By Lauren Victoria Burke

By Maureen Costello

Even during Black History Month, U.S. schools are not adequately teaching the history of American slavery, educators are not sufficiently prepared to teach it and textbooks do not have enough material about it. As a result – students lack a basic knowledge of the important role that slavery played in the shaping of American society, and the impact it continues to have on race relations in America, according to a recent study by the SPLC's Teaching Tolerance Project.

The report, Teaching Hard History: American Slavery, traces racial tensions and even debates about what, exactly, racism is in America to the failure of schools to teach the full impact that slavery had on all Americans. The report examines the results of a survey of American students about slavery through a survey of high school seniors and U.S. social studies teachers. It also offers an in-depth analysis of 13 state standards and 10 popular U.S. history textbooks, including how they specifically teach Alabama and Texas history.

The investigation – conducted over the course of one year by the Teaching Tolerance Project – revealed the need for far better and much more comprehensive classroom instruction across the board.

“We are not even past our racial differences, yet we are writing a better job of teaching American slavery and all the ways it continues to impact American society, including poverty rates, mass incarceration and education,” said Maureen Costello, a former history teacher who is director of Teaching Tolerance. “This report places an urgent call on educators, curriculum writers and policymakers to address the handiwork of slavery and racism. Learning about slavery is essential to teaching about race in order to better articulate the racial differences that continue to divide our nation.”

Only 8 percent of high school seniors surveyed could identify slavery as the central cause of the Civil War. Most didn’t know an amendment to the U.S. Constitution formally ended slavery. Fewer than half (44 percent) correctly answered that slavery was legal in all colonies during the American Revolution.

While nearly all teachers (97 percent) surveyed agreed that teaching and learning about slavery are essential to understanding American history, there was a lack of deep coverage of the subject in their classroom, according to the report. More than half (58 percent) reported that they were dissatisfied with their textbooks, and 39 percent reported that their state offered little or no support for teaching about slavery.

Teaching Hard History: American Slavery relies on noted historian Ira Berlin’s 10 essential elements for teaching American slavery, articulated in his book, To Understand and Teaching American Slavery, as a framework for analysis. Teaching Tolerance worked with the book’s editors, Bethany Jay, Ph.D., an associate professor of history at Salem State University, and Cynthia Lynn Lystad, Ph.D., an associate professor of history at Boston College, to convert these elements into 10 key concepts of what students should know.

Teaching Tolerance also assembled an advisory board of distinguished scholars and partnered with teachers to craft sets of learning objectives for each of the 10 concepts, using an in-depth analysis of 13 state standards and 10 popular U.S. history textbooks, including how they specifically teach Alabama and Texas history.

The recommendations include fully integrating American slavery into lessons about U.S. history, expanding the use of original historical documents, improving textbooks and strengthening the curriculum on topics involving slavery.

“It is of crucial importance for every American to understand the role that slavery played in the formation of this country,” said Henry Louis Gates Jr., a Harvard University professor and advisor for the report. “And that lesson must begin with the teaching of the history of slavery in our schools. It is impossible to understand the state of race relations in American society today without understanding the roots of racial inequality — and in long-term effects – which trace back to the peculiar institution.”

“I hope that publishers, curriculum writers, legislators and our fellow American citizens on school boards who make choices about what kids learn embrace the thoughtful framework that the report offers,” Costello said.

Lynn Lyerly, Ph.D., an associate professor of history at the University of Oklahoma, said the report had a strong and positive impact on the state of the teaching of the history of slavery in our schools.

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The Black Press remembers Lerone Bennett Jr.:

By Daisy M Brown
NNPA Associate Editor

Perhaps no other voice – or pen – captured the real life of African and African Americans like Lerone Bennett Jr., the former editor of EBONY and Jet magazines who died Wednesday, February 14, at the age of 89.

Bennett would go on to pen more than 10 books, including the 1990s best-seller “Before the Mayflower,” which became the guiding light for the sister publication in Chicago, Illinois and Gary, Indiana. “We knew him as the conscience and voice of EBONY and Jet magazines and through the many books he published. The world is richer, because of his work here on earth and we are grateful for his many contributions.”

“Bennett counted as an eloquent scholar and freedom fighter who used the power of his pen to awaken millions of people to the true history of African people in America and throughout the world,” said NNPA President and CEO Ben-Jamin F. Chavis Jr.

“A classmate and biographer of Dr. King, during the turbulent 60’s, was a pen that mattered. As historian, author and editor of Ebony magazine, the most read voice of the freedom struggle, his impact will long be felt and remembered,” Jack-son tweeted.

