

Golfers unite to save Grove Park course



Max Mayes of Raymond (left) and A.D. Jones of Jackson got in a few rounds of golf at Grove Park Golf Course Sept. 20 in Jackson. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

Historic course was first venue created for blacks

By Othor Cain
Contributing writer

Last week when word began to circulate that the 57-year old Grove Park Golf Course, nestled between Wards 3 and 4 in Jackson, was on the chopping block for closure, as part of the 2016-17 municipal budget, it sent shock

waves to those players that golf there on a regular bases.

“I think it’s shameful that they would decide to close this course without even notifying the public or the neighboring community,” Joseph Thompson, told WLBT.

Thompson has been playing the nine-hole course since 1978

and understands it’s rich historical value. “Pete Brown, the first African American to win a PGA tour event, learned to play on this course,” Thompson shared. “That in and of itself is reason enough to keep it open.”

Grove Park was created in Jackson during a time when

blacks were not permitted to play at other public courses that catered to the white community.

“This golf course was built to keep us from Sonny Guy Golf Course,” Carl Jones, a 25-year

Grove Park
Continued on page 3

Black Press visits new black museum

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Thousands of visitors are expected to attend the grand opening of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture Sept. 24; however, members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, also known as the Black Press, were among other media groups privileged to preview the museum Sept. 14, in Washington, D.C.

More than 30,000 artifacts have been collected for the museum; however, about 3,000 were available for the preview of the exhibit. Accord-

Museumy
Continued on page 3

More midwife stories sought

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

Brainstorming on the care nurse midwives once provided to women and babies decades ago took place at the Smith Robertson Museum Sept. 17, during the Scott Ford House Midwifery Project.

One of the project’s visionaries, Alferdteen Harrison, Ph.D., led the event that was held from 9 a.m. to noon.

Simultaneously, Robert Luckett, Ph.D., director of the Margaret Walker Research Center at Jackson State University, conducted oral history interviews in another section of the museum. In the afternoon, a Neighborhood Folk Festival was held at the Scott Ford houses located at 136 and 138 Cohea St. in Jackson, which is the site for the projected Scott Ford House Museum Complex.

Archivist Angela Stewart of the



Alferdteen Harrison, director of Scott Ford House, Inc. introduces District 69 House Representative Alyce G. Clarke (left) to render remarks as W.M. McClendon (center), Secretary of Scott Ford House Inc., looks on. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

Margaret Walker Center reported on the historical context of midwifery that began during biblical times. However, “In 1619 the early midwives came to the U.S. (and) were the root doctors on the

plantation. They were sensitive to the needs of women and children. They forged an important bond be-

Midwife
Continued on page 2

Walk, run, ride for sickle cell disease Sept. 25

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

Coming upon the 11th year of having the annual 5K Walk, Run and Ride, Cure Sickle Cell Foundation co-founder, Dee Nixon, has come to a disheartening realization – “This past year (in comparison to the 10 years prior), we have lost the most sickle cell survivors.”

The realization isn’t based on a data base of information, but just from Nixon’s general assessment of what she’s seen over the years.

Every year following the 5K, a balloon release is held in memory of those who have died from sickle cell disease.

“To me, it’s always important to honor those who



Jaden Nixon rides his way to the end of the Cure Sickle Cell Foundation's 5K Walk, Run and Ride at last year's event. PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Sickle cell
Continued on page 2

Voter Education Series launched at Tougaloo

By Chinyere Brown
Special to The Mississippi Link

Emphasizing the importance of voting in the black community, a six part interactive voter education series was launched at Tougaloo College Sept. 15.

Sponsored by the Reuben V. Anderson Pre-law Program at Tougaloo, the series began by hearing from Attorney and Jackson mayoral candidate Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Natalie Offiah and Brandon King.

According to program planners, many black people feel as if their votes don’t count.

The series is open to the public, along with students and members of the Tougaloo community to raise the importance of voting among students and community members.

Lumumba began by explaining how voting relates to the black community.



Natalie Offiah, Chokwe Antar Lumumba and Brandon King speak at the first event in a six-part series on voting importance at Tougaloo College Sept. 15. PHOTO BY D'MARKUS BURRELL, TOUGALOO COLLEGE

Tougaloo
Continued on page 2



Robert Graham addresses the media and supporters as he officially announced his candidacy for Jackson mayor Sept. 15 on the steps of the Hinds County Circuit Courthouse. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

Graham touts ‘experience’ to be mayor

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

Hinds County District 1 Supervisor Robert Graham officially announced his candidacy for Jackson mayor Sept. 15, on the steps of the Hinds County Circuit Courthouse.

Graham’s campaign is banking on his “experience, maturity and

leadership” – words etched on his campaign signs as reasons he should be the capital city’s next mayor.

Surrounded by supporters, local Attorney Crystal Wise Martin led the press conference by saying Graham is a “candidate that we can trust.”

Graham’s wife, Shirley Gra-

ham, introduced her husband describing his successes as “a true story of a workaholic.”

She shared how Graham started shining shoes on Farish Street in Jackson at the tender age of 9.

He later tagged along side his father, Robert Graham Sr., reading water meters during the summer. The job helped him become

more acquainted with different communities in Jackson.

After graduating from Lanier High School in 1971, Graham went to Chicago for school but soon returned to Jackson. He worked as a janitor – “taking pride in every aspect of the job,”

Graham
Continued on page 3



Midwife

Continued from page 1

tween the slave women and the plantation, despite an increase in male doctors,” Stewart said. The archivist further noted the midwives preserved and passed on African-American culture of health care to the next generation.

Eze Uzodinma honored his mother, Minta Uzodinma, as the shero who fought to save the Mississippi nurse midwives. “In 1970 she was the first to graduate from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. There was a rift between doctors and nurses. But when midwifery programs were closed, she lobbied to promote independent nurse midwifery practices,” he stated.

Judy Barber, director of Associate Health Workers, admired Minta Uzodinma as a dedicated visionary in the practice of midwifery. She told listeners she recalled the time when Uzodinma set out to save the midwifery pro-

gram.

Ivory Paul Phillips, Ph.D., dean emeritus of the School of Education at JSU, said of Uzodinma, “She delivered my first son in March 1973. The attending physician got drunk and was unable to attend the birthing. So she stepped in as nurse midwife and performed the delivery. It was five or six months later when I realized what had happened because husbands were not allowed in the delivery room at UMC.”

Charlene Thompson, field researcher of the Smith Robertson Museum, reported on the Scott Ford House Midwifery Project in the Second Congressional District. She identified four midwives from Bolton and found people either birthed by these women or who used these women to birth their children. Her research also comprised midwives from Edwards, Tutwiler, Webb, Sumner,

Utica and New Hebron.

Sharing continued during the Neighborhood Folk Festival with tours of the Scott Ford House grounds, music, food, crafts, a quilt demonstration and entertainment.

Dr. Freda Bush, an obstetrician and gynecologist who was once a nurse midwife, expressed that the value of midwives should be shared with the community.

Harrison denoted there were white midwives who delivered black babies and black midwives who delivered white babies. Thus, the midwifery project will house recorded stories of both races.

District 69 House Rep. Alyce G. Clarke informed those at the festival that Ruth Weir, Virginia Scott’s granddaughter, saw that the houses were to be auctioned. Weir called her to see if they could be salvaged. “Had it not been for that call, these houses would be

lost,” she said.

Harrison said the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson serves as the project’s sponsor. “We are projecting a first class museum. We will do historic gardening, and we will have an archeological bed. We intend this to be an educational project for school children.” Harrison added that thus far there has been no discovery of another property associated with midwifery.

Inquiries can be made at Scott Ford House, Inc., P. O. Box 1173, Jackson, MS 39215.

To donate go to: www.cfgi.org, click on Scott Ford logo and donate or send check for Scott Ford House to: The Community Foundation of Greater Jackson/525 East Capitol St., Suite 5B/Jackson, MS 39201.

To share stories, email: alferdeen@aol.com or call (601) 953-4060.

Tougaloo

Continued from page 1

“In reality, America has not gone wrong, America has never been right,” he said. “With the issues that the African-American community is facing; voting rights is just one of the issues. We have to consider how to find a new approach to an old problem,” said Lumumba.

In this time, according to Lumumba, “... now more than ever, we as blacks should come together and understand that we need to be more aware of our voting rights. We need to know who, what, when, where, why and how as it comes to getting our voices heard.”

He related words of wisdom from his father, the late Jackson Mayor Chowke Lumumba, asserting that his comrades drafted

his father. “We have to give the people something tangible, something the people can feel from community to community.”

Representing Cooperation Jackson, King explained his organization’s position that “one may ‘work’ the job, but they also ‘own’ the job.”

He expressed the importance of owning your own business and working for yourself. He described how many African Americans once owned their own co-ops. “A lot of us may know about Fannie Lou Hamer; she also owned her own co-op,” said King, who noted that Freedom Farms can be attributed to Hamer. “They collected money together, They went door to door mom-and-pop style,” he said.

King said more people know the story about how Hamer went out to try to vote. Word of her efforts got back to her boss, and she was fired from her job and put off sharecropper’s land. That created Freedom Farms, he said.

That is why blacks in the community have to stick together, because no one else was looking out for them, King said. Freedom Farms is an example of blacks working and sticking together.

Offiah addressed the audience by first asking them, “Who in this room is registered to vote? How many people in this room know someone who is old enough to vote but hasn’t?”

Tougaloo College continued the voting awareness series throughout the week with other speakers.

On Sept. 20, the theme of the evening event was “Why Voting Matters” with Dierdre Payne, poet and political commentator.

The remaining series are: Sept. 27 – “Voting Rights and Felons,” Sept. 29 – “Voting Rights and College Students,” Oct. 4 – “Vote: Building a Unified Power Base,” and Oct. 6 – “Nobody is Free til’ Everybody is Free.”

The series culminates with the last day when one can register to vote in the presidential election.

For more information, contact Attorney Timothy Howard, director of the Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Program at Tougaloo at (601) 977-7860.

Chinyere Brown is a senior and mass communications major at Tougaloo College.

Sickle cell

Continued from page 1

have passed and pay homage to let them know we are still down here working for them,” Nixon said.

As a parent of a child with sickle cell disease Nixon said, “Every birthday is special.”

Nixon, along with her husband, Dr. Larry Nixon, founded the Cure Sickle Cell Foundation.

“Our focus is slightly different (than why some other health awareness events/walks occur). That’s why we are driven,” she said.

The foundation’s 5K Walk, Run and Ride is its biggest fundraiser of the year. It’s set for 4 p.m. Sept. 25, at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson. Registration begins at 3 p.m.

More than 300 people are expected to attend so far, and onsite registration is available.

Individual registration is \$20. Individuals on teams of 10 people or more can participate for \$15 each. Cash and credit cards only will be accepted for payments – no checks.

A shorter distance Fun Run is scheduled for kids or those who can’t complete the entire 5K. Motorcyclists and bikers are welcomed to ride out the event. And golf carts or some form of transportation will be available to those who are disabled and can’t walk or run the 5K.

Iris Young, CSCF volunteer coordinator, board member and sickle cell parent, explained the purpose of the 5K is to not only generate funds but also raise awareness about sickle cell disease.

The disease affects about 100,000 Americans. Statistics show about one of every 13 African-American babies is

born with the sickle cell trait. One of every 365 African-American babies is born with the disease.

The CSCF gives funds to Blair E. Batson Hospital in Jackson where children with sickle cell disease are treated. The funds are earmarked for meal vouchers, emergency vouchers and parking vouchers. Funds raised will also support new programs the CSCF will start soon, including an after-school program and entrepreneurial program.

Young said the foundation holds “out-of-the-box” events year round such as a wine tasting around Valentine’s Day, Zumba classes and, most recently, the STRUT fashion show.

Nixon is grateful to all partners of the event, especially the city of Jackson and new partner, AARP of Mississippi.

Kimberly Campbell, the new state director of AARP, reached out to Nixon about supporting the cause.

“She wants to sow more into the community. She always says, ‘How can I help?’” Nixon said of Campbell, who is scheduled to share words on behalf of AARP during the event.

A couple of food vendors will be onsite for the walk. Kona Ice will sell frozen treats with a portion of the proceeds going to the foundation.

Those who can’t attend the 5K walk can still support CSCF through donations and by shopping through the Amazon Smile Give Back Program.

For more information, visit the foundation’s website at www.curesicklecell.org or find them on Facebook.

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Continued from page 1



Judge Rueben Anderson (from left), Max Mayes and A.D. Jones at Grove Park Golf Course in Jackson Sept. 20. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

Hendrix also made it clear that the city council didn't suggest closing

Mayor Tony Yarber has asked the council to revisit its budget. In a prepared statement on Sept. 20, the mayor said, "Rescinding the amendments would, most notably, restore funding for the Public Education Government Network and the Grove Park Golf Course. Those closures were not in my Administration's original proposed budget."

Continued from page 1

The lifelong Jackson resident and graduate of Jackson State University

"There's never been a massive layoff in this city like what is going on. The talk of closing Grove Park is absolutely pathetic and I don't think that Mayor Graham would actually stand for that. I think he would find a way to increase the budget and go out and find folk who would actually put money into the city."



Archie

Continued from page 1

Washington Monument in Washington D.C. and houses such artifacts as

And then there is an exhibit of the inauguration of President Barack

Redd Foxx, Moms Mabley, Dick Gregory, Ossie Davis, James Meredith,

President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama will attend the opening ceremony of the museum Sept. 24. They will be joined by former president George W. Bush and his wife, Laura Bush. Obama will deliver remarks during the opening ceremony.



An exhibit of Fannie Lou Hamer working during Freedom Summer is on display. PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

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Zeta Phi Beta to kick off 58th debutante season

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. will officially launch its 58th Debutante Season Sept. 25, at Jackson State University in the Welcome Center (located in the New Student Center on Dalton Street).

At this event, eligible high school young ladies, as well as college freshmen, are encouraged to come and meet past debutantes, as well as get information about joining the Debutante program. This organization has sponsored this annual debutante presentation since 1958, historically making it the longest running debutante cotillion comprised of young African-American ladies in the state of Mississippi.

Through the Zeta's distinct debutante program, highly qualified young ladies from the greater Jackson area will be selected by the sorority to cultivate and develop sound character, social principles and strong career aspirations. These tools serve as foundation that these young ladies will be a positive impact on society as they grow into adulthood.

Applications for the 58th debutante season are being accepted now through Sept. 30.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter is a non-profit community conscious, action oriented organization. Chartered on Oct. 14, 1938, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter is the 'oldest' Zeta Chapter in Mississippi and is comprised of more than 100 active members. The local chapter owns a Tutorial Complex, Stork's Nest and sponsors four auxiliary groups for community women and children.

For more information and to apply, visit www.adz1938.org or call (769) 3001-ADZ.

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From Left: Toni Braxton, Lonnie Bunch, Lauren Seroyer, Larry Tripplett, Donovan Smith, Charles Tillman, Wendy Raquel Robinson

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The featured guest speaker for this year's Gala will be **Johnny Donaldson**, President of BankPlus – Jackson. Tickets are \$50.00.

