

No justice for Rasheem Carter – twenty months and ticking

Numerous law agencies investigating horrifying act in Taylorsville – fear and suspicion remain

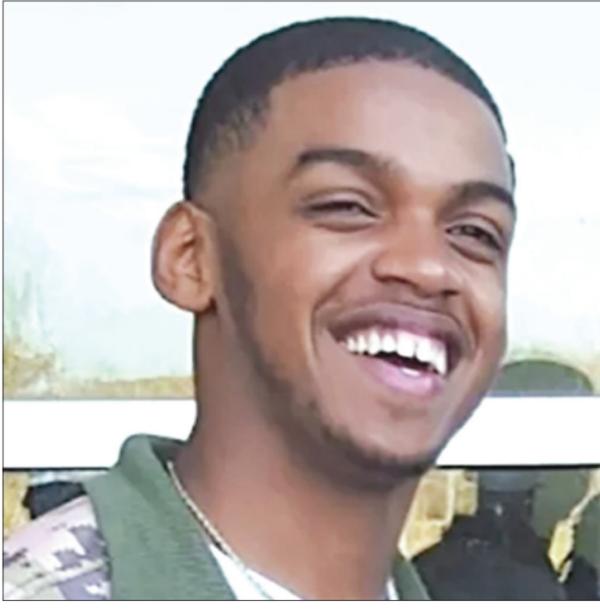
By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

The Mississippi Link newspaper returned to Taylorsville on June 12, 2024, to seek an update on the Rasheem Carter disappearance, which remains unsolved twenty months after it happened. Per the Census, they have less than 1200 residents, folks seem cordial and do discuss the matter – but due to fear, not on the record.

We know that Rasheem Carter, a twenty-five-year-old man from Fayette, was working as a contractor in Taylorsville at the Georgia Pacific mill when he went missing October 2, 2022. We know that he called his mother, Tiffany Carter, seeking her guidance.

She has told numerous sources, including ABC News and CNN, that her son contacted her seeking help, saying he was being targeted and followed in his car by three trucks of white men. She told him to go to the police and he did, twice. He received no assistance or protection.

The following day, the Laurel Police Department reported him missing and last seen at the Super 8 Motel there. A month later remains were found in a wooded area just outside downtown Taylorsville, after a search triggered by a deer-cam photo of Carter.



Rasheem Ryelle Carter PHOTO PROVIDED TO NBC NEWS BY HIS MOTHER, TIFFANY CARTER

The remains were his. More remains have been discovered since, as well as his jeans containing his ATM card, cash and a phone charger.

On March 23, 2023, about a week after the CNN reporting, Civil Rights Attorney Ben Crump spoke to Inside Edition about the case, and he shared then that, “officials with the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation said a forensic anthropology

examination of Carter was completed by the Mississippi State Medical Examiner’s Office on Feb. 2, 2023, and there was no means by which the cause of death could be reasonably determined by the medical examiner’s office.” He added, “After Carter’s remains were found, the Smith County Sheriff’s office said authorities had ‘no reason to believe foul play was involved.’ “The sheriff from day one made

a conclusion that there was no foul play and so his parents and family have very little trust in the Mississippi law enforcement authorities.” Crump referred to Carter’s death as “a modern-day Mississippi lynching,” pointing to the condition Carter’s body was in when it was found. “A head being decapitated seems to be not something that animals would do, but it seems like people would do.”

Following up on our first report on May 30, 2023, we spoke to several residents, starting at the Taylorsville Police Department where a white female dispatcher pointed us to the Smith County Sheriff’s Department. “It didn’t happen in our city limits, so Taylorsville is not responsible for it. They blame us because he came here, but we didn’t refuse him.”

When stating nothing has been solved yet, she replied, “It probably won’t, it’s probably a freak accident that happen you know.” When countering that it didn’t sound like an accident, she said, “you never know, there’s a lot of wild animals out there, and that’s just my opinion.” She stated that she was not here at the time, but indicated that she didn’t think anybody from here could have

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Fake vs real/opposing viewpoints’ rallies seeking justice for Dau Mabil, attract national attention



Dau Mabil’s loved ones, local and national leaders and community supporters rallied for the powers that be, to supply missing links to his mysterious disappearance and death. COURTESY: MEDIA PHOTO

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

Recently, persons who rallied in two different events in Jackson, Miss. sought answers to what happened to Dau Mabil, Sundanese, Belhaven Heights man – who fled from a war when he was eight or nine with his older brother, came to America as a refugee and met his death in March of this year.

In April, Sheriff Ryan Everett made a statement that a fisherman found Dau’s body floating in the Pearl River, miles from Jackson in Lawrence County. In their unrest, Karissa Bowley and supporters voiced their concerns on Friday, June 14, 2024. Then the following Saturday (June 15th) the unrested Bul Mabil and supporters pooled together and voiced their sentiments.

Dau Mabil never returned to his Belhaven Heights resident in Jackson where, according to his wife, Karissa Bowley, he left for his walking routine but left his cell-phone charging. That was the last time Bowley claimed to see him alive. “He is special. He was special before he ever married me. I’m just here, like, missing him, and I’m just here to miss him,” she declared.

Karissa’s older brother – Spencer – mentioned that the family is still waiting to see the full autopsy report regarding Dau’s death. According to him, upon the report’s arrival, the results of the investigation will be released. Afterwards, Dau’s body is to be released for a second autopsy.

Bul Mabil, Dau’s older

brother, expressed his suspicions of the Capitol Police and the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation because of their “muteness” in concealing evidence to the family and public. “If there was no foul play, where is the Capitol Police investigation report? Where was the MBI report when the Chief of Capitol Police said they agree with that conclusion?” He argued.

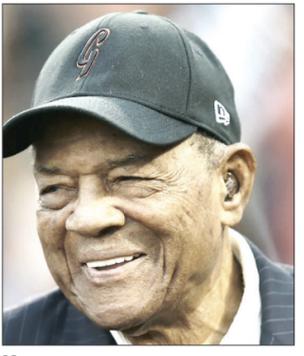
Dau’s family are charging that persons close to Dau might have contributed to his disappearance and death. According to Bul, the Capitol Police are disrespecting Dau’s case in their slothfulness, thereby attempting to give a negative portrayal of him. At any rate, family members are appealing to the Department of Justice to do an investigation.

An emotional Valena Greer – Dau and Bul’s foster mother – shouted, “Everybody knows what happened to Dau. Everybody is quiet. You might hurt the case. The only case that we are hurting if we talk is Karissa’s case as long as they can lie to you.” Dau’s birth mother still lives in a refugee camp but left Africa with others and attended Friday’s press conference.

Referencing Dau’s death as “a national crisis,” Bul pledged during the Saturday rally a nonstop plight until justice is won. “I’m not going to stop even though there are two systems that have been designed here in Jackson, Miss., that are trying to work against me in bringing to justice the people that took away

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Tributes to Willie Mays pour in as mural is set to be unveiled in Alabama



Mays

By Alanis Thames
AP Sports Writer

June 19, 2024 – Hours before crowds were expected to gather for the unveiling of a mural honoring baseball Hall of Famer Willie Mays in downtown Birmingham, a handful of cars drove by, slowing to a halt as passersby thrust cameras out of their windows to take pictures of the display.

It’s an enchanting depiction of the electrifying “Say Hey Kid,” showing Mays beaming with his hands on his knees, his bevy of athletic accomplishments painted around him.

The mural was created by artist Chuck Styles and celebrates



Fans stand for a moment of silence for former MLB player Willie Mays during the sixth inning of a baseball game between the San Francisco Giants and the Chicago Cubs in Chicago, Tuesday, June 18, 2024. AP PHOTO/NAM Y. HUH

Mays’ contributions to baseball, honoring the longtime Giants center fielder who died Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at age 93.

Tributes to Mays, born in Westfield, Alabama, near Birmingham, poured in all over the country on Wednesday, including from President Joe Biden.

“Like so many others in my neighborhood and around the country, when I played Little League, I wanted to play center field because of Willie Mays,” Biden said in a statement. “It was a rite of passage to practice his basket catches, daring steals, and command at the plate — only to

be told by coaches to cut it out because no one can do what Willie Mays could do.”

Mays, who began his professional career with the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Leagues in 1948, had been base-

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Smith County Sheriff's Department in Raleigh

PHOTOS BY CHRIS YOUNG

done that... maybe he was on PCP or something... they come here and line up in the yard protesting, but it happened in the county."

A long-serving white pastor invited me to his office. "It got kind of tense here, this group came down to march and protest, because you've got people on both sides of that thing. I've been around these people a long time and there were accusations of Klan and that kind of thing... I'll be honest with you, in all my years — no, that's not the case. Are there racists, there's racists on both sides. We are not racist. I have members that are African American. We have a food pantry on the third Thursday, we serve about 150 families in Smith County, and most are African American. I don't see this as a racist town. I don't know what happened to Rasheem but believe me there's a lot of wild animals. I hope they find out what happened to that young man, but I don't know what happened. It's a tragic thing, but to say that it's a massive cover-up, I don't buy that."

A long-serving African-American pastor invited me to sit with him on his porch. He shared, "As best I know it happened inside the city limits and animals are not capable of that... the whole town is worried about it, we have not been given information, it was a horrible act and it's been closed up — no talking. God will bring it to light. Gods' justice will prevail. This really did a job on this town. It's created distrust and has brought things back to the surface — people never forget but you learn to deal with things — now it's back on the surface again. Some people want to tell you that

racism is not systematic, but it is. I pray that what happened will soon come out."

A middle age Black woman on the outskirts of town has lived in Taylorsville her whole life, said, "Whoever that was that told you there is no Klan here is lying. I guarantee it. From everything I've heard, no animals did that. They used to come march, but they haven't come for a while now." When asked about fear, she shared, "I'm not afraid but I don't go anywhere alone, but that's just me. I've got kids and I make sure they know what to do and what not to do."

In Raleigh, at the Smith County Sheriff's Department, about 15 miles from Taylorsville, the dispatcher was courteous and asked me to write down my name and number and he would give Sheriff Joel Houston the message that I wanted to speak with him. There has been no call back.

Back in Taylorsville, a 35-year-old Black father of two, shared, "The whole thing is tragic. The best I know he went to police station right over here and asked for help and they turned him down, then a month later they found his bones in a field, head cut off. The clip I saw from the deer cam — that man was running from somebody, no question. You know they call this Mayberry, there's a lot of racists, racial profiling, racial slurs. They try to keep it covered up, but they will laugh in your face and call you a nigger as soon as you turn your back. A lot of us live in fear, that's why we keep our guns because I will protect my family. They need to get the Feds down here."

Mays

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ball's oldest living Hall of Famer and was considered the sport's greatest living player.

