



## Department of Justice listens to Rankin citizens

DOJ, Marshall Service, and FBI hearing complaints directly from citizens

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

A gathering took place on May 21, 2024, from 6-7:30 p.m., at the Brandon Public Library at 1475 W. Government Street in Rankin County. The goal was as simple as it was significant, to ensure the voices of the citizens were being heard. Previous gatherings have been hosted by the Rankin County NAACP over the oppressive law enforcement practices raised to the national spotlight by “The Goon Squad” in January 2023, when six of its white members brutally assaulted and tortured two black men – Micheal Jenkins and Eddie Parker, in a private home.

The previous NAACP Town Hall meetings presided over by Angela English, president of the Rankin County Branch, have grown in scope over time and have clearly had an impact. This time the event was hosted not by the NAACP, but by the federal government, specifically the U.S. Department of Justice.

The meeting was opened by Assistant U.S. Attorney Max Meyers, who introduced the numerous federal law enforcement officers in the room, prior to introducing the ranking officer, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mis-



Asst. U.S. Attorney Max Meyers PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG



U.S. Attorney Todd W. Gee



(R-L) Meyers, NAACP Rankin Co. Branch President Angela English and Branch Media Technology Specialist Will Sims

issippi, Todd W. Gee. Meyers highlighted his office’s focus on “Civil rights issues in areas ranging from racially discriminatory policing to education to sex and gender discrimination...we are not part of the state of Mississippi, Rankin County, or the City of Brandon. We have our own jurisdiction and our own authority. We prosecute criminal cases and bring civil lawsuits on behalf of the United States...this is an evening for us to hear from you and create an avenue for you to communicate directly with us.”

Meyers and his colleague, Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Giv-

ens Williams served as moderators for the listening session.

U.S. Attorney Gee, born in Vicksburg, made clear, “We are here for a listening session on civil rights. The U.S. Department of Justice uses meetings like this to hear from folks like ya’ll – directly from the source about things that have happened to you, people you know, experiences you may have had where your civil rights may have been violated. We all hope that one day we will not need to have meetings like this anymore, but we know that we have a long way to go here in Rankin County, in Mississippi, and in America

before we can truly say that the rights of all people are treated fairly and equally.”

He went on to tick off a lengthy list of civil rights crimes in Mississippi, and said “The hate-fueled torture of two African-American men here in Rankin County, Mr. Parker and Mr. Jenkins, that happened in January of last year, would have been a uniquely horrible event even if it had happened in Mississippi in the 1950’s or 1960’s. The fact that it happened in 2023 is only all the more tragic. We are still a long way from

Rankin  
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## Olivia Bonds ‘Miss Sweetheart America’ crowned ‘Miss Sweetheart World 2024’

Breaking Barriers and Inspiring Change



Mississippi native Olivia Bonds crowned Miss Sweetheart World

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Olivia Bonds, a native of Mississippi, has achieved a historic milestone in pageantry by being crowned Miss Sweetheart World 2024. Bonds, the first African American to hold the titles of Miss Sweetheart America, Miss Mississippi Sweetheart America, and now, Miss Sweetheart World, has not only showcased exceptional talent and grace but also shattered barriers.

The Miss Sweetheart Orga-

nization proudly announces Bonds’ victory, highlighting her extraordinary journey as a suicide survivor and advocate. Her remarkable vocal prowess, reminiscent of legends like Patti Labelle, Stephanie Mills and Aretha Franklin, is a testament to her resilience and dedication to making a positive impact. Bonds’ triumph as Miss Sweetheart World shatters stereotypes and serves as a

Bonds  
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## Jackson, MS to host the National Folk Festival, 2025 - 2027

The nation’s longest-running traditional arts event is coming to downtown Jackson

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba announced Tuesday at a press conference by the City of Jackson and the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA) that Jackson has been named the official host city for the 2025-2027 National Folk Festival. The press conference was held at the Mississippi Museum of Art, 280 South Lamar Street.

Jackson was among 42 cities nationwide that competed for the honor of hosting the nation’s preeminent traveling celebration of traditional arts and culture for a three-year stay in 2025, 2026 and 2027.

The First Lady of Jackson, Dr. Ebony Lumumba, also gave remarks. To provide a taste of what’s to come, several artists were on hand to perform, including Jackson’s own Bobby Rush, the Rising Stars Fife & Drum Band from Coldwater, MS and Max and Josh Baca from the nation’s premier conjunto tejano band, Los Texmaniacs. The festival will begin its three-year stay in Jackson in November of 2025.

The prestigious National Folk Festival is the nation’s longest-running traditional arts event, a free, three-day, outdoor multicultural celebration of music, dance



Mississippi Blues musician Eddie Cotton

and traditional arts. During its three-year residency, the National Folk Festival will draw over 330,000 visitors to downtown Jackson, generate over \$60 million in long-term economic impacts for the city and the region, and lay the groundwork for a locally produced festival to continue after the National moves on to its next site.

Produced by the non-profit the National Council for the Traditional Arts, the National Folk Festival has been presented in

nearly 30 cities across the country since its inception in 1934, from Richmond, VA, and Butte, MT, to Lowell, MA, and St. Louis, MO. The NCTA partners with communities across the nation to present the National Folk Festival, free to the public, for three years with the understanding that the local host community intends to continue its own festival once the National’s residency ends.

“On behalf of the City of Jackson, I want to express how excited and honored we are to host

the National Folk Festival,” said Jackson Mayor Chokwe Lumumba. “We like to say that Mississippi is the birthplace of America’s music, and we’re bringing the festival home.”

The festival will bring as many as six stages of continuous music, including a dance pavilion, as well as traditional crafts, regional and culturally diverse foods, storytelling, parades and folklife demonstrations to down-

Festival  
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## Biden tells Morehouse graduates that scenes in Gaza from the Israel-Hamas war break his heart



President Joe Biden speaks to graduating students at the Morehouse College commencement Sunday, May 19, 2024, in Atlanta. AP PHOTO/ALEX BRANDON

By Darlene Superville, Matt Brown and Bill Barrow  
Associated Press

President Joe Biden on Sunday offered his most direct recognition of U.S. students’ anguish over the Israel-Hamas war, telling graduates of historically Black Morehouse College that he heard their voices of protest and that scenes from the conflict in Gaza break his heart, too.

“I support peaceful nonviolent protest,” he told students at the all-male college, some

of whom wore Palestinian scarves known as keffiyehs around their shoulders on top of their black graduation gowns. “Your voices should be heard, and I promise you I hear them.”

Biden said there’s a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, “That’s why I’ve called for an immediate cease-fire to stop the fighting” and bring home hostages still being held by Hamas after its militants attacked Israel on

Biden  
Continued on page 3

Happy Memorial Day

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## Celebrating the Beautiful Life of Joan Winters Norwood

Sunrise: March 12, 1959 - Sunset: May 9, 2024



Norwood

Joan Winters Norwood was born on March 12, 1959 in Scott, Mississippi. She grew up in a small community in Bolivar County 10 miles North of Greenville, MS called Lamont – better known as The Big LA. She was the fourteenth child of sixteen children- the last daughter to the late Lavern Winters, Sr., and Lillie W. Winters.

Born into a family with strong Christian values, Joan was taught to be a God-

fearing woman.

Growing up in the Winter's Clan, Joan was always on the move. She loved to race, jump double dutch and hide and seek. She was the baby girl but did not like to be thought of as a baby. Joan wanted to be as old as the rest of the sisters. Joan loved to dress up in her mother's heels, dresses and wear her mother's lipstick while she was away shopping.

Joan learned to drive at an early age and was a very safe driver. She took the leading role in driving the family to special activities and events. Joan was loved, respected and spoiled by all her siblings.

Joan was affectionately called "Jo" by both parents and siblings, but her husband lovingly called her Joann. At 12-years-old, she accepted Christ and was baptized at St. Paul Baptist Church in Lamont, MS. She began her work in the church by singing in the youth choir and participating in Sunday School and Summer Vacation Bible School Outreach Ministry.

Joan began her educational journey at Nugent Center in Benoit, MS where she graduated with the class of 1977. While in high school, Joan excelled academically and participated in the following activities: Beta Club, Drama Club, and score keeper for the boys' and girls' basketball team. She was a prolific clarinet player for the Nugent Center High School Marching Band. Earning the title of first chair, Joan also competed and won the

title of Miss Nugent Center in 1977.

After high school graduation, Joan entered Jackson State University and majored in exceptional education and later obtained her master's degree. She continued her studies at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS.

Her initial instructional role began at Northwest Rankin Middle and High School. Her instructional experience spanned a total of 39 years across four districts: Rankin County School District, Canton Public School District, Hinds County School District and Jackson Public School District. She retired from the Jackson Public School District in May 2020.

In 1985, Joan married the love of her life – Sollie B. Norwood. To this union, two children were born, Sollie B. Norwood, II and Ashley F. G. Norwood. The family joined Brown Hill Baptist Church under the pastoral direction of Rev. Willie Williams with her husband, but later decided to join a church that was closer to home. They joined New Hope Baptist Church under the pastoral leadership of Dr. Jerry Young.

With eagerness, Joan served faithfully on the Deaconess Ministry. She also served as a volunteer for Vacation Bible School Outreach Ministries.

Joan's love for God was unconditional. She knew that living in this world meant there would be trials and triumphs that would only serve to strengthen her faith in the Lord.

In addition to her church ministry, Joan took pride in community service. She was a dedicated member of the NAACP, Jackson State National and Local Alumni Association, Blue Bengal Athletic Association, Heroine of Jericho, and Hemingway Circle Neighborhood Association. She loved to lend a helping hand to important matters in the communities where she lived and to those who called upon her.

She was the "Queen of Beautification." Joan loved to arrange, organize and beautify. She was an interior and exterior designer, and a wedding coordinator and planner. Whatever she touched, it was blessed with beauty and love. She launched a business, Ashley's Wedding and Floral Design, as an outward expression of her passion for design. Along with her sister Lilly Winters Adams, the two helped others create treasured memories.

Joan was a loving mother and devoted wife. She loved her family unconditionally. She consistently encouraged and motivated her children to strive for their greatest potential, and even her little two-year-old granddaughter, Soleil Legacy Norwood, who remains the light of her life. Her life exemplified the love of Christ in her everyday walk. Her faith in God was unchanging and never-ending.

On Thursday May 9, 2024, God called Joan to her eternal rest.

Preceding Joan in death are her parents, Lillie and Lavern Winters, Sr.; four

sisters: Jessie M. Winters, Rachel Winters Acron, Evangelist Dorothy Winters Armstrong, Deloris Winters Magee; and one brother, Rev. Theaury Winters.

Joan's legacy will live on through her husband, Senator Sollie B. Norwood; daughter, Ashley F.G. Norwood, both of Jackson, MS; son, Sollie B. Norwood II (Joi), grandson Legend and granddaughter Soleil of Clinton, MS. She also leaves seven sisters: Lettie W. Coleman of San Fernando, CA; Minnie Jones (Alphonse) of Palmdale, CA; Julia W. Pope (Edward) of Greenville, MS; Lilly Winters Adams of Jackson, MS; Alice W. Burnett (Rufus) of Gulfport, MS; Margaret McGhee (Jerry) of Demopolis, AL; Denice W. Magee of Palmdale, CA; and four brothers: Lavern Winters Jr. (Angela) of Moorehead, MS; Dennis Winters (Bunch) of Palmdale, CA; Kenny V. Winters (Audrey) of Greenville, MS; Charles J. Winters (Monica) of Slymar, CA; and five in-laws, Ellis Norwood, Jr. (Bernice) of Jackson, MS; Herman Norwood (Barbara), Christel Sayles, Cassandra Sampson, Bernice Fields of Florence, MS; one aunt, Evelyn Whitney of Los Angeles, CA; a goddaughter Cassandra Mckee, along with a host of first cousins, nieces, nephews, colleagues and close friends.

