

71st Annual Women's Day Observance at The Street

Women's Missionary Society hosts annual event, this year steeped in grand mystery



Farish Street Baptist Church Women's Missionary Society PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church was packed to capacity for the 71st Annual Women's Day Observance April 28, 2024. The Women's Missionary Society handled it all, from conducting the entire Sunday service, to an enhanced choir – dubbing themselves The H.M. Johnson Singers, readers, keynote speaker and presentation of the Rosie Mitchell/Sadie Hendricks Woman of the Year presentation.

Scores of visitors came from as far away as Georgia to support the

event and its participants. Senior Pastor Reverend Dr. Hickman Morgan Johnson provided an invitation to church membership and endearing closing remarks and a benediction.

The theme of this year's event was: "Stepping into Our Destiny with Faith in God," which was espoused so deeply and beautifully throughout the service. Dr. Ursula Harris presided over the event conducting the call to worship, introducing various segments and the speaker, Angela D. Stewart. The invocation was provided by Mary Alice Latham. The scrip-

ture, Jeremiah 29:11-13, was read by Tonia Smith. The occasion/welcome was provided by Kisa Harris, and the special Woman's Day Litany was read by E.B. Topp Circle member Juanita Brown.

The period of mediation honoring those who came before was presented with such reverence and audience inclusion by Ada Robinson. A thorough recognition of visitors was provided by Ramona Cork, and the fellowship of sharing and offertory prayer was provided by Cotina Wicks.

While the music at Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church is al-

ways moving and uplifting, there are special days – this writer can attest – beyond beautiful, surely enough to make a grown man cry. Coming right out of the gate with The Clarke Sisters' "I'm Looking for a Miracle, you can understand how this was one of those days as Brendsha Roby, Kemsye Smith, Patricia Edwards, Tambrela Thompson and Alisa McDonald shared their amazing talent – truly a choir of angels, with Alisa McDonald serving as official guest soloist. Accompaniment was pro-

Farish
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Poor People's Campaign and National Partners announce, "Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington, D.C. and to the Polls" ahead of 2024 elections

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Scheduled for June 29th, the "Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington, D.C.: A Call to the Polls and to Vote," aims to commence four months of outreach efforts targeting 15 million poor and low-wage infrequent voters nationwide.

According to the study "Waking the Sleeping Giant: Poor and Low-Income Voters in the 2020 Elections," approximately 85 million eligible voters in the United States are classified as poor or low wage, constituting of at least 30% of the electorate. In battleground states, the percentage climbs to over 40%.

Bishop William J. Barber II, president and senior lecturer of Repairers of the Breach and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, alongside Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, led a press conference Monday at the National Press Club to unveil plans for the "Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington, D.C.: A Call to the



Bishop William J. Barber II, National Co-Chair, Poor Peoples Campaign. Photo: DreamInColorPhoto / NNPA.

Polls and to Vote."

Scheduled for June 29th, the assembly aims to commence four months of outreach efforts targeting 15 million poor and low-wage infrequent voters nationwide.

"This is movement time," declared Bishop Barber. "We are here this morning to mobilize the power of over 33 million infrequent voters, poor and low wage, to demand attention to their concerns in the political

arena."

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis echoed this sentiment. "Our goal is to enter the desires and political agenda of those who are often left out of the conversation," Theoharis stated.

The coalition, comprising representatives from over thirty state coordinating committees, religious organizations, labor unions and advocacy groups, seeks to mobilize the substantial voting bloc to demand po-

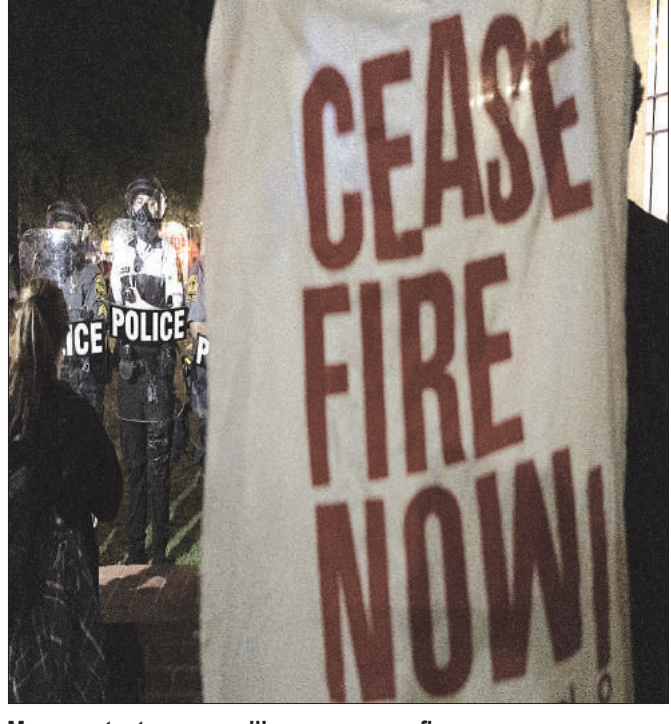
litical candidates' endorsement of a moral agenda addressing the poverty and low-wealth crisis, which claims 295,000 lives annually.

"Poor and low-wage voters are saying in this season that if you want these votes, talk to poor and low-wage folks," said Bishop Barber.

Rev. Mark Thompson, who also works for the National

Campaign
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A look at the protests of the war in Gaza that have emerged at US colleges



Many protesters are calling on a cease fire AP FILE PHOTO

The Associated Press

Student protests over the Israel-Hamas war have popped up at many college campuses after being inspired by demonstrators at Columbia University.

The students are calling for universities to separate themselves from companies advancing Israel's military efforts in Gaza and in some cases from Israel itself. Police have arrested hundreds nationwide since detentions at Columbia on April 18.

Officials are trying to resolve the protests as the academic year winds down, but students have dug in at several high-profile universities.

A look at protests on campuses:

Columbia University

Hundreds of New York City police officers began entering the campus of Columbia University Tuesday night as dozens of pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrating against the Israel-Hamas war remained on campus.

Police wearing helmets and carrying zip ties and riot shields massed at the Ivy League university's entrance. More than 12 hours earlier, demonstrators occupied Hamilton Hall, an administration building on campus, spreading their reach from an encampment elsewhere on the grounds that's been there for nearly two weeks.

More than a dozen officers entered Hamilton Hall via a second floor window, using a ramp on the back of a police vehicle to gain access. Officers took protesters into custody. The exact number wasn't immediately known. Less than two hours later, police said Hamilton Hall had been cleared of protesters.

A statement released by a Columbia spokesperson late Tuesday said officers arrived

on campus after the university requested help. University officials also said they believed that the group that broke into and occupied the building was led by people who are not affiliated with the school.

Police first tried to clear the encampment of Pro-Palestinian student protesters April 18, when they arrested more than 100. But the move motivated Columbia protesters to regroup.

The university said Monday that it was beginning to suspend student protesters who defied an ultimatum to leave the encampment by Monday afternoon.

Columbia said Tuesday that students occupying the building face expulsion, that those who did not abide by the deadline terms were being suspended and seniors will be ineligible to graduate on May 15.

California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt

A weeklong occupation of the administration building at the California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, ended about 3 a.m. Tuesday, when dozens of police officers wearing helmets and wielding batons cleared protesters from campus. The university said 25 people were arrested and taken to jail. A group of demonstrators showed up at the jail later Tuesday, waving Palestinian flags as they rallied for their release.

Arrest footage posted on the *Lost Coast Outpost*, a digital publication, showed about 100 police officers in riot gear arriving in vans and buses and then marching in with shields at the ready.

Some officers approached a group of protesters who were

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Unity in the community

By Theresa Bland Green, Ed.D.
Special to The Mississippi Link

Just a short distance from the Jackson Medical Mall, three traffic lights north on Bailey Avenue, perched at the intersection of Bailey and Ridgeway, is an example of an upcoming community church. If you were in this neighborhood on Saturday, April 27, 2024, you would have witnessed the Cade Family, Friends and Community Festival.

Kids jumping and sliding, teens testing their virtual skills in a mobile gameroom, seniors and children playing Bingo, Cultural Tag, Pin the Tie on the Pastor (festival highlight), community, family and friends creating art at the painting table, the sound of old-time gospel music bouncing in the background, all within the aroma of street food being carefully prepared by selected food trucks, shadowed beneath the street signs, there was harmony between the people who live there and those who worship there.

This scene was crafted from the visionary mind of Rev. Reginald Buckley, senior pastor at Cade. The idea of Family and Friends Day goes back at least 40 years at the church. However, in a post-COVID-19 environment, this pastor and congrega-



Marquee

PHOTOS BY DEREK ASHLEY AND ABRON WASHINGTON



Pastor Reginald Buckley showing highlight of Pin the Tie on the Pastor



Health check



Family



Street food



Coming to the fun



Community

tion realized the importance of family, friends and community.

So rather than fellowship unto themselves, the doors were opened to the entire Ridgeway community which also included Cade's adopted school, Walton Elementary.

The day began with a continuous gathering of community, family and friends around 10 a.m. then ballooned into a full-fledged, parking lot-street fes-

tival, filled with food, fun and entertainment complete with colorful statuesque balloons and an iridescent "Family" marquee on display.

The cool delight of a snow cone truck intrigued the young and the young at heart. Who would have imagined the simplicity of shaved ice layered with didactic sugary flavors could create intergenerational pleasure?

Childhood memories were brought to life as bubbles danced in the air powered by the syncopation of men, women, boys and girls huffing their best shot through bottled soapy water. Created anew, for the digital natives, were egg races, sack and three-legged races. Let's just suffice to say, there was a lot going down in the races.

New this year was an emphasis on community health and

wellness. In partnership with the Hinds County Sheriff's Office, the wellness expo offered a prescription takeback initiative. Additionally, there were many opportunities to receive health information, guidance to understand Medicaid/Medicare benefits, knowing and understanding your numbers (blood pressure, heart rates, blood sugar, cholesterol, oxygen, etc.)

eye exams, and other health-re-

lated basic care needs.

As the sun passed on through the long afternoon, the festival ended with the gathering of a communal rendition of a Western electric slide. Yes, they did that, at this upcoming community church called Cade. If you missed it, look for it next year, same time, same place, 1000 West Ridgeway, where they Worship, Grow, Connect and Serve the community.

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Gaza

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chanting “Viva, viva Palestina!” and sitting in a circle outside the administration building. Police picked them up one by one, tied their hands behind their back with zip ties and led them off campus.

Damage to the school since protests started on April 22 is estimated to be over \$1 million, California state Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire, a Democrat whose district includes the campus, said Tuesday.