The Gala provides an important opportunity to create awareness about our programs and services; to celebrate our clients who have transitioned out of poverty and challenging circumstances; and to honor our volunteers and community partners who work with us throughout the year to help eradicate poverty and provide a better life for more than 57,000 low-income citizens throughout Hinds County.

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To make a donation or for more information on tickets, ads, and sponsorships, call 601.923.1838.



GUEST SPEAKER:
JOHNNY DONALDSON
President
BankPlus – Jackson

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Life sentences for nonviolent crimes have to stop in state



Simmons

Earlier last week, Jimmie Gates (*The Clarion-Ledger*) covered the story of Patricia Brown, who was sentenced to

life without parole for a single rock of cocaine. This shocking sentence was possible because, unfortunately for Ms. Brown, her case was covered by Mississippi’s “Big” habitual offender law. This three strikes law is both one of the broadest and one of the harshest such laws in the United States.

Because this law can cover so many cases, whether serious or minor, Ms. Brown’s case is not an outlier. As Mr. Gates mentioned, there are, as of a recent count over 100 people serving life without parole sentences for nonviolent crimes sentenced under this law. This lines up with numbers I have seen suggesting that nearly one-third of all people sen-

tenced to life without parole under this enhancement are serving life sentences for non-violent crimes.

Under this law, people have received mandatory life sentences for minor, nonviolent offenses like siphoning gasoline, stealing \$250 worth of tools, having traces of cocaine in a shirt or pants pocket and stealing a computer from Walmart. Mississippians of all stripes can agree that these are not the kinds of offenses that should send a person to prison for the rest of his or her natural life.

I agree with Mr. Gates that it is time – past time – to take a hard look at this enhancement. Over the last two years,

ills designed to refocus this enhancement on the kind of serious offenses it was designed for have enjoyed bipartisan support in the Mississippi Legislature.

One approach proposes a simple, common sense solution to ensure that this life sentence is reserved for cases where there is a real, compelling threat to public safety – not a low-level drug or property crime. The bill simply requires that, in order for someone to be eligible for a mandatory life sentence under this three strikes enhancement, both one of the two prior offenses and the current ‘third strike’ offense must be crimes of violence. No one would receive

a mandatory life sentence for siphoning gasoline or possessing a small amount of cocaine.

The second approach ensures this enhancement is applied fairly by giving the decision to the people of Mississippi – via the jury. Before a judge can sentence someone to life without parole under this law, the jury must look at all the factors and decide that a life sentence is appropriate. This is not a new requirement to Mississippi. Existing law for offenses like armed robbery, kidnapping, and second-degree murder provide for the imposition of a life sentence, but leave the decision of whether to impose life to the jury.

These two reforms will en-

sure that our most severe sanctions are reserved for more serious offenses and repeated violent offenses, and not applied to small-time drug and property crimes. This means we can focus our public safety resources on ensuring public safety, not needlessly incarcerating people for the rest of their lives.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the legislature, both Republican and Democrat, on promoting these common sense reforms.

Mississippi Sen. Derrick T. Simmons represents District 12, which includes Bolivar, Coahoma and Washington counties. He can be reached at dsimmons@senate.ms.gov.

NEWS BRIEFS

Habitat for Humanity, Nissan mark 10 Years of partnership

Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area has been granted \$84,000 as part of a donation from Nissan North America to help families across the country secure decent, affordable housing.

Nissan is kicking off its second decade of partnership with Habitat for Humanity with a \$1 million donation, bringing contributions in North America to more than \$14 million over the past 11 years.

Nissan employees will volunteer to support construction or revitalization projects in 12 Habitat communities this year. Additionally, Nissan is donating nine vehicles to be used locally by Habitat offices.

“Nissan values its partnership with Habitat for Humanity because it delivers strong results each year in building sustainable communities in the areas where our employees live and work,” said Nissan Vice President Rebecca Vest.

Nissan’s partnership with Habitat began in 2005 when it donated 50 trucks and mobilized employees to assist in home building following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast region. In the last decade, Nissan has donated an additional 88 vehicles. Since 2006, Nissan’s employees have logged more than 80,000 volunteer hours with Habitat for Humanity, building 71 homes across the U.S.

Virginia College plans ‘Go For The Gold’ event Sept. 24

Virginia College in Jackson will host “Go For The Gold,” an enrollment event for prospective students and their families from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 24, at the campus located at 5841 Ridgewood Road.

While learning about the educational opportunities available to Jackson-area students at Virginia College, attendees are also invited to enjoy activities for all ages. The event is part of Virginia College parent company Education Corporation of America’s National Enrollment Event being held simultaneously at 64 other Virginia Colleges, Brightwood College, Brightwood Career Institute and Ecotech Institute locations throughout 16 states.

Throughout the event, admission counselors will be on hand to discuss careers that best suit prospective students’ individual skills and interests. Additionally, attendees can tour the campus, hear about the hands-on training approach characteristic of Virginia College programs, meet faculty, students and staff including the financial aid office, learn about the application and enrollment process and experience the variety of programs through live demonstrations led by current students.

For more information about Virginia College in Jackson, visit www.vc.edu/jackson. To register for the National Enrollment Event, visit www.vc.edu/gold.

JSU mourns tragic loss of student; No foul play suspected

Jackson State University is saddened to announce the death of junior civil engineering major Benjamin O. Sabine, who was found deceased in Campbell Suites Residence Hall in the early-morning hours of Sept. 20.

“Our hearts go out to the family, and we mourn this tragic and untimely death. Our students are always our first concern, and we have made counselors available to help them cope with this unfortunate loss,” said JSU President Carolyn W. Meyers.

According to the Hinds County Coroner’s Office, there was no evidence of foul play; however, the incident is still under investigation. A toxicology report will be released pending the results of an autopsy. Continue to follow JSU’s Twitter account @JacksonStateU for accurate information.

Public invited to Boys & Girls Clubs’ Day for Kids event Sept. 24

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Mississippi will host its Day for Kids event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 24, at the Capitol Unit, 1450 W. Capitol St. in Jackson.

The public is invited to the event designed to highlight the critical needs of kids and teens in the community. Today, many youth are facing serious issues that can deprive them of a happy healthy childhood and negatively impact their future.

Day for Kids celebrates the life changing work taking place at Boys and Girls Clubs each day by encouraging adults to spend meaningful time with young people and engage in fun and active play. This year’s Day for Kids will be celebrated with 500 parents and kids participating in an event at Boys & Girls Clubs Capitol Unit.

The Day for Kids aligns with Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Mississippi’s overall initiative to help kids and teens become more actively engaged in their community, live a healthy lifestyle and achieve academic success. The ‘play’ incorporated in the Day for Kids event fosters creativity, imagination, exploration and helps kids develop and master various skills.

The Club is open five days a week, opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 8 p.m. Youngsters interested in joining the Club, learning more about BGC Day for Kids or other youth programs can contact Ron Thornton at (601) 969-7088 or email rthornton@bgccm.org.

Third annual Ovarian Cycle Jackson seeks to raise awareness, funds

Riders from across the state will come together at the third annual Ovarian Cycle@Jackson spin celebration on Sept. 29, at the Club at Township. Presented by Newk’s Cares and St. Dominic’s Hospital, the event seeks to raise critical awareness and support of ovarian cancer prevention in addition to funds for treatment research through the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance.

According to the National Cancer Institute, women with ovarian cancer have a 46 percent survival rate for the five years after diagnosis, compared to 89 percent for those diagnosed with breast cancer and almost 67 percent among all cancer patients. This is due in large part to no early screening test, like a mammogram, to identify the disease in its most treatable stage.

The Ovarian Cycle@Jackson will kick off with a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Cycling sessions will start every hour, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., where participants can ride at their own pace while instructors keep their spirits high and smiles wide. Individual riders and teams are invited to register for one of five 45-minute time slots at Newk’sCares.com.

Over the past two years, Newk’s Cares raised more than \$300,000 through Ovarian Cycle@Jackson. For more information, please visit Newk’sCares.com.

Services set for WJTV’s Dotson

From staff reports

The Jackson community continues to mourn the loss of WJTV-TV reporter Melanie Dotson, 22, who died Sept. 16.

Described as a young and promising reporter, Dotson was an alumna of Tougaloo College and native of Brandon.

A public viewing is set for 4-8 p.m. Sept. 23 at the Woodworth Chapel on Tougaloo’s campus. The funeral is set for 11 a.m. Sept. 24, at the Brandon Municipal Complex, 1000 Municipal Drive in Brandon.

Dotson graduated from Tougaloo in May 2015 with a bachelor’s degree in mass communications

with an emphasis in radio and television broadcasting. Her first professional job was at WXVT-TV in Greenville, where she was the weekend anchor, producer and weekday reporter. She began working at WJTV in April of this year. Dotson was also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

When announcing Dotson’s sudden death during the 4 p.m. broadcast Sept. 16, WJTV news anchor Melanie Christopher mentioned Dotson had recently been hospitalized.

According to Hinds County Coroner Sharon Grisham Stewart, Dotson died of natural causes.



Dotson PHOTO COURTESY WJTV

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Turcotte shows passion for organ donation

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Bert Turcotte, 53, started cycling five years ago.

"I became interested in cycling as a way to spend time with my sons, while at the same time guiding them toward a lifestyle that includes daily exercise," said Turcotte, who has been the director of nurses at John C. Stennis Hospital in DeKalb for the past five years.

Married for 29 years to Sharon Turcotte and father of two sons, Owen and Matthew, cycling became such a passion for Turcotte that he turned to running triathlons. The passions of working with his sons, cycling and triathlons have also allowed him to fulfill another passion – promoting organ, eye and tissue donation.

"In doing the cycling and running events, I would see people with different advertisements on their jerseys," said the Philadelphia native. Turcotte decided he wanted to promote something he felt strongly about. Organ, eye and tissue donation fit that bill because those incredible gifts touched his heart many years ago.

"I first learned about donation, when a friend's child was killed in a tragic accident and her child gave the ultimate gift of organ donation. This experience had a big impact on me wanting to promote donation."

"Bert is a valuable member of the donation community," says Kevin Stump, chief executive officer of Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency. "His passion for donation and saving and healing lives sets a great example for not only our hospital partners, but the community in general."

Turcotte has also seen the positive outcomes that donation can lead to for those in need of lifesaving and life healing transplants. "I have several friends that have been recipients and have had a great outcome from donation."

Turcotte explained how a neighbor experienced a second chance at life through donation. "He was so sick and now through organ donation



Bert

he is back working and once again active in the community and in his church."

Turcotte has been recognized for his efforts to promote organ, eye and tissue donation by staff members of MORA, who nominated him multiple times for a Spero Award. Those awards are handed out annually by the agency to community and business partners who help to enhance MORA's mission of saving and healing lives through donation.

His goal is not winning awards though. It is to create awareness about the gifts of organ, eye and tissue donation and the impact it can have on the lives of both donor families and recipients and he is very willing to share his thoughts. "People ask me what is Donate Life and I explain to them what it is. I generally receive a positive reaction or folks will just give me a thumb's up when they are running past me or

DONORS NEEDED

Approximately 1,500 Mississippians and 122,000-plus Americans are in need of a lifesaving transplant. A new patient is added to the national transplant waiting list every 10 minutes and an average of 22 people die each day awaiting for a lifesaving transplant that never comes. One organ donor can save eight lives and one tissue donor can save or heal the lives of 50 recipients or more. To register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor go to www.itssupereasy.org. For more information on MORA visit www.msora.org.

cycling by me," he said with a slight chuckle.

Finishing place aside, Turcotte will continue to spread awareness and the good news about donation whether it is in his daily duties or one mile at a time on his feet or on his cycle.

Mississippi Suicide Prevention Plan announced

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health has released its first state plan for suicide prevention, making an important step in efforts to prevent the loss of lives by suicide in Mississippi.

Though the agency and its partners in the community have worked for years at suicide prevention efforts and to fight the misconceptions of mental illness, the Mississippi Suicide Prevention Plan marks the first time a comprehensive plan has been formalized and adopted. It is available on the DMH website. Its release in September carries special significance as September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

"Whether we realize it or not, many of our friends and neighbors have been affected by suicide or mental illness," DMH Executive Director Diana Mikula said. "Suicide affects people across all ages, races, and backgrounds, but through collaboration, sharing resources, and working towards common goals, we can prevent the tragedy of suicide."

The plan contains three core sections: assessment, capacity and goals and objectives. The assessment section addresses demographics and trends in the mental health field. The capacity section examines resources that are currently available to help address suicide. The goals and objectives section are the specific targets DMH is working towards with the plan.

Also included throughout the plan is a series of stories written by people who have been affected by suicide, ei-

HOTLINE

One thing all Mississippians should be aware of now is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. DMH is the statewide provider for this lifeline in Mississippi, and the line is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It can be reached at 1-800-273-8255. DMH also operates a toll-free helpline available at all hours by calling 1-877-210-8513.

Anyone who feels they need help, or who knows someone who appears to need help, is encouraged to call one of those numbers any time of the day and any day of the week. All calls are confidential and help is available at all times.

ther as loved ones or friends of someone who took his or her own life, or as people who have attempted suicide or had suicidal thoughts themselves. Though some names have been changed, they are all the experiences of Mississippians who have faced tragedy.

Mississippi Board of Mental Health member Teresa Mosley shared her own personal experiences in the story, telling of the loss of her daughter Elisabeth.

"There was such a stigma attached to suicide and I wanted to share Elisabeth's story in an attempt to start a conversation with individuals whose lives had been touched by this tragedy," she writes in her story in the plan.

She said that unless someone is a suicide survivor, others have no idea how it feels to lose someone to the tragedy of suicide.

"When studying suicide, we

like to look at statistics," Mosley said. "However, those statistics don't really make it real. It's real when you love one of the numbers."

Suicide is the 12th leading cause of death overall in Mississippi, but among people aged 10 to 24-years-old, it is the third leading cause of death. Suicide rates also increase with age, and older adults have the highest suicide rates.

The plan's four goals hope to address those statistics, leading to greater coordination of suicide prevention activities, increase partnerships between public and private organizations, and promoting and improving mental health literacy and attitudes about mental health.

Mississippi's First Lady, Deborah Bryant, shared a letter in the plan mentioning how she had been affected by suicide.

"I have seen first-hand the effect that suicide has on people's lives, and my hope is that we do all we can to prevent unnecessary deaths by suicide," she said.

She also notes that suicide affects people in all walks of life. "People from all populations – young adults, military, older adults, males and females – will be impacted by the goals and objectives in this Plan. An integrated and coordinated effort is essential to prevent suicide attempts and deaths, and to save the lives of those we love," she wrote.

The Mississippi Suicide Prevention Plan is available on the DMH website, www.dmh.ms.gov, located in the Resource Library.

'Y'all Vote' site launches; change voter info online

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippians no longer have to leave the comfort of their home or office to change their existing voter registration information.

"Y'all Vote" – located at www.yallvote.sos.ms.gov – launched Sept. 14, in connection with National Voter Registration Month. The site allows citizens already registered to vote to change their voter-roll information by submitting an online application, and acts as an online voter information center aimed at preparing voters to cast a ballot on Election Day.

The 2016 General Election, which includes races for U.S. President and House of Representatives, is scheduled Nov. 8, 2016.

