

Happy Father’s Day to my dad and to men everywhere

By Dr. James B. Ewers Jr.
*President Emeritus
Teen Mentoring Committee of Ohio*

I have not been able to say Happy Father’s Day to my dad because he passed away and went to heaven over thirty years ago. So I dedi-

cate this column to him and to all men who lovingly have this role.

My dad whose name I bear was born in Jamaica, a tiny island in the West Indies.

As I reflect on growing up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina

which I will share more about later, my dad was definitely my parent. He was my parent and not my friend. I am sure that many men my age can say the same thing about their fathers.

I always thought that he was

larger than life as I loved him and feared him both at the same time. When I got out of hand, my mom would always say “Jimmy, I am going to let your father know when he gets home.” Of course, this is after she gave me one of her pat-

ented spankings. Well, when my dad came home, he would admonish me verbally.

While my father was a dentist, I

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Ewers

Michigan health chief charged in Flint water probe



Lyon

By David Eggert
The Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. – The head of the Michigan Health Department was charged Wednesday with involuntary manslaughter, the highest-ranking member of Gov. Rick Snyder’s administration to be snagged in a criminal investigation of Flint’s lead-contaminated water.

Nick Lyon is accused of failing to alert the public about an outbreak of Legionnaires’ disease in the Flint area, which has been linked by some experts to poor water quality in 2014-15. If convicted, he could face up to 15 years in prison.

Lyon also is charged with misconduct in office for allegedly obstructing university researchers who are studying if the surge in cases is linked to the Flint River.

The state’s chief medical officer, Dr. Eden Wells, is accused of obstruction of justice and lying to an investigator.

Lyon’s failure to act resulted in the death of at least one person, 85-year-old Robert Skidmore, special agent Jeff Seipenko told a judge.

The charges were read in court by Seipenko, a member of the state attorney general’s team. Lyon and Wells were not in court. A message seeking comment was left for Lyon’s attorneys. Wells’ lawyer was not immediately known.

Flint began using water from the Flint River in 2014 while under state emergency management, but did not treat it to reduce corrosion. Lead from old plumbing leached into the water system.

Some experts also have linked the water to Legionnaires’ disease, a type of pneumonia caused by bacteria that thrive in warm water and infect the lungs. People can get sick if they inhale mist or vapor, typically from cooling systems.

There were nearly 100 cases in the Flint area, including 12 deaths, in 2014 and 2015.

Lyon was personally briefed in January 2015 but “took no action to alert the public of a deadly” outbreak until nearly a year later, Seipenko said.

Lyon has admitted that he was aware of the Legionnaires’ outbreak for months but wanted to wait until investigators in the state Health and Human Services Depart-

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Piney Woods president captivates audience during Cade Chapel Men’s Day program

By Tim Durr
Piney Woods

PINEY WOODS, MISS. –Will Crossley, president of The Piney Woods School, served as guest speaker for Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church’s Men’s Day program Sunday, June, 11. Crossley spoke on the theme “Do God’s Will.”

“When the clouds of life come, and your view is obstructed, set your site on God’s will,” he told the audience.

Crossley reminded the audience that despite whatever may come their way, God has the answer.

“When the sun and the dark clouds erupt into a civil war, and the rain washes out the windshield of your life, remember that faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen,” he said. “And if the dark clouds seem to prevail, overtaking the sun, and fully blocking the light of day, Jesus said I am the way, the truth and the light. No man cometh to the father but by me.”

Crossley also told the audience about the tremendous work taking place at The Piney Woods School.

“Let me be first in line to admit that our work is not easy,” he said. “It is sometimes tough and unrelenting and unforgiving work, but remarkably we have seen success academically and developmentally for all of our young people.

“The pledge we make to our stu-



Cade Chapel Senior Pastor Reginald Buckley congratulates President Crossley on his speech.

dents is that every willing graduate of The Piney Woods School will be admitted to post secondary education or training,” Crossley contin-

ued. “And we keep our pledge. We achieve these results because we do not ask our students whether they are going to college. But rather, we

simply ask them which college are

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MS e-Center Foundation and JSU: Creating jobs of the future by supporting Small Business Development

By Anthony Dean
MS e-Center Consultant

We have been taught that small businesses are economic engines for the creation of jobs in America. The term “small” sometimes create skepticism in the value and role small businesses play in our economy. However, the truth is that while they are small, they account for 60 to 80 percent of all U.S. jobs, according to *Entrepreneur Magazine*.

