

# Evers' home designated as a Nation Landmark

## Home of slain civil rights activist now identified as National Landmark

By Cianna Hope Reeves  
JSU Student Intern

A husband, a father, a brother, and most importantly, a proud advocate for African-American equality, Medgar Evers is a man whose life is still being honored and recognized today. Thursday, May 24, was no exception as local, state and federal officials gathered to pay additional homage to the slain civil rights leader.

Family, friends, citizens of Jackson and public officials gathered on the front lawn of the Evers' home located at 2332 Margaret Alexander Drive in Jackson to honor the late civil rights activist whose entire life focused on attaining justice for all.

U.S. Rep. Bennie Thomsn, who represents Mississippi's second congressional district, introduced the bill to congress with the desire to conserve the heritage of Evers' home; its successful approval marked the first home of a civil rights leader to be characterized as a national landmark.

The last honor occurred just a decade ago when the National Park Service designated the University of Mississippi's Lyceum as a national monument, the site where James Meredith attempted to integrate a predominantly white institution in 1962.

The bronze plaque was presented by Bill Justice, superintendent of Vicksburg National Military Park, to highlight the newly labeled landmark which housed the family of five and was the location of countless strategic meetings with public figures to combat racial inequality.

Reena Evers-Everette, daughter of Medgar and Myrlie Evers, reflected on her father's tragedy and expressed her gratitude about the preservation of the home and its new designation.

"Almost 55 years ago, in this very location, on this driveway, on this road, a brutal accident changed the trajectory of my life and my family's life, yet today with concerted efforts the trajectory has shifted once again to positive," stated Evers-Everette.

In 1954, Evers accepted the position to serve as the first state field secretary for Mississippi National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. As secretary, he organized boycotts, participated in marches and hosted voter registration



Superintendent of Vicksburg National Military Park, Bill Justice, Evers' daughter, Reena Evers-Everette, Tougaloo College President Beverly Hogan and Evers' brother, Charles Evers show gratitude as they stand alongside honorary plaque. PHOTOS BY CIANNA HOPE REEVES



The home of civil rights activists duo Medgar and Myrlie Evers

events.

Two years later, the Evers family moved into their ranch-styled home in Jackson's first subdivision developed by African-American entrepreneurs.

Evers' push for voter equality eventually attracted enemies to his place of residence, resulting in a heartbreak that shook the black community.

June 12, 1963, Evers was shot and killed in the front yard of his home leaving behind an unmatched legacy.

Tougaloo College, owner and operator of the museum since 1993, will continue its operation under the National Park Service as a national designated site.

Beverly Hogan, president of Tougaloo College, recognized the civil rights leader for his sacrifices and willingness to serve the community.

"As I have learned more about the life and legacy of Medgar Evers, I believe he

**Evers**  
Continued on page 3

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Tuesday, June 5 in the Mid Term Federal Election Primaries. Polls open 7am until 7pm

## George Jackson still going strong at 80



Jackson enjoying the surprise celebration.

## A birthday celebration fit for a 'KING'

By Othor Cain  
Editor

A man that has given so much to so many was celebrated May 26 at the Mississippi Realtors Center in Flowood. Nearly 200 people including family, friends, colleagues, community members and well wishers gathered to tell George T. Jackson Sr., a retired educator, "thank you."

Jackson, who turned 80 May 30, four days after the grand celebration, said he was completely surprised by the gathering. "Man, listen, I thought I was headed to a church fundraising event...I was completely caught off guard."

Jackson said when he walked in the building, he thought the people there were in the middle of service. "I thought they were praying and having devotion," he

said with laughter.

This party came full circle for Jackson.

Jackson vividly recalls the time he had his first birthday party. The party was given to him as an adult by his fifth grade students at Cameron Street Elementary School in Canton, Miss. "That was my first birthday party," he said. "My fifth grade students did that for me."

Ironically, teaching at Cameron Street Elementary was also Jackson's first teaching job. He would spend four years in Canton before moving to the Jackson Public Schools District where he retired after 28 years of service with a combined total of 32 years in education.

Lori Jackson-Evans, Jackson's

**Jackson**  
Continued on page 3

# Callaway High School inducts former athletes in Basketball Hall of Fame

By Cianna Hope Reeves  
JSU Student Intern

The wait is finally over for one Callaway High School basketball team – 45 years later.

Callaway's men's basketball team hustled their way to victory in the 1973 state championships and finally received recognition in a way that no one would ever forget the phenomenal team – a historic mark into Callaway's first basketball Hall of Fame. Players, men basketball standouts and former head coaches were awarded May 26 at the

**Callaway**  
Continued on page 3



Two former teammates proudly reveal championship banner



State champion team members pose with 2a championship ring and medal of honor at Hall of Fame induction

Inside

Black-owned family business of Jackson cuts ribbon in historic grand opening

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Dead On Arrival

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## 2018 WellsFest to benefit Growing Up Knowing: Mississippi Campaign for Teen Pregnancy Prevention

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Wells United Methodist Church has selected Growing Up Knowing: The Mississippi Campaign for Teen Pregnancy Prevention as the beneficiary of WellsFest 2018.

Now in its thirty-fifth year, WellsFest consists of three events in late September including a free family-focused outdoor music festival Saturday, September 29, at Jamie Fowler Boyll Park next to Smith-Wills Stadium.

The church chooses a new local beneficiary each year after reviewing applications from numerous nonprofits.

Growing Up Knowing offers two educational programs, one for middle school students and their parents and another for elementary students and parents. The elementary school program is titled "My Body, My Boundaries." The programs teach young people and their parents/caregivers how to talk with each other about risks of sexual behavior among teens and give children the knowledge and tools they need to stay safe and grow into healthy individuals. Program leaders say well-informed family discussions about sexual decisions and staying safe help reduce pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and sexual abuse among youth.

Dana Larkin, executive director at Growing Up Knowing, said, "We are honored, appreciative and thrilled to be the WellsFest beneficiary this



Kevin Bingham, Judy Ferguson, Executive Director Dana Larkin and Joann Mickens; WellsFest Steering Committee members Wells Senior Pastor Heather Hensarling, Chairman Mark Hodges, Charles Williams, Brenda Ferguson and Ken Simon. PHOTO BY GREG CAMPBELL

year. With the funds, Growing Up Knowing will increase the number of sessions it conducts by training more instructor-facilitators and providing them with equipment, teaching materials and supplies. The funds

will also purchase innovative resources for participating children and parents/caregivers. Teen pregnancy inflicts enormous emotional, physical and financial cost on the parents, the child, grandpar-

ents and society. Growing Up Knowing is making a difference on these vital issues."

Wells Church senior pastor Heather Hensarling said, "Growing Up Knowing and Wells Church share the mis-

sion of enhancing quality of life for all. As our late pastor Keith Tonkel always said, WellsFest is a gift of love from our church. Wells Church believes Growing Up Knowing is wise to see teen pregnancy as

an issue requiring a multi-generational approach. We eagerly look forward to supporting their work through WellsFest."

Larkin and her facilitators conduct their programs at afterschool facilities, churches and other community partner sites. She said association with WellsFest will "inspire more community groups to partner with us to host a Growing Up Knowing program for youngsters and their parents/caregivers."

Since its inception in 1983, WellsFest has provided nearly \$1.5 million to a wide range of social service non-profits. Last year's beneficiary, Methodist Children's Homes of Mississippi, received a record \$70,000.

WellsFest is one of Mississippi's most family-friendly events. Alcohol and drug free, WellsFest charges no admission or parking fee. The outdoor festival includes a children's play area, pet parade, 5K run, silent auction, arts and crafts, food vendors, plant sale and a variety of music acts non-stop on two stages. WellsFest has received state and regional recognitions including a Governor's Arts Award. An art auction featuring work from noted Mississippi artists and a golf tournament are held a few days before the festival.

For more information about WellsFest, call 601-353-0658 or visit [www.wellsfest.org](http://www.wellsfest.org). Wells United Methodist Church is located at 2019 Bailey Avenue in Jackson.

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## Evers

Continued from page 1

was called for a special purpose and all of us are better off because he lived,” expressed Hogan.

Now that the home will function as a museum and a national historic designation, she promises to continue educating people about Evers’ life and the iconic movements he led.

“[Tougaloo] will continue to work together to make sure that the community, not only in Mississippi but across this nation, will know about his great works that were started here in Mississippi and that impacted global democracy,” said Hogan.

Hinds County Board of Supervisor Peggy Hobson Calhoun expressed her appreciation for the influential leader and is thrilled that Evers’ efforts are finally being awarded.

“He made a difference increating a more peaceful world for individuals regardless of race...This historic landmark is indeed a testament to the great impact his work had upon the lives of the people around the nation and the world,” voiced Calhoun.

Evers-Everette hopes the home will bring individuals closer to realizing the significant impact her father had not only on his family but also the world.

“My hope is that the rich history that these collective partners have preserved and dedicated through the house will give visitors who come from local, international and state-wide, a true insight into a community of family and friends filled with love,” expressed Evers-Everette.

She also encouraged Mississippians to use their voice to make all historical sites in the state a landmark of tribute to other leaders.

Although Evers’ assassination signified the end of his earthly existence, it marked the beginning of a legacy that will now live forever.

## Jackson

Continued from page 1

daughter who lives in Memphis and works as the the manager of Corporate and Community Engagement for the United Way of the Mid-South, handled every detail of the planning for the celebration. “We wanted to celebrate a man that has given so much and has been so many things to so many people,” she said. “He is a son, father, husband, teacher, mentor, coach and civil rights activist.”

Jackson said he credits his mother for instilling values and a strong work ethic in him. “My mom worked hard to keep me on the right path, to steer me in the right direction...she was the example of success,” he said.

Those teachings he shares freely with others. His son, G. Torrie Jackson Jr., a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserve/Mississippi National Guard, is currently deployed in Kuwait, but was able to get a special pass in time for the celebration. “He timed it perfectly as he was able to attend his son’s graduation from Murrah and this extraordinary affair,” the senior Jackson said.

There’s an old saying that

the fruit doesn’t fall far from the tree. This holds true with the junior Jackson. In his civilian life, he’s employed by the Holmes County School District. “I called him the Friday before the party and wanted to take him out to celebrate father’s day because I knew he would be out of the country,” the senior Jackson said. “He told me he had other plans... I’m sure he was laughing on the inside at me.”

Jackson who graduated from Jackson State University in 1960 said, what finally made him retire was when he celebrated his 50th class reunion and received his golden diploma. “There were about 90 of us that showed up for this graduation and I looked around and said to myself...you’ve been working for 50 years,” he said. “I didn’t go back after that.”

Jackson is still serving the community, he’s a part of a mentoring group at Blackburn Middle School, he’s still singing and he’s still one of the best dressed men in Mississippi.

Thanks for being an example, Mr. Jackson.

*See photos page 19*

## Callaway

Continued from page 1

Medical Mall in Jackson, Miss. for their substantial effort and commitment to the sport of basketball.

Hosted by Bobby Hathorn, chairman of the Callaway Hall of Fame Committee and Odell Jenkins, co-chair, the event was held to commemorate its former star players and instructors.

Teammates of the past reunited after four decades of playing high school ball. They listened to performing artist and Callaway graduate, Eddie Wood, and conversed with current students, families and alumni.

To officially mark the members into the Hall of Fame Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba presented awards to the ten players who won the state tournament.

As the team collected their medal and championship rings, they also had a surprise for their former high school, one that would inspire current and aspiring basketball players to win – a candid banner photo of the 1973 Men’s Basketball Team pictured alongside the golden trophy. The audience erupted in cheers and, with pride, the team of ten held the banner like old times.

On behalf of the late former head basketball coach Bobby Ray and the late assistant coach Thado Gordon, medals of honor were given to their families for their ability to lead the team to a winning streak of 43-3.

Marcela Singleton, state championship recipient and basketball hall of fame inductee, stated the event was special for him.