"Using modern technology to streamline the process for registered voters to update their information makes sense for voters and circuit clerks," said Governor Phil Bryant, who signed legislation enabling Y'all Vote in April 2016. "I am pleased that legislation I signed this year has made it possible."

Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann agreed.

"Making it more convenient for Mississippi voters to change preexisting information, while ensuring the security and accu-

cy of information submitted, was the ultimate goal of Y'all Vote," Hosemann said. "However, there are numerous other benefits, including saving taxpayers' time and money. We will be able to print less paper applications and process information more efficiently. Voters will not have to pay for postage."

Changing voter registration information on Y'all Vote is accomplished in three steps online.

For a change in name or address to be processed, a voter must provide his or her county, name, date of birth, and the last four digits of his or her social security number so the voter can be located in the Statewide Elections Management System, Mississippi's voter registration database. A voter must also be located in the Department of Public Safety database by providing his or her name, address, date of birth, and driver's license or identification number exactly as the information appears on his or her state-issued license or ID. The new information is then available to the relevant circuit clerk, who also checks for accuracy. Providing false information on Y'all Vote is a crime.

Importantly, address changes after Oct. 8, the deadline for registering to vote in the General Election, require the voter to

contact the circuit clerk in his or her county in which the voter is currently registered.

Y'all Vote is the product of study groups organized by the Secretary of State's Office in 2015 which examined the need and feasibility of implementing online voter registration in Mississippi.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, House Apportionment and Elections Chairman Bill Denny (R-Jackson) authored House Bill 809, which provided the Secretary of State's Office the authority to create the online registration update portion of Y'all Vote. Senate Elections Chairwoman Sally Doty (R-Brookhaven) authored the Senate version of the bill.

National Voter Registration Month, a voter registration awareness campaign sponsored by the National Association of Secretaries of State, runs throughout September.

More than 1.8 million active voters are registered in Mississippi. With more than 80 percent of the eligible voting-age population registered to vote, Mississippi has one of the highest voter registration rates in the country.

For more information on how to register to vote in Mississippi, visit the Secretary of State's website.



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JPS educators honored for challenging inspiring, engaging scholars

Mississippi Link Newswire

Parents for Public Schools of Jackson with support from the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson recognized four teachers from the Jackson Public School District as Outstanding Educators for 2015-2016.

PPSJ Outstanding Educator awards were presented at PPSJ's Lunch Bunch Community Forum meeting Sept. 7, where principals, the community and PPSJ's membership participated in a tribute to the honorees.

"These 2016 honorees exemplify the investment made by hundreds of JPS educators each and every day, who work diligently inside and outside the classroom, without additional compensation or reward, to develop the minds and character of our children," said Carolyn Jolivette, executive director of PPS of Jackson.

"We are delighted to recognize our outstanding educators by supporting this award," said Jane Alexander, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson. "Our teachers are our strength in public schools, and we should certainly be proud of the fine work they do. It's important to celebrate the many great things teachers are accomplishing in our community."

2016-2017 Outstanding Educators

Anna Culpepper, Walton Elementary (Mathis Sheriff,



Parents for Public Schools Executive Director Carolyn Jolivette, (left) is shown with Outstanding Educator honorees of Jackson Public Schools Anna Culpepper, Darling King-Shelby, Delane Lesh, Ph.D., Sholanda Stewart, and Community Foundation of Greater Jackson CEO Jane Alexander.

principal): Culpepper is a first grade teacher at Walton Elementary. Culpepper has 18 years of teaching experience in the classroom. She has served as a first and second grade teacher at Walton. She consistently engages her students in challenging and meaningful work that develops higher order thinking and problem solving skills to connect learning to the real world. She uses data effectively to ensure the needs of all scholars are met through varied teaching strategies and activities.

Beyond the classroom, she chairs the Box Tops for Education project to acquire additional resources to impact teaching

and learning. Culpepper is adamant about parental engagement. As team leader for her grade level, she organizes First Friday activities to get parents involved in the classroom as teachers, readers, mentors, or observers. She is truly an amazing teacher who teaches from the heart and with so much passion for scholars' academic success.

Darling King-Shelby, Dawson Elementary (Vicky Conley, principal): King-Shelby, a fourth and fifth grade reading teacher at Dawson Elementary, has four years of teaching experiences. She is a teacher who models differentiated instructions on a daily basis to ensure

the academic growth of all of her scholars. She also organizes teams in the classrooms to help build a classroom community where students can learn from each other.

King-Shelby believes that there must be an open line of communication between parents and teachers to ensure the success of scholars. Therefore, she is a teacher who is available to parents before, during, and after school hours. She acknowledges that parent engagement equals success.

Delane Lesh, Ph.D., Spann Elementary (Nicole Menotti, principal): Lesh has 16 years of teaching experience in the classroom, with six years be-

ing served as a third-grade math teacher at Spann Elementary. As a teacher, she endeavors to get students to develop the habit of linking events in their lives and building meaning from their experiences. For every concept she teaches, she has found a way to include real world scenarios to master the learning concepts. Lesh serves as third grade team leader, charged with ensuring all third grade teachers have the tools and guidance they need to lead students to success.

She believes in the power of parental engagement and goes beyond the call of duty to keep parents informed and involved. Parents admire her because of

the gift of learning that she bestows upon them.

Sholanda Stewart, Pecan Park Elementary (Wanda Quon, principal): Stewart is a fifth-grade math teacher at Pecan Park Elementary. As a teacher, she creates lessons where her students are physically engaged. She addresses the need of all scholars, both individually and collectively. She modifies instructions based on scholar's academic levels indicated by data. Stewart has successfully bridged the gap between her scholars by allowing them to work cooperatively and infusing technology to engage them.

She has served as teacher mentor for student interns and student teachers to help them grow and thrive in the field of education. She provides parents and students with home projects to promote parental engagement and extended learning opportunities for scholars.

Parents for Public Schools of Jackson presents Outstanding Educators Awards to teachers who promote excellence by engaging scholars in challenging and meaningful work, incorporating a variety of effective teaching strategies, providing a safe learning environment and interacting with parents as partners.

Each honoree received a certificate and a cash award provided by the Outstanding Educator Award Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson.

3 JPS Town Hall meetings slated



JPS Superintendent Cedrick Gray addresses the audience attending the first in a series of ongoing School Board Town Hall meetings to discuss the district's accreditation and Corrective Action Plan.

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools is hosting Town Hall meetings to address the community's questions about the recently released findings of a Mississippi Department of Education audit and what it means for the district's students.

Time and locations

- From 6-8 p.m. Sept. 22, Siwell Academy of Leadership Preparation Middle School, 3655 Livingston Road
- From 6-8 p.m. Sept. 27, Forest Hill High School, 2607 Raymond Road
- From 6-8 p.m. Oct. 6, Hanging Moss Church of Christ, located at 5225 Hanging Moss Road

The meetings afford JPS an opportunity to address the community's questions and share ongoing progress toward resolving the issues raised in the audit.

Opening the first Town Hall on Aug. 30, Board President Beneta Burt acknowledged the district's challenges but expressed

its commitment to providing effective leadership and openness to the community.

"We want to be as transparent as possible, because, in that transparency, we think that we will be able to ask you to help us make Jackson Public Schools the best school district in this state."

JPS Superintendent Cedrick Gray and district administrators joined Burt on the platform to clarify specific concerns from the audit and the status of the district's Corrective Action Plan. Presenters included Chief of Staff Jason Sargent, High Schools Chief Academic Officer Fredrick Murray, Transportation Executive Director Derick Williams and Facilities Executive Director Fred Davis.

Murray dispelled reports that some high school graduates did not deserve their diplomas and assured that all JPS graduates had met the state-approved

requirements. However, he agreed to the need for improvements in record-keeping, and a process has been put in place to clear this CAP standard.

"Each student who has earned a diploma in this school district has earned the privilege of calling themselves a high school graduate, and we say that with no reservations," said Murray.

Fire safety and security measures have been enhanced or put in place to address the safety concerns of the auditors. The district is purchasing new extinguishers, and campus enforcement is increasing the number of officers at high schools. Community members from across the city of Jackson attended.

The Transportation Department is hiring bus drivers and ramping up its driver certification program. The department also has plans to buy new buses and equip the entire fleet with GPS.

Millennials can end smoking's harmful effects; campaign underway at Tougaloo

COMMENTARY

By Yasmin J. Gabriel
and Michael J. Cleveland
Special to The Mississippi Link

Millennials are faced with a shrinking middle class and high unemployment. Consequently, it makes sense that we worry about our financial futures more than the generation before us, and that we're the first generation since the depression era (almost 80 years ago) to make our earning potential and financial independence so top of mind.

All this financial anxiety has made us pretty good penny pinchers. Nearly 60 percent of millennials classify themselves as "savers" vs. "spenders," and more than two-thirds of us agree that constantly buying new stuff is overrated. When it comes to our finances, we're savvy, but there's one thing impacting our wallets in a way that the vast majority of us don't even realize: tobacco use.

Research shows that smokers earn 20 percent less than non-smokers. That translates into young adult smokers missing out on up to \$10,000 a year.

Think of all the amazing experiences these smokers miss out on because they are smoking. Oh, and that \$10,000 doesn't not include the cost of cigarettes, which cost a pack-a-day smok-



er, an average of \$2,193 a year. With that amount of money, you could buy 47 concert tickets, 7 round-trip plane tickets to anywhere in the U.S., 253 movie tickets, or 14 X 14 solar powered tiny cabin.

With so many uncontrollable factors impacting our financial success and sense of security, it's important for us to fully understand – and eliminate – this one burden that we can control. It's time to end smoking, and this smokers' wage gap, for good.

Today, millennial's cigarette use is down to a historic low of 7 percent.

This is incredible, especially considering that a whopping 23 percent of young adults smoked back in 2000.

But tobacco remains the No. 1 cause of preventable deaths in this country, and almost half-a-million Americans will die from tobacco-related causes this year. One in three youth smokers will eventually die from tobacco-related diseases.

And to make matters worse, Big Tobacco is currently spending \$9.6 billion every year to market its products and hook new smokers to replace the more than 1,300 smokers who die each

day from tobacco-related deaths.

But the good news is we can do it. We can be the generation that ends smoking for good. Our generation, Millennials, has some tenacity and will lead the change. As members of the Mississippi community at Tougaloo College, we're tough, we're resilient, we're justice seekers. In a scary world where so much is uncertain, we can take a stand for what's right. Together, we can overcome Big Tobacco. Together, we can build a successful, bright, tobacco-free future.

Get involved in the #FinsihIT movement by visiting www.thetruth.com, following @truthorange on Twitter and sharing the message of #SQUADLESS. If you are interested in learning more about Tougaloo College's Smoke-Free Taskforce, follow us @tougaloocollege on Twitter, or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/tougaloocollege> and if you want more information, contact Yasmin J. Gabriel at ygabriel@tougaloocollege.edu or either Michael J. Cleveland at mcleveand@tougaloocollege.edu.

Yasmin J. Gabriel, Esq. is special assistant to the President of Tougaloo College. Michael J. Cleveland is Tougaloo College's 2015-2016 Student Government Association president.

JSU's Madison campus sees 68% growth for fall

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson State University Madison campus experienced a whopping 68 percent increase in enrollment for fall 2016 that is attributed to an aggressive campaign targeting transfer students along with its expanded course offerings.

In a year in which the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning reported the largest ever fall enrollment statewide for the entire system, JSU Madison has recorded an unprecedented growth that appears unmatched with any other educational entity. Enrollment soared to 671, compared to 399 in 2015.

“Our 68 percent growth in enrollment at our Madison campus is phenomenal and validates our investment in expanding the opportunity to access higher education for all citizens in the metro area. This clearly shows that Jackson State University is meeting a real need in this community and providing a quality educational experience that is in demand and deserved by our citizens,” JSU President Carolyn W. Meyers said.

Priscilla Slade, special assistant to the provost for JSU Global and Community Colleges who spearheads the Madison efforts, credits the growth to heavy print, radio and television marketing, along with geographic conveniences and state-of-the-art facilities and technology.

“As for JSU Madison, we offer full-degree programs that include



Meyers

master's degrees in education, certificate programs in gerontology as well as social work and real estate licensure programs. Because we're focused on providing quality service, our eyes never leave the students,” Slade said.

Judy Qualls, site coordinator of JSU Madison, said the campus attracts a large number of transfer students. Located at 382 Galleria Parkway, Suite 110, the campus experienced a significant hike in the number of students studying criminal justice and health care administration, among other areas.

“There has been a great deal of work by many individuals within

the Community College Relations team that made this increase possible,” said Qualls, who described Madison as an ideal location for those seeking to broaden their skills. In addition, she said students especially identify with the appeal of “a small classroom setting and one-on-one relationships with their instructors.”

JSU marketing director Ashton Hall said JSU Madison has shown tremendous growth in enrollment and program offerings in the past two years.

“Marketing works closely with JSU Madison to ensure placement of tailored messaging, defining target audiences and imple-

mentation of various measurable tactics.

Tactics include migration from heavy print advertising to more strategic marketing such as digital advertising. JSU Madison's digital footprint has grown significantly, garnishing more 1.4 million impressions in only a few months. What sets JSU Madison apart is its openness to our sometimes ‘out of the box’ thinking and implementations to reach students where they are.”

Other enrollment data show that the main campus saw a 20 percent growth in international students and a 49.8 percent increase in JSU Online.

Congress to Campus Program promotes civic understanding at Alcorn

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Former members of the United States Congress shared key information with Alcorn State University students about civic literacy and participation.

Alcorn's School of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Social Sciences hosted the Congress to Campus Program Sept. 14-15.

The United States Association of Former Members of Congress, in partnership with the Stennis Center, operates the Congress to Campus Program for Public Service. The program's purpose is to enlighten today's youth and young adults on civic literacy and participation.

The Honorable Les AuCoin (D-Oregon) and the Honorable Claudine Schneider (R-Rhode Island) delivered keynote speeches at the Medgar Wiley Evers Auditorium in the J. D. Boyd Library Sept. 14.

AuCoin spoke to the students about the importance of exercising their right to vote. He stated that their right to vote holds an immense amount of power, and

that they should take advantage of their opportunity to help shape the future.

“You have to make the choices that are the best for you,” said AuCoin. “Not participating in exercising your vote can be detrimental to the future. We may not have much, but what we do have is our right to vote. It's up to your generation to help us ensure that we participate as much as possible to choose the candidate who will have everyone's interest at heart.”

The speakers enlightened Austin Pope, a sophomore and business administration major. He said that he hopes the program becomes an annual event so that more students can be informed about taking a stance in society, voting and other political issues.

“I thought the program was really good and helpful,” said Austin. “It really opened my eyes to a lot of things I wasn't aware of. I hope they bring the program back next year because it's a great way of informing students about politics.”

Federal 21st Century grants to be awarded to eligible programs

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) announced today that approximately \$5.6 million in federal funds for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) will be distributed to eligible districts and organizations for the 2016-17 school year.

Grants will be awarded to eligible programs in their fourth or fifth year of operation that meet sustainability requirements for matching funds. Programs that received 21st Century grants for the first time in 2014-15 and 2015-16 will not be awarded grants for 2016-17 because those grants were awarded in error.