While small businesses have a high failure rate, business incubators and accelerators (i.e. the resources available at JSU and the MS e-Center) are designed to increase their rate of success. Jackson State University and the MS e-Center Foundation are helping small businesses gain the tools they need to be sustainable and profitable ventures in a changing economy.

The MS e-Center’s e-Business Innovation Center (MBIC) is designed to



Pictured L to R: Betty Bankhead, The Center for Education Innovation and Angie Hart, Program Director, Mississippi e-Business Innovation Center.

guide entrepreneurs through the process of building a viable business operation by creating an environment tailored to meet their individual needs. The MBIC provides networking opportunities, mentoring, and coaching assistance. Their focus is on the ethical and strong

business practices that promotes growth.

The process by which the MBIC enables graduating companies to be competitive and successful in the business world is through their strategic MasterMind Program and Certified Service Providers, who assist with the legal, fi-

nancial, and marketing aspects of quality business practice.

“It is crucial that small businesses, whatever their specific context, are able to take full advantage of the ecosystem around them and to play a pro-active role in fueling their growth,” said William McHenry, executive director of the MS e-Center. “The good news is there are programs and support organizations around JSU and the city of Jackson helping small businesses gain the tools they need to be successful.”

The MS e-Center’s MBIC houses small businesses that consist of marketing and public relations, network construction and multiple levels of security, medical coding software development, training & network implementation, healthcare IT consulting, transportation, and more.

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Rifle-wielding attacker wounds GOP leader, killed by police

The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A rifle-wielding attacker opened fire on Republican lawmakers at a congressional baseball practice Wednesday, wounding House GOP Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana and several others as congressmen and aides dove for cover.

The assailant, prepared with “a lot of ammo,” fought a gun battle with police before he, too, was shot and later died.

Scalise dragged himself off the infield leaving a trail of blood as colleagues rushed to his assistance.

The shooter was identified as James T. Hodgkinson, a 66-year-old home inspector from Illinois who had several minor run-ins with the law in recent years and belonged to a Facebook group called “Terminate the Republican Party.”

Shortly after the shooting, Bernie Sanders, the former candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, said on the Senate floor that the shooter apparently was a volunteer for his campaign last year. Sanders said he denounced the violence “in the strongest possible terms.”

Capitol Police officers who were in Scalise’s security detail wounded the shooter, who was taken into custody. He later died of his injuries.

President Donald Trump told the nation from the White House. “Everyone on that field is a public servant. Their sacri-



Shooting suspect, James T. Hodgkinson FACEBOOK VIA AP

fice makes democracy possible.”

Scalise, 51, the No. 3 House Republican leader first elected to the House in 2008, was in stable condition and undergoing surgery. The popular and gregarious lawmaker is known for his love of baseball and handed out commemorative bats when he secured the No. 3 job of House Whip several years ago.

Texas Rep. Roger Williams, who coaches the GOP team, said that one of his aides, Zack Barth, was shot, but “is doing well and is expected to make a full recovery.” Two Capitol Police officers were also injured but were expected to recover, along with a former congressional aide who was hospitalized.

Rep. Jeff Duncan of South Carolina said he had just left the practice and encountered the apparent gunman in the parking lot before the shooting. The man calmly asked which party’s lawmakers were practicing and



Scalise

Duncan told him they were the Republicans. The man thanked him.

The gunman had a rifle and “a lot of ammo,” said Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, who was at the practice.

The shocking event left the Capitol horrified and stunned. The House canceled proceedings for the day. Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California both spoke on the floor issuing calls for unity. “An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us,” Ryan said.

The shooting occurred at a popular park and baseball complex in Alexandria, Virginia, where Republican lawmakers and others were gathered for a morning practice about 7 a.m. They were in good spirits despite the heat and humidity as they prepared for the congressional baseball match that pits Republicans against Democrats.

The popular annual face-off, which raises money for charity, is scheduled for Thursday evening at Nationals Park across the Potomac River in Washington, and will go forward as planned.

The team was taking batting practice when gunshots rang out and chaos erupted.