“I got the call and it just ran chills through my body, and to get here and see all the old fellows I hadn’t seen in 45 years, it was really special,” expressed Singleton.

Given that most teammates have relocated to various states, he was pleased with their attendance and it also reminded him of something else – an unbroken bond of brotherhood.

“Amongst us, as a team back in the day, we were always a close knit unit, and so the support has always been there even though we are all living across the country,” stated Singleton.

Herman Veal, class of 1979 graduate, was appreciative of being honored as a Hall of Fame inductee player and was overjoyed to converse with his old colleagues.

“It is definitely astounding. I never thought something like this would happen, it’s really humbling,” stated Veal.

He added, “Some of these guys, I have not seen for 35 years, and it is a great pleasure to see them again, hug on them and love on them.”

Although many decades had passed, the honorary medals, the reunion of champions and the family introductions became an unforgettable night for the stars.

# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## Board recognized Jordan as Bus Driver of the Month - BEEMS



Pictured L-R: Curtis Washington, transportation director, Durham School Services; Joann Jordan, driver; and Carolyn Samuel, board secretary - District 5.

## Board recognized Moaton as Substitute Teacher of the Month -BEEMS



Pictured L-R: LaShurn Williams, principal – BEEMS; Tiffany Moaton, substitute teacher; and Carolyn Samuel, board secretary - District 5.

## Board recognized Burks, Administrative Assistant – UEMS as Employee of the Month



Pictured L-R: Will Smith, principal – UEMS; Patricia Burke, administrative assistant; and Carolyn Samuel, board secretary - District 5.

## Representative Butler Dixon / Hinds District 63 presents proclamation to RHS Boy Track Team – 2018 Class 4A State Champions



RHS Track Team pictured with Representative Dixon and coaches.

# Shining more light on solar.



Entergy Mississippi is committed to providing affordable, reliable and clean power to Mississippians for generations to come. So we’re making it easier for our customers to self-generate solar electricity and incorporate solar power into our power grid. Thanks to net metering, registered solar users earn credit for excess solar energy sent back to the grid.

The Mississippi Public Service Commission is making it easier to understand how solar can work for you. “A Consumer’s Guide to Solar Power in Mississippi” provides information on how solar and net metering work, and the details you need to consider before purchasing or leasing hardware.

Get the working group’s guide for free at [entergybrightfuture.com](http://entergybrightfuture.com).



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## JPS summer reading requirements

All students are required to read at least three books and complete a log for each. Each student must read and write a log for the one required book title from the list below. Students must choose two additional titles from any source on any topic and write a log on each. For maximum benefit and incentives, students are encouraged to read many, many books.

Required books for Grades K–12, Advanced Academics (IB, APAC and AP) are listed below:

Jackson Public School District Summer Reading Required Books <i>K-12 JPS Summer Reading Titles</i>	
GRADE	BOOK TITLES
K	Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes by Eric Litwin
1	Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes
2	Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann
3	The Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron
4	Frindle by Andrew Clements
5	The Mighty Miss Malone by Christopher Paul Curtis
6	Wonder by R. J. Palacios
7	Monster by Walter Dean Myers
8	Do the Math: Secrets, Lies, and Algebra by Wendy Lichtman
9	Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis
10	Blood is Thickers by Paul Langan
11	Three Little Words by Ashley Rhodes
12	Jubilee by Margaret Walker-Alexander
Advanced Academic Programs <i>Casey, Davis, McWillie, Power APAC, Bailey, Northwest, Jim Hill, and Murrah</i>	
<small>Note: Academic Program schools may recommend that additional books are read during the summer in preparation for course work during the upcoming school year. Those listed below are the minimum books required by the district for each grade level and program.</small>	
GRADE	BOOK TITLES
K	The Itsy Bitsy Spider by Iza Trapani
1	Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
2	The Firekeeper’s Son by Linda Sue Park
3	Roxaboxen by Alice McLerran
4	Sasquatch Escape: The Imaginary Veterinary Book I by Suzanna Selfors
5	The Lion Who Stole My Arm by Nicola Davies
6	Fish In A Tree by Mullaly Hunt
7	A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
8	Black Boy by Richard Wright
9	The Moon is Down by John Steinback
10	Gathering of Old Men by Ernest Gaines
11 (AP & IB)	1984 by George Orwell
12 (AP)	Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
12 (IB)	King Lear by William Shakespeare
<small>All students are also required to read at least two additional books of choice. For maximum benefit and incentives, students are encouraged to read and complete reading logs for many, many books!</small>	

**Note:** Program schools may recommend that additional books are read during the summer in preparation for coursework during the upcoming school year. Those listed above are the minimum books required by the District for each grade level and program school.

## Jim Hill track star signs with William Carey College

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jim Hill track star Talayla Davis accepted a track scholarship to attend William Carey University in Hattiesburg next fall. She was recently named the female MVP of the Bianca Knight Invitational held at Ridgeland High School. Davis won both the long jump and the 200-meter dash. She also helped the Jim Hill girls to place in two relay events.

Tamika Harris is the coach of the Jim Hill girls track team.

William Carey also has campuses on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in Louisiana.



Talayla Davis signs scholarship acceptance letter with her family and Jim Hill coaches by her side.

## Murrah students win science awards at UMMC Research Day



Oluwatosin Akinyemi

Mississippi Link Newswire

Five Murrah High School students received awards at the University of Mississippi Medical Center’s School of Health-Related Professions 23rd Annual Research Day. They each received Outstanding Basic Science Awards for their work.

The five students are participants in the Base Pair science program led by Jeffery Stokes. They presented their work be-

fore judges April 27. UMMC students from across the organization also took part in the event.

2018 UMMC Outstanding Basic Science Awards were presented to:

Oluwatosin Akinyemi, 1st Place

Jaylen Sandifer and Shyanne McDuffy, 2nd Place

Matthew Araujo and Alton Chambers, 3rd Place.



Jaylen Sandifer and Shyanne McDuffy



Matthew Araujo and Alton Chambers

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## Two Tougaloo professors win awards from the National Science Foundation



*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Two faculty members at Tougaloo College have been awarded approximately \$700,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Bidisha Sengupta, the associate professor of chemistry at Tougaloo College, has been awarded \$299,971 for her project, entitled “Research Initiation Award: Determining the Role of Cytoskeletal Proteins in the Fibrillation of Amyloid-beta Peptides in the presence of Tryptamines and Flavones.” This project, which focuses on finding the link between sleep, diet and Alzheimer’s disease using biochemical approaches, will take place over the next three years.

“I am very happy to receive this award from the National Science Foundation because I can train my undergraduate student researchers in this very important study through experimental and computational research. This award will also allow me to carry part of the study in organic chemistry and biochemistry laboratory courses and involve a larger population of undergraduates,” says Sengupta.

In addition to this award, Sengupta as the co-principal investigator, received \$399,718 from NSF for a joint project with principal investigator and professor and chair of the chemistry department George Armstrong. This project entitled “Targeted Infusion Project: Infusion of Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL), Technology and Research into the Chemistry Curriculum to Increase Students’ Success,” will be awarded over the next two years. “This project enables us to continue our motto – to increase the critical thinking and analytical rea-

soning skills in our undergraduates by introducing POGIL and research in our chemistry curriculum,” states Sengupta.

Armstrong expresses his gratitude for the award. “I have been a professor at Tougaloo College since 2002 where the emphasis is on teaching and mentoring students. This has been one of the most rewarding outcomes in my career, where I have mentored several undergraduate students in research. I had the opportunity to attend, with students, several of the Faculty and Student Department of Energy Summer Research Programs at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, N.Y. My teaching interest includes using technology in chemistry courses as well as developing pedagogical methods to enhance student success in chemistry. I have been particularly interested in student-centered learning, especially POGIL. I have successfully used this pedagogy in general chemistry I and organic chemistry. This grant will allow us to improve student success by infusing the POGIL pedagogy in all of our general chemistry and organic chemistry courses.”

These awards come through the National Science Foundation through their HBCU-UP program, which provides awards to strengthen STEM undergraduate education and research at HBCUs. This program provides educational opportunities for undergraduate students and provides indirect funding for HBCU students that focuses on curricula development, training and retention.

*For more information, on the National Science Foundation’s HBCU-UP program, visit <https://www.nsf.gov/funding>.*

## Annual Teacher Incentive Package goes paperless

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Clinton Public School District is going paperless with the annual Teacher Incentive Package program.

For the tenth year, CPSD is partnering with area businesses and community organizations in an effort to recruit and retain great teachers. Through the Teacher Incentive Package, businesses are asked to offer across-the-board discounts or one-time offers for Clinton educators.

“Traditionally we’ve asked local businesses to print fliers that were assembled into bags to give our teachers when they returned in August,” said program organizer and Public Information Officer Sandi Beason. “But now we are going paperless, and the fliers will be sent directly to teachers’ email addresses.”

CPSD uses a service called PeachJar to send out electronic fliers to students and employees. PeachJar is used during the school year to replace

paper fliers that traditionally went home in backpacks. PeachJar will be used for the Teacher Incentive Package, as one more way to fulfill the district’s larger goal of going paperless.

There is no fee to participate. The only requirement is that fliers be submitted by the July 27 deadline.

“Last year our teachers received coupons for free food from restaurants, discounts on merchandise at retail stores and special rates on things like gym memberships,” she said. “Teachers really appreciate the support from local businesses. We got great feedback from our educators as well as the participating businesses.”

All contributing businesses will receive social media recognition as well as a sign suitable for framing or posting online stating that they support Clinton teachers.

*For more information or to submit fliers, email [sbeason@clintonpublicschools.com](mailto:sbeason@clintonpublicschools.com) or call 601-924-7533.*

## State Superintendent of Education Carey Wright selected for The Broad Academy

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

State Superintendent of Education Carey Wright is among 20 respected K-12 education leaders from across the nation selected to join The Broad Academy, the nation’s most prominent professional-development program for current and aspiring school-system leaders.

The two-year Broad Academy program – which is operated by The Broad Center – supports passionate, proven leaders who are deeply focused on excellence and equity for every student and family they serve. The new cohort is comprised of aspiring urban and state superintendents as well as leaders already running high-performing public-school systems as they work to grow their organizations’ effectiveness and increase their impact.

“As diverse as our Academy fellows’ personal backgrounds have been, so too are their personal beliefs about the best ways to achieve true excellence and equity in public education,” said Hoa Truong, managing director of The Broad Academy. “The opportunity and ability to listen to and learn from those with different perspectives push us all to be better at what we do.”

Wright plans to use what she learns through her participation in The Broad Academy to further advance education in Mississippi.

“Education is the greatest equalizer and is every child’s right and surest path to opportunity,” Wright said. “Mississippi students have proven they can achieve at high levels when they are provided with opportunities to succeed. We must continue to work as a state to ensure that every child has access to a quality education.”

As state superintendent of education for Mississippi, Wright spearheaded education reforms that increased early literacy skills, nearly doubled Advancement Placement participation and achievement and increased the statewide graduation rate to an all-time high. Her efforts helped push



Wright

student achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress to improve at a faster rate than most other states and helped earn Mississippi national recognition for being one of six states that meet all 10 quality standards for early childhood education.

Mississippi State Board of Education Chairwoman Rosemary Aultman said Wright’s selection for The Broad Academy shows that the nation is taking notice of her accomplishments and Mississippi’s significant achievements in education.

“With Dr. Wright’s vision and leadership, Mississippi is receiving national attention for the great strides being made toward raising student achievement statewide,” Aultman said. “Mississippi is no longer last when considering any number of academic achievement indicators, but rather Mississippi is considered a rising star by education leaders nationwide.”