“From his official Twitter account, the NMAAHC tweeted, "If you haven’t read his books, I encourage you to. Even if you have, I encourage you to. Truly one of a kind historian and scholar." King tweeted, "Grateful for what he’s meant to my family.”

IN MEMORIAM

By Jacob Jacobi and CORA

The veteran journalist and editorial vision of EBONY, Lerone Bennett Jr., a gifted historian and journalist.

In a tweet, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Jr., praised Bennett’s footprints are ceaseless. As historian, author and editor of Ebony magazine, the most read voice of the freedom struggle, his impact will long be felt and remembered. "If you haven’t read his books, I encourage you to. Even if you have, I encourage you to. Truly one of a kind historian and scholar." King tweeted, "Grateful for what he’s meant to my family.”

Bennett’s journalistic ge-nius will be missed, but his contributions to documenting the struggles and triumphs of black men, women and chil-dren will continue to be cher-ished by generations far into the future,” Chavis said. “The NNPA salutes the living legacy of Lerone Bennett Jr. with a commitment to pick up his pen and put it into the hands of to-days freedom fighting publish-ers, editors and journalists.”

Bennett worked for EBONY for nearly 50 years, after starting at Jet in 1951 and then mov- ing to the sister publication in 1958. By 1998, he was the execu-tive editor.

“Lerone worked side by side with my father in establish-ing EBONY’s voice,” EBONY CEO Linda Johnson Rice told the Chicago Sun-Times. "He was the guiding light for the editorial vision of EBONY. Lerone was not just essential in the formation of EBONY’s historic trajectory, he was a pillar in the black community.”

The world is richer, because of his work here on earth and we are grateful for his many contributions.”

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Slavery

Continued from page 1
developed by the Southern Poverty Law Cen-
ter."

The Smithsonian National Museum of Afri-
can American History & Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, D.C., also praised the report and the resources being made available to teachers through the Teaching Tolerance pro-
gram. "As the first national museum dedicated to telling the African-American story, we strongly
support and encourage Teaching Tolerance’s
efforts to unpack the reality of what our
education system teaches about slavery and what
students are learning about slavery," the
museum wrote in a statement. "The informa-
tion and the resources that Teaching Tolerance
has developed will have a significant impact
on the realm of history education.

"The NMAAHC looks forward to being a
collaborator in championing the key compo-
nents laid out in the Teaching Tolerance report,
especially the need for schools, educators,
students and families to become more savvy
about talking about race and white supremacy
as it relates to the founding of the U.S. and the
glory of slavery."

The study follows Teaching Tolerance’s
widely cited Teaching the Movement reports that
evaluated state standards for teaching the
civil rights movement. At the time, researchers
suspected that states did a poor job of teach-
ing the civil rights movement, in part, because
they failed to adequately teach about its
historical roots in slavery.

Teachers can access resources on teaching
American slavery at: www.tolerance.org/hard-
history. The resources are offered to educators
at no cost.

Maureen Costello is Teaching Tolerance di-
rector at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Confer

Continued from page 1
country at the gallery.

"I have so many thoughts and feelings ins-
side me now. I am humbled. I am proud…I
am thankful for all of the people who came
before me, before this journey," Michelle
Obama said. "There aren’t many people in
my family who have had a portrait done,
much less a portrait hanging in the National
Portrait Gallery."

She then paid tribute to her parents in her
speech and focused on her mother sitting in
the front row of the audience. Sitting close
to her was former Vice President Joe Biden.
Artist Kehinde Wiley depicted President
Obama seated in a dark suit on a background
of vibrant green leaves and lush flowers.

"We miss you guys," President Obama said
to the audience and many in the crowd
responded in kind.

President Obama went on to thank Sherald
for, "spectacularly capturing the grace and
beauty and intelligence and charm and hot-
ness of the woman that I love."

President Obama also talked about the im-
mediate connection that he shared with Wi-
ley, noting that he and Wiley are both of Afri-
can descent and had fathers who were absent
from their lives.

"It’s fair to say that Kehinde and I bonded," said President Obama. "Kehinde’s art often
takes ordinary people and elevates them, lifts
them up and puts them in these fairly elabo-
rate settings and so his initial impulse maybe,
in the work, was to also elevate me and put
me in these settings with partridges and sculp-
tures and thrones and chifforobes and mount-
ing me on horses."

Obama continued: "I had to explain that
I’ve got enough political problems without
making me look like Napoleon."

Students in the Canton Public Schools Dis-
trict are being educated and uplifted with this
in mind. We want them to remain part of the
fabric of the community – depositing their tal-
ents, raising their families, working and wor-
shipping here and investing in Canton when
they’re older.