Scalise was fielding balls on second base when he was shot, according to lawmakers present, then dragged himself into the outfield to get away from the gunman.

Rep. Mo Brooks, an Alabama Republican, said his colleague “crawled into the outfield, leaving a trail of blood.”

“We started giving him the liquids, I put pressure on his wound in his hip,” Brooks said.

Texas Rep. Joe Barton, still in his baseball uniform, told reporters a shooter came out to the practice and opened fire, shooting at Rep. Trent Kelly, R-Miss., who plays third base.

“He shot at Steve Scalise, our second baseman. He hit Steve Scalise,” Barton said, “Scalise’s security detail and the Capitol Hill police immediately returned fire, and Alexandria Police also immediately came and began to return fire. They shot the shooter. The security detail saved a lot of lives because they attacked the shooter.”

Barton said the shooting lasted 5-10 minutes, and there were dozens or more of shots fired.

“It was scary,” Barton said.

Lawmakers took cover in the

dugout. Barton said his son, Jack, got under an SUV.

Texas Rep. Mike Conaway, who was at the game, described what sounded like an explosion, then lawmakers scattering off the field as police roamed in search of the gunman and engaged him.

“The guy’s down to a handgun, he dropped his rifle, they shoot him, I go over there, they put him in handcuffs,” Conaway said, adding that if the shooter had “gotten inside the fence, where a bunch of guys were holed up in the dugout, it would have been like shooting fish in a barrel.”

FBI special agent in charge Tim Slater said it was “too early to say” whether it was an act of terrorism, or whether Scalise was targeted.

Speaker Ryan identified the wounded Capitol Police officers as David Bailey and Crystal Griner. Also wounded was former congressional aide Matt Mika, who now works for Tysons Food in its Washington office. Mika’s family said the lobbyist was shot multiple times and was in critical condition and in surgery.

After the gunfire stopped, Sen. Flake, of Arizona, said he ran onto the field and also tried to come to Scalise’s aide. After medical personnel arrived, he said he retrieved Scalise’s phone and made the first call to Scalise’s wife to notify her of the shooting. He said he did so to ensure that Mrs. Scalise would

not find out about the shooting through the media.

Falisa Peoples was just leaving the YMCA next to the ball field when she saw the shooter open fire.

“He was just very calm. He was just walking and shooting,” she said of the man, whom she described as white and wearing a T-shirt and shorts. She said he was using a long gun and exchanging fire with law enforcement officers, one of whom yelled for her to get down.

Lawmakers were stunned in the aftermath of the event, which raised questions about the security of members of Congress. While the top lawmakers, including Scalise, have security details, others do not and regularly appear in public without protection.

The last time a lawmaker was shot was when Democratic Rep. Gabby Giffords of Arizona was hit in the head and grievously injured while meeting with constituents at a supermarket parking lot in 2011.

Following the Giffords shooting, lawmakers have held fewer open town halls and have been advised to increase security at such events.

Associated Press reporters Ed White in Detroit and Eric Tucker, Mary Clare Jalonick, Ken Thomas, Vivian Salama, Stephen Ohlemacher, Alan Fram, Andrew Taylor, Sarah Brumfield and Michael Biesecker in Washington contributed to this report.

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Flint

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ment finished their own probe.

He told state lawmakers that experts likely wanted to “solve the problem” before they raised it with senior officials in the Snyder administration. The investigation, he said, “wasn’t one that was easily solved.”

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette has now charged 15 current or former government officials in an ongoing probe that began in early 2016, including two emergency managers whom Snyder appointed to run the impoverished city of roughly 100,000 residents. In May, Schuette dropped a misdemeanor

charge against a Flint official who cooperated after pleading no contest to willful neglect of duty. And in March, Corrine Miller – the state’s former director of disease control – was sentenced to probation and ordered to write an apology to residents after pleading no contest to willful neglect of duty.

Seipenko said Wells told an investigator that she had no knowledge of the outbreak until late September or early October 2015.

“This was clearly a false statement,” he said, saying she knew as early as March 2015.

Father’s Day

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believe he also had a degree in psychology as he made me feel so bad about my inappropriate behavior.

My dad ended up in Winston-Salem because a Jamaican dentist colleague told him about the city. My dad’s friend lived in High Point, a short drive from Winston-Salem. High Point is arguably the furniture capital of America.