Yale University

Yale authorities cleared a protesters’ encampment Tuesday morning after students heeded final warnings to leave, university officials said. Yale and New Haven, Connecticut, police officers were at the site, but no arrests were reported. Yale officials said they warned that students could be arrested and face discipline, including suspension, if they didn’t clear the grassy quad area.

Demonstrators moved their gathering to a public sidewalk area. It was the second encampment removed since last week. On April 22, police arrested nearly 50 people, including 44 students, and took down dozens of tents.

Boston College

Boston College students held a protest rally against the Israel-Hamas war last week. Bullhorns were banned, lest the noise disturb studying for finals. Tents weren’t allowed. Students who’d been arrested at other Boston campus protests were barred. After an allotted hour, the students went quietly back to their rooms.

University of Connecticut

Police moved in on a campus encampment at the Storrs, Connecticut, school Tuesday morning and arrested 25 protesters after giving them several warnings to leave, UConn spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said.

Twenty-four of those arrested were students; one was a former student. They were charged with criminal trespass and disorderly conduct after university officials said they repeatedly ignored directives by campus police to remove tents and disperse from an encampment first set up on April 24.

Tuesday’s arrests came a day after protest leaders met with university officials.

Harvard University

In a statement, protesters said the Cambridge, Massachusetts, school “has sought to shut off all outside access and visibility to the encampment.” “Meanwhile, the Harvard administration has initiated disciplinary action against nearly forty students and student workers,” the statement said.

Last week, Harvard limited access to its famous Harvard Yard to those with school identification after a camp was set up.

Princeton University

The university’s president, Chris Eisgruber,

posted a statement on Instagram saying 13 protesters –12 affiliated with the university– were arrested Monday night after briefly occupying Clio Hall, the campus graduate school building.

“All those arrested received summonses for trespassing and have been barred from campus,” Eisgruber said in the statement. “The students will also face University discipline, which may extend to suspension or expulsion.”

Brown University

Protesters at Brown University in Rhode Island agreed to dismantle their pro-Palestinian encampment Tuesday after school officials said five students will be invited to meet with five members of the Corporation of Brown University in May to present their arguments to divest Brown’s endowment from companies contributing to and profiting from the war in Gaza.

In addition, Brown President Christina Paxson will ask an advisory committee to make a recommendation on divestment by Sept. 30, which will be brought before the school’s governing corporation for a vote in October.

Northwestern University

The school in Evanston, Illinois, said Monday that it had reached an agreement with students and faculty who represent the majority of protesters on its campus since Northwestern says it will permit peaceful demonstrations that comply with university policies through June 1, which is the end of spring quarter classes.

University of Texas at Austin

In a confrontation between police and protesters at the Austin school late Monday, 79 people involved were jailed, according to the Travis County sheriff’s department. Most were charged with criminal trespass.

About 150 protesters sat on the ground as state troopers and police encircled them, with hundreds of others shouting when officers dragged someone away. After police cleared the original group of demonstrators, hundreds of students and protesters ran to block officers from leaving campus. Protesters pushed in on officers, creating a mass of shoving bodies before police used pepper spray and set off flash-bang devices to clear a path for a van to take those arrested off campus.

University of Southern California

Encampment organizers met with university President Carol Folt for about 90 minutes Monday. Folt declined to discuss details of what was discussed but said the purpose of the meeting was to allow her to hear the concerns of protesters. Another meeting was scheduled for Tuesday. The university has canceled its main graduation ceremony, set for May 10.

These are just a few of the protests going on at U.S. colleges due to the Gaza war.

Farish

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vided by music director Jerry Smith on piano, Larry Robinson on organ and Landon Daniels, son of Elizabeth Daniels, on drums.

Speaker Angela D. Stewart delivered in heart and substance extraordinary. Stewart is the archivist of the renowned Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University, and her experience as a historian, archivist, podcaster and author has made her known and sought after locally and nationally. She is a member of Farish Street Baptist Church and of the E.B. Topp Circle. Rising to the lectern, the emotions of the memories of this congregation of supportive and generous people, including her late mother, Dorothy Stewart Samuel, were beautifully shared. She acknowledged family and friends in the audience and began with prayer before noting the contributions that women have made to the National Baptist Convention USA, first highlighted by Nannie Helen Burroughs – mission work and keeping churches alive and open and thriving.

“We know that women bring something special to God’s Kingdom. God’s grace empowers us to be the women we were meant to be. Even in today’s scripture reading, Jeremiah 29:11-13, the last verse says, “you will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart.” She went into the theme for the day, “Stepping into our Destiny with Faith in God,” embracing it from historical, Biblical, practical, and modern-day perspectives. Her sharing was a gift of the highest order.

“All these things you do in your life, but if you aren’t looking out for the poor, the aliens, the widows – none of that other stuff matters.” What does this theme mean to us as Christians?, she asked. “It means that as we step into our destiny with faith in God we should live intentionally, following God’s purpose for our lives. God has always known our purpose and has equipped us for it. Looking back on our lives we can see that God has been guiding every step of the way. God keeps promises, He listens to our prayers, and He reveals Himself when we seek Him. It does not mean that our life will be worry-free, yet even in the storm we can find peace. With God’s promise, trust in his plan, even when his plan doesn’t seem to make sense to us...God wants us to pursue him with sincerity, devotion and a desire to know him intimately.” Just a portion of her incredibly inspiring message.

Surely you recall being told as a youngster, “God works in mysterious ways.” Well, even though that is true, there are some women at Farish Street who work in mysterious ways, too. How else could they pull off the impossible – selecting Clemontine Whitaker as the 2024 Rosie Mitchell and Sadie Hendricks Woman of the Year awardee, without her advance knowledge. Wait, oh, you wanted to know why that is a nearly impossible feat? ‘Clem’, as she is called by friends, a member of Farish Street Baptist Church since 1962, is the chairwoman of the Woman’s Day committee itself. Mysterious ways indeed.

Clemontine Whitaker was raised in Holmes County and belonged to Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Tehula, Mississippi. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Jackson State University. She regularly attended the National Baptist Convention where she met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Lucille Eddie Campbell-Williams.

She was visibly surprised by the honor, and gracious, expressing touching gratitude in accepting the award and flowers, to a booming and heartfelt applause.

Campaign

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Newspaper Publishers Association, was among the many coalition members who addressed the issues during the news conference, which aired live on C-Span and at BlackPressUSA.com.

Thompson highlighted the interconnectedness of poverty with various social issues. “Wherever there is a lack of health care and voting rights, LGBT rights and immigrant rights, there is an abundance of poverty,” he asserted. “Wherever there is a lack of jobs and labor unions and sensible gun laws and women’s bodily autonomy, there is an abundance of poverty.”

He continued: “Wherever there is a lack of racial justice and legal rights, criminal justice reform, access to adequate legal representation, an alternative to incarceration and police reform, wherever those things are in lack, there is an abundance of poverty. Wherever there is a lack of what is now under attack, diversity, equity, and inclusion, affirmative action, investment in education, a lack of educational opportunities, there is an abundance of poverty. Wherever there is lack of religious tolerance, racial harmony, and beloved community, there is an abundance of poverty.”

The event’s organizers emphasized their commitment to empowering impoverished and low-wage individuals, aiming to amplify their voices in the political discourse.

Rev. Thompson concluded, “I contend we do not need to ask permission to finish Dr. King’s work. He did not retire. It is our duty to pick up his baton and move forward. They always talk about the people who don’t want to vote. They never talk about the impoverished and low-wage individuals. We want to



L-R: Women’s Missionary Society members on the dais, Dr. Delores Hopkins, Dr. Ursula Harris, member E.B. Topp Circle and event speaker Angela Stewart, Kisa Harris and First Lady Gladys Marie Johnson



“The H.M. Johnson Singers, L-R: Brendsha Roby, Patricia Edwards, Alisa McDonald, Kemsye Smith and Tambreia Thompson



71st Annual Woman’s Day Observance speaker Angela Stewart



L-R: Ushers, Nettie Stowers and Gwen Horton



L-R: Brendsha Roby and 2024 Woman of the Year recipient Clemontine Whitaker



A laugh recalling that as a child Stewart was baptized by Reverend Johnson.

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Reverend Mark Thompson, host of Apple TV’s Make It Plain



Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, National Co-Chair, Poor Peoples Campaign

lift them and bring them forth. If we address these issues, we will address all these others.”

As the nation gears up for the 2024 elections, Bishop Barber, the Poor People’s Campaign, and its allies, assert that they are poised to make their presence felt, advocating for policies that address the systemic issues perpetuating poverty and economic inequality across the country.

“We want to lift them up and bring them forth. If we address these issues, we will address all these others,” Thompson insisted.

The Mississippi State Department of Health's Music for the Heart & Soul – Good Health and Gospel Choir Competition – attracts large crowd

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

Good health and gospel choir competition were the anchors for a heart and soul event presented by The Mississippi State Department of Health which was held at Jackson Convention Complex Center Saturday, April 27, 2024. An overflowing crowd of registered families, friends and individuals came to reap the gains from the planned event. The agenda replete with health screenings and a program hosted by Maggie Wade Dixon (news anchor/reporter, WLBT 3) and Kimberly Harper-Johnson (radio personality, 95.5 Hallelujah-FM) lasted from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

"It's good to empower individuals to know their numbers and status. It's good for the community. The Faith Base Network is working with a lot of churches in Mississippi that take care of the community." That comment was made by Dr. Victor D. Sutton, chief, Community Health and Clinical Services PI, Community Engagement Center, Jackson Heart Study – Mississippi State Department of Health.

State Health Officer Dr. Daniel Edney chimed in, "This is an example of how some of us know that we are tired of being at the bottom of the nation. We all need to know our numbers to reduce our risks of heart disease. The state needs to be responsible for everyone's health." Edney continued that improvement comes when every Mississippian has access to primary and medical care in an effort "to prevent strokes and dying from heart failure."

Personal testimonies were given by several persons who took to the stage. Barry Dixon of Southern Christian Services asserted that he had been tested several times at St. Dominic for chest discomfort. Tests showed a blockage in three arteries. Within a few days, his physician recommended heart surgery. The weekend passed and Dixon was back at home the following Monday.



Jackson Revival Center, 1st place winner in gospel performance PHOTO COURTESY OF MSDH



Dr. Victor Sutton, MSDH director of Preventive Health and Health Equity, presented 1st place winner Revival Center a check for \$5,000.



Attendees came in sincerity to learn what was in store for them at the MSDH Health Fair.



Many health personnel like this representative were on hand to discuss health issues. PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT



This volunteer, among many, welcomed attendees with heartfelt smile.