Mays died two days before a game between his former team, the San Francisco Giants, and the St. Louis Cardinals to honor the Negro Leagues at Rickwood Field in Birmingham.

"It's actually even heavier today," said Giants manager Bob Melvin, wearing a Mays T-shirt. "When you read all the articles and you read what everybody has to say about him, it kind of comes full circle in what he's meant to our country. Even if you don't know baseball, you know who Willie Mays is."

Melvin said the Giants would wear patches with Mays' No. 24 on their chest for Wednesday's game against the Chicago Cubs.

When the team travels to Birmingham for the commemorative game at Rickwood Field on Thursday, the Giants will open Oracle Park for fans to watch the game on the scoreboard, the team announced. Images of Mays will appear on the scoreboard before and after the event, and a sculpture of his jersey number will be placed in center field to honor him.

Cardinals manager Oliver Marmol said Thursday's game becomes even more poignant after Mays' death.

Mabil

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the life of my brother. In his determination, Bul claimed that just as Dau would persist in the fight for justice, so would he.

Derrick Johnson, head of the NAACP, slanted his belief to that of the Mabil family. The Jackson resident called for "justice" in his appeal to the Department of Justice for swiftness in bringing closure to the mysterious disappearance and death surrounding Dau Mabil. Early-on when Dau went missing, Congressman Bennie Thompson (representative of the Jackson District) sent

"Being there with everything that is going on will be definitely meaningful. You have an icon of the sport in the city where it all started, so I think bringing light to all of it will be a pretty cool moment down there," Marmol said.

The 37-year-old manager said he never met Mays, but it was interesting to hear stories from former Giants like Brandon Crawford about him.

"I will do more of that today. It will be fun to hear people's stories," Marmol said. "I am curious to ask around to those who have."

Cardinals assistant coach Willie McGee said he had several conversations with Mays when he played for the Giants from 1991-94.

"Willie was the best, man, the greatest I have ever seen," McGee said. "He had all six tools. His aggressiveness, his baserunning. That is what separated him, for me, his aggressiveness and his instincts from other five-tool guys."

When asked if Mays ever gave him any advice, McGee chuckled. "All the time — but I don't remember none of it," he said.

(AP Sports Writer Andrew Seligman in Chicago and Associated Press writer Terry Spencer in Miami contributed to this report.)

Mississippi wants to allow some votes from jails and prisons. Red tape may stop it.

A new state law will allow more people in jails and prisons to cast absentee ballots, but many obstacles remain.

By Caleb Bedillion
Reporter, ProPublica

A new Mississippi law clarifies that some people held in jail or prison may vote in elections, but widespread confusion and a tangle of paperwork will likely continue to block many of them from casting ballots.

The state permanently disenfranchises people convicted of crimes that fall into 22 broad criminal categories. However, people convicted of any other crimes remain eligible to vote. But among those incarcerated people who have not had their voting rights legally taken away, Attorney General Lynn Fitch's office suggested several years ago that state law allows only those who happen to be incarcerated outside their county of residence to cast an absentee ballot.

Under that interpretation of the law, a person who lives in Jackson and was arrested and sent to the local Hinds County jail could not cast an absentee ballot, even if they'd never been convicted of a disenfranchising crime in the past. But if authorities transferred that person to a jail in a different county, they would become eligible to cast an absentee ballot.

In their legislative session this year, state lawmakers approved the addition of a new absentee voting excuse that fixes this loophole, ending a system that blocked some otherwise legally eligible voters in jail or prison from voting based only on which side of a county line they find themselves.

"We're disenfranchising people with no reason to do so, and we shouldn't be doing that," said state Sen. Jeremy England, speaking in favor of the measure during a legislative debate on the bill earlier this year. England, a Republican from the Gulf Coast area, chairs the state Senate's elections committee and ushered the bill through the Senate.

Civil rights advocates who have conducted voter registration outreach in jails and prisons say that while the new legislation



was needed, practical difficulties and common misunderstandings will continue to limit the ability of eligible voters in prison to actually cast a ballot.

"There is a real intimidating array of logistical issues," said Paloma Wu, a civil rights attorney with the Mississippi Center for Justice. "We are extremely skeptical that people will in any volume be able to take advantage of this."

Obstacles include mail delays within prisons and jails, in addition to a widespread but mistaken belief that all people with felony convictions are barred from voting in Mississippi.

The Legislature's approval of a new absentee voting reason for eligible incarcerated people comes even as some state senators blocked a more sweeping attempt backed by the state House of Representatives to overhaul Mississippi's felony disenfranchisement laws and restore voting rights to thousands of people with nonviolent felony convictions.

That means Mississippi remains a study in sharp contrasts.

For some people with felony convictions, Mississippi is, legally speaking, among the most lenient states around ballot access, with some felony convictions never triggering a loss of voting rights at all. Nationally, most people in county jails are legally able to cast ballots while detained, but only a few states — Mississippi among them — allow anyone to cast a ballot from a state prison.

There are currently about

19,000 people held in Mississippi state prison custody, and thousands more held in local jails, but there's no clear way to determine how many of those people can still vote. Mississippi court records do show that the majority of people convicted of state felony charges in the last 30 years remained eligible to cast a ballot.

For other people, Mississippi's disenfranchisement system is one of the nation's most punitive and unforgiving, with 22 categories of felony convictions stripping voting rights from someone for life, including a range of violent and nonviolent crimes.

Murder and rape convictions, for example, will permanently disenfranchise someone. But so will convictions for bad check writing, felony shoplifting and possession of counterfeit currency.

The distinctions can be confusing. Grand larceny convictions are disenfranchising, but burglary convictions are not.

Among those with burglary convictions is Tony Qualls from the Mississippi Delta.

This past legislative session, lawmakers agreed to restore voting rights to Qualls. Gov. Tate Reeves, a second-term Republican, vetoed the bill without explanation.

Qualls, however, never actually lost his voting rights. His three felony convictions are all for burglary, which is not a disenfranchising crime, according to a list of such crimes maintained by the Mississippi secretary of state.

Qualls also does not appear on a list of disenfranchised voters

provided to The Marshall Project - Jackson by the secretary of state's office.

Several voting rights experts in Mississippi said they believe Qualls remains eligible to vote and cast a ballot regardless of the governor's veto. They also said state leaders, county election officials and people with felony convictions have often shown confusion about how the state's felony disenfranchisement laws work and who remains eligible to vote.

A spokesperson for Reeves did not respond to questions from The Marshall Project - Jackson about the governor's veto.

Qualls could not be reached for contact.

This isn't the first time lawmakers have tried to give voting rights back to someone who never lost them.

A review of suffrage legislation by The Marshall Project - Jackson identified that of 206 successful suffrage restoration bills passed since 1997, at least four were for people who didn't actually need their voting rights restored.

One man was convicted of burglary in 1978 and committed no further crimes, only for the Legislature to approve an unneeded suffrage restoration bill on his behalf in 2006, a 28-year-long misunderstanding.

Among the 288 unsuccessful suffrage restoration bills introduced since 1997, 15 were filed on behalf of people who never lost the right to vote. One person had a bill introduced twice on their behalf, even though their felony conviction did not occur in Mississippi but in another state, and such out-of-state convictions don't impact Mississippi voting rights.

If state lawmakers and governors are confused, it's no surprise then that incarcerated people often are as well.

"They all think they can't vote because they have a felony conviction," said Cynetra Freeman, a reentry services provider who

has conducted voter registration drives in county jails and state prisons.

Freeman was previously incarcerated on a drug conviction, but never lost the right to vote. She never tried to cast a ballot and didn't realize she was eligible to vote until much later.

Local election officials have almost sole power over voter registration and absentee voting, but sometimes they don't know the laws much better. Freeman and Wu both said registration applications by eligible people incarcerated by the state have been sometimes rejected by local elections officials for unclear reasons.

"Circuit clerk education is a big thing that is needed so that they know that there are people who are eligible to register and vote in Mississippi prisons and jails," Wu said.

Some clerks say they are following the law and will make sure they heed the new absentee voting rules for people in jail and prison.

"We never didn't let them vote if they were still able to vote," said Rankin County Circuit Clerk Michelle Adcock.

Even when someone knows they are eligible to vote and plans to use the newly created absentee voting excuse to do so, serious hurdles remain.

This year, absentee ballot applications must be available beginning on Sept. 6, with absentee ballots themselves not available until Sept. 23. Mailed absentee ballots must be received by Election Day (Nov. 5). That gives incarcerated voters 61 days to send and receive as many as three different documents through the mail, while also obtaining services from a notary twice.

"I think it's a real question if all that can be accomplished within the statutory deadline," Wu said.

To cast an absentee ballot from mail, here's the detailed process an incarcerated voter must go through:

Request an absentee ballot ap-

plication from the circuit clerk of the county where the voter is registered. This can be done in writing or by phone, but the applications cannot be accessed over the internet. They must be mailed by the circuit clerk to an eligible voter upon request.

Once the application has been received, the voter must complete the application, have it notarized and mail the application back to the county circuit clerk. Voters with a legally recognized disability can use a witness instead of a notary.

If confirmed to be eligible, the clerk then mails an absentee ballot to the voter. The voter must complete the ballot, seal it, have the sealed ballot notarized and mail it back to the circuit clerk.

There's ample room for delays throughout this process.

"Sometimes the mail rooms in these facilities take forever to mail something out, and by the time the clerk gets it, it's past the deadline," said Freeman. "That is a big issue."

The Mississippi Department of Corrections did not respond to questions from The Marshall Project - Jackson about voting procedures for eligible state-incarcerated people.

Even if the state prisons are processing mail quickly, delays by the postal service can also occur. Such delays have raised national concerns about possible impacts on voting.

"We have a major problem with the mail in general," said Adcock, the Rankin County circuit clerk.

Mississippi's failure to meaningfully reduce these logistical hurdles comes as at least one other state is lifting them.

Colorado does not allow people held in state prisons to vote, but pre-trial detainees in county jails can vote. This year, the state will require the creation of voting centers in county jails to facilitate voting by those pre-trial detainees.

Colorado is the first state in the nation to require such centers.

College Hill Baptist Church honors Jerry Mitchell posthumously as Man of the Year

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

PHOTOS BY CHRISTIANE WILLIAMS AND JACKIE HAMPTON

College Hill held their Annual Men's Day celebration Friday through Sunday, June 14th through June 16th, where the men of the church were celebrated. A 3-on-3 basketball game was held Friday night in the family life center. On Saturday the church held their annual church picnic on the church grounds. Both events were well attended by the children, youth and overall membership.

Prior to worship service, all Sunday school classes enjoyed breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m. where Rev. Calvin Peoples, a minister of the house, taught the Sunday School lesson.