When they got together, Jamaica was the central topic of conversation. He always seemed happy when he talked about his homeland. Even after I was born, my dad was the only Jamaican in the city. That is almost unbelievable but that is the way it was.

Later, he sponsored his nephew, also from Jamaica, so Wilfred became the second Jamaican in the city. There were many men besides my cousin Wilfred who came around the house seeking fatherly advice or help in some way.

As I grew older, I began to hear stories about how he had assisted some of these men. Because my mom was American, I am not sure that I ever had a real Southern accent. I will say that you had to have a keen ear to understand my dad. Sometimes I was an interpreter when friends were at my house. There were also some words pronounced a bit differently. For example, the word “three” was pronounced “tree.”

He was a serious man who gave me many life lessons. He always told me that America was a land of opportunity. I didn’t fully understand what he meant until our family went to Jamaica during my early teens. There are tourist spots like Ocho Rios and Montego Bay and there are smaller less popular places like Mandeville and Spanish Town. After sleeping on beds made of straw and going outside and picking mangos and grapefruits for breakfast, I understood more clearly what he meant.

He also taught me how to save money. He was a money manager long before Charles Schwab. Being a dentist in a private practice

made him watch every dime. Sometimes, I have to laugh at myself because I, too, watch every dime. His basic philosophy was always live below your means and save for a rainy day.

After my mom passed away, it was just my dad and me. During the winter time, we would have cocoa made with milk and dip French bread in it. I am not sure where he got that combination but it was good. And during the summers, we would sit on the stoop or on the side porch. He was never too busy for me.

My father was a great storyteller as he would talk about Jamaica and about some of his summer jobs. I was always mesmerized. We would also watch the Friday night fights on television sponsored by Gillette Blue Blades. Do they still make Gillette Blue Blades? He gave me a lot of lectures telling me how important it was to get a good education. To be honest, I always knew I would attend college; it was simply what college.

My mom was much more emotional than my dad. I rarely saw him upset. He was uncommonly patient. I have tried to emulate him over time. I hope that I am getting better at it however there are some who might disagree.

My dad earned the respect of people. I can’t imagine the challenges that he faced being from another country. I believe before he passed away that we became friends even though he continued to give me advice. The difference was that he also asked my opinion on matters.

I never had to look for a role model or for a hero because my dad was both. He was the most caring and generous man that I have ever met in my entire life. There are many men who have similar stories about their dads. This is just one. So, for all young dads out there my advice is that you spend quality time with your child or children. Have them grow up loving you and when you are gone, missing you. I miss my dad.

Cade Chapel

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they going to attend.

“We shun excuses at Piney Woods.” Crossley continued. “Don’t tell me what you don’t have, just use what you do have to do what you need to do.”

Crossley said the school is grateful for donors who provide scholarships for Piney Woods students.

“Almost no student at The Piney Woods School can afford the \$40,000 per student cost that we incur to provide a 100 percent boarding school education,” he said. “But no child gets turned away for an inability to pay. Every student receives scholarship assistance from the donor community.

“Donors have supported our school for more than 100 years, and I invite you to join us by also supporting this most important work,” Crossley continued. “We do this work fundamentally because we believe that it is God’s will.”

Crossley ended his remarks by saying nothing is impossible for God.

“He’s a waymaker, He’ll make a way out of no way,” he said. “And if my days get dark, my nights are cold, I’ve tried everything I know, and nothing seems to be working, then I’ll just say it like the Clark Sisters sang it, I’m looking for a miracle, I expect the impossible, I feel the intangible, and I see the invisible. The sky is the limit to what I can have.”

The Piney Woods School is located at 5096 Hwy. 49 South in Piney Woods, Miss.

For more information on Piney Woods, or how you can assist the school, call 954-8527, or visit www.pineywoods.org.



President Crossley drives a point home during his speech.



President Crossley’s family, including (left to right) daughters Kayla and Christin, and wife Monica, enjoy President Crossley’s speech.

e-Center

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Additional resources to help spur growth for small businesses at JSU and the city of Jackson are the Women Business Center of Mississippi (WBCM) and the JSU Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The WBCM serves as the catalyst for providing in-depth, substantive, outcome oriented business services to women entrepreneurs. Many of the WBCM entrepreneurs are social and economically disadvantaged. Through one-on-one counseling sessions with WBCM staff and volunteers, entrepreneurs receive the direction and resources needed to meet their goals. They help women successfully start businesses, or grow and expand their existing business-increasing revenue and creating jobs for the local economy.