The homegoing service, officiated by Pastor Dr. Jerry Young, was held Saturday, May 18, 2024 at New Hope MB Church on Beasley Road in Jackson, MS (See photo tribute, back page.)

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## Bonds

Continued from page 1

beacon of hope for individuals facing mental health challenges, inspiring them never to give up.

The Miss Sweetheart Organization, renowned for its commitment to celebrating diversity and empowering women, features five areas of competition: swimsuit, evening gown, private interview, live group forum and delegates' choice of either speech or talent. Additionally, contestants partake in fun competitions such as national costume and modeling showcases.

This victory is not just about crowns and titles; it signifies a larger mission embraced by the Miss Sweetheart Organization. As a leading influencer in the philanthropic and pageantry world, the organization prioritizes service, body positivity, health, wellness and leadership. Bonds' win, a testament to the organization's commitment, inspires confidence and resilience in women of all

ages and backgrounds, paving the way for a more diverse and empowering future in pageantry.

In a world where mental health concerns among Generation Z and millennials are increasingly prevalent, Bonds' journey serves as a beacon of hope. According to recent statistics, young adults face unprecedented levels of stress, anxiety and depression. In particular, the pageantry and fashion industry has significantly focused on women's confidence and mental health, with initiatives to promote body positivity and self-esteem.

As Bonds, Miss Sweetheart World, takes her well-deserved place in the spotlight, symbolizing beauty, talent, resilience and advocacy, her journey inspires us to break barriers, embrace diversity and champion mental health awareness.

## Biden

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President Joe Biden, right, congratulates valedictorian DeAngelo Jeremiah Fletcher at the Morehouse College commencement Sunday, May 19, 2024, in Atlanta. AP PHOTO/ALEX BRANDON

Oct. 7. The president's comments came near the end of a commencement address in which he also reflected on American democracy and his role in safeguarding it.

"It's one of the hardest, most complicated problems in the world," Biden said. "There's nothing easy about it. I know it angers and frustrates many of you, including my family. But most of all I know it breaks your heart. It breaks mine as well."

To date, Biden had limited his public comments around the protests on U.S. college campuses to upholding the right to peaceful protest.

The speech – and a separate one he gave later Sunday in Detroit – are part of a burst of outreach to Black constituents by the Democratic president, whose support among these voters has softened since their strong backing helped put him in the Oval Office.

Biden spent much of the approximately 30-minute speech focused on the problems at home. He condemned Donald Trump's rhetoric on immigrants and noted that the class of 2024 entered college during the COVID-19 pandemic and following the murder of George Floyd, a Black man killed by a Minneapolis police officer. Biden said it was natural for them, and others, to wonder

whether the democracy "you hear about actually works for you."

"If Black men are being killed in the street, what is democracy?" he asked. "The trail of broken promises that still leave Black communities behind. What is democracy? If you have to be 10 times better than anyone else to get a fair shot."

Anti-war protests have roiled America's college campuses. Columbia University canceled its main commencement ceremony. At Morehouse, the announcement that Biden would be the commencement speaker drew some backlash among the faculty and those who oppose the president's handling of the war. Some Morehouse alumni circulated an online letter condemning administrators for inviting Biden and solicited signatures to pressure Morehouse President David Thomas to rescind it.

The Hamas attack on southern Israel killed 1,200 people. Israel's offensive has killed more than 35,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to health officials in the territory.

In the end, there were no disruptions of Morehouse's commencement while applause for Biden mostly was subdued. At least seven graduates and one faculty member sat with their backs turned during Biden's address, and another student draped himself in a Palestinian flag. Protesters near the ceremony carried signs that said "Free Palestine," "Save the Children" and "Cease-fire Now" as police on bikes kept watch.

On stage behind the president as he spoke, academics unfurled a Congolese flag. The African country has been mired in a civil war, and many racial justice advocates have called for greater attention to the conflict as well as American help in ending the violence.

During his speech, valedictorian DeAngelo Jeremiah Fletcher, of Chicago, said it was his duty to speak on the war in Gaza and recognize that both Palestinians and Israelis have suffered. He called for an "immediate and permanent cease-fire in the Gaza Strip."

Graduate Kingsley John said, "The temperature on campus was expected given we had the president of the United States come and speak." John said he stood "in solidarity" with his classmates and that Biden "seemed to be reflective and open to hear the feedback."

## Rankin

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where we need law enforcement to be in Mississippi, where there can be a group of officers who call themselves The Goon Squad, they break into a house without a search warrant. They beat, torture, and put a gun in the mouth of an African-American male and pull the trigger and shoot him, and then try to set him up for a fake crime when it is over with. We must also face the reality that this was not just a one-off incident. Three of these same deputies pleaded guilty to participating in another brutal attack in December 2022..."

Following Gee's remarks, all members of the press were asked to leave the room to ensure people's safety and security are assured as they brought forth their comments and complaints. The room was filled – over 200 attendees. The closed-door listening session fielded comments and complaints from between 20-25 citizens, based on reports from those who had remained inside. Multiple mechanisms were provided for citizens to reach out confidentially to federal authorities after the meeting, if they were more comfortable with that.

The Mississippi Link spoke with Mary Jenkins, mother of Goon Squad victim Michael Jenkins. Remembering the fear that she had expressed at a previous meeting about even being able to sit on her porch with her husband, she was asked if she was now able to sit on the porch and she said, "No, no, no, we can only go there for very brief periods, we had some problems with people coming on our property and have been afraid to call the police because we don't know who will come when you call."

Rankin County Branch NAACP President Angela English was asked how she felt the listening session had gone. "I am first of all, very thankful that we had such a large turnout tonight. I am also thankful that United States Attorney General's office and the U.S. Marshall's office, along with the FBI, were present to hear these people's complaints and incidences that they were faced with. I believe with all my heart that justice is going to prevail on behalf of these individuals and their families."

Robert A. Eikhoff, recently named Special Agent in Charge of the Jackson FBI Field Office, shared with us, "It is very important for the community's voice to be heard and that they understand that from their voice and the information they share, it gives us the insights that we need to understand what is happening and where there are violations of law. It gives us that pathway to investigate those violations."

Native Rankin County Attorney Trent Walker, co-counsel for Michael Jenkins and Eddie Parker, shared with us, "We are happy to see the DOJ come out to listen to the community... we need more citizens of Rankin County to come out to tell their stories so that you have that undeniable pattern... not just Rankin Sheriff's Department, but other law enforcement in Rankin County... some people spoke about City of Pearl. The more DOJ has to go on the more successful we can be to bring real systemic change to Rankin County."

## Festival

Continued from page 1

town Jackson. It is committed to representing the artistic traditions of all Americans, from those generations old to more contemporary forms of expression. With many thousands in attendance each year, the National Folk Festival will become a major new signature arts event for the city.

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# The Final Production of Shermel Raphael Carthan

By Edelia Carthan, ED.D  
Special to The Mississippi Link

Shermel Raphael Carthan, born to the esteemed Eddie and Shirley Carthan, first Black mayor of Tchula and respected community leaders, embarked on his illustrious journey on October 7, 1987, in Tchula, MS. His early flair for the dramatic arts propelled him from local stages to the prestigious halls of Interlochen Arts Academy and the California Institute of the Arts, where he honed his craft before dazzling audiences worldwide in ballet, theater and screen.

The Carthan family invites you to join them for a "Preshow with Friends and Family" to celebrate Shermel's remarkable life, which will be held Saturday from 5-7 p.m. The "Final Production" will commence Sunday at 1 p.m. at Good Samaritan Ecumenical Church, located at 698 East Main Street, Tchula, MS. Both events at the church promise to be a fitting tribute to a man whose life was a masterclass in performance and passion.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that condolences be directed to Good Samaritan Ecumenical Church or contributions be made to \$CarthanEnterprises, to continue Shermel's legacy of fostering art and advocacy within the community.

Join us as we bid a standing ovation to a true maestro of the arts, whose final production leaves us with a legacy of unforgettable performances and enduring inspiration.

Shermel Raphael Carthan's star will forever shine brightly in the hearts of those he touched.



Shermel Raphael Carthan



Morgan Freeman, Shermel's mentor, is pictured above with a young Shermel and some family members.



Shermel (third from right) is pictured with family members Edetric Carthan, Genette Holmes, Dr. Eddie J. Carthan, Dr. Edelia J. Carthan, Shirley Carthan, Neketa Watson and Nia Moore. "It is with deep sorrow and immense love that we announce the final curtain call for Shermel Raphael Carthan, an unparalleled virtuoso of the stage and screen, whose life's work enriched and inspired all who had the privilege of witnessing his artistry. Shermel took his final bow May 19, 2024 surrounded by the adoring audience of his family and friends in his hometown of Tchula, Mississippi," The Carthan Family

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CARTHAN FAMILY

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## The Hank Aaron Big Show shaping up for Jackson, MS partnering with MLB Pitch, Hit & Run

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Hank Aaron Big Show, a mix of youth baseball teams combining recreational and travel baseball, has surpassed 75 teams that have entered to participate in the weekend tournament that will take place at Jackson's Smith-Wills Stadium along with teams playing in the neighboring cities of Pearl and Brandon. The teams participating will range in ages from 7-17, with teams entering this year from at least 6 states in the southeastern region of the U.S.

"The goal was for us to reach 100 teams this year," said Tim Bennett, CEO of the Hank Aaron Sports Academy. "And with just over a month to go until the tournament, we are hopeful that we will be able to accomplish this. It's exciting to get the cooperation of our neighboring cities to come together as we continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hank breaking the long-held home run record. This is exactly what Hank Aaron wanted to see when he personally chose Jackson and Smith Wills Stadium to be home to the Academy named for him. Baseball is truly a unifying sport that brings everyone together."

This year and in honor of the 50th Anniversary of 715, the Hank Aaron Big Show ("Big Show") will be partnering with RCX Sports and the Legacy League to present the Major League Baseball Pitch Hit & Run ("PHR") event as part of the Big Show that will take place at Smith Wills Stadium.

The PHR will be free to all interested youth, boys and girls ages



JUNE 14-16, 2024

7-14, and will take place on June 13th at 10 a.m. at Smith Wills Stadium. The Big Show Tournament will start the following day on June 14th, with participating cities of Jackson, Pearl and Brandon, MS, and will conclude on Sunday, June 16th, when champions will be crowned in each age category.

Each participant will get the opportunity to showcase his/her

skills in the areas of Pitching, Hitting and Running with record-ed metrics and potential qualification for the nearest PHR Team Championship, which is held inside of MLB ballparks.

Additionally, each PHR registrant will also receive a one-year subscription to MLB.TV.

"RCX Sports is excited about the opportunity to work with the staff at the Hank Aaron Sports

Academy and the Legacy League to offer this opportunity to individuals from the Jackson community and the great state of Mississippi," said Austin Fischer, director of Baseball & Softball at RCX Sports. "Pitch, Hit & Run is a free event that creates a safe and fun environment for kids to stay active and learn or continue to play baseball and softball in their local communities."

## Taylor named Employee of the Month at MS State Hospital



Taylor

Mississippi Link Newswire

Lydia Taylor of Jackson, MS has been named Mississippi State Hospital's April Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

Taylor serves as a support care professional team lead in IPS and has been employed at MSH since 2003.

The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes employees who have made outstanding contributions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital Inc.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps individuals achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety and supporting recovery. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

## Butler named Employee of the Month at MS state hospital



Butler

Mississippi Link Newswire

Ashely Butler of Jackson, MS has been named Mississippi State Hospital's April Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

Butler serves as a licensed practical nurse in IPS and has been employed at MSH since 2022.