During the Men's Day Service, which began at 10 a.m., the College Hill family honored Jerry Mitchell, Sr. posthumously, as Man of the Year. Mitchell served College Hill for many years. He served in the finance ministry, couples ministry and the laymen's ministry. He was well respected in the community and many of his friends and neighbors came to the service to honor him and to support his family.

Mitchell was described as a God-fearing man who loved his family and friends and had a gift of service. He was married to Yvette Mitchell and was the proud father of Elizabeth "Prissy" Mitchell and the late Jerry "Dune" Mitchell, Jr.



Mitchell

The speaker for the occasion was Jeremiah Barnes, chairman of the deacons ministry at College Hill. Barnes was introduced by his two sons, Carter and Tobias Barnes. He is married to LaGrace Barnes, whom he publicly thanked for her support in all his endeavors.

The theme for the occasion was "Men under Construction."

Pastor Chaucy Jordan, Sr. commended the speaker for his outstanding message and thanked the Men's Day Committee, which was chaired by Deacon Reginald Knight and co-chaired by Brother Terrance McEwen, for a job well done in celebrating the men of College Hill throughout the entire week-end of activities.



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Helping Families,
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Mississippi law and order Republicans leap on the lawless bandwagon

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

It's a lot! The things coming out of their mouths these days defy any form of logic or respect for the rule of law, yet they are so hell-bent on maintaining control – white supremacy – that they line up behind a deeply manipulative man-child's lust for the highest seat of power. We would expect these elected office holders – it's so difficult right now to call them "elected officials" – to grasp the basic concept that when they point a finger at someone or something else, the remainder of their fingers are pointing back to them. It's one thing to disagree with a policy, it's another thing to line up against the entire justice system.

The ink was hardly dry on Trump's unanimous guilty verdict in the so-called "hush money" case in Manhattan on May 30, 2024, before the Republican zealots began attacking the justice system itself. Their role-model publicly verbally attacked the Hispanic/Latino overseeing the trial, Justice Juan Merchan, and similarly attacked the African-American district attorney who brought the case, Alvin Bragg.

Trump likes to call himself innocent, despite decades of lies and swindling. The core of the New York case was fraud and cover-up utilizing falsified business records, yet nearly every top elected Republican office holder in Mississippi supports him. Probably fraud is drawn to



Andy Gipson and Donald Trump, FROM [HTTPS://WWW.ANDYGIPSON.COM/ELECTION/1497](https://www.andygipson.com/election/1497)



Trump with AG Lynn Fitch FROM [HTTPS://YOUTUBE.COM/@KUDZUPRODUCTIONS](https://youtube.com/@kudzuproductions)

COMMENTARY

fraud, just like truth is drawn to truth. Mississippi's Attorney General Lynn Fitch, some like to say top cop, rushed to X after the guilty on all 34 counts verdict and posted, "In a New York courtroom, the American legal system was manipulated for political gain and weaponized against former President Donald Trump...I have faith in the rule of law and expect that on appeal justice will prevail even against this harsh manipulation." Fitch has selectively had faith in the rule of law when it comes to addressing the largest fraud in state history known as the TANF Scandal – there it is again, that "fraud" word

– plenty of Mississippi elected folks have that in common with Donald Trump. Reeves, Wicker, Hyde-Smith, Watson, Ezell, Kelly, Guest, Gipson and McRae, all line up and support Trump. The auditor, Shadrack White, who takes a salary from Mississippi taxpayers in large part to safeguard against fraud, is all-in with fraudster Trump. Gipson, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, is quoted in part in <https://mschristianliving.com/this-is-my-story-andy-gipson>, after he assumed the position, "I am free to live for God," yet held a support Trump rally at the Ag Museum on June 6th, just seven days after Trump was found guilty by a jury of his

peers. Gipson puts his good ole boy okey-doke on it, "Liberals are coming after conservatives, but I still stand with President Donald J. Trump. Join me in praying for him as he appeals the verdict from a rigged and politically-motivated witch hunt of the New York trial. We the voters will have the last word. Next Thursday June 6th, make plans to join us for our Mississippi Support Rally for President Donald J. Trump! Join us at the Ag Museum as we continue to stand with President Trump," per <https://www.andygipson.com/election/1497>. When their guy is found guilty, the same justice system and jury that could have found him not guilty, is labeled as political and

being on a witch hunt. Just another example of Gipson living for God. In response to Gipson's rally, the Mississippi Democratic Party has called for a boycott of the State Fair. You know how we always look for a bright spot, even in the middle of a horrible time? Well lo and behold, per reporting in the Sun Herald by Bobby Harrison, State Senator Bryce Wiggins qualifies as a bright spot. "State Sen. Brice Wiggins of Pascagoula, who did not attack the jury verdict, was an exception among Mississippi Republicans on social media," said Harrison. Wiggins posted – "All jurors deserve thanks and respect. They are the foundation of the best ju-

dicial system in the world (though not perfect)." He added that the Republicans leadership "has a lot of soul searching to do." He also posted, "Thomas Jefferson wrote, 'I consider [trial by jury] as the only anchor yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution.'" We're in a rough place. Here I am writing like, "ain't it grand," when we have a white Republican (Wiggins), at least in this case, that knows the difference between right and wrong, as opposed to the majority of his brethren who must have some principles yet abandon them for their true savior, con-man Trump. How do these folks talk to their children about all this? Do they tell young Mikey or Jennifer – "well it's very important that you respect the rule of law, it's a cornerstone of our democracy, but in this case, you don't have to respect the 34 guilty verdicts because they got it all wrong." What a terrible example they are setting as parents. Always the voice of reason and fairness, 2nd District Congressman Bennie Thompson posted on social meeting – "Today's verdict confirms what we have always known: Donald Trump is a criminal who thinks nothing of breaking the law, or our Constitution, to get what he wants. No one, especially an ex-president, is above the law." In a separate post, he was even more concise – "Justice has prevailed!"

Bishop of MS Lottery Corp. sentenced for embezzlement

The Associated Press

A former vice president of the Mississippi Lottery Corporation has been sentenced to five years of house arrest after she pleaded guilty to embezzlement for giving herself unauthorized pay raises, the state auditor said Thursday. Hope Bishop was in charge of human resources for the private corporation that operates the lottery. She was arrested in November, pleaded guilty June 6 and was sentenced Monday in Rankin County Circuit Court. Her sentence was for 20 years in state prison, with 15 of those suspended and five on house arrest, followed by



Bishop five on supervised probation. A judge also ordered Bishop

to pay fines, fees and investigative costs, according to a news release from Auditor Shad White. Employees of the lottery corporation discovered Bishop's misuse of money and reported it to the auditor's office when they were improving lottery operations, the news release said. Since then, the corporation has set additional controls to prevent embezzlement. Bishop was served with a \$187,739 demand for repayment at the time of her arrest, the news release said. An insurance policy covered her employment at the lottery corporation.

Ex-officer in Mississippi gets 1 year in prison for forcing man to lick urine off jail floor

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

A former Mississippi police officer was sentenced Wednesday to a year in federal prison for forcing a man he had arrested to lick urine off the floor of a jail cell. Michael Christian Green received the maximum prison time on the misdemeanor charge of acting under the color of law to deprive a person of their civil rights. Green, 26, pleaded guilty March 14 and is scheduled to go to prison July 26. Green lost his job as a Pearl Police Department patrol officer in late December, four days after security cameras showed the violent encounter in Pearl, a suburb of the capital city of Jackson. Although court documents did not mention race, Green is white and a Pearl city spokesperson said the man he arrested is Latino. A charging document said Green arrested the man Dec. 23 after a disturbance at a store. Police department security footage showed that once the man was in a holding cell, he knocked on the door and tried to tell Green that he needed to urinate, according to the court document. After waiting for some time, the man went to the back of the cell and urinated in a corner, the document said. The man who was arrested is



Green was sentenced Wednesday, June 12, to one year in federal prison, the maximum penalty for the charge. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS, FILE

identified in the court document only by his initials, B.E. The security camera footage showed Green threatening to beat B.E. with a phone. Green took the man back into the cell and told him to get on the ground and "suck it up," then used his phone to take videos of B.E. while the man got on the ground and licked his own urine, the document said. After the man gagged multiple times, Green told him, "don't spit it out," according to the document. The City of Pearl said in a statement that officials learned about the "disturbing event" during Christmas weekend and opened an investigation, using an independent attorney. Mayor Jake Windham said Green re-

signed Dec. 27. Windham said Green had worked for the Pearl Police Department for about six months after having worked at other law enforcement agencies in the Jackson area. It's rare for law enforcement officers in Mississippi to be charged with brutality, although authorities typically investigate several cases each year of shootings by police. Pearl is in Rankin County, where six white former law enforcement officers – including some who called themselves the "Goon Squad" – were sentenced on federal and state charges this year after pleading guilty in a January 2023 racist assault on two Black men.

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House Dem Leader Jeffries blasts Rep on blasphemous Jim Crow comments

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In what quickly turned into a polarizing week for Black Americans, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) delivered a scathing denunciation of Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL) on the House floor, while rapper and entrepreneur 50 Cent visited Capitol Hill presumably to advocate for Black entrepreneurs. Both events highlighted the stark divisions within the Black community regarding political allegiances and historical perspectives.

Donalds, who earlier co-hosted a Donald Trump campaign event for Black voters in Philadelphia, incredulously asserted, "You see, during Jim Crow, the Black family was together. During Jim Crow, more Black people were not just conservative – Black people have always been conservative-minded – but more Black people voted conservatively."

Jeffries responded forcefully, condemning Donalds' remarks as inaccurate and deeply offensive. "Mr. Speaker, it



Jeffries

has come to my attention that a so-called leader has made the factually inaccurate statement that Black folks were better off during Jim Crow," he stated. "That's an outlandish, outrageous and out-of-pocket observation."

Highlighting the brutal realities of the Jim Crow era, Jeffries continued, "We would not be better off when a young boy named Emmett Till could be brutally murdered without consequence because of Jim Crow. We were not better off when Black women could be sexually assaulted without consequence because of Jim Crow. We would not be better off when people could be systematically lynched without



50 Cent

consequence because of Jim Crow. We were not better off when children could be denied a high-quality education without consequence because of Jim Crow. We would not be better off when people could be denied the right to vote without consequence because of Jim Crow. How dare you make such an ignorant observation?"

The Congressional Black Caucus echoed Jeffries' condemnation in a statement: "This is a pattern of embracing racist ideologies that we see time and again within the MAGA Republican Party. Rep. Donalds is playing his role as the mouthpiece who will say the quiet parts out



Donalds

loud that many will not say themselves. His comments were shameful and beneath the dignity of a member of the House of Representatives. He should immediately offer an apology to Black Americans for misrepresenting one of the darkest chapters in our history for his own political gain."