The other new Broad Academy fellows include:

- Karolyn Belcher, president of TNTP, a national nonprofit committed to ending injustices of educational inequality
- Lamont Browne, founding execu-

tive director of autonomous schools in Aurora Public Schools

- Michele Caracappa, chief academic officer of Success Academy Charter Schools
- Daphane Carter, chief academic officer of KIPP Houston Public Schools
- JoAnn Gama, co-founder president and superintendent of schools at IDEA Public Schools
- Chad Gestson, superintendent of Phoenix Union High School District
- Christina Grant, assistant superintendent for opportunity and innovation of The School District of Philadelphia
- Russell Johnston, senior associate commissioner at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Christopher N. Maher, superintendent of Providence Public Schools
- Tricia McManus, assistant superintendent of leadership, professional development and school transformation at Hillsborough County Public Schools
- Kunjan Narechania, assistant superintendent of school improvement and chief executive officer of Louisiana’s Recovery School District
- Rich K. Nye, superintendent of Ogden School District
- Michelle Pierre-Farid, chief academic officer for Cleveland Metropolitan School District
- Angela Pringle, superintendent of Richmond County School System
- Michelle Rodriguez, superintendent of Pajaro Valley Unified School District
- Allen Smith, chief of the Culture, Equity and Leadership team at Denver Public Schools
- Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, superintendent of Hartford Public Schools
- Lisa A. Utterback, executive director of Community, Schools and Family Engagement at Omaha Public Schools
- Calvin J. Watts, superintendent of Kent School District.

## MDE seeks public comment on early learning standards for infants, toddlers and pre-school children

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is seeking public comment on the newly released Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Infants through Four-Year-Old Children, which outlines goals for children from birth through age 4.

The MDE developed the document in collaboration with a committee of early childhood education teachers and leaders from a variety of settings including school districts, Head Start and private childcare providers. The committee also included state and national early childhood experts from health, advocacy and higher education institutions.

“The publication of the guide marks the completion of Mississippi’s work to create a seamless set of standards that are aligned from birth through the 12th grade,” said Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “Mississippi’s early learning community will soon be able to implement a common set of developmentally appropriate milestones for infant and toddlers, as well as learning standards for 3- and 4-year-old children.”

The standards for infants and toddlers describe experiences in the first three years of life that have a strong impact on brain development and learning. They are the foundation for healthy development and positive learning outcomes in the preschool years and beyond.

“We’re pleased with the guide and excited about its release for public comment,” said Holly Spivey, Head Start collaboration director in the Office of Governor Phil Bryant. “It is the result of intensive, valuable collaboration between all the parties involved who wanted to ensure Mississippi’s children receive the best developmental and educational foundation from the earliest age.”

The 3- and 4-year-old standards are aligned to the kindergarten Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. The document also includes additional pre-K standards for social studies, science, approaches to learning, social and emotional development, physical development and creative expression.

Jennifer Calvert, who directs Calvert’s ABC Pre-School & Nursery

in Aberdeen and is a pre-K teacher, served on the committee that helped create the Mississippi Early Learning Standards guide.

“The guide is a good tool to help you meet quality standards,” Calvert said. “It tells you what to do and gives you examples of how to do it.”

Calvert said the collaboration among the MDE and other early learning providers and experts produced a high-quality guide that will be useful to all early child care and education providers.

“It was good to hear from each angle. We had Head Start, child care centers and home-based providers,” she said. “Having a variety of people come together and share their ideas made this work.”

After the Mississippi State Board of Education formally approves the guide, the MDE will work with early childhood partners to disseminate the guide statewide. The MDE will also hold early childhood training in a variety of settings this summer and fall.

*View the guide online: Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Infants through Four-Year-Old Children.*

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## Battles against racism swirled as Americans paused for Memorial Day



President Donald Trump laying wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

By Hazel Trice Edney  
TriceEdneyWire.com

As Taps was played in the Arlington National Cemetery and the President placed the wreath and held a moment of silence during the somber ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, controversy swirled as African Americans continue to fight the ultimate Double V Campaign – for victory against terrorism and fascism abroad but also victory against racism at home.

Traditional Memorial Day ceremonies went on without a hitch as blacks and whites together remembered their loved ones lost in military battles. But hovering in the atmosphere were the obvious issues that still prevail in the U. S., a civil war of sorts that has remained alive for centuries.

In a nutshell, the Double V campaign, primarily led by the Pittsburgh Courier newspaper during World War II, referred to black American participation in fighting for victory against fascism abroad while also fighting for victory against racism at home. The campaign is widely credited by historians as being among the early catalysts for the Civil Rights Movement.

“The Double V Campaign that was so well articulated by the Pittsburg Courier during World War II had its antecedents in World War I, the Civil War and going all the way back to the Revolutionary War,” says Benjamin Chavis, president/CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Black Press of America. “Black Americans were some of the first to die for America to be born. And yet, almost 300 years later, we are still dying and America’s true promise of racial equality and racial justice has yet to be born.”

In that regard, despite the vast progress since the days of Jim Crow, the battles of 2018 are no less important. Especially 50 years following the racial watershed year of 1968, the racial battles that persist are glaring. Before during and after Memorial Day, these issues remained prominently on display:

- On Saturday, May 26, hundreds of citizens in Richmond, Va. gathered in the sanctuary of Second Black Church to protest the killing of yet another unarmed black man by a police officer. Marcus-David Peters, 24, obviously mentally impaired, was shot dead May 15, when he confronted a lone police officer, Michael Nyantakyi. Despite the fact that the officer who shot Peters was black, protestors lamented the fact that unarmed black people across the nation



Double V Campaign logo used on the front page of the Pittsburgh Courier and other black newspapers during World War II.

are disparately killed by police officers.

- On May 29, the day after Memorial Day, Starbucks, a multi-billion dollar coffee restaurant franchise, closed 8,000 stores across the U. S. in order to give “anti-racial bias” training to its employees. The training was mandated after an April 12 incident in which two black men, Rashon Nelson, 23, and Donte Robinson, 23, were arrested in a Philadelphia Starbucks after an employee called the police on them for sitting and waiting for a friend without making a purchase.

- Meanwhile, the National Football League May 23 enacted a strict policy against its players “taking a knee” during the National Anthem as the players’ form of protest against racism and police brutality in America. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell announced the new policy, which allows players to remain in the locker room while the National Anthem is played, but those who choose to be on the field must “stand and show respect.” Anyone kneeling would cause his team to be fined. Then San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick started the move of “taking a knee” during the anthem in protest against rampant police violence against black people. Civil rights leaders say the NFL’s new policy is antithetical to the freedom of speech rights for which the U. S. flag is supposed to stand. They also say policy makers are bent on controlling protests while ignoring the blatant injustices. On the morning after Memorial Day, Chavis tweeted, “The relationship between Black America and police in general across the nation is not good and beyond the point of a racial crisis that demands justice and resolution.”

- The injustices expand spectrums, including the economics arena. The National Urban League, in its annual State of Black America, reports racial income disparities at crisis levels. The median household income of white Americans is nearly 64



Chavis

percent higher than that of African Americans.

- National Home Ownership Month – the month of June – will be commemorated across the U. S. as a month of acknowledgement of the importance of home ownership as an accomplishment and sign of wealth. Yet, according to the Economic Policy Institute, two years ago, “the black homeownership rate was just over 40 percent, virtually unchanged since 1968, and trailing a full 30 points behind the white homeownership rate, which saw modest gains over the same period.”

In every major area of civil rights and social justice – also including health, education and criminal justice – blacks lag woefully behind and justice battles across the U. S. remain pervasive. Black Press Historian A. Peter Bailey summed it up recently:

“The Double V Campaign to me was one of the greatest symbolic campaigns that I can think of. And I really wish that the Black Press had kept that: victory over fascism abroad and over racism at home, victory over Communism abroad and over racism at home, victory over terrorism abroad and over racism at home,” Bailey said. “The concept was so powerful that it still should be the driving slogan of the collective Black Press because the country is still fighting the battle today against what it considers terrorism and black people are still fighting the battle against racism.”

Chavis concluded, “You can’t separate one hand celebrating the contributions of black veterans to America and the persistent fatal ramifications and the resurgence of white supremacy in America. There’s no energy more free than the Black Press of America to articulate the interests of black America. That is why we’re going to have to show no reluctance to pull the sheets off of white supremacy from the White House to the police stations to Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force barracks in America and all over the world.”

## 100 Black Men of America, Inc. and Florida chapters to deliver community empowerment during 32nd Annual Conference



The Mississippi Link Newswire

100 Black Men of America, Inc. will be joined by both the Greater Fort Lauderdale chapter and the South Florida chapter to educate and empower an entire community. Since 2004, the 100’s Annual Conference has delivered a Community Empowerment Project (CEP) to ensure that citizens from the community at large receive immediate and long-term impact. This year’s event, in conjunction with the Juneteenth celebration, includes the 100’s trademark community health fair with free screenings totaling over \$800 per adult, a Robotics/STEM presentation, free food giveaways, organizations delivering free health information, cooking and juicing demonstrations, financial workshops, reading circles, entertainment, games and giveaways throughout the day.

“The community is encouraged to come early and bring all members of their family to this multigenerational event. Our goal is to bring free health services to underserved individuals while educating and empowering youth, teens, young adults, parents and grandparents with information that promotes healthy lifestyle choices,” stated Thomas W. Dortch Jr., chairman, 100 Black Men of America, Inc.

Celebrity Chef G. Garvin will be leading the healthy meals message with a live cooking demonstration and the premier science and hip-hop educator Grand Hank will host the S.T.E.M. component of the event.

Free health screenings will include HIV/STI, blood pressure, diabetes, prenatal, postnatal, cholesterol, mammogram, colon rectal and glucose. The 2018 Community Empowerment Project will also include a blood drive and civic engagement activities including voter registration.

Members from the 100’s global network of chapters, Collegiate 100® students and members from the 100 Board of Directors, along with sponsors AARP, Aetna, American Red Cross, Shell, Sodexo Magic and the U.S. Army invite the public to come get empowered.

“The CEP is #the100blueprint for collaborating with corporate and community partners to bring much needed services and education to cities where the 100 conference convenes,” stated Chairman Dortch.

The 100 Black Men will host their annual Teen Summit as part of the CEP. Students and school board representatives from Broward County and Miami Dade County will engage in a youth-led discussion on teen violence, See Something, Say Something. Broward County Schools Board member, Rosalind Osgood, will serve as moderator.

A range of serious topics facing our youth today will be tackled including mental wellness, gun violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and gang violence.

Recommendations about school and community violence will be translated to legislative initiatives for the 100 nationally, which will require chapters throughout the state of Florida

to galvanize, advocate and get legislation passed within local school districts and across county and state levels.

Community partners delivering services, screenings and education include Broward Department of Health, Broward EMT, Broward Family Services, Broward General, Broward Health and Human Services, Broward Regional Health Council, Broward Sheriff’s Office, Florida Department of Health, Fort Lauderdale Behavioral Health, Holy Cross Hospital, Dr. Diane John, Dr. Jamal Lawson, Memorial Hospital, National Black Nurses Association, New York Life, One Blood, Planned Parenthood, VITAS Healthcare and the Urban League of Broward County.

The media is invited to cover this and all conference events. Media credentials are reserved for working print, broadcast and online journalists with a local, regional, national or international commercial news outlet. All media must submit conference credential requests online by June 1, 2018.

Who: 100 Black Men of America, Inc.

What: Community Empowerment Project (CEP)

When: Saturday, June 16, 2018, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where: Reverend Samuel Delevoe Memorial Park, 2520 N.W. Sixth St., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

To learn more about the 100 Black Men of America, Inc.’s cause and programs and to view all events taking place during the 32nd Annual Conference visit [www.100blackmen.org](http://www.100blackmen.org)



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# Is the NFL's new National Anthem policy legal?

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Protesters held a rally in front of the National Football League's New York City headquarters May 25 after the league announced new rules that punish players who don't stand for the national anthem.

Tamika Mallory said that the NFL owners were acting as a "proxy for a fascist president" and that the new policy was an attempt to "resurrect slavery in the 21st century" and punish black players.