The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes employees who have made outstanding contributions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital Inc.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps individuals achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety, and supporting recovery. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

## Transgender girl faces discrimination from a Mississippi school's dress code, ACLU says

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A transgender girl from Mississippi's Gulf Coast who wanted to wear a dress to a regional band event was discriminated against when her school insisted she follow a dress code based on her sex assigned at birth, according to a new civil rights complaint.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of Mississippi want the Harrison County School District to get rid of its sex-based distinctions in the dress code and stop enforcing the rules in a way that discriminates against girls, according to an administrative complaint filed Wednesday with the U.S. Depart-

ment of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

The ACLU says the district's dress code violates Title IX, the 1972 law originally passed to address women's rights. The law prohibits discrimination based on sex by any educational programs or activities that receive federal money. The district rule that students' clothing must match their sex assigned at birth was added to the dress code policy relatively recently, in July 2023.

The district did not immediately respond to a phone message and email seeking comment Thursday.

The complaint was filed

Wednesday on behalf of a woman and her daughter, a 16-year-old student at Harrison Central High School. According to the complaint, the school's principal told the transgender girl she "can't represent our school dressed like that" by wearing a dress to the band event and threatened the student with in-school suspension.

Despite pleas to participate, she was told to ask her mother to bring "boys' clothes" or face exclusion from the event, the complaint said.

The transgender teen's story "is emblematic of other girls at Harrison County School District who have complained of the dis-

criminatory dress code and hostile learning environment for LG-BTQ+ students," said McKenna Raney-Gray, an LGBTQ Justice Project attorney at the ACLU of Mississippi.

The complaint also wants the Office for Civil Rights to investigate the district focusing on Title IX discrimination.

The girl's mother said she is deeply concerned about the district's practices.

"Transgender and gender non-conforming students should not be forced to choose between participating in school events or remaining true to their gender identity," the mother said.

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## Biden amplifies civil rights legacy in NAACP speech

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

President Joe Biden delivered a stirring speech at the National Museum of African American History and Culture Friday to help commemorate the 70th anniversary of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. That ruling struck down the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision that institutionalized racial segregation under the doctrine of “separate but equal.”

“My name’s Joe Biden and I’m a lifetime member of the NAACP,” injecting a moment of levity by adding, “When I said that a little earlier to the president, he said, ‘Are your dues paid up?’ I got to check.”

Biden noted that, “together, the NAACP and this museum are monuments to the power of Black History. And Black History is American History. We have a whole group of people out there trying to rewrite history, trying to erase history.”

He called the historic museum a “tribute to heroes known and unknown who pursued our nation’s North Star.” The president also drew historical parallels between the civil rights struggles of the past and contemporary efforts to dismantle affirmative action and diversity initiatives.



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris high-fiving each other. Biden delivered a stirring speech at the National Museum of African American History and Culture Friday to help commemorate the 70th anniversary of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

He would later join Vice President Kamala Harris in a meeting with leaders of the Divine Nine, a coalition of historically Black sororities and fraternities, reinforcing his commitment to civil rights and equity.

But during his address, he evoked the courage of the Little Rock Nine, who faced violent opposition in 1957 while integrating Central High School, linking their bravery to modern-day challenges against equality.

“The Little Rock Nine were met with vitriol and violence,” Biden remarked. “Today the vitriol comes in other insidious

forms – an extreme movement led by my predecessor and his MAGA Republican allies.”

He also criticized the Supreme Court’s recent decision to limit affirmative action in college admissions. “They want a country for some – not for all.” And turning his attention back to the plight of American schools since the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the president declared that “because of the nation’s legacy of discrimination, Black children start school with an average of seven months behind their white peers in reading.”

“But one year of universal,

high-quality pre-K could eliminate 98 percent of that gap. Just one year,” Biden insisted. “And children who go to preschool are nearly 50 percent more likely to finish high school and go on to earn a two-year or four-year degree, no matter what their background is. That’s why my administration is working to support Black children.”

The president continued:

“And as soon as I came into office, I signed the American Rescue Plan. And I’m going to be political by just saying this, because we’re having problems – not one Republican voted for it – not one. But the American Rescue Plan expanded Child-care Tax Credits, that delivered monthly checks to working families that cut Black child poverty in half. My Republican friends let it expire.

“Well, I’m going to keep fighting to reestablish it. We’re going to get it reestablished. And I’m going to keep fighting to make sure preschool is universal for every three- and four-year-old in America. We can afford to do this. It’s not hard. Instead of giving multibillion-dollar breaks to the super wealthy, let’s make the wealthy begin to pay their fair share of taxes. We can afford all this.”

The president’s remarks were

part of a broader effort to shore up support among Black voters, a crucial demographic that was instrumental in his 2020 victory. According to polling by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, there is a widespread sense of disappointment in Biden’s performance among some of his staunchest supporters, including Black adults.

On Sunday, May 19, Biden delivered the commencement address at Morehouse College, a prestigious historically Black institution in Atlanta, where he noted that an HBCU student, Vice President Kamala Harris, will eventually be president. His appearance, however, sparked peaceful protests on campus over his administration’s handling of the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Despite the unrest, Biden highlighted the significant contributions of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to American society.

“I’ve got more Morehouse men in my administration than Morehouse,” Biden quipped, noting that HBCUs have educated 70% of Black doctors and dentists and 80% of Black judges in the U.S.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries praised Biden’s

efforts to advance school desegregation.

“Under the leadership of President Biden and Education Secretary Cardona, we’ve made important progress toward school desegregation efforts across the nation, though we still have a long way to go,” Jeffries stated. “Equal access to high-quality education should not be a partisan issue. It’s a problem we must confront together as Americans.”

The president’s recent speeches and meetings underscore his administration’s focus on combating the rising tide of right-wing extremism and protecting the civil rights advances of previous decades.

“My predecessor and his MAGA friends are responsible for taking away other freedoms, from the freedom to vote to the freedom to choose,” Biden declared. “But I’ve always believed the promise of America is big enough for everyone to succeed.”

Biden’s efforts come as he faces a challenging reelection campaign, with a need to galvanize the Black electorate, that was pivotal in his defeat of Donald Trump.

His administration’s emphasis on defending civil rights and promoting equality aims to rekindle the support that proved crucial in his ascent to the presidency.

## Former Baltimore Prosecutor Marilyn Mosby’s legal team argues against prison sentence as court date approaches

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

Former Baltimore State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby’s legal team, under the direction of public defender James Wyda, vehemently opposed the imposition of a prison sentence and argued for a lesser punishment than the potential 40 years that are still on the table.

“Just’ punishment does not mandate, or always include a prison sentence,” Wyda demanded.

Arguing against jail time for his client, Wyda invoked a central theme that Mosby and her supporters have repeatedly emphasized since her indictment in January 2022 – the assertion that she was criminally investigated and prosecuted because she is a Black woman and a trailblazing prosecutor.

“Ms. Mosby was accessing retirement funds that, though held in trust, were derived from her own income, as was the money used to fund the \$5,000 gift letter,” Wyda insisted. “She did not defraud taxpayers, government agencies, or others to access someone else’s money.”

Prosecutors, however, are pushing for a starkly different outcome, urging U.S. Judge Lydia Kay Griggsby, who is Black and a nominee of President Joe Biden, to impose at least a 20-month prison sentence for Mosby’s felony convictions.

In their memo, prosecutors Sean Delaney and Aron Zelinsky portrayed Mosby as a lawbreaker who continues to show no remorse and as a liar who deceitfully acted in her own self-interest during the COVID pandemic.

Mosby’s convictions stem from allegations related to documents she signed to purchase two Florida vacation properties, one at Kissimmee and the other in Longboat Key.



Supporters of Mosby, including thousands of individuals and civil rights organizations, have rallied behind her, urging Biden to pardon her. “The only thing Marilyn Mosby is guilty of is the desire to provide her family with a better life,” NAACP President Derrick Johnson asserted.

Despite Mosby’s insistence that she did nothing wrong by withdrawing money from her city retirement account to finance the properties, jurors found her guilty of two counts of perjury for claiming to have suffered a COVID-related financial loss to withdraw money early and without penalty from her retirement account. Additionally, she was convicted of mortgage fraud for submitting a false gift letter as part of a mortgage application to buy the Longboat Key property.

Prosecutors have also moved to seize the Florida property.

Supporters of Mosby, including thousands of individuals and civil rights organizations, have rallied behind her, urging Biden to pardon her.

“The only thing Marilyn Mosby is guilty of is the desire to provide her family with a better life,” NAACP President Derrick Johnson asserted. “The sad reality is, as Black women take their rightful places in positions of power, dark forces seek to tear down

both their progress and that of our community.”

Numerous people have signed online petitions and written letters to the President claiming that the Trump Administration’s Department of Justice wrongfully convicted Mosby and subjected her to political persecution.

Quoting law professor Sherilyn Ifill, who submitted a statement to the court on Mosby’s behalf, Wyda added, “Given her stature and notable contributions as a public servant, [prison time] will send yet another devastating message about the nature of our justice system and its uncompromising and harsh application to people of color.”

Despite former Baltimore NAACP head Doc Cheatham urging Johnson to “stay out” of Mosby’s situation because he doesn’t view it as a civil rights issue, Johnson continued to call on Biden for a pardon.

“It is a miscarriage of justice and an example of the last administration’s misuse of authority,” Johnson declared.

## Maurice Flowers returns to Johnson C. Smith University as the head football coach

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

Life gives us a lot of opportunities over time. Some would say it’s about being in the right place at the right time. We also need role models and mentors who will guide us to know when the time is right.

Being prepared technically and emotionally will be characteristics you’ll need as you progress during your career. Promotions and tenure only come to the qualified and to the certified.

Maurice Flowers had an asterisk beside his name on the success box. Being a coach in any sport is a calling. Coach Maurice Flowers answered the calling with a resounding, yes, I can.

He was a star quarterback at East Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, NC. Setting records and being recruited to colleges defined his early life as an outstanding student-athlete.

He is a 1990 graduate of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte where he continued to receive All-American honors at the quarterback position. Receiving these accolades showed that he had the leadership and the temperament to be a leader on the football field.

Coach Flowers said, “I wanted to play in the National Football League. I believed that I had the skill set to play in the professional ranks.” His self-assessment was echoed by teammates and opponents alike.

However coaching opportunities came calling quicker than the NFL, thus he started on a path to coaching young men at the high school and college level.

Coach Flowers was called a “quarterback whisperer” in some circles because of his ability to get the very best out of young men who played that position.

He had high school coaching positions at Sam Houston High School (TX), Duncanville High School (TX), Chester Senior High School (SC), Olympic High School (NC), West Charlotte High School (NC) and Myers Park High School (NC). It is safe to say that Flowers mentored and groomed a lot of quarterbacks to play that same position in college.

Coach Flowers also had college coaching positions at Fayetteville State University (NC), Johnson C. Smith University (NC), Miles College (AL), Mississippi Valley State University (MS) and Shaw University (NC).

These positions served as a springboard for him to become the head football coach at Fort Valley State University (GA) in 2020. His offensive efficiency is well known in HBCUs. For example, his offense was one of the top-rated offenses in the CIAA (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association) averaging 34 points per game and during the 2019 season, six of



Flowers

fensive players earned All-CIAA recognition.

He served as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Johnson C. Smith University where they ended their season with a victory over SIAC (Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) champion Miles College in the 2011 Pioneer Bowl.

Preparation prepared him for his dream coaching position as he was named the head football coach at his alma mater, Johnson C. Smith University in 2022. Upon being named the head football coach at JCSU, I am sure it was a full circle moment for him. Family members and friends celebrated with him as this news spread throughout the Queen City. I suspect one of the headlines must have been, “the quarterback is coming home to become a college head coach.”

In talking with Flowers, he believes the future is bright for JCSU football.

He said, “We are building a championship culture here. Our students are committed to being champions on the field and in the classroom.”

