



## Mississippi Supreme Court greenlights public funds to private schools

En banc court side-steps Constitution by claiming appellee lacks standing

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

During the 2022 legislative session bills passed to create and fund an Independent Schools Infrastructure Grant Program designed to allow federal American Rescue Plan funds intended for infrastructure to go to “independent schools.” Independent, of course, is another way of saying private schools, and in Mississippi, that includes scores of schools originally chartered as segregation academies.

The bills were Senate Bill 2780 and 3064. The first bill, creating the grant program passed in the legislature almost unanimously. Senate Bill 3064, the funding, had some opposition in the upper chamber – 15 Democrats and 2 Republicans. In the House it was just 5 Democrats and 8 Republicans opposing the measure. Both were signed into law by Governor Jonathan Reeves on April 19, 2022.

Parents for Public Schools, Inc., https://parents4publicschools.org, filed suit on the grounds that Mississippi’s Constitution section 208, states “No religious or other sect or sects shall ever control any part of the school or other educational funds of this state; nor shall any funds be appropriated toward the support of any sectarian school, or to any school that at the time of receiving such appro-



MS SUPREME COURT (Front row) Justices James W. Kitchens, Michael K. Randolph, Leslie D. King. (Back row) Justices Robert P. Chamberlin, T. Kenneth Griffis, David M. Ishee, Josiah D. Coleman, James D. Maxwell II and Dawn H. Beam. PHOTO: [HTTPS://COURTS.MS.GOV/APPELLATECOURTS/SC/SCJUSTICES.PHP](https://courts.ms.gov/appellatecourts/sc/scjustices.php)

priation is not conducted as a free school.” PPS was joined in the suit by the American Civil Liberties Union, Mississippi Center for Justice and Democracy Forward. An interesting rub is that it would be actual grant money going to the private schools, whereas public schools would be required to take interest-free loans for a period of ten years.

As previously reported by *The Mississippi Link*, Hinds County Chancery Court Judge Crystal Wise Martin ruled on October

13, 2022, that the laws signed by Reeves were unconstitutional, halting the state’s ability to use the \$10 million for “independent” schools. At the time, Democracy Forward attorney Will Bardwell told a press gathering, “This case is about more than \$10 million in infrastructure grants. The constitution says that no public money can be appropriated to private schools, and if courts can make an exception for \$10 million, then they can make an exception for anything. Judge Martin’s decision

made clear that there are no exceptions in the constitution.”

As expected, Mississippi’s Attorney General Lynn Fitch, herself a segregation academy graduate of Marshall Academy in Holly Springs, per her Facebook post on May 13, 2021 – challenged the ruling of Judge Crystal Wise Martin. The case progressed to review by a three-judge panel of the Mississippi Supreme Court in early February. Justices King, Cham-

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## Voices of experience in these troubled times

Hard-won freedoms under assault by white nationalists jolting multi-racial Democracy



Hazel Janell Meredith Hall – PHOTO BY MEREDITH COLEMAN MCGEE

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

On March 15, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson addressed congress, asking them to pass the Civil Rights Act. He began, “I speak tonight for the dignity of man and the destiny of Democracy. I urge every member of both parties, Americans of all religions and of all colors, from every section of this country, to join me in that cause. At times, history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man’s unending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama. There, long suffering men and women peacefully protested the denial of their rights as Americans. Many of them were brutally assaulted. One good man – a man of God – was killed. There is no cause for pride in what has happened in Selma. There is no cause for self-satisfaction in the long denial of equal rights of millions of Americans. But there is cause for hope and for faith in our Democracy in what is happening here tonight.”

Yet just look at us today, fifty-nine years later. See the divisions, tribalism and head-on assaults of cherished and hard-won freedoms. Certainly, our nation saw gains in freedom, equality and racial equity – but now these principles are under attack yet again. It’s now common to hear people uttering the words, “We’re slipping back in this country, or we’re falling back.”

Suppressing voting rights, gutting affirmative action, dismantling diversity and equity programs, are just the tip of today’s white-power surge. The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis’ most recent survey of wealth, using data from 2022, shows that, “as a group, white families owned 85% of total household wealth but made up 66% of households, and that, as a group, Black families owned 2% of total household wealth despite making up 11% of households, and that, Black families had 16 cents per dollar of white median wealth.” Their February 7, 2024, report demonstrates that wealth continues to be distributed unequally in the United States, that the wealth gap is far worse today than when the Civil Rights Act was signed into law.

In troubling times, we know the value of listening to those



Richard Anderson, Jr. – PHOTO BY VALERIE ANDERSON



Dr. Flonzie Brown Wright

who have already been down this road. *The Mississippi Link* newspaper reached out to three such people to listen to what they had to say about these “falling back” times, and we are very grateful to them.

Hazel Janell Meredith Hall, a sister of the great James Meredith, focused on sticking to the basics and building a good foundation. “Nothing is more important than teaching our children the ABC’s, their numbers, and how to read. Education is most important and modern technology is no substitute for that. My father, Moses Arthur “Cap” Meredith, had to work so hard because he couldn’t get the jobs he wanted because he did not have the education.”

She also spoke about parents needing to teach their children to obey. She referred to these basics as essential disciplines and believes they are connected to us falling back. She didn’t hold back about difficulties in Jackson – lack of decent stores, diminished tax-base, so many people earning their money in Jackson and then spending it in the suburbs. She said it seems like many who get jobs in Jackson have to do two things, obey and keep the rest of the folks down. She emphasized people using their brainpower to push harder, to learn more, and do things with their lives that are relevant. “Writing a book is a way to expand your brainpower.” She mentioned visiting Mr. Meredith earlier in the day and reminded us of his phrase, “in order to enjoy the rights and privileges of citizenship, we must assume and carry out all the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.”

Richard Anderson, Jr. was just ten years old when his father opened a juke joint now located on the S. Frontage Road in Clinton. In Mississippi’s caldron of boiling racism, Dick’s Place was a safe

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## Biden, Harris invited to NNPA Convention as Black Press celebrates 197 years, addresses voter turnout and empowering Black communities

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) will host its annual national convention from June 19 to 22 at the Four Seasons Hotel Baltimore. The NNPA is the trade association of the more than 250 African-American-owned newspapers and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America.

This year’s event, themed “Empowering Black Press, Communities, Families and Voter Turnout,” marks the Black Press’s 197th anniversary, just three years shy of its bicentennial.

The Black Press was founded in 1827, before slavery ended in America, with the publication of *Freedom’s Journal* in New York, published by John B. Russwurm and Samuel Cornish. The conglomerate has long championed the cause of African Americans and has been counted on for decades to rally the Black community around specific political candidates.

“We wish to plead our own cause, for too long others have spoken for us,” declared Russwurm and Cornish in their inaugural issue.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have received formal invitations to



attend the convention, and their participation is highly anticipated by the over 250 Black-owned newspaper and media company owners and their team of editors and journalists who are expected in Baltimore.

With the 2024 election looming, Biden’s engagement with the Black Press is critical to his bid for re-election, underscoring the

importance of the Black vote.

Reflecting on a pivotal moment from the 1992 NNPA convention in Baltimore, Bob Bogle of the *Philadelphia Tribune* and Sonny Messiah Jiles of the *Houston Defender* recalled the fallout when Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton backed out of his scheduled appearance. Black publishers were furious with

Clinton’s decision. Bogle, at the time, called it “an affront to the Black Press, and it’s an affront to African Americans everywhere.”

Clinton later realized the gravity of his mistake and made amends by addressing the Black Press collectively. This historical context adds weight to the expectations placed on Biden, as Bogle and Jiles have expressed a similar resolve this year.

NNPA Chair Bobby Henry emphasized the significance of this year’s theme: “Our theme, ‘Empowering the Black Press, Communities, Families and Voter Turnout,’ is of paramount importance. This conference is a critical platform for addressing the unique challenges and opportunities for political parties to share their messages with the media that serves the population and can make or break elections.”

The convention will feature several high-profile presentations and panels, including a keynote address by Damon Todd Hewitt, president & executive director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, titled “What is at Stake for African Americans: the 2024 Vote.”

Rev. Mark Thompson of NNPA Global will moderate the “Generation Z Voter Issues” pan-

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## Cadet Kendra Sutton graduates JSU as Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Kendra Sutton, a recent graduate of Jackson State University, said she was all smiles as she listened to keynote speaker California U.S. Senator Laphonza Butler deliver the address at her graduation from "Thee I Love," Saturday, May 4, 2024. Kendra is the daughter of Coretta Sutton of Jackson and Kennee Sutton.

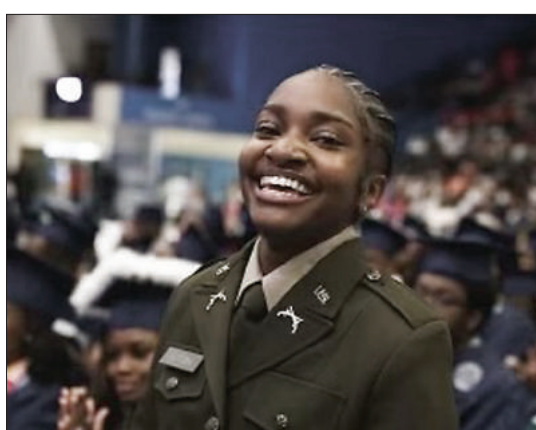
She said, "Senator Butler gave inspiring and powerful words that I can carry with me as I serve as an officer of the United States of America." During the graduation ceremony, Sutton was recognized by Lt. Col. Brown.

Sutton has a lot of accomplishments of her own to smile about. She had a commissioning ceremony held in her honor at the JSU Liberal Arts Building, where she was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. The ceremony was held May 4th at 3 p.m. followed by a graduation/celebration dinner at the C-Squared Event Center on Springridge Road in Clinton, MS.

If that in itself is not enough to smile about Sutton was presented with a resolution from The Hinds County Board of Supervisors honoring her for her achievements during their March 4, 2024 board meeting. Othor Cain, communications director, read the resolution which was signed by each of the supervisors and



2nd Lt. Kendra Sutton



Sutton was recognized during graduation by Lt. Col. Brown  
PHOTOS BY CORETTA SUTTON



Sutton posing at the JSU College of Liberal Arts Building

Chancery Clerk Eddie Jean Carr. It stated:

WHEREAS, Kendra Sutton is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and completed her high school education at Wingfield High School, where she graduated as one of the TOP 10 students in her class.

WHEREAS, In high school, Kendra Sutton was actively involved in various activities, including serving as captain of her soccer team, she also participated in track and field; cheerleading, powerlifting, JROTC Drill and was crowned homecoming queen.

WHEREAS, Kendra Sutton was named Cadet of The Year at Wingfield High School and has exemplified outstanding leadership traits through her service to the community and her family.

WHEREAS, Kendra Sutton continues her leadership skills at Thee I Love Jackson State University, where she is a three-year scholarship recipient, majoring in criminal justice. Throughout her sophomore and junior years, she consistently earned a spot on the dean's list.