The 21st Century grants provide federal funding for the establishment of community learning centers that provide academic, artistic and cultural enrichment opportunities for students, particularly those who attend high-poverty, low-performing schools.

The U.S. Department of Education granted Mississippi \$14.6 million in 21st Century funds for 2016-17. Due to the over commitment of funds for 21st Century

programs in 2015-16, approximately \$9 million of this award will be used to reimburse districts and community organizations for costs incurred at the end of 2015-16.

“After receiving guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, we decided to scale back programming in 2016-17 while we re-evaluated how 21st Century grants are awarded and monitored,” said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “We plan to open the competition for new and continuing grants in 2017-18 with a far more rigorous screening and evaluation process.”

Districts and organizations with 21st Century programs that are in the fourth or fifth year of their funding cycle will receive full funding, provided they meet all eligibility requirements.

In August, the MDE announced it was facing a deficit up to \$19 million in the 21st Century grant program because more grants were awarded than available funds. The deficit has been reduced to \$7.6 million after reconciling 21st Century funds between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Cochran, Wicker announce \$1.49M grant for safe room at CCC

The Mississippi Link Newswire

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senators Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) announced Sept. 16, that a \$1.49 million federal grant has been awarded to support construction of a multi-purpose safe room on the campus of Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program award will support construction of a 10,000-square-foot safe room built to FEMA-361

standards to protect people during hurricane or tornado-force winds. The multipurpose facility will be built to withstand wind speeds up to 250 mph.

“Tornadoes and other severe weather are a consistent concern for Mississippians. I'm pleased that this investment can help Coahoma Community College and Clarksdale residents be better prepared for inclement weather,” said Cochran.

“Many people living in small communities rely on safe rooms for protection during

tornadoes and severe storms,” Wicker said. “The need for a reinforced facility in Coahoma County is real, and this is exactly the type of project for which this program was designed. Students, staff, and local residents can be assured that shelter will be available when disaster strikes.”

When completed, the safe room will be able to protect 1,592 students, faculty, staff, and residents within a half-mile radius of Coahoma Community College. It will be located at 3240 Friars Point Road.

Federal funding, which totals \$1,491,300, represents 90 percent of the \$1,657,000 total construction cost.

The FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding to states and local governments for long-term hazard mitigation activities designed to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters. Data shows that investments in hazard mitigation before a disaster creates a net savings of taxpayer dollars during post-disaster response and recovery periods.

MVSU to host Annual High School Day

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Office of Admissions and Recruitment at Mississippi Valley State University will host its annual Fall High School Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 24, in the H.G. Carpenter Auditorium.

“Our Annual High School Day will give Mississippi Valley State University an opportunity to showcase our warm and student

friendly campus, academic programs, faculty and outstanding student body to students,” said Jacquelyn Williams, director of Admissions and Recruitment.

During their visit, students will have an opportunity to learn more about our athletic and student life programs, undergraduate admissions standards, financial aid and scholarships. Prospective students get a sneak peek into

every academic and social aspect of the University. Academic and support units will be available to answer questions and provide students with information to ease the transition from high school to college.

For more information about High School Day, contact the Office of Admissions and Recruitment at (662) 254-3347 or www.mvsu.edu to register.

ASU School of Nursing recognized

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Alcorn State University's School of Nursing has been recognized for offering an affordable education to its students.

The school's master's program was ranked No. 3 on Affordable School's 25 Most Affordable Online Master's of Nursing Degrees list.

Affordable Schools is a leading higher education resource that helps adults of all ages and

backgrounds obtain a high quality education while avoiding huge college costs.

Dean for the School of Nursing, Dr. Debra Spring, is proud of the recognition the school is receiving for providing a quality education for a reasonable price.

“The School of Nursing is very proud to have been recognized as the third most affordable online master's level nursing degree program out of 25,” said Spring.

“I have always felt that Alcorn's nursing program was one of the more affordable programs and it is wonderful to receive national recognition.

“Receiving this recognition confirms that the School of Nursing is supporting the University's mission and core values through the provision of a program based on high and rigorous academic standards that is affordable for our greatest asset; our students.”



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P A S T O R A L P O I N T S

Are the church doors really open?

By Rev. CJ Rhodes
Special to The Mississippi Link



“The doors of the church are open.”

On any given Sunday, this is how myriad pastors in traditional African-American Baptist congregations invite the unconverted to Christian discipleship and the unchurched to membership. Tragically, tens of thousands of churches across denominational and racial lines are closing their doors, never to open them again.

According to some estimates, anywhere from 4,000 to 7,000 local congregations die each year. Leadership Journal maintains that 340,000 churches in America have plateaued, are declining or are on the verge of death. When Jesus said that the gates of hell won’t prevail against the church, he was not talking about local congregations, per se.

Since New Testament times, churches have been plagued with serious existential threats, and many have come and gone. Great cathedrals in Europe are now museums, and even grand church buildings in America have been converted into clubs. It may seem improbable that such is the case in Mississippi; if the South is the Bible Belt, then surely our state is the belt buckle. But even in church-saturated Mississippi, the writing is on the wall.

Churches don’t just die. They get sick and remain so for a considerable length of time. In “Autopsy of a Deceased Church,” Thom Rainer identifies 10 contributing symptoms. These include rapid pastoral turnover, the lack of evangelistic

enthusiasm, nostalgia for a bygone era and a refusal to be community-minded.

Ed Stetzer and Mike Dodson point out even more reasons for church decline in their book “Comeback Churches.”

What all of these churches have in common is that at some point they ceased to be missionary, Christ-centered and biblically relevant to their ministry context. In such churches, pastors are becoming pallbearers and the members are becoming mourners. This should not be.

But changing such places of worship is difficult. If it wasn’t, so many of them wouldn’t be dying. But there is hope.

With God, revitalization is possible. Harry Reeder, author of “From Embers to a Flame: How God Can Revitalize Your Church,” succinctly defines church revitalization as “a commitment by the church leadership to biblically lead the church back to spiritual health and vitality.” This differs from revival, which alone is the Lord’s work. We can pray for and preach about revival, but God alone sends it according to God’s sovereign timing.

But revitalization is the intentional stewardship and responsibility of Spirit-filled leaders in dying churches who take the risks to please and glorify God anew. There must be positive change and the acceptance of God’s preferred future. Denial or resistance will only lead to certain demise. But pastoral and lay leaders can bring about transformation in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reeder is again helpful in showing us a biblical model for this work. Using the church at Ephesus (Revelation 2:5) as a model, he

points out that any church today wanting to come alive again must remember, repent and recover the things you did at first.

Remembering our past trains us to glorify God for the great things he once did through a dying church; this inspires leaders and members to trust God to do such wonderful things again. This is especially vital for established churches with older members. It reminds them of better days and hopefully encourages them to imagine how they may do similar good works now.

Though there is much in your church’s past worth celebrating, there are yet many things to lament. A church wouldn’t be dying if everything in the past was glorious. Repentance acknowledges that the primary reason most churches are declining is because of institutionalized sin.

Too many leaders want to create more programs or add a new service to avoid dealing with the serpent in the sanctuary. But this will only lead to more stagnation or unhealthy numerical growth. The intention of revitalization is to get better, not just bigger.

Thus Reeder says churches must move from covered-up sin to confessed sin. I believe this is the hardest but greatest element in making dying churches healthy again. At some point God’s people must resolve to fix what’s broken by telling the truth and making things right.

I read about one church who addressed its horrible reputation by committing to holiness. A tangible example of this was their publishing a letter of apology in the local paper that detailed their faults and invited the community to forgive them for not being a loving, wel-

coming faith community. Something like this is painful but can stimulate a renewed sense of God’s grace and reconciliation. Jesus Christ – who is full of grace and truth – honors our humility. God’s grace is sufficient for our weaknesses.

Lastly, the church that remembers and repents is ready to recover the things that matter most about being the church. Recovering first things means again to make Christ preeminent in our worship and ministry, pray fervently, live out the Gospel before each other and in the community, and so on. Said differently, it means that we move from being a social club to being a church. When we remember that we exist for the glory of God alone, we can submit our wills to the lordship of Jesus Christ, who is the head of the church, his body. The church is healthier when it seeks God’s best and not our preferences.

If you know that your church is dying, I invite you to do something about it. Pray for direction. Tell the truth. Seek God’s wisdom. Assemble a revitalization team. And then get to work, knowing that the journey to wholeness is long but rewarding.

Our communities need vibrant, healthy churches. May your doors remain opened to the surprising work of the Holy Spirit as you determine to live out the Gospel as a revitalized church.

Rev. CJ Rhodes, a graduate of the University of Mississippi and Duke University, serves as the director of Student Religious Life at Alcorn State University and is the pastor of Mt. Helm Baptist Church in Jackson. He is married to Allison and they are the parents of twin boys.

Message from the Religion Editor

By Daphne Higgins
Religion Editor



On Sept. 22, another one of God’s miracles takes place. It’s the start of the fall season.

However, before the original date of this seasonal change, signs of its arrival began to take place. One change that I noticed and to me is long overdue is a coolness in the air.

Yes, it’s here and I’m sure that I am not the only person excited about it. It’s no secret that I love this season, also known as autumn, because with it comes numerous things that so many rejoice over.

Thank you, Lord, for the celebrations of the seasons.

Fall brings so several wonderful days, holidays, and special moments which include Fall revivals for many churches, the Jewish faith celebrates Yom Kippur, Grandparents’ Day, Patriot Day and Columbus Day are observed, harvest festivals are abundant, and the official Thanksgiving holiday is celebrated. Not to mention for football fans, the sport is everywhere; on every level.

Like any other season, autumn keeps my family on the go. I’ve said this before, I know that my family does not hold a monopoly on being busy. After all, we are all busy in some way with work, kids, school or simply put – with life? If I posed a question asking if the things I just mentioned kept you running for the majority of the day, I’m positive that

the majority of you would answer, yes. But, what we all need to do is to just stop for a minute and enjoy the coolness of the evening. We should not only enjoy the wonderful, fresh autumn air, but enjoy life.

Rick Warren, the preacher, teacher and author, once shared in a manuscript that “God wants you to enjoy life.” He further instructs that “You can have fun laughing as you worship and enjoying friends in and out of worship because they are learning to be like Jesus.” He referenced Matthew 10:19.

We all need to stop and thank God for allowing us to enjoy his blessings, to see/feel the miracles of the day and to know that regardless of what is going on at any period in our lives, we are loved and love is something that we should all share.

Regardless of the season, *The Mississippi Link*, a messenger for news in and around the state of Mississippi, wants to serve as your personal messenger to share your good news.

As always, we ask that you let us help you to communicate the good news of our Lord.

The King James Version of Isaiah 52:7b reads, “Your God reigns.” His presence is everywhere and so should the news of His love for all of His children.

To share your news, contact Daphne M. Higgins at religion@mississippilink.com, fax (601) 896-0091 or mail The Mississippi Link, 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213.

MINISTERIAL MESSAGE Grateful for care, grace of God

By Rev. Alvin C. Carter
Special to The Mississippi Link



“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make your perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” – (1 Peter 5:7-11 KJV)

C. S. Lewis once asked the question “to what will you look for help if you will not look to that which is stronger than yourself?” Today, I would like to embrace the moment with the thought, “Grateful for the care and grace of God.”

In Peter’s letter, he addressed the elders as well as the younger generations of those that share the Gospel with others.

To the elders, he said to be good examples to those that you serve as you willingly feed the flock of God realizing that Jesus has an everlasting crown prepared for you when He returns.

To the younger, he said to humble yourselves to those you serve with and refrain

from being too proud to submit to learning. When you are humble, God will exalt you in His time. Then Peter said to cast all your care upon the Lord for he cares for you.

Now to grammatically shift from second person to first person, I challenged myself to want to know the difference between “my cares” and “Christ’s cares.”

I discovered that Peter was referring to the things that worry me or us. Our anxieties are our cares. Peter suggests that we give them to Jesus because he cares for us.

The reason why we should give our worries and anxieties to Jesus is because Satan is still busy regardless of what we are going through. He preys on those that are going through tough times and appear to be weak in the faith.

Yet, beyond our suffering, Peter encourages us to know that the God of all grace, not only does He care for us, but He will restore and strengthen us. For this, we should submit and surrender to him forever.

I am encouraged by this letter written by Peter. I recall Peter being the one that told Jesus he was ready to die with Him not knowing he would deny Jesus three times. Even after he found out in John’s Gospel (John 13:38), Jesus told him and the other disciples to “Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me.” (John 14:1 KJV). In other words, don’t

trouble yourself with worrying about the business of Satan; cast your cares upon Me because I care for you and My grace will keep you.

As I was walking across the campus of Tougaloo College this morning, I thanked the Lord for allowing me to hear the birds sing, to see the sun shine and even to witness the mowers cutting the grass.

No matter how much we have fallen or how difficult it seems, I know I have a Savior in Christ that died for it all and rose with all power. For this, I am “Grateful for the care and grace of God.”

Be blessed and be a blessing to someone else.

Rev. Alvin Christopher De’Mond Carter is an associate minister and primary division director with the Sunday School at Pilgrim Rest M. B. Church – Madison. He received his education through the Madison County School District, Tougaloo College and Mississippi College, Mississippi Baptist Seminary College and received class training through the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. He is enrolled at Liberty University pursuing a master of arts in Theological Studies and Biblical Studies degree. He is married to KaLandra M. Carter and they are the parents of three daughters. At Tougaloo, he is a program assistant under Title III Program/Curriculum Enhancement and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Campus representative.

REIGNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Mississippi, 840 E. River Place, Ste. 506, Jackson, will host prayer breakfasts and gatherings across the state throughout the month of September. For more information visit <https://missionmississippiorg.wordpress.com/whatwedo/calendar-2/> or call Mission Mississippi at (601) 353-6477. Rev. Neddie Winters is the president.

St. Paul AME Church, 816 Madison Ave., Madison, Outreach Ministry will host a voter registration drive at 11 a.m. Sept. 24, to assist voters who want to register or update their registration information due to change of address, name, etc. This event is in conjunction with the National Voter Registration Day, a nonpartisan effort of resiger thousands of voters on Sept. 27. For more information call (601) 898-9610. Rev. Byram D. McKinzie is the pastor.

Word of Life Church, 5401 Lakeland Dr., Flowood, is “Bringin’ The Funny” to its congregation on Sept. 24, at 5:30 p.m. and Sept. 25, at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. The comedic guest is Michael Jr. The Sunday, 7 p.m. event is ticketed; all normal services are free. For more information call (769) 216-3650 or visit <http://www.thelife.cc>. Joel and Peppi Sims are the pastors.

Priestley Chapel M. B. Church, 177 Virilia Road, Canton, will honor the Rev. and Mrs. Robert E. McCallum for during their 30 years of service to the church celebration on Sept. 25, at 10 a.m. The theme, “Honoring a Steadfast, Immovable Leader” is taken from 1 Corinthians 15:58. The guest minister will be Rev. Otis Davis, pastor of Pleasant Green M. B. Church, Canton. For more information call (601) 278-7361.

College Hill M. B. Church, 1600 Florence Ave., Jackson, will host its fall revival services Sept. 26 – 28, at 7 p.m. The guest evangelist will be Dr. John F. Johnson, pastor of Pilgrim Home Baptist Church, Greenville. For more information call (601) 355-2670. Rev. Michael T. Williams is the pastor.