During this past season, JCSU received an invitation to play Fort Valley State University in the Florida Beach Bowl in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Flowers was thrilled about this opportunity as it gave Johnson C. Smith University football a national stage. This type of publicity has already paid dividends in recruiting.

Flowers is excited about spring football and the upcoming 2024 season. He has already signed a strong class and has a great core of returning players. He is looking forward to continuing a Golden Bulls winning stampede. Stay tuned. I believe he will.

# Pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination can save your life

StatePoint

Pneumococcal pneumonia is a potentially serious bacterial lung disease that can disrupt a person's life for weeks. When severe, it can result in hospitalization and even be life threatening. Each year, pneumococcal pneumonia results in an estimated 150,000 hospitalizations in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). But it doesn't have to be this way.

The American Lung Association and Pfizer are partnering to raise awareness about pneumococcal pneumonia and encourage adults to get vaccinated if they are eligible, and are highlighting the collective action needed to reduce the burden of pneumococcal pneumonia.

Here are some fast facts about the disease, along with tips and



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actions you can take to help stay healthy:

## What are the symptoms of pneumococcal pneumonia?

Common symptoms of pneumococcal pneumonia include high fever, excessive sweating, shaking chills, coughing, difficulty

breathing, shortness of breath, and chest pain. Some symptoms can appear quickly and without warning.

**Should I receive a pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination?** Pneumococcal pneumonia vaccines are available to

help prevent the disease and are recommended if you are at increased risk. The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends pneumococcal vaccination for all adults aged 65 years or older and adults aged 19 to 64 with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors, including: chronic lung disease like asthma or COPD, chronic heart disease, diabetes and smoking cigarettes.

**What if I am healthy?** Even healthy adults 65 years or older are at increased risk for pneumococcal pneumonia. Because the body's immune system naturally weakens with age, it can be more difficult for your body to defend against pneumococcal disease. In fact, adults 65 years old and older are over 10 times more likely to be hospitalized with pneumococcal pneumonia

than adults aged 18-49.

**What if I've had pneumonia before?** You can get pneumococcal pneumonia more than once and having pneumococcal disease does not protect you from future infection.

**What if I've already been vaccinated?** Even if you've been vaccinated against pneumococcal pneumonia in the past, it's important to speak to your healthcare provider, as they may recommend an additional vaccination.

**How can I help protect myself and my community?** Getting the word out about the importance of vaccination against preventable illness can help keep people healthier. Recent data from the National Health Interview Survey estimates that only 22.2% of adults 19-64 at increased risk of pneumococcal

disease ever received a vaccination, and only 65.8% of adults 65 years or older received at least one dose. Unfortunately, rates of vaccination are lower among Black, Hispanic/Latino and Asian adults compared with their white counterparts, putting members of these communities at risk of infection.

"It's always the right time to discuss pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination with a healthcare provider. While cold and flu season is behind us, this disease can strike anytime, in any season and you can be vaccinated any time of year, too," says Dr. Albert Rizzo, chief medical officer of the American Lung Association.

To learn more about pneumococcal pneumonia and your risk for it, visit [Lung.org/pneumococcal](http://Lung.org/pneumococcal)

# World No Tobacco Day

By Vince Faust  
Tips to Be Fit

World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed annually on May 31, serving as a powerful reminder of the global health crisis caused by tobacco use. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption, advocating for effective tobacco control policies and empowering individuals to make informed choices for their health and well-being.

WNTD aims to inform the public about the dangers associated with tobacco use. It sheds light on the health risks, economic burden and environmental impact of tobacco consumption. By disseminating accurate information, WNTD encourages individuals to make informed decisions regarding tobacco use.

The tobacco industry employs aggressive marketing tactics to attract new users, especially young people. WNTD exposes these practices, emphasizing the need for stricter regulations. It draws attention to the industry's efforts to manipulate public perception, influence policy decisions and undermine effective tobacco control measures.

WNTD provides a platform for advocating evidence-based policies that reduce tobacco use. These policies include:

**Higher Taxes:** Increasing tobacco prices discourages consumption.

**Smoke-Free Environments:** Implementing smoke-free laws protects non-smokers from secondhand smoke.

**Health Warnings:** Graphic warnings on tobacco packaging inform consumers about risks.

**Advertising Restrictions:** Limiting tobacco advertising prevents glamorization.

Tobacco is grown in more than 124 countries, using 3.2 million acres of fertile land that could be used to grow food. These resources are diverted to support the production of a crop that kills over 8 million people every year, erodes the economy and damages the environment.

Tobacco farmers are exposed to a number of health risks, including green tobacco sickness, a form of occupational poisoning which is caused by nicotine absorbed through the skin from the handling of wet tobacco leaves, exposure to heavy use of pesticides and exposure to tobacco



These medications can also help with withdrawal symptoms like depression or concentration issues.

5. Lean on Your Support System:

Inform friends, family and close acquaintances about your quitting journey. They can encourage you during tough moments. Consider joining a support group or seeking behavioral therapy to learn effective quit-smoking strategies.

6. Find New Ways to Relax:

Nicotine often provides relaxation, so you'll need alternative coping mechanisms. Try exercise, listening to music, connecting with friends, getting a massage or pursuing hobbies. Avoid stressful situations during the initial weeks after quitting.

7. Avoid Triggers:

Alcohol and smoking often go hand in hand. Limit alcohol consumption during the early quitting phase. If you associate smoking with coffee, switch to tea temporarily. Replace smoking after meals with other activities like brushing your teeth, taking a walk, texting a friend or chewing gum.

8. Clean Your Environment:

Discard all ashtrays and lighters. Wash clothes that smell of smoke. Clean carpets, draperies and upholstery to remove the familiar scent. If you smoked in your car, give it a thorough cleaning.

9. Persistence Pays Off:

Quitting may take multiple attempts. Don't be discouraged by setbacks. Learn from each experience and keep trying. Celebrate small victories along the way.

10. Mindfulness and Stress Management:

Practice mindfulness techniques like meditation and deep breathing. Manage stress through healthy coping mechanisms. Remember that quitting is a process and self-compassion is essential.

11. Visualize Your Smoke-Free Life:

Imagine the benefits of being smoke-free: improved health, better breath and more energy. Picture yourself achieving your goals without cigarettes.

12. Reward Yourself:

Set milestones and reward yourself when you reach them. Treat yourself to something enjoyable like a movie night, a favorite meal or a relaxing bath.

13. Stay Positive and Persis-

tent:

Be patient with yourself. Surround yourself with positivity and encouragement. Remind yourself why you're quitting. Remember, quitting smoking is a process and it's okay to seek professional help. You're taking a significant step toward a healthier life, and with determination, you can succeed!

**Take Action:**

On this World No Tobacco Day, let us:

**Educate:** Spread awareness about tobacco's harms.

**Support Quitters:** Encourage smokers to seek help.

**Advocate:** Call for stronger tobacco control policies.

**Protect Our Planet:** Recognize the environmental toll of tobacco.

Do you smoke? Do you want to quit?

A few people have tried this seven-step program.

**Step One**

Decide that you absolutely positively want to quit. Tell yourself over and over you have what it takes to quit. Think positive. Next, make two lists. List all the reasons you smoke and the reasons you want to quit. Keep copies of the lists where you smoke and review them frequently. Read as much material as you can on smoking this will help add to your list of reasons for quitting.

**Step Two**

Make sure you start an exercise program and eat well-balanced low fat, high energy and nutrient filled meals. Both changes take planning. Don't use the excuse that you will gain weight if you quit. Not smoking one pack of cigarettes a day is the equivalent of losing 50-70 pounds of body fat. If you have not committed to quitting starting an exercise program may help you make that commitment and keep your weight down once you've quit.

**Step Three**

Decide which approach you will take to quit. Many people swear by the cold turkey approach. On average, as few as three smokeless days are enough to break the physiological addiction to nicotine. Breaking the psychological addiction may require years, but it is less intense and easier to manage with time.

If you chose to cut down gradually have a definite target date for quitting. Many people fall

into the trap of making each cigarette smoked important because of the limit placed on them. This can cause a person to relapse because they become obsessed with what they can't have as opposed to the fact that they're giving up something that is harmful.

When cutting back, use strategies such as eliminating unnecessary cigarettes, switch brands every couple of days, smoke less of each cigarette and smoke a low tar/low nicotine cigarette. Limit the areas you allow yourself to smoke in and be considerate to non-smokers.

**Step Four**

Keep a log. Make an entry each time you light up. Record the time of day, number of cigarettes smoked, emotional state and event (i.e. drinking coffee, after lunch, when angry, during meeting etc.). Also, rate your need for each cigarette from one to three. A number one means desperately needed, number two means moderately needed and the number three means no real need. Use this log to help you to understand your habit, eliminate unnecessary cigarettes and find positive ways of dealing with situations, which make you, want to smoke.

**Step Five**

Once you've set your date to quit ask for help from those you know will be supportive. Understand that the people you choose for support are very important because you will be hard to deal with for a few weeks. Choose people who are committed to putting up with you and avoid those you know will not be so understanding. If you can, quit smoking during a time when you will not experience as much stress like during vacation or when things are less stressful at work. An exercise program can help you through this "over the hump" period. Setting a target date like a family reunion, birthday or wedding can be helpful but try to keep it within that two to four week range.

**Step Six**

Keep plenty of light snacks around for the first several days after you quit smoking. These include low fat foods like popcorn, fruits, gum, sourballs, sunflower seeds in the shell and drink plenty of water. When you want a cigarette reach for these instead.

**Step Seven**

For the first few weeks after you quit avoid cigarettes like

the plague. If you walk into a room or office where people are smoking excuse yourself and come back later. You may also tell them you've just quit and ask that they help you by not smoking around you.

Sixty percent of those who stop smoking return to smoking. What happens if you slip and you go back to smoking? First, be patient, don't let guilt lead you back to smoking. Remember slips don't mean you've failed. Most people stop smoking before they completely beat the bad habit. Second, think about why you started to smoke again and what you can do to avoid it the next time. Third, Get rid of all the cigarettes around you. Fourth, start from where you've left off before the slip. It's recommended by the National Cancer Institute if you've tried to quit a few times and failed, you may have to change your plan.

Another easy plan to follow is the "5 D's" plan recommended by both smokers and cancer experts:

1. Deep breathing

Take a deep breath, in through your nose. Hold the breath for a count of 4. Then breathe out slowly, through your mouth Repeat these steps 4 or 5 times, or until you feel calm.

To make sure you are breathing deeply, place your hands on your stomach. You should feel your stomach rise as you breathe in.

2. Drink water

Try to drink 8 glasses a day.

3. Do something else

Play basketball. Chew some gum. Listen to your favorite records, tapes or CDs. Work a crossword puzzle. Look at a magazine. Read the Bible. Keeping busy with other things will keep your mind off smoking.

4. Discuss with a friend or family member. Talking about things can help you to feel better.

5. Delay

Don't reach for that cigarette right away. Count to 100 or 200. Think pleasant thoughts. Remember, the urge to smoke will pass in 3 to 5 minutes, whether you smoke or not.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

If you have a fitness question or concern you would like addressed [tipstobefit@gmail.com](mailto:tipstobefit@gmail.com)

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**APRON EXPANSION**

**AT THE  
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**JMAA PROJECT NO. 042-24**

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking bids for construction and related services in connection with the APRON EXPANSION at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

**Scope of Work**

The project consists, but is not limited to the expansion of the existing terminal apron with a new concrete pavement section, removal of a portion of the existing west employee parking lot, removal of parking lot lighting, removal of drainage structures, relocating a portion of perimeter fence, earthwork, sidewalk construction, parking lot marking removal and installation, and handicap sign installation.