The kneeling protests started when former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick began sitting during the anthem and then kneeling as a protest against police brutality.

"What is being said is that the n-gas don't have basic rights," Mallory said. "And I want to say today that Ida B. Wells, Dr. Martin Luther King, Marcus Garvey, the four little girls in Birmingham are turning over in their graves right now about the disrespect, the disgrace, that is happening in this country."

Mallory continued: "If we, as black people, lay down and allow this system to continue to oppress us, we are the ones to be held responsible."

Civil rights activist and author of "The Revolt of the Black Athlete" Harry Edwards told USA TODAY that the NFL's new national anthem policy was "the dumbest move possible."

"They put the protest movement on blast," Edwards said. "They just created a bigger stage than ever."

In a recent commentary for



Civil rights activist Tamika Mallory says that the new NFL national anthem policy was an attempt to "resurrect slavery in the 21st century." Mallory returned to NFL headquarters May 25 to speak about the new policy. In this photo, Mallory speaks during a 2017 protest at NFL headquarters. FREDDIE ALLEN/AMG/NNPA

Vox.com, Harvard Law School labor professor Benjamin Sachs wrote: "This new league policy is meant to enforce a particular vision of patriotism, one that involves compliance rather than freedom of expression."

Sachs wrote that the new anthem policy was illegal – for a host of reasons.

"The clearest illegality derives from the fact that the league adopted its new policy without bargaining with the players union," Sachs wrote. "When employees, including

football players, are represented by a union, the employer – including a football league – can't change the terms of employment without discussing the change with the union. Doing so is a flagrant violation of the employer's duty to bargain in good faith."

ESPN.com reported that President Donald Trump supported the NFL's policy that requires players to stand for the national anthem or remain in the locker room, during an interview with Fox News.

"I think that's good," Trump said. "I don't think people should be staying in locker rooms, but still I think it's good. You have to stand proudly for the national anthem or you shouldn't be playing, you shouldn't be there. Maybe you shouldn't be in the country."

Many players have already indicated that they are not happy with the new rule.

In a statement released on Twitter, Philadelphia Eagles safety Malcolm Jenkins wrote: "While I disagree with this de-

cision, I will not let it silence me or stop me from fighting. The national conversation around race in America that NFL players forced over the past two years will persist as we continue to use our voices, our time and our money to create a more fair and just criminal justice system, end police brutality and foster better educational and economic opportunities for communities of color and those struggling in this country."

In an interview with ESPN, Seattle Seahawks wide receiver

Doug Baldwin called the president "an idiot...plain and simple."

"I respect the man because he's a human being, first and foremost. But he's just being more divisive, which is not surprising. It is what it is," Baldwin said. "For him to say that anyone who doesn't follow his viewpoints or his constituents' viewpoints should be kicked out of the country, it's not very empathetic, it's not very American-like, actually to me. It's not very patriotic. It's not what this country was founded upon."

Baldwin continued: "It's kind of ironic to me that the president of the United States is contradicting what our country is really built on."

In his Vox.com commentary about the NFL's new national anthem policy, Sachs wrote that now that the owners have made it a workplace rule to stand during the anthem or stay in the locker room, any player who takes the field and takes a knee is protesting an employer rule.

That protest, Sachs said, "is unquestionably protected by federal labor law."

The NFL pre-season begins in August.

This article was originally published at BlackPressUSA.com.

Freddie Allen contributed additional reporting for this story.

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# Royal wedding features black bishop, black musicians

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, an American actress with an African-American mother, were married May 19 after exchanging vows at St. George's Chapel in the Windsor Castle in England about an hour from London.

The ceremony was striking for its racial diversity in a royal family not known for it. The blend of African-American and British culture noted by many onlookers resulted in a memorable ceremony with cutting edge aspects and several obvious historical first for the British royal family.

It wasn't just the entrance of tennis champion Serena Williams wearing Versace or Oprah Winfrey in a pink Stella McCartney dress and hat, it was the music, the style and the words spoken at the ceremony. Gone was the predictable stuffiness that often accompanies royal ceremonies; the wedding's diversity made the affair even more regal.

The bride's mother, Doria Ragland, stood nearby, sometimes shedding tears, as the only blood relative on Meghan's Markle's side of the family to attend the wedding. Markle's father, Thomas, was too ill to attend the ceremony after a recent heart ailment.

Sheku Kanneh-Mason, a black 19-year-old classic cellist from Nottingham England, who was the first black musician to win the BBC Young



Prince Harry and Meghan Markle exchange vows at a ceremony at St. George's Chapel in the Windsor Castle. This photo was taken of the couple as they attended a church at Sandringham Christmas Day 2017. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Musician of the Year award in 2016, performed at the wedding. Kanneh-Mason performed "Sicilienne," "Après un rêve" and "Ave Maria" during a break in the ceremony when the royal couple had to depart the altar to

sign a registry in a backroom and out of the sight of their guests.

During an address focused on the power of love, that BBC commentators defined as "spirited," Bishop Michael Curry, the head of the U.S.

Episcopal Church, brought the black church to the royal wedding. Curry began and ended his speech quoting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. saying, "Martin Luther King was right: We must discover love. And when we do,

we will make a new world."

Karen Gibson directed The Kingdom Choir in a performance of "Stand By Me." The Ben E. King song is a R&B standard from 1961.

"A black woman in an updo directing a black choir in "Stand By Me" after a black preacher gave a three-point sermon, complete with altar call, might be the official end of the United Kingdom. This is the real 'Brexit,'" tweeted former Obama White House official Joshua DuBois.

As the newly-minted British royal couple left St. George's Chapel with family following and entered a carriage after the ceremony, The Kingdom Choir again sang. This time it was an Etta James styled version of "Amen (This Little Light of Mine)," a 1920s gospel song that was popular during the Civil Rights Movement.

"Black bride. Black pastor. Black choir. Black cellist. African chants. Folks clapping and sangin' "This Little Light of Mine." Even a horse named "Tyrone." This is the blackest royal wedding evuh," tweeted Dr. Stacey Patton, as the church ceremony ended.

This article was originally published at BlackPressUSA.com.

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# Making Eternal Decisions

PART 1

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



Too many people merely go through a religious form. They are religious but lost.

Everywhere you turn there is some form of false religion such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam and so on. How sad it is that people get so involved and taken up with false religion. We are living in a world of so much “pick and choose” when it comes to religion that it is just as if one is going to a smorgasbord (buffet). You must and need to be careful; you need to watch what you take in. You see, things can begin to work in a subtle way.

We read in James 4:14 these words, “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” Today, we are living in such perilous times. Many things happen so quickly that often our minds have difficulty adjusting. Terrible things are happening in city schools and streets. Also

things are sadly happening in our local, state and national politics.

Often men try to straighten things out. However, when men try to devise methods to help, usually the problems become worse; then it creates problems on top of problems. God has a remedy but one must come back to the very beginning. God can make a way; however, in order for God to make a way, one has to be in the straight and narrow way. God requires that His children be in complete obedience to Him and to His Word.

Today at times, sitting on your front porch or walking down a street or country road is not even safe. It seems that many people have fearful attitudes. They did not know what to do or where to turn. Many people are afraid of the foods they eat, the water they drink and the pesticides and chemicals sprayed on foods, yet they neglect the most important part of lives: their eternity-bound souls. They fail to consider where they will spend eternity.

Most people live as though they are planning to live on this earth forever. They have

made plans for twenty or thirty years down the road to go here and there but they do not mention one thing about God. That is so sad. Friend, we are only here on this earth for a short time. We were not made to live on this earth forever. We do not know what we are going to be doing two or three years down the road and we do not even know what we are going to do tomorrow. However, we do know that God knows our end.

So many things are going on in the world. The mercies of God allow us to have the right use of our minds. It is the goodness of God that lets us hear the Word and comprehend it. We read in Psalm 95:1-11: “O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. 3 For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. 4 In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. 5 The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. 6 O come, let us worship and

bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. 7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. 10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: 11 Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.”

In John 4:14, Jesus said, “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” Aren’t you glad that you partook of that spring, Christian friend?

Next week, “Making Eternal Decisions,” Part II

*Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.*

PRESERVED

# Spiritual PTSD and life after warfare

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



The recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown that sometimes the hardest thing to deal with isn’t just the battle in a war but might be what happens afterwards. As a result, the news is full of stories of soldiers and their families who have struggled to transition back to normal life after the life changing trauma of war.

Because of the impact of PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder), the military strives to provide more specialized services to current soldiers and veterans. These stories show that it’s not just enough to prepare soldiers for war battles, but there also has to be preparation for life after the battles.

But the question remains: How do soldiers successfully readjust to the “usual” after unusual experiences that come from being a soldier? Pretending that things haven’t changed won’t work because things are not the same. Psychologists who deal with veterans who struggle with PTSD say that one of the biggest issues is the readjustment from the chaos and uncertainty of war to the peace and consistency of normal life.

Often, those suffering from PTSD struggle to honestly admit that things are different. Once they do so, they can then decide if different is good or bad and most importantly, how that will impact their lives moving forward.

In terms of spirituality, Christians also deal with some of these same issues of readjustment af-


ter spiritual warfare. Christians often talk (in some cases brag) about being ready for war with satan. But how many of us can honestly say we are ready for what happens after the spiritual warfare battle? Even if we “win” the battle, we may end up battle weary, scarred, wounded and traumatized. Or, we may lose the battle but learn an even more valuable lesson about how to deal with disappointment and loss. However, like soldiers with PTSD deal with psychological and physical trauma as a result of their experiences in war, I think those of us who have experienced any kind of spiritual warfare can identify with the lingering effects of warfare.

As Psalm 55:17-18 reminds us, “He rescues me unharmed from the battle waged against me, even though many oppose me;” one key to surviving spiritual warfare is having the faith to trust God.

After a spiritual warfare battle, I think God wants us to have a renewed respect for His sovereign power and His unconditional love for us. Even though spiritual warfare can be life altering, spiritual PTSD for Christians doesn’t have to stand for post traumatic stress disorder. I’d like to think of spiritual PTSD as standing for Purpose, Strength, Trust and Discernment.

For the next few weeks, we’ll take a look at spiritual PTSD and how it can impact your life after a spiritual warfare battle.

*Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends.” Email her at preserved-bypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*



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## Silencing our voices

By E. Faye Williams  
Trice Edney Newswire



When the voices representing us are silenced, what do we do? Many of us love sports and since most teams in almost every sport would be judged just another boring team without black players, decent voices in sports have been silenced.

Colin Kaepernick took a knee to protest police brutality. He was punished for doing good by upholding a right of citizenship. Others followed Colin's courageous act. A few misguided athletes criticized Colin because they just didn't get it, but so many of us understood and supported his action.

Many of us took a knee prior to every football game to show our support. After several other players began understanding the significance of Colin's act, the bosses of the National Football League decided it was time to silence Colin's supporters. They've already silenced him by colluding to make him an unemployed quarterback. Now they've attempted to silence all players who might want to express their belief that police violence against black people without cause is wrong.

The plot thickens. Since it's more likely to have Democratic voices speak out for freedom of speech, certain Republicans decided to silence those voices by refusing to allow them in the room as they uncover what may be not so pleasant details about their standard bearer — #45. If they had no fear about what they would see, what is it that caused them to deny anyone who might see things different from the unchallenged spin they would bring out of the meeting? Who was to represent us? Do actions to silence those who speak for us concern enough of us to make a difference in November on election day?

I fear that diminishing our rights has become so common that many of us are just shaking our heads in

defeat as though there's nothing we can do. Dick Gregory taught us that people will do to us whatever we tolerate. I think too many of us are tolerating too much. When even the voices of our elected representatives are silenced, it's time for us to rise up and show our objections.

Our rights are being sliced away every day. You name it. We've experienced increased murdering of our innocent children in schools. We have a "so-called leader" with a bottomless appetite for destruction of all that has been achieved, one who embarrasses us around the world and one who tries to end social services and healthcare for the needy.