Serving until December of 2018, Confer
plans to brand Can-
ton as an even more
special place.

For more infor-
mation, contact
Pam Confer at
pam@confercon-
sulting.com.

Confer

Continued from page 1
in the city, and demonstrate a commitment to-
wards progress – with a strong focus on the
future of our children and youth. In the com-
ing months, the Canton Chamber will erect
two signs that welcome residents and visitors
to the city. The Chamber will also support the
city’s efforts to maintain a clean, welcoming
and confident Canton.

3. Exploring Uniqueness
Much of Canton is on the National Register
of Historic Places. From state-of-the-art health
care, to the Canton Flea Market, to the Christ-
mas Festival, to the rich Civil Rights history,
to movies filmed, to the entertainers that have
filled the air with music, Canton continues to
host a colorful, multi-faceted culture.

Obama

Continued from page 1
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sulting.com.
Diversity of thought and background, but with a singular purpose.

Our history of innovation is a story of people from all walks of life and backgrounds coming together to connect customers with their loved ones, their work and their world. Our diverse, inclusive culture welcomes all points of view and helps to make us who we are: a great place to work, a desired business partner, and a committed member of the communities we serve. AT&T is honored to show our support for Black History Month.
ETEC honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Offering:
Radical Solutions Converting Waste to Energy

Dr. Martin Luther King once said:
“If you can’t fly then run,
If you can’t run then walk,
If you can’t walk then crawl,
but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

Sam Agnew sagnew@etec-sales.com
Mike Todd mtodd@etec-sales.com
Bryson Agnew bagnew@etec-sales.com
Ellis Sartain esartain@etec-sales.com

7731 Office Park Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70809
3000 Old Canton Rd., Suite 410 • Jackson, MS 39216
Phone: 225-295-1200 • Fax: 225-295-1800

Water Equipment
Wastewater Systems
Sludge Solutions
Air
Murray alumna’s new book teaches students how to get scholarships

Mississippi Link Newspaper

Candace Chambers’ new book, “Write Your Way to a Successful Scholarship Essay,” is a guidebook for high school and college students on how to obtain scholarships. The book provides tips on how to search for scholarships, compose a scholarship essay, and how to use awarded scholarships.

Chambers is a 2011 graduate of Murray High School. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Jackson State University and Masters of Arts degree from the University of Alabama. She is an award-winning scholar of the English and recipient of over $80,000 in scholarships, assistantships and grants.

“Write Your Way to a Successful Scholarship Essay” is available on Amazon.com in paperback and Kindle edition formats.

Chambers also conducts scholarship workshops for youth groups, churches or individuals who need assistance in obtaining scholarships.

Murray High advances to poetry competition state finals

Mississippi Link Newspaper

After scoring big wins at school-level and regional poetry contests, Murray High junior Olivia Bonds has qualified for the state-level competition. She was the top scholar at each of the 15 contests, at the Poetry Out Loud Recitation Contest held December 6 at Murray. Bonds secured Murray’s place at the state finals by finishing in the top three at the Central Regional Competition held in February at Jackson State University. She received the following titles:

Q1. What were days missed?
Clashes were canceled for seven days due to inclement weather and the 2020 winter cruise January 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Additional days were added to give the district inclement weather days for the remainder of the school year.

Q2. How did the district calculate the hours missed?
The makeup day plan was based on the results of a survey in which the district conducted and solicited feedback from students, parents, and employees.

Q3. Why are there more hours than required for the days missed in the makeup day plan?
Additional extended days were added to give the district inclement weather days for the remainder of the school year.

Q4. How did the district adjust its schedule for elementary, middle and high schools to be made up on a day for 39 days.
Elementary schools must receive at least 376 minutes of instruction in order to make up one day. The day has been extended by one hour, therefore, it takes 5.5 days to make up one instructional day. As a result, it will take 22 days to make up the instructional time lost. Due to A/B block scheduling, middle and high schools must receive at least 376 minutes of instruction. Therefore, it takes 6.26 days to make up one instructional day at the secondary level. As a result, it will take 26 days to make up instructional time lost due to the winter cruise and inclement weather.

Q5. Why didn’t the district accept the governor’s emergency declaration that would have forgiven some of the missed days?
The district’s policy requires JPS to make up all missed days. Q6. Will regular transportation be provided for the adjustable schedule?
Yes, transportation will be adjusted for the extended day.

Q7. Will snacks be provided for children in the afternoon?
Many of our elementary schools have fruit and vegetable programs that provide after school snacks. The district is seeking support from community partners for our other schools.

