



The Tennessee Tribune Publisher Rosetta Perry celebrates milestone birthday



Perry wearing a 'Cash Sash' with daughter Wanda Benson



Family and friends at the home of Rosetta Perry on her 90th birthday. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PERRY FAMILY

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Rosetta Miller-Perry, publisher of *The Tennessee Tribune* and long-time member of The National Newspaper Publishers Association, celebrated her 90th birthday on July 8, 2024. When asked by *The Mississippi Link* how was her 90th year birthday celebration, she softly responded, "It was nice, kind of over the top."

Perry had a pre-birthday celebration Saturday, July 7th, where family gathered at her home for a family brunch and photos with the birthday girl. On Sunday, family and friends gathered again at her home at 3:00 p.m. for a surprise gathering. It

was orchestrated by her daughter Wanda and other family members.

Perry, a low-profile individual by nature, has received numerous honors for her many achievements over the years but to celebrate her 90th birthday at her home was more than over the top according to her nephew, James Artis. He said his aunt was honored in a way she truly deserved.

Her daughter Wanda Miller-Benson said, "Our family was blessed to come together to celebrate my mother's 90th birthday and acknowledge what it truly means to reach such an extraordinary milestone." Benson is the associate publisher

of *The Tennessee Tribune*. She went on to say, "Although it has not been without challenges, her unique journey has been purposeful. She has touched lives in the Nashville community and beyond and has left an indelible print that will live on in the pages of history and through the voices of griots."

Perry founded *The Tennessee Tribune* in 1991 and still works full-time from the office and sometimes from home.

She has been a freedom fighter for justice all her life, having worked closely with the SCLC and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She also worked for the U.S. Civil Rights Commission in the 60's and the U.S. Equal Employment

Opportunity Commission in the 70's. As a journalist, she covered the Memphis Garbage Strike as well as the chaos following the murder of Dr. King.

On Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, Perry received the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Lifetime Achievement Award before a festive and appreciative gathering at the Hilton Orlando Hotel during the NNPA Mid-winter Training Conference in Florida.

On the 30th Anniversary of the TN Tribune, Dr. Benjamin Chavis, president & CEO was the keynote speaker. It was held at the Lighthouse on the Lake in

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Project 2025 – a plan for a new America

White-centric power-play in response to diminishing white population and liberalism

PHOTO: WWW.PROJECT2025.ORG/POLICY

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

We are now hearing on a regular basis the words Project 2025. We hear this term from media outlets far and near, on talk-radio and from Presidential campaigns. In the shortest summary, it is a plan for a new Republican administration to adopt on day 1, which these folks believe will be January 20, 2025. Taken straight off The Heritage Foundation website – "Fighting for America's Future...fighting to save America." Does that sound familiar? It should, because that is the mantra of Donald Trump, the former president, pathological liar, convicted fraudster, magnet for white law and order conservatives, and wanna-be next president. This is a racist plan for reinventing government.

The Heritage Foundation began in 1973. "Heritage's mission is to formulate and promote public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense." Going deeper, "It will be on these seven fronts that The Heritage Foundation will make our stand, to: • Empower parents to make education choices, • Secure America's borders and reduce crime, • Ensure free and fair elections, • Reverse the growth of regulations, spending, and inflation, • Counter the threat of Communist China, • Hold Big Tech accountable, and • Protect unborn life and family formation."

No one reading *The Missis-*

sippi Link newspaper will be shocked to know that when you look close at their leadership team of fourteen members, their list of twenty-nine directors, eighteen independent trustees, and eight society of emeritus trustees, there is only one African American, the Honorable Kay Coles James. The Heritage Foundation has sixty-nine people in leadership positions – 98.55% white folks – and they want to change America.

The 920-page Project 2025 Presidential Transition Project has a banner headline, "Building now for a conservative victory through policy, personnel, and training." At www.project2025.org they say, "It is not enough for conservatives to win elections. If we are going to rescue the country from the grip of the radical Left, we need both a governing agenda and the right people in place, ready to carry this agenda out on Day One of the next conservative Administration."

The Project "builds off Heritage's longstanding "Mandate for Leadership," which has been highly influential for presidential administrations since the Reagan era. Most recently, the Trump administration relied heavily on Heritage's "Mandate" for policy guidance, embracing nearly two-thirds of Heritage's proposals within just one year in office."

Here are just a few examples: In the section on Department of Housing and Urban Development, authored by none other

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Contemplating Independence Day in America exposes contradiction Independence for a nation, not for all her people

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Wave the flag, shoot the fireworks, fire up the grills, pack the coolers, gather with family and friends, take in parades, and enjoy a day off work, maybe even two days. A perennial blow-out celebration – the unofficial kick-off of Summer, the 4th of July. Independence Day in America is wrapped in patriotism, pomp, jubilation and God Bless America. Two hundred forty-eight years and counting now. Yee Hah!

By severing our servitude to Britain, the Second Continental Congress created an opportunity for change, a new foundation of independence, autonomy and freedom through the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. We think of the preamble, and the majestic words we all know so well, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator



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with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness." The opening paragraph – "The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America, when in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another,

and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation," per www.archives.gov.

While we were the first to declare independence from the British Empire, some 65 coun-

tries have followed our lead, and just 15 countries remain under the monarchy, per www.britanica.com. A September 9, 2022 article in www.news.northeastern.edu, shares: "The leader of the South African party Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, Mzwanele Nyhontso, said that his party couldn't sing praises for a monarchy that engineered trans-Atlantic slave trade that resulted in the genocide of more than 12 million Africans and enforced illegal extraction of more than 20 million compatriots. Slavery robbed the continent of its labor and built economies of Western Hemisphere instead."

By declaring the natural rights of a sovereign nation, it seems so basic to assume that as our country gained independence, surely those rights would transition to all its people as well. Perhaps that's just too easy to

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Brian Reynolds – Canton native – philosophizes about the plight of African Americans and the U.S.

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

Forty-five-year-old Brian Reynolds shared in a face-to-face interview at the Renaissance in Ridgeland, Miss. on Friday, July 5th that he began to look closely at his family lineage five years ago. He wanted to search for answers based on stories that his family shared with him across the years about their legacy. Curiosity led him to Ancestry – an online site – to unearth the truth.

“When I looked at the 20th century, I discovered that my grandparents were telling the truth. My maternal grandmother showed me a painting of her mother above the home’s fireplace. I never could understand how the painting looked white. I wanted to know why my grandmother was brown-skinned and her siblings were of lighter tones. My maternal great grandmother was a mulatto, and my paternal great grandmother was black,” commented Reynolds.

The interviewee explained that his skin tone falls on the paternal side of the family. Irrespective of the “color” situation, however, he

noted that his desire was for African Americans to “understand who we are as Americans.” There is no way to be proud of the race “if we don’t understand who we are, particularly since everything is happening socially to us in America.”

Referencing many values in the African-American race to be “essentially distorted” and the ideology having been “manipulated,” Reynolds asserted that the race must take the lead in setting the pace for America and the world to know the truth. He voiced that the effects of slavery are still present today because “we’ve been conditioned.” Yet, he charged that pulling from the conditioning process is the responsibility of individuals impacted by it.

On another note, Reynolds spoke of internal matters. “There is self-hatred. Most of the battles I’ve experienced come from people like us. If you don’t like yourself, and you are angry and combative about it, you must do the work [to rid yourself of that problem]. It takes team effort for a person to improve her/

his self-esteem and “to walk with confidence.”

Reynolds spoke of his educational values that were instilled in him early-on during his childhood. His parents highlighted education as a means for economic survival. Not only did they talk about education, but they demonstrated it from their own common sense thinking skills and degree-oriented skills.

“My ancestors were community activists, motivators and leaders. I understand that it is better in society to lead by example. My ancestors instilled thinking because you can’t fight fire with fire. You have to fight it with water,” he claimed with a head nod.

The interviewee spoke with confidence about his outlook on life. “My outlook is more like that of John Lewis. Throughout his life, he was devoted to human rights. He sought to build ‘a beloved community in America.’ Despite being arrested more than 40 times and suffering from mob attacks, he persisted for the good of humanity.”

When asked how could the Afri-

can-American race can mend itself, Reynolds resorted to addressing division: “We’re so divided, but we have to figure out who the people are who represent our values.” He claimed that “shared values” teach us that there are some things that are more important than how you feel. Some things are more important than one person’s opinion.”

The gentleman added that leading by example is essential to the race’s overall well-being. “The next generation,” he said, “is eventually going to step into the leadership roles we’re leaving. What we’re doing in this moment is going to impact how they lead. We have to start distinguishing between what’s happening in social media and what’s happening in real time, where we are on the actual scene.”

Reynolds concluded by explaining, “It’s really not about black or white. It’s about survival. America doesn’t have any independence because we’re a nation that’s divided. Until we exercise self-respect and respect for others, America will continue to go downhill.”



During his thought-provoking interview, Brian Reynolds elaborated on the influential aspects of his ancestral roots. He targeted “common sense thinking” and “education” as essential tools for advancement within the African-American community and the U.S. PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

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Perry

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Hendersonville, TN in December 2019. Chavis stated in his message, "For 30 years, *The Tennessee Tribune* and its publisher Rosetta Miller-Perry have set the standard for news covering Nashville and beyond. As of this day, we claim Rosetta Miller-Perry as the Queen Mother of the Black Press of America."



Nashville's Mayor Freddie O'Connell, on bended knee, wishes Perry a happy birthday.



Birthday cake with photo of Rosetta Perry



Rosetta Miller Perry (third from left), publisher of *The Tennessee Tribune*, received the National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) Lifetime Achievement Award on Jan. 25, 2019 at the NNPA National Convention held at the Hilton Orlando, FL Hotel. Pictured with Perry are l-r: Thurmon Jones, publisher of the *North Dallas Gazette* and Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., NNPA president and CEO.

Independence

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say in hindsight. We know progress has been made toward equality, but never easily – only with profound pressure – and this has been true in these United States ever since 1863 when the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Lincoln. Truth be told, even though Lincoln opposed slavery and repeatedly called it morally wrong, he didn't truly believe in equality in terms of social and political rights. He did not believe that Black people should have the right to vote, serve on juries, to hold office, or to intermarry with whites, per www.history.com. Contemplating the meaning of Independence Day involves contradiction.

Is it or is it not a contradiction that we as a country celebrate Independence Day even as we continue to systemically discriminate against minorities? We all know it's true, but how many care enough to speak out, to apply pressure, or are willing to disrupt the status quo?

Examples in Mississippi: We have the highest African-American population in America, per capita, yet 94% of state agencies are headed by European Americans. Mississippi's legislature has 174 members, 56 are African American – 32% and the Census tells us 38% of population is African American. The voices of the 32% are important, yet pale in relation to the 68% of European American voices. Per the 2022 Minority Participation Report, 94.5% of contracts for goods and services in Mississippi go to "non-minorities." But it gets far worse, under a minority classification labeled "non-ethnic women," white women contractors received 67.46% of the total "minority" funding. So much for equity. Happy Independence Day. All of this is willful behavior, our lack of equality in Mississippi is deliberate.

Nationally, in his first week in office, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Racial Equity. He called for urgent action to advance equity for all, calling this a "battle for the soul of [the] nation" because "systemic racism" is "corrosive," "destructive" and "costly." Per NBC News, more than 100 bills have been passed nationwide to either restrict or regulate diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. The Supreme Court gutted affirmative action in college admissions. Only 7 states have not banned or made some attempt to ban Critical Race Theory – a theoretical framework of systemic racism in America.

In this 21st century, for all our advancements and progress, we still have a large percentage of our society that does not want to talk about slavery and the persisting residual impacts of slavery that continue to this very day. They are fine with teaching about the 13 colonies, Christopher Columbus, and the Niña, Pinta, and Santa Maria though – that's authorized.