WHEREAS, Kendra Sutton was named the 2023-2024 Miss Army ROTC and graduated from Advanced Camp Training in 2023 at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

WHEREAS, The Hinds County Board of Supervisors individually and collectively are extremely proud of the accomplishments of Command Sgt. Major Kendra Sutton and offer a major congratulations for 'beating the odds.' The board wishes you well for being Commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the United States Army in May

2024. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hinds County Board of Supervisors honors Command Sgt. Major Kendra Sutton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be documented in the minutes and records of the Hinds County Board of Supervisors and to have a contemporary copy on file for further actions.

SO RESOLVED AND ORDERED, this the 4 TH Day of March 20.

When asked by *The Mississippi Link* what is her next step Sutton replied: "My next step is to attend the Basic Leader Course (BOLC) to learn my role as a Military Police. This will take place at Fort Leonard in Missouri."



Bottom L-R: Lt. Col. Brown; 2nd Lt. Kendra Sutton; 2nd Lt. Nash; Master Sgt. Dewsbury; Top: Ms. Settles, Lt. Kevin Lavine and Captain Mann

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### Voices

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place for African Americans to gather. Now at 85, he shared, "There's not a lot of us left. But right now, we're in a tough place. I don't have the answers. I wish I did. I see what's going on now. I easily recognize it, but I don't have a way we can solve it. I just don't have the words to tell the younger generation, except one thing - be careful. The younger ones are in a tough spot in a way because they haven't been in a struggle like we were - the harassment that we had to go through, especially my daddy's generation, had to fight against these things. There is a fear among white people about their population going down, that's what's behind this whole Trump thing. I wish I had an answer besides to be careful."

Dr. Flonzie Brown Wright shared that "Younger people have to understand, in-depth, the residual effects of slavery. When we were uprooted as slaves, we were often kings and queens. It was never intended for African Americans to have equality. Young people don't want to hear the stories, they say it's old-fashioned and out of date, but these stories are

the truth and have kept us in good standing. The sacrifices then allowed the opportunities they have today." She emphasized having to learn from books that were several years older than what the white kids had. She spoke about being taught by those that had sacrificed - "their wisdom, their mother-wit endowed us with intuitive foresight." She highlighted the lack of equality, reminding that "We were riders when we came here. How do you mesh the rider syndrome with the driver syndrome. They have all the power."

She shared about the pitfalls today of giving our kids everything, and everyone seeking instant gratification. She counsels that "Because there has been a break in heritage, legacy and continuity, we need to constantly assure our children that they are loved and special and there is nothing they can't do if they apply themselves. Also, that the journey will be challenging and uncertain."

Brown-Wright stressed the words elevate, empower, encourage and educate, and never letting them lose hope.

### Supreme Court

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berlain, and Ishee heard the oral arguments and the panel ultimately elected to shift the matter to the en banc, or full court.

The Supreme Court ruled 7-2 on the case styled as 2022-SA-01129-SCT. The opinion rendered on May 2, 2024, by Justice Robert P. Chamberlain, found that Parents for Public Schools, Inc. did not have standing to bring the suit. Once that determination was made, the other issues, including the constitutionality of SB2780 & SB3064, became moot. The net result was that the highest court in the state effectively side-stepped the constitutionality issue. In the words of Chamberlain, "This Court finds that PPS lacks standing to bring this lawsuit. Therefore, this Court need not address the additional issues on appeal. Accordingly, we vacate the judgment of the Hinds County Chancery Court and render judgment dismissing PPS's complaint."

Justice Leslie D. King provided a lengthy dissent and was joined by Justice James W. Kitchens. Interestingly, only Chief Justice Michael Randolph has more tenure on the court than King and Kitchens. Presiding Justice King asks in his dissent, on the issue of standing, "This case begs the question: if parents of public-school children are not sufficiently adversely impacted to challenge this government action, who is?" On the issue of constitution-

ality, he offers, "By the plain language of the terms of the two bills, the Legislature appropriated funds toward the support of schools that are not free schools. By the plain language of section 208 of the Mississippi Constitution, the Legislature shall not appropriate "any funds" to schools that are not free schools. The unconstitutionality of the two bills is plain and obvious: Senate Bills 2780 and 3064 clearly violate section 208 of the Mississippi Constitution by appropriating funds to independent schools that are not free."

*The complete ruling can be viewed at <https://casetext.com/case/midsouth-assn-of-indep-schs-v-parents-for-pub-schs>.*

If Mississippi is such a conservative state, with it's white Republican super-majority, why are they routinely seeking to bend or sidestep the rules? It seems like each new legislative session brings more attempts to alter education systems and the funding that goes with it. Some writers have suggested that the push to cleave away public funds for private schools is a final vestige of massive resistance. Generally, aren't conservatives in favor of smaller government, individual responsibility, the rule of law, and fiscal responsibility?

Perhaps, here in Mississippi, conservative principles are to be talked about, but whenever possible, get someone else to pay the bill.



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# The Cavalry is Coming

Vicksburg National Military Park to host an immersive Encampment of the 3rd U.S. Colored Cavalry

The Mississippi Link Newswire

On June 7-8, Vicksburg National Military Park and the Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign will host an immersive experience by living historians with Buffalo Soldiers Florida Inc, who depict the 3rd U.S. Colored Cavalry (USCC.)

Come explore a Civil War period cavalry encampment including horses and learn about the honorable service and sacrifices of African-American cavalrymen in their fight for freedom during the Civil War.

"We are very excited to bring this program back to the park" said Superintendent Carrie Mardorf. "The 3rd USCC has powerful stories to share, and this will be a unique learning experience for all ages."

**Schedule of Programming**  
Friday June 7 and Saturday June 8

9 a.m. – Bugle call for reveille, flag raising and inspection of the troops.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. – Visitors are encouraged to wander through the camp, ask questions, and listen to the stories 3rd USCC. There will be a video telling the story of the unit playing in one of the tents and a display of period and replica weapons used by the unit.  
4 p.m. – Sharps carbine firing



Living historians depicting 3rd U.S. Colored Cavalry troopers. IMAGE CREDIT: NPS

demonstration and Retreat will be sounded.

**Location:**  
Vicksburg National Military Park  
3201 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39183  
All events are weather dependent.

The event is free. No entrance fee will be required. An entrance pass will still be required to access the tour road.

This event is part of park's Under-Told Stories programming.

The 3rd United States Colored Cavalry was originally formed in October 1863 at Vicksburg, Mississippi as the 1st Mississippi Cavalry Regiment (African

Descent). In March 1864, they were renamed the 3rd U.S. Colored Cavalry. The unit initially was based in Vicksburg, participating in numerous operations throughout Mississippi and Louisiana including Yazoo City Expedition during 1864.

Next, the regiment served near Memphis, Tennessee, including participation in the Battle of Egypt Station, until April 1865, when they returned to Vicksburg for occupation duties. The regiment was mustered out of federal service in January 1866.

For more details on the regiment: *Battle Unit Details - The Civil War (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)*

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is also hosting an encampment by the group Wednesday, June 11 in front of the War Memorial Building in downtown Jackson at 120 N State Street, 3rd United States Colored Cavalry Living History Event | Mississippi Department of Archives & History (ms.gov) www.nps.gov

**About Vicksburg National Military Park**

Vicksburg National Military Park preserves and tells the story of the Civil War Campaign for Vicksburg, the history of Vicksburg from 1862 through Reconstruction and Vicksburg National Cemetery. This turning point in American history helped determine the outcome of the Civil War, and its impacts continue to transcend our culture today. For more information visit www.nps.gov/vick.

**About the National Park Service**

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 424 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.

Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov), and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

**Black Press**

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A panel discussion on "From NNPA Intern to Full-Time: How the Chevrolet Discover the Unexpected Program is Fueling the Workforce of the Future," hosted by General Motors, and a Pfizer-sponsored breakfast on "Using AI Technology to Extend Audience Reach and Ensure Inclusive Voices" are two additional highlights. The Google News Initiative will present "News Consumer Insights" with Chrissey Towle, Google's director of News Partnerships.

Rahn Bailey, MD, of LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine, Elliott T. Boyce, Sr., retired director of the New York State Police, and Major Neil Franklin, former executive director of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership, will be on a panel Reynolds will host to discuss "The Importance of the 2024 Black Vote and Public Policy." NNPA Partners and sponsors Reynolds, Pfizer Rare Disease, Google News Initiative, General Motors, American Petroleum Institute, Comcast NBC Universal, Nissan and AARP.

The NNPA Fund's annual Merit Awards and gala will occur Thursday, June 20. On Friday, June 21, the NNPA's annual black-tie gala will include a tribute to Frankie Beverly. Congressman Kweisi Mfume, U.S. Cabinet Secretary Michael Regan, and Maryland Governor Wesley Moore have all been invited to participate. NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. highlighted the critical nature of this year's convention. "The NNPA welcomes the upcoming opportunity to convene our 2024 annual national convention in the great city of Baltimore," Chavis declared.

"This marks the 197th anniversary of the Black Press of America. Baltimore is one of the historic cities where the Black Press continues to triumph in a transformational way. Because democracy and freedom are on the ballot this year, we will also issue a national call to action to get out the vote across America."

As the Black Press nears its bicentennial, the NNPA is celebrating its rich legacy and charting a course for its future impact on civic engagement and social justice. "Strengthening voter turnout, supporting families, and enhancing the financial stability of Black businesses are essential steps toward fostering a more inclusive and equitable society," Henry added. "This conference underscores the vital role of informing, educating and mobilizing communities."

The NNPA has continued to call for increased advertising support from businesses and governmental agencies to ensure fair and equitable spending with Black-owned media, emphasizing the ongoing economic and social contributions of the Black Press to American society.

