



Still standing despite domestic violence

Standing wheelchair allows Jackson woman to work again

By Susan Christensen
Health and Research News Service

Jamecca Jones has enjoyed “making people look beautiful” since the days she fashioned ponytails and freeze curls for her Bailey High School classmates.

So when a gunshot wound put her in a wheelchair, the Jackson hairstylist was determined to keep the job she loves.

First, she balanced on stacked pillows to reach clients at Shades of Color in Jackson. But that rickety perch has now been replaced by the wizardry of a standing wheelchair.

With a push of a button, Jones can once again rise to her feet and let her fingers fly.

The mother of three was custom-fit with the chair at Methodist Rehabilitation Center’s Assistive Technology Clinic in Flowood. The clinic’s AT-certified therapists match wheelchair users with the best equipment for their health and lifestyle needs. And that meant giving Jones the means to support herself.

“She wanted to be able to be independent,” said clinic physical therapist Cameron Huff. “And she had the determination. She didn’t want to sit around and wait to do what she needed to do.”

“Life goes on whether I’m in a wheelchair or not,” Jones says matter-of-factly. “I’ve got kids who depend on me.”

Jones became a single parent on May 19, 2014. That’s the night her estranged husband shot her and killed himself in the garage of her home.

“Everything was in slow motion,” Jones said. “When I fell to the ground, I couldn’t feel my legs. I started praying: Lord, please don’t let me die like this. I was thinking about my kids, and I could hear them in the house hollering and crying.”

“When I came to, my momma was kneeling over me and praying. She said: ‘You can’t leave these kids. You stay awake.’”

“The ambulance came and took me to the hospital. And they said I was lucky to be alive. The bullet went in through my side and out through my back.”

Along the way, it grazed three vertebrae in Jones’ spine, damaging nerves that control lower body movement.

The scenario is not uncommon. Acts of violence – primarily gun-related – are the third leading cause of spinal cord injuries.

Victims of such trauma require more than just a physical approach to healing. And through the services of Methodist Rehab, Jones said she found the all-encompassing support she needed.

“They helped me regain some things I felt like I had lost and made me believe in myself more,” she said.

Catrina Lampkin of Jackson, a long-time friend and business partner, was among the first to visit Jones in the hospital. And she immediately sensed that Jones’ essence was still intact.



To return to the job she loves, Jackson hairstylist Jamecca Jones needed the aid of a standing wheelchair. She turned to Methodist Rehabilitation Center staff to help her find the right chair for her needs and a funding source to purchase the wheelchair.

Standing
Continued on page 3

MAC sues Siemens for \$37M

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

Attorney Robert Gibbs is representing MAC and Associates, LLC, a division of MAC Construction Company of Mississippi, in a \$37 million lawsuit against Siemens Industry, Inc. filed Tuesday in Hinds County. MAC is seeking \$12 million in compensatory damages and \$25 million in punitive damages.



Marcus Wallace, president of MAC and Associates, speaks to the media Tuesday in front of Jackson City Hall. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

Gibbs and Marcus Wallace, president of MAC and Associates, announced the lawsuit in front of Jackson City Hall Tuesday afternoon.

The lawsuit accuses Siemens Industry of fraudulent

MAC
Continued on page 3

Jackson’s Public Works director takes Atlanta job

By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer

It’s no secret Jackson has problems with its infrastructure. Those problems include decade old pipes, an aging water system, crumbling roads and bridges and a Public Works Department tasked to fix the problems.



Powell

Now, the leader of the Public Works Department, where staffers have been fired for stealing water and employees coming under fire for poor customer service, has called it quits.

Kishia Powell, Jackson’s first female public works director resigned her position last week from a department already understaffed.

“I thank the DPW team for their hard work and diligence and know that it will continue,” Powell shared through a city-released press statement. “Many thanks to the mayor for his support as I make my way home.”

The journey home to Baltimore, where Powell is from

Powell
Continued on page 3

Event planned to commemorate Meredith’s walk

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The 2016 Walk for Good and Right, a commemorative event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 1966 Walk Against Fear, will be held from 4-6 p.m., June 26, in Jackson.



Meredith

The event is free and open to the public. The walk is sponsored by the James Meredith Institute for Citizenship and Responsible Action to support the work of Meredith to achieve full citizenship for all Americans.

The 1966 Walk Against Fear, initiated by James Meredith, encouraged black Americans in Mississippi to exercise their constitutional rights as citizens to register and vote.

The theme of the 2016 Walk for Good and Right reflects Meredith’s current campaign to reaffirm and emphasize what all Americans, and especially black Americans, must do to achieve potential as individuals and a society as idealized in

Walk
Continued on page 3

U.S. Black History Museum almost ready

By Freddie Allen
NNPA News Wire National News Editor

When the National Museum of African American History and Culture opens Sept. 24, Lonnie Bunch, the museum’s founding director said that it will not only tell us a great deal of information about Black folks, but “it will tell us even more about what America is and what it can become.”

Bunch, who previously served as the associate director for curatorial affairs at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. and as a curator of history for the California African American Museum in Los Angeles, Calif., said that, in



Lonnie Bunch is the founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. FREDDIE ALLEN/AMG/NNPA NEWS WIRE

some ways, the African-American community has led the charge in forcing America to be Amer-

ica and broadening discussions around freedom and citizenship.

“When you look at any president, from George Washington on, the No. 1 issue they had to deal with at some point was African Americans,” said Bunch. “I really wanted people to recognize that this is all of our stories not just one community’s story.”

The decade-long search for artifacts that will live in the museum has been arduous, joyfully surprising and completely necessary for Bunch and his team of curators.

“Even if we took everything from the Smithsonian, it would only give us 20 percent of what we needed anyway,” said Bunch.

“The Smithsonian is a place where so much of your credibility is based on the material that you have.”

Although Bunch and his team were dedicated to the search, he confessed that he wasn’t sure what he’d find.

“I was always struck by my own work early in my career and how I would go into a home and I would talk to an elderly woman or a young man and they would open a door and suddenly there would be wonders in front of me,” said Bunch. “So, I had to believe that there were wonders out there that I

Museum
Continued on page 3

Inside

JROTC director at JPS selected for Army ROTC Hall of Fame

Page 8

Deadline nears for Little Miss African American Pageant

Page 16

Remake of ‘Roots’ targets younger audience

Page 19

Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:
