are more common." She explained that since past years, many advancements have been made with today's hearing aids. Available styles are also "very inconspicuous." "It is also helpful that so many people are wearing ear buds, Bluetooth devices, and personal listening devices, that hearing aids these days look like just another streaming device or phone accessory," added the expert.

Regarding the availability of direct connectivity, Johnson denoted, "Many volume or programming adjustments can be made through an app on a patient's smartphone." In light of this, "there is no attention drawn by a volume dial or adjustments directly on the hearing aid itself. Hence, hearing aid users can rest assured that they receive great benefits from these connections.

Johnson recommended that persons should be aware that if they are conversing with hearing loss persons and they ask for repetition, "Don't yell at them. Rephrasing the question or comment is much more beneficial than simply raising your voice."

Further, be aware of background noise levels that come frequently at crowded parties and in restaurants. They are not only difficult for persons with hearing loss (whether they wear hearing aids or not), but they can be especially difficult places for anyone.

Dr. Mary Frances Johnson (Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Division of Audiology University of Mississippi Medical Center. She can be contacted at 601-815-6064 or mfjohnson@umc.edu.

New research uncovers genetic variant's alarming impact on heart health and longevity in Black Americans



On average, carriers die two to two and a half years earlier than expected. With nearly half a million Black American carriers over the age of 50, the implications are profound.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A groundbreaking study led by researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Duke University sheds light on the significant health risks posed by the V142I transthyretin variant within the US Black population. Published in the *JAMA Network*, the study underscores the concerning impact of this genetic variant on heart health and longevity.

"The V142I transthyretin variant, prevalent in three to four percent of self-identified Black individuals in the US, is associated with an increased risk of heart failure and death," explained lead author Dr. Senthil Selvaraj from Duke University School of Medicine. Drawing from data from over 20,000 self-identified Black individuals, the study estimates that carriers of this variant could collectively lose approximately a million years of life.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Pfizer Inc. have been working with partners in various cities in the U.S. to raise awareness of this "serious but under-diagnosed condition that causes heart failure among African Americans and Afro-Caribbeans." The NNPA is the trade association of the more than 250 African-American-owned newspapers and

media companies comprising the 197-year-old Black Press of America.

Senior author Dr. Scott D. Solomon, from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, emphasizes the significance of these findings for both clinicians and patients. "We believe these data will inform clinicians and patients regarding risk when these genetic findings are known, either through family screening, medical, or even commercial genetic testing," he said.

The study revealed that individuals carrying the V142I variant face a substantially elevated risk of heart failure, starting in their 60s, and an increased risk of death, beginning in their 70s. On average, carriers die two to two and a half years earlier than expected. With nearly half a million Black American carriers over the age of 50, the implications are profound.

Transthyretin, a protein in the blood, misfolds when the V142I variant is present. This causes abnormal amyloid protein to build up in the heart and other body parts. This process results in cardiac amyloidosis, a condition characterized by thickening and stiffening of the heart muscle, ultimately leading to heart failure.

Despite the grim outlook, there is hope on the horizon. "There are now several potential new therapies for cardiac amyloidosis, and understanding the magnitude of this risk, at the individual and societal level, will help determine which patients might be best suited for novel therapies," Dr. Solomon stated.

The study's comprehensive insights were made possible by pooling data from four NIH-funded studies (ARIC, MESA, REGARDS, and Women's Health Initiative).

"Since 3-4 percent of self-identified Black individuals in the United States carry this variant, a significant number are at elevated risk for developing cardiac amyloidosis, being hospitalized for heart failure, and dying several years earlier than expected," Dr. Selvaraj added.

With a better understanding of the risks associated with the V142I variant, efforts to raise awareness and facilitate access to treatments will be crucial in improving outcomes for affected individuals. Medical officials said the findings highlight the importance of genetic screening and personalized healthcare interventions in addressing the health disparities faced by the US Black population.

Play it safe with the sun

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Everyone enjoys a little fun in the sun, but the sun can be very dangerous all year round for your body no matter how dark your skin may be. This is true if it's hot and cloudy, cold and sunny or cold and cloudy.

Sun damage can reduce skin elasticity, reduce collagen, cause pigmentation issues, sunspots and redness, broken blood vessels and blindness. Too much sun can also cause dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. When you want to get the maximum protection from the sun there are things you can do to protect yourself.

Protecting your body from the sun is essential to maintain your health and prevent damage. Whether you're lounging on the beach or going about your daily routine, here are key strategies to shield your skin from harmful UV rays:

Seek shade: When outdoors, find shelter under an umbrella,

tree, or other protective cover. Even in the shade, consider using sunscreen or wearing protective clothing to safeguard your skin.

Sunscreen: SPF refers to the amount of time required for ultraviolet radiation to produce skin redness with sunscreen protection compared to the time required without protection. This means that with SPF 15, a person can spend 15 times longer in the sun before developing sunburn. Sunscreen is your skin's best friend. Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher regularly. Remember to reapply every two hours, especially if you're swimming or sweating. Sunscreen isn't a magical force field, so combine it with other sun-safe practices.

Clothing: Dress smartly to shield your skin:

Long-sleeved shirts and pants: Opt for lightweight, long-sleeved shirts and pants. These provide excellent protection against UV rays.

Tightly Woven Fabrics: Choose clothes made from tightly woven fabric. They offer better UV protection. Darker colors may also provide more shielding.

Certified UV-protective clothing: Some clothing is certified to offer UV protection. Look for these labels when shopping.

Hats: A hat with a brim all the way around is ideal. It shades your face, ears and the back of your neck. Avoid straw hats with holes that let sunlight through. Darker hats may offer better UV protection. If you wear a baseball cap, protect your ears and neck as well.

Sunglasses: If you're going to be outside you should wear sunglasses. Everybody needs sunglasses, and not just in the summertime. Exposure to ultraviolet light over the years can damage the lenses of the eye. Any sunglasses are better than no sunglasses. Here is what you should look for in a pair of sunglasses.