Jackson Revival Center, 519 W. Silas Brown St., Jackson, will host its weekly prayer call on Sept. 28 at 6:30 a.m. Rev. Jennifer Biard, the church’s pastor, will share a brief but powerful word from God. To participate, call (530) 881-1212 and enter (713) 540-744 when prompted. For more information, call (601) 948-1874 or visit www.jacksonrevivalcenter.org.

True Light Missionary Baptist Church, 224 E. Bell St., Jackson, will host its weekly prayer call on Sept. 28, at 6 a.m. Rev. Marcus Cheeks, the church’s pastor, will lead the prayer call, known as the Light Line. To participate, call (218) 486-1348 and enter 22435578#. For more information call (601) 355-7364.

P R E S E R V E D

God is the answer you need

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



A few years ago, I went through a frustrating email exchange with a coworker. It started with her having a few questions about a specific aspect of my job. Having those answers, I quickly responded to her email. She then sent me another email within minutes with more questions. Hoping to clear up her confusion, I sent her a longer email with more clarity (at least I thought) on those questions. I sent the email satisfied that the dialogue was over and that she had the information she wanted. However, two days later, she sent me another email restating that I still hadn't answered the questions to her satisfaction.

Now, I was getting irritated because I was now distracted by her emails. I prayed for greater insight into what she wanted as I reread her emails and my responses. One thing became clear: I didn't have an answer to her questions. I was wasting time trying to give her something I didn't have and frustrating myself in the process. Once I got this revelation, I sent her back an email that stated I did not have an answer for her and that someone else could help her out. She then sent me another email restating that she wanted an answer from ME. Now, it was bordering on harassment. This time my email response was that that I didn't have an answer and that was MY final answer.

I felt such a great peace of mind when I sent the final email. Yet, she wasn't satisfied and

sent me another email reminding me that I still didn't answer her question. I realized that me not having an answer bothered her more than it bothered me that I didn't have an answer. I chuckled to myself because I saw my being OK with not having an answer as a sign that I'd matured both emotionally and spiritually. Normally, I thought I should always have an answer and that people should have an answer for me. According to my parents, that's part of the reason why I got into so much trouble as a child: I asked too many questions.

Without realizing it, I see how I've done the same thing at times in my relationship with God. I've spent unnecessary emotional and spiritual energy trying to get God to respond without realizing that I'd gotten my answer (silence). Like my

co-worker, it wasn't the answer I wanted, so I persisted in asking questions that had already been answered. Isaiah 58:9 says, "Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say 'Here I am.'" When we call out to God for an answer to a question, sometimes the response is simply "I'm here." Once we accept God's answer of "I'm here," peace will replace frustration and we will have a more intimate fellowship with him. Even though we may not get the answer we think we want, we will get the answer we need: confirmation that he is with us.

Shewanda Riley is the author of the Essence best-seller "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose after a Relationship ends." She may be reached at lovehangover@juno.com.

The Top 10 Gospel Songs from the Billboard Gospel Charts for the week of September 22

SONGS	ARTISTS	ALBUM
1. Made A Way	Travis Greene	
2. Put A Praise On It	Tasha Cobbs Featuring Kierra Sheard	
3. You're Bigger	Jekalyn Carr	
4. Better	Hezekiah Walker	
5. Spirit Break Out	William McDowell Featuring Trinity Anderson	
6. 123 Victory	Kirk Franklin Featuring Pharrell Williams	
7. You	Jermaine Dolly	
8. It's Alright, It's Ok	Shirley Caesar Featuring Anthony Hamilton	
9. I Won't Be Defeated	Damon Little	
10. I Need You	Donnie McClurkin	

To listen to snippets of these songs, please visit billboard.com/charts/gospel-song

Billboard

Don't give in to the commands of sin

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



We Christians, find fulfillment in serving God, in seeking those things which are above, because a change has

taken place in our lives. We enjoy going to the house of God. We find in Psalm 122:1, these words spoken by David, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the House of the Lord." Going to God's house can be a chore or a delight.

As a pilgrim attending one of the three great religious festivals, David rejoiced to worship with God's people in God's house. Our attitude toward God will determine our view of worship. As Christians, we enjoy reading our Bible, praying and telling others about Jesus. We enjoy working with our brothers and sisters and the fellowship of the saints.

To be saved, one must die out to sin. In our scripture text, Paul mentioned a death, a burial and a resurrection. He said in Romans 6:1-2, 7-8, these words, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him."

A death occurs when we receive salvation. We become dead to the things that Jesus died for so we could be saved. The christian ceases to be under the influence of sin. We are dead to the authority of sin, dead to its ruling power. Paul wrote in verse 14, "For sin shall not have dominion over you." We are also dead to sin's commands.

We find in verse 13, "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." If we're no longer under the law but under grace, are we now

free to sin and disregard the Ten Commandments? Paul says, "certainly not." When we were under the law, sin was our master – the law does not justify us or help us overcome sin. However, now that we are bound to Christ, He is our master and He gives us power to do good rather than evil.

As Christians, we do not have to give in to the command of sin. Also, we are dead to the seasonal pleasure of sin.


Concerning Moses, Hebrews 11:24-25 states: "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." It took faith for Moses to give up his place in the palace, but he could do it because he saw the fleeting nature of great wealth and prestige.

It is easy to be deceived by the temporary benefits of wealth, popularity, status and achievement, and to be blind to the long range benefits of God's Kingdom. Faith helps us look beyond the world's value system to see the eternal values of God's Kingdom.

My friends, there is pleasure in sin; but remember, it is only seasonal. Along with that pleasure comes a reaping time, and the reaping time brings no pleasure. The Bible lets us know that if we sow to the wind, we will reap a whirlwind.

We must not listen to the wiles of the enemy speaking to our soul, telling us that we are missing something and that we ought to go out and sow wild oats. But if you do, remember, the pleasure is only seasonal and temporary and you will reap the displeasures afterward.

Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is married to Velma L. Green. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind. He serves as chairman of the Southeastern Association of The Church of God, Inc.



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Airbnb making progress for travelers of color

By Laura W. Murphy
President of Laura Murphy & Associates



When I was asked by Airbnb to lead their effort to fight discrimination and bias, I was skeptical. After spending decades fighting for the protection and advancement civil rights and civil liberties, I've seen many companies merely pay lip service to addressing these issues.

I also wondered how one single company could have a real impact on racial discrimination. The sad truth is that bias is deeply embedded in our culture, especially in the area of housing and public accommodations. Laws designed to prevent housing discrimination are unevenly enforced, and it remains a persistent civil rights challenge in many communities.

My time serving as the District of Columbia's first director of Tourism left me all too familiar with the tactics used by hotels, restaurants and tour companies to ignore or even facilitate racial discrimination. And as an African-American woman, I also grew up feeling the sting of racial bias. I still remember my parents' stories about The Negro Motorist Green Book and how black families had to stay with other black families when Jim Crow laws encouraged most hotels to deny accommodations to black travelers.

Given that context, was it realistic to expect Airbnb to surpass others in the travel and lodging business and be a leader in overcoming entrenched industry practices and widespread bias?

What initially persuaded me that change is possible at Airbnb was my first conversation with Airbnb's CEO Brian Chesky. "Airbnb will never be able to fulfill its mission without seriously combating discrimination on its platform. We must solve this," he said. I knew that only with such determination and commitment from the CEO and others at the highest levels would real institutional change be possible.

Brian was also forthright in admitting that his company was slow to address these problems. He and his cofounders, Joe Gebbia and Nate Blecharczyk, started Airbnb

with the best of intentions, but he agreed that there was an unacceptable lack of urgency to his previous attempts to address it, and vowed that such unconsciousness will not happen again.

So I, along with key senior leaders at Airbnb began a process designed to be as rigorous, comprehensive and inclusive as possible. In addition to Airbnb's management team, I held conversations with employees at every level of the company. Some of them had already created informal working groups to identify possible solutions. We also held consultations with hosts and victims of discrimination. Nearly all of them wanted to use the site again, and for many, Airbnb remains an important source of supplemental income.

The thing that struck me the most was that employees recognized this as a problem they had to solve across the whole of Airbnb, rather than putting the full responsibility on users to self-police or raise it to their attention.

As part of this journey I brought in experts including former Attorney General Eric Holder and Harvard professor Dr. Robert Livingston to get their input, as well as over 20 civil rights organizations and leaders who have thoroughly explored the advancement of civil rights in the sharing economy. Airbnb also engaged with federal and state regulatory agencies, who encouraged them to be proactive. They worked with elected officials who have been fighting for civil rights in this country for decades, and who act as an important barometer of consumer concern when they hear from constituents about incidents of discrimination or bias.

These individuals and organizations provided invaluable input that formed the basis for my report, Airbnb's Work to Fight Discrimination and Build Inclusion, and the aggressive policy and platform changes Airbnb will adopt.

Everyone who uses Airbnb will be subject to a more robust and stringent non-discrimination policy and will have to commit to treat fellow users with respect. They have also hired a full-time team of engineers, designers, data scientists and more whose sole job is to work on rooting out discrimination where

it happens, and preventing it from happening again.

In the meantime, Airbnb has also created a smarter, more efficient system of customer service staff who can help users who might still experience discrimination and make sure their requests are dealt with quickly and effectively. Airbnb is also introducing "Open Doors" – if a guest experiences discrimination, Airbnb will investigate the situation right away, taking appropriate action and help ensure the guest has a place to stay. In addition, Airbnb will offer new training to help hosts learn to fight bias, and as the program develops they'll work to highlight hosts who have completed this training. These are strong and aggressive changes that will make a real difference for everyone who uses Airbnb.

Fighting bias is an ongoing task that requires constant vigilance from all of us, and the civil rights community and I intend to hold Airbnb to their commitments. These changes are merely a first step, and Airbnb understands that no one company can eliminate racism and discrimination, but it has vowed to do its part.

I believe they will be successful, not just because of what I have witnessed over the past three months, but because solving this problem is crucial to fulfilling their mission. Airbnb is a company founded on the idea that the world is becoming a more sharing and inclusive place, and they intend to do their part in bringing more of us together.

Laura W. Murphy is president of Laura Murphy and Associates. She is an influential national civil liberties and civil rights leader and a consummate policy strategist. She brings more than 35 years of experience in government and advocacy, including 17 years as director of the ACLU Legislative Office where she advanced legislation on free speech, criminal justice reform, national security, reproductive rights, LGBT and civil rights, and Internet privacy before Congress and the White House. Murphy serves as a senior advisor to Airbnb, helping the home-sharing company update its policies and leading its efforts against discrimination on its platform.

BEYOND THE RHETORIC

Cuba travel changes for the better

By Harry C. Alford
NNPA News Wire Columnist



It has been a long time coming but it has come at last. Our first interest in traveling to Cuba was in 1999. I was in Kingston, Jamaica working with our chapter there, Jamaican Chamber of Commerce.

While we were walking down the street we ran into the Cuban Ambassador for Jamaica. I was impressed. The brother was dressed like a typical professional brother from Chicago, Los Angeles or somewhere in the states. We were three minutes into the introductory conversation before he exclaimed, "When are you going to Cuba?" I retorted, "We are not allowed to go to Cuba." He said, "That is a myth. You can go if you get a license from your government. Contact our consulate in Washington, D.C., and they will show you the process." That began our official relationship with Cuba.

This was under the Clinton Administration. We had sanctions with Cuba which meant you cannot do normal business or travel with the nation. There was a strict process to follow with the Office of Foreign Assets Control. OAFC was onerous but they did show us the path we had to take. We received the license within four months. It took a lot of back and forth but we remained persistent.

Another requirement was to hire an OFAC approved certified travel agent. After approval, it took about two months to rally our members who were interested. Thirty-six members of the National Black Chamber of Commerce were prepared to travel to this mysterious nation. A nation of people who were predominantly the same ethnicity as us.

The trip was fantastic. African Americans were greeted with love by the Cubans. Ten dollar lobster dinners; three-dollar bottles of Havana Club Rum, 10-dollar cover charge at the famous Tropicana night club; best cigars in the world and fine accommodations to give lifetime memories. Six months later, we went back. Word of our travel got around and our board members were thinking we could charter a 747 wide body on the next trip now that the word was out. But all of a sudden the "door" slammed shut.

The Bush Administration had taken over and the process was quite different. We inquired about obtaining another license for travel and were told,

"Forget about it. There was a new "sheniff" at OFAC and travel to Cuba virtually ceased unless you were a member of Congress or someone well connected along that level. That was heartbreaking to us. For 12 years we were blocked from returning to our brothers and sisters 90 miles off the coast of Florida.

Fortunately, the Obama Administration has a different view of things. Slowly, travel to Cuba began opening up again. So now, we have come to find out that traveling to Cuba is as easy as it has ever been.

There are certain reasons for a group to travel to Cuba. Business groups are in that category. There are certain airplanes that are allowed to take such groups on a daily basis. Soon there will be American commercial flights going on a daily basis. The demand is making available hotels limited.

However, a cottage industry in the nation is Airbnb. You can rent rooms from licensed Cuban citizens. Homes along the beaches and nice neighborhoods. The entire tailored package is quite reasonably priced. Some villas provide seven bedrooms with a bathroom for each, modern kitchen and a coastline view. With 7 – 14 people the cost is quite reasonable.

The NBCC has determined that a resurgence of Cuba travel has arrived. We are forming an easy format that is consistent with the current rules. Our first visit will occur in late October and we are so excited. The beautiful people, fantastic art, Afro Cuban music (which originated directly from the Congo via slavery), beautiful people (physical fitness is required), perfect weather and anything the Caribbean has but at reasonable costs, tropical cuisine, historical sights and the tropical aura. It is going to be so nice to reconnect with our people.

The drought is over. Our office is studying the process and will begin promoting consulting excursions for our members. On our first trip we will participate with the Cuba Chamber of Commerce in a business trade fair with over 4,500 participating exhibits at the FERIA Trade Show – see what we have been missing.

Yes, my brothers and sisters it is time to reconnect.

Harry Alford is the co-founder, president/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce. For more information visit the website www.nationalbcc.org or email info@nationalbcc.org.

Moral origins of Trump's improbable rise to power

By Armstrong Williams
NNPA News Wire Columnist



As if to compound the insult to American power represented by the world's vociferous rejection of the Bush doctrine, the U.S. found itself in 2008 facing the biggest economic disaster since the great recession. The collapse was so stark, so sudden, and so unavoidable that several of America's largest and most venerable financial institutions collapsed overnight. The recession in America led to a global recession, as liquidity dried up, debts got called in, and entire nations went bankrupt.

This blow to Americans' confidence would provide fertile ground for doubt, resentment and rebellion. It quickly became apparent that the economic status quo that existed before the Iraq War and the Great Recession was giving way to a 'new normal.' The country limped along in this new normal; American businesses experienced very slow

economic growth amidst massive economic dislocation. The Federal Reserve used every trick at its disposal to ward off total catastrophe. It was successful in its aim, although the resulting 'Franken-economy' it created began to resemble a monster that moved and walked, but was somehow strangely also dead.