On the same day, 50 Cent, meeting with lawmakers in a visit hyped as an attempt to advocate for Black entrepreneurs and Black representation in the liquor industry, commented on the political climate. Speaking to CBS News congressional correspondent Nikole Killion, 50 Cent gave a nod to an alarming trend among Black men

identifying with the twice-impeached Trump, who is a convicted felon and still under indictment. When asked about his stance in the upcoming presidential election, the rapper, who supported Trump in 2020, stated he hadn't decided yet but highlighted Trump's appeal among Black male voters. "I see them identifying with Trump," he explained, "because they got RICO charges."

Trump has more than 50 felony charges, pending in three jurisdictions, after a Manhattan jury convicted him of 34 felonies related to hush money payments he made to an adult film actress to cover up their extramarital affair. A New York jury also twice found him guilty of sexually assaulting a woman, while a judge declared the former president committed massive business fraud and ordered Trump to pay nearly \$500 million in fines and restitution.

But the week underscored a significant divide within the Black community, juxtaposing Jeffries' and the Congressional Black Caucus's fierce defense of historical accu-

racy and social justice against Donalds' and 50 Cent's perspectives.

Many noted that Jim Crow laws, enforced through local and federal legislation, relegated Black Americans to second-class citizenship, enforcing racial segregation and instilling systemic violence and terror. That era included the wrongful execution of 14-year-old George Stinney, Jr., convicted by an all-white jury in 1944 after just 10 minutes of deliberation. Stinney's case epitomized the racial injustice of Jim Crow.

Jeffries further criticized the romanticization of Black family history during that oppressive period, which included the Scottsboro Boys, wrongly accused of raping a white woman in 1931, 14-year-old Emmett Till lynched in 1955 after being falsely accused of whistling at a white girl, and four Black girls murdered in a church bombing in Alabama in 1963? Not gone unnoticed, too, is that Donalds is married to a white woman, something that would have led to his lynching during Jim Crow.

Mississippi native takes baton as Junior League of Memphis president

By Jaylia Reed
Student Writer

Lori Jackson Evans, a resident of Memphis and a native of Jackson, Miss., and her family have a special reason to celebrate Juneteenth, the national holiday. Evans recently became president of the Board of Directors of the Junior League of Memphis. Her new position was effective June 1, 2024.

According to Evans, she is "the second African American to hold the position of president. The first was Erica Stiff Coopwood, ESQ, 2018-2020 who is originally from Yazoo City, Miss."

Evans' dedication and contribution to her community have been acknowledged due to her ambition to be a motivator for change.

She is also currently employed with Regional One Health as [GUI] a manager, community and stakeholder engagement. In this role, she leads strategy community involvement programs while aiding Regional One Health's communications, marketing, volunteer services and external affairs PR liaison.

Since relocating to Memphis she has become actively involved in the community.

When Evans was asked what sparked her interest in joining the Junior League, she responded, "I learned about Junior League because my mom and I would often donate to and shop at JL Jackson's Bargain Boutique when the store was in the Meadowbrook Shopping Center. I remember wondering what the Junior League of Jackson was?"

To satisfy her curiosity she looked up their phone number in the phone book and called to get more information.

"I asked for information to be sent to me, so I could learn more. I started reading about



Jackson

how the organization worked throughout the Jackson community to improve the quality of life for those in my community. I also wanted the children who looked like me to see people who looked like them serving in a positive image."

She explained how surreal it is and that she is excited for the opportunity. She looks forward to representing the communities she serves, and being a voice for those who may not have one.

She also stated, "I look forward to leading with intention and empowering the women around me to implement our vision."

From recent research, she was selected and honored as a 2022 Woman of Impact by the American Heart Association of the Mid-South, where she was also recognized as the top fundraiser of the 2022 honorees. Because of her commitment to improving the health of women in the Memphis community, Evans was asked by AHA to serve as the 2023 Women of Impact chair.

When she was a 15+ year

member of the Junior League, she was invited to join the Junior League of Jackson (MS) in 2008. She transferred her membership to Junior League of Memphis (JLM) after moving to Memphis. She has held numerous leadership positions at JLM, such as manager of civic engagement for the Senior Management Council, director of long-range planning, and director of nominations for the Board of Directors.

She graduated with honors from Jackson State University in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in speech pathology and in 2004 with a Master of Science in counseling.

Her time as an undergraduate student involved many aspects of school life. President James McGee of the Student Government Association chose her as the only freshman to be the chair of community service in his presidential cabinet.

She won the title of Miss Jackson State University 1998-1999 during her final year of study.

Evans' mentors, friends and

family are thrilled and proud of her achievements.

George T. Jackson Sr., Lori's father, told *The Mississippi Link* over the phone, "Lori is a people person; she is a good person who always tries to help whenever she can. She has always been the kind of person that is eager to contribute."

Also during the telephone interview, Jackson had an answer to the following question, "What was your reaction when you learned that she was chosen as the JL Memphis Board president?" Jackson explained that he was very very excited when she was selected. He said Evans has been impactful her whole life and still is. He jokingly added, "I think she got that from her mother."

Jackson called Evans and her brother the 'go-getters.' "Lori does not have any children, but she does have two nephews that have her heart."

Jozelle Booker is a mentor, friend and sorority sister to Evans. When communicating with Booker, she stated that she was happy to contribute

to Lori's story.

"Lori is a warm, caring and genuine person. She is committed to causes she embraces and the responsibilities of the roles. She can access situations and chart strategic pathways to success identifying and securing collaborative partnerships along the way. She is a change maker."

Booker spoke highly of her good friend when asked what characteristics and work ethics led to her achievement in Memphis today, she said, "Lori Evans has been impactful to many, and she is just getting started."

With a chuckle, Booker stated, "I think the JLM members should get ready to be pushed....Lori's leadership and leadership team will leave an impact on the league and Memphis during her term. I look forward to hearing of its successes."

Booker and Evans are members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Memphis Alumnae Chapter.

She said she met Evans at a JSU National Alumni Association Memphis Chapter

event after she relocated to Memphis. They became instant friends, and she gained a fan. She stated she watched in awe as Evans transformed and grew the membership of the Alumni Chapter during her presidency.

Evans is married to Chris Evans and enjoys loving on her German Shepherd, Zeus, traveling, volunteering, spending time with family and friends.

Her focus will be member engagement. With the help of her Executive Vice President, Sarah Locke, they developed three pillars: Create a valuable membership experience, reinforce visible community connections and develop a viable organizational strategy for sustainability.

Evans, the Jackson Mississippi native, will continue to strive for greatness while also leaving an impact on so many people and her community. She is a genuine and caring wife, daughter, friend, sister, aunt and mentor to a lot of people. She looks forward to maximizing the work to fulfill its mission.

Surgeon General calls for health warnings on social media platforms

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy has called for mandatory health warnings on social media platforms to alert younger users to the potential mental health risks associated with their use. In an op-ed published in *The New York Times*, Murthy emphasized the urgent need to address the mental health crisis among adolescents, highlighting social media as a significant contributing factor.

"It is time to require a surgeon general's warning label on social media platforms, stating that social media is associated with significant mental health harms for adolescents," Murthy wrote.

He cited alarming statistics, noting that adolescents who spend more than three hours a day on social media face double the risk of anxiety and depression symptoms. At the last observation, the average daily use for this age group was 4.8 hours, with nearly half reporting that social media negatively impacts their body image.



Adolescents who spend more than three hours a day on social media face double the risk of anxiety and depression symptoms. At the last observation, the average daily use for this age group was 4.8 hours, with nearly half reporting that social media negatively impacts their body image.

Murthy's office had previously issued an advisory on social media use and its effects on teenage users, urging social media companies to prioritize safety and privacy in their product designs and enforce minimum age requirements. In his op-ed, Murthy reiterated these points and called for a broader societal effort to protect young people.

"To date, the burden of protecting youth has fallen predominantly on children, adolescents and their families," Murthy stated. "The entire burden of mitigating the risk of harm of social media cannot be placed on the shoulders of children and parents."

Murthy argued that a surgeon general's warning label, which would require congressional action, could raise awareness and prompt behavioral changes. "Evidence from tobacco studies shows that warning labels can increase awareness and change behavior," he noted. A recent survey indicated that many parents would limit or monitor their children's social media use if a warning from the surgeon general was issued.

However, Murthy acknowledged that a warning label alone would not make social media safe for young people. In his 2023 advisory, he called for comprehensive research to

understand the extent of mental health impacts on young people, identify harmful content and explore societal factors that could protect youth.

Murthy also highlighted the need for collective action beyond individual families. He suggested schools ensure classroom learning and social time are phone-free experiences and advised parents to create phone-free zones around bedtime, meals and social gatherings.

He recommended that parents wait until after middle school to allow their children access to social media and encouraged collaboration among parents to establish shared

rules.

"Public health leaders should demand healthy digital environments for young people," Murthy asserted. "Doctors, nurses and other clinicians should raise the issue of social media with kids and parents and guide them toward safer practices." He also urged the federal Kids Online Health & Safety Task Force to continue its leadership in recommending changes to make social media safer for children.

Murthy shared the story of Lori, a mother from Colorado, whose teenage daughter took her life after being bullied on social media. Despite Lori's diligent monitoring of

her daughter's accounts and phone, harm still found its way to her child. This tragic example underscores the limitations of current protective measures and the need for systemic change.

"The moral test of any society is how well it protects its children," Murthy insisted. "Mothers like Lori do not want to be told that change takes time, that the issue is too complicated, or that the status quo is too hard to alter. We have the expertise, resources and tools to make social media safe for our kids. Now is the time to summon the will to act. Our children's well-being is at stake."

Biden slams Trump's dangerous policies, defends social security and medicare

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In 2020, then-Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden sparked controversy with his remarks to African-American voters, saying, "You ain't Black if you don't vote for me."

Without context and with specific individuals seeking to take issue with Biden, these comments appeared to denigrate African Americans. However, a candidate has probably never said anything more accurate when used in the context that Biden undoubtedly intended.

The twice impeached, convicted felon former president Donald Trump continues to push lies and policies that are not only dangerous for Black America but also for other minorities and seniors.

Biden, reflecting on Trump's record, emphasized his unwavering commitment to protecting Social Security and Medicare from severe cuts proposed by Trump.

"I'm reaching out to you today not just as a former president but as a fellow citizen who's deeply invested in our country's future," Biden declared. "Trump wants to cut Social Security and Medicare. I will stop anyone who tries to cut these essential programs."

Trump's stance on entitlements has been unambiguous. When asked if he had changed his outlook on handling Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid due to rising debt, Trump responded, "So first of all, there is a lot you can do in terms of entitlements, in terms of cutting."

Previously, he remarked, "Oh, we'll be cutting" and "they will be." Throughout



President Joe Biden and NNPA President Benjamin Chavis

his presidency, Trump's budget proposals consistently included cuts to these critical programs.