The tint is not what blocks ultraviolet light, it's the special

chemicals added when the lenses are made. Brown or amber tinted lenses block the sun's rays best but they sometimes distort your vision. Gray and green lenses don't block as much ultraviolet light but they don't distort your vision.

Wraparound frames are good, they block light above and below the eyes, but they shouldn't block your side vision. Your sunglasses should be dark enough so you don't see your eyes in a mirror.

Plastic lenses are light but glass lenses don't scratch as easily. Mirrored lenses offer extra protection against glare but scratches are a problem. Double gradient lens sunglasses are darker at the top and the bottom. These glasses are good for sports such as tennis and skiing. These glasses are not good for highly reflective sports such as bicycling and water sports.

Everyone's sunglass needs are different but everyone needs sunglasses. If you have special

problems you should see a professional.

Companies should help to keep their employee safe from the sun:

Encourage sun safety among employees and provide sun protection when possible.

Use tents, shelters and cooling stations to provide shade at worksites.

Schedule breaks in the shade and allow workers to reapply sunscreen throughout their shifts.

Create work schedules that minimize sun exposure. For example, schedule outdoor tasks like mowing for early morning instead of noon.

Rotate workers to reduce their UV exposure.

The tan your skin gets when it's exposed to the sun is a response to sun damage. Too much sun can cause long term harm to every part of your body. The redness, pain and blistering of a sunburn is your skin's reaction to the effects of ultra-

violet radiation. Ultraviolet radiation is made up of ultraviolet A (UVA), ultraviolet B (UVB) which causes the most immediate damage to your skin, varies in intensity throughout the day and is strongest during the summer months.

Your skin absorbs both UVA and UVB. About 1000 times more UVA than UVB radiation is needed to produce redness and sunburn.

Remember, sun protection is crucial year-round, not just during summer. UV rays can reach you even on cloudy days and reflect off surfaces like water, cement, sand and snow. Be sun-savvy, and your skin will thank you.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

If you have a fitness question or concern you would like addressed contact me at tipstobefit@gmail.com

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF JACKSON ZONING ORDINANCE

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 anywise affected thereby, that the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, will be conducting a public hearing on proposed text amendments to the City of Jackson Official Zoning Ordinance as adopted on May 29, 1974 and subsequently amended.

Amendments to the text of the Zoning ordinance are intended to provide for a more efficient Zoning Ordinance and establish more effective zoning regulations for each of the zoning districts. Copies of the proposed text amendments will be available for review at the Office of City Planning 200 S President Street, Suite 204, Jackson, MS 39201. For additional information please submit an email to eainsworth@city.jackson.ms.us.

The said proposed text amendments 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, May 22, 2024 at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard 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.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO MAY 15, 2024.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of April 2024.

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

5/2/2024, 5/16/2024

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Advertisement for Reverse Auction 2024-21 District Wide Security Camera System

Bids will be received by an Electronic Sealed Bidding Reverse Auction Process administered by Southern Procurement at which time bidding will begin and run until Suppliers have completed entering all bids. Thereafter, bids will be taken under advisement and awarded accordingly.

RFP instructions and general conditions may be obtained from Southern Procurement by contacting Vaughn Blaylock at vaughn@southernprocurement.com. Please use the following subject line in your request:

JPSD – District-Wide Security Camera System

Registration with Southern Procurement and acceptance of the Southern Procurement Platform Agreement is not optional and is required in order to participate in this bidding event. No exceptions will be made.

Specification responses must be submitted for this bid event in order to be considered for this bidding opportunity. Instructions for submission are located in the RFP documentation.

Vaughn Blaylock
vaughn@southernprocurement.com

DO NOT INCLUDE PRICING INFORMATION WITH YOUR SPECIFICATION RESPONSE. BIDS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN ONLINE AT THE APPOINTED TIME AND DATE.

Questions regarding these specifications should be directed to Vaughn Blaylock, Southern Procurement at the above email address.

Performance Dates:
Advertise 06 May 2024
Advertise 13 May 2024
Specification Response Forms Due 28 May 2024 Bid Date 29 May 2024
10:00 AM Local Time

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.

5/9/2024, 5/16/2024

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RUTH PITTMAN TAYLOR, DECEASED CAUSE NO. P2024-31 G/2

PETITIONER: MELVIN HAMILTON

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS

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

This the 15th day of May, 2024.

Melvin Hamilton, Executor

Melvin Hamilton

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF HINDS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, Melvin Hamilton, Executor for the Estate of Ruth Pittman Taylor, deceased, who having been by me first duly sworn, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.

Melvin Hamilton

Melvin Hamilton

Burton
NOTARY



5/9/2024, 5/16/2024, 5/24/2024

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

Notice is hereby given that the Jackson Public School District will receive unpriced technical proposals to prequalify vendors for:

Reverse Auction RFP 2024-20 Serving Lines and Refrigeration Equipment

The deadline for receipt of unpriced technical proposals is May 21, 2024, at 2:00 PM, local time. Unpriced proposals, including the Specification Response Form and all other documents, shall be submitted electronically at www.jpdsmsprojects.com

This commodity will be procured through a multi-step procurement process, including a Reverse Auction. In Phase One, Unpriced technical proposals are evaluated for potential acceptability based on pre-determined criteria. In Phase Two, only those bidders whose technical proposals are determined acceptable shall be invited to provide priced bids for consideration.

Specifications and detailed instructions regarding the bid process may be obtained by visiting the website www.jpdsmsprojects.com

There will be mandatory site visits for each school associated with this bid. All interested vendors must attend a pre-bid meeting to be eligible to participate in the reverse auction. Mandatory site visits of each location will be conducted by all interested bidders on May 16, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. beginning at Jim Hill High School, located at 2185 Coach Fred Harris St, Jackson, MS 39204, followed by Murrah High School, located at 1400 Murrah Dr, Jackson, MS 39202, followed by Casey Elementary School, located at 2101 Lake Cir, Jackson, MS 39211.