Sealed bids to perform the Work will be accepted by JMAA until 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 (the "Bid Deadline"). Bids shall be accepted electronically, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Website: [www.jmaabids.com](http://www.jmaabids.com)  
By mail or hand delivery: JMAA's Administrative Office, Suite 300  
Main Terminal Building  
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport  
00 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208

JMAA will publicly open and read all bids on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Community Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

Questions and communications regarding this project's bidding procedure and schedule should be directed to: Eric Williams, Procurement Director, [ewilliams@jmaa.com](mailto:ewilliams@jmaa.com), and 601-360-8622.

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: APRON EXPANSION at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, Project No. 042-24." If the submission is submitted electronically, then the identification information must be provided. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, then the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any submissions, including bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received after the Bid Deadline for any reason whatsoever.

JMAA will award the Work to the lowest successful bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the information for Bidders.

JMAA will hold a non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 10:00 am (CST) in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

The Pre-Bid Conference may be attended virtually.

Link: <https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/95968020095?pwd=RkcvTSZlMi9pYmlybVlVWUxcWFdZ09>

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095      Passcode: 587241

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; to waive technicalities in the bid proposals.

The Information for Bidders and bidding documents for the Work can be found at (<https://jmaabids.com>).

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**BAGGAGE BELT REPLACEMENT**

**AT THE  
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**JMAA PROJECT NO. 043-24**

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking bids for construction and related services in connection with the BAGGAGE BELT REPLACEMENT at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

**Scope of Work**

This project includes, but is not limited to, the replacement of all outbound and inbound baggage belts at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport. More specifically, this project will include removal of the existing baggage belt system, installation of the proposed baggage belt system, any building modifications required for installation of the proposed system, installation of new fire doors, electrical power improvements, and all other procurement, materials, labor, construction safety equipment, training, commissioning, warranty, and incidentals necessary to perform the work.

Sealed bids to perform the Work will be accepted by JMAA until 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Monday, June 17, 2024 (the "Bid Deadline"). Bids shall be accepted electronically, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Website: [www.jmaabids.com](http://www.jmaabids.com)  
By mail or hand delivery: JMAA's Administrative Office, Suite 300  
Main Terminal Building  
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport  
100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208

JMAA will publicly open and read all bids on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 4:45 p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Community Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

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The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: BAGGAGE BELT REPLACEMENT at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, Project No. 043-24." If the submission is submitted electronically, then the identification information must be provided. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, then the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any submissions, including bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received after the Bid Deadline for any reason whatsoever.

JMAA will award the Work to the lowest successful bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the information for Bidders.

JMAA will hold a non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 2:30 pm (CST) in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

The Pre-Bid Conference may also be attended virtually.

Link: <https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/95968020095?pwd=RkcvTSZlMi9pYmlybVlVWUxcWFdZ09>

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**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
FOR CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE**

**REHABILITATION OF TAXIWAY ALPHA PHASE THREE**

**AT THE  
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
JMAA PROJECT NO. 044-24**

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking bids for construction and related services in connection with the REHABILITATION OF TAXIWAY ALPHA PHASE THREE at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

**Scope of Work**

The project will include paving and lighting improvements to taxiways at the Jackson – Medgar Evers International Airport in Jackson, Mississippi. The project will include pavement demolition, asphalt milling, asphalt overlay of existing pavements, grading, storm drainage pipe and structures, pavement edge drains, widening of taxiway fillets, construction of paved shoulders, asphalt pavement, crushed aggregate base course, lime treated subgrade, air-field pavement markings, and taxiway lighting.

Sealed bids to perform the Work will be accepted by JMAA until 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 (the "Bid Deadline"). Bids shall be accepted electronically, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Website: [www.jmaabids.com](http://www.jmaabids.com)  
By mail or hand delivery: JMAA's Administrative Office, Suite 300  
Main Terminal Building  
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport  
100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208

JMAA will publicly open and read all bids on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Community Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

Questions and communications regarding this project's bidding procedure and schedule should be directed to: Eric Williams, Procurement Director, [ewilliams@jmaa.com](mailto:ewilliams@jmaa.com), and 601-360-8622.

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: REHABILITATION OF TAXIWAY ALPHA PHASE THREE at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, Project No. 044-24." If the submission is submitted electronically, then the identification information must be provided. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, then the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any submissions, including bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received after the Bid Deadline for any reason whatsoever.

JMAA will award the Work to the lowest successful bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the information for Bidders.

JMAA will hold a non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 8:30 am (CST) in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

Link: <https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/95968020095?pwd=RkcvTSZlMi9pYmlybVlVWUxcWFdZ09>

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095      Passcode: 587241

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; to waive technicalities in the bid proposals.

JMAA has established a Disadvantage Business Enterprises participation goal of 30.36% for the Work solicited by this Request for Bids.

The Information for Bidders and bidding documents for the Work can be found at (<https://jmaabids.com>).

5/16/2024, 5/23/2024

**LEGAL**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
FOR CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE**

**HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT**

**AT THE  
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**JMAA PROJECT NO. 029-24**

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking bids for construction and related services in connection with the HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

**Scope of Work**

The scope entails the central chiller and boiler plant upgrade at JMAA airport. The work includes the removal of existing chillers, pumps, cooling towers, heat exchangers, and hot water boilers from the chiller and boiler rooms, to be replaced with new units featuring redundancy and the latest controls, in compliance with the mechanical and other codes. Implementation of phasing will be incorporated for continuous chilled water and hot water supply during the renovation phase.

Additionally, under bid alternates, the replacement of the existing 17 AHUs located at different locations, along with their associated 3-way control valves, with 2-way valves, will be part of the scope. Phasing, including temporary equipment and swing space, will also be included in this scope.

Sealed bids to perform the Work will be accepted by JMAA until 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 (the "Bid Deadline"). Bids shall be accepted electronically, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Website: [www.jmaabids.com](http://www.jmaabids.com)  
By mail or hand delivery: JMAA's Administrative Office, Suite 300  
Main Terminal Building  
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport  
100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208

JMAA will publicly open and read all bids on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Community Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

Questions and communications regarding this project's bidding procedure and schedule should be directed to: Eric Williams, Procurement Director, [ewilliams@jmaa.com](mailto:ewilliams@jmaa.com), and 601-360-8622.

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, Project No. 029-24." If the submission is submitted electronically, then the identification information must be provided. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, then the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any submissions, including bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received after the Bid Deadline for any reason whatsoever.

JMAA will award the Work to the lowest successful bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the information for Bidders.

JMAA will hold a non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 1:00 pm (CST) in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

The Pre-Bid Conference may also be attended virtually.

Link: <https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/95968020095?pwd=RkcvTSZlMi9pYmlybVlVWUxcWFdZ09>

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095      Passcode: 587241

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; to waive technicalities in the bid proposals.

JMAA has established a Disadvantage Business Enterprises participation goal of 10.12% for the Work solicited by this Request for Bids.

The Information for Bidders and bidding documents for the Work can be found at (<https://jmaabids.com>).

5/16/2024, 5/23/2024

**LEGAL**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
FOR CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE**

**JAN PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGE INSTALLATION, GATE 18**

**AT THE  
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
JMAA PROJECT NO. 030-24**

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking bids for construction and related services in connection with the JAN PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGE INSTALLATION, GATE 18 at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

**Scope of Work**

The project includes but is not limited to installation of a new fixed bridge, passenger boarding bridge, boarding bridge foundation, and associated equipment for Gate 18 at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport. Additionally, this project will include new building electrical and water services to Gate 18 to support the Gate 18 improvements, architectural and structural modifications inside the terminal building from the Gate 18 holding room to the boarding bridge, and apron marking removal and installation.

Sealed bids to perform the Work will be accepted by JMAA until 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Monday, June 17, 2024 (the "Bid Deadline"). Bids shall be accepted electronically, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Website: [www.jmaabids.com](http://www.jmaabids.com)  
By mail or hand delivery: JMAA's Administrative Office, Suite 300  
Main Terminal Building  
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport  
100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208

JMAA will publicly open and read all bids on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

Questions and communications regarding the bidding procedure and schedule on this project should be directed to: Eric Williams, Procurement Director, [ewilliams@jmaa.com](mailto:ewilliams@jmaa.com), and 601-360-8622.

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: JAN PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGE INSTALLATION, GATE 18 at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, Project No. 030-24." If the submission is submitted electronically, then the identification information must be provided. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, then the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any submissions, including bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received after the Bid Deadline for any reason whatsoever.

JMAA will award the Work to the lowest successful bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the information for Bidders.

JMAA will hold a non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 1:00 pm (CST) in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

The Pre-Bid Conference may also be attended virtually.

Link: <https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/95968020095?pwd=RkcvTSZlMi9pYmlybVlVWUxcWFdZ09>

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095      Passcode: 587241

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; to waive technicalities in the bid proposals.

JMAA has established a Disadvantage Business Enterprises participation goal of 4.51% for the Work solicited by this Request for Bids.

The Information for Bidders and bidding documents for the Work can be found at (<https://jmaabids.com>).

5/16/2024, 5/23/2024

**LEGAL**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
FOR CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE**

**JAN TERMINAL ELEVATOR/ESCALATOR REPLACEMENT**

**AT THE  
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
JMAA PROJECT NO. 028-24**

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking bids for construction and related services in connection with the JAN TERMINAL ELEVATOR/ESCALATOR REPLACEMENT at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

**Scope of Work**

Scope of Work consists of the modernization of two banks of two, (4 total) escalators located in the main concourse. This work involves the demolition and removal of the existing escalators and replacement with new units. Work will be done in two phases. Work also included the modernization of five elevators, located at different locations in the airport terminal. Modernization includes the removal of the existing units and replacement with new elevators. One elevator is an electric traction elevator, serving seven floors. The remaining four are hydraulic elevators. Minor modifications to adjacent areas is include as part of other Work indicated in the Contract Documents

An alternate for refinishing the interior of a 6th elevator cab with new panels, ceiling and flooring will be considered.

Sealed bids to perform the Work will be accepted by JMAA until 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Friday, June 14, 2024 (the "Bid Deadline"). Bids shall be accepted electronically, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Website: [www.jmaabids.com](http://www.jmaabids.com)  
By mail or hand delivery: JMAA's Administrative Office, Suite 300  
Main Terminal Building  
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport  
100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208

JMAA will publicly open and read all bids on Friday, June 14, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Community Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

Questions and communications regarding the bidding procedure and schedule on this project should be directed to: Eric Williams, Procurement Director, [ewilliams@jmaa.com](mailto:ewilliams@jmaa.com), and 601-360-8622.

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: JAN TERMINAL ELEVATOR/ESCALATOR REPLACEMENT at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, Project No. 028-24." If the submission is submitted electronically, then the identification information must be provided. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, then the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any submissions, including bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received after the Bid Deadline for any reason whatsoever.

JMAA will award the Work to the lowest successful bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the information for Bidders.

JMAA will hold a non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 10:00 am (CST) in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

The Pre-Bid Conference may also be attended virtually.

Link: <https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/95968020095?pwd=RkcvTSZlMi9pYmlybVlVWUxcWFdZ09>

Meeting ID: 959 6802 0095      Passcode: 587241

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; to waive technicalities in the bid proposals.

JMAA has established a Disadvantage Business Enterprises participation goal of 4.51% for the Work solicited by this Request for Bids.

The Information for Bidders and bidding documents for the Work can be found at (<https://jmaabids.com>).