Dixon explained that he could not have made it alone. Thus, he acknowledged gratefulness to God and the medical personnel for taking care of him. He then appealed to the audience to: "(1) understand your family history; (2) pay attention to your body; (3) get screen tests; and (4) know your numbers."

"For most of my life I knew that something was wrong...I had a heart attack and a stroke at the same time while working at Walmart. I had a suicide episode. I was on disability for five years," stated Latasha Willis, affiliate president NAMI.

Willis noted that the church considered mental health a sin

for many years, but "mental health must be taken seriously." She added that the brain is an important organ of the body, and all parts of the body are "connected." In that regard, the speaker appealed to the crowd to contact Mental Health Intervention for any matters pertaining to mental health.

Vera Johnson from The MS Coalition Against Domestic Violence mentioned that abuse is a serious health issue, and most abusive relationships occur between ages 18 and 24 in the United States. Most of those cases go unreported. Johnson commented that the victim often blames the self for the vio-

lence.

The audience learned from Johnson that though victim blaming is never acceptable, danger and fear occur when the victim decides to leave. The victim is afraid to call the police. The victim may be concerned about the children. There is a lack of resources. Perpetrators of the violence feel that they are entitled to be violent. Furthermore, social barriers indicate that the victim is supposed to stay in the unhealthy relationship. The speaker urged attendees to contact police and seek counseling for domestic violence.

Dr. Timothy Quinn, of Quinn

Health Care, L.L.C., commended The Mississippi Department of Health for reaching out to the community to encourage people to take control of their health. He then issued pointers on how to live a healthier life.

"This is a miracle today because I spoke to so many individuals who admitted not having their blood pressure checked in years," he said. Quinn mentioned that checking blood pressure is one of the first steps to self-monitoring and being attuned to health matters. Neglecting this essential step could possibly lead to critical health problems.

Kimberly Lott (program

manager – Healthy Start) talked about monthly classes at Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center for pregnant women. The grant funded program encourages expectant mothers and their families to learn about birth spacing, safe sleep, car seat safety, breast feeding, etc. Women are assigned to a case manager. They can reach Healthy Start at 601-362-5321.

Seven energetic choirs enlightened the audience with competitive stances of the songs they sang: (1) New Horizon Church International Children's Ensemble (Jackson); (2) White Oak United Methodist Church Choir (Crystal Springs); (3) I Love Me Ministries (Clarksdale); (4) Kingdomology – University of Life Missionary Baptist Church (Jackson); (5) Anderson United Methodist Church Praise Team (Jackson); (6) Dr. Music (Southaven); (7) Revival Worship (Jackson Revival Center Choir); and (8) J Artie Stuckey and Voices of Restoration (Heidelberg). Choirs performed praises to God through testimonies, soulful clapping and anointed feisty bodily struts.

The Mississippi Department of Health paid homage to the event's sponsors and acknowledged the adjudicators for choir competition: Othor Cain (director for communications, Hinds County and Talk Show host WMPR) and Jerry Mannery (executive director, Gospel Division – MAALACO).

They selected the following winners: Jackson Revival Center – first place, \$5,000; Anderson United Methodist Church – second place, \$3,000; and Pastor JR Sutton – third place, \$2,000.

Patricia Hickman, social worker and NHCI member reacted to the event by saying that she was happy to see the number of people who came out to benefit from the event. She stated overall that Mississippians in charge of their health is a good thing. Taking advice from health personnel, also, is a good thing.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MSDH



New Hymn School historical exhibit in Simpson County Bicentennial Celebration, May 4, 2024

Historic school named by founder to mark a new era for blacks

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A little more than 30 years following the abolition of slavery in the U.S., Edgar Quitman Collins, founded New Hymn School in Pinola, Mississippi. Professor Collins built the school on land he owned and chose the name New Hymn to mark the beginning of a "new era" for African Americans in the town. He and his wife Malinda Herron Collins taught the 64 children from the surrounding areas, providing a strong foundation for many to live productive, fulfilling lives.

A visionary in his day, Collins founded the school at a time when racial and civic unrest were common. Determined to make a difference, Collins and his wife dedicated their lives to educating youth from their community and surrounding communities.

At the upcoming Bicentennial Celebration on May 4, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., New Hymn artifacts will be on display, including class pictures, diplomas, photos of former principals and teachers, restored images of Professor Collins and his wife and fellow teacher Malinda Herron Collins, newspaper articles, yearbooks, class rings, the State Historical Marker and more.

The exhibit will be next to the State Historical Marker between Simpson Central School and New Hymn Missionary



The original New Hymn School

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEGGY COLLINS BOWDEN

Baptist Church, 755 Simpson Highway 28 West, Pinola, Mississippi.

Collins and his wife planted the seeds for an educational mainstay that would eventually be integrated into the Simpson County School District.

Collins' great granddaughter Peggy Bowden says, "Come out and learn about how New Hymn School began and evolved, undergoing name changes and renovation to become what is known today as Simpson Central School. "Had it not been for my grandfather,

who knows if there would be a school on this site today," continued Bowden who has worked to ensure that her great grandparents legacy receive proper recognition.

New Hymn School played an essential role in the community and was found to meet the standards of the State Educational Finance Commission during 1947-48.

Its student average daily attendance was 314, second only to Magee with an average daily attendance of 384. By the school year 1953-54,

New Hymn's average daily attendance had grown to 504 students, according to a Survey of Simpson County Public Schools prepared for the State of Mississippi by Associated Consultants in Education.

During the survey period, New Hymn's curriculum included English I – English IV, Math at Work, Plane Geometry, Chemistry, Agriculture I – Agriculture III, American Government, Civics, American History, Home Economics I – Home Economics III, General Science, Biology and



New Hymn School historical marker was placed on Highway 28 in Pinola, MS in November, 2021.

World History.

"My grandfather loved math," said Gwendolyn Mitchell, daughter of one of their 14 children. "My dad told me, he lived and dreamed math. He also had an uncanny foresight. I believe he was right about his vision of a new era."

Many descendants of Professor and Malinda Collins followed in their footsteps, dedicated to education. Their grandchildren, great grandchildren, great nieces, great nephews and cousins live in Simpson County and across

the U.S. and are committed to continuing their legacy.

While the survey conducted in 1956 reflected the view at the time that segregated educational facilities were essential, today, the Simpson Central School enrollment reflects societal changes and changes in laws.

The student population makeup is 60.7% whites and 36.6 blacks and 2.7% other minorities.

Additionally, the school performs better in math and reading than the average statewide.

Mississippi Senate agrees to a new school funding formula, sending plan to the governor

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi would ditch a complex school funding formula that legislators have largely ignored since it became law a generation ago and replace it with a new plan that some lawmakers say is simpler to understand, under a bill headed by Republican Gov. Tate Reeves.

A bill with the new formula passed the 52-member state Senate Saturday with three votes in opposition, a day after it passed the House 113-0. Re-

publicans control both chambers.

The new plan, called the Mississippi Student Funding Formula, would replace the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) – a formula that legislators have fully funded only two years since it became law in 1997.

House and Senate leaders said the new plan would give school districts a boost in funding for students who can be more expensive to educate. For example, extra money would

be calculated for students who live in poverty, those with special needs or dyslexia, those learning English as a second language, or those enrolled in gifted programs or career and technical education programs.

"It's clear. It's concise. It gets money to our districts to help our students," Senate Education Committee Chairman Dennis DeBar said.

Reeves has not taken a public stance on the new formula, which legislators first released Friday.

Democratic Sen. Hob Bryan was instrumental in pushing MAEP into law. He said Saturday that legislative leaders should provide side-by-side comparisons of how much money school districts might receive under full funding of MAEP and full funding of the new formula, calculated over several years.

"In violation of the law year after year after year, this Legislature has refused to fund the basic funding formula," Bryan said. "School districts don't

know how much money they're going to get – not because of the existing formula. They don't have any more security with the new formula."

The Mississippi Student Funding Formula would put about \$217 million more into schools for the coming year than legislators budgeted for MAEP this academic year – but this was one of the years MAEP was not fully funded. Legislators shortchanged MAEP by nearly \$176 million this year, according to research by The

Parents' Campaign, a group that advocates for public schools.

Republican Sen. Angela Hill of Picayune joined Bryan and Republican Sen. Kathy Chism of New Albany in voting against the bill Saturday.

Hill said she has concerns about funding for students learning English as a second language. Hill said the U.S. border with Mexico is "wide open."

"We have people pouring across the border from all over the world," Hill said.

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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton
Editor.....Jackie Hampton
Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett
Sports Editor.....Tim Ward
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson
Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

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Bright spots amid the current surge of racism in America

Rising above the politics of division, major industry leaders stand firm on equity

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer



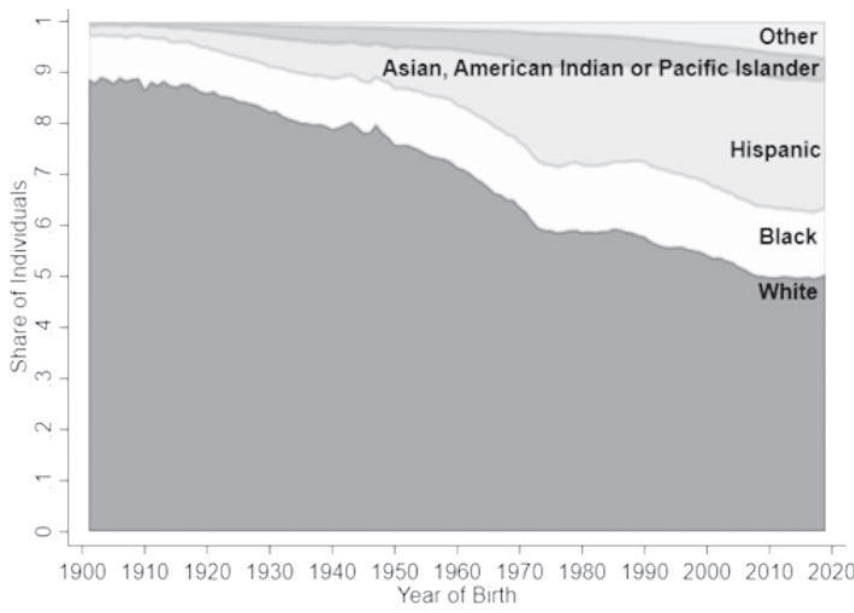
Driven by fear of losing what they view as their country, the current surge of shameful racist behavior by the still white majority in America, is causing many to believe that the gains made in minority justice and equality born in the Civil Rights Movement are rapidly slipping away.