Specification response forms, along with all other required information detailed in the bid instructions should be submitted no later than 2:00 PM CST on May 21, 2024, per the detailed bid instructions. Unpriced Specification Response submissions will be evaluated, and vendors meeting the required specifications will be invited to participate in the Electronic Reverse Auction process on May 24, 2024, at 10:00 AM CST. Approved vendors will be given detailed instructions regarding the reverse auction. The Jackson Public School District reserves the right to extend the auction date if necessary, to complete the pre-qualification process. For any questions relating to the electronic submittal or reverse auction process, please call PH Bidding Group at 662-407-0193.

The Jackson Public School District is an equal opportunity employer and hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contract entered into under this advertisement, minority business enterprises 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, sex, age, disability or national origin in consideration for an award.

The Jackson Public School District reserves the right to reject any and or all bids, waive technicalities, informalities or irregularities in the bids received, solicit new bids or choose that bid which is deemed to be in the best interest of the Jackson Public School District.
Michele Mays Purchasing Agent

5/9/2024, 5/16/2024

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4255

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 Roanoak Development, LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C80-C2 (Limited) Commercial Subdistrict to C80-R4 (Limited) Multi-Family Subdistrict to allow for a multi-family development for the property located at Parcel 820-955 on Highway 80 W in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A certain lot or parcel of land in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW ¼ of SE¼) of Section 34, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, Hinds County, Mississippi, more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows, to wit:

Beginning at a point on the South right-of-way line of U.S. Highway No. 80 where said right-of-way line is intersected by the West line of the SE ¼ of Section 34, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, Hinds County, Mississippi, which point is 16 feet, more or less, South of the center of said Section 34; run thence South 60 degrees 45 minutes East along the South right-of-way line of U.S. Highway No. 90 parallel with and 100 feet measured at right angles from the center line of said U.S. Highway No. 80 for a distance of 660 feet; run thence South 567 feet to the North line of a public road; thence traversing said road, North 79 degrees West 484 feet; thence North 71 degrees 30 minutes West 107.5 feet to the West Line of the SE ¼ of Section 34; run thence North along the West line of the SE ¼ of said Section 34 for a distance of 763 feet to the point of beginning.

And being the same property described in instrument recorded in Book 7228 at Page 4295.

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, February 28, 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.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO MAY 15, 2024.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of April 2024.

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

5/2/2024, 5/16/2024

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Advertisement for Bid Bid 3262 Environmental Learning Center Outdoor Learning Pavilion

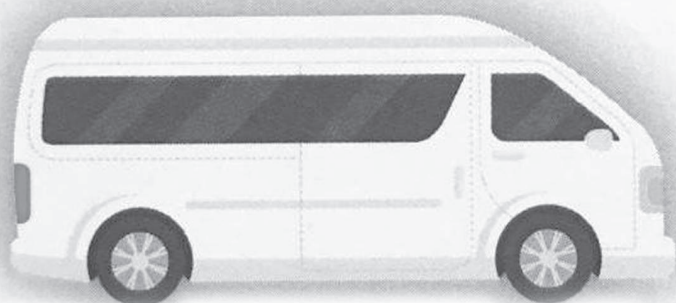
Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conferences concerning this project will be held at 6190 MS-Hwy 18, Jackson, MS 39209 on Friday, May 24, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-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.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$150.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Charles Bunniran at Allen & Hoshall, Phone: 601-977-8993, or Email: cbunniran@allenhoshall.com.

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 https://www.youtube.com/jpsitv for public viewing due to COVID 19. Vendors will not be allowed to sit in on the bid openings.

5/9/2024, 5/16/2024

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

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

Deanco Auction 601-656-9768 www.deancoauction.com
 1042 Holland Ave (PO Box 1248) • Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350 Auctioneer: Donnie W Dean, #733, MSGL #835
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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9					10			
11					12			
13				14			15	
			16			17		
18	19	20						
21				22		23	24	25
26			27			28		
29						30		
31						32		

ACROSS
 1. Wiends
 5. Singer Billy
 9. Achy
 10. Deer
 11. Narrow opening
 12. Sandwich cookies brand
 13. Excessively ornate
 15. Gross national product (abbr.)
 16. Last work day (pl.)
 18. Limit
 21. Environmental protection agency (abbr)
 22. Exodus
 26. Not ever
 28. Lotion ingredient
 29. Braid
 30. Island
 31. Discount
 32. Scallion

DOWN
 1. Soviet Union
 2. Fly alone
 3. Little Mermaid's love
 4. Compensation
 5. Cruise
 6. Z
 7. Type of wood
 8. What a small child does
 10. Showing displeasure
 14. Announcers
 17. Sabotage
 18. Pennies
 19. Musical production
 20. Bellybutton
 23. Otherwise
 24. Single
 25. Search
 27. East southeast

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Crossword Solution

U	S	E	S		J	O	E	L
S	O	R	E		B	A	M	B
S	L	I	T		O	R	E	O
R	O	C	O		C	O	G	N
					F	R	I	D
C	O	N	F		I	N	E	
E	P	A			E	G	R	E
N	E	V	E		R	A	L	O
T	R	E	S		S	I	S	L
S	A	L	E		L	E	E	K

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A mother's love always shines and never fades away

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



Mother's Day is a special day for special people. We love and honor our mothers with a day devoted especially to them. Happy Mother's Day was celebrated on Sunday, May 12, 2024.

Many of us have celebrated a lot of these days with our moms. We take them out to eat, give them flowers and treat them like royalty.

A mother's love is unconditional. Simply put, they'll always love us. While we will have faults along the way, our mothers will be supportive and

will be our refuge in times of challenge.

We all have stories about our moms. I have one and so do you. They are filled with laughter, tears, happiness and sadness.

The strength of a mom is undeniable. When we are down and need encouragement, they give us counseling and self-confidence.

My mom passed away many years ago. She left an indelible mark upon my mind and soul.

It is not a day that goes by that I don't think about her. I wonder what she would do in certain situations and of course I wonder what she would think of me now.