James Singer, spokesperson for the Biden-Harris 2024 campaign, sharply criticized Trump's intentions. "Donald Trump and his Project 2025 goons will steal the hard-earned Social Security and Medicare that Americans have been paying into their entire careers and use it to fund tax cuts for billionaires and corporations," Singer asserted.

"Trump's record is clear: Every single year he was in the White House, he proposed cutting Social Security and Medicare, and he has said he will target them for cutting if reelected. Seniors can trust Joe Biden, who will never cut Social Security and Medicare."

Former President Barack Obama also voiced strong sup-

port for Biden's re-election. "When I think back to the day Joe was elected president, I remember feeling a profound sense of hope, pride, and a great amount of relief," Obama said in a statement.

"He's dedicated his first term as president to rebuilding and healing our nation and working to strengthen our democracy. But the journey doesn't end there."

For most, the upcoming election remains pivotal. Biden's campaign continues its pledge to stand firm as a defender of crucial social programs and a leader committed to equity and justice for all Americans.

"The fight for our democracy, our rights, and our freedoms is happening right now – and winning starts with electing Democrats at every level, especially in our state legislatures," Obama declared.

Taking care of teeth brings families peace of mind

StatePoint

Tooth decay is the most common preventable chronic disease among children in the United States. If left untreated, it can negatively affect a child's physical and social development, as well as their school performance. Toothaches and cavities can cause pain, infection, and ultimately affect overall wellness, including children's behavioral health.

Mental health and oral health can be intertwined; mental health conditions like anxiety and depression can lead to poor oral health, and dental health problems often exacerbate behavioral health issues.

As a parent or caretaker, there are steps you can take to protect your child's oral health today – and overall health tomorrow.

Through the dental health benefits provided through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), children will have access to essential oral health care, including regular cleanings, fluoride treatments, fillings, X-rays and more.

Schedule Routine Dental Care

Routine dental care is essential to preventing and treating many of the most common oral health issues children experience. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that a child's first pediatric dental visit occur before their first birthday and that as they get older, they see the dentist twice a year for cleanings, X-rays and treatment.

Regular dentist visits can help identify and treat potential issues early. Once your child is old enough, visits can also include preventive care like sealants, which help stop cavities from forming.

Use the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' 'Find a



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) ANNASTILLS / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

Dentist' tool to find dental providers in your area that accept Medicaid and CHIP.

Practice Healthy Habits at Home

Encouraging good dental hygiene is another way you can reduce your child's chances of experiencing negative side effects from poor dental health. Helping them brush their teeth twice a day and flossing regularly can keep cavities, gum disease and tooth decay at bay.

During pregnancy, you can even positively impact the health of your baby by taking care of your own teeth and gums. Daily brushing and flossing and regular dentist visits contribute to overall health and protect your baby's teeth.

Get Insured with Medicaid and CHIP

Your child may qualify for free or low-cost health coverage through Medicaid and CHIP. The Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign wants families to experience the security that comes with knowing their child's dental care and other preventive services are covered.

Medicaid and CHIP cover more than 39 million children in the United States and have helped ensure that more than 94% of the nation's children

have health coverage, even when their family may experience barriers to access like language differences and low health literacy. Enrollment is open year-round, meaning your family doesn't have to wait to see if you qualify.

Dental care isn't the only thing covered – preventive care, emergency care, behavioral health care, vision care, vaccines, prescriptions, and pre- and post-natal care are all covered when your child is insured through Medicaid and CHIP.

Eligibility varies by state and depends on family income and how many people are in your household. In most states, children up to age 19 with family income up to \$80,000 per year (for a family of four) may qualify for Medicaid or CHIP. You can learn more about finding coverage at [InsureKidsNow.gov](https://www.insurekidsnow.gov) and explore the Find a Dentist tool to find care near you.

Your child's smile shouldn't be a source of stress. For peace of mind, take care of even the tiniest teeth with regular check-ups, healthy habits and health coverage, like Medicaid and CHIP.

Provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING WITH USE PERMITS ZONING CASE NO. 4256

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Roy L. Dixon, Jr. has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential District to C-1A (Restricted) Commercial District with a Use Permit to allow for a neighborhood restaurant for property located at 1254 Macon St. (Parcel 40-11-1) and a Use Permit to allow for an accessory automobile parking lot on Parcel 159-177-1 within a R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential District in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Parcel 159-177-1

PT LOTS 16 & 18 E OF C/L LYNCH CREEK ALL IN BLK 17 COLLEGE SUB SY & A STRIP OF & ADJ * JD1*

Parcel 159-173

Lot Fifteen (15), Block Sixteen (16), College Suburb Survey, less the North Twenty (20) feet thereof, a subdivision in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, State of Mississippi, according to the map or plat thereof, on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1 at Page 66 thereof, reference to which is hereby made

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

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

WITNESS my signature this 31st day of May 2024.

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

6/6/2024, 6/20/2024

LEGAL

SECTION 1 ADVERTISEMENT

CITY OF JACKSON

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

The City Clerk of the City of Jackson will receive bids for the replacement of bridge located on Martin Luther King Drive, City Project No. ERBR-25-250(03) no later than 3:30 P.M., Local Prevailing Time, **JULY 16th, 2024** in the Municipal Clerk's Office located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud. The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

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

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

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

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

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

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

A pre-bid conference will be held on **June 26th at 10 am**, in the Public Works Department 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations:
1. City of Jackson - Public Works - Warren Hood Bldg. 4th Floor; Engineering Manager Office, 200 South President St., Jackson, Mississippi 39201.
2. CIVILTech, Inc., 5420 Executive Place, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206

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

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

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

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

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

Henry Chia
Henry Chia
Department of Public Works

6/13/2024, 6/20/2024

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE

JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024 AT 12:00PM IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

New Business

A. CASE NO. HPNC-24-11
LOCATION: 114 WOODLAND CIR (PARCEL 3-74)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: N/A APPLICANT: GARLAND STRING-FELLOW
REQUEST: INSTALL GENERAC GENERATOR THAT WILL BE ATTACHED TO A DESIGNATED HISTORIC LANDMARK.

B. CASE NO. HPNC-24-12
LOCATION: 2025 RIVERSIDE DR (PARCEL 9-35)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: STANLEY PHILLIPS
REQUEST: REPLACE SIDING AS NEEDED, RECONSTRUCT 1ST FLOOR DECK WHILE REMOVING LOWER LEVEL PORTION OF 1ST FLOOR DECK, RECONSTRUCT 2ND FLOOR DECK, (BOTH ON WESTERN ELEVATION).

C. CASE NO. HPNC-24-14
LOCATION: 1016 FAIRVIEW ST (PARCEL 11-28)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: ANGIE SENAC
REQUEST: INSTALL 10X16 TUFF SHED ON CONCRETE FOUNDATION THAT PREVIOUS SHED SAT ON.

D. CASE NO. HPNC-24-15
LOCATION: 829 BELHAVEN ST UNIT 1/2 (PARCEL 13-59-1)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: JOSEPH CANTER
REQUEST: REPLACE FOUR WINDOWS ON REAR APARTMENT BUILDING; TWO ON THE EASTERN ELEVATION, ONE ON THE WESTERN ELEVATION, AND ONE ON THE SOUTH ELEVATION.

E. CASE NO. HPNC-22-39
LOCATION: 103 BOTNICK CT (PARCEL 73-18)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: STEPHANIE STEWART
REQUEST: AMEND ORIGINAL COA TO REFLECT THAT RSTORATION HAS CHANGED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION.

F. CASE NO. HPNC-22-87
LOCATION: 718 NORTH MILL ST (PARCEL 73-18)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: STEPHANIE STEWART
REQUEST: AMEND ORIGINAL COA TO REFLECT THAT RSTORATION HAS CHANGED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION.

G. CASE NO. HPNC-22-45
LOCATION: 827 NORTH FARISH ST (PARCEL 73-18)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: STEPHANIE STEWART
REQUEST: AMEND ORIGINAL COA TO REFLECT THAT RSTORATION HAS CHANGED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION.

II. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

6/20/2024, 6/27/2024

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
LARRY COLEMAN, DECEASED CAUSE NO. P24-244 H/3

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS

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

This the 14th day of June, 2024.

Jeanette Coleman
Jeanette Coleman

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

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

Ann James
NOTARY

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

Damon Stevenson
Stevenson Legal Group, PLLC
1010 N. West Street
Jackson, MS 39202
Telephone: (769) 251-0207, Facsimile: (601) 608-7872



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

PERSONALLY, came and appeared before me, this the undersigned authority in and for said County and State, the within named Jeanette Coleman who having been by me first duly sworn, stated on her oath that the matters, facts and averments set forth in the above and foregoing PETITION are true and correct as therein stated.

Jeanette Coleman
Jeanette Coleman

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this the 14th day of June, 2024.

Ann James
Notary Public



MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:

6/20/2024, 6/27/2024, 7/4/2024

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for Statement of Qualifications

The Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking statements of qualifications (SOQ's) from management firms or individuals desiring to provide professional management services for Dorothy Vest Tennis Center, located at 953 West Porter Street, Jackson, Mississippi, a City-owned facility.

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 p.m. CST, Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St.

Statements of Qualifications packets may be secured from the Department of Parks and Recreation, 633 North State Street, 5th Floor, Jackson, Mississippi, 39202, telephone number (601) 960-0471.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10:30 A.M. local time, in the City of Jackson Parks and Recreation Office at 633 North State Street, 5th Floor, Jackson, MS 39202. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Proposals shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed, and deposited with the City of Jackson's City Clerk before the hour and date designated above. Each bidder shall write its certificate of responsibility number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing its proposal.

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

Dr. Abram Muhammad., Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
City of Jackson, Mississippi
City of Jackson, Mississippi

Louis Wright, Chief Administrative
Officer (CAO)
Office of the Mayor

6/20/2024, 6/27/2024

LEGAL

Advertisement for ReBid 3260 Lawn and Site Care for JPSD

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) Monday, July 15, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project Lawn Care Services will be held at 101 Near Street, Jackson, MS 39203 on June 26, 2024, 8:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing mmays@jackson.k12.ms.us, calling (601) 973-8582, or documents may be picked up at the above address, or downloaded from JPS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All bid openings will be recorded and uploaded to the JPSD web site at www.jackson.k12.ms.us at YouTube: JPSITV for public viewing. Due to COVID 19, vendors will not be allowed to sit in on bid openings.

6/20/2024, 6/27/2024

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFQ 2024-01 Project Management and Communications Contractor to Support the JPS-Hinds Early Learning Collaborative

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), Friday, July 12, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject all RFPs, waive informalities, and withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs are opened.