To wit: even though employment 'recovered,' labor force participation dropped to a thirty year low. People came back to jobs that paid less, offered fewer benefits and demanded more of their labor. American workers were hailed by economists for their increasing productivity, although, to most workers, it just seemed like a pay cut. Never had industrial performance and the state of the labor market seemed less congruent; and this strained an unspoken assumption about the trickle-down benefits of capitalism.

The twin monsters of insulted national pride and injured economic prospects began to foment a visceral, growing resentment to the economic and political establishment

that first found expression in the Tea Party (on the political right) and the Occupy Wall Street movement (on the political left). Both movements were essentially defeated – the former was co-opted by the Republican Party, and the latter was crushed by the police (at the bidding of 'liberal' elected officials).

The pressing unanswered question of why Wall Street got bailed out while Main Street floundered was never successfully answered either by a Republican Congress or a Democratic White House. The midterm elections of 2010 promised to bring about major changes as a Tea Party insurgency came to power in Congress. However, the insurgency did not prove strong enough to enact its agenda – slashing government debt and spending on entitlements, and reducing regulatory burdens on small businesses. Not able to advance its' own agenda, The Republican Congress settled for a role as a spoiler caucus, mainly concerned with preventing the Obama Administration from putting

its' own proposals forward. Over the past six years, the Congress has done practically nothing in the way of helping the American people out of the mess they are in. The lack of commitment to a national project for reconstruction seemed strange in a country that had just demanded such brave sacrifice from its warriors.

The political impasse stymied American progress, and extended the economic recession beyond its reasonable shelf life. Amidst the doldrums of economic and political stagnation, Donald Trump's bold rhetoric, a stark departure from the normal fare, seemed to be a strong wind. It didn't really matter whether that wind was blowing America forwards or backwards – towards a safe harbor or further out to sea. At least, for the first time in six years, there seemed to be some movement. When one is stuck in the same place for what seems like an eternity, even going backwards can seem like making progress.

Along came Trump, testing the political frontiers, boldly

going where no politician of either party dared go before. Donald Trump was not a polished politician, and proved not to be afraid to voice what many people were thinking, even if the rhetoric was somewhat impolitic at times. He railed against illegal immigration, because of its' dilutive effects on American labor, but couched the debate in ethnic terms that the man on the street could easily digest. Trump complained about a lopsided trade arrangement with China that over the past thirty years has seen American manufacturing all but vanish, but couched it in 'Us vs. Them' terms that were easily made into media sound bytes.

It is clear that Donald Trump is a masterful salesman, especially when he is selling himself. He tells the buyer what he or she wants to hear, and promises he's the only one who can deliver. He engages in what some might call tawdry rhetorical wars with his critics and political adversaries. It has all made for great theater. Trump might not be right on all the issues, but he

sure is entertaining.

But perhaps Trump's greatest asset – and the factor that has accounted most for his rise in the polls – is Trump's ability to externalize America's faults. It is not so much that he is attempting to restore the idea of American exceptionalism to prominence. No, his mission is much simpler. He merely seeks to place the blame on someone else. The reason why we're not doing well folks, is because the Chinese are beating us; or it's the Mexicans; or it's the Muslims. Get rid of all those people, and we'll be back in the saddle. This is a message that holds deep appeal for many people who are faced with personal challenges they have not yet figured out how to overcome. In Trump's moral philosophy – if that is what it can be called – it is in our stars and not ourselves that we are knaves.

Read Armstrong Williams, author of the brand new book Reawakening Virtues, content on RightSideWire.com and Come join the discussion live at 6-8 p.m. and 4-6 a.m. est. on Sirius/XM UrbanView 126.

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR
QUEUE MONITORING SOLUTION
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
JMAA PROJECT NO. 013-16
09/21/16

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") requests Proposals ("Proposal") for a Wait Time Tracking/Queue Monitoring Solution ("Services") to assist JMAA with monitoring the flow of passengers and or processing times at both Security Checkpoints at Jackson Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN).

JMAA will receive Proposals to perform the Services at the offices of JMAA, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208, until 3 p.m. (CDT) on October 27, 2016 (the "Deadline").

JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Proposals ("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 Drive, Suite 300 (39208)
Post Office Box 98109
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109
Attention: Robin Byrd, Procurement Manager
Telephone No.: (601) 939-5631, ext. 616
Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713
E-Mail: rbyrd@jmaa.com

or from JMAA's website at www.jmaa.com/resources/rfprfb-center/. JMAA will hold a Pre- Submittal Conference at 2:00 p.m. (CDT) on October 10, 2016, 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-Submittal Conference is mandatory for all those submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work. Identified Sub-Contractors and or persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor are encouraged to attend the pre-proposal conference, though attendance is not mandatory.

Based on the Proposals, JMAA will select a maximum of three (3) Respondents with whom to enter into negotiations to provide the Services. JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first on the list. If such 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. In that event, JMAA will follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.

JMAA reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Proposals, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services and (2) waive any and all informalities and irregularities in the selection process.

9/22/2016 9/29/2016

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
SIGN VARIANCE FOR MAGNOLIA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR MAGNOLIA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016 AT 10:00 A.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

9/22/2016 9/29/2016 10/06/2016

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT
ZONING CASE NO. 3948

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Marvin Cornelius has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to operate a Used Car Dealership/ Mechanic Shop within a C-3 (General) Commercial District on property located at 2926 JR Lynch St., in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

TRACT I:
A certain parcel of land being located in the SE ¼ of Section 6, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a point being located 37.5 feet East of the centerline of Ellis Avenue and 35 feet North of the centerline of Lynch Street, run thence Westerly along a projection of a line 35 feet North of said centerline of Lynch Street a distance of 300.0 feet to the point of beginning continue thence Westerly along last said call a distance of 95 feet; thence turn right 90 degrees 00 minutes and run Northerly 155.0 feet; thence turn right 90 degrees 00 minutes and run Easterly 95.0 feet; thence turn right 90 degrees 00 minutes and run Southerly 155.0 feet to the point of beginning.

TRACT II:
A certain parcel of land being situated in the Southeast Quarter of Section 6, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at the point of intersection of the West line of Ellis Avenue as extended with the North line of Lynch Street as extended and from said point run Westerly 395 feet to the southwest corner of the Big 10 Tire Co. property; thence turn to the right through an angle of 90 degrees and run Northerly along the west line of the said Big 10 Tire co. property for a distance of 155 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continue Northerly for a distance of 145 feet; thence turn to the right through an and of 90 degrees and run Easterly for a distance of 95 feet; thence turn right and run Southerly for a distance of 145 feet to the northeast corner of the aforementioned Big 10 Tire Co. property; thence turn to the right through an angle of 90 degrees and run Westerly along the north line of the said Big 10 Tire Co. property for a distance of 95 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 29th day of August 2016.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

9/8/2016, 9/22/2016

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016, AT 12:00 P.M. IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

• APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

• OLD BUSINESS

• CASE NO. 2016-18, REQUEST BY: HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE DEVELOPERS OF MOUNT HELM TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF PHASE ONE AND TWO DEVELOPMENT VIOLATIONS IN THE FARISH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT.

• NEW BUSINESS

• CASE NO. 2016-29, REQUEST BY: DUSTIN KOEHL (OWNER) TO PERFORM EXTERIOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE HOME LOCATED AT 1529 PEACHTREE STREET IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT.

• CASE NO. 2016-12, REQUEST BY: NEW STAGE THEATER (APPLICANT: BILL MCMARTY) TO DEMOLISH THE HOME AND GARAGE LOCATED AT 1108 WHITWORTH STREET, IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT.

• OTHER ITEMS

• ADJOURN

9/22/2016, 9/29/2016

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR
CAFETERIA PLAN ADMINISTRATOR
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Written sealed proposals from responsible firms interested in the administration of a Cafeteria Plan for the City of Jackson, as authorized by and in accordance with Internal Revenue Code of Section 125 and Miss. Code 25-17-1 et. Seq., will be received by the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Jackson (City), MS on the 1st Floor of the City Hall Building, Jackson, MS, until 3:30 p.m. (Central Standard Time), OCTOBER 18, 2016, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud and the contract awarded as soon as practical. Five (5) copies of each proposal must be submitted.

The successful proposer will not be allowed to participate with other insurance vendors in discussing, distributing literature, or selling products.

Each proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Office of the City Clerk, City of Jackson, 1m Floor of the City Hall Building, 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Each sealed envelope containing a proposal must be plainly marked on the outside as "Proposal to Administer a Cafeteria Plan for the City of Jackson To Be Opened on OCTOBER 18, 2016". No proposal will be received or accepted after the above specified time for the opening of the proposal. Such proposal may be deemed invalid and returned unopened to the proposer.

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR BIDS
TO PROVIDE "SPECIFIC EXCESS RISK" INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
ACTIVE AND RETIRED CITY EMPLOYEES COVERED UNDER THE CITY OF
JACKSON'S MEDICAL BENEFITS PLAN

Written sealed bids from responsible firms to provide "Specific Excess Risk" Insurance Coverage for Active and Retired City Employees covered under the City of Jackson's Medical Benefits Plan will be received in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, MS on the Floor of the City Hall Building, 219 S. President Street, Jackson, MS, until 3:30 p.m. (local time), OCTOBER 18, 2016, at this time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud and the contract awarded as soon as practical. One original and five (5) copies of each bid must be submitted.

Each bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Office of the City Clerk, City of Jackson, 1g Floor of the City Hall Building, 219 S. President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Each sealed envelope containing a bid must be plainly marked on the outside as "Bid to Provide Specific Excess Risk Insurance Coverage for Active and Retired City Employees covered under the City of Jackson's Medical Benefits Plan will be received in the Office of the City Clerk To Be Opened on OCTOBER 18, 2016". No bid will be received or accepted after the above-specified time.

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 busi-

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING
ZONING CASE NO. 3944

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Anthony Ratliff has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C80-C3 (General) Commercial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District with a Use Permit, to operate a Used Car Dealership on property located at 1619 University Blvd., in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

LOT 11 LESS 10 FT OF EAST SIDE & LOT 22 MISSISSIPPI ADDITION

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 29th day of August 2016.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

9/8/2016, 9/22/2016

LEGAL

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, every contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application 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. An Equal Business Opportunity Plan Application is attached to this Request for Proposals (see attachment S-4). For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Michael Davis in the Office of Economic Development, (601) 960-1851. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan, applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, 2nd Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

Request for proposals specifications may be obtained at no extra charge from the Department of Personnel Management, 1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday after September 23, 2016. The contact person is as follows:

C. Denise McKay, Director
Department of Personnel Management
1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102 (601) 960-1746

9/22/2016, 9/29/2016

Garrett

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► Crushed Concrete

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► Bio-Solids

► Truck Rentals

LEGAL

NOTICE OF NOTE SALE

\$16,000,000
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE, SERIES 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council (the "Governing Body") of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (the "City") will receive sealed bids in the Office of the City Clerk in the City Hall of the City located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205 until the hour of 4:00 p.m. on October 4, 2016, at which time said bids will be publicly opened by the City Clerk and read for the purchase at not less than par of \$16,000,000 City of Jackson, Mississippi Tax Anticipation Note, Series 2016 (the "Note").

The Note will be dated and bear interest from the date of its delivery at the rate of interest specified in the proposal submitted by the successful bidder in accordance with this Notice of Note Sale; will be delivered in the denomination of \$16,000,000; will be numbered R-1; will be issued in registered form; and will mature on or before March 15, 2017.

The Note will be secured by a pledge by the City of the first moneys collected by reason of the City's current tax levy or levies, in anticipation of which this Note will be issued.

The Note will be issued pursuant to the provisions of Sections 21-33-301, et seq., including specifically, Section 21-33-325, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended (the "Act"). The Note is being issued for the purpose of providing payment for and defraying the current expenses in the General Fund of the City in the amount of Sixteen Million and No/100ths Dollars (\$16,000,000), as authorized by the Act.

The Note is to be sold at par and is to be awarded to the bidder complying with the terms hereof and offering to purchase the Note at the lowest rate of interest to the City. The Note shall bear only one rate of interest as specified in the proposal, which it will bear from its date of delivery to its maturity date on or before March 15, 2017. The rate of interest on the Note shall not exceed the maximum interest rate of eleven percent (11%) per annum, as provided in Mississippi Code Section 75-17-105. Bidders must acknowledge in their respective proposals that, contemporaneously with or prior to delivery of the Note, the City shall receive from the successful bidder a document in form and substance satisfactory to the City to the effect that:

a) the successful bidder is purchasing the Note for its own account for the purpose of investment and not with a view towards distribution or resale;

b) the bidder has knowledge and experience in financial matters and it is capable of evaluating the merits and risks of purchasing the Note;

c) the bidder has read and fully understands the resolutions under which the Note is issued;

d) the bidder has had an opportunity to obtain and has received from the City all of the information, documents and materials, which it regards as necessary to evaluate the merits and risks of its purchase of the Note;

e) the bidder recognizes that neither Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C., ("Special Counsel"), Banks Law & Associates, LLC ("Issuer's Counsel"), Kipling Jones & Company, Inc. ("Financial Advisor") nor Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co. ("Bidding Agent") is responsible for any information contained in or omitted from materials regarding the City and the Note and acknowledges that it does not look to Special Counsel, Issuer's Counsel, Financial Advisor, or Bidding Agent to obtain such information on its behalf; and

f) while it has no present intention to resell or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the Note purchased by it, the bidder assumes responsibility for disclosing all material information in compliance with all applicable federal and state security laws in the event of its resale of the Note.

All proposals must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and should be addressed to the Governing Body, at their offices located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39567, attention: City Council, City of Jackson, Mississippi, and worded on the outside, in substance, "Proposal for City of Jackson, Mississippi Tax Anticipation Note, Series 2016". ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE UNCONDITIONAL AND, AS A CONDITION PRECEDENT TO THE CONSIDERATION OF ITS PROPOSAL, EACH BIDDER MUST ENCLOSE WITH IT, AS A GOOD FAITH DEPOSIT, A CERTIFIED OR CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN UPON A BANK LOCATED WITHIN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI PAYABLE TO THE ORDER OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI FOR THREE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND AND NO/100THS DOLLARS (\$320,000.00). No interest will be allowed on any good faith deposit. Proposals will be accepted or rejected by the Governing Body on the date above shown for the sale of the Note. When a proposal is rejected by the Governing Body, the good faith deposit accompanying said proposal will be returned to the bidder. When a proposal is accepted by the Governing Body, the good faith deposit accompanying said proposal will be applied as partial payment for the Note or, if the successful bidder fails to comply with this agreement to purchase the Note, will be retained as liquidated damages. Pending the application of the good faith deposit of the successful bidder as aforesaid, such deposit may be invested in direct obligations of, or obligations guaranteed by the United States of America or in repurchase agreements with banks fully secured by such obligations, and the City shall be entitled to any income from any such investment.

The Governing Body reserves the right to reject any or all proposals as well as the right to waive any irregularity or informality in any proposal. All proposals shall be submitted on a Proposal for Purchase which may be obtained from the City's Director of Administration, Ms. Michelle Battee-Day, 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Suite 608, Jackson, MS 39201; Phone: 601-960-1005.

