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STRUT models and their parents invite the public to attend its debut fashion show Aug. 14, to benefit sickle cell disease.

STRUT kids fashion show set

Event to benefit sickle cell disease research

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

There's going to be some serious strutting down the runway Aug. 14, as the Cure Sickle Cell Foundation debuts its children's fashion show called STRUT. STRUT stands for Standing Together in Royalty, Unity and Truth.

The event begins at 4 p.m. with a pink carpet and celebrity networking, and the fashion show starts at 6 p.m. The location is The Railroad District, formerly known as Mardi Gras, 224 S. State St. in Jackson. Dee Bookert Nixon and husband, Dr. Larry Nixon, are the founders of the Cure Sickle Cell Foundation. For the past 11 years, an annual 5K run/walk has been a signature fundraising/awareness event of the foundation. The foundation is making plans to create an after-school program

and (Sickle Cell) Warrior Academy. The idea for a fashion show came to Dee Nixon in a dream. "God showed it to me," she said. "I try to do out-of-the-box events to benefit (sickle cell) survivors and children. I had never seen it done before – a children's fashion show. The show is a natural progression of what we are trying to do as a family and foundation."

Fashion
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Modern day slavery

Tougaloo College establishes institute to address issue



Tougaloo College President Beverly Hogan shares details about the new Institute for the Study of Modern Day Slavery at the college. Other panelists were Tougaloo faculty Daphne Chamberlain (from left), Johnnie M. Maberry and Stephen Rozman. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

Tougaloo College has made history by establishing the first Institute for the Study of Modern Day Slavery at a Historically Black College and University and in the nation. The announcement was made Aug. 8, during a press conference at the Woodworth Chapel on campus. "The study of modern day slavery is an important issue for us," said Beverly Hogan, Tougaloo College president. "Purveying the expanse of modern day slavery in the United States, it became clear that it was imperative for us to address this par-

ticular issue that threatens the fabric of civil society within the context of academia." Modern day slavery is a form of human bondage, which involves various forms of enslavement such as forced labor, including women and children, trafficking and sex trade, people forced into manual labor in urban sweat shops or rural fields, victims of debt and people born into servitude. While historical slavery is an established area of academic study and research, contemporary slavery has not been equally addressed in academia. Tougaloo became interested in the

study of modern day slavery after collaborating with Brown University to sponsor a conference on the legacy of historical slavery a few years ago. A \$550,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation was used to establish the new institute. Through the institute, scholars, students, activists, policymakers, schools and other community networks will come together to raise awareness of modern day slavery and find solutions to eradicate social, racial and civic injustices. Eighteen faculty members from a variety of disciplines – humani-

ties, education, social sciences and natural sciences – will develop new courses relating to modern day slavery or incorporate modern day slavery into existing courses. In addition, students will be engaged in research projects and community service activities. Tougaloo College was founded in 1869 on land of a former plantation owner. Hogan noted the college's history is a narrative of progression of "former slaves to citizenship to scholarship to leadership." She also

Slavery
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Buchanon-Williams seeks District 72 position

From staff reports

The election for House of Representatives District 72 is set for Aug. 23. Candidates for the post will take part in a forum at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 16, at Fresh Start Church, 5210 Manhattan Road in Jackson. Women for Progress of MS, Inc., in partnership with STAND will present the forum. Candidates include A. Shae Buchanon-Williams, Debra Gibbs, Synarus Green and Theresa G. Kennedy.

In a Q&A interview with The Mississippi Link, Buchanon-Williams shared her reasons for seeking the position and her plans.

Q: Why did you decide to run for the District 72 post?

A: As I travel around Mississippi, I see so many needs in our district and our state as a whole and I want to be part of finding solutions to change the narrative of despair and hopelessness I often encounter; and to change the perceptions of the rest of the nation and the world about Mississippi. I share the life experiences of the people in District 72. I am a product of Jackson Public Schools. I am a divorced mother of four children and as I manage the budget for my household, work at keeping my children focused on their education, make good nutritious choices, promote healthy habits, keep my business on track so that when we flip the switch, the lights come on, living in a reasonably safe neighborhood, and counsel my two sons on how to stay alive, even when they are doing right, I realize that the Legislature has a lot of control over how our everyday lives are impacted. I believe we deserve better and we can do better from a policy perspective, but we cannot continue to do the same thing and expect a different outcome.



Campbell

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Nelums Foundation pays homage to 3 top citizens

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

Several hundred Jackson State University and community supporters poured into the school's Student Center Ballrooms A & B at 11 a.m. Aug. 6, for the Mary S. Nelums Foundation biennial luncheon to recognize three outstanding citizens who made noteworthy contributions to humanity for 2016.

The Invisible Giant Award was granted to Marshall Thompson Jr., a master's level graduate student in the field of social work. Thompson was cited as a young African American who had made positive community impact. He



Mary S. Nelums, founder and president of the Mary S. Nelums Foundation, displays the check to Thelma Crockett as the scholarship recipient for the 2016 summer term. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

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Scathing report on Baltimore cops vindicates black residents

By Juliet Linderman and Eric Tucker
Associated Press

BALTIMORE – With startling statistics, a federal investigation of the Baltimore Police Department documents in 164 single-spaced pages what black residents have been saying for years: They are routinely singled out, roughed up or otherwise mistreated by officers, often for no reason.

The 15-month Justice Department probe was prompted by the death of Freddie Gray, the black man whose fatal neck injury in the back of a police van touched off the worst riots in Baltimore in decades. To many people, the blistering report issued Wednesday was familiar reading.

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Vanita Gupta, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, discusses the department's findings on the investigation into the Baltimore City Police Department as Police Commissioner Kevin Davis (left) and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake (right) listen Aug. 10, at City Hall in Baltimore.

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