In a February 8, 2017, article in Facing Today, a Facing History blog which seeks to combat racism and antisemitism by using history to teach tolerance in classrooms around the globe, entitled, *The Myth of a Post-Racial Society after the Obama Presidency*, the writer shares: "As the first black president, Barack Obama's legacy will always include issues of race. At his farewell speech he acknowledged this: 'After my election, there was talk of a post-racial America. Such a vision, however well-intended, was never realistic. Race remains a potent and often divisive force in our society.'"

His presidency reveals the longstanding myth that American history has always been on a steady, progressive path towards embracing equality for all," <https://facingtoday.facinghistory.org>.

The list of cultural and political attacks on minorities, especially on African Americans, since the election of Barack Obama as our 44th president, is numbing. Attacks on affirmative action, voting rights, Critical Race Theory, books and diversity initiatives are just a few of them.

Of equal importance is the mindset of how everyday Americans view the racial progress of our country. Based on NBC News polls, Republicans and Democrats views have shifted substantially on race since 2008, the year



SOURCE: [HTTPS://HOME.TREASURY.GOV/NEWS/FEATURED-STORIES/RACIAL-INEQUALITY-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES](https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/racial-inequality-in-the-united-states)

COMMENTARY

Barack Obama was elected president. The table above excerpted from www.nbcnews.com, shows the percent respondents that agreed with the statement:

So much for a post-racial America. 54.93% of legislative seats in America are controlled by Republicans, 44.46% by Democrats, per www.ballotpedia.org on April 1, 2024. We surely know it is white Republicans that are passing the bills that are rolling back progress in racial equality and equity. Nearly all of them are Christians, and black advancement is like the anti-Christ to them, and certainly to former President Donald Trump.

On January 20, 2021, when President Biden was sworn into office, ABC News reported on "Legacy of lies – how Trump weaponized mistruths during his presidency." They report 30,500 lies during the Trump presidency, drawing from the *Washington Post* Fact Checker database. With rare

exceptions, he's the hitching post that Republicans have tied their horse to.

Robert C. Smith, a political scientist who has studied race and politics, said that after the civil rights movement in the United States, racist remarks tended to be met with condemnation from both parties. "Now that appears to be slipping away, and the only thing that's of significance that's changed since then is the emergence of Trumpism," Smith told the *Washington Post* on October 15, 2022. In the same article, Jonathan Greenblatt, the chief executive of the Anti-Defamation League, said, "I don't know if it'll be very easy to put the genie back in the bottle."

While none of this is a positive – a modern day Jim Crow, really – there are some bright spots to be talked about, and perhaps built upon. Billionaire Byron Allen, during The Griot Awards in November of last year, said the following, "The truth is Black America is under attack. At this time, 44 states are debating which Black history to teach in schools. There's

"America is a nation where people are not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."			
	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
2008	55%	47%	40%
2013	65%	54%	46%
2023	70%	47%	28%

only one Black history that should be taught: the truth. Unfortunately, we have seen this before. You erase the truth so you can repeat the atrocities again. That's why I've dedicated my life to building one of the world's biggest media companies, simply because we must tell our own stories, keep control of the narrative and our images. Representation matters. When we see positive images of ourselves, it lifts our spirits. You cannot be what you cannot see."

He continued, "America, you are killing Black America in the classroom by making sure we do not get a proper education. You're killing us in the courtroom by making sure we do not have equal justice, you're killing us in the boardroom by making sure that we do not get real economic inclusion, and you're killing us in the hospital room by making sure that we do not have proper health care. And you're doing all of this long before you kill us in the streets."

Another bright spot is Getty Images – the largest global name in visual content creation – is partnering with HBCUs. Per their website, "HBCUs have been the foundation for academic and cultural development in the United States for well over a century. The new Getty Images Photo Archives Grants for HBCUs was created to honor the legacy and history of HBCUs and their contribution to American History. Getty Images will

work side-by-side with the HBCU Grant recipients during the digitization process. HBCUs retain all copyright, and original photos will be returned to the HBCUs after scanning, along with the newly digitized photos. Getty Images will represent the digitized photos, providing a new revenue source for the HBCU Grant recipients." Jackson State University is a recipient and already working closely with Getty Images.

Learn more at <https://grants.gettyimages.com/en/grants/hbcu-grant>.

JPMorgan Chase and Company is the largest bank in the United States, per www.npr.org. Their CEO, Jamie Dimon, in his most recent annual letter to shareholders, stated that the bank "isn't retreating from its diversity efforts despite the 'ridiculous ESG, DEI groups coming at us.'" In his 61-page letter, he laid out their ongoing efforts increasing equity and equality across their U.S. and global operations.

See the details at <https://reports.jpmorganchase.com/investor-relations/2023/ar-ceo-letters.htm>.

Three powerful industry leaders, not only not caving in to the current democracy-threatening racism-based white grievance being magnified by Republicans, but increasing their commitment to racial progress, demonstrating genuine regard for fairness and equity in their thinking, words and deeds.

Vice President Kamala Harris announces nationwide Economic Opportunity Tour

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Vice President Kamala Harris has announced a nationwide Economic Opportunity Tour to spotlight the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to foster economic growth, build wealth and ensure American prosperity.

The tour, which will begin with a moderated conversation in Atlanta, on April 29, will see the Vice President visiting several states to emphasize the administration's commitment to creating an economy where every person can thrive. A subsequent event is scheduled for Detroit, with more dates and locations to be announced soon.

"President Biden and I are committed to creating an economy in which every person has the freedom to thrive," Harris stated. "Our economic approach has delivered great progress, and we will continue to invest in you, your family and your future."

During the tour, Harris plans to highlight the administration's historic investments that have supported communities and individuals. According to a White House Fact Sheet, these include unprecedented investments in small businesses, the fastest creation of Black-owned small businesses in over 30 years, record job creation, increased access to capital for underserved communities, and significant healthcare reforms such as cutting insulin prices and erasing medical debt.

The vice president will also



The tour, which will begin with a moderated conversation in Atlanta on April 29, will see the Vice President visiting several states to emphasize the administration's commitment to creating an economy where every person can thrive.

discuss the administration's efforts in education, affordable housing, childcare and boosting the wealth of American families. She will describe additional measures the Biden-Harris Administration takes to build on this work.

The White House said administration officials, members of Congress, local leaders and others will join Harris on the tour.

Officials said the tour builds on Harris' extensive travel to communities nationwide. Since the beginning of 2024, she has made more than 35 trips to 16 states, engaging with small business owners and entrepreneurs in underserved communities to discuss challenges and opportunities.

Earlier this year, Harris announced \$32 million in funds to support historically underserved entrepreneurs during a visit to Black Wall Street in Durham, NC. She also announced an SBA rule in Las Vegas that ensures

individuals who have served time are eligible for SBA loan programs to start and run small businesses.

Officials said Harris has always supported minority, rural and low-income communities. Last year, she announced over \$1.73 billion in grants to 603 Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) through Treasury's CDFI Fund. In 2022, she launched the Economic Opportunity Coalition (EOC), a public-private partnership investing tens of billions of dollars to create opportunity and wealth in historically underserved communities.

As a senator, Harris secured a transformative \$12 billion investment for CDFIs and MDIs in December 2020 and has since worked to ensure the success of these programs. "Since that time, she has worked to ensure these programs are as successful as possible," administration officials stated.

Petition with nearly 3,000 signatures urges President Biden to pardon former Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

A petition gathering momentum has already netted more than 2,700 of the 3,000 signatures its organizers aimed for, with backing from notable figures like the National Congress of Black Women's E. Faye Williams. The petition calls on President Joe Biden to grant a full pardon to former Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, who is facing 40 years in federal prison when she's sentenced next month on fraud charges.

Petitioners claim the Department of Justice (DOJ) has sought to make an example of Mosby; a progressive prosecutor known for championing change in communities of color. According to the petition, rather than focusing on pressing issues like the Tulsa Race Massacre, DEI attacks, or hate crimes, the DOJ's pursuit of Mosby and other elected officials has been criticized as a distraction from more significant concerns.

A federal jury in February convicted Mosby, 44, on the federal charge of making a false mortgage application when she was Baltimore City State's Attorney, relating to the purchase of a condominium in Long Boat Key, Florida. The jury acquitted her of making a false mortgage application to purchase a home in Kissim-



Mosby

mee, Florida.

Prosecutors allege that Mosby made a false statement on an application for a \$428,400 mortgage to purchase a condominium in Long Boat Key, and, as part of the application, she falsely stated that she had received a \$5,000 gift from her husband for the property. The DOJ said Mosby made the false claim to secure a lower interest rate. They said her husband did not give her the \$5,000; instead, she transferred \$5,000 to him, and he then moved the \$5,000 back to her.

Mosby's record as a prosecutor is lauded in the petition, which highlights her groundbreaking achievements. As the youngest chief prosecutor of any major U.S. city in 2014, Mosby introduced innovative programs offering alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent drug offenders and initiated one of the nation's few youth and prevention departments.

However, prosecutors also won a perjury conviction

against Mosby for withdrawing funds from her retirement account, an action her supporters argued that several other Baltimore City employees also took during the pandemic without facing prosecution. Further, Mosby's supporters say the charges against her are unjust, particularly compared to the DOJ's typical pursuit of cases involving much more significant sums.

The petition also highlights the role of federal prosecutor Leo Wise in targeting Mosby. The petitioners said Wise is known for his history of profiling and pursuing Black elected officials, and his involvement in Mosby's case is suspect. The petitions also argue that Mosby's confrontation with the twice-impeached and four-times indicted former President Trump over potential federal agent deployments to Baltimore following George Floyd's murder is a catalyst for the subsequent federal investigation against her.

The petition invokes Article II, Section 2 of the United States Constitution, which empowers the president to grant pardons. Advocates argue that it's time for Biden to rectify perceived injustices, particularly those stemming from the previous administration's DOJ.

White House officials did not return messages this week about the matter.

Nutrition labels can be confusing

ALTO en GRASA

MEDIO en AZICAR

BAJO en SAL



Two symbols used abroad and an example of what a U.S. system could look like.

StatePoint

Shopping for groceries can be like navigating a maze: so many choices in every aisle, food packages covered in marketing claims and little direction on what is truly healthy and what isn't. People want to make healthy choices for themselves and their families, but how can they when the information available to them can be so overwhelming?

For years, the Nutrition Facts label on the back of food packages has provided important nutrition information, such as the amount of calories, fat, sodium, sugar, protein and vitamins and minerals. But all the numbers can be confusing, and they're not readily visible. Given America's high rates of diet-related disease and illness, advocates say that more must be done to make sure consumers have the information they need to make healthy choices.

That's why the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which sets standards for nutrition labeling, is developing a new labeling system that would appear on the front of food and beverage products, offering clear and concise information to help people quickly and easily identify healthier foods. Research from other countries shows that front-of-pack labeling helps consumers make healthier purchases and even gets manufacturers to make healthier products.