Per National Public Radio, "Across the U.S., educators are being censored for broaching controversial topics. Since January 2021, researcher Jeffrey Sachs says, 35 states have introduced 137 bills limiting what schools can teach with regard to race, American history, politics, sexual orientation and gender identity."

There's more to Independence Day than baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet. We are said to be the wealthiest country in the world; overflowing with resources, yet we have so far to go before all our people are equal, and before all our people are fully embraced and able to enjoy the rights declared in our nation's independence. The contradiction continues.

Project 2025

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than Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D., starting on page 503, "... HUD programs tend to perpetuate the notion of bureaucratically provided housing as a basic life need and, whether intentionally or not, fail to acknowledge that these public benefits too often have led to intergenerational poverty traps, have implicitly penalized family formation in traditional two-parent marriages, and have discouraged work and income growth, thereby limiting upward mobility. A new conservative Administration will therefore need to: Reset HUD. This effort should specifically include a broad reversal of the Biden Administration's persistent implementation of corrosive progressive ideologies across the department's programs. Implement an action plan across both process and people. This plan should include both the immediate redelegation of authority to a cadre of political appointees and the urgent implementation of administrative regulatory actions with respect to HUD policy and program eligibility. Reverse HUD's mission creep over nearly a century of program implementation dating from the Department's New Deal forebears. HUD's new political leadership team will need to reexamine the federal government's role in housing markets across the nation and consider whether it is time for a 'reform, reinvention, and renewal' that transfers Department functions to separate federal agencies, states, and localities."

Starting on page 545, the section on Department of Justice, authored by Gene Hamilton. In his forward he states, "Unfortunately, the department has lost its way in recent years and has forfeited the trust of large segments of the American people. Large swaths of the department have been captured by an unaccountable bureaucratic managerial class and radical Left ideologues who have embedded themselves throughout its offices and components. The department also suffers from institutional inattentiveness to its core functions... the DOJ has become a department that 46.6 percent of Americans recently indicated is, in their view, "too political, corrupt, and not to be trusted."

On page 708, under the Department of the Treasury section, they refer to something called The "Equity" Agenda. Here they are putting spin on what we already know does not exist in America. They say, in part, "Under the Biden Administration, the Treasury Department has appointed a Counselor for Racial Equity, established an Advisory Committee on Racial Equity, and created an office for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility. All these should be eliminated. Treasury has created several new offices to promote "equity" and has made this its first of five strategic goals in its Fiscal Year 2022–2026 Strategic Plan. The avowed purpose of these initiatives is to implement policies that deliberately favor some races or ethnicities over others. The casual acceptance and rapid spread of racist policymaking in the federal government must be forcefully opposed and reversed. The next conservative Administration should take affirmative steps to expose and eradicate the practice of critical race theory and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) throughout the Treasury Department."

There you have it – a whole bunch of smart white folks with a plan to tear down the government if needed in order to preserve their power in what they view as "their country" – that's Project 2025.

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Helping Families, Strengthening Communities

Some Mississippi legislative districts dilute Black voting power and must be redrawn, judges say

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Three federal judges are telling Mississippi to redraw some of its legislative districts, saying the current ones dilute the power of Black voters in three parts of the state.

The judges issued their order Tuesday night in a lawsuit filed in 2022 by the Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP and several Black residents.

“This is an important victory for Black Mississippians to have an equal and fair opportunity to participate in the political process without their votes being diluted,” one of the plaintiffs’ attorneys, Jennifer Nwachukwu, of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, said in a statement Wednesday. “This ruling affirms that the voices of Black Mississippians matter and should be reflected in the state



Mississippi state Sens. Rod Hickman, D-Macon, left, Michael McLendon, R-Hernando, second from left, Albert Butler, D-Port Gibson, and David Jordan, D-Greenwood, review an alternate Senate redistricting map at the MS Capitol March 29, 2022. Three federal judges ruled Tuesday, July 2, 2024, that Mississippi legislators must redraw some state House and Senate districts because the districts adopted in 2022 dilute Black voting power.

AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS, FILE

Legislature.”

Mississippi’s population is about 59% white and 38% Black.

In the legislative redistricting plan adopted in 2022, 15 of the 52 Senate districts and 42 of the 122 House districts are majority Black. Those are 29% of Senate districts and 34% of House districts.

The judges ordered legislators to draw majority-Black Senate

districts in and around DeSoto County in the northwestern corner of the state and in and around Hattiesburg in the south, and a new majority-Black House district in Chickasaw and Monroe counties in the northeastern part of the state.

The order does not create additional districts. Rather, it would require legislators to adjust the boundaries of existing districts.

That means multiple districts could be affected.

The Mississippi attorney general’s office was reviewing the judges’ ruling Wednesday, spokesperson MaryAsa Lee said. It was not immediately clear whether the state would appeal it.

Legislative and congressional districts are updated after each census to reflect population changes from the previous

decade. Mississippi’s new legislative districts were used when all of the state House and Senate seats were on the ballot in 2023.

Tommie Cardin, an attorney for state officials, told the federal judges in February that Mississippi cannot ignore its history of racial division, but that voter behavior now is driven by party affiliation, not race.

“The days of voter suppression and intimidation are, thankfully, behind us,” Cardin said.

Historical voting patterns in Mississippi show that districts with higher populations of white residents tend to lean toward Republicans and that districts with higher populations of Black residents tend to lean toward Democrats.

Lawsuits in several states have challenged the composition of congressional or state legislative districts drawn after the 2020

census.

Louisiana legislators redrew the state’s six U.S. House districts in January to create two majority-Black districts, rather than one, after a federal judge ruled that the state’s previous plan diluted the voting power of Black residents, who make up about one-third of the state’s population.

And a federal judge ruled in early February that the Louisiana legislators diluted Black voting strength with the state House and Senate districts they redrew in 2022.

In December, a federal judge accepted new Georgia congressional and legislative districts that protect Republican partisan advantages. The judge said the creation of new majority-Black districts solved the illegal minority vote dilution that led him to order maps to be redrawn.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



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MS erases some restrictions on absentee voting help for people with disabilities

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi is revising the restrictions it put in place last year on who can provide absentee voting assistance to people who have disabilities or cannot read or write – restrictions that were blocked by a federal judge before ultimately being altered by lawmakers.

An updated state law took effect Monday, changing one that the GOP-controlled Legislature passed and Republican Gov. Tate Reeves signed in 2023.

“This legislative change is a monumental step forward for voting rights in Mississippi, ensuring that every citizen’s voice is heard and respected,” Greta Kemp Martin, litigation director for Disability Rights Mississippi, said in a statement Monday.



Greta Kemp Martin is the litigation director for Disability Rights Mississippi, and she said Monday, July 1, 2024, that an updated state law will remove most restrictions on who can provide help on absentee voting by people who have a disability or who are unable to read or write. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS, FILE

Disability Rights Mississippi, the League of Women Voters of Mississippi and three voters sued the state in 2023, chal-

lenging the short list of people who could “collect and transmit” an absentee ballot. The list included employees of the

U.S. Postal Service or other mail carriers such as FedEx or UPS, and any “family member, household member or caregiver of the person to whom the ballot was mailed.” A violation would have been punishable by up to a year in jail, a \$3,000 fine or both.

U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate blocked the law from taking effect last year. He wrote that it violated the federal Voting Rights Act, which says any voter who is blind, disabled or unable to read or write may receive assistance “by a person of the voter’s choice,” other than their employer or union.

The new version of the Mississippi law reflects that portion of the Voting Rights Act. It also defines who is considered a caregiver, a family member or a member of a voter’s household.

Democratic lawmakers who opposed the 2023 law said it was vague and could hurt candidates, campaign workers, nursing home employees or others who make good-faith efforts to help people obtain and mail absentee ballots.

Republican-led states have tightened rules on voting by mail since the 2020 presidential election, in part because of the false narrative of widespread fraud in that race. When Reeves signed Mississippi’s law in 2023, he said it was to prevent “ballot harvesting,” a pejorative term for dropping off completed ballots for other people.

One of the residents who sued the state, Mamie Cunningham, is director of a community organizing group and involved with Black Voters Matter in northeast Mississippi.

“Many people with disabilities in rural communities would not vote if they did not have assistance,” Cunningham said in a statement Monday. “In Mississippi, voting by absentee ballot is an overwhelming process even for people without disabilities.”

Some states allow widespread use of voting by mail, but Mississippi restricts the reasons people may vote by absentee ballot.

The absentee ballots are available – by mail or for early, in-person voting – to Mississippi voters who are 65 or older; any voter who has a temporary or permanent physical disability, or any voter who is that person’s caretaker; and any voter who will be away from their home county on election day, including college students.

Federal judge halts Mississippi law requiring age verification for websites

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

A federal judge on Monday blocked a Mississippi law that would require users of websites and other digital services to verify their age.

The preliminary injunction by U.S. District Judge Sul Oz-erden came the same day the law was set to take effect. A tech industry group sued Mississippi on June 7, arguing the law would unconstitutionally limit access to online speech for minors and adults.

Legislators said the law is designed to protect children from sexually explicit material.

“It is not lost on the Court the seriousness of the issue the legislature was attempting to address, nor does the Court doubt the good intentions behind the enactment of (the law),” Oz-erden wrote.

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that any law that dealing with speech “is subject to strict scrutiny regardless of the government’s benign motive,” Oz-erden wrote.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves

signed the legislation after it passed the GOP-controlled House and Senate without opposition from either party.

The suit challenging the law was filed by NetChoice, whose members include Google, which owns YouTube; Snap Inc., the parent company of Snapchat; and Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram.

NetChoice has persuaded judges to block similar laws in other states, including Arkansas, California and Ohio.

Chris Marchese, director of the NetChoice Litigation Center, said in a statement Monday that the Mississippi law should be struck down permanently because “mandating age and identity verification for digital services will undermine privacy and stifle the free exchange of ideas.”

“Mississippians have a First Amendment right to access lawful information online free from government censorship,” Marchese said.

Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch argued in a court filing that steps such as age ver-

ification for digital sites could mitigate harm caused by “sex trafficking, sexual abuse, child pornography, targeted harassment, sextortion, incitement to suicide and self-harm, and other harmful and often illegal conduct against children.”

Fitch wrote that the law does not limit speech but instead regulates the “non-expressive conduct” of online platforms. Oz-erden said he was not persuaded that the law “merely regulates non-expressive conduct.”

Utah is among the states sued by NetChoice over laws that imposed strict limits for children seeking access to social media. In March, Republican Gov. Spencer Cox signed revisions to the Utah laws. The new laws require social media companies to verify their users’ ages and disable certain features on accounts owned by Utah youths. Utah legislators removed a requirement that parents consent to their child opening an account after many raised concerns that they would need to enter data that could compromise their online security.

We should follow the Constitution, not the political right

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



The Conservative Right (also called the Political Right) which has made Donald Trump its standard bearer, would have us believe that the Minority it represents, reflects the views of the Majority of Americans. Nothing could be further from the truth as evidenced by State after State rejecting Trump candidates for office in State elections as well as the many state actions to codify a woman’s right to abortions in opposition to the U.S. Supreme Court’s Decision reversing Roe vs. Wade on the right to an abortion.

The Conservative Right would have us believe that we do not live in a Democracy and that our Constitution, as the governing document for our society, is wrong with its emphasis on a separation of powers into three branches of government, providing checks and balances that prevent absolute rule by either of the three. Yet, the Conservative Right, hiding

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behind Project 2025, as its master plan to make Donald Trump Ruler and King instead of duly elected president, if he should win this November’s General Election, would have us abolish our separation of powers under the Constitution. Instead, the Trump-stacked Supreme Court would overturn established safeguards, allow the abolishment of established cabinet offices, consolidate powers within the presidency and impose Martial Law against all who disagree with the president.