In the opinion of Special Counsel, assuming compliance by the City with certain tax covenants, under existing statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions, interest on the Note is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. Furthermore, interest on the Note is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals and corporations; however, interest on the Note is taken into account in determining adjusted current earnings for purposes of computing the alternative minimum tax imposed on corporations. Special Counsel will express no other opinion regarding other federal tax consequences resulting from the ownership, receipt or accrual of interest on or disposition of the Note. In addition, Special Counsel is further of the opinion that under and pursuant to the Act, the Note and interest thereon are exempt from all income taxes imposed by the State of Mississippi.

The final approving opinion of Special Counsel related to the validity and the tax exemption of the Note, together with a non-litigation certificate of the City dated the date of delivery of the Note, and a transcript of the proceedings relating to the Note will be delivered to the successful bidder without charge.

The successful bidder will be given at least seven (7) business days advance notice of the proposed date of delivery of the Note when that date has been tentatively determined. The Note will be delivered in Jackson, Mississippi or such other place as the Governing Body shall designate and payment therefor shall be made in federal or other immediately available funds.

The successful bidder shall have the right, at its option, to cancel its agreement to purchase the Note if the Note to be delivered by the City in accordance with the preceding paragraph is not tendered for delivery within sixty (60) days from the date of sale thereof, and in such event the City shall return to said bidder its good faith deposit without interest. The City shall have the right, at its option, to cancel its agreement to sell the Note if within five (5) days after the tender of the Note for delivery the successful bidder shall not have accepted delivery of and paid for the Note, and in such event the City shall retain the successful bidder's good faith deposit as liquidated damages.

Further information may be obtained from the City's Director of Administration, Ms. Michelle Battee-Day, 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Suite 608, Jackson, MS 39201; Phone: 601-960-1005.

DATED: September 22, 2016
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

By /s/Kristi Moore
City Clerk
9/22/2016

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, October 04, 2016, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following Bids:

20057-100416 – Twenty-four Month Supply of Men's Short & Long Sleeve Shirts-FD

67027-100416 – Eighteen-Month Supply of Corrugated Steel, Polyethylene Pipes & Various Parts

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE CITY OF JACKSON'S WEBSITE, HYPERLINK "http://WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV" WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV

The above must comply with the City's specifications. Copies of proposal forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Division, 200 South President Street, Room 604, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
City of Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

Oracle Support Renewal for Software Update License and Support

Copies of proposal forms can be obtained from Jerriot Smash, Department of Public Works, 200 South President Street, Fifth Floor, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination. 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, or sex, in consideration for an award.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 3949

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Mary Armstrong has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception to operate a residential daycare center in a R-2 (Single-Family & Two-Family) Residential District for property located at 252 E. Longview Dr., in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot 17 & 18, Block N, Beverly Heights, Part 3, a subdivision according to a map or plat there which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 11 at Page 36, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 29th day of August 2016.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

9/8/2016, 9/22/2016

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 3950

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Lydia & Eric Kluksdahl has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception to operate a music school in a R-1A (Single-Family) Residential District for property located at 6470 Old Canton Rd., in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lots 77 and 78, The Country Club of Jackson, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat book 20, Page 24, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as part of this description.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 29th day of August 2016.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

9/8/2016, 9/22/2016

LEGAL

condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1638. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best bidder quoting the lowest net price in accordance with specifications. The award could be according to the lowest cost per item; or to the lowest total cost for all items; or to accept all or part of any proposal. Delivery time may be considered when evaluating the bid proposal. In those cases where it is known prior to advertising that the City's intention is to award according to the lowest total cost for all items, or in some variation thereof, statements to this affect will be included on the proposal form. Absence of such statement means the City will make that determination during the bid review.

Hellene Greer, CPPB, NPCA, Manager
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1533

9/15/2016, 9/22/2016

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.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the bidder quoting the lowest and best bid, in accordance with specifications.

For technical questions about this bid contact Rick Blakeney by telephone at 601.960.2387 or by email at rblakeney@city.jackson.ms.us.

Dates of Publication: September 15, 2016 & September 22, 2016

Terry Williamson, Legal Marshand Crisler, Deputy CAO

Jerriot Smash, Public Works Director

9/15/2016, 9/22/2016

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 3951

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Darnell Phillips has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to operate a sports bar within a C-2 (Limited) Commercial District on property located at 2718 Medgar Evers Blvd., in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Commencing at the center of Section 28, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi run thence West 30 feet to the West boundary line of Holmes Avenue extended at a distance of 397 feet to a concrete monument; run thence South 0°20' East along Westerly boundary of Holmes Ave. a distance of 135.5 feet; run thence S. 41 °20' West along said Westerly boundary of Holmes Ave. a distance of 541.8 feet; run thence S. 41°20' West along said Westerly boundary of Holmes Ave. a distance of 351.4 feet to the intersection of the northerly boundary line of U.S. Highway 49, said point being marked by a concrete monument and being located 41 feet North and 47 feet west of S.W. Corner of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ Sec. 28 T6N , R1E, Hinds county, Miss., which is the point of the beginning of the lands described herein, said point also being the intersection of the northerly line of U.S Highway #49 (also known as Medgar Evers Boulevard) and the northerly line of a distance of 250.0 feet; thence at a right angle for a distance of 90.0 feet; thence at a right angle for a distance of 250.0 feet to a point on the west line of Holmes Avenue; thence at a right angle and along the westerly boundary of Holmes Avenue for a distance of 90.0 feet to the point of the beginning.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 29th day of August 2016.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

9/8/2016, 9/22/2016

Crossword Solution

O	P	E	N			A	F	A	R
B	A	Y	O	U		P	I	N	E
E	V	E	N	S		T	O	N	S
Y	E	S		N	F		N	O	T
				L	E	W	A	Y	
	G	O	A	W	A	Y			
A	R	C		S	T		B	T	U
V	I	C	E		L	I	R	A	S
O	P	U	S		Y	I	E	L	D
W	E	R	E			I	D	E	A

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RITE AID
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CANTON

A & I
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
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HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE
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5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

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Raymond, MS
LOVE FOOD MART
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Week of September 18, 2016

Police video shows man walking away before shooting

Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — A white Oklahoma police officer fatally shot an unarmed black man Sept. 16. Police video from the incident shows 40-year-old Terence Crutcher walking away from the officers and toward his SUV with his hands up then approaching the side of his vehicle, before an officer shocks him with a stun gun and he is fatally shot. Police were called to the scene to respond to a report of a stalled vehicle.

Police Chief Chuck Jordan announced Sept. 19, before the video and audio recordings were released, that Crutcher had no weapon on him or in his SUV when he was shot. It's not clear from the footage what led Betty Shelby, the officer who fired the fatal shot, to draw her gun or what orders officers gave Crutcher. Shelby's attorney, Scott Wood, said Crutcher was not following the officers' commands and that Shelby was concerned because he kept reaching for his pocket as if he was carrying a weapon.

"He has his hands up and is facing the car and looks at Shelby, and his left hand goes through the car window, and that's when she fired her shot," Wood told the Tulsa World.

Local and federal investigations are underway to determine whether criminal charges are warranted in the shooting or if Crutcher's civil rights were violated.

Tulsa police helicopter footage was among several clips showing the shooting of Crutcher and its aftermath. In that video, a man in the helicopter that arrives above the scene as Crutcher walks to the vehicle can be heard saying "time for a Taser." He then says: "That looks like a bad dude, too. Probably on something."

Crutcher's twin sister, Tiffany Crutcher, called for charges Sept. 19.

"The big bad dude was my twin brother. That big bad dude was a father," she said. "That big bad dude was a son. That big bad dude was enrolled at Tulsa Community College, just wanting to make us proud. That big bad dude loved God. That big bad dude was at church singing with all of his flaws, every week. That big bad dude, that's who he was."

Police video shows Crutcher walking toward his SUV that is stopped in the middle of the road. His hands are up and a female officer is following him. As Crutcher approaches the driver's side of the SUV, three male officers walk up and Crutcher appears to lower his hands and place them on the vehicle. The officers surround him, making it harder to see his actions from the dashboard camera's angle.

Crutcher can be seen dropping to the ground. Someone on the police radio says, "I think he may have just been tasered." One of the officers near Crutcher

backs up slightly.

Then almost immediately, someone can be heard yelling, "Shots fired!" Crutcher's head then drops, leaving him completely lying out in the street.

After that, someone on the police radio can be heard saying, "Shots fired. We have one suspect down."

Officer Tyler Turnbough, who is also white, used a stun gun on Crutcher, police said. Shelby's attorney, Wood, said Turnbough fired the stun gun at the same time Shelby opened fire because both perceived a threat.

The shooting comes just four months after former Tulsa County volunteer deputy Robert Bates was sentenced to four years in prison on a second-degree manslaughter conviction in the 2015 death of an unarmed black man. Bates said he mistakenly grabbed his gun instead of his Taser.

Shelby worked as a Tulsa County sheriff's deputy for four years before joining the Tulsa Police Department in December 2011, officials said. She has been placed on paid leave.

The initial moments of Crutcher's encounter with police are not shown in the footage, and Wood said the situation unfolded for about two minutes before the videos began. Shelby did not activate her patrol car's dashcam, said police spokeswoman Jeanne MacKenzie, and the ground-level video came from the car of a second officer

who arrived at the scene.

After the shooting, Crutcher could be seen lying on the side of the road, blood pooling around his body, for nearly two minutes before anyone checked on him. When asked why police did not provide immediate assistance, MacKenzie said: "I don't know that we have protocol on how to render aid to people."

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma, which also called for charges, said Crutcher was left to bleed while officers stood by. The group's executive director, Ryan Kiesel, said Crutcher's death shows "how little regard" Tulsa police have for the community's minorities.

Dozens of protesters gathered outside the county courthouse holding signs that read, "Justice 4 Crutch" and "Don't Shoot."

U.S. Attorney Danny C. Williams said the Department of Justice will conduct a civil rights investigation to determine if charges should be brought in the case.

Speaking in Tulsa, civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump said Crutcher committed no crime and gave officers no reason to shoot him. "When unarmed people of color break down on the side of the road, we're not treated as citizens needing help. We're treated as, I guess, criminals — suspects that they fear," said Crump, who is representing Crutcher's family.

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JSU Tigers fall to Grambling in home opener

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson State football team looked to pick up its first win of the season, but the Tigers were unable to “Protect their House” (the team’s new motto for home games), falling 35-14 to the Grambling State Tigers Sept. 17, in the 2016 W.C. Gorden Classic.

“Our kids went out there and battled,” said JSU head coach Tony Hughes. “I think we im-

proved tremendously tonight. Any time you give up only 79 yards and 300 yards of total offense.”

Grambling scored on its first possession of the game, when Devante Kincade connected with Chad Williams on a 51-yard strike. Moments later Joseph McWilliams intercepted an errant La Montiez Ivy pass and took it to the house on a 62-yard run. Jonathan Wallace’s

extra point kick gave the G-Men a 14-0 lead with 7:08 left in the first quarter.

GSU opened the second quarter with a one-yard Martez Carter touchdown run that capped an 11 play, 74 yard drive. The score gave the G-Men a 21-0 lead with 12:26 remaining in the half.

Jackson State put its first points on the scoreboard when Kwame Bowens forced a Kincade fumble in the end zone,

which was recovered by De-Shawn Tillman. The play marked the third non-offensive touchdown for the Tigers in two games.

JSU played three quarterbacks in the game. Ivy started, but was replaced with Brent Lyles, who led the team with 150 yards on 19-of-35 attempts. JSU’s third quarterback, Juwan Adams recorded the team’s only offensive touchdown. Adams connected

with Miquel James, for the true freshman’s first career touchdown, on a 14 yard pass play.

Lyles finished the game with a team high 30 rushing yards and Adams followed with 28. Daniel Williams led the Tigers with 102 receiving yards on a game-high 11 receptions. Punter Christian Jacquemin had another outstanding game. He had nine punts for 383 yards and an average of 42.6 yards per punt.

JSU’s defensive lead, Javancy Jones was not productive as he was hobbled by a banged up knee. However, Keontre Anderson and Stacy Noble filled the void with each player recording seven tackles. Anderson led the team with 3.5 tackles for loss and Noble forced a GSU fumble.

JSU returns to action Sept. 24, to face Arkansas-Pine Bluff in Little Rock, Ark.

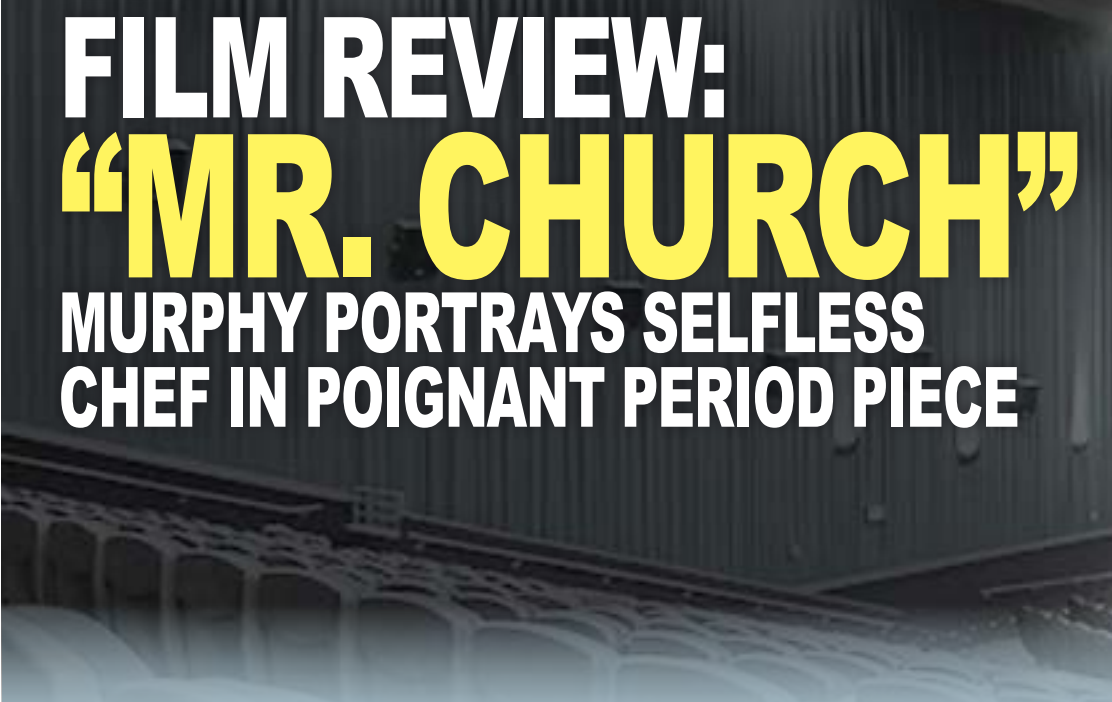
PHOTOS BY KEVIN ROBINSON



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By Kam Williams
Columnist

Marie Brody (Natascha McElhone) was told she only had half-a-year to live when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1965. But, not wanting to upset her daughter, she initially hid the fact that she was terminally ill from 10-year-old Charlotte (Natalie Coughlin).