What could a front-of-pack label

look like? More than 40 countries already require it. Some countries use stoplight colors like red, yellow and green, or a grading system like a report card – A, B, C, D, E – to indicate how healthy a product is. Other countries use a warning system that indicates whether products include high amounts of added sugars, saturated fat or sodium. Approaches like these make it easy for consumers to understand with a quick glance what's healthy and what's not.

The success of front-of-pack labeling in other countries suggests it will help people in the United States make healthier choices that can improve well-being and reduce high rates of diet-related diseases, including some forms of heart disease and cancer. In fact, the National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine) recommended such a system more than 10 years ago, and national polls show most Americans support it.

The FDA plans to release a proposal for a front-of-pack food labeling system in the United States that can get everyone out of the food shopping maze.

"Clear, concise front-of-pack nutrition labeling is the answer. After all, grocery shopping shouldn't require a degree in nutrition," says Nancy Brown, CEO of the American Heart Association.

To stay informed and learn more, visit yourethecure.org/FOP

Five things to know about asthma and summer heat

StatePoint

Nearly 25 million people of all ages in the United States are living with asthma, a lifelong chronic disease that makes it harder to move air in and out of the lungs.

Here's what the American Lung Association wants everyone to know during summer, when extreme heat can make asthma harder to manage.

1. New challenges are emerging

Beyond traditional asthma triggers like respiratory infections, secondhand smoke and pets, new challenges are emerging. The effects of climate change include extreme heat, poor air quality, increased allergens, extreme weather events, and more frequent and intense wildfires, all of which are making asthma more difficult to manage.

Excessive heat and humidity increase the risk of asthma exacerbations, asthma-related hospitalization and asthma-related death, especially for children and women. Patients should limit time outdoors during heat waves, seek access to air conditioning and take steps to improve indoor air quality, as humidity allows dust mites and mold to thrive.

2. City dwellers are particularly vulnerable

Two-thirds of the average U.S. city is made up of roads, parking spaces, sidewalks and roofs. Since these surfaces are typically dark and non-porous, they contribute to flooding, increased air pollution, poor health and what is known as "urban heat," a phenomenon in which cities experience warmer temperatures than surrounding areas. Urban heat, combined with pollutants from power plants, motor vehicles and other pollution sources, creates ozone pollution, also known as smog. Those with asthma can experience symptoms like shortness of breath, wheezing and coughing from both ground-level ozone and particle pollution, as well as from the impacts of extreme weather and airborne allergens.

Sadly, these issues disproportionately impact certain communities. Due to a history of discriminatory practices like systematic denial of mortgages, insurance loans, and other financial services



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) FG TRADE / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES

on the basis of race and ethnicity, Black and Indigenous people, and other people of color, are more likely to be living in areas impacted by urban heat and poor air quality.

3. Flooding can harm lung health

Increased severe storms due to climate change results in more flooding, which can harm lung health. Chemicals, sewage, oil, gas and other dangerous substances found in floodwaters can pose health risks, and mold, associated with asthma attacks, can grow anywhere there is water or dampness.

4. Advocacy efforts are underway

The Smart Surfaces Coalition is made up of 40 national and international organizations committed to making Smart Surfaces the global urban design standard. Smart Surfaces encompass a suite of cutting-edge technologies, including reflective (cool) roofs and pavements, green roofs, trees, solar panels and rain gardens. Designed to mitigate urban heat, enhance air quality and improve health, these transformative urban features can cool cities by 5 degrees F, reduce flooding, provide economic benefits and potentially advance environmental justice.

The American Lung Association, an active member of the Smart Surfaces Coalition, encourages cities to take these actions:

- Install light-colored roads, parking lots and driveways to reflect sunlight and

reduce heat.

- Install solar panels to convert sunlight into electricity and provide shade for roofs.

- Plant trees to increase shade.

- Select porous surfaces to collect polluted stormwater, soak it into the ground, and filter out pollution.

Other strategies to reduce urban heat, air pollution and ozone levels include using public transportation carpooling, increasing green spaces and installing cooling centers in extreme conditions.

5. Resources are available

Educational programming can help people better manage the disease in summer and year-round. Patients can check out the self-management education programs, information and tools available at Lung.org/asthma or call the American Lung Association's Lung Helpline at 1-800-LUNGUSA.

Living with an illness, or being the caretaker to someone who is, can take a physical and emotional toll. Patients can get support and knowledge, and connect with others by joining the Lung Association's Patient & Caregiver Network.

For the 24.8 million Americans living with asthma, extreme summer temperatures and emerging environmental threats can make life more difficult. Fortunately, new educational resources and expanded programming can help patients navigate new and old challenges alike.

Q and A

By Vince Faust Tips to Be Fit

"I'm completely confused, does your salt intake matter?"

Alice

Columbia, SC

There's a battle raging between experts who think salt does or doesn't matter. New research suggests that if you are overweight salt matters even more.

In a 20-year study of thousands of people for each additional 1/4 teaspoons (tsp) of eaten daily by people who were overweight, the risk of dying from heart disease increased 61%.

Among people with a normal weight extra salt didn't bring extra risk. Your body only needs 500mg daily. 1/4 tsp of salt is 2,400 mgs.

If you want to avoid hidden salt read the labels on the food you eat. Lunchmeats like ham, chicken and roast beef can contain as much as 1,830 mgs. Instant rice blends can contain

1,450 mgs. A serving of cream of chicken soup can be as high as 1,240 mgs.

"I was on a high protein diet and lost 20 lbs. But now I can't stand the sight of beef, chicken or tuna. I've cut way back on protein, but I've gone up two dress sizes. This has me stressed out. What's happening to me?"

Faye

Boston, MA

High-protein diets tend to succeed in the short term not because protein has some magical power but because these diets are low in calories. Some are as low 1,200 calories per day. Once you stopped your high protein diet you changed to a diet that was higher in fat and calories. If you eat an extra 100 calories per day you could gain almost a pound a month.

There are better strategies than turning to a high protein diet. If you develop a balanced diet you can maintain the rest of your life along with a balance exercise program.

"Everyone talks about avoiding carbs, but does this advice apply to people who are in good shape and lift weights? It's hard for me to even maintain my weight. If I don't eat carbs I lose weight."

Alice

Columbia, SC

The "carbs are bad" theory has recently migrated from obscure bookstore shelves and Internet sites to mainstream media. Some experts are recommending we limit our consumption of bread, muffins, crackers and pasta. To clarify "bad" carbs are not vegetables, fruit or whole grains. Obvious "bad" carbs are candy, cookies, cakes and most refined and highly processed foods.

Most "bad" carbs start out with all of their nutrients but are stripped away during their processing to enhance color, taste and the amount of time it takes to eat it. A good example is bread. Most bread is considered refined. Part of the wheat kernel

is removed and other substances are added to make the bread. The other parts of the grain are sold to make other edible products. Bran flakes are made from the parts taken from the original wheat kernel.

The primary function of carbohydrates is to supply energy to all the cells in your body. In the body, carbohydrates are broken down into smaller of sugar molecules, such as glucose and fructose. Your small intestine absorbs these sugar molecules. From your intestines they enter the bloodstream and travel to the liver. Your liver converts these sugars into glucose, which is carried through the bloodstream accompanied by insulin. Your glucose is converted into energy for basic body functioning and physical activity.

"I run to work, so I have to put up with a lung full of car exhaust. Is it doing me any harm? Should I wear a mask?"

John

Tampa, FL

When you run, your lungs inhale 10 times the amount of air they do when you're simply breathing. If you can avoid the evil exhaust, do so. That car exhaust can do you harm. The chemical brutes are sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen and hydrocarbons. These substances irritate your lungs and actually constrict the air passages, making it difficult to breathe. Most masks won't help because they don't filter the fine particles and gases from the exhaust.

"Why is it that cold water quenches my thirst, but hot water doesn't? It's all water, right? Or am I just wet?"

Linda

Washington, DC

When you are thirsty the water level in your blood is low causing your blood to thicken causing your body to flip on your thirst warning. Then you suddenly think "I need a cold one." Cold fluids empty from your stomach into your intestines and into

your blood stream faster than hot fluids. As your blood volume gets back to normal your brain turns off your thirst switch. The colder the drink, the faster the fluid gets from your stomach to the small intestine and into your blood stream.

"My husband and I have been exercising for eight months and are happy that we have both lost more than 20 pounds. At first I could barely last five minutes on our treadmill, but now I run 30 minutes a day and lift weights every other day. However, we are both so exhausted all the time. Why is this? We eat lots of veggies and low-fat foods and limit our calories to 1,300 a day."

George

Wilmington, DE

You're tied because you're not eating nearly enough calories to fuel your daily activities, let alone your workout. The average female needs about 2,000 calories a day and the average male needs about 2,500 calories.

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www.mississippilink.com

LEGAL

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

LEGAL

Cooperative Energy

is currently identifying vendors for the following services during an emergency:

- Lodging Facilities
- Catering Services
- Laundry Services
- Debris Services
- Transmission Line Construction

Please contact akeene@cooperativeenergy.com by no later than May 9, 2024 if you wish to be considered as a potential vendor.

4/25/2024, 5/2/2024, 5/9/2024

LEGAL

Advertisement for BID 3261 ESSER Renovations for Timberlawn Elementary School

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until

10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) Thursday, May 23, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Timberlawn Elementary School will be held at 1900 North Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39209 on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmp-projects.com. A \$200.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid specs/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 Cody Farris at Duvall Decker. Phone:601-713-1128 or Email: cnf@duvalldecker.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 JPDS Board Room, 621 South State Street,

Jackson, MS 39201. All bid openings will be recorded and uploaded to the JPDS web site at www.jackson.k12.ms.us at YouTube: /JPSITV for public viewing. Due to COVID 19, vendors will not be allowed to sit in on bids openings.

4/25/2024, 5/2/2024

LEGAL

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

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.