My mother was a registered nurse (RN) in Winston-Salem,

North Carolina at Kate Bitting Reynolds Hospital. She possessed a kind and gentle spirit which I suspect led her into the healthcare field. While that was her profession, that was only a small part of who she was.

Everyone in our neighborhood knew who Mrs. Mildred Ewers was. There were always people in our house either eating or talking and sometimes both.

My dad respected and loved her because of her persona and the way she made others feel around her. There were other attributes that made her stand out. As I reflect now, our family was proud of her and her accomplishments.

My mom was a BBC (Black Betty Crocker). She was a mas-

ter in the kitchen preparing meals that were delicious. Real macaroni and cheese, real biscuits and real pinto beans were dishes that we ate daily. I will say we had leftovers on Monday. She would make some gravy and put on the fried chicken we had on Sunday.

We didn't go to fast food places. First, there weren't many of them and lastly, my mom's food was the best.

She taught me the importance of keeping clean and dressing appropriately as I wore shirts and ties at a very young age. The habit of dressing well has stayed with me throughout my life, and it is because of her.

She always wanted me to look a certain way so that people would know that I came

from a home with standards. One of those standards both of my parents instilled in me was how to treat people. They knew that how you treated people would gain you respect. They were right.

I have known for many years that treating people with dignity and respect are fundamental principles in life. People don't want to know how much you know until they know how much you care.

Education was valued in my home. My mom stressed the importance of having a good education. She believed that having one would lead to having a successful life.

with having a good education. Having the drive and the determination would shape my ability to get a good job. She was right.

My mom was the greatest. Without her, I would have been a frame without a foundation. I realize as I am in the 4th quarter of my life how truly blessed I was to have her as a mom.

If your mom is living, don't take her for granted. Don't say you'll do it tomorrow because you don't have time today. Time has a way of slipping up on us because tomorrow is not guaranteed.

This column is dedicated to my mom, Mrs. Mildred Ewers and to my aunt, Mrs. Lois Thacker who gave me the tools for successful living.

Black males and law enforcement encounters

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



Recently in Texas, a young African-American airman was murdered by local law enforcement without first identifying themselves. This young African-American service member made the mistake of answering his door with a gun in his hand, held at his side as shown in the bodycam of the officer. What followed was that this young man was shot six times and supposedly died on his way to the hospital.

The officers had the wrong apartment since there was no one home but this Black man and the complaint came from a neighbor who said that they heard a woman's voice in what appeared to be a domestic dispute.

Since we know that law enforcement is unmovable by the number of Black men and women who they have wrongfully mur-

dered all over this country, it appears that the burden of attempts at prevention of further deaths, falls upon the victims.

Lets revisit some ground rules when confronted by law enforcement at any level.

First, it does not matter whether or not one has done anything or broken a law when stopped by law enforcement personnel. The important thing is to live to deal with the encounter later.

Second, be in "compliance" with any and all instructions given by law enforcement, regardless of the tone or treatment.

Third, keep hands visible and empty at all times. Do not reach for cell phone, wallet, or anything other than what one is told to do. Remember, if you are Black, most likely you have already been determined to be armed and dangerous.

We have been killed over broken tail lights, parking tickets, outstanding warrants, often murdered while asking "what did I do?"

This is called living to tell your story.

Fourth to the degree possible, be humble and only speak when spoken to. No questions asked. No complaints about the stop. Notice badge or other identification numbers, but ask for none.

Wait until the next day to pursue any complaints. This will ensure that the personnel you encountered and any colleagues of theirs are not likely to be on duty the next morning.

Finally, your complaint should be filed in writing via certified mail with copies to your State Attorney General's Office of Criminal Investigation. After these steps, you can now file a personal complaint which should be the same as the one you mailed via certified mail.

If you were stopped while using a familiar route to home, work or wherever you were going, now take a different route, even if it's out of your way.

These steps should help us continue "Living While Black."

The right one

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



Do you remember what it felt like when you met the right one? In most cases when you have met the right one – you know almost immediately – there's an undeniable click. You both have a natural click – you gel, you are the perfect fit for each other. You can't hide what you feel about each other. You bring comfort to each other.

The right one causes one to easily identify the wrong one(s) from the past and/or present. The right one captivates your thoughts and passions; can't stop thinking about them even when you are asleep. Further, the right one causes one to be anxious – you tend to feel lost without their presence until you see and/or hear from them. One also finds themselves being able to talk to the right one about everything and anything – nothing is off limits. The right one talks – you listen. You talk and the right one listens for hours if not all night – it's surreal.

The right one causes you to have no doubts or questions that you have found the right one. The only question that you ask yourself is where has he or she been this entire time? When one meets the right one – chills and thrills don't adequately describe your admiration and love for each other. In most cases, finding the right one essentially equates to a proposal, a wedding and marriage.

Although, you met the right one and married each other – remaining as the right one requires lots of hard work in marriage. You can experience any of the following that can lead to abrupt changes in your spouse and marriage:

- Unresolved childhood trauma
- Death of parents
- Death of a child
- Sickness
- Debilitating health
- PMS
- Menopause
- Mid-Life Crisis
- Mental Health issues
- Job loss
- Bad financial decisions
- Weight gain/loss
- Addictions.

Hardly anyone anticipates experiencing the above life situations, but they do occur and if you haven't experienced any of these things – stay married. These circumstances have resulted in even soulmates divorcing but that doesn't have to happen. I always say it's not the seasons that break up marriages – it's how you respond in the seasons that break marriages up.

If you know that you have found the right one even if it was fifty years ago and God joined you together – go out of your way to stay together by doing the following:
 Seek God – let God be your foundation.
 Pray – cover marriage and family daily.
 Seek counsel for unresolved childhood

trauma.

- Reflect on marriage vow.
- Be a team.
- Realize that seasons are coming – be ready – when it rains – what do you do? You get an umbrella.
- Seek Godly/professional marriage counseling throughout marriage even when you are in good seasons.