Brody’s recently deceased boyfriend did her a big favor by providing in his will for a chef (Eddie Murphy) who’d prepare

all of her meals until the day she died. So, you can imagine Charlotte’s shock the day a mysterious black man knocks on the door and announces he’s their new full-time cook.

Initially, Brody balks at the intrusion, given how Mr. Church never bothers to measure his ingredients or use utensils besides a fork and knife while at work in the kitchen. Plus, some of his exotic dishes, like hominy grits, certainly take a little getting used to.

Church nevertheless attempts to ingratiate himself by extending his daily duties beyond the culinary, happily serving as a surrogate father to Charlotte and as a home health aide to her mom. Brody gradually warms to the stranger when he whets her thirst for knowledge by bringing over classic books by literary greats like Shakespeare, Thomas Hardy and Edith Wharton.

More importantly, Brody proceeds to outlive her doctor’s

death sentence, and a term of employment that was supposed to last merely for months stretches into the next decade.

That is the poignant premise of Mr. Church, a bittersweet period piece directed by two-time Oscar-nominee Bruce Beresford (for Tender Mercies and Breaker Morant). The picture’s semi-autobiographical screenplay was inspired by the life of its scriptwriter, Susan McMartin.

The film works to the extent

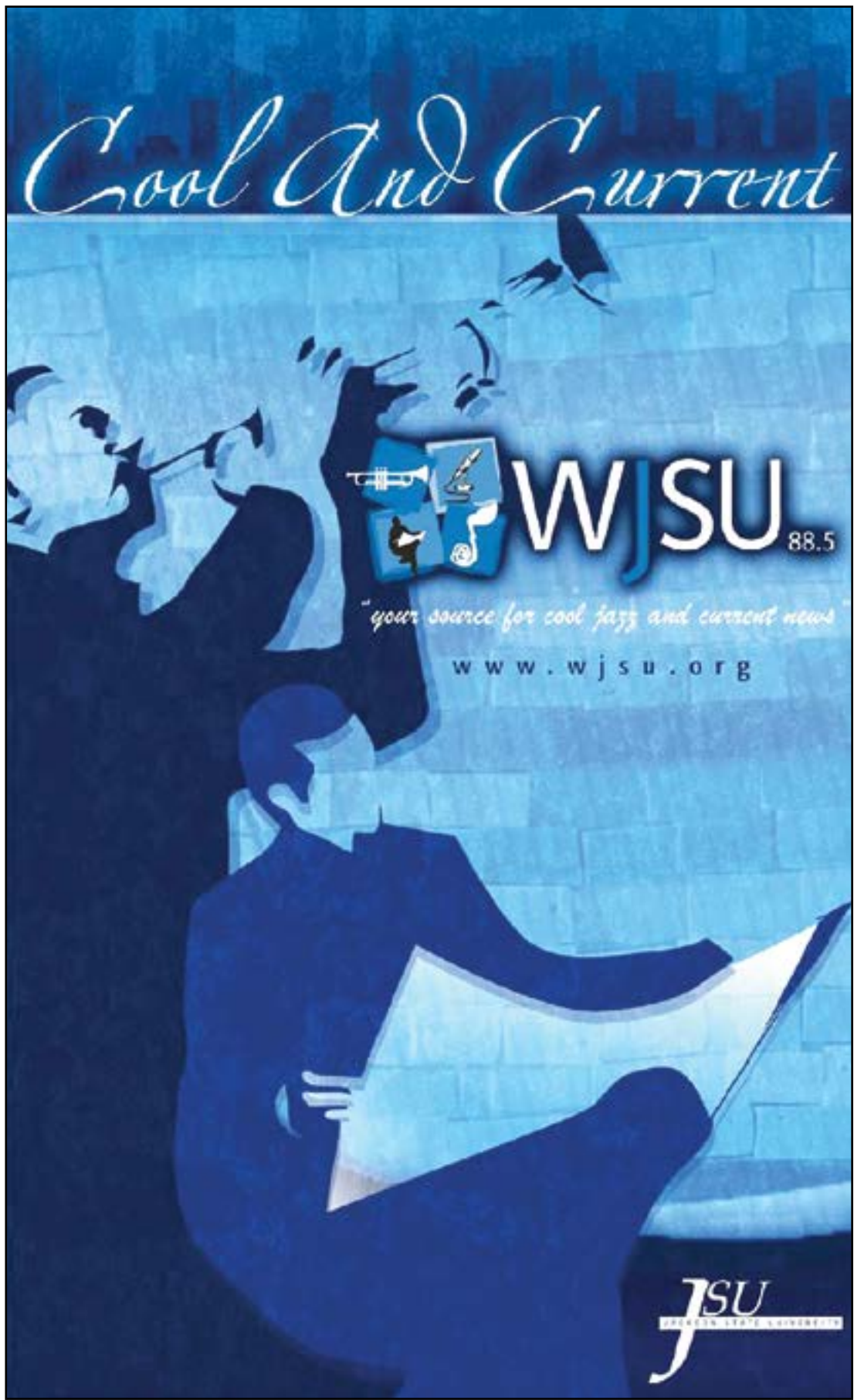
one is able to scale a couple of high hurdles placed in your path. First, you have to buy into the idea of perennial funnyman Eddie Murphy playing a serious role. Second, one must be willing to stomach yet another, stereotypical “Magical Negro” character, meaning a selfless, African American more concerned with the welfare of a white person than with his or her own needs.

Additionally, a few of the plot developments are a little

farfetched. For instance, have you ever heard of anybody saving up enough money to pay for college by clipping coupons? Neither have I.

Overall, a mildly recommended period piece, provided you’re prepared to take seriously the same Eddie Murphy who kept you in stitches as Buckwheat in that hilarious Saturday Night Live skit. Otay?

Kam Williams can be reached at kam_williams@hotmail.com.



Book Review

Darktown: A Novel

By Thomas Mullen • c.2016, 371nk
\$26.00 / \$32.99 Canada • 373 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Someone always has to be first.

That can be a good thing or a bad one. Good, if it’s a cafeteria, supermarket queue, electronics store, or conga line; better, if free samples are involved. Bad, in experiments, taste-testing, first-on-last-off and, as in the new novel “Darktown” by Thomas Mullen, first in a dangerous new job.

The girl was green when they finally found her.

Officers Lucius Boggs and Tommy Smith smelled her long before that, long before they found her covered in garbage in a vacant lot, dead just a few days. They immediately recognized her as the woman they’d seen with former police officer Brian Underhill , until she ran from them.

She’d been pretty once – young and light-skinned and there was the problem; it was just after World War II, the mayor had recently forced the Atlanta Police Department to hire new policemen from the segregated parts of town, and racial lines were drawn thick. Few in charge cared about the death of some Negro woman. And that the policemen who found her were black, too, only added to the apathy.

Rookie Officer Denny Rakestraw had no issue with Negroes in general or with those now in the APD, but his partner Lionel Dunlow sure did.

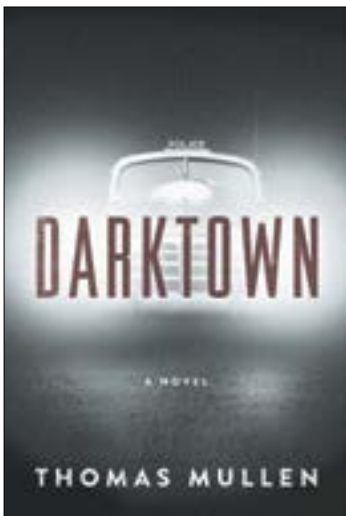
Dunlow was as racist as they come, and Rake figured that having to patrol the edge of Darktown only boosted Dunlow’s fury. Rake noticed that Dunlow, in fact, seemed to take pleasure in torturing any Negro they saw on the streets, including those who were only minding their own business.

As a rookie, Rake didn’t think it wise to make enemies but he hated seeing that, just as he hated that Underhill seemed to be getting away with murder and Dunlow was covering for him. So when Rake learned that Boggs had decided on his own to solve the Negro woman’s death, he offered Boggs a deal: they’d quietly investigate what they could in their respective racially-divided departments and share their information.

It would be dangerous.

Shedding light on a Darktown murder could end more than just their careers.

Reading “Darktown” was a brand-new experience for me. I wanted to wash my hands, my arms, my hair, to get rid of the



grit that pours out of this story. I could smell dirt and thick air and rotting wood. I squirmed before I dived in for more.

It was impossible not to because this novel is noir all the

way. Author Thomas Mullen sets a tone of a rainy midnight even in his daytime scenes, while the timeframe of the story, mixed with an angry-yet-resigned neighborhood of beat-down residents, just lends to the deliciously keen edginess. As for the main characters, the both-sides-of-the-same-coin frustration they feel simmers throughout each page. You may begin to wonder if either man makes it to the end of this novel.

I’m not about to be a spoiler – you’ll have to find that out yourself. But know this, if you want a sandpaper read that’s sticky as cold fog, “Darktown” is what to reach for first.

Terri Schlichenmeyer can be reached at bookwormsez@yahoo.com.

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9				10		11		
12						13		
14				15	16		17	
			18			19		
	20	21						
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27			28		29	30		
31					32			
33						34		

ACROSS

1. Overt
5. Far away
9. Bog
11. Long for
12. Levels
13. Gobs
14. Affirmative
15. Canadian prov.
17. Negative
18. Allowance
20. Leave (2 wds.)
22. Bow
23. Street (abbr.)
24. Energy unit
27. Immorality
29. Italian “dollars”
31. Sonata
32. Grant
33. “as you _”
34. Thought

DOWN

1. Mind
2. Coat
3. Potato sprouts
4. Not (refix)
5. Able
6. Female singer ___ Apple
7. Nag
8. Letup
10. “_ and World Report”
16. Neatly
18. Scale note
19. Wyoming (abbr.)
20. Grouse
21. Take place
22. Assure
24. Ill _
25. Myth
26. U.S. Department of Agriculture
28. Vane direction
30. Three

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)

Freeman leading list of 2016 arts, humanities awards

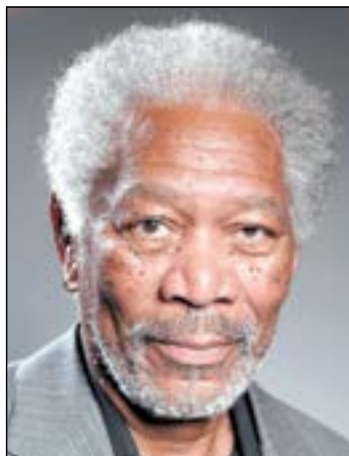
By Zenitha Prince
Trice Edney Newswire

President Barack Obama awarded the National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medal to 24 outstanding American individuals and organizations, including eight African-Americans Sept. 22 during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

The National Medal of Arts, which was created by Congress in 1984, is awarded annually by the president to outstanding artists or patrons of the arts. Similarly, the National Humanities Medal, inaugurated in 1997, honors individuals or groups whose work has “deepened the nation’s understanding of the humanities and broadened our citizens’ engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy, and other humanities subjects.”

Among this year’s recipients of the National Medal of Arts will be actor, producer and narrator Morgan Freeman, who is counted among the elite of Hollywood. Born June 1, 1937, in Memphis, Tenn., Freeman has had long careers in both theater and film and is one of the highest-ranking box office stars. The acclaimed thespian won an Academy Award in 2005 for Best Supporting Actor with “Million Dollar Baby” among other industry awards, and he has received Oscar nominations for his performances in “Street Smart” (1987), “Driving Miss Daisy” (1989), “The Shawshank Redemption” (1994) and “Invictus” (2009). His deep, smooth voice has also distinguished him as a narrator with credits in films such as the Oscar-winning documentary film “March of the Penguins.”

Also receiving recognition is record producer and songwriter Berry Gordy, who told the Detroit Free Press: “As a kid from Detroit, with big dreams and a passion for music, I am truly honored and humbled to be recognized and to receive the National Medal of Arts from the president of the United States.” The White House credited Gordy with “helping to create a trailblazing new sound in American



Freeman

music.” As the founder of Motown Records, the most successful black-owned music company in U.S. history, Gordy launched the music careers of artists such as Diana Ross and the Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and the Jackson 5.

Audra McDonald will also be awarded during the ceremony. The multifaceted Broadway, opera, film and television actress and singer made history in 2014 when she won her sixth Tony Award and became the first person to receive awards in all four acting categories. Some of her award-winning performances occurred in Broadway plays such as “Ragtime,” “A Raisin in the Sun,” and “The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess.” Her 2007 Los Angeles Opera debut in “Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny” netted her two Grammy Awards for Best Opera Recording and Best Classical Album. McDonald also has an Emmy Award and a host of other accolades.

The National Medal of Arts will also be awarded to abstract painter Jack Whitten, who the White House praised for “remaking the American canvas.” The Alabama native is known for using techniques such as “casting,” and using acrylic and other compounds to create fractured or tiled surfaces that result in mosaic-like paintings. “He transforms the materials from what we expect them to do, so we look at paint differently,” Kathryn Kanjo, chief curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, which hosted a Whitten retrospective in 2014, told Art News.

Brooklyn-based dancer, choreographer, writer, and visual artist Ralph Lemon will also be recognized. The White House said of Lemon: “As a self-proclaimed conceptualist, he uses dance as a source of physical communication, and his complex works withstand examination from all angles, revealing intimate truths about human nature and offering broader insights into the American experience.”

President Obama also awarded The National Humanities Medal to three African Americans among 12 honorees.

Journalist and author Isabel Wilkerson is one of those honorees. Wilkerson is author of the multi-award-winning tome, “The Warmth of Other Suns,” which chronicles the Great Migration of Americans from the U.S. south to the west and north. Wilkerson also won the Pulitzer Prize for her work as Chicago bureau chief of The New York Times in 1994, making her the first black woman to do so and the first African American to win for individual reporting. Wilkerson also counts among her accolades: the George Polk Award, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, and being named Journalist of the Year by the National Association of Black Journalists. She has taught narrative nonfiction at Princeton, Boston and Emory universities.

Modern jazz icon Wynton Marsalis is also being recognized for his artistic contributions. “As a virtuoso trumpet player, composer, and educator, he has brought jazz to a wider audience and inspired music lovers to embrace America’s quintessential sound,” the White House said of Marsalis.

Capping off the Black honorees is author and musician James McBride, who is being awarded “for humanizing the complexities of discussing race in America.” McBride’s memoir, “The Color of Water, stayed on the New York Times bestseller list for two years and is studied in schools throughout the U.S. His debut novel, “Miracle at St. Anna” was also made into a major motion picture directed by Spike Lee.

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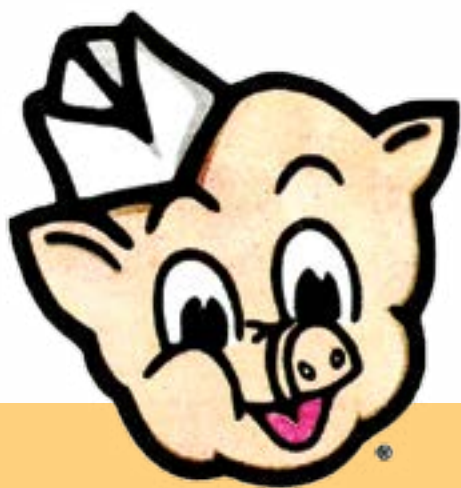
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