Q8. Will JPS assist in providing transportation for these after school care facilities that cannot accommodate the new times?
JPS has notified after school care providers of the extended school days and times. After school providers are responsible for making their own adjustments to transportation accommodations.

Q9. What is the early dismissal policy during this time?
Students are still required to be on time more than 37 minutes of the instructional day as required by state law. A student must be present for at least 63 percent of the school day to be considered present for the entire school day as mentioned in Board Policy 501.

Q10. Will the makeup day plan have an impact on spring break?
No, spring break will not change.

Q11. Will the makeup day plan change the graduation schedule?
No, the graduation ceremonies will not be impacted.

Q12. How long will schools be extended for the extra day or school day schedule?
The extending of the school day by one hour will last from February 12–April 12. Why couldn’t the days simply be added to the end of the year?
This would have caused a change to the spring semester graduation ceremonies which are scheduled well in advance and are limited availability of venues.
Children in public schools will celebrate reading during Dr. Seuss during Reading Across America Week.

**Details:**
- **Monday:** Cut in the Hat Day – wear a hat
- **Tuesday:** Fox in Socks Day – wear silly socks
- **Wednesday:** Wacky Wednesday – wear clothes backward or inside out
- **Thursday:** The Sleep Book – wear clothes backward or inside out
- **Friday:** Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss – wear a Dr. Seuss or birthday hat.

**Northside theme days are:**
- **Monday:** Fox in Socks Day in crazy socks
- **Tuesday:** One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish – wear red or blue
- **Wednesday:** Oh the Places You’ll Go! – dress like a Dr. Seuss character
- **Thursday:** The Sleep Book – wear clothes backward or inside out
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More than 75 Mississippians are members of local school boards. The board members who serve on CPIU School Board are responsible for setting the vision and goals for the district. They work to provide a quality education to prepare our children for the future. The school board also hires quality educators, sets district goals, works to provide a quality place in which to live, “in order to ensure our state stays a competitive economic soil than it has been in the past” Warren said.

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Dream chaser: Honor student receives Princeton Fellowship

By Rachel James-Tory
rjames41@jsums.edu

Abiodunolu Plair jumped up and down in delight as she read the news that she had been selected as a Princeton Junior Summer Institute Fellow. "I can’t believe this," she said. "That was just what I was hoping for."

Plair, a native of O’Fallon, Missouri, learned of her selection two weeks ago, and now she will use a $1,000 grant from the NSC Honors College at Jackson State University to help expand Blackburn Middle School’s PACE mentoring program.

PACE, an acronym for Planning to Achieve Community Excellence, is a service program comprised of Jackson State University students who are college bound and interested in participating at Blackburn Middle School as a means of providing support to students who are in need of additional assistance.

"I don’t want to regret anything when I graduate. I want to feel like I have given as much as I can, before I move on to college," she said.

Many times students are left behind or are not on their best behaviors; however, that is where the Office of Community and Student Life comes into play. Plair characterizes the soccer-loving Plair, who is known for her enthusiasm, as a hardworking individual.

"I have been impressed with a student like I have, ever since they were able to dream who I think are my very best students," said Hill.

"I expect him to do great things, and I have no reservations about him," said Hill. "If he continues to be focused and stays on track, he should go far and achieve whatever he wishes to achieve out here."

Abiodunolu Plair, a junior, political science major, was selected to receive the Princeton University Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship. The program will take place June 13-Aug. 3. PHOTO BY KENDREW RUSSELL

Engineering student’s honor society grant will help expand Blackburn’s mentoring program

By L.A. Warren
lwarren@jsums.edu

JSU sophomore civil engineering student DeMarris Plair grew up in a family that often gave generously to those in need, and now he will use a $1,000 grant from the NSC Honors College at Jackson State University to help expand Blackburn Middle School’s PACE mentoring program.

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How can you celebrate Black History Month?

By Eric Johnson
Chicago Crusader/Henrietta Mitty
Chicago's spinning skat- ing world champion Shani Davis, one of America's most decorated athletes, has reached a milestone in the Winter Olympics, lost the honor to carry the flag for Team USA, and the story that doesn't get told anywhere.

Shani Davis, one of America's most decorated athletes, has reached a milestone in the Winter Olympics, lost the honor to carry the flag for Team USA, and the story that doesn't get told anywhere.

Davis shared his displeasure about the standards and criteria that Team USA uses in giving the highest honor to an Olympic athlete.