“With the expansion of our downtown location and six additional satellite locations to be added in key areas across the state by the end of the fiscal year, we are positioned to help the fast-growing women-owned businesses effectively compete for lucrative projects,” said Shellie Michael, chief executive officer of MMBA.

“Mississippi has 72,300 women-owned businesses. With a satellite office in downtown Jackson and others across the state, we are transforming the way we operate to continuously improve our ability to develop business owners so that they are able to fully capitalize on opportunities to sell their goods and services statewide, nationally, and abroad.”

The JSU Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a National Science Foundation I-Corps Site, is strengthening the existing culture of entrepreneurship by supporting the translation of research from lab to market through training for faculty, students,

and staff in the areas of academic entrepreneurship and innovation.

As an I-Corps site, JSU offers entrepreneurial training and development opportunities for faculty and student teams in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines and broaden the participation of underrepresented, specifically African American, faculty and students in STEM and entrepreneurial training and development.

Their services include: business training and education; one-on-one counseling; operations and financial management; core business workshops; business assistance and mentoring; access to capital; resources for entrepreneurs; marketing assistance; export assistance; and notary services.

So, why do small businesses matter? Well, they are the major source of job creation in developed economies, and are critical to driving economic growth through innovation and market expansion. There is growing evidence of the economic significance of the small proportion of businesses that exhibit high growth, which are to be found in all regions of the country and in all industry sectors.

The economic impact of increasing the population of high growth businesses, even marginally, would be significant and the opportunity to do so exists throughout the U.S.

Communities across the nation continue to adapt, invent, and reinvent strategies to address economic development goals in our economy.

Education, innovation/entrepreneurialism, governmental collaboration, business advocacy, and leveraging public and private investment are being used to retain and create new businesses.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Members of the Jackson State Class of 1957 presented JSU Interim President Roderick Paige a \$4050 check during their recent 60th year celebration brunch. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

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Cavett discusses book “How to Overcome Church Conflict” at Lemuria Bookstore

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

Vanessa Michelle Cavett discussed her timely book, *How to Overcome Church Conflict: Confessions of a Church Girl*, at Lemuria Bookstore May 21. The author spoke about personal experiences as well as encounters that church members have as a result of their own actions.

Having been a member of four different churches and having served in numerous leadership capacities, Cavett felt a need to put pen to paper.

The presenter distinguished between two types of churches. There is the spiritual church and there is the natural church. “The first represents the body of Christ made of believers worldwide and the latter is the place believers gather to encourage each other and worship together,” she explained.

Cavett informed listeners that oftentimes church members think that because they give their lives to Christ, they won’t experience negativity. At the time they come forth to His grace, they take a new journey that will present challenges for their Christian maturity.

The speaker indicated that Christians are not all on the same level in their spirituality. Perceptions and life’s experiences are different.

The book’s theme, overcoming adversity in the church, can be found during times of conflict, not when people are seeking love and affection. Cavett believes this to be the case as Jesus and no one

else established the church. She asserts that for this reason Christian believers do not have the right to focus on their powers but to focus on working out their soul salvation one to another inside and outside the church’s walls. This, she says, is done when believers listen to Jesus for instruction. If they concentrate on God’s Word, they would be less prone to turn their attention to flesh.

While conflict is inevitable, listening to the voice of Jesus makes the believer’s task easier. The speaker noted that if church members are not exposed to reading the Bible and striving to understand God’s message, then they are missing the mark. Rather than handling the conflict, they add fuel to the fire. Thus, many conflicts could be avoided if Christian believers would recognize what God’s will may be for them during those troublesome times.

“God’s strength, not ours, will bring us through many obstacles. I’ve had a wide range of experiences. God taught me how to walk by faith, to trust Him and to be built up to do His will, she said.

Cavett shared that when she was in one church structure, she experienced conflict with the entire first family. There were times, she said, when she wanted to move her membership, but “God showed me that my time was not up there,” she said.