Now athletes have lost their freedom of speech on the field. Every race, creed and culture, as well as women are denigrated. Hatred thrives and has gained a stranglehold on decency. Not just black ancestors, but many decent people have worked too hard, suffered too much for us to throw up our hands and assume there is nothing we can do.

Bishop William Barber has planned a "Poor People's Campaign" and we need to sign up to participate in great numbers. If we sit back and say nothing, our silence is giving consent and accepting that it's okay to silence athletes even though there would be no game without them. Silencing our elected leaders by refusing them an equal opportunity to be at the table on our behalf is taking away our right to free speech, too.

This campaign is as much about us as it is about those who have no job, no hope and no hope of hope, as well as for those who suffer from police brutality or those who are discriminated against or those who suffer any form of injustice. This campaign impacts us, too, so let's all get involved and do our part.

E. Faye Williams is national president of the National Congress of Black Women. She is host of Wake Up and Stay Woke on WPFW-FM 89.3, and is a weekly columnist for the Trice Edney Wire Service.

## Stacey Abrams – standing on strong shoulders

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



I am among the millions who are ecstatic that Stacey Abrams won the Democratic nomination for governor in Georgia. She didn't just win, she rocked, clobbering her opponent, Stacey Evans, by over 50 percentage points — Abrams had 76 percent of the 533,450 votes cast in the Democratic primary.

Of course, Abrams very graciously congratulated Evans on her effort during her victory speech last Tuesday night. Still, it is clear that the work Abrams put into bringing new votes to the polls paid off. Now, Abrams and her supporters will have to roll up their sleeves and bring even more new voters to the polls — two Republicans will vie for the Republican nomination in a runoff, and there were 70,000 more Republican voters in the primary than Democratic voters. If this turns partisan-ugly, and it is likely to, the challenge for Stacey Abrams will be to connect with those voters who rarely vote in midterm elections.

She already has a head start. Her New Georgia is credited with increasing voter turnout and registering as many as 200,000 new voters. While the estimates vary (with some saying that the numbers are not as robust as Abrams reports) the fact is that the New Georgia Project is effective, but must be even more

so if Abrams is to prevail. She'll need dollars and soldiers, but she has amassed an impressive amount of support from women's candidate groups like Emerge America and PACS and like the African American focused Higher Heights and the pro-choice woman-focused EMILY's list.

In addition, Melanie Campbell, CEO of the National Coalition of Black Civic Participation and the Black Women's Roundtable, has partnered with black women organizations in Georgia on it project — "Unity '18 Power of the Sister Vote." The women she worked with, including Essence Editor Emerita Susan Taylor and the esteemed Judge Glenda Hatchett did outreach to more than 50,000 households through social media. On election day, the Unity '18 effort provided rides, and reached out to voters through phone banks and canvassing, encouraging them to get out and vote. The work will have to continue through November if Abrams is to win that governorship.

Just a day before Abrams claimed her Democratic nomination, the civil rights lawyer Dovey Roundtree made her transition at the age of 104. Roundtree, like Abrams, was a Spelman College graduate. Abrams attended Yale Law School, while Roundtree matriculated at Howard on the GI Bill after service in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WACS).

Read more online at [www.themississippilink.com](http://www.themississippilink.com)

## Trump's embarrassing actions on North Korea open a door for citizen diplomacy

By Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.  
Founder and President of Rainbow PUSH Coalition



President Donald Trump torpedoed the summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in a letter he dictated that was virtually incoherent. The question now is whether the shoddy, impulsive, neck-snapping reversals of the White House will spark a new round of threats and a new crisis, or whether the opening that had seemed so promising can be continued in other ways.

Trump astounded the established diplomatic corps when he suddenly announced that he would meet with the North Korean leader in a summit. I defended Trump against the punditry, arguing that it is always better to talk than to issue threats, to find areas of common ground rather than prepare targets for attack.

The summit, Trump said, would seek to get North Korea to give up its nuclear arsenal in exchange for a lifting of economic sanctions and, presumably, security guarantees. North Korea made a series of gestures designed to build confidence. It released three American prisoners, which Trump called a "beautiful gesture" in his letter calling off the summit. It pledged that it would halt nuclear and missile tests.

On the very day Trump pulled the plug on the summit,

North Korea invited foreign journalists to witness the blowing up of its nuclear weapons testing site. Yet from the beginning, the exchange seemed unreal.

Trump claimed that the North Korean leader had agreed to complete denuclearization. Most experts believed that North Korea might agree to staged levels of arms control, but that it would never give up its nuclear weapons — seen as vital to its survival — totally.

Yet even as Trump was minting a coin to celebrate the "historic" summit and beginning a campaign to get the Nobel Peace Prize, his bellicose advisers were detonating land mines. National security adviser John Bolton, who had advocated attacking North Korea, suggested that the U.S. would follow the "Libyan model" with North Korea.

Bolton argued that he meant the agreement whereby Muammar Gaddafi gave over all of his nuclear materials (Libya did not have a nuclear weapons arsenal) without any incentives. But Bolton is no one's fool. He knew that what happened next was Gaddafi faced internal upheaval, the U.S. and European allies intervened for "humanitarian reasons," bombing Libya, and Gaddafi ended up being captured and murdered.

Not surprisingly, the North Koreans were angered by the notion that this "model" would be applied to them. They cancelled a preparatory meeting

in protest. Then Vice President Mike Pence announced that if the North Koreans didn't make a deal with the U.S., Kim could meet the same fate as Gaddafi. That prompted North Korean officials to call him a "political dummy."

Saying that they would not "beg the U.S. for dialogue," Choe Son Hui, the vice foreign minister, unleashed hot rhetoric of her own, asking whether the U.S. "will meet us at a meeting room or encounter us at a nuclear-to-nuclear showdown."

That rhetoric led Trump to cancel the meeting. It is hard to conclude anything but that Bolton and Pence were working to sabotage the meeting that Trump was trumpeting. Trump's letter reflects the administration's confused approach. Trump states he appreciates "your time, patience and effort" in relation to the summit. He says there was a "wonderful dialogue" building between him and the North Korean leader, and the only "dialogue that matters."

He thanks Kim for releasing the hostages. And suggests that if Kim just would "call me or write," the summit might be back on. Trump also says he is pulling the plug because of "the tremendous anger and open hostility displayed in your most recent statement."

He scorns their nuclear capabilities, reminding them that "ours are so massive and powerful that I pray to God they will never have to be used." Trump's action leaves all em-

barrassed. Trump suggests that the Chinese were behind Kim's harsher line. The South Korean president said he didn't know what to make of the president's action.

The danger is, of course, that the angry rhetoric and impulsive actions will lead to insults, threats and rising war fears and tensions. To forestall that, it is vital for U.S. allies to act, to support the South Korean president's opening to the North, and to encourage the North Koreans to continue their pledge to end missile and nuclear weapons testing.

From the U.S., this is a time when citizen diplomacy might step in. Ministers and citizen delegations should seek to go to North Korea. We should explore whether exchange programs can be established to help open up the closed kingdom. We should see if citizen delegations could explore what the North Koreans would see as a sensible set of negotiations.

North Korea's leader clearly is looking for a way to get out from under sanctions and to open up better relations with the world. Trump's demand for complete and instant disarmament was never very realistic. But we needn't return to the brink of war and the exchange of threats.

It is time to build not on the failure of the summit, but on the halting successes of the efforts to get North Korea to stop testing, to stop threatening and to begin opening up.

## Centuries before Meghan, the ancestry of another royal wielded far-ranging influence on the world

By Marc H. Morial  
President and CEO  
National Urban League



"Descended from the warlike Vandal race, She still preserves that title in her face.

Tho' shone their triumphs o'er Numidia's plain,

And adlusian fields their name retain;

They but subdued the southern world with arms,

She conquers still with her triumphant charms,

O! born for rule, — to whose victorious brow

The greatest monarch of the north must bow."

— "On His Majesty's Intended Marriage to the Princess of Mecklenberg, and her Arrival in England," 1761.

For the first time in history, an American woman descended from enslaved people has joined the British Royal family. Whatever views one may hold on the monarchy, black Americans unabashedly rejoiced in the inspirational sermon of African-American Bishop Michael Curry, the soaring harmonies of the gospel group Kingdom Choir, and the virtuosity of the first black BBC Young Musician of the Year, 19-year-old cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason.



Queen Charlotte

Yet the question of whether Meghan Markle is the first Royal of African descent is hardly settled, and intense interest has been renewed in Queen Charlotte, wife of the King George III. Charlotte, who married George III in 1761, was descended from the 13th-century Portugese ruler Alfonso III and his lover Madragana, who has been described as a Moor.

Whether "Moor" at the time meant "African" or simply "Muslim" is the subject of much debate. But Charlotte's true ancestry may have less significance than the deliberate way she was portrayed in portraits to fuel the anti-slavery movement of the time.

The artist responsible for most of Charlotte's portraits, Sir Allan Ramsay, was an abolitionist, and had painted two formal portraits celebrating

the friendship of his own black grand niece and her white cousin. According to historian Mario de Faldes y Cocom, the portraits were "obviously prompted by or meant to appeal to abolitionist sympathies."

Ramsay's known sympathies, combined with the expectation of portraitists to obliterate "undesirable" traits in their subjects, led Valdes to conclude "it would be surprising if the Queen's negroid physiognomy was of no significance to the Abolitionist movement ... Queen Charlotte's coronation picture, copies of which were sent out to the colonies, signified a specific stance on slavery held, at least, by that circle of the English intelligencia to which Allan Ramsay, the painter belonged."

Britain would not abolish slavery in most of the empire until 1807, but the court case believed to have galvanized the movement, Somerset v Stewart, was decided in 1772, about a decade after George III's marriage to Charlotte. In the 1790's, opposition to slavery took the form of a sugar boycott. Though historians disagree about King George's motivation — he opposed abolition — he did approve the boycott.

Born a princess in the duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz of the Holy Roman Empire, Charlotte married at 17, and bore 15 chil-

dren, 13 of whom survived to adulthood. She was a connoisseur of music, who sang and played the flute. A series of Mozart symphonies, Opus 3, were dedicated to her. Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in London is named for her. The heartbreak of her life appears to have been her husband's mental illness, which resulted in her son's appointment as Prince Regent. She preceded him in death but he was too ill to be aware of her passing.

Did Queen Charlotte's presumed ancestry — and her possibly enhanced appearance in her portraits — influence the abolition movement? Historians will disagree. But there is no question that Charlotte's son, Prince Augustus Frederick, the first Duke of Sussex, was an outspoken abolitionist. It is apt that Harry and Meghan have inherited his title.

There is also no question that the cultural influence of the new Duchess of Sussex is certain to have a far-ranging impact. The Commonwealth of Nations is incredibly racially and ethnically diverse, including dozens of primarily black countries. It's powerfully symbolic for all the people of the Commonwealth to see themselves reflected not only in the Royal family but in the embrace of the international community.



# Black Public Media gets \$40,000 NEA grant



*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Harlem-based media arts organization Black Public Media (BPM) has been awarded an Art Works grant of \$40,000 by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The allocation, one of more than \$80 million in approved grants by National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu as part of the NEA's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018, will help fund BPM's signature public television series, AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange.

Art Works is the NEA's largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts and/or

the strengthening of communities through the arts.

"The variety and quality of these projects speaks to the wealth of creativity and diversity in our country," said Chu. "Through the work of organizations such as Black Public Media in New York, NEA funding invests in local communities, helping people celebrate the arts wherever they are."

"NEA's support for the AfroPoP series reinforces our belief that authentic stories about the African diaspora are important to keeping the American public informed and engaged about diversity of the African-American and global African experience," said BPM Executive Director Leslie Fields-Cruz.

For 10 years AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange has been

bringing stories about people of African descent around the world to television. Produced by Black Public Media and distributed by American Public Television (APT), AfroPoP is the nation's only public television series of documentaries on contemporary life, art and culture across the African diaspora.

