

JACKSON

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THE VOICE OF BLACK MISSISSIPPIANS

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JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

SECTION: A

50¢

MISSISSIPPI
314,147 CASES
7,244 DEATHS

COVID-19 GLOBAL CRISIS

SEE 12A
FOR MORE INFO

Congressman: Mississippi jail death 'equal to the George Floyd situation'

By Jerry Mitchell
MS Center for Investigative Reporting

U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson is asking the Justice Department to investigate the 2018 jail death of Robert Loggins in Grenada.

"No question it's equal to the George Floyd situation," he said, alluding to the 2020 death of Floyd after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for more than nine minutes.



Thompson

Department had begun to investigate, Acting U.S. Attorney Clay Joyner of Oxford responded, "We cannot comment on any investigation."

Calls for an investigation came after the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting published a video of Loggins' death inside the jail on Nov. 29, 2018. The video shows Loggins slowly rolling when officers get on top of him inside the Grenada County Jail, with one officer appearing to kneel on his neck and sit on his head.

Three and a half minutes later, they got off him. The 26-year-

See Jail Death on 9A

The anniversaries of the 'Brown' decision and the JSU Massacre, a week for reflection

By Ivory Phillips
JA Contributing Editor

On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court issued the *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, declaring racial segregation in the public schools to be unconstitutional. On May 15, 1970, officers of the Jackson police force and the Mississippi Highway Patrol shot and killed Phillip Gibbs and James Earl Green and wounded at least 11 others. Now, 67 and 51 years respectively, after these events, it is far past time for reflection.

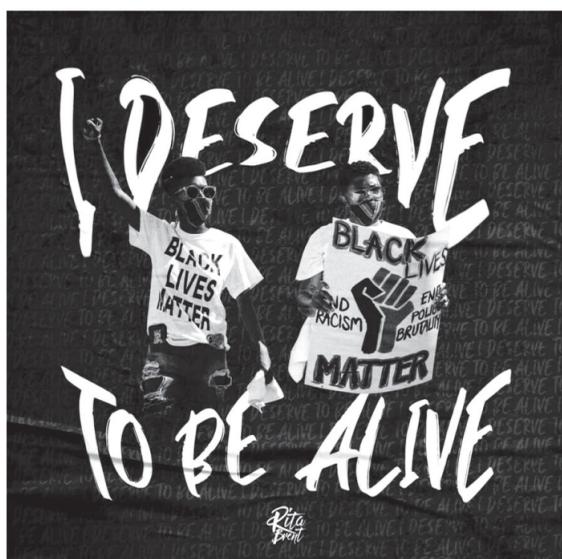
Brown vs. Board of Education
By 1954, the disparity between Black and white public schools, and more specifically the poor condition of many Black schools, was such that the complaint of the Black community, led by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples (NAACP) and its team of lawyers, led by Thurgood Marshall, had reached the Supreme Court. In a real sense, the case was challenging the idea and implementation of the 1896 *Plessey vs. Ferguson*.

The *Plessey* decision had ruled that it was not a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to require separate

See Reflection on 9A



On the 51st commemoration of the Gibbs-Green tragedy, Jackson State University will hold a special commencement ceremony for the Class of 1970 on the Gibbs-Green Memorial Plaza at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 15, 2021. After tragedy led to two cancellations, members of the class will finally have the opportunity to march in their regalia and receive their diplomas for the first time ever. The commencement ceremony for the Class of 1970 will feature an address from President Emeritus Dr. John A. Peoples Jr. The events will be livestreamed on @Facebook.com/JSUTV. Guests who attend in person will be expected to wear masks, undergo a temperature scan, and practice social distancing. For more information, contact the Margaret Walker Center: mwc@jsums.edu or 601-979-3935. (Photo courtesy of Jackson State University)



Being 'Raised in the Sipp' according to Rita Brent

By DeAnna Tisdale Johnson
Jackson Advocate Publisher
Part II

Although "Raised in the Sipp", Rita Brent understands the wholistic experience of being Black in America – something that, through recent and tragic events, is hard to ignore for every and all Black people of the Diaspora living in the United States. Many of us – Brent included – waited with baited breaths and rapid heartbeats as the jury in the Derek Chauvin trial deliberated and as Judge Peter Cahill

read the verdict. And just as millions around the world celebrated what seemed like a small sense of justice for George Floyd, his family, and countless other unarmed Black people killed by police officers, they were also reeling from the shooting of Daunte Wright a week prior and Ma'Khia Bryant just hours after the Chauvin verdict was announced.

It was with that spirit that Brent penned her next single, "I Deserve to Be Alive".

See Rita Brent on 16A



On Thursday, May 6 at Parham Bridges Park at the Pavilion, Stand Up, Speak Up: Rally 4 Peace was held to raise awareness and speak out against violence in Jackson. The event was sponsored by Community Library MS, REAL Learning Institute, Coalition for Economic Empowerment, TCL Financial Services, Grant Me Justice, and the Better Men Society. A second rally will be held on Saturday, May 22 at Grove Park at the Pavilion (4126 Parkway Ave. in Jackson) from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Meredith C. McGee at 601-372-0229 or Baba A. Lukata Chikuyu at 769-572-7441.

New Civil War museum opens in Vicksburg

By Earnest McBride
JA Contributing Editor

The legacy of the Civil War has such an immediacy and omnipresence in Vicksburg that residents there are often surprised when they count back to the 156 years that brought the war to end on May 10,

1865. The past isn't simply prologue there. The past is present, too.

Saturday's opening of the spanking new Vicksburg Civil War Museum will bring a new and perhaps long-awaited perspective on the nation's most destructive and – paradoxically – most constructive conflict at the

same time.

The new Civil War Museum holds its Grand Opening beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 15, under the watchful eyes of its owner-creator Charles Pendleton, a long-time entrepreneur and observer of developments in the city. It is located at the corner of China and

Washington streets in downtown Vicksburg.

Refreshments and special entertainment will be a part of the opening, Pendleton said.

General admission is \$5 per visitor. No price for children or young adults has been announced.

See Museum on 16A



Vicksburg Civil War Museum

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