- Apologize.
- Forgive and forgive quick.
- Love as God tells us to – read First Corinthians 13.

- Live everyday like it can be your last – listen to the song, "Like I'm Gonna Lose You" by Meghan Trainor.

- Don't put anyone above your spouse – includes parents, children, school, work, friends, etc.

- Communicate – talk about everything and listen to each other – even the tough topics – ask God to give you an approach for how to talk about the tough things.

- As City of Jackson First Lady Dr. Lumumba expressed – Don't fret over the small things.

- Keep people out your marriage – the same people that are advising you are possibly in a marriage they shouldn't be in – or waiting to scoop him or her up from you – hmmm... my next article?

- Spend quality time with each other.
- Hold your spouse accountable – don't become an enable.

- Refrain from infidelity – emotional and physical infidelity are not the only forms of infidelity – you have cyber infidelity, object infidelity, financial infidelity, micro cheating and combined infidelity, another article on the seven types of infidelity...hmmm.

- Build trust – if trust has been broken – help rebuild it through reassurance, truthfulness and know that it takes time.

- If you messed up – fix it until marriage is restored.

- Avoid spouse neglect and abandonment.
- Nurture the relationship as you would a plant.

- Express appreciation to each other.
- Make healthy choices – exercise, etc.
- Be affectionate, intimate and romantic.
- Have fun together.
- Plan your future together.

In conclusion, each day that God allows you to live is a chance for you to celebrate it with the one, the right one, that some of you met one to fifty years ago. Hold on to each other and go out of your way to remain the right one for each other.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.) Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, on Instagram: letsstaytogether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com or call 601 596-2528.

A poem "Just Listen"

By Caroline Dace
 Retired Teacher



Um talking to, um talking to
 All you little kids, trying to get over whatever it is
 You never ever do, what you really want to do
 So listen up, um trying to get this over to you
 So listen up, um trying to get this over to you
 Listen to yo Mama, Listen to yo Pop
 They'll keep you from the hand of the Big Boys "The Cop."
 Don't let them keep telling you the same thing twice
 Listen the first time It could save yo life
 Eat yo food, go to sleep stop running, slow down
 Um trying to do it all with a smile, skip the frown.
 Get up wash yo face brush yo teeth, comb yo hair
 Clothes on, all of that what um

going to wear.
 You might get tired of listening. You got something better than that?
 Now things sometimes I say I try hard not to slip
 Cause Grand-ma Caroline telling me to watch my lips.
 I know um just a kid sometimes my brains grown up
 But I still have to listen and keep my mouth shut
 Um learning a lot of things 'not thangs' about the Higher Power
 A lot to hold on to in my youngest hour
 Pop take me to church Mom send me to school
 My teacher all day long preach the classroom rule.
 I sit and try to listen cause that's how um going to learn
 Sometimes I do forget I gotta wait my turn.
 Get yo paper, get yo pencil ready for the test?
 Concentrate, participate, demonstrate yo best
 So I try to settle down and get

ready for the task
 Before um in my chair, I got no question to ask.
 It's almost time for me to get ready to go home
 Put up yo stuff, pack yo bags no talking in line
 I hear the teacher talking cause I listen all the time
 I hear the teacher talking cause I listen all the time
 Now listen my children and you shall hear of "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" (You mean the police)
 Grandma say that's 'Olde School
 So you better listen to yo mama and listen to yo pop
 Our Farther Who Art In Heaven
 (sound fading)
 Hallowed Be Thy Name
 Thy Kingdom Come
 Just Listen!
 Caroline Dace is the former director of Kaleidoscope Day Care and a retired teacher.

P R E S E R V E D

Stretching your faith to the next level

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



As I looked around at the others in the workout room and settled onto my yoga mat, I thought, "I can handle this. It's just a few stretches, some funny looking poses and a great way to relax." Because I'd heard people warn that yoga involved meditating to non-Christian gods, I even had a few scriptures in mind to focus on... However, once the yoga class started, all I had time to focus on was trying to not fall on my face.

"Oh God! Oh God!" was all I could mutter between short breaths as I attempted to do Yoga for the first time a few weeks ago. Between trying to keep up with the rest of the class and figuring out how to

do the poses, I was exhausted at the end of the hour long session.

A few co-workers had been attending yoga sessions for a few weeks and had boasted how much they enjoyed it. Also, I'd wanted to try some new physical fitness activities and thought yoga might be a good fit.

Thirty minutes into the session, my mind was wondering: "Am I doing it right? Is my body supposed to twist like that? When will the teacher stop? The more I twisted and stretched, the more I began to think that maybe yoga wasn't for me.

It was frustrating because I knew that I didn't look like a yoga master but that some of the poses made me look like a fool. A few times, I lost my balance and fell over. But I kept trying.

When the hour was up, I quickly put my shoes on and rolled up my mat. My energetic walk had slowed to a snail's pace as I made my way across the room. I did my best to smile as I placed the mat back in its cart. But the teacher was watching me and asked very sweetly, "Will you be coming back?"

"Not in this lifetime" was what I thought. "I'll be back next week" was what I said. "Who just said that," I thought...surely not me.

Her smile widened as she told me that she thought I did a good job even though it was my first time. "Don't worry about whether you get every pose right. It's all about the effort. You'll get there. Just keep trying," she gently encouraged.

This experience reminds me of Hebrews 11:6 which says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because

anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

My brief experience with yoga reminds me of how much we may resist God when he is stretching us and trying to get us to the next level. We pray for God to take us to the next level but complain or doubt that we are doing "it" right (the faith thing) once we are there.

Most importantly, God blesses our efforts when we continue to stretch our faith and seek Him.

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

Godly character has to be developed

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



The very essence of God is love. Thus, we have to make changes in our lives to conform to it. We must conform to God's

standard so that our prayers will be fully accepted by Him. God expects us to reflect His love in everything we do, and He wants peace. So, this kind of Godly character has to be developed by the choice and the intent of the one in whom it exists.