5/16/2024, 5/23/2024



LEGAL

STATE OF INDIANA )
COUNTY OF ALLEN )
IN THE MARRIAGE OF:
Antonio Colbert
Martina Colbert
SUMMONS
IN THE ALLEN SUPERIOR / CIRCUIT COURT
FAMILY RELATIONS DIVISION
Courtroom, Room
715 South Calhoun Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
Telephone: (260) 449 - 7245
CASE NO.
02D08-2405-DN-000550
MANNER OF SERVICE
SHERIFF'S RETURN OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024 AT 12:00PM IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.
I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
New Business
A. CASE NO. HPNC-24-8
LOCATION: 748 N FARISH ST (PARCEL 75-43)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: FARISH STREET
APPLICANT: KIMBERLY VIVERETTE
REQUEST: RENOVATE EXTERIOR OF THE COMERCIAL BUILDING.
B. CASE NO. HPNC-24-9
LOCATION: 1440 N STATE ST (PARCEL 13-1)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN
APPLICANT: JOHN LEWIS
REQUEST: REPLACE OLD DAMAGED ROOFING WITH BRAVA OLD WORLD SLATE ROOF TILE (COLORED TUSCAN CLAY).
C. CASE NO. HPNC-24-10
LOCATION: 1305 ST MARY ST (PARCEL 16-46)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN
APPLICANT: DAVID BLOUNT
REQUEST: REPLACE LARGE GLASS PANE WINDOWS WITH SMALLER 6 OVER 1 WOOD DOUBLE HUNG WINDOWS.
CASE NO. HPNC-24-11
LOCATION: 114 WOODLAND CIR (PARCEL 3-74)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: N/A
APPLICANT: GARLAND STRINGFELLOW
REQUEST: INSTALL GERNERAC GENERATOR THAT WILL BE ATTACHED TO A DESIGNATED HISTORIC LANDMARK.
II. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
A. DISCUSSION FOR TEXT AMENDMENTS TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE.
B. OTHER
5/23/2024, 5/30/2024

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF RUTH PITTMAN
TAYLOR, DECEASED
CAUSE NO. P2024-31 G/2
PETITIONER: MELVIN HAMILTON
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS
Letters of Administration having been granted by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Administrator upon the Estate of Ruth Pittman Taylor, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probation and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.
This the 1st day of May, 2024.
Melvin Hamilton, Executor
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS
Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, Melvin Hamilton, Executor for the Estate of Ruth Pittman Taylor, deceased, who having been by me first duly sworn, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.
Melvin Hamilton
5/9/2024, 5/16/2024, 5/23/2024

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
MERCHANT SERVICES PROGRAM
AT THE JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 023-24
The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is requesting proposals (each, a "Proposal") to provide related services (the "Services") to JMAA in connection with the Merchant Services Program at JAN, JMAA Project No. 023-24.
JMAA will receive sealed electronic or printed submissions only. All submissions of Statement of Qualifications to perform the Services will be accepted until Friday, July 12, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on (the "Deadline"). RFP shall be accepted electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery as follows:
Electronically jmaabids.com
By mail or hand delivery JMAA's Administrative Office, Suite 300
Main Terminal Building
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers
International Airport 100 International Drive,
Jackson, Mississippi 39208
Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA via JMAA's website at: www.jmaabids.com.
After evaluation in accordance with the criteria set forth in the RFP, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first on the list. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement, in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the ranked Respondent. In that event, JMAA will follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.
JMAA has established a DBE contract goal of 0% for the Services solicited by this RFP. However, twenty (20) points are potentially available to Respondents submitting an acceptable minority participation proposal for the Services.
5/23/2024 5/30/2024

Sudoku
The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.
3 7
5 2 6 4
4 3 8
2 9
7 1 5
9 2
7 8 5
8
3 9 2 7

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

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Call MS Press Services 601-981-3060
Week of May 19, 2024

P R E S E R V E D

## Distraction free Christianity

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



The pledge was very simple: "I pledge to make my car a No Phone Zone. Beginning right now, I will do my part to help put an end to distracted driving by committing to drive as responsibly as I can."

In the first month that talk show billionaire Oprah Winfrey announced her cell phone safety campaign in April 2010, over 300,000 people quickly signed the online pledge. The public service campaign was designed to raise awareness about the dangers of talking and texting while driving.

Talking on a cell phone while driving won't prevent you from getting to your destination. It may make the trip seem like it goes faster but talking on a cell phone actu-

ally makes it riskier. In fact, most people believe they can talk on a cell phone and multi-task. Studies show that is not true. Our ability to fully concentrate on a task is significantly reduced by something as simple as answering a phone call while driving. For instance, you take your eyes off the road and, in some cases, one of your hands off the steering wheel, to answer the call. Even using new technology like voice commands on cell phones does not reduce the risk.

Distractions while driving are very much like distractions we have in our lives as Christians. There are some behaviors that we justify indulging in because "God knows my heart. He knows I'm weak when it comes to \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank)." Others are behaviors that we somehow don't see as bad because they didn't make it into the 10

Commandments.

Proverbs 6:16-19 explains the behaviors that "God hates, and one more that he loathes with a passion: eyes that are arrogant, a tongue that lies, hands that murder the innocent, a heart that hatches evil plots, feet that race down a wicked track, a mouth that lies under oath, a troublemaker in the family." Looking at a few of these it's easy to see why they are dangerous distractions in the lives of Christians.

For example, Proverbs 16:18 warns that "pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." There are many more scriptures that caution about thinking more highly of yourself and the impact it can have on your life. Next, lies can damage even the most morally sound reputation. Some of the recent news stories we've seen about young students being bullied and committing suicide show

how lies told cause overwhelming emotional pain.

Luke 6:45 addresses how "the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."

Like the No Phone Zone pledge, we should make a pledge to keep these and other distractions from our spiritual lives. These behaviors can hinder our desire and ability to develop an authentic relationship with God. More importantly, they can distract and even delay us as we strive to fulfill his purpose for our lives.

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

P A R T 1

## We are to love one another

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



What are we supposed to do to our enemies? Love them and pray for them. So, why can't we do that with those who

we know love us? Why do we need to bring the offense up? I'm not saying don't go to someone if you have to go to them about something. All I'm saying is, Paul said, "I'm persecuted, mistreated, but I'll forbear it." Love those who persecute you. Be good to them. If we're persecuted by others, we're supposed to forgive them and love them. We don't even have to tell them that we forgive them, but just forgive them. We should be able to do that to the saints.

We read in Colossians 3:12-13: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing, putting up with one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

Just forgive them, for we would think we have the grace and the love in our hearts to be able to do that. Here again, you have to apply this to your heart as the situation goes. Sometimes someone may need to be advised

of something. I'm just talking about every time something happens, it's not a Matthew 18 moment, where we go and confront them with it. Just forgive. Jesus didn't make a big spectacle out of it. He just forgave me. He didn't bring it up.

Colossians 3:14, "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." That word bond doesn't mean glue. It actually means "a joint, a tie or a ligament." It tries us together. It's a uniting principle. Charity (love) is that which ties us together.

Verses 15-17: "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." If we would consider these things more deeply, we might not cause an offense.

May God help us think on this. When people are persecuting you, you suffer it. You don't strike back at them. You try to shew Christ and forgive.

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



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## Do rules and regulations matter anymore in the United States of America?

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



We live according to certain standards. It has always been that way in the country we love. Without them, there would

be chaos and bad things would happen. Some years back, Marvin Gaye had a record called What's Going On! Maybe, we should ask that question now.

People stay here and come here because we have rules and regulations. Our beloved America is governed by a set of laws. We have a constitution of long standing that gives us a set of guidelines to follow.

Laws have sustained America over centuries and that is why our nation is respected around the world. Other countries make efforts to emulate us because of the systems that we have in place.

Reputations of leaders matter when assigning respect and trust to them. It is not automatic. For America, respect and trust have always been our calling cards. It is woven within our fiber called democracy. Some are now calling into question our prominence on the world stage. Do we still have our calling card of respect and trust?

So many things are happening in the world today that impact America. The two wars in

Ukraine and Israel are affecting us. Despite vigorous opposition, Congress did approve aid to both of those countries. Will these conflicts end any time soon? I don't think so.

Economic conditions are dicey at best. The jobs report suggests we have more people working now. On the other hand, pocketbook issues like groceries and gas are still challenging. Buying a house for first time homebuyers is a struggle as mortgage rates are still high. The mortgage rate is hovering a bit over 7%. This is coupled with the fact that home insurance rates in some states continue to rise each year.

Border issues and student loans are making citizens con-

tact their elected officials wanting to get answers to these problems. There are no quick fixes. And of course, we are watching as Donald Trump tests the system of justice in America.

I often wonder at times what happened to the good old days? Those were times when we had norms and parameters and enforced them. We did not deviate from right, and it was not compromised. We didn't cheer for people who were doing wrong. Today, it is different.

Our nation back then depended upon a set of mores that was passed down from generation to generation. Somewhere along the way, our country's straight path became a crooked path. Now in 2024, we are in a

heap of trouble.

Voices of reason have been muted by meanness and mayhem. There are those in high places who want to divide and to demoralize us. Simple put, we don't trust each other.

A recent poll about trust in the federal government says that fewer than two-in-ten Americans say they trust the government in Washington. Will it change?

Young people are questioning how business is done in America. This is being played out by demonstrations and canceling graduations. According to reports, 2,200 people have been arrested because of these campus protests. It is important to note that many of those ar-

rested have not been students. These are just troublemakers who travel from city to city inciting riots and protests.

Summer is fast approaching, and our fundamentals of fairness will be tested. Some would argue that right has become an illusion. My view has always been that right will always win out.

While some in America will stumble and fumble with alternative forms of the truth, let them. For those of us who follow rules and regulations, let's keep following those time-honored principles. We won't go wrong. Being on the right side will always pay dividends in our moral bank accounts. Our America calls for us to do so.

## How President Biden and the Democrats can lose in 2024

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



While the mainstream news media is fixated on the Trial of Donald Trump and his soaring poll numbers, despite his legal problems, someone needs to have a conversation with President Biden about how he got in office and why he is losing the Black vote, when he and the Democratic Party appear to think they have done enough for Black folks.

The Democratic Party appears to have forgotten that all states are "battleground states" if you are losing where you should be winning. Wake up call, the Black Vote is not concerned with a speech at Morehouse, or a meeting with the "Divine Nine" which does not represent rank and file voters in the Black communities.

The Democratic Party continues to "Cherry Pick" the Black communities of this nation and

the Black Press along with them. Well guess where the Black Press is located, in the Black communities.

There is an assumption that Black people will vote for Joe Biden because they did the last time. Well Black people have not forgotten that he did not deliver on the George Floyd Act or the John Lewis Voting Rights Act; neither did he put the same energy into seeking passage of these two pieces of legislation that he put into trying to find ways through executive orders and statements to bring relief in the face of the Supreme Courts overturn of Roe vs. Wade.

Vice President Harris is Black and a HBCU graduate, but that does not mean she is in touch with the Black Voter. She is respected for the position she holds, but that will not be enough to keep it.

Donald Trump on the other hand is a known entity that is increasingly appealing to a Black male voter who has no knowledge of the Civil Rights struggle and what we stand to lose under

Trump. They are not bothered by the Stormy Daniels affair or any of the other women in Trump's life. Some are out of jail because of Trump actions during his presidency. They are not concerned about Democrats or Republicans, only higher food and gas and rent and inflation. You reach these men and women through the Black Press. Remember, they don't have to vote. All they have to do is stay home and Trump wins.

I think now, not September or October, is the time for a media campaign with the Black Press. Without such a campaign, there is no need to go to the Democratic National Convention. The absence of a Black media campaign is the exclusion of the Black Vote.

Black Americans who have lived through less than equality, with all sorts of disparities, will survive under a Donald Trump no matter what he does.

Question, will it be Biden or Trump? It's up to you Mr. President and not your advisors who have failed you so far.