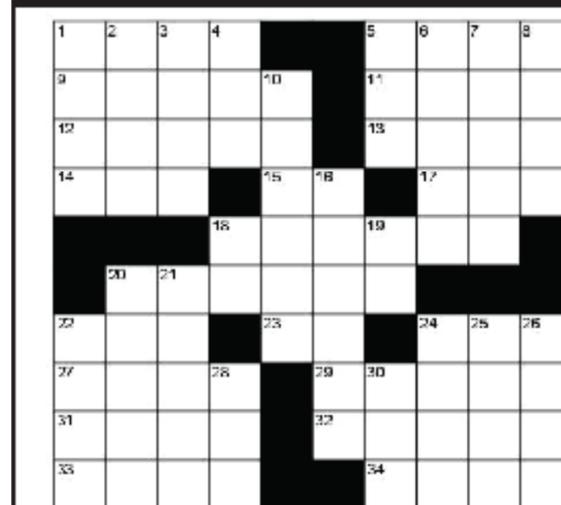
There are two (2) options in which RFP proposals may be obtained. Download from Central Bidding website at www.centralbidding.com for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSD website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Also, until further notice, all opening will be recorded and uploaded to the JPSD web site at <https://www.youtube.com/jpsitv> for public viewing due to covid 19. Vendors will not be allowed to sit in on the bid openings.

6/20/2024, 6/27/2024

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Seaweed substance
- 5. Head
- 9. Mixed drink
- 11. Glen
- 12. Fragrance
- 13. Arcans
- 14. Regret
- 15. Computer science (abbr.)
- 17. The other half of him
- 18. Men's jewelry
- 20. Containerial
- 22. Killed in action
- 23. Year (abbr.)
- 24. Short-term memory
- 27. Otherwise
- 29. Capital of Ghana
- 31. Aegis
- 32. Hawthorny firm water
- 33. Bird's house
- 34. Bond instrument

DOWN

- 1. Open
- 2. Sage
- 3. Lotion ingredient
- 4. Rock group
- 5. Habitat
- 6. Rudiness
- 7. Circus comedian
- 8. Super ____, cartoon
- 10. Appense
- 16. French Painter, "Sunday Afternoon..."
- 18. Houston locale
- 19. Place (abbr.)
- 20. Bottom part of a ship
- 21. Fertile desert area
- 22. Mentally alert
- 24. Replace a striker
- 25. Trial
- 26. Neck hair
- 28. Eastern Standard Time
- 30. Cash with order (abbr.)

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Crossword Solution

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

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Week of June 16, 2024

P R E S E R V E D

Loving in the red zone

exposure....and what's next

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



First Dr. Tony Evans then Pastor Robert Morris. This past week has been one that gave whiplash to Christians as we heard unbelievably shocking confessions of moral failures of these two well-respected evangelical pastors. One result of these "confessions" are numerous questions regarding what should be the church's response to pastoral leadership and their sin.

Like so many others, I have to admit that I've been riveted by the stories of both Evans and Morris, but I was also saddened because it seemed to put an additional negative light on Christianity which has already been rocked by abuse scandals in the Catholic church and the Southern Baptist denomination.

I heard a pastor say years ago

that the cost is higher for leaders (when they sin), and they don't always carry it well. She added that unless there is true repentance, there will be even more instances of God openly judging sins of church leaders. According to her, it's more than God shining a light on the sinful deeds of one man. Much like the Catholic Church a few years ago, God allows the sins of a few to be exposed so that the body of Christ can take the steps to end compromise and openly confront sin.

For some, it appears that we are in a season where God is exposing the hypocrisy of his leaders. The exposure isn't intended to embarrass because our loving God always wants what is best for us...especially when we are doing wrong. It is a chance for all who are caught in similar situations of compromise and sin to sincerely examine their actions and motivations...and repent of those things that are not pleasing to

God.

Moreover, God is laying the groundwork for repentance, redemption and restoration. The biblical example of David shows how open repentance can lead to restoration but that there are often still consequences. After all, despite the fact that David was a praiser who earnestly sought after God's heart through worship, he still committed sins like murder and adultery. I'd like to think that it was that same worship and the relationship that he had with God that gave him the assurance to know that God would restore him even after all of his wrongdoing.

It seems once again like God is allowing the church and its ugly little secrets to be exposed. We can't claim to know why God is doing what he's doing. All we can do is see that he appears to be using the same strategy that he used in biblical times. In the end, David was brought to repentance and ul-

timately restored to a place of honor and integrity.

Hebrews 12:11 reminds us, "Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

Regardless of our opinions of the issues that Evans and Morris face, all believers should be praying for them, their families, and their church families. It's not so they can forget what has happened, but so they can embrace the new beginning free from the burden of secret sin that God is trying to give them.

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

Stand up for what's right

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



This world is a marvelous creation. Gravity keeps us on the earth even though the earth is spinning in space; it keeps us from falling off. The earth is not only spinning but also moving around the sun at about 67,000 miles per hour. Light travels through space at more than 186,000 miles per second and the stars are so many billions of light years away that we are just now receiving light that was emitted from those stars many years ago. That is the mighty hand of God. He puts all the planets in motion.

Many people say it is just "Mother Nature," but the truth of the matter is, it is God. We have the beauty of fall, the changing of the leaves and the other seasonal changes, from fall to winter, from winter to spring, from spring to summer. That is God.

This same God protects us and gives us exactly what we need. We are so unworthy of His blessings, but He loves and cares for us so much. God created us in His image to live for Him. Do you have the desire to live for Christ? God cares and loves you so much. God is great, God is good, and God is wonderful.

Unfortunately, too many people say that if they do not serve God, it is no big deal. Contrarily, it is a big deal with God because He created us. He loves us, and He is concerned about us. When we are not doing well, He is concerned about us. As a Christian, if we fail to go to the house of God, He is concerned about our becoming lukewarm in our experience. He will not give up on us. He will woo us to bring us back to where we once were, because He knows there is nothing out in the world of sin but

grief and heartaches.

There is no failure in God. Proverbs 29:25 says, "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe."

To combat fear, we have to stand for what is right. What is wrong with standing for the right? People in the world stand boldly and let you know exactly where they stand. As a child of God, we should be even bolder. When the world throws arrows at us, that is not the time to cower down; that is the time to stand up for Christ. He died for us. He took the stripes for us. Can we not do something for Him? Any excuse is a poor excuse for not serving God.

Can the world see a difference in our lives since we have been saved? Do they hear different talk from us, or do they hear the same talk come out of our mouths that they heard previously?

If we are truly children of God, the world is going to see a difference and hear a difference in us. If we are truly children of God, we will not put our worldly clothes in the back of a dresser drawer, but you will get rid of them.

What about our walk with Good? Do we still go to the same ungodly places that we did before we were saved? If we do, I doubt that we really got saved. Salvation changes us, and we do not want to do anything that would hurt or displease the Lord. Our worldly friends will no longer want to keep company with us because they do not want to "catch" the same thing we have.

My friends, remember, we can have pleasure with Jesus Christ. Tell others what He has done for you!

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

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The senior citizen of yesterday is not the senior citizen of today

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



There were several older men and women in my neighborhood as a child. Looking back, they moved a little slower and talked about things we did not understand. They were sedentary and stayed close to home most of the time. They were fulfilled, happy and were pillars in our community. Their sage wisdom carried a lot of weight and their opinions mattered. I am proud to say I gained a lot of advice and counsel from them.

As youth, we were forming our thoughts about life and our place in it. Maturing in a small community in Winston-Salem NC gave us a first-hand view of the different stages of adulthood.

As I was coming of age in the East Winston section of our city, I heard words and terms like retirement, savings, down payment, layaway, travel and house payment. Quite honestly, while I heard these words and terms, I really did not connect the dots.

Some of my friends' grandparents did not work anymore. I did not ask what they were doing now. My view of the world would not permit me to ask that

question. So, they did not work and that was the end of it.

Being in high school made me a bit more inquisitive. My friends and I would talk among ourselves and concluded that they had successful careers and had provided for their families.

As young boys, we enjoyed hearing the stories they told. Their expressions and tones in their voices made us sit still and have what I called "instant story time." I called them this because they were never planned. They just happened.

During my working life as I progressed, I did begin to think about retirement. I realized that I did not want to work forever. Much before I retired, I heard

a song by Kenny Rogers called "The Gambler." A part of the lyrics is you have to know when to hold them and know when to walk away. In a strange yet realistic way, it is a retirement song.

You really do need to know when to retire and walk away. You do not want to stay too long and be asked to leave. Leaving on your own set of terms and conditions is always the preferred choice. Having people wanting you to remain means that you did your job well.

It is not if the time comes to retire, it's simply when the time comes. Upon retiring, you must have something else to do. Sitting around for a few months gets old after a while. Sitting

around could become harmful to your health. On the surface, that sounds a bit odd that doing nothing could be bad for you.

The mind is like a well-oiled machine. Thinking and doing make the brain more productive. It keeps it fresh and not stale.

According to reports, "there are roughly 62 million adults ages 65 and older living in the USA accounting for 18% of the population. By 2054, 84 million adults ages 65 and older will make up an estimated 23% of the population."

According to Lincoln Research, "only 11% of pre-retirees claim to have planned for their post-retirement years. A

part of pre-planning is talking with retirement professionals about your assets and holdings."

Exercise and diet are important parts of having happy retirements. We as seniors are eating better and exercising more. Some of us participate in aerobics classes which are the most fun. Strangers become friends and of course we share stories.

We eat more fruits and vegetables and of course we are drinking more water. These habits are helping us to live longer and have a better quality of life. I believe young adults can take a page from our retirement strategies.

We, as seniors, are aging gracefully and with dignity.

The Black Men's Health Equity Conference is significant: let me explain

By Representative Christopher M. Bell
Mississippi House of Representative



Now, more than ever, it is necessary that we speak to the unique challenges facing Black men in Mississippi. The Black Men's Health Equity Conference is designed to address and dismantle some of the most pressing issues that impact Black men in the Magnolia State.

Themed Black Men Matter: Uplifting, Educating and Healing Black Men in Mississippi, this men's conference will offer a space for Black men to share their stories of tragedy, triumph, transformation, and truth. I commend Dr. Sandra Melvin, CEO of the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health, the Black Men's Health Equity Council and Charles Taylor, executive director of the MS-NAACP for conceiving and supporting a movement that undergirds personal growth and collective action among Black men.

This year's conference has several major highlights. Dr. Yusef Salaam, a member of the Exonerated Central Park Five, will deliver the morning keynote address. In 1989, Salaam was one of five Black and Latino youth wrongfully accused and convicted in the Central Park

(New York) jogger case. During his trial, former President Donald Trump purchased advertisements in several New York City newspapers requesting the five youths receive the death penalty. The five were exonerated in 2002. Since his exoneration, Salaam has become a councilman in New York City. Quite conversely, former President Donald Trump was indicted and found guilty of thirty-four felonies in New York City.