Hosts of the series have included Idris Elba, Anika Noni Rose, Gabourey Sidibe, Wyatt Cenac, Anthony Mackie, Yaya DaCosta, Jussie Smollett, Nikki Beharie and Nicholas L. Ashe.

*For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](http://arts.gov/news).*

*For more information on Black Public Media, visit [www.blackpublicmedia.org](http://www.blackpublicmedia.org), or follow it on Twitter @BLKPublicMedia or on Facebook.*

# Secretary of State Office leads effort to connect businesses with schools

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

A new survey of almost 100,000 Mississippi businesses revealed promising workforce development news: many businesses are providing internship opportunities, donating resources to classrooms, or otherwise engaging with educational entities in their communities.

Additionally, almost 400 respondents indicated they are interested in partnering with area schools, and provided contact and other follow-up information to the Secretary of State's Office. The agency is working now to connect these business entities with K-12 schools, skilled trades programs and other like-organizations as part of a broader effort to fulfill the state's future workforce needs.

"Every child in Mississippi deserves the opportunity to receive a quality education and find meaningful work. Realizing this dream, though, requires us to do more than talk about the challenges to our state's education system and our businesses' concerns about the lack of ready-to-work graduates," Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann said. "We need our businesses and schools to work alongside each other to prepare the workforce of the future."



Hosemann

More than 5,300 LLCs, LPs and corporations provided feedback for this most recent Secretary of State survey, the third installment of a series of questionnaires recently sent to Mississippi businesses related to workforce needs. More than 96 percent of the responses were from businesses with less than 50 employees.

Among other responses, the survey shows:

- Employers most value soft skills in employees including work ethic, honesty and communication skills
- Marketing and networking are the areas in which economic development entities can most help small businesses

- Most businesses believe economic opportunity, reasonable wages, and top-rated public schools are the keys to retaining an educated workforce in their communities.

The full survey is available at [http://www.sos.ms.gov/BusinessServices/Documents/Yall\\_Business/Yall\\_Business\\_Survey\\_May\\_2018.pdf](http://www.sos.ms.gov/BusinessServices/Documents/Yall_Business/Yall_Business_Survey_May_2018.pdf).

The Secretary of State's Office is responsible for managing the corporate documents of about 175,000 LLCs, corporations and limited partnerships. Businesses are surveyed on a variety of topics intermittently throughout the year. Results are used to address business needs and improve economic development tools like Y'all Business ([www.yall-business.sos.ms.gov](http://www.yall-business.sos.ms.gov)), a website developed by the Secretary of State's Office which offers free consumer and demographic information to burgeoning businesses. Results are shared with educational entities, business leaders and economic development and state government stakeholders.

*For more information about the Secretary of State's Business Services Division, visit [www.sos.ms.gov/BusinessServices](http://www.sos.ms.gov/BusinessServices) or call (601) 359-1633.*

# Brent named Employee of The Month at Mississippi State Hospital

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Brenda Brent of Byram has been named Mississippi State Hospital's May Employee of the Month for support services.

Brent, a Jackson native, is an administrative assistant at the Whitfield Medical Surgical Hospital. The Holmes Community College alumna has worked at MSH for over 17 years.

The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes employees who have made outstanding contributions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc.



Brent

# Thirty free family law clinics scheduled in June

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Thirty free family law clinics are scheduled across the state during June, which is Access to Justice Month.

Low-income people who need help with family law matters such as guardianships to enroll children in school, uncontested divorce, legal name change and emancipation may be able to find legal assistance at one of the clinics.

"We hope to see more hours of legal services donated this month to assist our needy citizens than at any time other than during large scale natural disasters," said Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr. "The unmet civil legal needs of the poor are a silent and less visible source of suffering. Unmet legal needs exacerbate the effects of poverty."

Approximately 695,000 people in Mississippi, a fifth of the state's population, live at or below poverty level, and about 1.3 million of the impoverished and the working poor – almost 45 percent of the state's population – qualify for civil legal aid. Many struggle to represent themselves pro se in court without the assistance of an attorney.

Waller has called for civil legal clinics to be held throughout the state. Every Chancery Court district has agreed to host a free civil legal clinic this year. Local bar associations have worked with the Access to Justice Commission and the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project to organize the clinics.

Access to Justice Commission Executive Director Nicole McLaughlin said, "Civil legal aid helps people protect their livelihoods, their health and their families. We are proud that our legal community continues to support access to justice for those in need. Through the scheduled legal clinics, we will be able to assist an unprecedented amount of Mississippians with family law issues."

Gayla Carpenter-Sanders, executive director and general counsel of the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, said, "Pro bono work helps to bring closure to legal matters for individuals who cannot afford an attorney. MVLP is fortunate to work with attorneys across this state who dedicate countless hours to making sure we restore hope in the lives of our underserved residents."

Civil legal clinics scheduled throughout June and later this year are designed to give people enough basic legal advice and directions so that they can handle simple legal matters on their own in Chancery Court. Attorneys at the legal clinics will help clients prepare documents, give limited legal advice and help them get ready to go to court on their own.

The kinds of matters which may be addressed may vary at the different clinics. Limitations, if any, are posted on the clinic schedule on the Mississippi Judiciary website at this link: <https://courts.ms.gov/newsite2/Legal/CivilLegal.php>.

Here's the schedule for June:

- Forrest County, June 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Forrest County Chancery Court, 641 N. Main St, Hattiesburg;
- Lamar County, June 1, 9 a.m.-noon, Lamar County Chancery Court, 403 Main St., Purvis
- Marion County, June 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Marion County Chancery Court, 250 Broad St., # 2, Columbia
- Pearl River County, June 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Pearl River County Chancery Court, 200 S. Main Street, Poplarville, and 917 Goodyear Boulevard, Picayune
- Perry County, June 1, 1-3 p.m., Perry County Chancery Court, 103 S. Main St., New Augusta
- Alcorn County, June 5, 3-6 p.m., 600 East Waldron St., Corinth
- Scott County, June 7, 9 a.m. to noon, Scott County Courthouse, 100 E. First Street, Forest. Sponsored by the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project
- 9th Chancery District of Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey, Sunflower, Warren and Washington counties, June 7, 9 a.m., Warren County Courthouse, 1009 Cherry Street, Vicksburg
- 13th District of Covington, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Simpson and Smith counties, June 7, 1-5 p.m., Simpson County Courthouse, 111 West Pine Ave., Mendenhall. This clinic is limited to guardianships. Sponsored by the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project
- 17th Chancery Court of Adams, Claiborne, Jefferson and Wilkinson counties, June 7, 1-7 p.m., Adams County Chancery Court, Natchez. This clinic is limited to

guardianships and emancipations

- 18th Chancery District of Benton, Calhoun, Lafayette, Marshall and Tippah counties, June 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Lafayette County Courthouse, 300 N. Lamar Boulevard, Oxford. Residents of all counties in the district may attend this clinic. Sponsored by the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project
- Neshoba and Kemper counties, June 8, 9 a.m.-noon, Neshoba County Chancery Court, 401 East Beacon Street, Philadelphia. This legal clinic will include assistance with emancipation of minors, guardianship, irreconcilable differences divorce, name change and simple wills. Sponsored by the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project
- George and Greene counties, June 13, 9 a.m., George County Chancery Court, 355 Cox Street, Lucedale
- Jackson County, June 14, 9 a.m., Jackson County Chancery Court, 3104 Magnolia Street, Pascagoula
- Attala and Carroll counties, June 15, 9 a.m.-noon, Attala County Chancery Court, 230 West Washington St., Kosciusko. This legal clinic will include assistance with emancipation of minors, guardianship, irreconcilable differences divorce, name change and simple wills. Sponsored by the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project
- Bolivar County, June 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Bolivar County Courthouse, 200 South Court Street, Cleveland
- Hancock County, June 19, 1-4 p.m., Hancock County Chancery Court, 152 Main Street, Bay St. Louis
- Harrison County, June 19, 1-4 p.m., 730 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Biloxi
- Stone County residents may attend the June 19 Harrison County clinic in Biloxi, 1-4 p.m., 730 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Biloxi
- Choctaw and Winston counties, June 22, 9 a.m. - noon, Winston County Chancery Court, 154 South Court Avenue, Louisville. This legal clinic will include assistance with emancipation of minors, guardianship, irreconcilable differences divorce, name change and simple wills. Sponsored by the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project
- 4th Chancery Court of Amite, Franklin, Pike and Walthall counties, June 22, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pike County Chancery Court, 175 South Cherry Street, Magnolia;
- Leflore and Tallahatchie counties, June 22, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Leflore County Chancery Court, 310 West Market Street, Greenwood (uncontested matters only)
- Itawamba County, June 22, 2-5 p.m., 201 W. Main St., Fulton
- 14th Chancery District of Chickasaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha and Webster counties, June 26, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Lowndes County Chancery Court, 515 2nd Avenue North, Columbus. This clinic is limited to uncontested matters
- Lee County, June 27, 3-7 p.m. and Nov. 6, 3-7 p.m., 200 W. Jefferson St., Tupelo
- Copiah County, June 28, 3-7 p.m., Copiah County Fairgrounds, 240 W. Gallman Rd., Hazlehurst
- Rankin County, June 29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Rankin County Chancery Courthouse, 203 Town Square, Brandon
- 11th Chancery District of Holmes, Leake, Madison and Yazoo counties, June 29, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Madison County Chancery Court Building, Board of Supervisors Room, 146 West Center Street, Canton. This clinic is limited to emancipation, name change, irreconcilable differences divorce. Sponsored by the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project and Butler Snow LLP
- Coahoma, Quitman and Tunica counties, June 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Coahoma County Courthouse, 115 First Street, Clarksdale.

People seeking legal assistance must register in advance and be screened for eligibility based on income.

Eligibility to attend a clinic is limited to people whose income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. For example, that would be an annual income of \$24,280 or less for an individual; an annual income of \$32,920 or less for a two-person household; \$41,560 or less for a family of three; or \$50,200 or less for a family of four, based on the 2018 federal poverty guidelines of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

*For more information, contact Access to Justice Commission Executive Director Nicole McLaughlin at 601-960-9581 or [nmclaughlin@msbar.org](mailto:nmclaughlin@msbar.org).*