Question, if America only has a Constitutional Republic and not a Democracy as the Conservative Right claims, then how is the proposed destruction of that Republic better than the Democracy that supposedly does not exist? What we do know is this: Members of the Conservative Right, who have taken an oath of office as elected members of the U.S. Congress under our Democracy and Constitutional Republic, have acted and are acting in total disregard of the oath they took. That oath, among other things, was one in which they swore to

“Protect and Defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” It appears that these individuals, as elected officials and members of the Republican Party, have engaged in acts of Conspiracy. The Constitution does not permit their conduct to fall within the definition of “Treason.” “Conspiracy” is as close as we can come to a crime against the government. Nothing is more evident of their disregard for the oath of office they took, than their mass support of a convicted felon for the Office of President of the United States.

In conclusion, we must listen very carefully to what people say as their interpretation of our constitutional principles. Our system of government, which has elected men of character and integrity and with a love for this country and our constitution, must not be discarded because of the loud noise and mis-interpretation of our founding documents by a Conservative Right Minority, even if some already hold offices to which they no longer pledge or give allegiance. Stand with the Constitution, not the conspirators.

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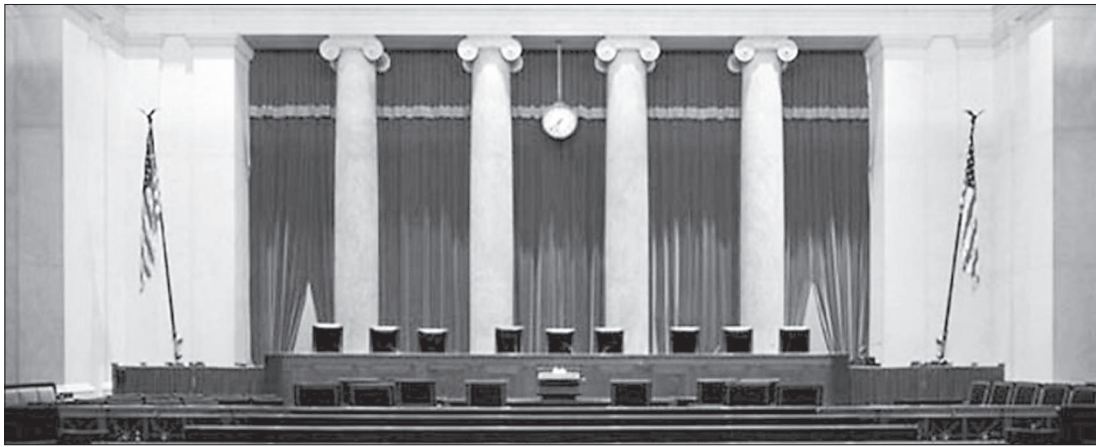
U. S. Supreme Court gives immunity to Trump's alleged criminal acts

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

On Monday, July 1, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that former President Donald Trump has immunity for some of his conduct during his presidency in his federal election interference case. However, other actions may not be protected. This decision adds another layer of complexity to the potential trial proceedings.

In a closely watched case exploring the boundaries of presidential power, the justices voted 6-3 along ideological lines to reject Trump's sweeping immunity claim. The ruling means that charges related to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election results will not be dismissed outright. However, the court indicated that actions closely tied to his presidential duties are off-limits to prosecutors.

Trump has already been con-



The courtroom of the Supreme Court of the United States. PHOTO supremecourt.gov

victed on 34 felony charges related to a hush-money scheme to conceal an extramarital affair with an adult film star while Melania Trump was pregnant.

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, emphasized the need for lower courts to examine further which actions Trump can be prosecuted for. Specifically, the court deter-

mined that Trump's interactions with Justice Department officials and Vice President Mike Pence in the lead-up to the January 6 Capitol attack by his supporters are considered core presidential powers and thus immune from prosecution.

"The president is not above the law," Roberts wrote. "But Congress may not criminalize

the president's conduct in carrying out the responsibilities of the executive branch under the Constitution."

The ruling leaves the future of the case uncertain, requiring further proceedings before U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan.

Judge Chutkan will now review other alleged conduct by Trump, including his communications

with state election officials, private parties and members of the public, to determine if they qualify as official acts.

The court's liberal justices dissented, with Justice Sonia Sotomayor arguing that the ruling undermines a fundamental constitutional principle that no individual is above the law. "Trump will now be insulated from criminal prosecution. In every use of official power, the President is now a king, above the law," said Sotomayor.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, in a strongly worded dissent, accused the conservative majority of creating a dangerous precedent by establishing a new model of presidential accountability that grants undue immunity to the highest office.

"With that understanding of how our system of accountability for criminal acts ordinarily functions, it becomes much

easier to see that the majority's ruling in this case breaks new and dangerous ground," Jackson wrote.

"Departing from the traditional model of individual accountability, the majority has concocted something entirely different: A Presidential accountability model that creates immunity – an exemption from criminal law – applicable only to the most powerful official in our government," she added.

Justice Jackson further warned of the broader implications of the ruling, suggesting that even a hypothetical president who commits grave crimes, such as ordering assassinations of political rivals or instigating a coup, could potentially claim immunity under the new model.

Trump, who faces about 50 other charges related to the 2020 election, has openly discussed executing his rivals.

Stop the lynching of Pres. Joe Biden

By Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
President and CEO of the NNPA

There are moments in life when the convictions of the spirit and personal consciousness collide in opposition to the mainstream, popular outcries for the blood, life, and the end of the future existence of another human being. I refuse to be a silent witness to another lynching in America. Thus, the following is what I have observed and witnessed firsthand over the past days to the lynch mob-like escalation of calls for President Joe Biden to step down from campaigning for reelection in 2024.

I am not representing any organization or political party. On the 4th of July 2024, while sitting quietly in Raleigh, North Carolina I jotted down my personal views.

Although I am a proud Democrat, I am so saddened by the backstabbing cowardice of those who dare to publicly call for President Biden to step down while having an utter contradictory refusal to utter publicly any call for former President Donald Trump to step down and to end his fascist-engaging campaign to retake The White House. The question is why?

The attempted political lynching of President Joe Biden has more to do with disingenuous political infighting than difficulties at a nationally televised political debate. What are the real motives from all of those who are calling for President Biden to step down?

Some will say that my words and expressions here are too strong and controversial. That may be true because there should be strong words and expressions that always should call out and condemn any form of lynching. A political lynching is also a crime against the oneness of our humanity. Such is the situation today in America. It is the politics of division versus the politics of unifying all Americans for the best interests and future of the nation that is on the ballot. Democracy is on the ballot. Justice is on the ballot. Equality is on the ballot. Equity is on the ballot. Freedom is on the ballot.

The antidote to the current resurgence of ignorance, racism, cowardice, fascism, and retrenchment from freedom, justice, equality, and equity is to



President Joe Biden

COMMENTARY

work hard daily and diligently to ensure the largest voter turnout this year in American history.

Why do I claim responsibility for urgently making this statement on July 4, 2024? African Americans, like others who fought and died in the fields and streets in the 13 American colonies during the Revolutionary War against the British Empire 248 years ago, have a birthright to the Declaration of Independence signed on July 4, 1776, and later to the Constitution of the United States of America.

Although thousands of people of African descent, who were not enslaved, enlisted and fought for freedom and independence against the British, no people of African descent were invited or permitted to attend the formative meetings of the newly emerging nation's democracy and Constitutional Convention held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1787.

My great, great, great, great grandfather, The Reverend John Chavis (1763-1838), fought as a young, enlisted soldier in the Revolutionary War against the British in our home state of North Carolina and in the state of Virginia. The Chavis family has lived in Granville County, NC for over 285 years. My father, Benjamin F. Chavis Sr. (1898-1965) enlisted and fought as a young Sergeant Major soldier in the United States Army in World War I.

The point here is that generations of African and African-American soldiers have enlisted and fought and died to defend and protect the nation and democracy for the past 248 years. And we are not going to permit anyone or anything to deny our birthright to freedom and democracy. For us, the right

to vote in America is blood-stained and sacred. We know from our lived experience the horror, pain, and suffering from centuries of physical lynchings in America to satisfy the sheer fear, hatred, white supremacy and ignorance of racism. Today, we also know when mobs cry out for the downfall and political lynching of those who have been our allies in our long struggle for freedom, justice, voting rights, and equity, we cannot be silent.

It is ironic that also here in Raleigh, NC less than 24 hours after the questionable so-called debate in Atlanta, GA, President Biden spoke eloquently and forcibly at the NC State Fair Grounds about a couple of miles away from the John Chavis Memorial Park in downtown Raleigh. President Biden stated, "I know I'm not a young man, to state the obvious, I don't walk as easy as I used to. I don't speak as smoothly as I used to. I don't debate as well as I used to. But I know what I do know – I know how to tell the truth." The truth is therapeutic. Our nation needs more truth over the lies and prevalent fake news.

At the same time, as the calls for President Biden to step down, the United States Supreme Court has now ruled that future and past presidential "official acts" of violence, crime, repression, voter suppression and insurrection are all immune from prosecution as long those acts are official acts within the core responsibilities of a President of the United States. This is dangerous and fundamentally against the meaning and principles of democracy.

That is why now, more than ever before, we must raise our voices and mobilize our families and communities to go out and vote in record numbers in the swing states and in every other state across the nation. We all have work to do. We said back in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, "When things get tough in our struggle for freedom, we have to become tougher."

Join me and raise your voice with me. Let's vote in record numbers throughout America. Stop the lynching of President Joe Biden.

Reverend Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Raleigh, North Carolina, July 4, 2024

Misplaced priorities: Press Corps attacks Jean-Pierre, ignores Trump's alarming record

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In an era where critical issues often are overlooked, the mainstream media's priorities remain deeply troubling at best, or at worst, very partisan. While the nation faces urgent matters like the implementation of Project 2025, significant Supreme Court rulings, and the global rise of right-wing movements, the media remains fixated on baseless health rumors about President Joe Biden.

Meanwhile, it conveniently ignores Donald Trump's incoherent speeches, convictions for 34 felonies, sexual assault, and massive business fraud, along with his clear authoritarian aspirations and lack of White House transparency during his term.

The media's treatment of White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre recently reached new lows, reflecting a broader problem of disrespect and hostility in the press corps. Following an onslaught of combative questioning regarding President Biden's health, Jean-Pierre made a powerful statement addressing reporters' unfair accusations and lack of respect.

"I want to take a step back for a second. I do take offense," Jean-Pierre asserted. "I come out here every day. We do our best to give you the information we have at the time. We understand the freedom of the press. I appreciate the back-and-forth we have. I try to respect you and hope you respect me. My team does everything we can to get the answers to you. Sometimes, we're not in agreement, but you know what? That's democracy. That's important to have that healthy back and forth. To say that I'm holding information or allude to anything else is really unfair. I think people who are watching or have been watching can say we are doing our best. I will admit that sometimes I get it wrong. Sometimes I don't have the information. I will admit that. But I do take offense to what's happened in this briefing. It's not okay."

The backlash from the press towards Jean-Pierre's earnest efforts has drawn condemnation from various quarters. Mississippi Democratic Congressman Bennie Thompson called the



Jean-Pierre

disrespect "absolutely despicable." Writer Charlotte Clymer praised Jean-Pierre's grace and competence while denouncing the unacceptable treatment she endured. "I have the utmost respect for Karine Jean-Pierre," Clymer noted. "Her unyielding grace and superlative record of communications competence have made her one of the most effective messaging professionals of this era. The disrespect she experienced today is unacceptable and pathetic."

Actress and activist Heather Thomas criticized *The New York Times* for its "lazy reporting" and the press corps for their "piggish treatment" of Jean-Pierre. "The NYT should change their name to Enquirer. That neurologist treats over 1,000 service members with neurological issues at the White House. He was there for them. Shame on the NYT for lazy conspiracy reporting and shame on the press corps' piggish treatment of Karine Jean-Pierre today," Thomas stated.

However, the White House Correspondents' Association has done little to address this troubling behavior. The association's silence is particularly glaring in light of the White House's transparency about visitor logs, a practice that starkly contrasts the secrecy of the Trump administration.