## Self examinations are important in marriage

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



One of the most popular scriptures utilized during Communion (Lord's Supper) derives from First Corinthians 11:28, which states: "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup." The word, examine in Greek is *exetazo*. Examination in Greek translates to mean the following: consider, pry, question, think about and investigate. Wow. Now, our brother Paul composed this text for the purposes of The Lord's Supper. Paul emphasized the need for one to conduct a personal investigation on ensuring that you are not in a lifestyle of sin and/or have confessed all your sin before indulging in the Lord's Supper because it brings self-harm to take it when you don't (read First Corinthians 11:29-30). My beloved, as Paul wrote, I reckon I'll be Paulina today, self-examinations are extremely important in marriage too.

**What are self-examinations?**

Self-examinations are just that. It is an opportunity to pray and ask God to help you see your own faults, which will enable you to pry, question, consider, investigate and think about your own actions as it relates to your marriage. In other words, this is not a spouse examination. Like Paul, he did not tell us to examine our parents, children, pastors, ushers, etc. for The Lord's Supper – he emphasized examining oneself.

**Who should conduct self-examinations?**

Each spouse should conduct a self-examination. It doesn't matter how perfect you are – both husbands and wives should be willing to conduct one.

**When should spouses conduct self-examinations?**

Spouses should conduct self-examinations daily.

**Why are self-examinations important in marriage?**

Many husbands and wives struggle to question themselves regarding their own attitudes, demeanors, responses, health, weight, grooming, financial decisions, work ethics, bad decisions, mistakes, downfalls, etc. It is much easier for spouses to tell each other what they are doing wrong than for a spouse to see what they are doing wrong. However, each spouse must be willing to self-examine themselves for the sake of their marriages.

Self-examinations are important in marriage for the following reason:

Permits one to look at their own faults instead of pointing out their spouses' faults and shortcomings. Matthew 7: 3-5 states: "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, let me remove the speck from your eye"; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

God certainly has a sense of humor – a speck in Greek means blot, spot, speck, blur, blemish and a plank in Greek means a board. God is basically asking how can you (hypocrite) judge, criticize, examine, question and antagonize someone's else's faults when you have a board full of faults in your own eyes – remove your board of faults and when you remove it and can really see clearly then pull the speck (the spot) out of another person's eye. This is a drop the mic moment or as our son would chant – a wonk-wonk moment.

This can also be applied for people who are trying to pull the spec out someone's else's marriage – God is saying pull the board of issues you have in your own mar-

riage and then pull someone's spots out of theirs.

It does amaze me sometimes how people can judge and criticize other people's marriages especially if they aren't married, divorced, married officially by paper but living separately, been married nine times, and/or is barely married, and then the wives who easily talk about someone else's husband but your husband is doing the same thing and/or worse, contemplate doing it with you know who because you have an idea – if you turn your back for one second – he would be here, there, and everywhere.

Please examine your own marriage and spouse – no one has time to examine others – take that time and pray for all marriages. Most marriages are still together because of God's Grace.

**What are the benefits of self-examinations in marriage?**

- Holds each spouse accountable
- Promotes humility
- Serve as a model for your spouse
- Growth: Self-improvement
- Improves communication
- Builds trust
- Gain respect and appreciation for each other
- Increases intimacy
- Feel better.

In conclusion, conducting self-examinations daily is a major investment in your marriage. It can help prevent separation and divorce and help create and sustain a healthy and happy marriage and home.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.) Marriage ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, Instagram: [letstay2gether4ever](https://www.instagram.com/letstay2gether4ever/), Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert, Email: [letstaytogether4eva@gmail.com](mailto:letstaytogether4eva@gmail.com) or call 601 596-2528.

## A message from NNPA's Chairman of the Board

By Bobby R. Henry, Sr.  
Publisher of the Westside Gazette Newspaper



We must all stand before Christ to be judged. Everyone will get what they should. They will be paid for whatever they did – good or bad – when they lived in this earthly body. 2 Corinthians 5:10 (ERV)

As citizens of a democracy, our role in shaping its course cannot be overstated. Whether we cast our vote for President Joe Biden and the strides he has made for inclusion or Donald Trump for all that he has done and is doing to discredit this country as a democracy as a whole, our actions affect what happens in our country's history. We better believe that our responsibility for our rights extends way beyond the ballot box; it includes the values we uphold, the causes we champion, and the ideals we strive and will fight for.

No one man, woman or other should stand in the way of our

freedom for equal rights and our will to be FREE-come hell or high water!

The actions of those who lead speak volumes about the direction in which we are headed. Whether we stand for women's rights, Black Lives Matter, LG-BTQ+ rights, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), affirmative action, or combatting white supremacy, our choices shape the landscape of freedom, equality and justice for all.

Supporting candidates who champion values essential for equity, is not enough. We have to hold leaders accountable, demanding transparency, integrity, and loyalty to the principles upon which our democracy stands. We cannot afford to be passive observers, content with merely casting our votes and hoping for the best. We must actively engage in our communities, standing up for the voices least heard, demanding change, and standing up against injustice wherever it may intrude.

The continuation of democracy

depends on us and rests squarely on our shoulders. It is a collective endeavor, requiring the participation and dedication of every citizen who is willing not to fall for the bovine excretions.

We must refuse complacency and apathy, recognizing that the fight for democracy is ongoing and requires our persistent concern.

Now is not the time for us to be divided or allow our lack of concern to see our democratic systems crumble right before our eyes.

We have to know who is in the "foxhole" with us before we can conquer the foes who are attempting to destroy us by keeping us apart.

It is a time for unity and action. Regardless of our political affiliations, we must come together in defense of our shared values and the principles that define us as a nation. Only then can we ensure that freedom, equality and justice are not just lofty ideals, but tangible realities for all Americans.

## National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Central MS Chapter, recognizes 10 scholars



(L-R) Katrina B Myricks, Scholarship & Awards chair, Alyssa Martin, Kelsi Murriel, Ashlynn Robinson, Mikeyunna Haralson, Tariyona Glover, Tiara Jackson, Miss UNCF Tougaloo College, Kaitlin Myricks - 84th Miss Tougaloo College, Chandler Gates, Madison Cox, Auren Armon, Arianna Brumfield, Aznii Welchin, Rita Wray, chapter president, Luigia Hodge, 1st vice president

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Central MS Chapter awarded \$10,000 in scholarships to 10 graduating high school seniors from the Central Mississippi area. The 2024 Scholarship & Awards Program featured Kaitlin Myricks, 84th Miss Tougaloo College, as the keynote speaker and Tiara Jackson, Miss UNCF Tougaloo College, entertained the audience.

Kaitlin, a Gluckstadt native and senior mass communication major, encouraged each scholarship recipient to embrace their destiny, envision a future filled with greatness, and to not waver in their pursuit of excellence.

Guests in attendance proudly watched as each graduate received her scholarship, introduced herself, and told of the institution she plans to attend in the fall.

In addition, a video featuring past NCBW scholars was shown featuring Dr. Angel Byrd (2000), Jamie Sturgis (2002), Charence Higgins (2012), and Clinecia White (2021).

Luigia Hodge, first vice president of Programs, stated “The organization is honored to assist with the young ladies’ educational expenses this fall. Each year NCBW Central MS Chapter commits itself to providing scholarships to young ladies in our service area who plan to attend HBCUs. To date, we have given over \$300,000 in scholarships.”

The 2024 scholarship recipients are Auren Amon, Kosciusko High School; Arianna Brumfield, JPS Tougaloo Early College High School; Madison Cox, St. Andrew’s Episcopal School; Chandler Gates, Clinton High School; Tariyona Glover, Ridgeland High School; Mikeyunna Haralson, Jim Hill High School; Alyssa Martin, Jackson Academy; Kelsi Murriel, Clinton High School; Ashlynn Robinson, Germantown High School; and Aznii Welchin, JPS Tougaloo Early College High School.

Prospective HBCU institutions the young ladies are planning to attend are Alcorn State University, Alabama State University, Dillard University, Hampton University, Howard

University, Jackson State University, and Tougaloo College.

Rita Wray, Chapter president, stated, “With the receipt of these funds, these wellrounded scholars are on a trajectory to make meaningful contributions and positive impacts, not only in their chosen fields, but in their respective communities. It is a pleasure to be a steppingstone in their journey.”

Members of the Scholarship & Awards Committee are Luigia Hodge, first vice president of Programs; Katrina B. Myricks, chair; Vanessa Edmond, Laverne Gentry, Ethel Gibson, Wilda Holloway, Melony Horton, Minnie Jones-Erharbor, Lateria Magee, Gaynell Tinsey and Rita Wray, the chapter’s president.

## Layla Williams wins first grade annual Spelling Bee at Ann Smith Elementary School



First grade teacher Shannon McLellan with winners of the spelling bee Layla Williams, 1st place; Ruchi Parkar 2nd place; and Mrinalini Arun, 3rd place PHOTOS COURTESY OF R BURKE

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

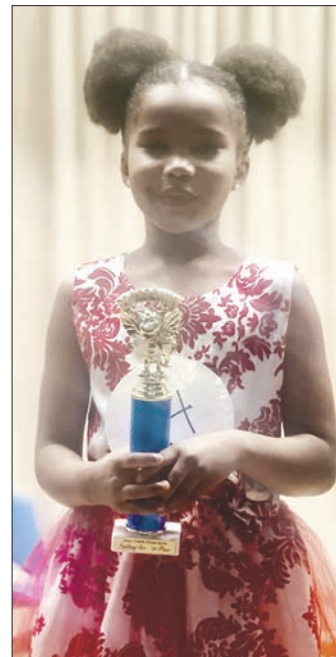
Layla Williams, a first-grade student at Ann Smith Elementary in Ridgeland, MS, stopped by *The Mississippi Link* newspaper office, with her older sister Gabrielle and mother Rosilyn Burke, to share the news that she was the overall winner of a spelling bee held at the school on May 17, 2024.

When asked by *The Link* how she felt about winning, with a smile she said, “Happy. I won by spelling the word ‘stopped’ with two ‘p-s’ not with only one ‘p.’”

Layla said she studied hard for the spelling bee.

“My teacher gave us a list of words and I would read the words out loud, and then I would memorize how to spell them. From the list of words studied, Layla said the word ‘though’ was one of the hardest to remember how to spell.

Originally there were 24 students in the spelling bee later narrowed down to three finalists that included 7-year-



Layla Williams wins 1st place trophy.

old Layla. First graders Ruchi Parker won second place and Mrinalini Arun won third place.

Karen Harness, ED.S is the principal of Ann Smith Elementary School in the Madison County School District.

## Congratulations to the 2024 graduates of JPS-Tougaloo Early College High School



J-TECHS Class of 2024

PHOTO BY DAREK ASHLEY

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

We are excited to announce the graduation of 22 scholars from the third graduating class of JPS-Tougaloo Early College High School.

Imagine graduating from high school and receiving your associate’s degree before your high school diploma. This dream, for some, is a reality for the J-TECHS Class of 2024.

In all, the scholars have been offered a whopping \$7,293,854 in scholarships from colleges and universities nationwide.

J-TECHS Principal Ashley Molden said the moment is surreal, having observed scholars earn every accolade they’ve received.

“College graduation is always the highlight of the school year for me,” Molden said. “To have the opportunity to watch scholars accomplish the task of obtaining a college degree before even receiving their high school diploma is honestly an indescribable feeling.”

On May 5, 2024, J-TECHS not only celebrated the graduation of 22 scholars in the Class of 2024, but also rejoiced as members of its founding Class of 2024 made history by receiving their bach-

elor’s degrees in two years.

“Their journeys are a testament to our program’s commitment to excellence, community, honor and scholarship,” Molden added. “Congratulations Class of 2024, we can’t wait to see you continue to take flight to greater heights.”

Tougaloo College offered seniors enrolled in the program the Early College Scholarship, which covers the cost of full tuition. Additionally, five of them qualified for and were awarded the Provost’s Scholarship, which covers tuition and room.

Two scholars received prestigious national scholarships – Jerry Palmer received the Gates Scholarship and Whitney Jones received the Stamps Scholarship.