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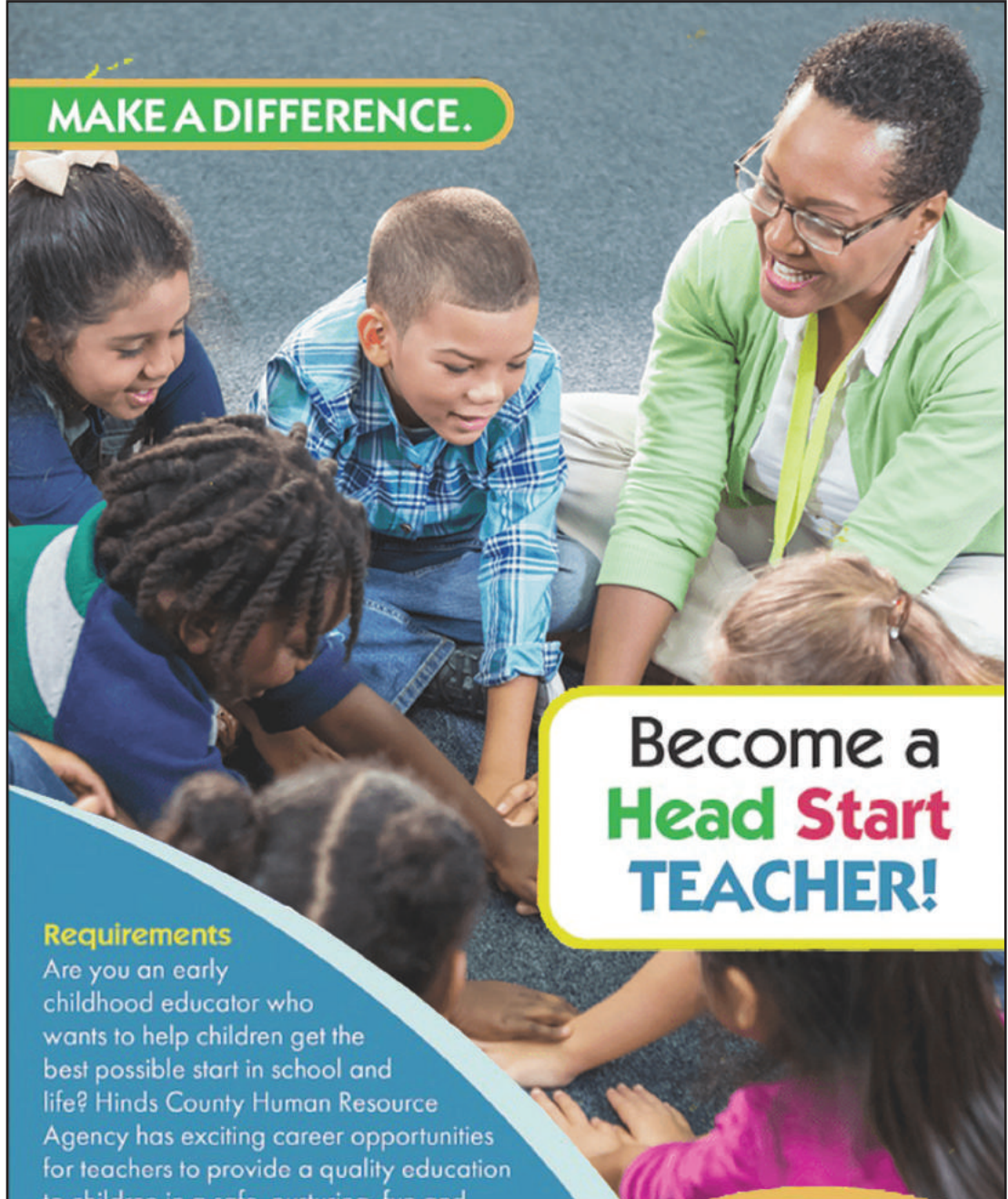
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## Natchez's Juneteenth 2024 events announced

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A full slate of Juneteenth 2024 programs will be celebrated this year throughout Natchez. The events will include music, tours, food, museum exhibitions, local government meeting, and a Civil War encampment, among other activities.

Juneteenth, which is short for "June 19th," is one of the oldest known holidays commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

"Though the emancipation of enslaved people of African descent in the Natchez area began in force with the arrival of Union forces in July 1863, our national holiday to celebrate that newly found freedom is held each year on June 19th – acknowledging when the news of the end of the Civil War arrived in Texas," said Jeff Mansell, lead historian of the Natchez National Historical Park.

This year's programs in Natchez will include the following:

Melrose Through the Labor of Others: the McMurrans as Enslavers

### June 10-June 30

Beginning on June 10, and continuing throughout the month of June, a temporary exhibit in the Melrose slave quarters will provide additional information on the McMurrans family and those people they held in bondage. It will include the currently known names of nearly 400 people enslaved by the McMurrans at Melrose and five plantations. This exhibit can be viewed free of charge every day between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### Aldermen Meeting at NAPAC Museum

Tuesday, June 11, 11 a.m. In June each year, the Natchez Mayor and Board of Aldermen Meeting is held at the NAPAC museum, which is dedicated to presenting the history and culture of African Americans in not only Natchez but the entirety of the southern United States. This is an annual tradition started in June 2021. The meeting starts at



Opal Lee, left, who is known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth," is pictured with Natchez native Princess Karen Chatman at the 2023 Inspired Women's Luncheon in Arlington, Texas. In early May 2024, President Biden honored Lee with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work in establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday in 2021.

11 a.m. at 301 Main St.

### Kick-Back at NAPAC

Thursday, June 13, 6 p.m. This is a special event held by the City of Natchez and NAPAC Museum that honors citizens and businesses for their contributions to Natchez. The event is held at the museum. The public is encouraged to come and see the many wonderful artifacts displayed at the museum. Refreshments will be served. The program will be held at the museum at 301 Main St. For more information, call Bobby Dennis, the museum's executive director, at 601-445-0728.

### Natchez Welcomes Mississippi 3rd U.S. Colored Cavalry

Thursday, June 13, all day Re-enactors for the 3rd U.S. Colored Cavalry will ride into Natchez and set up camp on the Bluff, where they will engage the public and talk about the Cavalry's history. The event is organized by Ser Seshsh Ab Het-

er-Clifford M. Boxley. He said the encampment is open to the public. It's expected to include 200 to 300 participants. For more information, call Ser Boxley at 601-442-4719.

### Natchez Day of Unity

Friday, June 14, (location to be determined)

The City of Natchez will hold its fifth annual Day of Unity event, the continuation of a tradition begun by former Natchez Mayor Darryl Grennell during the aftermath of the 2020 George Floyd incident. "Now held every June to coincide with Flag Day, this tradition has now become an integral part of the city's annual Juneteenth celebration and is held at a rotating location every year," said Mayor Dan Gibson. The time and location for this year's event will be announced soon.

"We celebrate harmony with both song and spoken word," said Gibson. "One of my favorite parts of this event is when the

sounding of the bells of churches throughout the city ring out as a reminder that we are all children of God made uniquely in His image."

### The Juneteenth Extravaganza

Friday, June 14, 7 p.m. This special event will celebrate Juneteenth through the music of several prominent blue artists at the Natchez City Auditorium. In addition to Melodic Princess, from Fayette, the list of artists will include LJ Echols, Avail Hollywood, OB Buchanan and DJ Mario. Elias Lover III will serve as host. Carol Smith, owner of The Postal Shoppe, is spearheading the event, which she plans to hold each year. She said the performances offer a good mix of current and older blues artists, such as those who played during the Tyrone Davis era. Tickets are \$40 for general admission. Presale cost is \$30 until May 1. VIP tables that seat eight people are \$400 per table. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. For more information, call Carol Smith at 214-551-9858 or 601-653-0490.

### 1st Annual Juneteenth Cheeseburger Challenge Cook-Off

Friday, June 14, 3-7 p.m. 97.7 FM and 1240 AM will kick off Juneteenth weekend with the first ever Cheeseburger Challenge on the Bluff. Five to 10 teams will compete head-to-head to see who makes the absolute best cheeseburger. Teams will grill live on-site in downtown Natchez between 3 and 7 p.m. Judging will take place at 5 p.m. WTYJ and WMIS will broadcast live on site with D.J. Buzz providing the soundtrack for the event. The contest will take place on N. Broadway St., in front of the Natchez Grand Hotel. Grand prizes include \$400 for First Place, \$200 for Second Place and "Bragging Rights." This event is held by New Vision Broadcasting in partnership with the City of Natchez. For more information,

contact Malcolm Innis at info@newvisionbroadcasting.com or by calling 601-442-2522.

### Juneteenth Travel in Time Spring Fling

Saturday, June 15, 10-1 p.m. NAACP, in conjunction with area businesses, will host its Community Carnival at the Concord Quarters. The event will combine fun, games and education for area youth. "It will, among other things, look to provide a fun and engaging environment to teach children the history of Juneteenth and why it is important," said organizer Malcolm Innis, owner of New Vision Broadcasting. Community Carnival is held by New Vision Broadcasting in partnership with the City of Natchez. For more information, contact Malcolm Innis at info@newvisionbroadcasting.com or by calling 601-442-2522.

### 1st Annual Choir Showcase

Sunday, June 16, 3-7 p.m. The first annual Juneteenth choir competition, featuring five of the area's "best choirs," will be held in recognition of Juneteenth in the Natchez City Auditorium. The event will showcase five area churches in a competition to see which choir will be awarded a cash prize and selected as the 1st Annual Juneteenth Choir Competition winner. Grand prizes will include \$1,000 for First Place and \$250 for Second Place. The Choir Showcase is held by 97.7 FM and 1240 AM in partnership with the City of Natchez. For more information, contact Malcolm Innis at info@newvisionbroadcasting.com or by calling 601-442-2522.

### Melrose Juneteenth Luminary

Wednesday, June 19th, 7:30 p.m. In commemoration of the Juneteenth holiday, Natchez National Historical Park will present a luminary on the front lawn at the Melrose estate at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 19th, at #1 Melrose-Montebello Parkway, Natchez. This grand illumination

will be held in remembrance of the nearly 700 enslaved people who involuntarily labored at Melrose and on the associated cotton plantations of John and Mary Louisa McMurrans.

The Melrose front gate will close at 5:00 p.m. that day and reopen at 7:30 p.m. Visitors are asked to park in the main parking lot and walk to the lower portion of the front lawn where an area will be set aside specifically for solemn reflection. The public is encouraged to bring lawn chairs and flashlights, as it will be dark. The observation will conclude at 9:30, and the gates will close at 10:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/natchez

### Melrose Juneteenth Tours

Wednesday, June 19th Throughout the day on Wednesday, June 19th, the staff of the Natchez National Historical Park will provide tours of the Melrose mansion at #1 Melrose-Montebello Parkway, Natchez, that focus on the African-American experience. The tours will highlight what is known about the enslaved men, women and children who lived and labored at the estate as well as the system of slavery in this region that made such extravagant homes possible. Melrose house tours take place seven days a week at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4 p.m. The cost for adults is \$11.00 while children 15 and under are free. Tour tickets can be purchased at Melrose or online in advance at Recreation.gov. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/natchez

### Juneteenth African American Tours

Entire month of June Special tours focusing on African-American history are offered in June in recognition of Juneteenth. They're led by Rev's Country Tours who tells the dramatic and significant stories of African Americans in Natchez. For more information, call 601-807-5337.

## Closed casino hotels in Mississippi could house unaccompanied migrant children

The Associated Press

Officials are considering a proposal to house unaccompanied migrant children at two former casino hotels in northwest Mississippi, an idea that has drawn opposition including from the local sheriff who said the county lacks resources to accommodate the plan.

Local news outlets reported that the repurposed facility

would house as many as 2,000 children and teens at the hotels that were part of the Harrah's casino complex, which closed in 2014. The casino was demolished, and other proposals to reuse the hotels have not succeeded.

County supervisors met in executive session Monday to discuss the project, but Tunica County Attorney John Keith

Perry told WREG-TV that supervisors have not officially endorsed the plan.