The honor should have been Davis, the founder of ASALH and Black History Month (originally Negro History Week), would be spinning in his grave, if he knew how few of us celebrate this month. Eugene Williams Sr. (a retired educator in DC area) reached out to professional basketball teams to ask them to sing Lift Every Voice and Sing, the Negro National Anthem penned by James Weldon Johnson, at games in the month of February. He has commitments from the Washington Wizards, the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Golden State Warriors and George Washington University. Other teams, including the LA Lakers and the Atlanta Hawks, are considering the effort. Williams isn't representing an organization – he just had a great idea, and started calling NBA team offices with his request.

What will you do to celebrate Black History Month? Will you mount an effort like Williams? Maurice James MD, Ophthalmology, his office at (601) 981-1550. Or, patients may reach out to professional basketball teams to ask them to sing Lift Every Voice and Sing, the Negro National Anthem penned by James Weldon Johnson, at games in the month of February. He has commitments from the Washington Wizards, the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Golden State Warriors and George Washington University. Other teams, including the LA Lakers and the Atlanta Hawks, are considering the effort. Williams isn't representing an organization – he just had a great idea, and started calling NBA team offices with his request.

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Employees honored for service at Mississippi State Hospital

The Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society annual show is Feb. 24-25

Felony Disenfranchisement in Mississippi Report released
**By Simeon R. Green III**

Wakanda Forever!

**WEDNESDAY**

Worship Services

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School

4:45 a.m.

**MONDAY**

Intercession Prayer 9:00 a.m.

**FEBRUARY 22 - 28, 2018**

THE MISSISSIPPI LINK • 11

**PRESERVED**

Robertson.

**By Shewanda Riley**

Crossroads Church of God

Sharing The Love of Christ With Others

**New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church**

Pastor, Rev. F. B. LeNoir

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Liturgy Services - 9:00 a.m.

NEW BETHEL M. B. CHURCH  •  450 Culberston Ave.  •  Jackson, MS 39209

Stewardship Committee,

**New Horizon Church**

**Bible Class**

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Wordship Services

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Wordship Services

**New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church**

Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor

2151 John Alexander Dr. • Jackson, MS 39204

Church 778-2588

**College Hill**

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

**by Shewanda Riley**

Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of “Love Yourself: Third Step to Purpose After a Relationship Breakup.” Her second book is due to be released in August. She is also an author of the blogs: “www.nhcms.org” and “www.mississippilink.com”

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH OTHERS

**Crossroads Church of God**

Sharing The Love of Christ With Others

**New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church**

Pastor, Dr. F. B. LeNoir

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Liturgy Services - 9:00 a.m.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**David R. L. Smith Church - 400 Calhoun Ave. - Jackson, MS 39209
019-990-549-369-3842 - Fax 019-990-157 - E-Mail: Sundaydaycare@gmail.com**

**True Light Baptist Church**

Rev. Marcus E. Cheeks, Pastor

Small Group Study - 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study - Wednesday evening

**By Shewanda Riley**

Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of “Love Yourself: Third Step to Purpose After a Relationship Breakup.” Her second book is due to be released in August. She is also an author of the blogs: “www.nhcms.org” and “www.mississippilink.com”
As the first black actress to win an Oscar, she has been an inspiration to many. When the first black actress to win an Oscar, she has been an inspiration to many.
Youth uplifted at New Hope Baptist Church

Heritage Night

By Hope Reeves

“I can. I will. I must succeed.”

Those words were chanted by the youth who were inspired by the stories of succeeding doctors, writers, athletes, and soldiers that will soon become the stars of tomorrow.

Thursday, Feb. 15, New Hope Baptist Church hosted the seventh annual “Back in the Day” Black History celebration organized by its Black History Planning Committee.

While this year's theme focused on those who have experienced young adulthood, the event also honored African-American leaders and influence-makers from a different era.

Along the gymnasium side wall, decorated in the theme of “Then and Now,” students presented information about African-American influence-makers through the years. Students were chanted by students presented information of African-American influence-makers through the years, and how they progressed.

The last act was performed by students presented information of African-American influence-makers through the years, and how they progressed.

As their last act, the students presented information of African-American influence-makers through the years, and how they progressed.

Dr. Flonzie Brown-Wright of the University of Chicago, scored an all-time high with her students, and gave a standing ovation.

"The Murrah choir was absolutely stunning, it was one of the best choirs I have ever heard," said Terrance Myles Jr., a program participant and sophomore at St. Andrew's Episcopal School.

Another spectacular performance group who exhibited vocal talents in the Jackson area was the Eyshine Praise Dance Ministry, directed and founded by Shawuanna Williams. They danced to contemporary gospel music and the audience exuberantly clapped to the rhythm of the beat. Some tapped their feet while others swayed from side to side.