President Biden's doctor, Kevin O'Connor, had to release a letter explaining that the Parkinson's expert who visited the White House was there for other patients, not the President. This clarification did little to deter reporters from their relentless and unfounded speculation.

Historian Heather Cox Richardson reminded the public of the stark difference in transparency between the Biden and Trump administrations: "A re-

minder that when this administration took over, it reinstated daily press briefings after Trump killed them. Remember Trump had a press secretary who held not a single briefing, appearing only on right-wing media."

MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell also criticized the White House press corps for their behavior, describing it as a circus. "The White House press corps, many at their absolute worst in the way they approached Karine Jean-Pierre, who was trying to be responsive to medical questions where there are limitations in what she could say," O'Donnell noted. "*The New York Times*' reporting that she dodged the question is untrue. She responded to the questions; she didn't give the answer *The New York Times* or other reporters wanted, but she did answer every single question, and *The New York Times* and other reporters kept banging on. Out-of-control behavior by most of the White House press corps was as bad a circus as it looked."

O'Donnell further highlighted the unfair scrutiny.

"So, the White House press corps wanted the White House to confirm this neurologist had visited the White House eight times," O'Donnell continued. "That's information only available to the press corps because the Biden White House reveals records of every visitor. How many times the neurologist visited White House under Trump? The press will never know because the White House under Trump never released that information. How many times has a cardiologist visited? Trump hid that information."

Political commentator Bakari Sellers emphasized the absurdity of the media's focus. "I think it's patently absurd that we're having this discussion," Sellers said on CNN. "I think we're chasing this rabbit of *The New York Times* saying that a Parkinson's expert visited the White House eight times without even corroborating that with whether the President was there or who that doctor actually saw."

"It's extremely clear now that he did not see the President of the United States, and to use visitor logs to simply say or deduce that someone has Parkinson's is not journalism."

Julie Tyler (JSU graduate), Abbott's senior vice president, advises public about prevalent peripheral artery disease

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

Millions of Americans are unaware that they have peripheral arterial (artery) disease (PAD). They have never been diagnosed for it. Millions may experience pain while millions have no pain. According to Julie Tyler, senior vice president at Abbott's Vascular Business, only 10% of the more than 20 million people who live daily with PAD have been diagnosed.

PAD is narrowing of the arteries which causes reduced blood flow from the heart to the legs. In the US, more than 3 million persons are diagnosed with PAD annually. The disease may be dangerous or life threatening, and there is no known cure.

Tyler paused for an external interview to heighten *The Mississippi Link* readers' sensitivity and awareness of PAD. The disease is dear to Tyler's heart because it was hurtful for the senior vice president to learn that her Aunt Dorothy – a Mississippian, died after suffering leg amputation complications from PAD. Additionally, the informant has other relatives who are undergoing treatment of cardiovascular disease. Thus, Tyler is reaching out to Mississippians to get diagnosed and to undergo treatment, if need be.

"PAD is highly prevalent, yet many people have never heard of the condition. PAD below the knee (BTK) is a condition that occurs when arteries become clogged with plaque, preventing blood flow and oxygen from reaching the lower legs and feet. If a person experiences pain in the hips, thighs or calf muscles, open wounds that don't heal, weakness in the legs and feet, coldness in the lower legs or feet and loss of hair or slower hair growth on the legs and feet, [s/he should] consult a healthcare provider for a thorough evaluation and appropriate management," said Tyler.

Tyler recommends early diagnosis and treatment in order to prevent other serious complications like heart attacks, strokes and amputations. She mentioned: "With heart attacks, most people know the signs. They feel pain in the chest and arm and know what's happening." Unfortunately, most people who are considered at high risk for PAD don't know that they have it.

Tyler explained that the main risk factors of PAD include: diabetes; age; smoking; high blood pressure; high cholesterol; family history; and obesity. Diabetics are at greater risk because of poor blood circulation. Persons who are more than 50 years old have high risk factors. Smokers can increase their risk of developing PAD. Persons with hypertension can develop PAD. Elevated cholesterol levels can produce artery



Julie Tyler, senior vice president at Abbott's vascular business

blockage. A person with a family history of cardiovascular disease can develop PAD; and persons who are overweight can worsen other risk factors.

Adding to the above symptoms are more subtle signs. According to Tyler, there may be tingling or numbness in the toes or feet or unexplained fatigue occurring in the legs while one is physically active. This, however, is not all. Skin on the legs may have a "shiny appearance."

Persons diagnosed with PAD should exercise precautions to manage their condition and reduce the risk of further complications. This can be done with a few lifestyle changes. Exercise regularly. For example, if you like to walk, walk often. If you like to dance, keep that going. Eat a healthy diet (fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and low-fat dairy products), and limit your intake of saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, sodium and added sugars. Read the labels on the products. Manage your weight so as not to overburden your arteries.

At the other end of the spectrum is the need for those diagnosed with PAD to follow their doctors' advice. Medications should be taken as prescribed. Have regular check-ups. Keep your feet clean and dry, and wear well-fitting shoes to prevent injuries. Have daily feet inspections to detect sores, cuts or infections. To reduce arteries' strains, keep blood pressure and cholesterol levels within the recommended ranges. (Blood pressure devices – often part of a telehealth system – can be continuous or periodically monitored by doctors remotely). Also, avoid extreme temperatures, limit alcohol consumption and manage stress.

Tyler recommends that regular health screening will encourage persons to be informed about their health-related issues.

Tyler advises *The Mississippi Link* readers to know what

PAD is, what are its symptoms and what ethnicities are at the highest risk. She indicates, for instance, that alongside Native Americans, people of African descent experience the highest rates of PAD across the country, and that Black people have twice the rate of PAD than do white people at any given age. Readers are advised not only to be knowledgeable themselves, but to communicate with friends, family and loved ones about PAD, and if they are at risk, to apply lifestyle changes to reduce their risk factors.

Abbott maintains a strong work ethic in meeting the needs of the public's health. The business recently received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Esprit BTK System. The dissolvable stent is a breakthrough innovation for people with PAD BTK. It is designed to keep arteries open and deliver a drug called everolimus to support vessel healing prior to completely dissolving.

Before this breakthrough, the standard of care was balloon angioplasty, which relies on a small balloon delivered via a catheter to the blockage site.

"While I know we cannot go back in time, I can only think that if Abbott's Esprit BTK System was available when my Aunt Dorothy was diagnosed with PAD, she may still be alive today," noted Tyler.

Tyler has risen through a series of positions of increasing responsibility across multiple Abbott businesses, including more than 10 years in Abbott Vascular prior to joining Diabetes Care. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Jackson State University and a master's degree in broadcast management from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX.

To learn more about PAD, visit Abbott's PAD education website PAD-info.com, www.CLEAR.Abbott.

American Heart Association provided training to JPS staff in hands-only CPR (cardiac pulmonary resuscitation) and AED (automated external defibrillator)

The American Heart Association

The American Heart Association provided hands-only CPR and AED training for administrative staff with the Jackson Public School system Tuesday, July 8th. The event was held from 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at the E-center, 1230 Raymond Road in Jackson. The trainers were from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, an AHA-certified facility.

Funds for this training were granted from the Senate Bill 2750 "Automated External Defibrillators in Public and Charter Schools Grant Program" (passed in 2023) to get about 100 AEDs to be put into schools across the JPS District.

More than 356,000 people experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital in the United States each year. Currently, 10% of those people will survive, most likely because there were people nearby prepared to take action. CPR, if performed immediately, can double, or triple a person's chance of survival.

It is estimated that about 23,000 children under the age of 18 experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital annually in this country. Of those children, about 40% are sports related.

Whether in the classroom or on the playing field, having a plan in place to enable faculty, staff and students to respond to a cardiac emergency quickly and correctly can save lives.

In schools with AEDs, approximately 70% of children survive cardiac arrest – 7 times the overall survival rate for children.

Governor Tate Reeves signed into law Senate Bill 2349 stating that public schools must have a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) in place that instructs people to dial 911, start CPR, and use an AED on campus and at school-sponsored athletic events in the case of a cardiac emergency.

The American Heart Association, devoted to a world of healthier lives for all, championed the legislation.

The American Heart Association and their You're the Cure advocates worked alongside coalition members and other organizations to push for this policy that will increase survival rates from cardiac arrests that happen outside of a hospital.

Senator Nicole Boyd (R-Oxford) and Representative Kent McCarty (R-Hattiesburg) were sponsors of the companion bills in the senate and house chambers, SB 2349, and HB 1548, respectively.

"We are grateful that Governor Reeves signed SB 2349 into law. This legislation will increase the survival rate of students, school staff and visitors experiencing cardiac arrest as they wait for emergency medical services to arrive to the scene," said Boyd.



AHA hands-only CPR and AED trainers from UMMC with JPS staff



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Advertisement for Rebid RFP 2024-04

The JPS Teacher Certification Program

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), Thursday, July 18, 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.

All hand-delivered proposals must be delivered before the opening time (local prevailing time) and the date the bid is scheduled to open. These deliveries are to be made to the Business Services Office at 662 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

7/4/2024, 7/11/2024

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY OF JACKSON'S ADOPTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE'S ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

You are hereby notified that on July 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall located at 219 S. President Street, in Jackson, Mississippi, the City Council for the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will examine and consider the Department of Revenue's motor vehicle assessment schedule as provided by law, and particularly Section 27-51-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

The City shall use in the collection of ad valorem taxes thereon for the taxable year beginning August 1, 2024, subject to the right of motor vehicle owners and taxpayers to object to any of said valuations appearing on said assessment schedule; that said schedule for special equipment, trailers, motorcycles, ambulances and hearses.

The public has the right to inspect and examine at City Hall located at 219 S. President Street in the City of Jackson and said schedule for passenger vehicles. The light truck assessment schedule is in the Hinds County Tax Collector's computer system. It is now ready for public inspection and examination at the Hinds County Chancery Court Building.

Any objection to the valuation of motor vehicles set forth and contained in said schedule shall be made in writing, objecting to and petitioning for a specified reduction on any portion or portions of the assessment schedule affecting the complainant directly. Objections to the assessment schedule must comply with Section 27-51-23 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and filed in duplicate with the Municipal Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, at City Hall located at 219 S. President Street, in Jackson, Mississippi, on or before 10:00 a.m. on July 16, 2024, as provided by law, and particularly Section 27-51-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

The Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will meet in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 219 S. President Street in said City on said date and will then commence hearing any objection to any valuation of motor vehicles set forth and contained in said assessment schedule which has been made in writing and filed with the Municipal Clerk, as hereinabove provided, and will remain in session from day to day thereafter, considering such objection and claim for adjustment until all parties in interest have been heard and such objection for adjustment claim is disposed of as provided by law.

7/11/2024

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time (CT), Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of parcels:
1. 425-589 located at 3521 Edwards Ave

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 is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's 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 the Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1055. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Room 223, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

Contract Documents may be obtained from and/or examined at the offices of the Community Improvement Division located at 200 S. President Street, Suite 331, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Telephone 601.960.1054. Prospective bidders may obtain copies of all materials required for bidding purposes. There is NO charge for electronic or e-mail copies. Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities in respect to any bid submitted or to accept any bid which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.

by: Samantha Graves,
Manager Community Improvement Division of Planning and Development

7/11/2024, 7/25/2024

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The demolition and cleaning of parcels:
1. 805-137-10 located at 6543 GEORGE. WASHINGTON DR

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The demolition and cleaning of parcels:
1. 737-435 located at 5805 Pepper Ridge Rd.

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by: Samantha Graves,
Manager Community Improvement Division of Planning and Development

7/11/2024, 7/25/2024

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The demolition and cleaning of parcels:
1. 422-179 located at 3450 Fontaine Ave.