"Obviously, anything that deals with immigration is a hot-button issue," Perry said.

Perry said the current owners are in talks with a private entity interested in buying the property, which he says is in good condition after being closed for 10 years.

Any facility housing immigrants ages 17 and younger would have to meet federal regulations, Perry said, and his understanding is the facility would be "self-contained."

"So, you don't have children that would be out and about for their safety reasons," he said.

The facility would also have to comply with a court settlement governing how the federal government treats migrant children, including limiting how long they can be confined.

Tunica County Sheriff K.C. Hamp said Wednesday that the county doesn't have resources, including a hospital, to care for immigrants, and they would have to be taken to neighboring communities.

"When it concerns public safety, public healthcare, along with child protective services, Tunica County does not have a local hospital in the event of an emergency," Hamp said in a statement.

State Rep. Cedric Burnett, a Democrat from Sardis who represents the area, also opposes the plan, saying he supports efforts to redevelop the complex to enhance tourism and gambling in Tunica County.

"I think that location should



The Veranda hotel on May 13, 2014, in Tunica Resorts, Miss., is one of two hotels being considered to house unaccompanied immigrant children in northwest Mississippi. The hotels were part of a Harrah's casino complex that closed in 2014. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS, FILE

be used to compliment the gaming industry," Burnett told WREG-TV. "You know Tunica is a tourism town, we depend on gaming."

Burnett said the benefits of using the hotels to house migrants would be limited to the current owners and the people operating the facility.

Harrah's opened in 1996 as the Grand Casino and was conceived on a grand scale, topping out with 1,356 hotel rooms

across three buildings. Its now-demolished casino floor was the largest between New Jersey and Las Vegas.

Tunica's casino market has been in decline for more than a decade. While it was once the nearest gambling destination to parts of the South and Midwest, most of those states now have their own casinos. A casino in West Memphis, Arkansas, has also lured away patrons.

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## NYC vowed to reform its protest policing. A crackdown on a pro-Palestinian march is raising doubts

By Jake Offenhardt and Cedar Attanasio  
Associated Press

When New York City resolved a lawsuit brought by Black Lives Matter demonstrators last year by agreeing to overhaul how police respond to protests, Mayor Eric Adams praised the suite of reforms as sensible steps to “move our city forward.”

But some civil rights lawyers are now questioning the mayor’s commitment to the deal in the wake of the New York Police Department’s aggressive response to a pro-Palestinian demonstration Saturday. Police arrested more than 40 people at the event and were filmed pummeling protesters and ordering them to leave the street.

At a press briefing Tuesday, Adams said officers had acted “accordingly” in response to protesters who had spit at them, blocked traffic, lit flares and, in the case of one marcher, climbed atop a city bus with a Palestinian flag.

The lawsuit settlement will require police to accommodate most street demonstrations, while creating a tiered system of responses that prioritize de-escalation. A city lawyer stressed that the city is



Police arrest a pro-Palestinian protester near the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where the Met Gala takes place, May 6, 2024. AP PHOTO/ANDRES KUDACKI, FILE

still in the process of developing new training and procedures around the agreement, and it is therefore complying.

But Adams also argued that the protesters’ actions on Saturday negated the tiered approach, which is intended to ensure that police don’t use isolated incidents of law-breaking to crack down on otherwise peaceful protests.

“You don’t have a right to disobey the rules. You were told to do it on the sidewalk. You were told to do it in a peaceful way,” said Adams, a Democrat and former police captain, adding that “when you cross over that line,

there’s no tier to that.”

Jennvine Wong, a supervising attorney at the Legal Aid Society, which is a party to the federal lawsuit, said the mayor’s comments raised “serious concern about his commitment to meeting the city’s obligations under the settlement.”

“It’s one thing to be working on the policy and not having finalized them yet, but it’s another for the leadership of this administration to act so cavalier and dismissive about the ways this police department is ignoring the reality that’s coming down the line,” she added. “They’re going to

have to comply with every aspect of this settlement.”

The settlement, which does not have a deadline for implementation, stems from a lawsuit filed by New York State Attorney General Letitia James that found a pattern of civil rights violations committed by police against protesters who took to the streets in New York in May 2020 following George Floyd’s death.

Under the new tiered system, the department must deploy fewer officers to most protests and refrain from sending heavily armored units that sparred frequently with protesters in the past. Moving to a high threshold requires authorization from a high-ranking commander and evidence of looming violence.

In an emailed statement, a mayoral spokesperson, Kayla Mamelak, said the city remained “committed to honoring the obligations of the settlement.”

“Our efforts to date follow the exact structure outlined in the settlement, and any suggestion otherwise is simply untrue,” she added.

As fierce protests against Israel have broken out across the city in recent months, demonstrations have often

been met immediately by officers in riot gear and threats of arrest if attendees do not disburse from the street.

Even before the beginning of Saturday’s demonstration in Brooklyn, a large group of officers with batons, zip ties and shields were stationed at several points along the protest route, along with correctional buses used for mass-arrest processing, according to organizers of the event and legal monitors.

The Nakba Day event is held each year in Bay Ridge, a heavily Arab enclave of Brooklyn, to mark the forced expulsion of Palestinians following the establishment of Israel in 1948. It typically draws a small police presence from the local precinct, attendees said.

“This felt like a show of force, an intimidation tactic,” said Nerdeen Kiswani, the co-founder of Within Our Lifetime, which organized the protest. “We heard from community members all day that they had all these units spread out in the community.”

Shortly after Saturday’s event began, Kiswani said, officers threatened arrests for those congregating in the street or using amplified

sound. When one supportive community member played chants from a speaker in his apartment window, an officer scaled the building’s fire escape to tell him to stop, video of the incident shows.

In his comments Tuesday, Adams suggested that many of those in the protests had come from beyond the neighborhood or the city, invoking his oft-repeated claim that outsiders who “don’t like our country” are working to “radicalize our children.” An NYPD highlight-reel style video after the protest criticized the clothing of the protesters and the flyers they allegedly circulated online.

The settlement strengthens an NYPD rule requiring that officers maintain “content and viewpoint neutrality” when responding to protests. But until it is formally implemented, protesters would continue to find themselves in a “gray zone,” said Wylie Stecklow, an attorney who represented protesters in the 2020 case.

“Our settlement agreement is trying to put guardrails out there to ensure constitutionally compliant policing,” Stecklow added. “And those guardrails are not yet in place.”

## Ed Dwight, America’s first Black astronaut trainee, reaches space at 90

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

Ed Dwight, the pioneering African American who came close to becoming America’s first Black astronaut six decades ago, achieved his long-awaited journey into space at the age of 90. On Sunday, May 19, Dwight, along with five crewmates, soared aboard Blue Origin’s New Shepard rocket.

The liftoff from Blue Origin’s West Texas launch site was the company’s first passenger flight in nearly two years. This approximately 10-minute suborbital flight etched Dwight’s name in history as the oldest person to reach space, surpassing Star Trek actor William Shatner, who held the record at age 90 until Dwight’s journey.

Dwight’s fellow passengers included venture capitalist Mason Angel, French craft brewery founder Sylvain Chiron, entrepreneur Kenneth Hess, aviator Gopi Thotakura and retired accountant Carol Schaller. Together, they experienced a brief but transformative journey as the rocket ascended over 347,000 feet, crossing the Kármán line, the internationally recognized boundary of space.

After a few moments of weightlessness, the New Shepard booster landed smoothly near the launch site, with the crew capsule following under two of its three parachutes.

Emerging from the capsule, Dwight expressed his elation, shaking his fists in triumph. “Fantastic! A life-changing experience. Everyone needs to do



Dwight

this,” he exclaimed. Reflecting on the experience, he added, “I didn’t know I needed this in my life, but now I need it in my life.”

In the 1960s, Dwight, then an Air Force captain, was fast-tracked for space flight following President John F. Kennedy’s call for a Black astronaut. Despite his top-half graduation from a prestigious test pilot school, he was passed over for astronaut selection. His autobiography, “Soaring On The Wings Of A Dream: The Untold Story of America’s First Black Astronaut Candidate,” recounts that challenging period.

Following his Air Force tenure, Dwight became a celebrated sculptor, specializing in depictions of historic African-American figures.

“I’ve got bragging rights now,” Dwight told NPR post-launch. “All these years, I’ve been called an astronaut, but now I have a little [astronaut] pin, which is a totally different matter.”

Recalling the flight, Dwight remarked on the pronounced curvature of the Earth at their altitude. “That line between the atmosphere and space – it was like somebody pulled the curtains down over the windows.”

The cost of Dwight’s ticket was shared among Blue Origin, Space for Humanity and the Jaison and Jamie Robinson Family Foundation.

Born in 1933 on the outskirts of Kansas City, Kansas, Dwight grew up under the guidance of his mother, Georgia Baker Dwight, who instilled in him the belief that he could achieve anything. An avid reader and talented artist, Dwight pursued an aviation career, joining the United States Air Force in 1953 and earning a degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Arizona State University.

Selected as the first Negro astronaut trainee in 1962, Dwight’s journey was marred by discrimination and political setbacks, leading to his resignation in 1966. Transitioning to a career in art, Dwight received a Master of Fine Arts and established himself as a renowned sculptor. His works, including monuments to the Underground Railroad and memorials to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and George Washington Williams, have earned a permanent place in American cultural history.

When asked what he’d like to do for an encore, Dwight told NPR he’d like a second trip into space. “I want to go around the Earth and see the whole Earth,” he proclaimed. “That’s what I want to do now.”

## IN MEMORIAM: Memorial Services set for Wilmington Ten member Willie Earl Vereen

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

The Wilmington Ten were a group of civil rights activists wrongfully convicted in 1971 for the firebombing of Mike’s Grocery Store and shooting at firefighters. The group, comprised of nine Black men and one white woman, included Willie Earl Vereen, Wayne Moore, Ann Shepard, James McKoy, Marvin Patrick, Reginald Epps, Jerry Jacobs, Connie Tindall, William Wright, and National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

A memorial service for Willie Earl Vereen, a member of the political prisoner group Wilmington Ten, was held Tuesday, May 28, at the Temple of Truth Light and Life in Wilmington, North Carolina. Vereen died Saturday, May 25, at the age of 69. A viewing was held later at John H. Shaw’s Son Funeral Home at 520 Red Cross St. Family members have scheduled a Wednesday funeral.

Vereen, who had battled liver cancer and endured years of dialysis, died at 5:30 a.m. while in hospice care. His death marks the passing of another key figure in the fight for racial justice in the 1970s.

Wilmington was a flashpoint for conflict during a time of racial unrest, with violent clashes between Black activists and organizations supporting white supremacy, like the Ku Klux Klan. Racially biased legal proceedings and prosecutorial misconduct were the leading causes of the Wilmington Ten’s false accusations and subsequent convictions.

The activists received harsh sentences, with their total prison terms amounting to 282 years. They spent almost a decade in prison before a federal appellate court overturned their convictions in 1980. The court cited suppressing evidence and coercing false testimonies.