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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

LEGAL

SECTION 1 ADVERTISEMENT

CITY OF JACKSON

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

The City Clerk of the City of Jackson will receive bids for the replacement of bridge located on Martin Luther King Drive, no later than 3:30 P.M., Local Prevailing Time, May 04, 2024 in the Municipal Clerk's Office located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud. The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

- 1) Removal/Replacement of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Bridge in its entirety plus related approach work.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein. Contract time shall be 75 consecutive calendar days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. The amount of liquidated damages per day will be \$500.00 plus any additional actual costs above \$500.00 incurred by the Owner. These actual costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full an equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Ms. Yika Hoover (Manager) in the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal form to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for CITY OF JACKSON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT. Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal. Bids and EBO Plans shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City Clerk Office, City Hall - 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

A pre-bid conference will be held on May 16, at 11:00 A.M in the Public Works Department 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations:

1. City of Jackson - Public Works - Warren Hood Bldg. 4th Floor; Engineering Office, 200 South President St., Jackson, Mississippi 39201.
2. CIVILTech, Inc., 5420 Executive Place, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206

Copies of the Contract Documents, Contract Drawings and Contract Specifications maybe procured through the following:

1. All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained from CIVILTech, Inc., located at 5420 Executive Place Jackson, MS 39206 (Mailing address: P.O. Box 12852 Jackson, MS 39236-2852) upon payment of \$100.00 for each set, which will not be refunded.
2. All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained through Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com, upon payment for each set, which will not be refunded. Electronic Bids may be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions related to electronic bidding, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the City of Jackson as bid surety. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount.

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the "Mississippi Road and Bridge Construction, 2017", together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications.

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

Louis Wright
Chief Administrative Office

5/2/2024, 5/9/2024

Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Tom Hanks

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Z V B H E W M V E Y Y B Z V X S M W M C

E T T T T E

C H L M X S Z Y T X S F X L F U M C B H E

T E E E

T F E T S X S M Y M Q M W B P F B C T H Z Y T

T E

X H R M H U F B

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Sudoku

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

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

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Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ
 FRJJPMTVTSZGUILLYHDAWCEQKINBIO

IF YOU'RE FUNNY, IF THERE'S
 ZV BHE WM VEYYB ZV XSMWM C
 SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU
 CHLMXSZY T XSFY LFUMC BHE
 LAUGH, THEN EVERY DAY'S GOING
 TFETS XSMY MQMWB PFB C THZYT
 TO BE OKAY.
 XH RM HUF B

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Sudoku Solution

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

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 3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
 2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
 4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
 5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
 1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
 304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
 2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
 104 Terry Rd
J & A FUEL STORES
 3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
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 Northside Drive
MCDADDE'S MARKET #2
 653 Duling Avenue
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 Jackson Medical Mall
 350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
 5492 Watkins Drive

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MURPHY USA
 6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
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 Terry Rd (South Jackson)
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 380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON
A & I
 716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
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 702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
 3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
 Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
 743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
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HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
 285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
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 507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
 110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
LACY'S INSURANCE
 421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
 257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
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 22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

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 5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

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 5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
 Terry Road

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CITY HALL
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Freshman CBC member Congresswoman Summer Lee wins big after being targeted by AIPAC

By Lauren Victoria Burke,
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Rep. Summer Lee (D-PA), who was formally targeted for defeat by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) won her primary challenge on April 23.

Rep. Lee won easily over a primary candidate recruited by AIPAC, 61 percent to 31 percent. On the last weekend of the primary campaign, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez campaigned alongside Lee.

Along with the NRA and Planned Parenthood, AIPAC is one of the most powerful and influential lobbying groups in U.S. politics. Back in September 2023, it was revealed that AIPAC was recruiting candidates to primary Black members of Congress who spoke out in support of stipulations on U.S. aid to Israel. Israel receives over \$3.3 billion annually from the U.S.

AIPAC has many Republican donors but the group has also funded members of the CBC. The list includes Maryland Rep. Rep. Glenn Ivey, House Democratic Caucus Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, Rep. Valerie Foushee of North Carolina, Ohio Rep. Shontel Brown, and New York Rep. Rep. Ritchie Torres.



Representative Summer Lee (D-PA) (Official photo U.S. House of Representatives.)

Though Torres' Bronx New York district is 54 percent Hispanic and 30 percent Black, with an average household income of only \$42,000, Torres is one of the loudest and most energetic defenders of Israel in the U.S. Congress.

Rep. Lee, who represents parts of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County in Pennsylvania, is the first member of "The Squad" to face a 2024 primary challenge during the 2024 election cycle. Lee's district is 72 percent white and 15 percent Black. Her decisive victory will likely signal how strong progressive power is currently and how voters view the current conflict in the Middle East.

Rep. Lee supports Medicare-for-all, the Green New Deal and a ceasefire in Gaza.

After the October 7, 2023 attack by the militant Palestinian terrorist group Hamas that killed over 1,300 Israelis, the Israeli government led by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared war on Hamas. Since October 2023 over 30,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza by the Israeli Defense Forces. Many elected officials on the left are defining Israeli's military reaction against Palestine "genocide."

"The Squad" in congress is made up of the most progressive Democrats who often speak out on what they view as anti-corporate politics focused on principle. But their positions on the Middle East, which tend to speak out against the decisions of the Israeli government, have put them at odds with AIPAC.

Rep. Lee's challenger, a member of the local City Council, Bhavini Patel, made her vocal support of Israel a cornerstone of her campaign. She was critical of Congresswoman Lee for her position on the Israel-Hamas conflict. Other members of "The Squad" such as Reps. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN), are also facing primary challengers sup-

ported and funded by AIPAC.

In Michigan over 100,000 voters cast their vote as "uncommitted" in order to register a protest against President Biden's policy on Israel and in favor of a ceasefire. That 13 percent of the vote was a wake-up call for the Biden Administration on Middle East policy. Regardless, the U.S. House and U.S. Senate voted to send \$26 billion to Israel and \$60 billion to Ukraine on April 20 and April 23.

Rep. Summer Lee voted against the total of \$95 billion in tax money going overseas to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. The legislation also included a ban on the social media app TikTok unless they change their leadership structure.

Leadership in the Congressional Black Caucus has been almost silent on AIPAC's funding against incumbent CBC members.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent investigative journalist and the publisher of Black Virginia News. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered and speaks on Crisis Comms on YouTube @ LaurenVictoriaBurke. She can be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

Former MS State chair denied reinstatement by national party

The Mississippi Link Newswire

On Friday, April 27 during the DNC Credentials Committee ZOOM meeting, former Mississippi State Democratic Party chair Tyree Irving was denied his appeal to return to the office.

The Credentials Committee voted unanimously (25-0) to recognize State Representative Cheikh Taylor as Permanent Chair. Taylor was elected by a 2-1 vote by the State Executive Committee at a July 2023 meeting and has served as chair since then. In addition to filing the challenge with the national party, Irving also took the extraordinary measure of suing his own party in Hinds County Chancery Court in connection with his removal. That lawsuit is still pending.

"The Credentials Committee's ruling puts those matters behind us as far as party matters are concerned, and it comes just in time for us to set our sights on the November Presidential election ahead of us," Taylor said. "Mississippi Democrats are serious about turning this state purple, and that is where our focus clearly is."

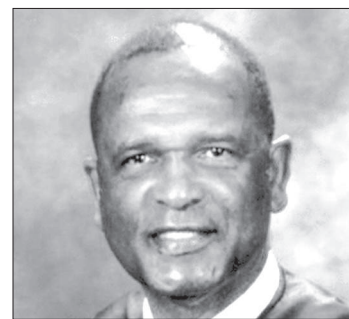
Taylor will remain state chairman until June of this year when he will run for a full four year term.

About Mississippi Democratic Party

The Mississippi Democratic Party is dedicated to advancing



Rep. Cheikh Taylor, MS Dem Party chair



Tyree Irving, former MS Dem Party chair

progressive values, fostering inclusive policies, and promoting equal representation for all Mississippians. As the state's leading Democratic organization, we work tirelessly to build a strong and diverse coalition, advocate for meaningful change, and support Democratic candidates who champion social justice, economic fairness, and access to quality healthcare and education. Together, we strive to create a brighter future for Mississippi by ensuring that every voice is heard and every vote counts.



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The war in Israel is causing discord and disruptions on our college campuses

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



I enjoyed my days as a college student. In college, I met students from many parts of America and other countries. As a result, I developed life-long friends.

College was a time for receiving new knowledge, new ideas and new ways of thinking about important events. My teachers were the best academically and they wanted us to do our best each day. Plainly stated, they cared about us.

These times also had with them social unrest which led to marches and demonstrations. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came to my college, an HBCU to encourage us to become

involved in the Civil Rights Movement. Back in the day, they were simply called Black schools. I will never forget his presence on our campus.

It was a defining moment for me as I was developing my philosophy about social justice issues. During that time, it was important for me to gain perspectives from men and women who had courage and persistence.

My first protest march was in my hometown of Winston-Salem NC at the K&W Cafeteria. The march centered around Black people not being able to eat at that restaurant. I, along with my friends were in high school at the time.

Segregation was a central theme in my coming of age in North Carolina. Not eating in certain restaurants and sitting in the balcony at movie the-

aters happened during my early days.

Student protests have been going on for a long time. Records and history will show when students do protest, they have good reason to do so.

Students are now protesting in increasing numbers over the Israel-Hamas war. Israel and Palestine have been enemies for centuries. Issues involving land and rights have festered into full scale wars and loss of life. American presidents like Jimmy Carter have tried to intervene with only short-term success.

Now in this latest battle, thousands of innocent people have lost their lives and hostages are being held. News reports paint a desperate and dangerous picture.

One report about the war in Israel reads, "Since the terrorist

organization Hamas launched its attacks on Israeli soil on October 7, 2023 around 1,200 Israelis died and 5,431 were injured. Through retaliation attacks by the Israeli Armed Forces against Hamas in Gaza 33,797 Palestinians were killed and 76,465 were injured."

These numbers are sad and staggering. Families have been forever torn apart because of this war. Dreams of success have become nightmares of reality.

Students in American colleges and universities want this war to end. They want the death and dying to stop. Some student protests have become violent. College presidents like Liz Magill (University of Pennsylvania) and Claudine Gay (Harvard University) have lost their jobs because of their expressed views about this war.

Student protests and police involvement have occurred at Emerson College, Stanford University, Indiana University and Emory University. The University of Southern California recently canceled their commencement exercises because of possible threats to campus safety.

Morehouse College will have President Joe Biden as its commencement speaker. Already, students and faculty are questioning the college's decision to have him speak. Provost Kendrick Brown said, "From our perspective, really having a sitting president come to Morehouse offers an incredible opportunity. This is something that is in line with Morehouse's mission and also with this objective of being a place that allows for engagement of social justice issues and moral con-

cerns." The war over there will affect the elections over here. Students will have a strong say in who becomes the next president. Mildly put, students are letting President Biden and Vice President Harris know their views about the war in Israel. Clearly, it has become a worldwide topic of heated discussion.

An interesting proposal has been put forward by Senator Chuck Schumer, Senate Majority leader. He has made the assertion to have an independent Palestinian state along side Israel. Will that happen? At this moment, there are more questions than answers.

Futuristically, there will be a correlation between the war in Israel and student demonstrations. We will see what happens.