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The demolition and cleaning of parcels:
1. 804-703 located at 6762 HARRY S TRUMAN

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The demolition and cleaning of parcels:
1. 707-52 located at 6240 BROWN ST

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The demolition and cleaning of parcels:
1. 59-35 located at 194 Roosevelt St.

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The demolition and cleaning of parcels:
1. 126-6-1 located at 237 S Prentiss St.

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The demolition and cleaning of parcels:
1. 99-10-2 located at 1610 Pleasant Ave

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The demolition and cleaning of parcels:
1.152-25 located at 1319 Robinson St

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Week of June 30, 2024

P R E S E R V E D

Show and Tell Christians

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



I remember show and tell assignments in school being those sometimes boring presentations about what we did during our summer vacation. One thing was clear, the less you had to show, the more telling you did. If all you had to show for a summer vacation was a picture of you and Bigmama, you did a great deal of talking about the picture and not as much time showing the picture itself.

Show and tell for me now is a technique that I use to teach descriptive writing because it allows students to show their creativity. If students have more details to write about something, it's easier to spend time "painting the picture." For example, rather than telling people "it's cold

outside," you show them how "the robust winter wind whistles through the brittle tree limbs with just enough force to snap them in half."

I even find myself thinking again about the concept of showing and telling as I look at the influence of the chaotic MAGA movement on current Republican Party politics and more specifically the 2024 presidential race. From supporting candidates and implementing laws that are hostile to women as well as diversity, they've made it clear how they feel.

What does show and tell have to do with the current presidential race? Some candidates spend so much telling us how they feel because they don't have much to show. In other words, don't spend so much time telling me how mad you are about the government; show me what you can do to make it better.

MAGA candidates and

Conservative Republicans were elected by boldly proclaiming their desire to change government, however, now that they are in office, they actually do more obstruction of government.

What I think is the truly sad part is many MAGA and Conservative Republicans claim to be Christians. They swaddle their words in familiar verses of scripture, but their behavior doesn't reflect the truth of God's word. For example, they continue to support a presidential candidate that is a 34-times convicted felon and rapist with a nearly 50-year history of racist and misogynistic words as well as actions.

Yet, I Corinthians 5:11 says, "But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not

even eat with such people."

For some, Republicans unyielding support seems to contradict the Bible. As followers of Christ, we have to constantly ask ourselves are we spending more time telling others that we are Christians or showing them we are Christians?

As Christians, our ultimate goal is to lead others to Christ; sometimes the best Christian witness is not what we say but what we do. It's about those little things that we do every day that allow others to see the Christ in us and point them to Him.

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

The way to victory is God's way

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



The people in Revelation, Chapter 15, had victory in their souls. Do you have victory? Those who had victory thought the plagues were great and marvelous. They thought His way was just and true. Do you feel that God's way is just and true? Today, too many people moan and groan, especially when the Bible standard is preached. Not many people rejoice when you get into the Bible standard. If you agree with the message of truth, why would it not bring rejoicing to your soul?

Many people feel that God's way is too hard, too demanding and too old-fashioned. Some people complain, "God is so unfair. It seems like I cannot do anything." Well, God does not want you to do anything that is wrong. If you are truly a Christian, you do not want to do wrong. God wants you to do that which is right. If you have things in your life that should not be there, you ought to get rid of them. If you lack things in your life that you desire and you are living right, God will help you to get them.

As Christians, we want to do right; we want to live right. We might go through struggles and hard places, but we still come out with victory because we want to do right. God's way is for all nations to worship Him in spirit and in truth. He will declare a message of judgment.

Going back to our scripture text, after the judgments were manifested, John looked and once again the Church of God was made visible. There was no visible Church of God back in the dark and cloudy day. In the days of Roman Catholicism and Protestantism, from the second

seal on up through the fifth, there was no visible Church of God. He could just bring her out in public worship and say, "This is My people. This is My body, the Church of God."

Many people were in sectism and much anarchy was going on. Do not get me wrong, there were children of God, but a visible church did not come until people came out and took a stand on the sea of glass and stood for what is right. They stood with the Lamb upon Mount Zion the Church of the Living God. There was the darkness of Rome, and then came her harlot daughters, Protestantism, distortors of the truth.

We read in Revelation 11:8, "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom (which is bondage) an Egypt (sin), where also our Lord was crucified."

In every age of time people have live for God. People would not have come out of Babylon had they not been living for God. However, there was not a visible church as in the morning time.

What happened to the visible church? People went into apostasy. The same condition is taking place today. Revelation 8:8 tells us, "And the second angel sounded and as it were a great mountain burning with fire cast into the sea: and the part of the sea became blood." Today the devil is trying to take away the visible church that John saw the people standing. John saw the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven opened. In other words, he saw a visible church. He said he saw those who had gotten the victory and who sang the song of Moses, or the song of deliverance.

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

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Or you may worship with us via Facebook or our YouTube channel at CHMBC

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Chauncy L. Jordan

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

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Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
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Has the High Court become a political pawn?

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



Some years ago, I testified in a court of law. My testimony did not make or break the case. I was what you would call a character witness.

Over the years, I have been an observer of the court system and how it dispenses justice. There are some cases and trials that have caught my attention. I have investigated the facts that I have read and added my own perspective.

In adding my perspective, I have made it a point not to ignore the facts. It has always been my thinking that common sense could bring about justice and fairness. However, using this approach is probably not going to win too many cases, especially these days.

I would also opine that common sense was left out of the equation back in the day as well. There have been enough cases involving innocent people that were sent to jail because of inadmissible evidence.

Verdicts of guilty were announced, case closed, and everyone went home except the accused. Still, we have seen cases overturned because all the facts were not used, and common sense was applied.

Does judicial discretion override the facts and the law? I guess it depends upon who you ask. For example, much has been said about President Biden's opponent and his legal woes. He has been found guilty of breaking the law.

The wheels of justice grind slowly and even slower for this Republican nominee for president of the United States of America. His mantra has been delay, put-off, postpone and reschedule.

His lawyers have put this into practice. Has it worked? The answer is yes. They go from courtroom to courtroom using this strategy as their bridge over troubled and murky waters.

He and his legal counsel are banking on the United States Supreme Court to clear him. This is my opinion.

In a ruling last week, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in his majority opinion, "The president enjoys no immunity for his unofficial acts, and not everything the president does is official. The president is not above the law."

Since this ruling was made, it has America in a quandary. This is my opinion.

The then president incited a riot on January 6th in Washington, DC. This unprecedented act has been the subject of much debate.

Some legal scholars believe that his lawyers will use the

SCOTUS ruling to justify his behavior and actions. Fordham University Law Professor Cheryl Bader said, "I think this is a major hurdle for the prosecution. This is a real gut punch."

In the 6-3 SCOTUS vote, dissenting Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson said, "If the structural consequences of today's paradigm shift mark a step in the wrong direction, then the practical consequences are a five-alarm fire that threatens to consume democratic self-governance and the normal operations of the Government."

The president is not the king as our system of government is not set up that way. There is a checks and balances system in

the United States of America. Does this ruling affect this longstanding system? The short answer is that we will just have to wait and see.

America may be at a tipping point as elections and those who run for office will become more scrutinized. My crystal ball is telling me that the court system will play an important role in our elections in the future. Despite this, we must go out and vote in November in record numbers.

We still have the final say in who becomes the next president of this country. Our vote is a powerful tool in making our voices heard. Let's use our vote and our common sense to make a difference.

Biden offers a chance for real heroism – 'When we get knocked down, we get back up!'

By Dr. Barbara Reynolds
TriceEdneyWire.com



Following the fallout from his one-night debate debacle some big media have led the call for President Joseph Biden to abort his run for president. Ironically, most of the press did not lead a similar crusade against Trump – twice impeached, twice convicted of sexual crimes, found guilty by a jury of his peers of 34 felonies involving paying off a porn star – who, in the debate, continued adding to his record of the 30,000 documented lies during his four-year presidency.

In his own defense, Biden threw back: "When we get knocked down, we get back up." Those short nine words have touched the hearts and souls of many Black Americans. With this one liner, Biden moved his candidacy into a space from which real heroes could rise. In one tight sentence, he summed up our DNA. As a people, we have been ruthlessly and brutally knocked down. But this special fighting spirit in our culture and religion has worked to propel our determination to get back up.

Biden's call for support was to the left out, the lost, and the locked out. It resonates in the eyes of those who remember him as a decent guy who has lifted the elderly, low waged workers and those needing affordable health care. These are the people that the GOP has demoralized by a system awarding the hellish and punishing the good folks who believe there is nobility in telling the truth.

If pollsters would focus on Black churches, civil and workers' rights groups instead of spineless, crybaby Democrats and those who want Biden-Harris out, so they can get in, they could see a different narrative unfolding. A poll taken before the debate showed 72 percent of registered Black American voters prefer Biden over Trump. It is doubtful that Biden's one bad night measured against four terrible years of Trump would show a mass departure.

Being knocked down and getting back up is the unwritten national anthem of many disfavored groups, especially Black Americans, who will – no doubt – show their colors for

Biden because their enemies are also Biden's enemies. There is a formidable common enemy in Trumpism, which is pushing voter suppression, especially in the battleground states, destroying the protections of affirmative action and pushing a conservative agenda that punishes women in need of reproductive health care and ensuring big tax breaks for the rich and heartaches for the poor.

This common enemy has sanctioned some of the name-calling judgementalism that historically has kept groups fighting each other rather than focusing on the White privileged groups that – despite representing about one percent of America's population – hold enough power to buy our Supreme Court. It recently gave Trump immunity over most acts, including his role in the January 6th, 2021, insurrection that included an attack on the U. S. Capitol.

On the other hand, the belief that "when we get knocked down, we get back up," makes room for the guys with the sagging pants, the straights and gays with their purple and rainbow hair, the hungry families in rural America, suburban and urban women, who want to eject the Trump politicians out of their wombs, and the workers without a livable wage. Perhaps it would even open the eyes of the White political Christians who are working to put the Ten Commandments in public schools, while ignoring Trump's adultery.

Going forward, Black men, who pollsters claim are voting up to 25 percent for Trump, must see what Donald Trump has said of Black people. According to Trump, Black and Brown people are from "sh*t-hole countries," and he called Black NFL players who protest police brutality "sons of bitches." In 1989 Trump took out full-page ads in New York City calling for the execution of five young Black men falsely accused of raping a White woman. After 13 years of civil rights protests, they were found not guilty. But Trump never apologized to them. Trump and his gang also plan to institute an assault on families from top to bottom by instituting voter suppression laws and reducing Social Security payments and child-care credits.

Trump and his MAGA Repub-

licans must think their Black male supporters are fools, since once in office their rhetoric and policies could revert to 1857 when the Dred Scott Supreme Court decision decreed that Black people in America had "no rights which the White man is bound to respect."

It is also possible that Trump surrogates, while working to ban books about African-American, history have made the infamous Willie Lynch theory required reading for their White supplicants. The story goes that in the 1700s British slave owner Willie Lynch taught slaveowners in America how to control slaves unto future generations.

In short, it called for first, keeping the slave ignorant for knowledge is power and power is dangerous; secondly, instilling fear in Black people to make them believe other Black people are their enemies; thirdly, by any means necessary, making enslaved people forget their true identity and heritage; fourthly, injecting them with the poison of self-doubt, self-hatred, and inferiority to the extent that they become slaves so docile and submitted that they will try to prove their worth by being even more oppressive to Blacks than Whites themselves. Could this define the Uncle Toms of today?

African Americans have made great gains by leading from the bottom to make massive changes at the top. In this regard, Black Trump supporters have a blood covenant with all the Black and White martyrs who have shed their blood to gain our voting rights.

One final reminder to those who still find little hope at the bottom: The same New York courtroom where the Central Park Five were wrongly convicted is where Trump was successfully prosecuted on 34 felony charges by a Black District Attorney, Alvin Bragg. Yusef Salaam, one of the exonerated and freed Central Park Five, is now a New York city councilman. The Black Vote helped make that happen.