Amnesty International declared the Wilmington Ten “prisoners of conscience” in 1976, bringing international attention to their case. The organization’s support, alongside public statements from American Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young, who described the charges as “trumped up,” underscored the political nature of their imprisonment.



Vereen

In 2012, North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue issued pardons of innocence for the Wilmington Ten, recognizing the racial injustices that had tainted their convictions. “These convictions were tainted by naked racism and represent an ugly stain on North Carolina’s criminal justice system that cannot be allowed to stand any longer,” Perdue stated. “Justice demands that this stain finally be removed.”

The death of Vereen follows the recent passing of another Wilmington Ten member, James “Bun” McKoy, in November. NNPA Chair and *Westside Gazette* Publisher Bobby Henry said he deeply respected Vereen’s legacy. “Brother Vereen has gone on to glory, making his mark alongside other young freedom fighters,” Henry stated. “Because of their tenacity, perseverance, courage and steadfast belief in their innocence, the Wilmington Ten were ultimately pardoned by Gov. Beverly Perdue, a testament to the enduring fight for justice.”

Chavis, who will help eulogize Vereen, reflected on their shared journey. “Willie Earl Vereen, at the age of 17, was one of the youngest members of the Wilmington Ten,” Chavis remarked. “Yet he was a gifted and talented young freedom fighter for equal and quality education for Black public school students. He was an accomplished musician and drummer who dedicated his cultural genius to proclaiming freedom, justice and equality for all. We were political prisoners together and may the spirit of Willie Earl Vereen live on for future generations.”

# How workplaces can contribute to COPD risk

## StatePoint

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is a long-term lung disease that makes it hard to breathe. Impacting 11.7 million people in the United States, many people think of it only as a disease that impacts people who smoke and use tobacco products, but long-term exposure to dust, chemicals, fumes and vapors from the workplace are also risk factors.

In fact, work-related exposures account for 10-20% of either respiratory symptoms or lung function impairment consistent with COPD.

To help people understand the many facets of COPD risk, the American Lung Association is launching a campaign to raise awareness of occupational COPD. As part of the campaign, they are sharing patient insights, along with information to help people identify workplace risk



factors and signs of disease progression.

### Knowing the Risk Factors

Mary Cohen, who lives with

COPD, started having symptoms when working at a nail and hair salon.

"I did not realize that working

in a hair and nail salon doing nails would put me at risk for lung disease, COPD," says Cohen.

The leading industries and job

types that increase risk for COPD include agriculture, mining and manufacturing, however, many types of workplaces, from construction to welding, can potentially expose workers to harmful irritants that can contribute to developing COPD.

Workplace exposures include:

- Secondhand smoke
- Mineral dusts like silica, coal and asbestos
- Organic dusts like cotton, wood and grains
- Metal or welding fumes like cadmium
- Diesel or exhaust fumes
- Asphalt, tar fumes or vapor in roads or roofing
- Smoke from fires

### Recognizing the Signs

While there is no cure for COPD, it is often preventable and once diagnosed, can be managed and treated. That's why recognizing the symptoms as early as possible is so important. These symptoms include shortness of

breath, a cough that may bring up sputum (mucus or phlegm), wheezing, tiredness or fatigue, or repeated lung infections like bronchitis or pneumonia. Perhaps a person notices they are taking the elevator instead of the stairs because of shortness of breath, or that they develop a lingering cough every time they sweep sawdust. Unfortunately, people often attribute these changes to their health to aging or because they have gained weight or are out of shape.

If a person has been exposed to risk factors for occupational COPD or has symptoms, the American Lung Association recommends that they speak to their healthcare provider.

The workplace is where people spend hours of their day and years of their life. Learning more about how to protect the lungs at work is critical.

Learn more at [Lung.org/workplace-COPD](https://Lung.org/workplace-COPD).

## National Senior Health and Fitness Day

By Vince Faust  
Tips to Be Fit

National Senior Health and Fitness Day is the last Wednesday in May each year. This day was developed to help seniors to:

- reduce fall risk and increase the ability to live independently
- maintain strength, healthy joints and muscles
- help reduce or control blood pressure
- reduce the risk of colon cancer and diabetes
- ease symptoms of anxiety
- offer community and companionship in groups
- reduce and prevent arthritis joint swelling and pain
- develop better eating habits.

In the past few years many researchers have turned their attention to the question: Is muscle and strength loss a function of aging or is it a result of disuse? Recent studies show that "if you don't use it you will lose it."

Getting older does not mean that you have to become weak and suffer from age related changes that affect older people who are sedentary. Several studies show that resistance-training exercises help maintain and increase muscle strength and size as we age. When muscle biopsies of men over 50 who lifted weights were compared with those of 20-year-old men the biopsies looked the same. When biopsies of men over 50 who did not exercise were compared with those of the same 20-year-old men their biopsies showed typical age related changes.

There are other factors, which cause changes in muscle size and strength. Hormones, heredity, nutrition and a decrease in protein synthesis all play a part in how gracefully the body ages.

Heredity can't be changed. You are who you are genetically. Exercise and good nutrition can stimulate the amount of testosterone released in the body of both men and women. Exercise can also increase the amount of protein utilization, which takes place in the body. These changes will have an affect on muscle size and strength and bone density. Both of these factors help to determine the quality of life a person maintains as they get older.

Exercise also strengthens the bones, tendons and ligaments. Ten-

dons connect muscle to bone. Ligaments connect bone to bone.

Strengthening muscles, tendons and ligaments with resistance exercise will make you stronger, help support the skeletal system and joints. Stronger muscles, tendons and ligaments can reduce your risk of having joint problems and help existing joint problems. You should talk with your doctor before you start because depending on the joint problem, resistance training may aggravate it.

Aerobic exercises (walking, jogging, biking or swimming continuously for 15 minutes or more) are important but muscle-strengthening exercises are just as important to have a fit body. In fact, strength-building exercises are a necessary part of an aerobic program because they help keep the bones and joints strong enough to withstand aerobic training.

To stimulate muscle fibers to grow and increase in strength a demand must be placed on the muscle. Resistance training does this. Calisthenics is a form of resistance training but lifting weights or using workout machines does a more effective job. We recommend using a combination of free weights (dumbbells and barbells) and machines. Using free weights during some exercises will give you more control over the range of motion you go through. Because machines can't possibly fit every body shape they don't provide a full range of motion with every exercise. People who don't have access to resistance training equipment can improvise with sandbags, plastic bottles filled with water or even canned goods.

If you're a beginner have someone who knows what they're doing take you through your first few workouts. Lifting weights can be dangerous if you don't do the exercises correctly. Always concentrate on what you're doing. Being careless and taking your movements for granted can cause injury. Concentrating on each repetition when you workout will also recruit more muscle fibers to do work making each repetition more efficient.

A complete workout should include exercises for each body part. This will include the chest, shoulders, triceps, back, biceps, forearm, thighs, calves and your abdominals

(midsection). Start with 2 or 3 different exercises for each body part. Gradually work up to 8-12 repetitions for each exercise. Do each exercise 1-3 times to start.

We strongly recommend that you have a professional show you what to include in your routine and that you get an OK from your physician before you start. If you have chronic conditions such as, congestive heart failure, hypertension, arrhythmias, angina or diabetes they must be stable before starting an exercise program.

Always breathe correctly during a resistance-training workout. Inhale during the relaxed phase and exhale during the actual lift. For instance, if you're doing an arm curl (bicep curl) inhale as the weight is lowered and exhale as you lift the weight. Don't over exaggerate your breathing this can cause dizziness.

Strengthening programs are being recommended for people well into their senior years to help them perform every day living activities such as walking, grooming, dressing, climbing stairs and getting in and out of chairs. It also helps improve balance and coordination. When added together these qualities equal more independence.

Aging starts during your youth and is progressive. You can't stop the aging process but you can slow it down and improve your quality of life. For older but wiser beginners changes in strength and stamina can be seen within 3 weeks after initiating a training program.

### Nutrition & Older People

As we get older nutrition plays an important part in our health. Most nutritional needs of the older person are similar to those of their younger counterpart. Make sure you get in enough calcium, B vitamins and iron through a balanced diet. Keep a food diary for two weeks to determine what you need to add to your diet. An active person needs about 10 to 13 calories for every pound of body weight. You should eat 4 to 5 small meals that include fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low fat proteins.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

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

## Five things to know about asthma and summer heat

### StatePoint

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

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

### 1. New challenges are emerging

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

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

### 2. City dwellers are particularly vulnerable

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

Sadly, these issues disproportionately impact certain communities. Due to a history of discriminatory practices like systematic denial of mortgages, insurance loans, and other financial services on the basis of race and ethnicity, Black and Indigenous people, and other people of color, are more likely to be living in areas impacted by urban heat and poor air quality.

### 3. Flooding can harm lung health

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

### 4. Advocacy efforts are underway

The Smart Surfaces Coalition is made up of 40 national and international organiza-



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

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

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

- Install light-colored roads, parking lots and driveways to reflect sunlight and reduce heat.
- Install solar panels to convert sunlight into electricity and provide shade for roofs.
- Plant trees to increase shade.
- Select porous surfaces to collect polluted stormwater, soak it into the ground, and filter out pollution.

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

### 5. Resources are available

Educational programming can help people better manage the disease in summer and year-round.

For the 24.8 million Americans living with asthma, extreme summer temperatures and emerging environmental threats can make life more difficult. Living with an illness, or being the caretaker to someone who is, can take a physical and emotional toll. Fortunately, new educational resources and expanded programming can help patients navigate new and old challenges alike.

Patients can get support and knowledge, and connect with others by joining the Lung Association's Patient & Caregiver Network.

Patients can check out the self-management education programs, information and tools available at [Lung.org/asthma](https://Lung.org/asthma) or call the American Lung Association's Lung Helpline at 1-800-LUNGUSA.





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

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**Sudoku**

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

						8	4	
9	8						5	6
	1							
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P R E S E R V E D

# Spiritual selfie

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



10 years ago, I travelled to Paris, France and Vienna, Austria by myself for a brief vacation in mid-summer. As much as I enjoyed visiting some of the most historic places in the world like the Louvre Museum and Versailles Palace, I was often frustrated by how to take pictures of myself at these places.

Sure, I took plenty of pictures of these breathtakingly beautiful gardens, museums and landmarks. But I wasn't in any of them, and I wanted to be in some of them. At first, I asked other tourists to take my picture, which most of the time they willingly agreed. However, after a while, I got tired of asking others to take

my picture. I knew then that I had one last resort if I wanted pictures of these places with me in them: the selfie.

Despite my best efforts, I struggled trying to take a selfie. I wanted to take selfies in one of the mirrored halls at Versailles Palace but my attempt to get the artwork in the background and my face in the foreground made my head look twice as big. I then tried to take the selfies with my arm completely stretched out. Those pictures turned out with half my face cut off.