As the acts marked the tone of the entire night.

The guest speaker of the service was James B. Ewers Jr., a native of South Carolina and a retired professional who worked 40 years at several institutions for higher learning. He now shares his life stories with women and specifically young men to obtain a college degree and be the best in their chosen career field.

Ewers’ compelling message for the youth and his ethical interactions created an engaging program for attendees. Children were chuckling, adults were hooting, and everyone was filled with joy.

Though the celebration was created to inspire adolescents, it was also a chance for adults to reflect on how far African Americans have progressed.

John Wickes Sr., an attendee of the program, stated he was reminded of his past while observing the educational and enjoyable evening.

"It reminded me of the things I lived, experienced, and learned about. You tend to forget a period of time, and it was refreshing to watch." 

New Hope’s grand finale event “Back in the Day” will be held Thursday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. with special guest artist Tommie “To-” Tray.

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Trailblazing U.S. ambassador reflects on her life and career

The Mississippi Link Newswire

After a four-decade-long career at the U.S. Department of State’s Foreign Service including being appointed as U.S. Ambassador to Senegal in 2000, Harriet Lee Elam-Thomas is now looking back on her remarkable career and life. In time for Black History Month, her new memoir, Diversity Diplomacy: My Journey from New Rochelle to Dakar (Potomac Books, 2017), presents readers with insight into her work in diplomacy around the world and the accomplishments of a life spent breaking barriers as a black woman growing up in segregated America.

Through examination of her life, career and family tree, Elam-Thomas offers readers a unique glimpse of Black History during the days of desegregation, Jim Crow, segregation and beyond — and offers strategies for success in breaking through any field. What this “Hidden figure” in Diplomacy has to say may be just what African-Americans need during this divisive political era when old stereotypes are reemerging, and blacks and women on again find they need to prove themselves.

With Diversity Diplomacy, Elam-Thomas has crafted a book that provides readers with a personal view of a bygone epoch of American history. Raised in a working-class family in Roxbury, Boston’s Black enclave, in the middle of the 20th century, she was encouraged from an early age to exceed in all areas of life.

With an older brother who ran a law practice with famed African-American U.S. Senator Edward Brooke and a grandfather who served as the first black speaker of the house in South Carolina, Elam-Thomas did not lack for examples of great joy. As she traversed the globe and rose through the ranks of the Foreign Service, she never lost sight of those who had inspired and encouraged her early and personal attention.

In the book, she writes: "My journey, whether as a black woman growing up in segregated America, but also of her Roxbury community, of Black America and of women. As she worked to create peace, she also challenged the stereotypes that many carried about African Americans and women.

Having defied the odds and reached career milestones, it needed time and purple of color at one time — with her appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Senegal from 2000 through 2002 serving as a true testament to the respect she earned in the diplomatic field — Elam-Thomas continues to work to bring the United States closer to its full potential as a nation offering opportunity to all.

Currently the director of the University of Central Florida Diplomacy Program, Elam-Thomas works to create the next generation of diverse diplomatic leaders. Her efforts are directed at helping inspire people of color and women to break down barriers in any field of choice.

“As you move through your career and life, you will feel the scrutiny and may face naysayers and those working to minimize/stifle your advancement because of your gender and race,” said Elam-Thomas. “Remember that you are prepared. Be ready for conflict and integrity, tempered with confidence, and you will succeed.”

With Diversifying Diplomacy: My Journey from New Rochelle to Dakar, by Harriet Lee Elam-Thomas with Jim Robinson, is available for purchase at most major retailers. She has spoken around the world in various occasions such as Simmons College, Boston University, Spelman College, the University of Athens in Greece, The Zora Neale Hurston Festival, the Orlando Baha’i Association and the League of Women Voters.

To schedule her for speaking engagements and book signing, contact Madeline McCray-Matz at madeline@madelinemccray.com.
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ADVERTISMENT FOR BID

Bid 3067 - Roof Replacement for Baker Elementary School
Bid 3068 - Roof Replacement for Wilkinson Elementary School

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office of the District at 340 West Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39201-0700 until 10:00 AM (Local Prevailing Time) March 28, 2018, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Baker Elementary School will be held at 300 East State Street, Jackson, MS 39201, on March 6, 2018 at 9:00 AM. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Wilkinson Elementary School will be held at 3707 Central Hilly Drive, Jackson, MS 39204, on March 6, 2018 at 10:30 AM. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject all bids and all bids, to waive informalities of bidders, and to accept the lowest bid or any other proposal the Board may find is in the best interest of the District.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.dental50plus.com. A $100.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders shall be responded to only by calling 1-855-584-8517. Contact Dental Resource, 1945 Southpark Drive, Suite 200, Columbus, GA 31904, 706-219-6900 or 1-855-584-8517. Email: contact@dentalresource.com

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LEGAL

MS Press Services
Last week seniors at Provine High School participated in mock elections. Organized by Commissioner Toni Johnson of District 2, the goal of this event was to expose youth in the community to voting and the electoral process.