This year, the severity of Trumpism has moved more Black pastors to urge their congregants to vote. Playing it safe by ignoring politics is not and has never been an option. As the Bible says: "Faith without works is dead."

Do you know how to love your spouse?

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



Most married couples love each other, at least I hope and pray they do. But do spouses know how to love each other? Do spouses know how to illustrate their love to teach other? Do you know that your spouse may have a particular love language that they desire for you to fulfil? Many, if not most, have heard of the book, "The Five Love Languages," written by Dr. Gary Chapman. This book is a resource for helping married couples understand how to romantically express love to each other based on each other's love language.

Dr Chapman has identified the following five types of love languages as pivotal for helping shape loving, healthy and happy marriages:

- Words of Affirmation
- Acts of Service
- Receiving Gifts
- Quality Time
- Physical Touch

Words of Affirmation – Words of affirmation is a verbal expression of love. It basically represents making love with your mouth. Meaning, orally expressing love that edifies your spouse.

Examples: "You are beautiful," "You are smart," "I love the way you cook grits, (everybody can't cook grits – I can teach you if you need lessons)," "You do an awesome job cutting the grass," "I love how you listens to me," "I love how you dress," "I love the way you smile," "I love the way you wash them dishes," "I love how neat you fold the clothes," "I love how fresh your breathe is."

Acts of Service – (This is my love language, my main love language – I hope Big Daddy is reading this!) Acts of service is just that – it is expressing love through your actions. In other words, you can buy me diamonds all day and yes, I do love diamonds, but nothing says I love you like helping with me with the house chores. I really feel the love when my husband mops the floors and help fold and put away the clothes. In fact, he makes love to me every time he washes the dishes. I'm just saying the smell of the Dawn dish detergent, observing the soap bubbles on my husband's hands, watching my husband stand strong behind the sink, washing each dish, drying each one so eloquently, and placing the dishes in their proper place convinces me that he loves me and

it convinces me to not let my handy dishwasher go – we staying together until... period! Yes, we do have a dishwasher, but my husband is, "The Dishwasher!" Everything can't go in the dishwasher.

Receiving Gifts – This is simple. Nothing says I love you more than a spouse receiving gifts from their spouse whether small or big... like, receiving flowers, socks, jewelry, shoes, purses, etc. If this is your spouse's love language – please invest in learning how to be a good giver, if not, you may have some silent nights in every way...just saying, well writing.

Quality Time – (This is my love language too.) A spouse desires to spend time with their spouse at home, in the grocery store, yes, we love when you go in SAM's, Wally World, etc. with us especially if you don't make any complaints about what we buy and how long it takes for us to decide on what to buy), lunch collaboration, gym, church, etc.

Touch Physical – Most men, I believe, loves physical touch. However, some women do too. Physical touch is affectionate, intimate, can be romantic and enjoyable. Although, this is not a major love language for me – I do love affection when my husband puts his arm around me, holds my hand, etc., especially in public because it is an acknowledgment that I am his and he is mine at least for that moment – I know I am being petty.

In conclusion, do you know how to love your spouse the way they desire to be loved? The five love languages help to teach you how to love your spouse in an intentional, specific and unique way that connects you two in a special way. If you don't know your love language or your spouse's love language, I challenge you to discover what it is today. In fact, let this be a romantic/adventurous assignment for both you and your spouse to indulge in; go on a picnic or let it be a part of a fun date night activity. It is important to discover your spouse's love language because it can be an effective tool in helping you grow as one in having a healthy and happy marriage.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.) on Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email: letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com or call 601 596-2528.

Jackson, Mississippi wants curfew centers to cut crime. Here's what other cities learned.

By Daja E. Henry
The Marshall Project
This article is published in partnership with The Marshall Project, a nonprofit news organization covering the U.S. criminal justice system.

After a 17-year-old was charged with the fatal shooting of 14-year-old Eugene Kelly in Jackson, Mississippi's first murder of 2024, one council member made a familiar demand: Impose a nighttime youth curfew to "stop these kids from becoming killers."

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba then offered an even stronger response: The city should create "youth engagement centers" to keep children off the streets after dark.

Curfews have been imposed and abandoned numerous times in Jackson over the decades. Lumumba invoked the last temporary curfew in 2021, following a surge in violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. The planned youth centers, he said, will get "to the root cause of why that young person may be on the street," instead of "detaining them and becoming part of the problem."

Other U.S. cities have enacted curfews and set up youth centers, with mixed results. National studies have shown that curfews usually don't stop violent crime. The Marshall Project-Jackson examined the practices of youth centers in Baltimore and Philadelphia. A summary of the findings is below.

In Jackson, city officials believe the engagement centers would become a safe space to keep kids away from potentially dangerous situations. The children would have to agree to be taken to the centers or go home; police cannot force kids on the street to attend after the curfew.

The city's curfew ordinance, which passed the city council unanimously in January, said youth cannot be out past 10 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends. The ordinance expires in January 2025. However, Hinds County Youth Court Judge Carolyn Hicks deemed it unenforceable, as youth cannot be arrested for violating the curfew because adults cannot be charged under the same law. Youth between the ages of 10 and 19 make up 14%,

or around 20,000, of the city's 146,000 residents, according to the U.S. census.

Fighting youth crime is a political cry often used by elected officials, law enforcement and city leaders across the nation. Councilman Kenneth Stokes, who pleaded to stop kids from becoming killers at a January council meeting, has been demanding curfews since as early as 1991.

Jackson's budding plan for centers, however, faces a challenge in winning the trust of young people, who are already skeptical of police and feel that they are villainized in conversations that don't include them, youth advocates say.

Gus Daniels-Washington said young people often face outsized blame for crime while not enough is done to fix what pushes youth to violence. Daniels-Washington is the founder of JXNOLOGY, a nonprofit, youth-led arts and advocacy community in the city.

"It really just takes the responsibility off of our community leaders, because who is teaching these young people?" Daniels-Washington said of a curfew. "It's not like there's a class in murder."

In their first public meeting of the summer on June 27, the city police's precinct captains presented crime statistics that showed more theft and more 911 calls than from the previous week. Police Chief Joseph Wade attributed the rise in crime to youths.

"We know what the issues are," Wade said. Kids are out of school, "and some of them are finding something productive to do, like stealing your stuff?"

Violent crime committed by and against young people has been a long-term concern in the city. Less than a month into the summer, 18-year-old Daivion Myles was killed in a drive-by shooting. Four teenagers, including a 13-year-old girl, were charged with his murder.

However, according to police records obtained by The Marshall Project-Jackson from the first half of the year, the majority of people arrested for violent crimes were adults. Though the city shares poignant examples of youth violence, it provides no

evidence to the public that youth violence is actually on the rise. The police department does not report data to the FBI system that tracks crime data nationwide. Nationally, youth only accounted for 7% of arrests for violent crimes in 2020, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

According to Judge Hicks, about 20% of the youth court docket in 2023 involved "juvenile delinquency," or youth crimes. The remaining almost 80% of cases involved child welfare, including abuse or neglect. At a juvenile justice forum held on April 27, Hicks said that while news stories portray rampant crime among young people that captures the public's attention, "the true underbelly of concern in Hinds County," is that many of the children are vulnerable to abuse and neglect.

Darius Nelson, a 26-year-old organizer with the youth group JXNOLOGY, and several other young adults interviewed said they felt isolated, unheard and overpoliced. Nelson uses they/their pronouns. Young people in Jackson are tired of being "the big, bad, boogeyman," they said. "That's followed me all my life."

Keisha Coleman, director of the city's Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery, said she is designing the youth engagement centers with multiple factors in mind. Children living in the city are dealing with trauma, poverty and a criminal justice system that has been historically unfair, she said. Many are growing up in neighborhoods that haven't seen new investments of resources in decades. Although the centers were supposed to be open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the plans were pulled from the city council's agenda ahead of its July 2 meeting. No budget has been presented, and the city has given no reason for the delay.

JXNOLOGY gathered teenagers and young adults ahead of a May council meeting to speak on their concerns about what they called "curfew centers" and hoisted signs for the council members and the public to see. One read, "Y'all couldn't come up with something that actually works?" Another asked if they would curfew adults.

The Marshall Project-Jackson looked at what worked and what didn't for similar youth programs in other U.S. cities. Leaders in Baltimore and Philadelphia offered the following suggestions as Jackson plans for its youth centers:

1. Curfews and curfew centers are not standalone solutions for youth violence.

Across the country, curfew ordinances have come and gone with crime waves throughout history. It's an often repeated cycle. When a handful of violent crimes or a single high-profile crime catches the city's attention, leaders often impose curfews.

However, academic research shows that curfews do not impact crime rates. Coleman said that violence among youth between the ages of 12 and 24 in Jackson happens mostly between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., before nighttime curfews usually start, which aligns with national findings from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Still, generations of Jacksonians have lived under curfew ordinances. Jackson Police Captain Christian Vance remembers growing up with a curfew in Jackson. While he said the curfew did not affect him, "as a kid who lived within boundaries," he believes that limiting the hours a youth can be outside is useful. It's not a magic elixir, he said, but a curfew does give police the opportunity to find kids who need help. Vance runs the department's youth programs, including the summer Youth Citizens Academy and Police Athletic League.

While curfew centers add another layer to the strategy, they are also not enough.

In Baltimore, for example, no young people went to that city's engagement centers during the first three weeks of this summer's curfew. Last year, the city had "less than a handful" of young people come in, according to Shantay Jackson, former director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, who developed the centers.

Low attendance is common across cities with similar programs. Instead of going to the centers, teens may opt to go

home or, in Baltimore, attend other city-sponsored events. Jackson said she views the summer strategy as a success despite low attendance at the centers. Baltimore's officials touted an 83% decrease in youth homicides from Memorial Day to Labor Day in 2023, though there is no firm evidence that the curfew efforts caused the drop. Murders decreased significantly across the nation in 2023, according to FBI data.

Similarly, of the more than 1,000 youth who attended a Philadelphia community evening resource center from the start of the curfew in July 2022 to November 2023, about nine out of 10 children were walk-ins who participated in the centers' programs, which included driver's ed classes, boxing, music production and culinary classes.

The key to success, leaders in both cities said, was assessing each child's needs and offering them something interesting to do. Children are not inherently violent. Angelic Bradley, who runs one of Philadelphia's six centers, said kids often violate curfew out of boredom. In other cases, they may be trying to escape abuse or other unsafe situations at home.

2. Police shouldn't be heavily involved.

Although Jackson police officer Vance and others said they want to help children stay safe, young people interviewed said they fear more police encounters could open doors for harassment, violence and over-policing. Some say they have had violent encounters with police. Others have watched widely shared videos of police killing young people like 15-year-old Ryan Gainer in California and shooting 11-year-old Aderrien Murray in Indianola, Mississippi.

If police lead the engagement center efforts, "it'll be questioning, it'll be harassment, and just making young people feel like they don't have a space where they can go and feel safe," said 25-year-old Eboneé Beard of Jackson. Beard is part of the Youth Action Initiative, a group that hosted a forum for young people to share their issues and brainstorm solutions.

In Baltimore, Shantay Jackson

said it's important to consider how Black communities have been over-policed for decades and not criminalize young people for just wanting to have fun.

Instead of police cars with flashing lights, the city used a bus with youth ambassadors and social workers to disperse kids hanging out after curfew. In Baltimore and Philadelphia, the centers were staffed with social workers, mentors and trained young adult ambassadors. Bradley's center has one armed security guard, but no police officers present.

3. Kids need a stake in creating their own safe spaces.

When creating a space with young people in mind, it is important to involve youths in the planning, leaders in all three cities and young adults said.

"If we trust the young people to make informed decisions about their future, I think that we would see that young people are able to articulate their issues, and they're also able to articulate solutions," said Nelson of Jackson's JXNOLOGY. They believe kids should be given not only a say-so, but the resources to create their own solutions.