I then figured since this was my first real experience taking selfies that I should research those who were most familiar with the selfie. After seeing a child of around 8 years old take a selfie, I knew I had to do better. I figured that if I was going to learn how to take selfies, I needed to just do it! So that's what I

did: regardless of how they turned out, I kept taking selfies.

By the end of my one-week trip, I had a nice collection of selfies. Some were bad, but most were good. But I learned an important lesson in taking selfies. When I took the selfie, if my focus was on trying to get the scenery or background in the picture, they didn't turn out well. However, when I changed my focus to the center of the photo (me) instead of what was in the background, the selfie turned out great. And now 10 years later, the technology that helps us take the best selfie is built into most cell phones.

We often make the same mistake with God. We get so distracted by the things that are going on around us that we forget to focus on God and his purpose for our lives.

2 Corinthians 3:18 says: "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." Would God be anywhere in your spiritual selfie, or would He be edged out by work-related, church-related and family-related distractions? Even though it is challenging to do, we should strive for our spiritual selfie to be like "a glorious image of God" and focused on fulfilling His purpose.

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 2

# We are to love one another

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



Jesus said, "Father, forgive them: for they know not what they do." That's powerful, isn't it? "They don't know. They are ignorant. Forgive them." Stephen said, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." They were stoning him. He said, in effect, "This is nothing. I signed up for whatever you, Lord, want to use me for. I signed up to be offended.

Our love must be deeper than feelings. It has to be deeper than emotions. I like emotional love: the love I feel towards my brethren, the emotional love I feel towards my wife and family, or to whomever it might be. That's warm and fuzzy love. But our love has to be deeper than warm and fuzzy.

Our love has to work when we don't feel it. Love has to be a principle by which we live. Love is there and it directs me. It's a stop sign sometimes. It's a slow down sign sometimes; not because I feel it, but because I know that is what I live by. It's a law by which we live.

Don't think of love as just emotion. We manifest love, not necessarily because we feel it; but because love directs us to conduct ourselves in certain ways.

In Ephesians 4:31-32 we read "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, ten-

derhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." James said, "Swift to hear, slow to speak." We have to somewhat train ourselves or meditate upon this so we'll manifest these things when we need to because the enemy is going to come.

When something that happens to offend, here comes the emotion. Her comes heat. Yes, it's at the forefront. So, what do we have to do? Stop! This is what love says.

John 17:19 "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." Jesus set Himself apart. He consecrated Himself to the cross so that we could benefit from it. "I sanctify myself that they can be sanctified through the truth." Verses 20-22: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one."

What binds us together is the Holy Spirit.

"If a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." We need to be perfectly joined together. Blessings to all.

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

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# There are many parallels between sports and everyday life in our world today

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



Watching sports makes me muse sometimes about the comparisons to everyday living. The decisions we make and how they affect other people can make us famous or infamous. I suspect the important part is that we should always try to make good decisions. That should be our goal each day.

In another life that I had, I would watch my opponent throw his tennis racket on the tennis court and sometimes step on it. They were boiling mad and up-

set because of a point they lost. Their tennis racket became the bane of their existence. Having their temper under control was just not happening.

During my days of playing tennis, I never threw my racket in anger or disgust. The reasons were simple. I didn't want to embarrass myself or my family. Another important reason was that I didn't want to show my opponent I was affected by his play.

My tennis role model was Arthur Ashe. Many years ago, I was in his presence. When you watched him play, you really couldn't tell if he was winning or losing. Another player that had similar characteristics was

Bjorn Borg from Sweden. He was almost stoic on the court.

Temperament in sports is important. Keeping your cool in the heat of battle is not easy. I have often said that playing sports is not easy, especially when you lose. Losing is built into sports. There is no gray area as you either win or you lose.

It is not how you handle the winning, it is how you deal with the losing. The losing part will make you stumble but it won't make you crumble.

Players and their emotions are in the news a lot these days. Competition stretches them and tests our will. I often say there are a few known facts in sports. First, you can't win them all re-

gardless of your skill level and records will be broken at some point.

Losing is a part of sports competition. Ideally, you want to use the loss in a constructive way to get better. Making mistakes should not become a habit.

Will competing in sports help you later in life? I believe it will. There are many lessons that sports teach us. First, as people, we are constantly trying to get better. Plainly stated, because today was a good day does not mean tomorrow will be too. You must put in the time and the work to make it happen.

Communication is another attribute that applies to both sports and life. Talking with

others and expressing opinions allows us to have a say in what will happen around us. If we remain silent, our wants and needs will go unfulfilled.

Don't let having bad days become a constant in your life. Learning how to bounce back from being down will strengthen our resolve in life. It is not how many times you fall down, it's how many times you get up. It's not where you start, it's where you finish. Steve Prefontaine, a famous distance runner said, "To give anything less than your best, is to sacrifice the gift."

We must surround ourselves with people who have similar interests and want to achieve

their goals. Being around complacent people makes us complacent too.

Not giving up on an idea or project shows that we are resilient and not easily swayed. There will be roadblocks along the way as we strive to be successful.

I am reminded of Jim Valvano, championship basketball coach at N.C. State University, who famously said, "Don't give up, don't ever give up."

As the popularity of sports continues to grow, let's cheer on our favorite teams and players. Remember that America and the world have a relationship with sports that won't ever be broken.

# Biden, Morehouse, Black men and the Bronx

By Naba'a Muhammad  
StraightWords.com



Black men and Black America need more than just hope Mr. President as you seek to rally Black voters and win reelection in the fall.

Your historic Morehouse speech referenced God and history but that isn't enough. What are your real commitments to Black voters backing the Democratic Party, the most loyal voting bloc in U.S. political history?

Before you say Black folks cannot afford to lose to Trump, that's not the issue. The question is how bad do Democrats want to win? And can America, a nation in which a recent poll said 106 million people see civil war coming, afford to let Trump win?

Black male voter support for MAGA Man isn't about fake Trump swagger, ugly sneakers, barbershop chatter, or Black men trapped in basements who can't get a woman. Please don't bring Caucasian Male Pathology Syndrome over here with Black men and try to find some equivalency. There is none.

Trump isn't winning, Biden is losing. Al Jazeera has reported: "In 2016, Trump received 8 percent of the Black vote according to the exit polls, the highest level of support by Black voters for any Republican since George Bush in 2000. By the 2020 U.S. presidential election, support for Trump among Black voters had surged to 12 percent."

That's not a surge if you track Black voter support for the GOP prez candidate over several decades. Plus that 12 percent was all Black voters, male and female.

In 2020 NBC News reported: "Support for the Democratic presidential candidate reached a new low among Black men this year, according to the NBC News poll of early and Election Day voters. Eighty percent of Black men supported Joe Biden, down slightly from Hillary Clinton's 82 percent in 2016 but significantly down from Barack Obama's level of support among Black men in 2012 and 2008."

Instead of figuring out the problem or disconnect, the Dems and their operatives demonized Black men. Black support for the Dems has been slipping for years.

Many Black men, like many young Blacks and some Black women, are sick of the Democrats, Biden and their failures. Failures? Yes. Has Biden condemned police misconduct and killing of Black people, or instructed his Justice Dept. to vigorously prosecute these cases? Never. He didn't pass the George Floyd police reform bill nor the John Lewis voting rights act at the federal level when he had House and Senate.

The president raised these two issues as threats speaking at Morehouse. When

he had the power to eliminate some state level threats to Black lives and voting rights, he allowed then-Democratic senators Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Christian Sinema of Arizona to block and kill the federal legislation.

Studies and complaints show inflation, loss of COVID relief programs, higher prices for food, gas, rent, homes and taxes for small businesses hurt Blacks more.

Some Black males are clinging to Trump to rebel against the Democratic political plantation and some out of plain spite given that Trump has promised nothing. He held a Bronx rally May 23 trying to draw out images of Blacks and Latinos backing him – but he has made no commitments to Blacks.

Supporting someone giving you nothing is foolishness.

But Blacks saw billions poured into cities as humanitarian aid for migrants while West Side neighborhoods in Chicago haven't recovered from 1960s riots. While Biden touted reinvestments in America at Morehouse, many aren't seeing any difference. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, speaking to media May 17, talked about population losses tied to decades of disinvestment in Black neighborhoods.

He told the press, "The lack of affordable housing, loss of jobs, and closed schools and mental health clinics have impacted many of Chicago's communities, and disproportionately hurt Black Chicagoans in particular."

Blacks have seen little done and little spent to solve the homeless crisis, which hits them harder. Black men coming home from prison seeking to turn their lives around are given just about nothing.

Biden asked May 19 at all-male Morehouse College: "And most of all, what does it mean, as we've heard before, to be a Black man who loves his country even if it doesn't love him back in equal measure?"

Biden declared "democracy" was the way. I beg your pardon, Mr. President. Blacks live under continued oppression in a perpetual fight for some measure of freedom, justice and equality in the "world's greatest democracy." This "democracy" was birthed out of the Black holocaust of the transatlantic slave trade and Native American genocide.

Black men should have zero interest in trying to prove love to a nation that hates, abuses but loves to use them.

Consider U.S. Airman Roger Fortson, who was cut down by bullets fired by an Okaloosa County, Fla., sheriff's deputy. Authorities said an armed offender was killed by an officer in fear of his life. Lies.

The Black legal gun owner opened the door to his apartment to a sheriff, who he didn't see when he looked out a peephole. He opened the door, legal gun by

his side. He was blasted into oblivion. Biden and his administration have said nothing.

The president highlighted some \$23 billion he said was invested in HBCUs over four years, but he gave \$18 billion in aid to Israel weeks ago. Are investments in Israel's military and slaughter of Palestinians more important than Black institutions that may have been underfunded, perhaps, by a trillion dollars over the years?

"What's happening in Gaza and Israel is heartbreaking," said the president at Morehouse. "Innocent Palestinians caught in the middle of all this: men, women, and children killed or displaced in despite – in desperate need of water, food and medicine. It's a humanitarian crisis in Gaza."

Slaughter in Gaza isn't just happening, Israel is killing people.

Yet Biden supports Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the face of International Criminal Court charges of war crimes in Gaza. The charges against Netanyahu followed the president's Morehouse remarks but Biden fully backs the prime minister and Israel.

Can we say the same thing about Biden support for Black America?

Mr. Biden spoke of "extremists" "who close the doors of opportunity; strike down affirmative action; attack the values of diversity, equality and inclusion." Are these "extremists" in corporate board rooms, board members at colleges and universities, and political bodies? Because that's where these efforts are being destroyed and eliminated.

Black voters could be the difference in the 2024 presidential election, especially in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. The election could literally come down to 45,000 votes as we look at the electoral college, not the popular vote of millions.

It's going to take more than ads released May 23 by Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris blasting Trump for his anti-Black actions, attitudes and racism.

"A New York Times poll published earlier this month found Biden leading former President Trump among Black voters, 63 percent to 23 percent, a significant decrease from the 87 percent of Black voters who voted for Biden in 2020," Huff Post noted May 23.