Students who were already eighteen were given the opportunity to register to vote. Representatives from the Hinds County Circuit Clerk Office were present to take applications. “My goal is to stir the conversation that voting in every election is important, and to take away any fears or misconceptions young people may have about voting. Knowledge is power,” says Johnson. “We also have midterm elections in November, party primaries in June. We want to make sure those students are prepared to cast their ballot.”

Students were made aware of certain crimes that would disqualify them from voting by Hinds County Prosecuting Attorney Gerald A. Mumford. “I would much rather see you all on this side, than in front of me in court.”

Mumford also told students that voting can help determine what their city and county look like, but they have to stay out of trouble in order to be able to exercise that right.

Commissioner James A. Reed, District 1, shared a powerful story about him being enlisted in the military to serve his country, but not being able to vote until the civil rights movement.

Students completed a MS Favorites ballot that consisted of local authors, athletes and favorite foods. After completing the ballots, students were assisted in casting their votes on DS200 voting machines used in actual county and municipal elections. Students received a “Salute me, I Voted Sticker” afterwards.

Local community volunteers such as Mary Church Terrell Literacy Club, OCD Media and local Shriners Rissah Temple #130 also assisted the students.
FILM REVIEW: “BLACK PANTHER”

CHADWICK BOSEMAN RISES TO THE OCCASION AS AFRICAN KING/MARVEL SUPERHERO

By Kam Williams

Colonel!

Chadwick Boseman has already made quite a career out of portraying a variety of prominent African Americans, from football star Floyd Little (The Express), to baseball great Jackie Robinson (42), to Godfather of Soul James Brown (Get on Up) to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall (Marshall). The versatile actor’s efforts have been appreciated by the NAACP which has seen fit to nominate him for five Image Awards.

Although Black Panther is a fictional character, the role is ostensibly of no less significance than the historical figures Chadwick has played in the past. That’s because black kids have rarely had a superhero that looks like them to root for, even in Africa, where the Lord of the Jungle, Tarzan, was white, too.

Consequently, advance ticket sales for this Afrocentric origins tale have been through the roof, and I’m happy to report that audiences will not be disappointed. For, the film not only features a dignified protagonist and a socially-relevant plotline, but it’s also a worthy addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise.

The picture was directed by Ryan Coogler (Creed) who made the most of his $200 million budget, between visually-captivating special effects and an A-list cast which includes Academy Award-winners Forest Whitaker (for The Last King of Scotland) and Lupita Nyong’o (for 12 Years a Slave), Oscar-nominees Angela Bassett (for What’s Love Got to Do with It), as well as Michael B. Jordan, Daniel Kaluuya and Sterling K. Brown.

At the point of departure, we learn that in ancient times the five tribes of Africa went to war over vibranium, a meteorite which imbues its holder with superhuman powers. Fast-forward to the present and we find T’Challa (Boseman) being summoned home to the fictional nation of Wakanda to assume the reins of power in the wake of the passing of his father, King T’Chaka (John Kani).

Complicating matters is the fact that a number of other warriors covet the throne and that a South African arms smuggler (Andy Serkis) is trying to get his hands on some vibranium. Not to worry. T’Challa has a capable CIA agent (Martin Freeman) and a trio of loyal females on his side in his 16 year-old sister (Letitia Wright), his ex-girlfriend (Nyong’o) and a two-fisted bodyguard (Danai Gurira).

What ensues is an edge of the seat roller coaster ride every bit as entertaining as any Spider-Man, Wonder Woman or other superhero adventure. Simply “Marvel-ous”!

Excellent (4 stars)
Rated PG-13 for pervasive violent action sequences and a rude gesture
Running time: 134 minutes
Production Studio: Marvel Studios
Distributor: Walt Disney Pictures
To see a trailer for Black Panther, visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxWvtMOGAhw

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Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to “decode” the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Elon Musk

© Feature Exchange

(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)
BOOK REVIEW:
“AN AMERICAN MARRIAGE: A NOVEL”
BY TAYARI JONES
C.2018, ALGONQUIN BOOKS OF CHAPEL HILL
$26.95 / HIGHER IN CANADA • 308 PAGES

By Kam Williams

Collegetown

He did it on one knee. One knee, with a nervous grin on his face and a velvet box in his shaking hands, asking you the Question of a Lifetime.