This principle is summed up in a most succinct manner: Luke 10:25, "And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?'" That is a good question, certainly one that all of us have asked. Luke 10:26-28 "He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?'" So, he answered and said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul,

and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.' And He said to him, 'You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.'"

So, if you want the formula to be in the Kingdom of God, that is the formula, it is just that simple. We should love the Lord our God more than anything else. Nothing is to take precedent over God; not our desires, nor our will, nor anything else. God is always first. We are to love God with all our soul.


This means we should be ready to give up our life to honor God if it is required. It means we are to endure all types of ridicule and torment if it falls our lot. This is part of loving God. Moreover, it means our loving God with all of our strength.

Whatever we possess comes from God. If we do something to physically serve God or if we have to give our substance as a living sacrifice - this is just part of loving God with all our strength.

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

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Veterans of Foreign Wars hosts annual Loyalty Day program

By Jeffery McKenzie
VFW Post 9832, Jackson, MS

On May 5, 2024, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of VFW Post 9832, located at 4610 Willie Lindsey Jr. Dr. in Jackson, MS, held its 49th Annual Loyalty Day program.

During the program, the VFW recognized and honored the

JROTC Top Cadets at each of Jackson Public School's seven Army JROTC programs.

The VFW also honored the Top Cadet at Terry High Schools' Army JROTC program as well as the Top Cadets from Germantown High School Marine Corps JROTC, Pearl HS Navy JROTC, Madison Central HS Air Force

JROTC and the newest addition to Mississippi's JROTC program, Clinton HS Coast Guard JROTC Top Cadet.

The Mississippi Wing Civil Air Patrol Top Cadet and Jackson State University's Army and Air Force Senior ROTC cadets were recognized and honored. As part of the Loyalty Day

program, the VFW honored and recognized the winners of their annual essay writing contests for the 9th-12th grades with their Voice of Democracy (VOD) audio essay contest (Theme: "What are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?") and the 6th-8th grades Patriot's Pen (PP) essay writing contest (Theme: "How

Are You Inspired by America?"). The VFW also honored and recognized some outstanding public safety and service personnel for their above and beyond work, in the performance of their each individual chosen profession.

Volunteer service plays an important role in what the Veterans

of Foreign Wars at VFW Post 9832 do on a daily basis.

As an integral part of the community, VFW and its Community Partner, Dawson Elementary School, recognized and honored several volunteers for their community service activities throughout the year.

PHOTOS BY TIM JOHNSON



JPS-JROTC & Callaway HS Top Cadet C/Col. Charles Travis & VFW Dept. of MS Top Cadet

Murrah HS Top Cadet C/CPT Nevaeh McMahon

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Patrick Powe Gold Award 520 Volunteer Hrs.

Gladys McKenzie Gold Award 510 Volunteer Hrs.

Jeffery McKenzie Silver Award 400 Volunteer Hrs.



Proviae HS Christopher Dawson Accepting on behalf of Provaiie HS Army-Top Cadet Jailya Sanders & Lanier HS Army-Top Cadet Je'Kyla Camp

Terry HS Army-Top Cadet C/Neveah Grant

Germantown HS Marine Corps-Top Cadet C/1st Lt Kalyb James

Pearl HS Navy-Top Cadet C/CDR William Hall

Madison Central HS Air Force-Top Cadet C/Neveah Grant



Jackson Police Department Officer of the Year Sergeant Adilbert Moore

Jackson Fire Department Fire Fighter of the Year Captain Pervis Goodwin

Hinds County Sheriff Office Deputy Sheriff Erica Moore

American Medical Response Paramedic of the Year Preston Cutrell & Star of Life Recipient & VFW Dept. of MS EMT of the Year



Clinton HS Coast Guard-Top Cadet C/LCDR Ciara Younger

MS Wing Civil Air Patrol- Top Cadet C/Capt. Isabella Jenkins

Jackson State University Army-Top Cadet C/ Kayli Hite

Jackson State University Air Force-Top Cadet C/C Paige Stewart



Callaway High School Color Guard Team to post the Colors for the program

Callaway High School Male Chorus Choir Performing the National Anthem for Loyalty Day



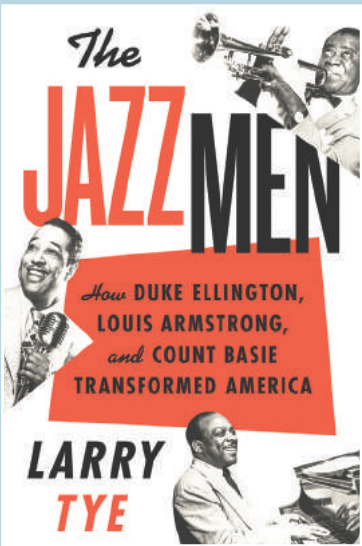
Patrick Powe VFW Post Sr. Vice Cmdr. Angel Bell Tougaloo Early College VOD 2nd place. Joshua Johnson Tougaloo Early College VOD Winner. Vynesh Bennett Clinton Jr. HS 1st Place. Kaylen Guise Old Town MS 3rd Place. Carleen Bennett Clinton Jr. HS 2nd Place. Deborah Turner Audubon President. Leticia Goins VFW Teacher of the Year Northside Elementary School Clinton, MS & Larry Simpson, father and VFW Judge Advocate



Dawson Elementary School Crossing Guard Volunteers: Cynthia Lawson Counselor, Melinda Wilcher Principal, Patrick Powe Sr. Vice Cmdr., Gladys McKenzie Auxiliary 5th Dist. President, Jeffery McKenzie Post Trustee, Curtis Jones Comrade



Grace Place Volunteers United Methodist Church Feeding program: Shirley Bell Trustee, Virginia Charleston Auxiliary, Gladys McKenzie 5th Dist. Pres., Delana Turner Post Pres., Alicia Anderson Sr. Vice Pres.