DEI confronts the legacy of Jim Crow

We need DEI programs to help remedy decades of Jim Crow policies that led to underinvestment in Black and Brown students

By Ron Reynolds
Texas State Representative



As a lawmaker, a parent, and a member of a community that has felt the sting of

systemic injustices, it's time to confront the uncomfortable truths of our past and pave the way toward a more just future, especially in our education system.

Centuries of discriminatory policies stemming from systemic racism have left lasting scars on Black and Brown communities. State-sanctioned policies have deprived generations of students of the opportunities they deserve. These policies have relegated students to inferior schools, underfunded classrooms, and a future shrouded in inequality.

Today, the echoes of those injustices still reverberate in our educational institutions. Despite progress, glaring disparities persist, with Black and Brown students disproportionately facing barriers to success. It's time to acknowledge that simply removing overtly discriminatory laws is not enough. We must actively work to dismantle the systemic biases and structures that continue to perpetuate inequality.

This is where diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

programs become not just an educational necessity but also a moral imperative. By embracing DEI initiatives in our schools, we acknowledge the unique challenges marginalized communities face and commit to addressing them head-on. These programs provide a framework for creating inclusive environments where every student, regardless of race or background, feels valued, supported, and empowered to thrive.

Critics may argue that DEI programs are unnecessary or even divisive. They couldn't be more wrong. DEI is not about singling out any group; it's about ensuring every student has a sense of belonging and can succeed. The goal is to promote empathy, comprehension, and cultural competence among students and educators. It's about recognizing that diversity is not a hindrance but a strength—one that enriches the educational experience for everyone.

Moreover, DEI programs are not just about rectifying past wrongs but about building a brighter future for all. By breaking down barriers and fostering inclusivity, we address the injustices of the past and lay the groundwork for a more just society moving forward. When every child has access to a quality education and feels supported in their journey, we

all reap social, economic, and moral benefits.

Implementing DEI programs has challenges, but the rewards far outweigh the obstacles. It requires policymakers, educators, parents, and communities to prioritize equity and inclusivity in all aspects of education. It demands uncomfortable conversations, introspection, and a willingness to confront our own biases. But if we genuinely believe in the promise of equality and justice for all, there is no other path forward.

As we reflect on the legacy of Jim Crow and the injustices it wrought, let us not despair but rather draw inspiration from the resilience of those who fought for change. It's shameful that the MAGA Movement has attacked the marginal progress we've made under DEI programs. They are reversing history with anti-DEI and critical race theory policies under the leadership of MAGA extremists like Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Let us honor their legacy by redoubling our efforts to create a more just society, starting with our schools. Let us embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion as not just buzzwords but guiding principles in our quest for a brighter future for all our children.

Wives, don't push your husbands to the rooftop

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



One of the most famous bible stories involves David. David is described as a Man after God's Heart. He is also depicted

as being extremely handsome. He was a king who was divinely chosen by God to serve as King of Israel. Also, he was a married man. One day King David according to Second Samuel 11, had previously been successful in winning battles and a new year was approaching for King David to engage in battle again. However, he sent his military leaders and soldiers ahead while he remained in Jerusalem. The bible doesn't make it clear why he remained in Jerusalem – we just know that he waited behind.

We could guess as to why David chose to remain in Jerusalem. He could have stayed for the following reasons: fear, fear of losing the battles, fear of dying, may have simply been tired, wasn't mentally prepared, might've still been packing, possibly making sure everything was in place before he left regarding his family and kingdom, and/or maybe he was dealing with a nagging wife. Anyhow, he woke from his bed one evening and walked upon the roof top of his house.

I know many wives will possibly disagree, but did David's wife perhaps push him to the rooftop of his house? Proverbs 25:24 states: "It is better to live in a corner on the roof than inside the house with a quarreling wife." Some biblical texts utilize the term nagging, contentious, etc. to describe the type of wife that can lead a man to dwelling on their roof top. Did David wife push him out to the rooftop?

What is a quarreling – contentious wife? This refers to a wife

who is annoying, argumentative, controversial, and shows little to no respect for their husband.

What are the indicators that you are a contentious – nagging wife? In other words, how do wives annoy their husbands? The following are indicators that you are a contentious wife:

- Nothing is ever good enough
- Complains about everything
- Constantly ask husband to do this and that – let the brother come in and relax at least for a few hours – I previously did this to my husband but now I just give him a list of the things that needs to be done – this is a categorical list that ranges from top to least priority and it comes with no specific deadline – list and deadlines can range from days to several months (depends on the situation)...Example: I gave my husband a list in September, 2023 with no deadline – Top Priority items – replace light bulbs/clean vacuum out – Least priority, yet important too – replace our bedroom carpet with new flooring, paint bedroom walls – I didn't rush him to do it but did request that he do it by our anniversary in December – he completed it in November

- Ungrateful
- Always start arguments
- You are always right
- Husband is always wrong
- Husband's insight, guidance, and leadership if often ignored or taken for granted
- Make decisions behind your husband's back regarding your home, children, finances, businesses, churches, etc.
- Show no respect when he is talking – interrupt and talk over your husband
- Withhold sex due to your constant headaches, hiccups, etc.
- Withhold sex as a means of punishment
- Utilize sex to manipulate husband into getting what you want
- Everything is ALWAYS about

YOU Often putting everything and everyone before your husband

Wives, I warned you last week to get ready, get ready, get ready because the spring done brought them out – you know the bill collectors. You have women walking around half naked collecting men, your man/husband to pay their bills, etc. – BILL COLLECTORS – "They out!" Therefore, if you happen to be anything described above – please stop it before you help plays a role in destroying your marriage and home. King David innocently walked out on his rooftop and happened to see Bethsheba, a very beautiful woman bathing from a distance. He decided to sleep with her, got her pregnant, and eventually had her husband killed when his other plans failed (read Second Samuel 11).

In conclusion, can wives push their husbands to the rooftops? Can wives push their husbands into the lap of another woman? Unfortunately, I believe the answer is YES! Of course, men should flee but your husband is human and has some hint of a dog; can be a puppy or a full-grown dog – probably should get you a nice leash! If you have a good husband – be grateful – love and respect him! Wives don't push your husbands to the rooftop!

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: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

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The Fruit of the Spirit is Love

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



Love is a much-abused term. Because of our experiences, we all have somewhat different ideas about it. The most prevalent notion in the western world is that love is a warm, topsy-turvy feeling, a thrill one gets in the pit of the stomach or a tingle running up and down the spine. We think of it as a warm sense of regard, a strong desire to be with or be satisfied by someone or something. Some have equated it with caring, benevolent giving or nothing more than sheer emotionalism.

On occasion, we use the term very casually and loosely. People express their "love" for the liturgy of a certain church. Some will say they just "love" ice cream, a certain

beer, pizza, style of house, color, automobile, fashion, performer or team. People say they love an endless number of things. What some call "love," a theologian might call unbri- dled lust.

But these statements become ridiculous once we begin to understand what biblical love is. People's "love" of something is merely an opinion, a preference – not love – and to use "love" in this way devalues it. Preference must be a part of true love, but by itself, that caring feeling or preference is not love. To care about something is not love either. One can care to the point of obsession or lust. A measure of caring must be a part of true love, but by itself, that caring feeling or preference is not love.

In 1 Corinthians 13, the Bible reveals love's supreme importance to life. Paul directly compares love's value

to faith, hope, prophecy sacrifice, knowledge and the gift of tongues and directly with all other gifts of God mentioned in Chapter 12. He in no way denigrates the other's usefulness to life and God's purpose, but none can compare in importance to love.

The Corinthians took great pleasure in their gifts, just as we would, but a gift's relative importance is shown in its temporal quality. That is, there are times when a gift is of no use. But love will never end, it will always be of use. Indeed, the receiving of gifts from God – unless accompanied by and used with love – have the potential to corrupt the one receiving them.

God's gifts are powers given to enhance a person's ability to serve God in the church. However, we have all heard the cliché, "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." If gifts are not received

and used with love, they will play a part in corrupting the recipient just as they were corrupting the Corinthians. Love is the attribute of God that enables us to receive and use His gifts without corruption.

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 8:1, "Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies (builds up)." "Puffs up," when opposed to "edifies," implies tearing down, destruction. Paul is saying that pride has the power to corrupt the bearer of knowledge. This statement is part of the prologue to the great chapter on love, written because the Corinthians had allowed their emphasis to drift into the wrong areas. Even as a gift from God, knowledge has the potential to corrupt its recipient, if it is unaccompanied by love.

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

P R E S E R V E D

Diamond Life

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Over 30 years ago when I worked as an administrative assistant, I had a sign over my work area that read "a diamond is a chunk of coal that made good under pressure." Part of the reason that I kept this sign for daily inspiration was because I was unfulfilled with my job and needed the assurance that this quote brought that I would ultimately come out a better person. I find myself going back to that quote because of the truth it offers.

Like some of you, I often find myself in a position where I am trying to maintain balance in my life while still effectively handling pressure. Much like a piece of coal, there are experiences, good and bad, that are designed to bring pressure to my life. For example, I began 2020 praying to see and hear God in a more intimate way. In 2020, my daddy died, and I lived and worked most of the year in complete isolation because of the global coronavirus pandemic. What I heard from well-meaning friends and family who saw me living through these chaotic moments and my responses to it, were statements intended to uplift me like "You can handle it...you're a strong Black woman." However, my unspoken response was "how much stronger do I need to be?"

A few years ago, I listened to a sermon by Dr. Claudette Copeland in which she was talking about the advantages and disadvantages of being a strong Black woman. She said that pressure makes a man strong...but it makes a woman hard. When I heard the words, I thought about it for a few minutes

and agreed with its truth. As women and especially African-American women, we are encouraged to be strong in our jobs, churches and families but seemingly are criticized if we become too strong or too independent.

Dr. Copeland's point was that women do have to sometimes handle situations and experiences that can make us bitter or angry that we had to endure so much with so very little support. Part of the reason why this happens is because in order to handle pressure emotionally and spiritually, women choose to turn our emotions off, like a faucet, instead of taking the flood of emotions to God.

We may even choose to not lean on those that God has placed in our lives for support because we don't want to "bother them." But as hard as the situation may be, we must work just as hard that we don't allow it to make us emotionally inflexible, distant and dysfunctional.

Even though I wish my daddy were still alive and that I'd had companionship during the pandemic, those 2020 experiences have made me stronger, wiser and more valuable.

Job 23:10 reminds us about how testing by God is designed to make us stronger: "But he knows the way that I take. When he has tested me, I shall come forth as gold." It's not always easy to do, but we have to remember that God has designed us to be like that little chunk of coal that becomes a more valuable diamond because of the pressure.