LEGAL	LEGAL	ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS:
<p>ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS EAST METRO LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICE PHASE 1 BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY JMAA PROJECT NO. 6000-001-18 May 2, 2018</p> <p>The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (“JMAA”) will receive sealed bids at the Jackson- Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (“JAN”), Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, in the City of Jackson, Rankin County, Mississippi, until 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on June 8, 2018 (the “Bid Deadline”), for services in connection with the East Metro Lawn and Landscaping Service, Project No. 6000-001-18, at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the “Work”).</p> <p>JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 2:05 p.m. Central Standard Time on June 8, 2018 (the “Bid Opening”), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building, Suite 300 at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to attend the Bid Opening.</p> <p>The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the wording: “East Metro Lawn and Landscaping Service Phase 1, JMAA PROJECT NO. 6000-001-18.” Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received by JMAA after the Bid Deadline will not be considered for any cause whatsoever.</p> <p>JMAA will award the Work to the lowest most responsive and responsible bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Information for Bidders. The Information for Bidders contains, among other things, a copy of this Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders and an Agreement to be executed by JMAA and the lowest and best bidder. Any Addenda issued clarifying and/or changing plans and specifications; clarifying and/or changing instructions in the Instruction to Bidders; and/or answering questions in relation to the Instruction to Bidders, including plans and specifications, shall become part of the Information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered a part of the Agreement.</p> <p>The Information for Bidders is on file and open for public inspection at JAN at the following address: Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport 100 International Drive, Suite 300 Jackson, Mississippi 39208 Telephone: (601) 939-5631 Email Address: dherndon@jmaa.com Attention: Deuntagus Herndon Procurement Specialist</p> <p>Bid Documents may be picked up, shipped, or emailed to the person making the request.</p> <p>The contact for all questions and submittal of Bids and required forms is Mr. Deuntagus Herndon, Procurement Specialist. Mr. Herndon can be contacted at dherndon@jmaa.com or 601-360-8622.</p> <p>JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 9:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on May 16, 2018, in the Community Room, 3rd Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly recommended for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference.</p> <p>JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid and to hold and examine bids for up to ninety (90) days before awarding the Contract.</p> <p>If it becomes necessary to revise any aspect of this Request for Bids or to provide additional information to Bidders, JMAA will issue one or more Addenda by posting on JMAA's website (<a href="http://jmaa.com/rfqrfb-center/">http://jmaa.com/rfqrfb-center/</a>). JMAA will also endeavor to deliver a copy of each Addendum, to all persons on record with JMAA as receiving a copy of the Information for Bidders, via email.</p> <p>JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 15% for the Work solicited by this RFB.</p>	<p>ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS EAST METRO LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICE PHASE 2 BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 6000-002-18 May 2, 2018</p> <p>The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (“JMAA”) will receive sealed bids at the Jackson- Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (“JAN”), Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, in the City of Jackson, Rankin County, Mississippi, until 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on June 8, 2018 (the “Bid Deadline”), for services in connection with the East Metro Lawn and Landscaping Service, JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 6000-002-18, at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the “Work”).</p> <p>JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 2:35 p.m. Central Standard Time on June 8, 2018 (the “Bid Opening”), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building, Suite 300 at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to attend the Bid Opening.</p> <p>The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the wording: “EAST METRO LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICE PHASE 2, JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 6000-002-18.” Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received by JMAA after the Bid Deadline will not be considered for any cause whatsoever.</p> <p>JMAA will award the Work to the lowest most responsive and responsible bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Information for Bidders. The Information for Bidders contains, among other things, a copy of this Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders and an Agreement to be executed by JMAA and the lowest and best bidder. Any Addenda issued clarifying and/or changing plans and specifications; clarifying and/or changing instructions in the Instruction to Bidders; and/or answering questions in relation to the Instruction to Bidders, including plans and specifications, shall become part of the Information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered a part of the Agreement.</p> <p>The Information for Bidders is on file and open for public inspection at JAN at the following address: Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport 100 International Drive, Suite 300 Jackson, Mississippi 39208 Telephone: (601) 939-5631 Email Address: dherndon@jmaa.com Attention: Deuntagus Herndon. Procurement Specialist</p> <p>Bid Documents may be picked up, shipped, or emailed to the person making the request.</p> <p>The contact for all questions and submittal of Bids and required forms is Mr. Deuntagus Herndon, Procurement Specialist. Mr. Herndon can be contacted at dherndon@jmaa.com or 601-360-8622.</p> <p>JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 10:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on May 16, 2018, in the Community Room, 3rd Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly recommended for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference.</p> <p>JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid and to hold and examine bids for up to ninety (90) days before awarding the Contract.</p> <p>If it becomes necessary to revise any aspect of this Request for Bids or to provide additional information to Bidders, JMAA will issue one or more Addenda by posting on JMAA's website (<a href="http://jmaa.com/rfqrfb-center/">http://jmaa.com/rfqrfb-center/</a>). JMAA will also endeavor to deliver a copy of each Addendum, to all persons on record with JMAA as receiving a copy of the Information for Bidders, via email.</p> <p>JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 15% for the Work solicited by this RFB.</p>	<p>ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS:</p> <p>ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS:</p> <p>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, June 26, 2018, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:</p> <p><b>Flowers Park Playground Improvement Project</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at <a href="http://www.centralbidding.com">www.centralbidding.com</a>. Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted at <a href="http://www.centralbidding.com">www.centralbidding.com</a>. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814. Contract Documents may be obtained from and/or examined at the offices of the City of Jackson's Public Works Department Engineering Division located at 200 S. President Street, Suite 424, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Telephone 601.960.1823. Prospective bidders may obtain copies of all materials required for bidding purposes. There is NO charge for electronic or e-mail copies.</p> <p>Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. 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 proposal which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.</p> <p>by: Robert K. Miller, Director Department of Public Works</p> <p>Vanessa Henderson Deputy Director Office of Housing and Community Development</p> <p>5/31/2018, 6/7/2018</p> <p>ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS:</p> <p><b>Advertisement for Bid Bid 3078 Food Service Furniture &amp; Equipment</b></p> <p>Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid 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) June 15, 2018, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.</p> <p>A complete bid package which contains bid instructions, specification response sheets, and bid training may be obtained by registering as a supplier at HYPER-LINK “<a href="http://tools.southernprocurement.com">http://tools.southernprocurement.com</a>” <a href="http://tools.southernprocurement.com">http://tools.southernprocurement.com</a> (select ‘Register/Login’) and then emailing <a href="mailto:vaughn@southernprocurement.com">vaughn@southernprocurement.com</a> to request a complete bid package. Please use the term “FOOD SERVICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT” in the subject line. Vendors must include full contact information, including company name, email address, telephone numbers and contact person in your email request. Email requests will be filled within 24 hours of submission or registration. Registration with Southern Procurement Services and acceptance of the Southern Procurement Services Platform Agreement is not optional and is required in order to participate in this bidding event. No exceptions will be made.</p> <p>Specification responses must be submitted for this bid event, and are due no later than Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 5:00 PM local time in order to be considered for this bidding opportunity. Bid responses should be delivered to: Vaughn Blaylock <a href="mailto:Vaughn@southernprocurement.com">Vaughn@southernprocurement.com</a></p> <p>5/31/2018, 6/7/2018</p>
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY	JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY	
DATE: May 2, 2018 /s/ Carl D. Newman, A.A. E.	DATE: May 2, 2018 /s/ Carl D. Newman, A.A. E.	
Carl D. Newman, A.A. E., Chief Executive Officer	Carl D. Newman, A.A. E., Chief Executive Officer	
5/24/2018, 5/31/2018	5/24/2018, 5/31/2018	

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JACKSON MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

JMAA PROJECT NO. 7000-008-18

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is issuing this request for proposals ("RFP") from qualified business entities for the development and operation of the In-Terminal Advertising Concession ("Concession") at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN").

JMAA will receive proposals at the Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, Jackson Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208, until 3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on July 20, 2018 ("Deadline"). JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever.

Information for Respondents relating to this RFP is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents and Criteria for Selection. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Ms. Robin Byrd, JMAA's Procurement Manager, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority  
100 International Dr, Suite 300 (39208)  
Post Office Box 98109  
Jackson MS 39298-8109  
Attention: Robin Byrd, Procurement Manager  
Telephone: (601) 360-8616  
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713  
E-Mail: rbyrd@jmaa.com

Or from JMAA's website at <https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/>

Based on the Proposals received, JMAA will select a maximum of three (3) Respondents with whom to enter into negotiations to provide the development and operation of the Concessions. JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first on the list. If negotiations fail to produce an agreement in form and content satisfactory to JMAA within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent and follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into a satisfactory contract with JMAA.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Conference at 10:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on June 6, 2018, in the Community Room, 3rd Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Submission Conference is not mandatory, however highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting Proposals as a Prime Contractor for the Concessions and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractors. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities, as well as being on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Submission Conference. In addition, a detailed review of the scope of work will be provided and discussed. No additional conferences or meetings will be scheduled.


JMAA reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Proposals, for any reason, and at any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Concessions.

JMAA has established an Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise ("ACDBE") participation goal of 20% of Goods and Services solicited by this RFP.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

5/24/2018 5/31/2018

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**Week of May 27, 2018**



# Black-owned family business of Jackson cuts ribbon in historic grand opening

By Cianna Hope Reeves  
JSU Student Intern

Four businesses, one roof and all operated by a black family.

Prolific Health and Wellness, Prolific LLC, Juanita Sims Doty Foundation (JSDF), and Tri-K Group opened their doors for the residents of Jackson May 17 in hopes to create a better environment of health and wealth.

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba and Chamber of Jackson Commerce Chairman Jason Duren, honored the four owners with certificates of appreciation for contributing to economic growth and vitality in the city.

As the entrepreneurs approached the podium, they thanked family, business partners, organizational firms and also pledged to continue to transform the lives of others.

Dr. Kimberly Smash, founder and family medical physician of Prolific Health and Wellness, said her top priority is to provide aid and to improve the condition of Jacksonians.

"We are here to be a blessing to serve each other and to love each other, and that's what I believe Prolific Health and Wellness will give to the community," she said.

With Mississippi ranking at the bottom in poor health, the physician promised change and encouraged all families to learn more in depth about their body through their clinical services.

"My staff and I believe that once you cross the threshold of Prolific Health and Wellness, you will not come out the same. We believe that we should care for your body, mind and spirit," Smash sincerely expressed.

The center provides wellness exams, women's health care, pediatric care, geriatric health care, chronic health care and more.

JSDF, led by Juanita Sims Doty, is an organization that has assisted Jackson since 2010 by working in the community through collaboration and communication.



Owners, family, business partners and public officials gather to cut ribbon for Prolific LLC grand opening ceremony May 17. PHOTOS BY CIANNA HOPE REEVES



Hallway view of the new establishment housing the Juanita Sims Doty Foundation



Mayor Lumumba bestows award to Physician Kimberly Stamps for opening Prolific Health and Wellness.



Mayor Lumumba gives honorary plaque to founder Juanita Doty of Juanita Sims Doty Foundation.



Business owner, Karla McCullough of Tri-K Group accepts award from Mayor Lumumba

The charity's major initiative is the ambassador of the Evers Academy for African American Males (A-TEAAM), a mentorship, character and leadership development program for young males residing not only in the capital area but also across the nation.

"We aim to lift and feed the overall spirit of our communities and our families throughout our cities, state, nation and our world," proclaimed Doty.

Lumumba, who is the honorary chairman of the A-TEAAM program, commended Doty for her ongoing commitment and the positive influence she has poured into the lives of the millennial.

"She has been a pillar in our community for such a long time.

Not only is she a great benefit to this establishment of business, but also to the children she has worked with," said Lumumba.

Doty noted she will continue to enhance the quality of life for young men by equipping them with the necessary skills, knowledge and support throughout the program.

Prolific LLC is under the direction of Jerriot Smash, who is also the husband of Dr. Smash.

With 13 years in the automobile industry and seven years in municipal government, Smash's expertise about the world of business and engineering initiated him to become a strategic consultant.

"My specific gift is to help people do their jobs better, and with my expertise Prolific LLC

has all the tools to reach not only municipalities but also other businesses," said Smash.

He vows to carry on his company and hopes to be an inspiration for others.

"Prolific means being fruitful and that's what I believe we could be to the city of Jackson, to this region and to make sure people know that there are great role models in this city," he said.

The fourth business to receive recognition was the Tri-K Group, a business consultant firm managed by Karla McCullough which helps profit and non-profit organizations in project design, project development and professionalism training.

McCullough said she is not only thrilled about the impact her business will have on ec-



Jerriot Stamps receives certificate of appreciation for launch of Prolific LLC launch.

conomic development in Jackson, but she is also eager to witness the success of each company.

"I look forward to the fantastic things that are not only going to happen with Rapha Hall, JJS Foundation, the tenants but also

with the city of Jackson," she expressed with gratitude.

With goals to improve the value of life through business and health, the family's grand opening solidified the commitment to do so.

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**"Families of children with disabilities are encouraged to apply regardless of income."**

**"Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP)"**

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- Proof of Hinds County residency** - lease, mortgage statement, current utility bill (light, water, gas or sewer), current phone or cable bill
- Child's Social Security number**
- Medical insurance of child (if applicable)**
- IEP or IFSP (if applicable)**
- Legal guardianship (if applicable)**
- Documentation of foster care (if applicable)**

For more information about Head Start, call (601) 923-3940. To apply, call HCHRA's 24-hour automated appointment line at (601) 962-9935.