And the class of 2024 goes down in history as the first to have a member enlist in the National Guard. Realynd Roberts will enlist as an E3, Private First Class 31B Military Police.

All graduates value the state of Mississippi and are proud to continue their education at institutions across the state ranging from Mississippi State University to the University of Southern Mississippi.

## Community Fair 2024

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Greater Bethlehem Temple Church  
**Community FAIR**

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**GBTC**

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Greater Bethlehem Temple Church, 1505 Robinson St. in Jackson will host its 3rd Annual Community Fair, in conjunction with Children’s Day weekend celebrations. All services and food are free to the public. Everyone is invited to come

and enjoy the many activities, resources, giveaways, games, prizes, food and much more Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

For more information contact Mangle Shanks, Ph.D., at [mangle@gbtc.org](mailto:mangle@gbtc.org), or call 601-601-927-9756.



Layla with mother Rosilyn Burke



Wearing a Harvard t-shirt, Williams stopped by The Mississippi Link office and posed for a photo. PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON



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## Friends of Jackson and Key Elementary School Climax This Year's Activities with Fun Day at JPS - Environmental Learning Center

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

While students across the state were engaged in learning in classroom settings, Key Elementary School's third, fourth and fifth graders spent school time at their retreat at Jackson Public Schools - Environmental Learning Center (6190 MS-18, Jackson, MS 39209) on Friday, May 17. Accommodated by the school's personnel and Friends of Jackson, theirs was a memorable expedition. In their range of leisure pursuits, the students learned why ELC stands as a pillar in the community. The width and breath of the land provides individuals an opportunity to explore environmental issues, to serve as problem-solvers and to strive to improve the environment.



Friends of Jackson and Key Elementary School students at JPS- Environmental Learning Center



Let's go fishing.

PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

the fish catching entity.

While continuing their day's activities, students learned that on the land are chickens, rabbits, turkeys, and other animals. Vegetables like cabbage and peppers, are naturally grown. Chickens lay eggs with double yolks.

Students were allowed to channel their energies by playing a number of games: badminton, hula hooping, basketball, hopscotch, and soccer. They had no time to think about "rules" for gameplaying. What they wanted

was to be together and to explore the land in the open atmosphere.

They were treated to a hearty meal which included baked beans, baked chicken, salad, hamburgers and cupcakes. Water and pops were available to drink. Those who wanted seconds were served accordingly.

Among FOJ members who were present, Brittney Bowman (founder), Cherie Caradine, and Willa McChelle K. Watson commented that the 2023-2024 academic school year was a success.

"This academic year has been compiled of lessons, lectures and learning experiences that are indescribable; as well as, an unforgettable experience for us all. Our goal has been to instill life skills, teach arithmetic, adaptability, be community servants, but most of all, be respectful. These basic principles will open doors of success. [Within these doors] lies a brighter future ahead," proclaimed Bowman.

Noted Cherie Caradine, "It is evident that positive, consis-



Roderwick Cochran - JPS - Environmental Learning Center, tells the story of the rabbit in his arms.

tent dedication brings about a positive change. [In a teachable moment] Mr. Cowboy showed students how to gently pet and hold a chicken and a rabbit. I see growth because the children are more focused and engaging with FOJ mentors and their peers."

"Dr. Neal-Vincent, our guest artist, opened our program with words of encouragement and directed students in poetry selections that affirmed our culture. She also presented spoken word choir members framed certificates. These mentees demonstrated the proper way to receive them, while shaking hands. Cherie and I were honored to present "happies" to mentees in appreciation of their continued, hard work. Thanks to Ms. Tiffany Matlock, who accepted envelopes and certificates of students who were unable to attend the event," voiced Watson.

"I am pleased with the efforts of FOJ in our community. The annual yearend celebration is a special event for our youth. It is a privilege to continue supporting this fantastic organization," said Fabian Nelson, Mississippi State Representative (District 66).

Three other mentees were awarded gifts from drawings that were held. Trinity Lomax and Jace Harris won summer gift baskets. Kennedy was awarded a copy of the guest artist's publication, A Little of Me, A Little of You: Spoken Word Choir Book.

The school's principal – Elana Tate – ended the gathering by expressing that FOJ had spoiled the students in a good way. She extended gratitude to the group for being committed and consistent in working with the mentees. In response, FOJ acknowledged their gratefulness to Principal Tate and her staff for their contin-

## JSU's Alcohol and Drug Studies Center lands national Public Service Award for prevention efforts

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson State University's (JSU) Interdisciplinary Alcohol and Drug Studies Center (IADSC) received the Public Service Award for Alcohol Prevention and Safe Driving at the 2024 Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety, presented by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in Denver, Colorado.

"Receiving this prestigious award has been an incredibly humbling and gratifying experience for all of us at the IADSC. The acknowledgment of our tireless dedication and unwavering efforts in promoting safe driving habits among the youth is truly rewarding. It reinforces the significance of our mission to educate and empower young drivers to make responsible choices behind the wheel," said Keith McMillian,

IADSC occupant safety coordinator.

The award was presented by NHTSA Deputy Administrator Sophie Shulman, who acknowledged the outstanding contributions of six individuals and five organizations.

This was the department's first debut at the Lifesavers Conference. The event is held annually and, according to McMillian, is recognized as the largest gathering of traffic safety professionals in the United States.

"Our dedication to serving our community aligns closely with the parameters set forth by Jackson State University and the Mississippi Office of Highway Safety. Through proactive networking and the establishment of strong relationships with community partners and vendors, we are enthusiastic about our abil-

ity to disseminate knowledge that not only enhances the daily lives of individuals but also serves as a proactive measure against potential harm," said Nita Hilton, director of the IADSC. "Our commitment remains steadfast in empowering our community and uplifting those who may have faltered along the way."

NHTSA plays a pivotal role in the National Roadway Safety Strategy, a comprehensive initiative launched by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) in early 2022 to significantly reduce severe injuries and fatalities on American roads.

According to NHTSA's website, 42,514 lives were lost on U.S. roads in 2022, with 13,524 drunk driving fatalities and 12,151 speed-related traffic deaths.

With an extensive catalog of prevention efforts, the department

humbly boasts that it has reached 10,000 young people across the Magnolia state. Efforts include hosting Occupant Protection and Impaired Driving presentations, partnering with Mississippi School Districts, churches, and apartment complexes, participating in health and wellness fairs, and more to share vital safe driving information.

"I envision our department expanding in various directions, all with the overarching goal of supporting and safeguarding our youth and young adults," Hilton said.

She says the ongoing efforts of the IADSC will address pressing real-world issues affecting today's youth and young adults, including programs to assist with mental health challenges, prevent HIV/STD transmission, substance abuse, domestic violence, and more.



The Interdisciplinary Alcohol and Drug Studies Center team accepts the Public Service Award for Alcohol Prevention and Safe Driving at the 2024 Lifesavers Conference.



# BOOK REVIEW: ELLA: A NOVEL BY DIANE RICHARDS C.2024, AMISTAD \$28.00 • 384 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

Beyonce does it. So does Misty Copeland, Drake, Alicia Keyes and Chaka Khan. You'd do it, too, if you thought you could sing and dance and make a living at it.

Alas, not everyone can be a paid performer on a big stage, but Whitney Houston was. So was Ray Charles and Michael Jackson. Katherine Dunham did it and as you'll see in the new novel "Ella" by Diane Richards, so did a little girl from Yonkers.

You can do anything. That's what Ella's mother, Tempie, always said, and Ella took that to heart. She decided that she was going to make a living with her feet by dancing at the clubs in her neighborhood. Ella loved to dance, and she was good at it.

But everything changed in the winter of 1932. Times were hard and Tempie had to tell Ella that she couldn't dance at the clubs anymore. Doing laundry brought in more cash, so Ella had to help Tempie with white folks' wash.

The two clashed. They yelled and screamed at one another. Ella couldn't have regretted her words more when Tempie died and everything changed.

Dancing? No more, said Ella's stepfather, and he followed it up with punches. You need an education, said Aunt Virginia, who took Ella in when she ran away from that man.

Here's where real money is, said the man in charge of numbers running, just before Ella skipped school to break the law. Get to work, snarled the su-

pervisor at the New York State Training School for Girls, a sort of juvenile hall where Ella was sent for truancy.

Get outta here, said the bouncer at a club, after Ella escaped the school and made her way to Harlem.

One day, she'd have lunch with Marilyn Monroe. She'd perform with Duke Ellington and she'd appear on TV and in movies. But when she finally landed a spot on Amateur Night at the Apollo, she didn't dance.

No, Ella Fitzgerald opened her

mouth and sang...

Based on a few years in the life of the real singer, "Ella" is great for readers who like a deep dive into historical fiction. Author Diane Richards says in her Author's Notes that she holds a long-time fascination for the singer, and it shows in Richards' detailed retelling.

Covering about twenty-two important months of Fitzgerald's life (with bookends set in 1948), Richards gives readers a subtle sense of the tough times that surrounded her subject.

With the Great Depression as a back-drop, we get to know a determined Fitzgerald, a teenager who'd do anything to follow her dreams, but who needed to make money first – and we meet the women who launched her. It's a story you'll like, with highs and lows that will make you happy and make your heart pound.

Don't be surprised if you forget that this book is a novel; if it turns you into a fan, check out the resources near the back cover for more. For you, "Ella" is a book that'll make you sing.

## ZACK WALLACE HINDS COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK



### 2024 GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

**Voter Registration  
Deadline for General**  
October 7

**Absentee Ballots Available**  
September 23

**Last Day to Absentee Vote**  
November 2  
8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

## General Election Day November 5

Website: [www.hindscountymys.com](http://www.hindscountymys.com)  
Paid for by friends of Zack Wallace

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

**Jury Duty Recording:**  
First Judicial District  
(601) 969-0052

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

**Jury Duty Recording:**  
Second Judicial District  
(601) 857-8869

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



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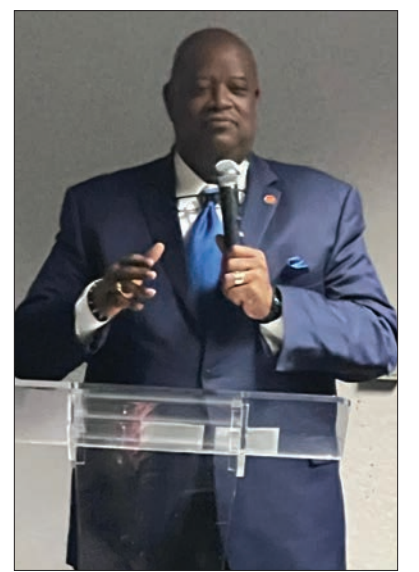
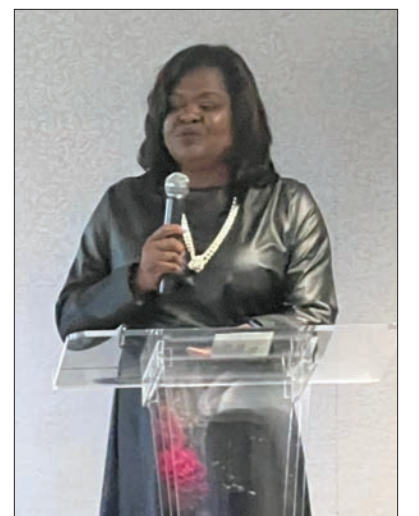
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# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### Ivan Smith - Maintenance Director of Hinds County School District - Retires

Congratulations to Mr. Ivan Smith, who retired from the Hinds County School District. To show appreciation to him, the Maintenance Department hosted a retirement gala for Mr. Smith and invited colleagues, friends and family to celebrate his successful career with Hinds County School District.



# *Celebrating the Life of Joan Winters Norwood*

Homegoing Service • Saturday 18, 2024 • New Hope Baptist Church • 1555 Beasley Road, Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