You’d talked about this day but it was still a surprise and now you have planning to do, just the two of you. Or, as in “An American Marriage” by Tayari Jones, three…

The last time Roy Othaniel Hamilton enjoyed a truly happy evening was about a year-and-a-half after he married his wife, Celestial, the only woman (after his mama) that he ever really loved. It’s true that they’d been arguing that night – they argued and made up, argued and made up a lot then – but things were going well. They’d even talked about having a baby on that last happy evening before the police broke down the door of their room at Piney Woods Motel and arrested Roy for a rape he didn’t commit.

His life was supposed to be with Celestial. He believed that all along.

They’d met in college. budsy, was her best friend and Dre introduced them but Roy and Celestial didn’t click until years later. They met, dated, and the rest was, well, not exactly smooth. He cheated on her a time or two. She’d freeze him out when she caught him, but she knew she was his woman.

Celestial also knew the man she married, and Roy wasn’t capable of raping some woman six years older than his own mother. But a jury wouldn’t believe her, wouldn’t believe him, would only believe an old woman who pointed a finger … and there you go. Roy’s sentence was twelve years in a Louisiana penitentiary.

And, oh, they wrote letters, but they were apart longer than they weren’t and eventually, Celestial wanted to – needed to – move on. She found somebody else, somebody who was her future and her past, but she was still Roy’s wife.

And when Roy got out seven years early, he hoped to remind her of that fact.

There’s a reason that Oprah picked “An American Marriage” as one of her books. Yes, this novel is that good.

Really, though, author Tayari Jones tells a simple story of boy-meets-girl-marries-her. It’s a fairy tale, modernized; a romance with a twist: Roy idealizes his marriage, while Celestial is a realist. He’s your basic Nice Guy. She’s been raised to take care of herself and speak her mind. His memories differ quite a bit from hers, and seeing both sides through their eyes makes their story better. Add a situation that hints at the unimaginable, and some additional, sometimes irritating, characters with influence and you’ve got a book filled with a tale that’ll keep you dry-mouthed, page-turning and right on the edge of hollering.

This is a novel that unashamedly plays with your senses of right and not-quite-right. It also plays with your emotions, if you’ve ever been in love – so have a handful of tissues nearby. “An American Marriage” could bring you to your knees.

By Kam Williams
Columnist

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Alcorn Celebrates Black History Month

Where Being First and Black History are a part of our legacy.

Alcorn State University founded in 1871 as the first public historically black land-grant institution in the United States continues its legacy of excellence.

Steve McNair ‘95 Standout quarterback for Tennessee Titans and Baltimore Ravens who won the NFL’s Most Valuable Player Award in 2003

Timon Kyle Durrett ‘98 One of the stars of Oprah Winfrey’s OWN network’s “Queen Sugar”

Michael Clarke Duncan Actor, best remembered for his role in “The Green Mile”

Jack Spinks First African-American player drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers and the first African-American Mississippian drafted by the NFL

Kimberly Morgan ‘05 Miss Mississippi 2007

Larry Smith ‘80 Professional basketball player who spent most of his playing career with the Golden State Warriors and was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 2010

Alyce G. Clarke ’61 First African-American woman in the Mississippi House of Representatives

Medgar Evers ’52 First state field secretary of the NAACP in Mississippi

Alex Haley Writer and the author of the widely known book, “Roots”

Hiram R. Revels First African-American to serve in the United States Senate

Dr. Chandra Minor ’08 Mississippi’s first African-American female orthodontist

Leslie Frazier ’82 Defensive Coordinator for the NFL’s Buffalo Bills and former head coach of the Minnesota Vikings

Myrline Evers-Williams First laywoman to give an invocation at a presidential inauguration

Donald Driver ’99 Acclaimed Green Bay Packers receiver and Super Bowl champion who is the team’s All-Time Leading Receiver

Dr. Corey Montgomery ’99 Inaugural recipient of the Corey O. Montgomery Chair in Orthopaedic Oncology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)
### USDA Choice Beef

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  - Family Pack Fresh Pork Neckbones (Per LB): 99¢
  - Products of Pepsi Cola (2 LTR BTL): 4/$5

- **1574 West Government Blvd.
  BRANDON, MS**
  - Crossgates Shopping Village
  - Family Pack Fresh Pork Loin Roast (Per LB): $1.59
  - Extra Large Green Bell Peppers (Each): 2/$1