Several local leaders will be honored during the conference awards luncheon. The honorees are business owners, activists and faith leaders who work at the grassroots level to improve the lives of Black men in Mississippi. Their efforts often go unnoticed, but they are quietly and consistently improving their communities. These men deserve honor and recognition.

Civil Rights veteran and renowned attorney Edward Blackmon is the luncheon keynote speaker. Blackmon is a legal pioneer whose passion for health equity, justice and civil rights led him to challenge racial inequalities in Mississippi through groundbreaking lawsuits. I am confident that Salaam and Blackmon's stories of resilience and overcoming adversity will inspire attendees to stay true to themselves and never give up.

In addition to these powerful speakers, concurrent sessions on mental wellness, heart health, prostate cancer, tobacco cessation, and economic equity will offer a comprehensive understanding of the factors that negatively impact Black men's health while offering practical strategies for improvement. Honestly, this gathering is more than a men's conference. It is a much-needed platform for health, healing and hope. By empowering Black men to speak truth to power, to take control of their wellness, and to advocate for their basic human rights, our society will improve as a collective.

The upliftment, education and healing of our community are foundational. Therefore, it must begin within. That is why 250 like-minded individuals will converge at the Hilton Jackson at 9 a.m., Saturday, June 29. Brothers, this conference is a gift to us and those who love us.

For more information about the Black Men's Health Equity Council or the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health, contact www.minority-institute.org.

Christopher M. Bell is a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives. He is also the chairman of the Board of Directors for the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health.

It is time to clean up: family healing

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



One of my favorite things that I enjoy doing the most is cleaning. I love cleaning our home. It's just something about cleaning that brings me so much peace.

I feel refreshed, relaxed and revitalized when I am cleaning most of the time. I tend to listen to music while I am cleaning. I play music as loud as I can on my amp system until I can feel our home vibrating. In fact, nothing urges me to clean like Luther Vandross' "A House is Not a Home," Pastor Al Green's, "Let's Stay Together," and others like Musiq Soulchild, Mali, etc. I love listening to music and cleaning – it helps put an extra spark in my cleaning. And of course, the music keeps me on my feet – wiping, scrubbing and dancing.

I clean mostly because I simply love having a fresh, clean smelling home. In fact, after cleaning our home, I light my three wick candles. Three wick candles seem to do the trick for spreading the aroma of fruit and citrus smells throughout our home.

Unfortunately, there are days that I am unable to clean our home as I would like due to my super busy schedule. When I am unable to clean our home – it just seems that things are out of whack. Our home doesn't feel like home when it is unkempt – it has a sense of chaos, disorder, inorganization, well at least that is my perception. My family often tells me that it's never as bad as I perceive. However, a wife and mother knows when the home needs a special cleaning and when it gets like that – everyone must help clean it.

Just like in the physical cleaning of the home – families must work together to clean up their homes spiritually. Families, it's time to clean up. What do you do when something is dirty? For the most part, you clean what's dirty. What do you do when things are not tidy or clean in your home? Answer is you typically clean it at least eventually.

What do you do when things are emotionally dysfunctional, chaotic and disorderly, etc. in your home? Do you exterminate your home/family when it is uncleared with issues, or do you try to clean/fix what is wrong within your home?

How do you know when your home needs spiritual cleaning? The following are indicators of a home that needs spiritual cleaning:

- Contention
- Arguments
- Agitation
- Bickering
- Unresolved hurts and offenses
- Unforgiveness – refuse to let yesterday go

Have record keepers – First Corinthians 13 – Love keeps no record of wrongdoing on anyone which includes you, spouse, children, etc.

- Sadness
- Little to no laughter
- TV/Phones do more talking than the family
- Little to no communication
- Eating in separate areas at different times – if you can – gather at the family table at least once a week
- Strife
- Loneliness
- Fighting against each other
- Dislike/hate
- Feel drained
- Feel hopeless
- Home feels chaotic – dread being at home
- Easily provoked
- Get more peace in the grocery store than you do at home.

How do you spiritually clean your home? Acknowledge that your home needs a spiritual cleaning.

Have a family meeting(s) – create a comfortable, safe and none judgemental environment to communicate.

Communicate about what is wrong from individual to individual – should start with parents first.

One of my favorite scriptures – Confess your faults one to another and pray for one another that you may be healed – healing can't successfully take place without confessing.

Allow love to cover a multitude of faults. Hold each other accountable – don't be an enabler – correct the wrong but correct it in a Godly manner.

Pray without ceasing for your marriage and family.

Pray together. Worship together as a family – attend church together.

Have fun fellowships with each other as often as possible – go to the movies, dine out for dinner, take a road trip, go on a family vacation, etc.

Forgive. Love.

Be grateful for the family that God gave you. Many are not as blessed to have a family, and many are praying for a good family. Don't give your family away.

In conclusion, there are so many homes that are in chaos and disunity for various reasons, but they don't have to be. I don't care how chaotic and dysfunctional your home is – God can clean it. God can heal your marriage and family if you allow Him to. There is **nothing impossible** for God to do. If you know your home is uncleared – it is time to clean it up so that your family can be healed.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.) on Instagram: [letsstaytogether4ever](https://www.instagram.com/letsstaytogether4ever) (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: [letsstaytogether4eva](https://www.facebook.com/letsstaytogether4eva) Email: letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com or call 601 596-2528.

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John M. “Grandpa” Perkins celebrates 94th birthday at CommUNITY cookout fun event

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Friends and family celebrated the 94th birthday of Dr. John M. “Grandpa” Perkins, of the Perkins Foundation, and the 70th wedding anniversary of John and Vera Mae with a 2-day event, captioned, ‘Put the Neighbor back in the Hood.’ Celebrations were held Thursday, June 13th and Friday, June 14th.

Perkins’ birthday was celebrated Thursday evening from 5:30-7:30 at the Perkins Foundation on Robinson Street in Jackson.

The sports camp was held Thursday and Friday at both Jackson State University and the Perkins Foundation location.



Dr. John A. Perkins (Left) conversing with Civil Rights icon James Meredith (Right) at the celebration.



Daughter Elizabeth Perkins (Left) with parents Vera and John Perkins.



Cake celebrating Perkins' 94th birthday & 70th wedding anniversary with Vera.



Sports camps at JSU and the Perkins' Foundation location were part of the “Put the Neighbor back in the Hood” event. PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

Candidate for Hinds County Judge guest speaker at Father’s Day program



Atty. Yemi King, Father's Day guest speaker

Special to The Mississippi Link

Free Mission Baptist Church held its inaugural Father’s Day Service Sunday, June 16, 2024, at 2229 Florence Ave., Jackson, MS 39204 at 9:30 a.m. Free Mission’s pastor is Rev. Ronald Patton and First Lady is Sis. Nedra Patton.

The Father’s Day guest speaker was Attorney Yemi Kings, candidate for Hinds County Court Judge Subdistrict 2. He is the proud father of son Trey and daughter Nandi.

Kings spoke to the children’s department about the significance of obeying parents, staying focused on academic studies and being connected with a faith-based community. The message was well received by the congregation.

Kings is a graduate of Lanier High School, Tougaloo College and Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

He is a deputy Hinds County prosecutor and youth court prosecutor.

Kings platform is “From the Community, For the Community.”

A small skit was written and performed by Rev. Patton and members of the youth department.

Kings was invited by Janiece Austin, Kings’ former Tougaloo College classmate. Austin is a dedicated Free Mission member, Blacks in Government Magnolia Chapter member, and educator at Canton High School.



Former Hinds Circuit Judge Robert Gibbs (Left) and Atty. Yemi King, (Right) candidate for Hinds County Court Judge, subdivision 2, Jackson, MS

Ex-Trump officials confirm talk of executions, potential bloodbath if he beats Biden in November

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Having already been convicted of 34 felony charges this year, facing nearly 60 other felonies, and found responsible for sexual assault, new details have emerged about the twice-impeached and four-times indicted former President Donald Trump’s extreme and violent rhetoric, and the retribution he will seek if elected again.

Two former senior aides have revealed that Trump discussed executing Americans, including his own staff, for disobedience. With Trump declaring that he’ll be a “dictator on Day 1,” the revelations provide more insight into the authoritarian wrath a second MAGA presidency would unleash on America.

Alyssa Farah Griffin, Trump’s former communications director, confirmed in an interview with Mediaite that Trump had explicitly talked about executing staff members who leaked stories. Griffin corroborated an account by



former Attorney General Bill Barr about Trump’s alarming reactions. “Kaitlan Collins at CNN interviewed Bill Barr and asked about an anecdote I had shared about a meeting he and I were both in, in the Oval Office, where Trump straight-up said a staffer who leaked a story should be executed,” Griffin said on Mediaite’s “Press Club” podcast.

“And Bill Barr kind of danced around it and said, ‘I don’t recall that specific inci-

stance,’ but there were others where he talked about executing people,” she continued. “How [do] you rationalize that that is a person fit in sound judgment to be president of the United States?”

Griffin, who resigned days before the January 6, 2021 Capitol riot and later demanded Trump’s resignation, also noted that Trump made such statements in front of “a dozen other” people. While not explicitly confirming the specific inci-

dent, Barr did not dispute the possibility, telling Collins in April, “I remember him being very mad. ... I actually don’t remember him saying ‘executing,’ but I wouldn’t dispute it.”

The accounts contribute to a disturbing pattern of behavior by Trump, who has a history of using violent rhetoric and expressing admiration for violent acts. He has praised the rioters who attacked the Capitol on January 6 as “warriors” and “hostages” and warned of

a “bloodbath” if he loses the 2024 election.

Trump has suggested the execution of Joint Chiefs Chairman General Mark Milley. During his 2016 campaign, he encouraged supporters to “knock the crap out” of protestors, promising to pay their legal bills. He also infamously commented that there was “blame on both sides” after violent clashes in Charlottesville involving white nationalists and neo-Nazis and praised a Republican who attacked a reporter, saying, “Any guy that can do a body slam, he is my type!”

At a debate, Trump refused to condemn white supremacist violence, telling the Proud Boys to “stand back and stand by.” Before the Capitol riot on January 6, he told his supporters, “You’ll never take back our country with weakness ... If you don’t fight like hell, you’re not going to have a country anymore.”

He has also suggested violence could erupt if court cases against him do not go his way,

repeatedly expressed a desire to be a dictator, and dehumanized political opponents and migrants.

Biden-Harris 2024 spokesperson James Singer released a statement condemning Trump’s rhetoric and behavior in response to these revelations. “Donald Trump has been convicted of 34 felonies, was found liable for sexual assault, committed financial fraud, and is only out for himself,” Singer noted.