Jackson, of Baltimore, said her team met with hundreds of youth to learn what they wanted. The results, in addition to the connection centers, were social events like pool parties, concerts and rollerskating.

4. Food and simple offerings go a long way.

In Baltimore and Philadelphia, the centers provided hot meals. At one center in Baltimore, which saw only two kids last summer, both asked for food. In Philadelphia, Bradley offers information about housing programs and grant applications that she helps families fill out. Her center also provides transportation for kids wanting to participate in their programs.

In Jackson, both Coleman and Daniels-Washington agreed that young people have basic safety needs that must be addressed.

Coleman said the city cannot continue to try and "arrest away" youth violence. Daniels-Washington said if the city does not listen to its youth, "Jackson will become a dying city."

JSU's opera director Lewis-Hale secures \$25,000 grant, forms HBCU opera boot camp

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Department of Music at Jackson State University has secured \$25,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) Grants for Arts Projects (GAP). The funding will support the week-long S.O.S. (Summer Opera/South) Boot Camp in 2025, offering undergraduate and graduate students an integral opera training experience.

"The boot camp will be a way to bridge the gap so that we can collectively provide a higher quality of instruction for students, introduce them to industry professionals, and give them real-world, hands-on opportunities to learn about what it takes to have a professional career in opera and musical theater in some respects," said Phyllis Lewis-Hale, DMA, assistant professor of music and the director of opera and musical theater at JSU. "We want this to be an eye-opening experience for our students and one that will compel them to continue to pursue their dreams in the classical arts."

Hale created the concept of the S.O.S. Boot Camp with the hopes of



Phyllis Lewis-Hale, assistant professor of music and director of opera and music theatre at JSU

increasing the frequency of Black and HBCU-trained opera professionals in the field while further establishing HBCUs as a foundational and supple-

mental resource for aspiring musical artists.

The program is geared to expose students, faculty and staff participants to networking opportunities, mentorships, and fundamental knowledge that will enhance their ability to compete in the field of opera and explore culturally responsive operatic works by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) composers and arrangers. There will be master classes, mini-recitals, and a final collaborative concert available for the community to attend for free.

"These projects exemplify the creativity and care with which communities are telling their stories, creating connection, and responding to challenges and opportunities in their communities—all through the arts," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, Ph.D. "So many aspects of our communities, such as cultural vitality, health and well-being, infrastructure, and the economy, are advanced and improved through investments in art and design, and this funding at the lo-

cal, state, and regional levels demonstrates the National Endowment for the Arts' commitment to ensuring people across the country benefit."

The camp will be a collaborative effort, hosted by JSU's Department of Music, home of the Opera/South Company, in partnership with neighboring HBCU's, such as Alcorn State University and Xavier University of Louisiana. This inclusive approach ensures that the entire community can benefit from this unique opportunity.

About Opera/South: The legacy of the historic Opera/South Company of Jackson has been kept alive over the years via the Jackson State University Opera-Musical Theater Ensemble and Opera/South Guild. It was founded by Sister Mary Elise Sisson, a retired music director of Xavier University of New Orleans, in the early 1970s via a collaboration with Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, and Utica Junior College. Actors Ossie Davis and Sydney Poitier were among its first board members, as well as Margaret Walker Alexander, who was on

the Jackson State University faculty at the time. The Rockefeller Foundation financially supported the program. Opera/South is recognized as the foundation for many careers of Black opera singers and performers nationwide.

The Opera/South Company of Jackson seeks to instill young African-American artists pursuing a career in opera with career development training opportunities while providing underserved communities across the southern region with its unique services.

About GAP: GAP provides expansive funding opportunities to strengthen the nation's arts and cultural ecosystem and is the NEA's largest grants program for organizations. These include opportunities for public engagement with the arts and arts education, the integration of the arts with strategies that promote the health and well-being of people and communities, and the improvement of overall capacity and capabilities within the arts sector, including the efforts of nationwide and field-specific service organizations.



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2024 Children's Defense Fund Summer Freedom Schools of JPS filled with reading, dancing and cheers

The JPS Newswire

To educate a child is an incredible feat, but the method an educator uses to convey simple concepts is what sets them apart. This is what makes the 2024 Children's Defense Fund Summer Freedom Schools of Jackson Public Schools so unique – scholars learn the wonder of reading through Harambee, which means “all pull together” in Swahili.

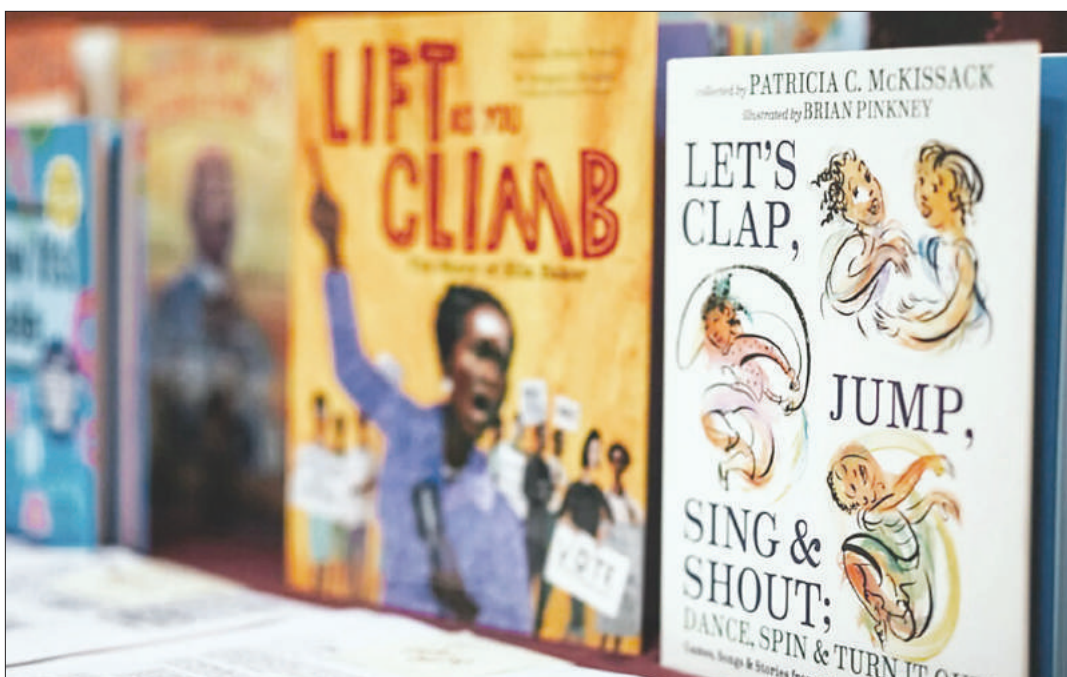
It consists of five components – reading aloud, motivational songs, cheers/chants, recognition/announcements and a moment of silence – which “kick-starts” a positive attitude at the onset of each day. Teachers encourage students to dance to promote happiness and shake off negative emotions.

“I hope they know, first, that they're cared for and, two, that they can make a difference,” said CDF Program National Director Dr. Kristal Moore Clemons.

The four-week-long, grant-funded specialty camp ran throughout the month of June 2024 and involved select scholars across JPS who signed up for the culturally responsive summer reading program.

The program has its origins in the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project of 1964, which brought college students from around the country to Mississippi to secure justice and voting rights for Black citizens. These early Freedom Schools aimed at keeping Black children and young people safe and giving them rich educational experiences that were not offered in Mississippi's public schools.

During the month of June, Freedom School scholars participated in all kinds of activities that focus on high-quality academic and character-building enrichment, parent and family involvement, civic engagement and social action, intergenera-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FREEDOM SCHOOLS



tional servant leadership development, nutrition, health and mental health.

On June 19, outside the Two Mississippi Museums, scholars took part in the National Day of Social Action (NDSA) Project to denounce book banning and campaigns that limit book access at the city, state and national level. The rally called for proactive awareness and actions to be taken against book banning. JPS scholars waved signs

and beat drums while chanting about the freedom in reading and the awe they've discovered in books with characters who look like them.

“Every year, Freedom School sites across the country participate in a National Day of Social Action,” said Servant Leader Intern Sydney Rushing. “This year's NDSA is to bring awareness to an issue that's far too common. No book should be banned because everyone de-

serves the right to read.”

On June 20, Freedom School parents were treated to therapeutic massages compliments of the Holmes Community College Massage Therapy School. Moms and dads were able to learn about the program while witnessing their child's daily Harambee celebration.

Freedom Schools celebrated the finale of the program on Friday, June 28, before other scholars, parents and teachers.

Dressed in cowboy hats, boots and flannel, the young readers reflect on what they learned to make a difference in themselves as well as their families, schools, communities, country and world with hope, education and action.

“I read because I want to get into a cool college,” 6-year-old Christopher Samuels told the media. “I love Freedom Schools because we've read so many fun books.”

“It's important for kids to see reflections of themselves,” said Site Coordinator Christina Ashford. “Each week, our kids get to take home the book they're reading for our class, free of charge. We read books about cornrows, cityscapes and a grandpa who couldn't vote because he didn't know how to read. And, for them to be able to read these books and take them home to share with their families is powerful.”

Hinds registration for line workers

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Registration is now open for Hinds Community College's new Electrical Line Worker program on the Raymond Campus in fall 2024.

The 16-week electrical line worker program will be an intensive training course designed to prepare students for careers in the electrical utility industry. The classes will be offered Monday through Friday in the fall and spring



with an enrollment capacity of 16 students per semester.

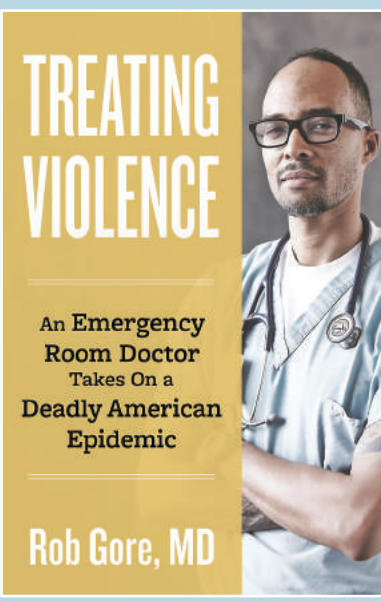
“Hinds is offering this program in response to the electrical utility industry

saying more line workers are needed to meet the demand in Mississippi,” said Jason Webb, dean of Construction and Manufacturing.

“The work they do is very demanding and satisfying. They love a challenge and they respect hard work. We feel the same at Hinds. We want to be part of providing that person the opportunity to begin a career in the electrical utility industry. We are excited to assist our local utility companies and contractors with trained, entry ready individuals,” Webb said.

The classes for this program include:

- Safety for Line Worker
 - National Electrical Code
 - Fundamentals of Electricity for Line Workers
 - Pole Climbing
 - Interpersonal Skills for Line Workers
 - Truck Driving for Line Workers
- For more information and to apply, go to <https://www.hindscc.edu/workforce/training/electrical-line-worker>



BOOK REVIEW:
TREATING VIOLENCE:
AN EMERGENCY ROOM DOCTOR TAKES
ON A DEADLY AMERICAN EPIDEMIC
BY ROB GORE, MD
C.2024, BEACON PRESS
\$27.95 • 200 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
 Columnist

Well, thank you so much to your co-worker. That's where you got this ick, this scratchy-throat, achy-body, upset-stomach, can't-sleep virus. He sneezed and that's all it took. Now you've got what he had and you're trying not to spread it anymore.

As you know, and as in the new book "Treating Violence" by Rob Gore, MD, an epidemic affects everybody.

Once upon a time, Rob Gore had a brother.

Angel wasn't biologically

related but within a short time after Gore's parents fostered the young boy, Gore considered Angel as a sibling. They tussled and played together. Gore watched over his "brother" and when Angel got older, he did the same for Gore. But Angel was anything but an angel and slowly, he turned to hustling drugs.