Mr. President, here's your question: Can you afford to lose not just an election but your country?

Naba'a Muhammad, award winning Final Call editor, is host of "Straight Words With Naba'a Richard Muhammad, Bj Murphy, and James G. Muhammad," which airs live Tuesdays, 9 p.m. to 12 a.m Central Time, on WVON AM 1690 Black Talk Radio Chicago and is livestreamed at the iHeart Radio app and WVON.com. Get more of his writing and content at straightwords.com.

# It's not always what you think

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



Picture this – early May, 2024 in Jackson, Mississippi. Brief background: My elderly neighbor and I developed a friendship several years ago

following the demise of her husband, who she was married to for almost fifty years. I often witness she and her husband taking early morning strolls in the neighborhood, gardening together, and sitting together on a bench under their beautiful trees.

Our friendship blossomed from brief front yard conversations to occasional lunch meetings. Then, our friendship graduated to indulging in what I describe as sofa talk in the comfort of my home nook (retreat/library/living room). We conversed about life, her health challenges, and good book reads while consuming cold Zero Cokes and bottled water. Although, I enjoyed our conversations about books, retirement, local news, etc. I enjoyed hearing my neighbor talk about her marriage more than anything.

I enjoyed my neighbor talking about her marriage because one, I recognized that this could help serve as a form of healing for her and, two, it was inspirational to me as a married woman. She would often share, with tears in her eyes, special moments and defeats, like her husband's health challenges that helped to shape longevity in their marriage. One of the things that stands out to me the most is her describing the last ten years of her marriage as the most beautiful years they had. It reminds me of one of my favorite bible passages from Ecclesiastes 7:8 which states, "The end of a thing is better than its beginning."

When we did not meet, we would engage in an exchange of quick greetings outside. Further, we occasionally checked on each other via text messaging with quick replies. In fact, I texted her several weeks ago – early May – to check on her and to discuss one of my previous articles from *The Mississippi Link* newspaper. However, I never heard from her and this greatly worried me. I texted again and still didn't hear anything. Then, a few days later, I saw a multitude of cars in her drive way, on both sides of the street.

Was my gut feeling right? My heart throbbed as I reminisced on all the good times we had and regrets of not checking on her more. I prepared a mental list of refreshments to buy for her family and a heartfelt speech that would somehow convey my con-

dolences. Furthermore, I planned to ask the family about funeral arrangements and to volunteer my services if needed. I also envisioned what I would wear to the funeral. This was so hard – I could not believe that I was preparing to attend her funeral rather than join her for another lunch date. I decided to visit the family the next day but it never took place. Moreover, I wasn't able to attend my neighbor's funeral.

The reason that I didn't get to attend her funeral is because she didn't have one – it's not always what you think. She actually texted me later that night and expressed that she had been super busy. And the explanation for the multiple cars was due to her hosting a book club meeting in her home. I didn't know whether to cry or laugh.

I know I did too much to make you think that ... I explained several articles ago – I am a writer.

Like I did in presuming the worse about my neighbor – spouses are doing the same thing about each other.

Spouses walk by what you see and hear for yourself, versus making presumptions and decisions from the following: half seeing/hearing things, misinterpretations – taking things out of context, social media dramatic verbiage, family/friends' one cent, co-workers' hearsay, etc. – even God say judge what you see or you will be judged the same way.

Please don't get me wrong, in some instances, sometimes what you presume and what others are saying can be right, but it can be wrong too. Therefore, I strongly advise the following: first, clear your head – block out all presumptions, assumptions and hearsay; second, ask God to reveal things to you (time will tell); third, ask God to prepare your heart either way, and lastly, communicate your feelings (don't hold back) to your spouse.

In conclusion, I buried my neighbor but the funeral never took place and you are burying your spouse and marriage with arguments, separation, divorce and worse based on presumptions – sometimes, it's not always what you think. Be still! Pray! Seek peace for self! Celebrate life! I promise what's done in the dark will come to the light – period!

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.) on Instagram: lp/etsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert), Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert, Email: letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com or call 601 596-2528.

## Summer travel anticipated at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers Int'l Airport after a busy Memorial Day weekend

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The summer travel season has kicked off at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN), with airlines reporting a surge in demand for reservations which started during the Memorial Day holiday period and throughout the summer. Travelers can expect increased activity at the airport due to upcoming spring and summer travels.

Passengers are encouraged to check their flight status at [www.flyjackson.com](http://www.flyjackson.com) or with their respective airline. They are also encouraged to arrive at least two (2) hours before flight departure to allow ample time for check-in and security procedures.

While at JAN, stay connected with [iFlyJAN\\_WiFi](http://iFlyJAN_WiFi), and to enhance the passenger experience, customers are reminded of the food and beverage offerings in the main terminal and in the East and West Concourses.

Important JAN parking rate updates, beginning June 3rd, are as follows:

- Economy Lot at \$13 per day (remote lot, with frequent, non-stop shuttle buses)
  - Surface Lot at \$17 per day (quick walk into the JAN terminal)
  - Garage at \$19 per day (at the JAN terminal)
  - Cellphone lot is free; 1 st 10 minutes in lots are free; Hourly Parking is \$5 per hour
- Parking availability notifications will be updated throughout



this period. Shuttle service is provided for customers parked in the remote lot. Call 601 360-8690 for real-time parking information.

The world-class air carriers serving JAN (American, Delta, Southwest and United) rank among the most award-winning in the aviation business, and the airport is honored to be a start or end point for travelers as they reconnect with family and friends and explore the world.

With up to 900,000 seats for sale departing Jackson every year, there are many great options for all travelers. JAN is committed to the safety of all

travelers as they embark on their journeys, with enhanced measures in place to ensure a secure and comfortable experience. For general travel information, including links to airlines, rental car reservation sites, and parking information, visit [www.jmaa.com](http://www.jmaa.com). Passengers are reminded to review TSA checkpoint rules and regulations at [www.TSA.gov](http://www.TSA.gov).

**About JMAA The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority** (JMAA) operates two airports: Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN) and Hawkins Field Airport (HKS). JAN is the busiest airport in

Mississippi, situated in the central part of the state, and serves the capital region of Jackson, which has over 3,000 acres of property. JAN serves several of the world's busiest global hubs and is home to the Mississippi Air National Guard 172nd Airlift Wing.

HKS is a general aviation airport that houses two emergency response medical air transporters and the Civil Air Patrol. It is also home to the Mississippi Army National Guard 185th Aviation Brigade.

The Authority provides service to over 1.3 million passengers per year.

## Central Park 'Exonerated' Five member Yusef Salaam is coming to Jackson, MS



Yusef Salaam to deliver keynote address at Black Men's Health Equity Conference

Special to The Mississippi Link

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health, the Black Men's Health Equity Council, and MS-NAACP are thrilled to announce that New York City Councilman and Central Park 'Exonerated' Five member, Yusef Salaam, will deliver the keynote address at the upcoming Black Men's Health Equity Conference.

The conference will be held at 9 a.m., Saturday, June 29, 2024, at the Jackson Hilton Hotel, located at 1001 E. County Line Rd., Jackson, MS. Admission is free. Register at [www.minority-institute.org](http://www.minority-institute.org) by June 15, 2024.

Yusef Salaam and four other Black and Latina youth were falsely arrested and convicted in the 1989 New York Central Park Jogger case. Salaam was imprisoned for nearly seven years before he was exonerated. This story was the subject of the award-winning Netflix movie *When They See Us* and the PBS documentary *The Central Park Five*.

During his keynote address, Salaam will speak about the systemic issues that contribute

to the wrongful convictions of Black men.

In addition to the keynote address, conference attendees will participate in concurrent sessions to discuss critical issues that impact Black men. The topics are:

- The State of Black Men's Health in Mississippi: Tobacco Use and Vaping
  - Check yourself before you wreck yourself: Heart and Prostate Health
  - Invisible Man: Black Men, Depression and PTSD
  - Health Justice and Family Health Advocacy
  - Entrepreneurship
- Complimentary breakfast, lunch and conference gifts will be provided.

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

## MVSU Communications and Marketing Department wins 16 awards



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Valley State University Communications and Marketing Department won sixteen awards in six categories

at the annual College Public Relations Association of Mississippi's (CPRAM's) Conference and Awards Ceremony.

Attendees pictured above

included (from left) John McCall, senior graphic designer; LaTunya Evans, communications specialist; Karrington Stockstill, project coordinator/

social media manager; Justice Williams, associate graphic designer; Donnell Maxie, director of communications and marketing.

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## Smiles and cheers fill Forest Hill HS gymnasium during 2024 Salute to Scholars celebration

The JPS Newswire

Hundreds of people filled the gymnasium inside Forest Hill High School to cheer and applaud scholars at the 44th Jackson Public Schools' Salute to Scholars Program. The long-standing tradition honors the top ten graduating seniors from each high school. All seven high school principals and a senior counselor presented awards to the top ten graduating seniors, based on their grade point averages.

"We are excited to celebrate you for outstanding academic achievements gained through your pursuit of excellence throughout your high school years," said Laketia Marshall-Thomas, Assistant Superintendent for High School.

The JPS Collaborative Choir, under the direction of Pamela Moody, left the audience in awe as scholars performed, "Battle of Jericho."

"People will look at you and where you come from to figure out what you're capable of, but as a 2023 graduate of Murrah High School and a Jackson, Mississippi, native – I'm here to tell you that anything is possible," said Dr. Nashlie Sephus, guest speaker.



Forest Hill gymnasium filled with hundreds of people from seven Jackson Public High Schools



JPS Collaborative Choir

In 2018, Dr. Sephus became the founder and CEO of The Bean Path, a non-profit organization based in Jackson, MS, assisting individuals and startups with technical expertise and guidance. In September 2020, she became the owner and developer of the Jackson Tech District, at least 12 acres of mixed-use commercial real-estate in downtown Jackson to bring tech training and workforce/economic development to Mississippi.