“His own former senior staff, including his former vice president, believe he is too unhinged and dangerous to be our commander in chief. He openly mused about committing murder on Fifth Avenue eight years ago and, since then, has repeatedly embraced and encouraged violence to get what he wants. After losing the last election by over 7 million votes and becoming a convicted felon, Donald has only gotten worse, promising to be a dictator and encouraging violence while completely consumed by his own revenge and retribution.”



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Hinds County students enjoy Theatre Day Camp

The Mississippi Link Newswire

New Stage Theatre announces its First Stages Theatre Camp for rising 2nd through 6th grades. The New Stage Theatre Arts in Education department strives to bring professional, progressive acting instruction to youth throughout Mississippi with its summer camps, yearlong acting classes, and touring workshops.

The First Stages Theatre Camp serves as an introduction to acting, singing, and dance for ages 7-11.

From June 3 to June 14, 2024, campers receive daily instruction in acting from experienced acting teachers. The goal of this camp is to shape and share the creative experience by building a theatre vocabulary, performing in front of others and developing skills in storytelling and improvisation.

The two-week camp culminated in a final performance of Finding Nemo KIDS on Friday, June 14 at 11 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Students participating in New Stage Theatre's First Stages Theatre Camp 2024 morning session from Hinds County include:

Sophie Agostinelli, Enders Allen, Sunny Davis, Mattison Demming, Rayna Dixon, Beau Frost, Violet Frost, Molly Katherine Goode, Parker Gregory,

Sibley Grey, Madeleine Hall, Annie Mae Harkins, Ace Harris, Shonti Harris, Sean Kines, Breaukelen Kuhne, Mila Marjanovic, Eleanor McGuffey, Stevie Bell Orenge, Adeline Orlansky, Damien Pitchamootoo, Hillis Pote, Isabella Rockwell, Isabella Samuels, Violet Strickland, Blaize Sutherland, and Wren Webb.

Students participating in New Stage Theatre's First Stages Theatre Camp 2024 afternoon session from Hinds County include:

Cate Abston, K. Foxen Alford, Laila Bass, Ellie Blain, Lillie Bright, Journee Broome, Teddy Bryant, Mary Manning Davis, Elizabeth Kate Dear, Kieran Duncan, Anne 'Pearson' Forester, Elsa Gray Forster, Baron Foster, Sybil Frame, Emily 'Millie' Hartman, Ann Mabry Hendrix, Mary Tait Hendrix, Arya Ingram, Nava Jackson, Anders Kleven, Thomas Kleven, Lydia Krason, Alyssa Lopez, David Mann, Owen Pate, Birdie Neely, Solomia Peipon, Malia Smith, Olivia Stewart, Delta Switzer, Micah Upkins, Katherine Webster, and Alana Wynn.

For more information on the New Stage Theatre Education Programs, please contact (601) 948- 3533 ext. 232 or education@newstagetheatre.com



The Hinds County students' morning session



The Hinds County students' evening session

JSU names Dr. Denise Jones Gregory as new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

The Jackson State Newswire

Dr. Denise Jones Gregory has been announced as the new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Jackson State University, following the comprehensive listening sessions on June 12, 2024.

The announcement comes from Dr. Marcus L. Thompson, JSU President. "This decision comes as a result of the constructive feedback provided by the various listening session participants," he says.

"I am grateful for the dedication of our administrators, faculty and staff to our shared governance process, which has been instrumental in this swift and decisive selection. The official public announcement will be made later this morn-

ing," says JSU President.

Dr. Gregory brings over 20 years of extensive higher education experience to this role and is a loyal Jackson State University alum, as well as her siblings, husband and parents.

JSU Pres. Thompson adds, I am confident that her deep comprehension of the needs of our faculty, staff, and students, coupled with her insight into the interplay among various constituencies, positions her to cultivate a collaborative atmosphere and help guide JSU toward a successful future."

Dr. Gregory's appointment is contingent upon approval by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, which will meet on Thursday, June 20.

With over 20 years of higher education experience, Dr. Gregory formerly served as Associate Provost of Student Success and Diversity at Samford University.

In this capacity, she oversaw three high-priority student areas on campus: the Office of Diversity, the Office of Accessibility and Accommodations, and the Academic Success Center, where she was also responsible for managing and approving multiple budgets, ensuring quality customer care and engagement.

Dr. Gregory also served on the Executive Leadership Team, President's Council, and University Council, playing a pivotal role in developing the university's strategic plan. Fur-

thermore, Gregory has served as NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative and participated in more than 20 faculty and staff search committees annually.

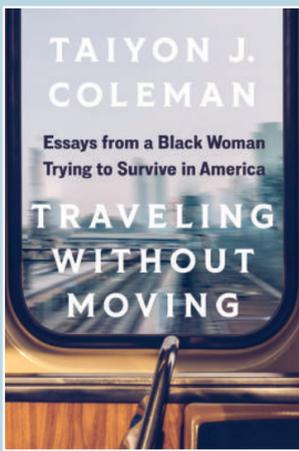
A native of Columbus, Mississippi, Dr. Gregory received her Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Jackson State University and doctorate from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and on the regional leadership team as primary advisor to the Samford University chapter.

She is also a life member of the Jackson State University National Alumni Association (JSUNAA) and treasurer of the Birmingham Chapter.



Dr. Denise Jones Gregory



BOOK REVIEW:
TRAVELING WITHOUT MOVING:
ESSAYS FROM A BLACK WOMAN TRYING TO SURVIVE IN AMERICA
BY TAIYON J. COLEMAN
C.2024, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS
\$18.95 • 160 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

One step forward, two steps back. That's how it goes: every time you think you're getting a little ahead, something – or someone – yanks you back.

You see a little light at the end of the tunnel, and it's a train. It feels like you can't win, but what're you gonna do? You can't quit. As in the new book "Traveling without Moving" by Taiyon J. Coleman, you just have to keep going.

Like most Black children born after Martin Luther King

was assassinated, Taiyon Coleman was "expected to be the fulfillment of... generations of struggle..." She hoped, at age eight, that being a writer would do it ("I just knew that I had a lot... to write") but it didn't work out: she ran out of patience and candy after her first try.

Living on the South Side of Chicago, the second oldest of five with a single mother, Coleman understood then that writing would be a struggle but she never let go of that dream.

When she was a child, during the school year, Coleman

cared for her younger siblings and helped keep house for her mother, who barely held things together and died too young.

Every summertime, Coleman and her eldest sister were sent to stay with grandparents in Illinois, near St. Louis; it was hot there but she could run and play with cousins and others she "was kin to." Those annual trips, she says, became a sort of ancestor-fuel map for her growth. Her mother added to the many inroads, especially once Coleman understood her mother's hard life and sacrifices.

When it came time to choose a graduate program, Coleman visited a college in Alabama and saw Confederate flags everywhere, which went on the map, too. So did the racism she endured in college in Minnesota again and again, the unfortunate miscarriage due to more racism, being the only Black family on the block in their Minnesota neighborhood, and being told that her use of Black vernacular would keep her from being published...

That last one. You almost want to say, "HA!" now, don't

you? And you will, for more reasons than one, while reading "Traveling without Moving."

Because here's the thing: author Taiyon J. Coleman is funny, taking readers from her grandma's living room and Coleman's feisty, foul-mouthed eight-year-old self; to being a teacher, writer and mother of three; with laughing at Rush Limbaugh in between.

And yet, the humor is only icing on the cake: the better parts of this collection of autobiographical essays are the knife-sharp comments and observa-

tions of life as a professional Black American when white America won't give up the 1930s. This is told with proudly-embraced irony and sarcasm, which turns out to both coat the anger a little and to delight readers, even its most seething moments.

You'll also particularly enjoy Coleman's style: it's conversational with plenty of asides, like talking with a friend – but it's also pay-attention serious and you'll like that, too. "Traveling without Moving" is a quick and forward read.

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CSLC HIPPY early learning program fundraiser goes 'royal'

Motorcycle and car clubs continue to support Ms. Lula's 'HIPPY Kids'

By Gail H. Marshall Brown, Ph.D.
Help Meet, LLC PR Consultant

On June 8, 2024, the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) hosted its fifth annual Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Fund Fest.

The event, held on the recreational grounds of CSLC at 333 Yazoo Street, Lexington, MS, from noon until 5 p.m., aimed to raise funds to support the HIPPY program. This research-based curriculum teaches parents how and what to teach their children for effective school readiness.

This year's Fund Fest featured a variety of attractions, including a motorcycle and car show, raffles and food concession sales. Additionally, special donations were made to the CSLC for the Lula Mae Friar Memorial Fund, which helps purchase curriculum and educational materials for the HIPPY students and their parents.

Friar, who sought out a curriculum that would give children that "strong, early foundation," discovered the international research-based HIPPY model. She was instrumental in starting a site in Holmes County. She passionately coordinated the program at CSLC from 2009 until mid-2020, when she succumbed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Friar lovingly referred to the program's participants as her "HIPPY kids."

A highlight of this year's fundraiser was the introduction of the HIPPY Prince and HIPPY Princess competition. Children and their parents volunteered to raise funds, with the top fundraisers crowned as the first Prince and Princess of CSLC HIPPY. The winners were Rylan Reeves, age

4 and Kaylee Hodges, age 5, with the second runners-up also recognized for their efforts. They were Christain Dixon and Karleigh Dixon.

Lexington Mayor Robbin McCrory expressed strong support for the program, stating, "I am the biggest cheerleader for what Leslie and Beulah Greer are doing here with this program and other programs and services in the City of Lexington and in Holmes County."

Principal Porche Frizell Dixon of William-Sullivan Middle School also praised the event. "Today's activities really show the camaraderie for us to get together and support this early childhood program as a catalyst of change for our community here in Holmes County," she said.

Current CSLC HIPPY Coordinator Lubertha Banks Mosely highlighted the importance of the program. "The children that you are looking at today are our futures," Banks Mosley said.

CSLC Founder Leslie Greer and Executive Director Beulah Greer expressed their gratitude to the bikers, car owners, donors, volunteers, parents, and everyone who contributed to the success of the program. Their collective efforts ensure that the much-needed HIPPY program continues to benefit the children and families of the community.

The CSLC HIPPY program also serves the Hinds County area.

For more information on enrolling your 3- and 4-year-old child in this program, at no-cost to you, contact CSLC HIPPY at (662) 834-0905 or email Banks Mosley at luberthabanks58@bellsouth.net

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CSLC



First Prince and Princess and 2nd runner-ups of CSLC HIPPY Fund Fest



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AWARDS CEREMONY

The Hinds County School Board hosted an awards ceremony for the students of Hinds County to recognize their excellency in academic, sports, and performing arts. Parents and students gathered in the Performance Arts Center at Raymond High School to celebrate these achievements on Friday, May 3, 2024.