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Helping Families, Strengthening Communities





By Kam Williams  
Columnist

Mechanic Grey Trace (Logan Marshall-Green) is a dying breed. He’s an old school, grease monkey who can roll up his sleeves and repair classic cars without the help of diagnostic computers.

One fateful day, he asks his wife Asha (Melanie Vallejo) to follow him in her car so he can return the Pontiac Firebird that he’s just finished working on to

its owner, high-tech mogul Eron King (Harrison Gilbertson). The eccentric billionaire has a subterranean laboratory hidden just beneath the ocean shoreline. He proudly tells the Traces about his company’s latest invention, an implantable computer chip with a mind of its own.

On the way home, Asha’s self-driving sedan inexplicably malfunctions and drives them to a seedy side of town where it crashes after careening around

a corner. The couple is subsequently set upon by a sadistic gang that murders her and leaves him a quadriplegic.

When Eron learns of Grey’s misfortune, he offers the grieving widower an opportunity to walk again. All that’s involved is installing a tiny, talking, computer circuit in his spinal cord called Stem (Simon Maiden). The only hitch is that having Stem inside is like sharing your body with another brain.

The operation successfully transforms Grey from a bed-ridden cripple into a superhuman vigilante capable of tracking down and exacting vengeance on his muggers in a bloody reign of terror. But to get even with the creeps, he has to temporarily allow Stem to take charge.

The plot thickens when Stem seems to have a hidden agenda. Might this powerful entity be attempting to wrest total control

of Grey’s body permanently? And towards what end?

That is the engaging premise of Upgrade, a riveting, revenge thriller written and directed by Leigh Whannell, creator of the Saw and Insidious horror flick series. As this timely film further unfolds, it magically morphs right in front of your eyes from a futuristic sci-fi into a thought-provoking, exploration of the hidden dangers of artificial intelligence.

A timely cautionary tale you don’t want to miss!

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated R for profanity, graphic violence and grisly images

Running time: 95 minutes

Production Studios: BH Tilt / Goalpost Pictures / OTL Releasing

Distributor: Blumhouse Productions / Universal Pictures

To see a trailer for Upgrade, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEnRNlvEKu8>

# Interview: Wim Wenders | Pope Francis: A Man of His Word

## The three-time Oscar-nominee delivers a reflective homily

By Kam Williams  
Columnist

Wim Wenders came to international prominence as one of the pioneers of the New German Cinema during the seventies and is considered one of the most important figures in contemporary German film. In addition to his many prize-winning feature films, his work as a scriptwriter, director, producer, photographer and author also encompasses an abundance of innovative documentary films, international photo exhibitions and numerous monographs, film books and prose collections.

Wim lives and works in Berlin with his wife, Donata Wenders. He studied medicine and philosophy before moving to Paris in

1966 to study painting. Though ostensibly pursuing an apprenticeship in the studio of the graphic designer and engraver Johnny Friedlaender, he spent his afternoons and evenings in the Cinémathèque Française. This “crash course in the history of film” would become the most important stage in his education, as he soon began to think of film as an “extension of painting by other means.”

Wim’s career as a filmmaker began in 1967, when he enrolled at the newly founded University of Television and Film Munich. While studying there, he also worked as a film critic. Upon graduating from the academy, he founded, together with 15 other directors and authors, the Film-

verlag der Autoren, a film distribution company for German auteur films, which organized the production, rights administration and distribution of their own independent films.

He proceeded to embark on an impressive career, during which he has netted a trio of Academy Award nominations for three feature-length documentaries: Pina, The Salt of the Earth and Buena Vista Social Club. Here, he talks about his new film, Pope Francis: A Man of His Word, a poignant portrait of the People’s Pontiff.

**Kam Williams:** Hi Wim, I’m honored to have this opportunity for an interview.

**WW:** I’m happy to do it, Kam.  
**KW:** What interested you in

Pope Francis?

**WW:** Already, his choice of name blew me away. It takes a lot of courage to take up the name of one of the great reformers and saints of the church, Saint Francis. It stands for a real and radical solidarity with the poor and the outcast, for an entirely different and new attitude towards nature and “our Sister Mother Earth,” as he called our planet tenderly, as well as for a strong stance in creating peace among the religions. No pope had ever dared to address that legacy, and adopting the name of Francis meant nothing less. From the beginning, Pope Francis made it clear that he’s willing to stand up for all these issues and take them all utterly seriously.

**KW:** How were you able to gain access to him?

**WW:** That came along with the invitation. You know, it would not have crossed my mind to make a film with Pope Francis, if the Vatican hadn’t approached me, asking if I’d be open to discussing that very task. All filmmakers probably take it for granted that this would



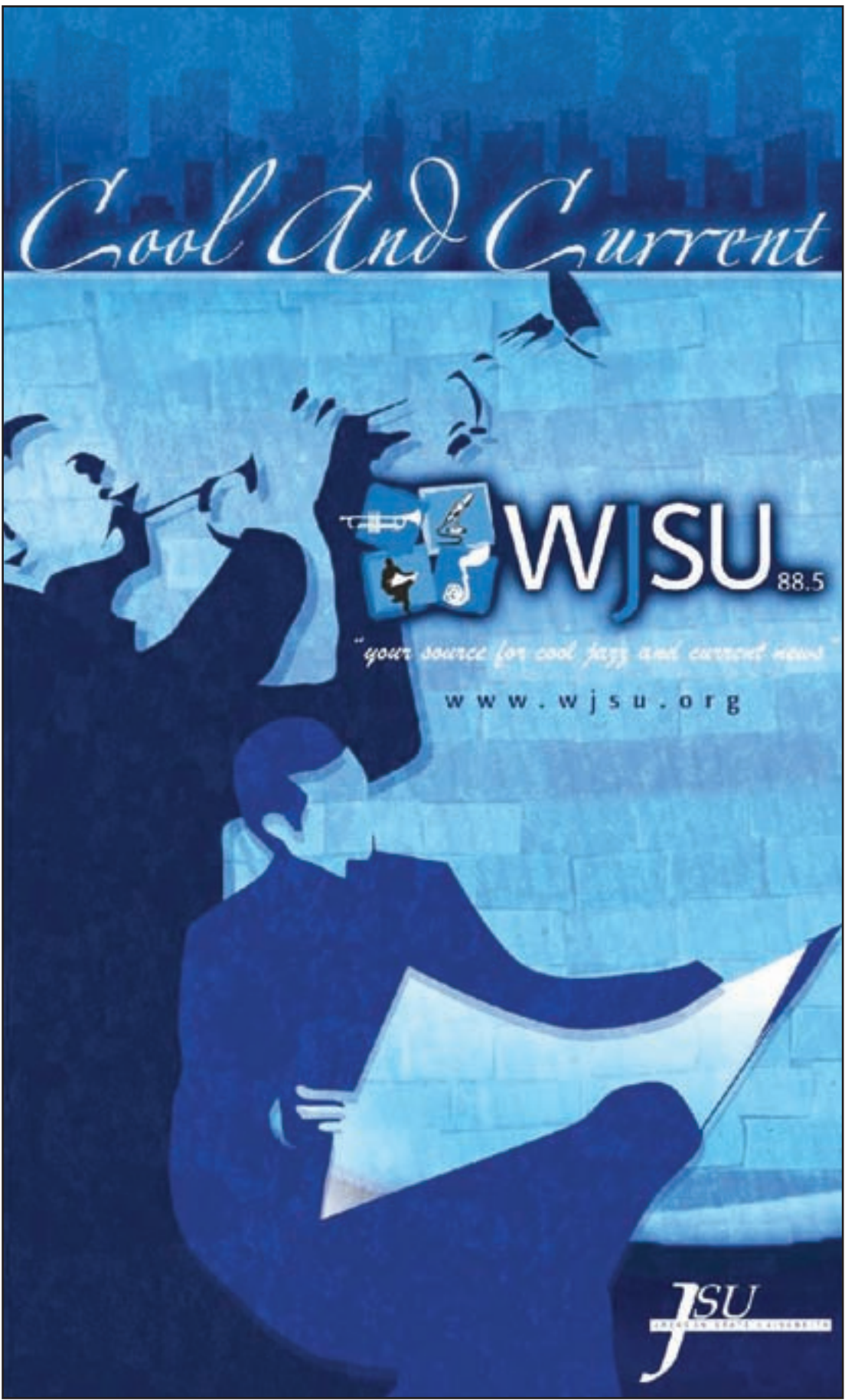
be an impossible thing to ask, so they don’t even ask. I guess that’s why Dario Viganò, at the time Prefect of the Secretariat for Communication, wrote that letter to me, asking me if I could imagine making a film about Pope Francis, and if I could possibly come by and talk about it. I was flabbergasted, yes, but I definitely could imagine it, yes, as well. When we then talked, it became clear that he meant a film that I would develop on my own, that we would have to find independent financing for, [no, this is not a Vatican production] that I could indeed shoot with

access to Pope Francis, and that I would also have full access to the Vatican’s archives. And finally, that this should be entirely my film, and that the Vatican was not going to interfere with it. How could I resist?

**KW:** How much traveling did you do with him?

**WW:** I only shot the long interviews sessions with Pope Francis, the re-enactments involving Saint Francis, and everything around the city of Assisi. Traveling along would have completely blown up our small and modest budget.

Read more online at [www.themississippilink.com](http://www.themississippilink.com)







# BOOK REVIEW: “DEAD ON ARRIVAL”

BY KIKI SWINSON  
C.2018, KENSINGTON DAFINA  
\$26.00 / \$28.95 CANADA • 288 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

You want that. And that, and that, and that. And some of those things over there because that’s human nature, especially if we want something we can’t have. So what would you do to get what you want? Would you, as in the new novel “Dead on Arrival” by Kiki Swinson, do something illegal? There was always another poker game. Reece Spencer hated to miss any of them, but he had to be

careful: he owed several grand for gambling and he was afraid his wife, Dawn, would find out. She’d already gone to her parents for money to keep the lights on and now she was demanding eight hundred bucks for fertility treatments. If it weren’t for his job at the Norfolk International Terminal piers and a little petty theft now and then, Reece knew he’d be in big trouble. But no, his supervisor, Ed, looked the other way while Reece and his buddies swiped the occasional big-screen TV from international containers

and sold the goods elsewhere. Ed knew how much his boys needed the dough, so he asked Reece and his friends if they wanted in on a big job. Reece was all ears. Fifteen thousand dollars. That was the pay-off. All they had to do was to move a couple of shipping containers to a different spot on the pier, but it had to be done quick and quiet without being seen. There were people inside those containers. Reece knew that human trafficking could mean prison time. But Ed swore there was no

way to get caught, and Reece believed him – even if Dawn didn’t. She loved the cash, hated the idea, but bills needed to be paid and she wanted a baby, so when the first job went smoothly and Ed’s contact wanted to hire them again, Reece was ready for more. On the second job, everything fell apart: three people escaped from a container and one died. The Feds found the body and more, and then someone started killing Reece’s friends. And someone else was watching his house...

At first, it seems that “Dead on Arrival” is awfully ho-hum, predictable. There’s drama here, squabbling, greed, profanity, nosy family, the usual near-pornographic sex-scene and yawn. Same old kind of novel, right? Nope. Keep reading, because author Kiki Swinson squeezes her plot until it’ll squeeze the breath out of you with twists and turns that are all-too-possible but will chill you like a horror novel. And here’s the thing: Swinson doesn’t over-write this tale, and she doesn’t

give readers everything. We aren’t allowed that full story; instead, we get just enough information, we’re left to fill in the blanks, and they aren’t pretty. This leads to an ending (don’t cheat!) that will make you scream (don’t cheat!) and throw the book against the wall – twice. Pick it back up, though, because this is a novel to share with someone, just so you can talk about it. If you’re in need of a vacation read this summer, think “Dead on Arrival.” Yeah. You want that.

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