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

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Celebrating 20 years of service in the Greater Jackson Area

A child's first three years hold the power to unlock bright, strong futures

By Ernestine Benedict
Chief Communication Officer,
ZERO TO THREE

The first three years of a child's life lay the foundation for lifelong health and well-being. From the moment they're born, babies soak up every interaction and experience from their environments and love from their caregivers. Babies' brains grow rapidly during those earliest days, weeks and months, forming 1 million neural connections every second.

Understanding the significance of these early stages lies at the heart of ZERO TO THREE's mission. As the premier organization that translates the science of early childhood into action, we recognize the profound impact these early experiences have on shaping the trajectory of a child's life and our collective future.

When we're born, we have billions of neurons. But they're not, for the most part, connected. Connections between synapses – or signals sent through the brain – are strengthened through repeated positive experiences. These connections are vital in helping babies learn the essentials they need to survive and thrive.

As science has provided us a window into how the brain develops and can be nurtured, it has also documented how the early years can lead to profound and lasting gains in



ZERO TO THREE brought together families from all 50 states and Washington, D.C. at the end of April for its Strolling Thunder rally on Capitol Hill

school achievement and lifelong success...or not. Research shows that early adverse experiences become integrated into our bodies, impacting lifelong development, emotional success and mental and physical health. This stark reality is one where disparities in access to resources and high-quality care create barriers to success, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality.

There are 11 million infants and toddlers in the United States, and each is born with unlimited potential. In communities across the country, families are striving to give their children a good start in life. They share a common desire for their babies to be healthy,

happy and secure. Yet far too many families face considerable obstacles. Decades of underinvestment in systems for supporting the health and well-being of young children and the insidious impacts of systemic racism often stand in their way. In the U.S., roughly 2 million infants and toddlers live in poverty. About 40% live in families without enough income to make ends meet.

When parents and caregivers receive the support they need to foster close connections and healthy relationships with their babies, they can serve as a buffer against the impacts of ongoing and inherited trauma many families face every day. That's why ZERO TO THREE

is leading the Think Babies™ movement, advocating for policy changes to address urgent priorities – maternal health, infant and early childhood mental health, early learning and child care, housing and economic security.

Families from all 50 states and Washington, D.C. came together on April 30 for the 8th annual Strolling Thunder™ rally on Capitol Hill, urging policymakers to take bold action now. Our collective message is clear: By investing in policies that support the well-being of babies, we can ensure all children have an equal opportunity to thrive throughout life and build a brighter, stronger, healthier future for our nation.

JPS Board approves demolition of three closed schools



Baker Elementary



French Elementary



Woodville Heights Elementary

The JPS Newswire

At its regular meeting on April 18, 2024, the Board of Trustees approved a recommendation from Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene and the administration for the demolition of the following closed school sites:

Baker Elementary, located at 300 E. Santa Clair Street

French Elementary, located at 311 Joel Avenue

Woodville Heights Elementary, located at 2930 McDowell Road Extension.

After several weeks of deliberation by the Facilities Repurposing Advisory Committee (FRAC), it was recommended that the aforementioned buildings be demolished due to a lack of interest from potential buyers for redevelopment, primarily attributed to their location.

Superintendent Greene stated, "We determined that the economic value and condition of those properties were not strong after a Request for Interest was issued. We can no longer afford the carrying costs for maintaining the upkeep of the buildings, which have become victims of vandalism."

The district's inability to ensure the vacant buildings' security further contributed to the recommendation.

A demolition date has not been scheduled yet.

The district will be seeking input from the community on what to do with the empty spaces once demolition is completed. Some options could include green spaces or neighborhood walking trails or community gardens.

JPS celebrates grand opening of new baseball, softball field complex

The JPS Newswire

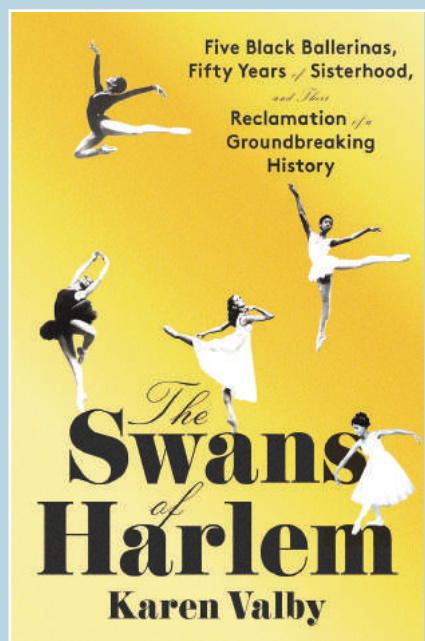
Jackson Public Schools is excited to announce the completion of a new baseball and softball field complex situated at the Hardy Hughes Athletic Complex.

Dozens of athletes, educators and community leaders attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the milestone.

The field features modern design and engineering. The baseball diamond has groomed infield dirt and outfield grass with new dugouts and seating and scoreboard. The softball field, adjacent to the baseball diamond, mirrors the same level of quality and attention to detail, featuring a well-maintained playing surface and seating for spectators. "The addition of these facilities not only elevates the ath-

letic programs within the district but also serves as a focal point for community pride and involvement," said JPS Athletic Director Daryl Jones.





BOOK REVIEW: THE SWANS OF HARLEM: FIVE BLACK BALLERINAS, FIFTY YEARS OF SISTERHOOD, AND THE RECLAMATION OF A GROUNDBREAKING HISTORY BY KAREN VALBY C.2024, PANTHEON \$29.00 • 304 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Not one movement is wasted. Every turn of wrist, every finger curl, every softly curved step is loaded with meaning. Though there are no words to accompany this dance, the story it tells comes through loudly.

You can't take your eyes off the ballerina on the stage, or her elegance or, in the new book "The Swans of Harlem" by Karen Valby, her history-making presence.

In the 1950s, long before the Civil Rights Movement, little

Black girls could certainly be found in ballet classes in America but their dreams were always squashed. They were pointed toward jazz or modern dance in short order, or were bluntly told that they'd never be ballerinas.

Dancer Arthur Mitchell didn't listen to that. "His work ethic was his superpower," says Valby, and when presented with an opportunity with The Harlem School of the Arts, he seized it. He would "build an internationally renowned school that would" show the world that ballet had nothing to do with skin color. He started

looking for dancers.

Lydia Abarca was still a teenager when she met Mitchell, and she ultimately became his go-to dancer at the Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH). Llanchie Stevenson would dance for Mitchell until she converted to Islam as an adult. Gayle-McKinney-Griffith left Julliard to dance for him. Twenty-seven-year-old Sheila Rohan was much older than most beginner ballerinas; she was also the mother of three kids but with the help of an older sister, she joined the DTH. Marcia Sells moved to New York City from

Ohio to dance; Karlya Shelton came from Denver.

Says Valby, it would've been so easy for any of them to go home when things got hard, to return to their families, and re-start live anonymous lives. Instead, they stayed for the "next curtain rising" and to blaze a path.

Not long ago, many sources insisted that Misty Copeland was "the first black ballerina." It was, says author Karen Valby, all "Misty Copeland, Misty Copeland, Misty Copeland..." Yes, it's true that Copeland was "the first African-American woman to

be promoted to principal dancer at American Ballet Theatre." She wasn't the first Black ballerina, though, not by a long shot, and "The Swans of Harlem" sets the record straight.

Valby begins by reminding readers what was at stake when her five ballerina subjects launched their careers, despite racism – but how they endured racial bias from beyond the curtains is just half the story. Valby touches lightly upon their private lives, and heavier on the trouble they had with their mercurial teacher who is, not-so-surpris-

ingly, celebrated. So are many beloved male "danseurs," some of whom died during the AIDS epidemic.

For the record, Copeland, too, is lauded here.

And that's pretty appealing, because readers who expect rivalry, claws-out, and divahood in a tale like this will happily find less than they might predict. Instead, you'll find a story that you'll be glad you know now, one you'll be satisfied to have read.

So find "The Swans of Harlem." You want it, so don't waste a minute.



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The Juanita Sims Doty Foundation holds its 2024 Choose to Grow Awards Recognition Celebration

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Juanita Sims Doty Foundation (JSDF) held its 2024 National CHOOSE TO GROW Awards and Recognition Celebration program at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, at the Westin Jackson Hotel. Dr. Karla McCullough, Choose to Grow project director gave opening remarks.

This culminating event celebrated the 2023-2024 Medgar Evers Ambassadors of the Year, the 2023-2024 Myrlie Evers Gems of the Year and the Thea Bowman Mentors of the Year.

The A-TEAAM (males) and ESTEEM (females) Academic and Mentoring program sites include Blackburn and Powel Middle Schools in Jackson; In His Steps Ministries in Canton and the Milam Elementary School in Tupelo.

The 7th edition of their publication “! I CAN Imagine: Voices of A-TEAAM and ESTEEM Young Authors” was unveiled. More than 100 middle



Award presented to Dr. Victor Sutton (center), Juanita Doty (left) and Karla McCullough (right) PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Award presented to Dr. Karla McCullough (center), Juanita Doty (left) and Karla McCullough (right)

school males and females wrote essays that were included in the publication.

The Dr. Yvonne T. Maddox Health Equity Ambassador, Advocate and Leader (HEAAL) Award was presented to Dr. Victor D. Sutton and the Dr. Karla

McCullough Drum Major for Social Justice Award was presented to Dr. Aisha Nyandoro.

The JSD Foundation partnered with the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute and the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.” (TLOD). The JSDF celebrated

its 10th year partnership with TLOD.

The following sites celebrated by zoom with the Mississippi sites: Houston Chapter; Sugar Valley (Houston) Chapter; Humble (Houston) Chapter and Shreveport Chapter.

Mentoring Coordinator Dr. Juanita Sims Doty stated, “Since the beginning of the A-TEAAM and ESTEEM programs, more than 2,200 middle school students have benefitted from this academic, leadership and character development pro-

gram.” Co-hosts for the celebration program were Ambassador Ephraim Hill ‘16, Ambassador Kamari Brooks, ‘18, Ambassador Armaun Jackson ‘14 and Ambassador Armaun Jackson, ‘14.



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HCSD FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

The GRI Jr. Bulldog choir and dance ensemble performed the elementary portion of the HCSD Fine Arts Festival for the students and staff at Gary Road Intermediate School on April 4, 2024. The students sang "A Million Dreams" from The Greatest Showman with soloists Faith Minor, Nava Jackson, Noelle Bailey, Ivy Smith, Ava Grace Kenny and Taylor Jackson. They also sang "Ease on Down the Road" from The Wiz featuring the GRI dance ensemble.