BOOK REVIEW:
THE JAZZMEN:
HOW DUKE ELLINGTON, LOUIS ARMSTRONG,
AND COUNT BASIE TRANSFORMED AMERICA
BY LARRY TYE
C.2024, MARINER BOOKS
\$32.50 • 395 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
 Columnist

Your toes didn't wait long before they started tapping.

They knew what was coming, almost as soon as the band was seated. They knew before the first notes were played and the hep cats and jazz babies hit the floor to cut a rug.

Daddy, it was the bee's knees but in the new book "The Jazzmen" by Larry Tye, if you were the Sheik on the stage, makin' cabbage wasn't all that swank.

Louis Armstrong was born in

1900 or thereabouts in a "four-room frame house on an unpaved lane" in a section of New Orleans called "Back o'Town... the Blackest, swampiest and most impoverished" area of the city. His mother was a "chippie" and the boy grew up running barefoot and wild, the latter of which led to trouble.

At age twelve, Armstrong was sent to the Colored Waif's Home for recalcitrant Black boys, and that changed his life. At the "home," he found mentors, father-figures, and love, and he discovered music.

For years, Bill "Count" Basie insisted that he'd grown up with "no-drama, no-mystery, and nobody's business but his," but the truth was "sanitized." He hated school and dropped out in junior high, hoping to join the circus. Instead, he landed a job working in a "moving-picture theater" as a general worker. When the theater's piano player didn't come to work one day, Basie volunteered to sit in. He ultimately realized that "I had to get out... of Red Bank [New Jersey], and music was my ticket."

Even as a young teenager, Ed-

ward Ellington insisted that he be treated like a superstar. By then, his friends had nicknamed him "Duke," for his insistence on dressing elegantly and acting like he was royalty. And he surely was – to his mother, and to millions of swooning female fans later in his life.

Three men, born at roughly the same time, had more in common than their basic ages. Two of them had "a mother who doted on... him." All three were perform-aholics. And for all three, "Race... fell away as America listened."

Feel up to a time-trip back a century or more? You won't even have to leave your seat, just grab "The Jazzmen" and hang on.

In his introduction, author Larry Tye explains why he so badly wanted to tell the story of these three giants of music and how Basie's, Ellington's and Armstrong's lives intersected and diverged as all three were near-simultaneously performing for audiences world-wide. Their stories fascinated him, and his excitement runs strong in this book.

Among other allures, readers used to today's star-powered

gossip will enjoy learning about an almost-forgotten time when performers took the country by storm by bootstrapping without a retinue of dozens.

And as for the racism the three performers encountered? It disappeared like magic sometimes, and that's a good tale all by itself here.

This is a musician's dream book, but it's also a must-read story if you've never heard of Basie, Ellington or Armstrong. "The Jazzmen" may send you searching your music library, so make note.



ZACK WALLACE
 Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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Atkins H.S. alum inducted into CIAA Hall of Fame

By Timothy Ramsey
The Chronicle newspaper, Winston-Salem, NC

When James Ewers first stepped foot on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) in 1966, he never imagined he would be remembered as one of the best to ever play sports in the entire history of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) conference. Ewers, among several others, was inducted into the CIAA 2024 John B. McLendon Hall of Fame class on March 1.

The CIAA is the nation's oldest historically Black athletic conference and honored their new inductees at this year's CIAA Basketball Tournament in Baltimore, Maryland. The newly enshrined athletes were also honored during one of the semi-final games during the tournament.

Ewers was a standout tennis player, dominating most of his opponents throughout his time at JCSU. He was a three-time CIAA singles champion and played a prominent role in helping the Golden Bulls secure the 1969 CIAA team championship.

Ewers also was the first African American to win the NAIA District 26 Championship in 1969 and holds the record at JCSU for most consecutive wins with 34. That's quite a legacy he left with the Golden Bulls.

Each nominee was selected from submissions sent by their respective schools and the CIAA Hall of Fame selection committee chose the inductees from that pool of nominees.

Ewers received the news of his Hall of Fame induction in December from CIAA com-



Ewers

missioner Jacqie McWilliams. He was elated to hear the news and vividly remembers the call.

"That call came in about 2:40 p.m. and I didn't recognize the number on the phone," said Ewers. "It was interesting that when the phone call came in, I was reading my Bible. After I finished reading my scripture, I went to my voicemail and the voicemail said, 'This is Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams from the CIAA and I have some great news for you. Would you please give me a call back?'"

"At that moment, I was pretty much shaking. I was just hopeful that I would be able to dial the digits correctly. I called and she said to me the CIAA Hall of Fame committee has recommended that you be inducted into the CIAA Hall of Fame class of 2024. When she said those words, I had unbridled joy and happiness. I can't really describe how that felt. I was nervous, I was excited and I was borderline crying."

Ewers credits God for granting him the ability to play tennis. He is also thankful for the

opportunity to grow up in the city of Winston-Salem, which instilled great values in him that he carries to this day.

"I never asked God to let me win a tennis match, all I asked Him to do was let me do my best," he said. "If you let me do my best, then obviously I would have to do the rest. I have gone throughout my lifetime in that kind of mode. I just want to be able to do my best."

The Hall of Fame honor is unbelievable to Ewers.

"I have so many people to thank, and God has given me this opportunity. I thank my parents for giving me a foundation of love and caring. I always knew they loved and cared about me. When I was growing up, I had responsibilities: one was to go to school and the other was to act like I had some sense. I tried to do that."

For Ewers, he says it's truly an honor to be in the same Hall of Fame as legends like Earl "The Pearl" Monroe, Ted Blunt, Curly Neal, Steve Joyner and Clarence "Big House" Gaines.

"It's an emotion that has

stayed with me since December 4," Ewers said about the Hall of Fame. "Every single day, I think about it. Every single day, I pinch myself and it hurts, so I know it's real."

Ewers is also a member of the Johnson C. Smith Hall of Fame as well. He doesn't compare the two honors because without Johnson C. Smith, he would not be in the CIAA Hall of Fame.