Gore says he wishes he'd done more to stop him. Eventually, Angel went to prison.

Growing up in Brooklyn, Gore knew that the streets were not kind to people who looked like him, people with Brown or Black skin, and he under-

stood early how privileged he was. He was granted – and sometimes squandered – the best education. In high school, after he was given a chance to "shadow" sports medicine practitioners and after he noticed a lack of Black people in medical careers, he saw his own future. Gore attended Morehouse College, with an eye toward helping Black and Brown people in crisis.

According to the CDC, he says, "homicide... is the number-two cause of death for Black males ages one to nine..." but there are ways to identify issues

before they become dangerous, out-of-control problems. The process moves through examination of a person's childhood traumas and what happened to them as adults, followed by listening, validating and asking for calm. Gore understood this as a young doctor, and he decided to do something about it.

"Lack of funding was a roadblock" for it, he says, "but the seed was planted and my conviction continued to grow."

You're tired of attending funerals, and tired of reading about another dead child somewhere. You're ready to act.

You're ready to read "Treating Violence."

Indeed, this book might light a fire under you: author Rob Gore, MD first explains what street violence does to Black communities and families, which is shocking and upsetting.

This begins his biography, which is a brief (too-brief) set-up for how and why Gore ultimately founded KAVI, an organization that uses trained volunteers to lower the anger level and any desires for revenge when someone is the victim of violence.

The story is a rousing one, but readers may feel a bit cheated by the rushed transition from Gore's life and his work as an ED doctor to KAVI. Information on KAVI and similar organizations may spur you to take action. An abrupt stoppage of Gore's personal stories may disappoint you.

Still, with the Surgeon General's recent warning on gun use in mind, "Treating Violence" couldn't be more timely or necessary. Find it, read it for the excellent biography and the ideas, statistics and urgency – and get to work.

ZACK WALLACE

HINDS COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK


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 (Except on legal holiday)



2024
GENERAL ELECTION
CALENDAR

**Voter Registration
Deadline for General
October 7**

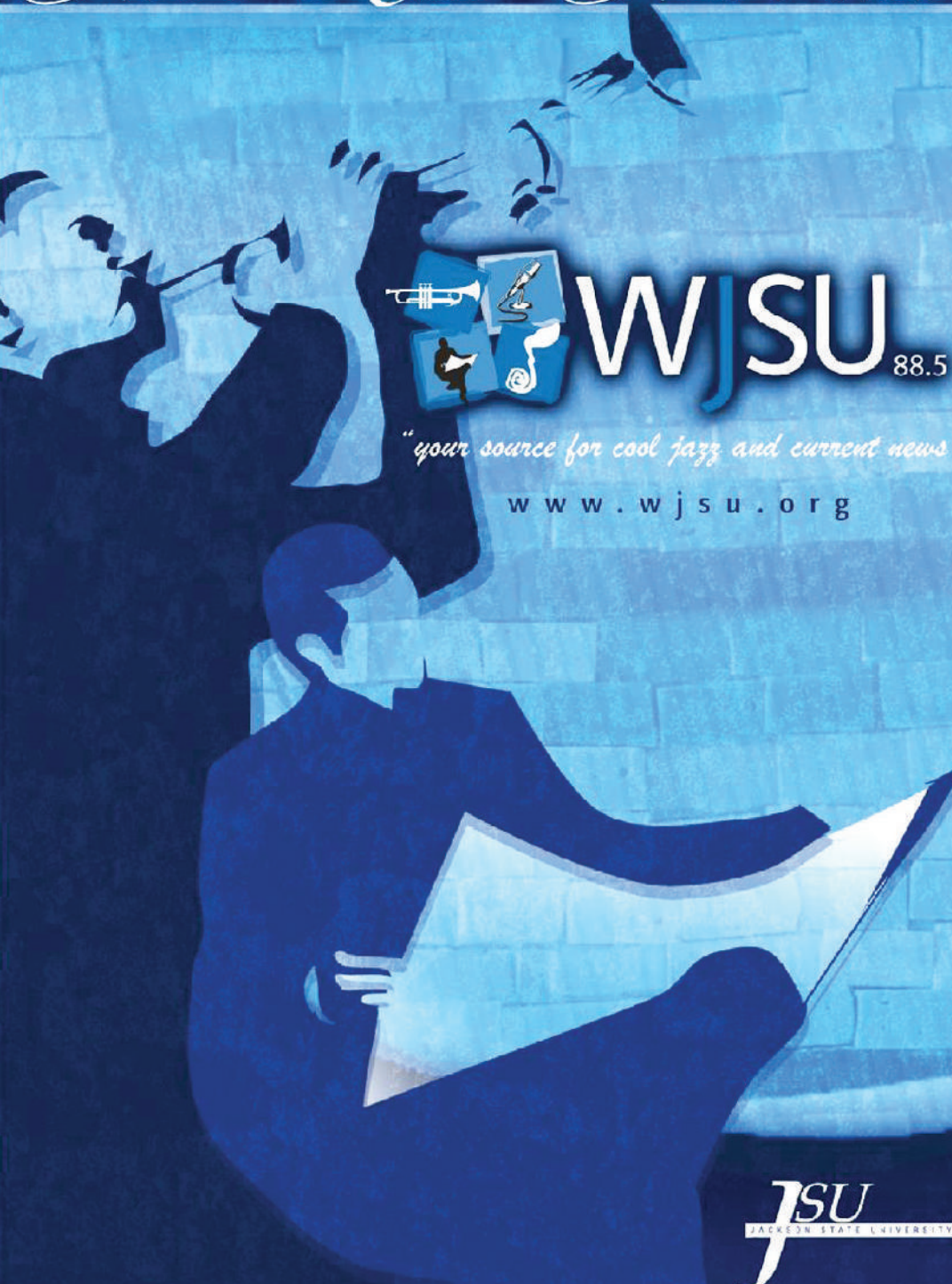
**Absentee Ballots Available
September 23**

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

General
Election Day
November 5

Website: www.hindscountymms.com
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SBA Mississippi salutes small businesses, champions and resource partners

Quapaw Canoe's founder/owner 'rows' in as Small Business Person of the Year

By Gail H. M. Brown, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer

SBA Mississippi celebrated small businesses, champions and collaborative resource partners during its 2024 Mississippi Small Business Awards, dubbed the "Oscars of Small Business." The event was held June 25, 2024, at 11 a.m. at The Westin Jackson Hotel in downtown Jackson.

Veteran news anchor/reporter Maggie Wade Dixon, from Jackson's WLBT-TV3, served as the emcee. Janita R. Stewart, district director of the SBA Mississippi District Office, welcomed attendees and expressed gratitude to the businesses, champions, resource partners, lenders and CDCs. Allen Thomas, regional administrator for the SBA Southeast Region, was also present to help celebrate the honorees. "I love coming to Mississippi," Thomas said.

The ceremony honored the 2024 Small Business Week winners, including Small Business Person of the Year, John A. Ruskey, founder/owner of Quapaw Canoe Company in Clarksdale; Exporter of the Year – Hagan and Anna Walker of Vibe, LLC (dba) Glo, Starkville; Financial Services Champion Dennis Ammann, Peoples Bank, Mendenhall; Minority Small Business Champion Beulah M. Greer, Community Students Learning Center, Lexington; Minority Small Business of the Year – James and Doris Louis, Wholly Fire Foods, LLC, Hattiesburg; Rural Small Business of the Year – Cedric and Joan Anderson, C.J.'s Southern Seasonings, Taylorville; Veteran Small Business Champion Natalie Rhodes, Veteran Business Outreach Center, Starkville; Veterans Small Business of the Year – James E. Burch, Colemans Farm, LLC, Lexington; Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year – Chryston and Roberto Amay, Amay Jewelry Designs, Hattiesburg; and Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Abigail Nichols of Abbi-kadabbi's Baking Co., LLC in Olive Branch.

"It feels good to be honored," said Burch. He advises fellow winners to keep up the hard work. "Believe me the results will definitely come..."

SBA Mississippi also recognized its top lenders and top Certified Development Company (CDC) by loan volume and top dollars which served to contribute greatly to the 335 SBA 7(a) and 504 loans for \$222,604,000, creating/retaining 3,165 jobs in FFY 2023.

Ruskey advises aspiring business owners to "be ready for a lot of hard work, challenges, and a lot of great rewards. Every day, you're going to wake up doing exactly what you want to do, and every night you're going to be exhausted after doing exactly what you want to do." His word to describe running a business is "rewarding."

There are nearly 270,000 small businesses in the state, and they are responsible for employing 430,000 Mississippians. The state also had record



(L-R) Allen Thomas, regional administrator for SBA Southeast Region, Maggie Wade Dixon, WLBT-TV 3 news co-anchor and Janita Stewart, district director of SBA

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SBA MS DISTRICT OFFICE



SBPOY John Ruskey



Rhonda Fisher, Peoples Bank; Dennis Ammann and Janita Stewart



Janita Stewart, VBOC at MSU Mike Scott, Nichelle Belue and Natalie Rhodes



Gail Brown, Aaliyah Greer, Beulah Greer, Janita Stewart and Leslie Greer



The SBA Mississippi District Office team with Janita Stewart and emcee Maggie Wade



Jeremy Sanford



Rhonda Fisher



Leslie and Beulah Greer

start-ups in the past two years, with over 53,000 new business applications in 2023 alone.

According to data from the Office of the U.S. SBA Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman, there are 33 million small businesses and innovative startups in America. In 2023, a record-setting 5.5 million new business applications were filed.

The awards were presented during a luncheon in honor of the exceptional contributions and achievements of small businesses and their supporters in Mississippi.

The SBA also shined the spotlight on two key resource partners – first, the Veterans

Business Outreach Center (VBOC) at Mississippi State University for the outstanding support provided to veterans and spouses, which also competed and won National VBOC of the Year, and second, Columbus Air Force Base for its support of the SBA's Section 8(a) Business Development Program.

"Although it takes a lot of time, effort and energy to plan, organize and roll out this annual awards event, we always look forward to going through the process and seeing the good and very positive end results of it," said Stewart. "It is exciting to see that all of our honorees express their sincere gratitude

for being recognized."

Kathy Anderson, a first-time attendee, and a board officer of the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC), said: "The SBA recognition of small businesses, champions and partners is such a great way to honor those businesses who are the backbone of our country." She added, "I was especially proud that our own executive director Mrs. Beulah Greer and the Community Students Learning Center were presented with the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year Award. Her faith in God, her love and her passion to serve the citizens of our community is the driving force behind ev-

everything that she does. Congratulations to Mrs. Beulah Greer and all the recipients."

Greer, who is co-founder of CSLC with founder Leslie Greer, shared with *The Mississippi Link* that she was humbled by the recognition and is most grateful for the business guidance her organization has received from SBA Mississippi over the past couple of years. Greer and others applauded the SBA Awards as a stellar event.

"We could not have held this event without the generous contributions of our in-kind donors," said Stewart.

The program bulletin's donor recognition page included

Peoples Bank, BankFirst, Community Bank, BankPlus, Cadence Bank, Covington County Bank, Southern AgCredit, Southern Bancorp, LiveOak Bank, Trustmark, Hancock Whitney, HOPE, and Renasant Bank.

The recognition page also indicated the following disclaimer: "SBA's acceptance of these gifts does not constitute an endorsement of the views, opinions, products or services of the donors or any other person or entity."

For more information on how SBA Mississippi can assist you in starting and growing a business, call (601) 965-4378 or visit www.sba.gov/ms

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

Hinds County School District congratulates and celebrates the Terry High School's Class of 2024 at the commencement exercise on May 21, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Mississippi Coliseum. The 2024 Valedictorian was Mr. William Johnson, Jr., and the Salutatorian was Ms. A'Niyaha Lewis. We pray success on the Class of 2024 in all their future endeavors.