Dr. Nashlie Sephus, guest speaker

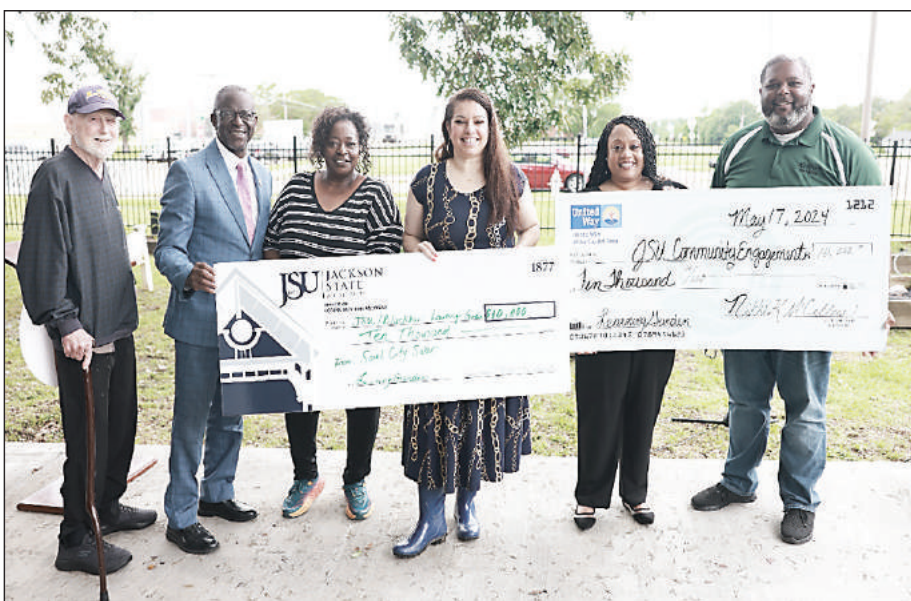
## JSU and Blackburn Middle School receive \$20,000 for collaborative student learning garden

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson State University's Office of Community Engagement, in partnership with Blackburn Middle School, received a total of \$20,000 from United Way of the Capital Area (UWCA) and Soul City Solar at the annual student-led Farmer's Market Friday, May 17. The funds will support the JSU/Blackburn Learning Garden to benefit middle school students and combat food deserts in surrounding communities.

"We began this garden eight years ago with our friends in the University Park neighborhood, where we are now, under the leadership of Ms. Betty Lyons. Ms. Lyons, who is now in heaven, always used to tell me, 'Heather, we want a garden, but you know the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few,'" said Heather Denne, Ph.D., director of JSU's Office of Community Engagement.

The harvest was indeed plentiful, with contributions from Stamps Super Burgers in the form of \$125 toward the stu-



Roger Hiatt; Jackson City Councilman Vernon Hartley, Ward 5; Sheila Harper; Heather Denne, Ph.D, director, JSU's Office of Community Engagement; Nikki McCelleis, president/CEO of United Way of the Capital Area; Eric Jackson, principal, Blackburn Middle School



Blackburn Middle School students assist patrons from the community with selecting their farm fresh fruits and vegetables at student-led Farmer's Market. PHOTOS BY WILLIAM H. KELLY III/Jackson State University

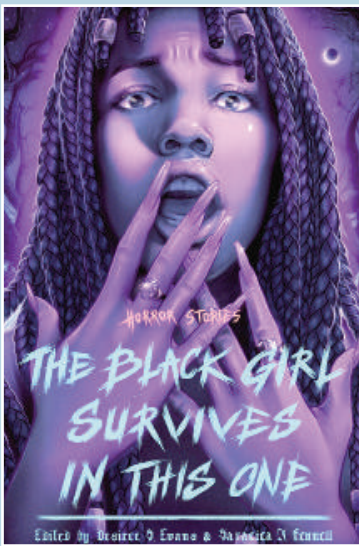
dent farmers market proceeds, and a \$7,000 donation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help repave the learning garden grounds, ensuring ADA compliance. Soul City Solar and UWCA each donated \$10,000.

"We at United Way are all about supporting and convening natural partners around health, education and economic mobility. Today, we are specifically focused on teaching young people about healthy living, growing vegetables and entrepreneur-

ship," said Nikki McCelleis, president and CEO of UWCA. The student-led farmer's market was full of excitement and new beginnings for many Blackburn Middle School students as they helped patrons select fruits and vegetables they had grown

themselves. Jayden Bryant, a sixth grader and garden club member at Blackburn Middle School, believes that working in the learning garden has taught him the importance of health. "I joined because I thought it

would be a good experience and a chance to connect with nature and fruits and vegetables. I have learned that it's good to eat more fruits and vegetables because it helps with your health," Bryant said.



BOOK REVIEW:

# THE BLACK GIRL SURVIVES IN THIS ONE

EDITED BY DESIREE S. EVANS AND SARACIEA J. FENNEL  
C.2024, FLATIRON BOOKS  
\$19.99 • 368 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

Don't go into that room. Don't start downstairs, there's something down there you don't want to meet. Don't open that door. No, No, don't look inside the cabinet. You'll scream and you'll be sorry. Don't go into the woods alone and don't ever go into the tool shed - although, in the new book, "The Black Girl Survives in This One," edited by Desiree S. Evans and Saraciea J. Fennell, there are times when you

don't have to worry so much.

Dive into your favorite scary media and you can almost immediately tell who will live and who will gruesomely die in each story. If there's a Black girl in the cast, well, you know what's coming next. But, says author Tananarive Due in her foreword, Black women are tired of that old trope. Rarely are fictional Black girls given a chance to "use their courage, strength and wits to survive."

All that changes in this book. Who among us hasn't taken a

shortcut home? In "Harvesters" by L.L. McKinney, Jo's best friend and her new beau want to party back at his place. So does the hot guy Jo just met, and a quick trip through a cornfield seems like the quickest way to get there - even though word is that the cornfield is haunted.

Theater actors know that there's a certain Shakespearean play that you don't ever mention aloud, and in "Ghost Light" by Erin E. Adams, a white girl bends the rules at the worst possible time. No big deal, right?

Except that it is, and the deadly mess is left up to the producer-director to fix - if she lives.

Meeting your favorite celebrity is fun, but what if they're not like you expect them to be? In "Tmi" by Zakiya Dalila Harris, the celeb in question is oddly too willing to connect with a fan, and too more-than-happy to take selfies. That can be a lifetime memory but then again, sometimes, when someone famous shares too much, it's not a good thing at all.

The windows are open, the

night is quiet. All you hear is cicadas, crickets, and... a hair-raising scream. Don't worry, though, the night sounds are normal. The scream is yours and you're reading "The Black Girl Survives in This One."

Sometimes, all you really want in a story is short. Seriously, you have a busy summer and that's where this book comes in: fifteen authors present tales to scare you good, and they mostly succeed in their mission. Here, you'll read about a family curse, an inheritance

that you wouldn't ever want, an otherworldly indication of danger and death, and a reason why you wouldn't want to have a party in a cemetery. Any of these tales might make you laugh a little, nervously.

And you'll be scared. While "The Black Girl Survives in This One" is meant for readers ages 12-to-18, it's absolutely also for adults who love a little scream in their story. Don't leave this one behind.

Don't miss this book. Don't stop reading.

## ZACK WALLACE HINDS COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK

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Fax: (601) 973-5547

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First Judicial District  
(601) 969-0052

### SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office  
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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)



## 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

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## The College Hill Family honors 2024 graduates and Golden Diploma recipients during Baccalaureate Service

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Terrance McEwen, assistant principal at Northwest Rankin High School, delivered an invigorating, down to earth message filled with wisdom to the graduating class of 2024 during baccalaureate service at College Hill Baptist Church. The pastor is Rev. Chauncy L. Jordan, Jr.

McEwen said to the attentive graduates, "If you can manage the simple things, the bigger things will be easier to handle." He elaborated on the following points for advice:

- Always have a plan (You can't get anywhere without a plan. It doesn't have to be elaborate. (Plans can change)
- Always be on time (Punctuality ranks # 6 out of the top 13 reasons one can be fired.)
- Surround yourself with good people (You can tell a lot about a person based on who they choose to hang out with)
- You have to 'want to do, what you do' (Not because of someone else, rather, because of yourself)
- Sacrifice and work hard (You don't have to be the smartest one, but you can be the one who works the hardest)

McEwen told the congregation to pray for the graduates, give them guidance as well as grace and understanding.

Pastor Jordan commended McEwen for his wonderful words of wisdom as he repeated some of the advice for the students and congregation.

During the service, Terrance Hill, principal of Green Elementary School introduced each graduate, followed by a brief bio regarding the accomplishments and plans for their future. Each graduate received gifts from the College Hill family and various ministries of which they were members.

The annual R. E. Willis Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 was awarded to Tobias Barnes. Barnes graduated from Murrah High School with a 4.1 GPA.

After worship service the high school graduates were honored with a Hawaiian Luau Trunk Shower.



Golden Diploma recipients, high school and college graduates at College Hill Baccalaureate Service PHOTO BY DENISE GRIFFIN -WHITTINGTON



Terrance McEwen, keynote speaker



KATEENA SMITH JIM HILL HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOS BY CHRISTIANE WILLIAMS



JABARI HARRIS JR., JIM HILL HIGH SCHOOL



Tobias Barnes, Murrah High School



Carter Barnes, Hinds CC



Chloe Nash, Copiah-Lincoln CC



Kelvin Gardner, Hinds CC, Utica Campus



Lillian Knight, MS State University



Jasmine Peoples, JSU



Allanakiesh Vance, JSU



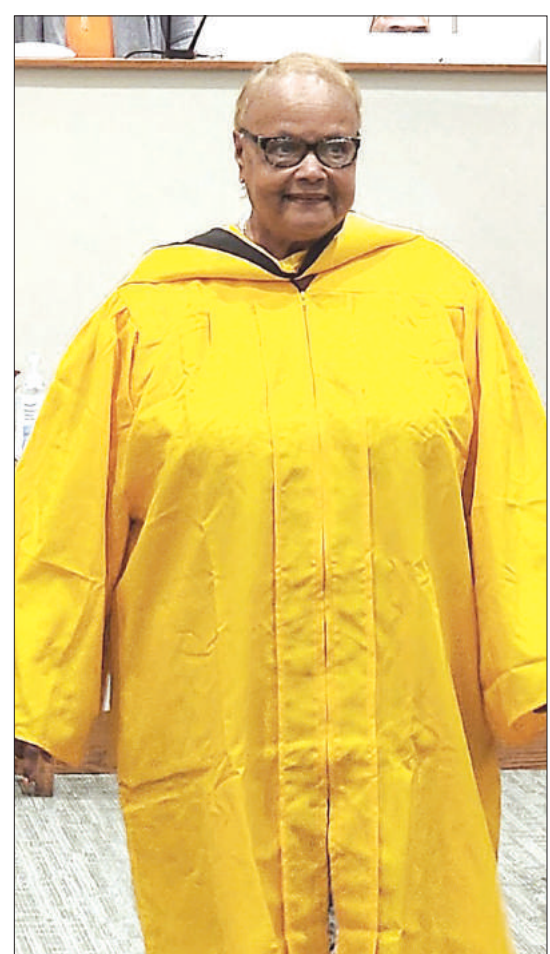
Larenda Franklin, Spec. Ed., University of MS



Dr. Shaundra Dixon, USM



Bobbie Anderson, Golden Diploma, HCAHS



Lena Yvette Mitchell, Golden Diploma, JSU

# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### Teachers' Appreciation Week

Superintendent Dr. Robert Sanders, Assistant Superintendents Mrs. Michelle Ray and Dr. Antionette Woodall delivered lunch to all school sites in the Hinds County School District to show appreciation to all staff for their dedication and commitment to Hinds County School District for this 2023/2024 school year. These lunches were purchased by the Hinds County Public School Foundation. We thank all our teachers and administrators for their hard work.