"Johnson C. Smith gave me the opportunity, both academically and athletically, to succeed," he said. "I am thankful to the faculty and staff at JCSU because they created an environment that allowed student-athletes to be successful."

There have been scores of athletes in football, basketball and track that have been inducted into the CIAA Hall of Fame, which gives Ewers a sense of pride that he was able to make it through the game of tennis.

"There weren't a lot of people playing tennis back in the day and to be able to have this kind of CIAA honor in a city where you had football players

like Carl Eller and basketball players like Herman Gilliam and Happy Hairston," said Ewers about being honored when there was so much athletic talent in the city of Winston-Salem.

"When I looked at what I was able to accomplish, I didn't think that was a possibility and I was fine with it. I just looked back and thought these guys are football players, basketball players or track and field athletes and I wasn't sure how many tennis players were in the CIAA Hall of Fame. That wasn't something that I spent my days and nights considering because the concept was too big for me."

Looking back, Ewers had no idea he would end up here when he first stepped foot on the campus of JCSU. He says there was a lot of talent on the team when he arrived and initially thought he may not be good enough. He persevered and lived by the motto of 'just get better every day,' which worked out well in his favor.

"There were some really great tennis players coming through Johnson C. Smith University and the CIAA," he continued. The Hall of Fame ... you have those kinds of dreams, but the challenge is you wake up. I may have thought about it some years back, but you always wake up from the dream and I would just leave it alone."

The accomplishments for Ewers are not limited to the athletic field. He has also compiled quite a list of achievements in his personal life and career.

"I think about my life, and I think about how God has truly blessed me, and I think about

the gifts that He gave me that I didn't know he gave me," Ewers said. "I think about the people that I have been around that tutored me and nurtured me along the way."

"I think about my teachers at Atkins High School, I think about my parents, I think about my neighborhood there on Rich Avenue. I think about the young men and young women that I hope I have influenced in some way. I hope I have given them a path to follow and hope that I have given them the motivation because this is a passing of the mantle type of model that we have. Somebody passed the mantle to me, and I have to pass the mantle to somebody else and that's how it goes."

"When you have some modicum of success in your life, you have a moral obligation to help somebody else. You can't say 'because I have mine, somebody else has to get theirs the best way they can,' you have to reach out and you have to touch somebody and allow them to feel that same kind of motivation and enthusiasm that was given to you. My road has not been an easy road, but God has always held my hand."

Ewers says he will cherish this honor until his last breath. He sums up this honor with just one phrase, "Who has it better than me?"

James Ewers is a weekly contributor to *The Mississippi Link* newspaper, sharing intriguing opinions on a variety of subjects. Publisher Jackie Hampton, along with the entire staff, congratulates Ewers on the prestige of being inducted into The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Hall of Fame.



Congressional Black Caucus attendees celebrate at the 150th Kentucky Derby



(L-R) Edelia Carthan, PhD, Kia Lacy, Denise Terry and Tamika Jenkins were treated to an unforgettable experience at the Kentucky Derby. PHOTOS DR. JAY



Couple posing in front of plant wall enjoying Derby in Horse Hat



Terry and Carthan enjoying the exciting event.

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

In a thrilling combination of politics and sports, attendees of the Congressional Black Caucus Mississippi Policy Conference were treated to an unforgettable experience at the 150th Kentucky Derby in Louisville, Kentucky.

This prestigious event took place on May 3 and 4, offering a unique blend of excitement and luxury to a select group of ticket winners.

Last August, participants of the Congressional Black Caucus

Mississippi Policy Conference won tickets and were promised an extraordinary experience, and this promise was fulfilled at the 150th Kentucky Derby.

The lucky winners from the conference were Dr. Edelia J. Carthan from Byram, MS, Supervisor James Dunn from Tunica County, MS and Tamika Jenkins from Jackson, MS. Each winner was accompanied by a guest, enhancing the festive atmosphere with friendship and camaraderie. Accompanying them were Denise Terry from Washington, DC, Dorothy

Dunn from Tunica County, MS and Kia Lacy from Columbus, Indiana. They enjoyed their Derby weekend from the luxurious box seats, complete with complimentary food and drinks.

Bonnie Walker-Armstrong, executive vice president at Stella Walker & Associates, Inc., played a pivotal role in coordinating this unforgettable experience.

"Being a consultant with Churchill Downs, I had the honor of assisting the winners of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute Annual Derby Giveaway

with the logistics of attending the Kentucky Derby," said Walker-Armstrong. She also noted the significance of this year's event, marking the 150th running of the Derby, which added an extra layer of excitement to the occasion.

For James Dunn, and his wife Dorothy, the event was nothing short of magnificent. "Bonnie Walker-Armstrong made sure to introduce us to all aspects of the Derby. We had a great experience and will consider making this an annual event," Dunn commented.

Tamika Jenkins expressed similar sentiments, highlighting the value of the guidance received from Walker-Armstrong.

"Attending Congressman Bennie Thompson's policy conference was one of the greatest experiences since moving to Mississippi. Winning the Derby tickets was an added bonus. The advice and tips from Mrs. Bonnie Walker-Armstrong before the races were extremely valuable," Jenkins said.

Jenkins also enjoyed the fellowship with other attendees, the festive atmosphere and the

inclusive amenities provided with the tickets.

The Kentucky Derby, often referred to as "The most exciting two minutes in sports," lived up to its reputation, providing a memorable backdrop for these special guests. As Jenkins aptly put it, "A time was had!"

The Congressional Black Caucus Mississippi Policy Conference, a staple event since its inception, will celebrate its 25th anniversary from August 8-11, continuing its tradition of fostering dialogue and development in Tunica, MS.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

BLUE CARPET AWARDS

Raymond High School recognized scholars who scored a 4 (Proficient) or 5 (Advanced) on their Spring 2023 State MAAP Assessments, those who met growth in Algebra I & English II, as well as awarded those who scored 25+ on the ACT from 2023!

The awards ceremony was held at the RHS Performing Arts Auditorium on Monday, April 29, 2024.