“Recognize opportunities to serve God and act,” Cavett told the listeners. “There is too much carnality in the church and it needs to be rooted out,” she continued.

She then stated that God’s people are called to work together in love and unity. “God will strengthen you by defining you. God desires to remove all impurities so that you can be used for His glory,” she said.

Cavett challenged believers to pray for persons who have not grown in Christ. “If you’re a Christian, you shouldn’t be an unkind person. Understand that there’s a lot of immaturity in church. Weak-minded people have not been taught how to be Christians. You have to do what God tells you. Sometimes when you do what he says, it causes you to be up and active,” said she.

According to the author, when a person is not spiritual, he/she does not understand what the believer has to do. “God knows your heart. We can’t be persuaded by what others are thinking,” she said.

Cavett explained that Jesus took abuse from religious leaders.

In closing she stated firmly, “The Christian is going to be hated, even despised. So who am I to not bear my cross? Fear has no place. If you really trust God, really believe Him and His word, then why would you fear?”

Vanessa M. Cavett is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Rhema Bible College in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. She received a MA from Mississippi College. She has taught English in Michigan and Mississippi. The Mississippi Writer’s Guild affiliate loves to engage in adventurous travel.



Cavett, signs her book, *Overcoming Church Conflict: Confessions of a Church Girl*, at Lemuria Bookstore. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

College Hill celebrates Annual Men’s Day

Mississippi Link Newswire

College Hill Baptist Church will observe its Annual Men’s Day Sunday, June 18 at 10 a.m. The guest speaker will be Emmitt Hayes Jr., of Austin, Texas.

Hayes is a native of Jackson and a former member of College Hill.

The Men’s Day celebration kicks off Friday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m., with Movie Night for Men and Boys (13 and older).

On Sunday, June 18, breakfast and Sunday School will begin at 8 a.m. in the College Hill Family Life Center.

During the 10 a.m. worship celebration Carvin Bridges will be honored as the College Hill Man of the Year.

The theme for this year’s Annual Men’s Day celebration is “Men of God Demonstrating Faith Through Works” (Luke 17:7).

The public is invited to attend all of the Men’s Day activities.

College Hill is located at 1600 Florence Avenue, and the pastor is Dr. Michael T. Williams.

For more information, call the Church office at 601.355.2670.



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District bids fond farewell to retiring employees

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools paid tribute to retiring employees at a festive sendoff at Kirksey Middle School in May. More than 100 employees were honored for their service to the district.

The full list of 2016-17 retirees are pictured here.



Community-focused student artwork on exhibit now at JSU

Mississippi Link Newswire

An extensive array of artwork created by student artists from several schools in the Lanier Feeder Pattern is on display as part of the 2017 Ask for More Arts student art exhibit.

Jackson State University students and local artists engaged students in a variety of art experiences to teach them about different forms of art. Students also learned how they can use the arts to enhance their learning and to express themselves.

Students used different art forms to create a final project that captured their community.

The 2016-17 Exhibits on Our Community – A Sense of Place include:

- “Mosaic of Mr. William Walton – A Pillar in Our Community,” Walton Elementary
- “Our Community in Mississippi,” Dawson Elementary
- “Tiger Paws–Tiger Eyes in Our Community,” Galloway Elementary
- “Our Community: Reaching for the Stars,” Johnson Elementary
- “Understanding Our Community,” Brown Elementary
- “Meet Me at the Marker,” Brinkley Elementary

Rowan Achievement Academy and Lanier High School also have works in the exhibit.

The exhibit is open to the public until July 30 at Johnson Hall at Jackson State University, 1400 Lynch Street. Gallery hours are from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday–Friday.

JPS shares the benefits of Combi Ovens with demonstration

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools students and staff are eating healthier because of new kitchen equipment installed at many of the district’s schools.

Van Winkle Elementary recently replaced its deep fat fryers with oven steamers, or combi ovens. JPS Food Service employees conducted a demonstration of the ovens at the school May 24.

Combi ovens, short for combination ovens, use three cooking methods – dry heat, steam, and a combination. The ovens are perfect for cooking meats since the dry heat introduced in the chamber will do most of the cooking. At the same time, the moisture from steam cooking helps to prevent meats from drying out and shrinking. Not only do the ovens cook foods more efficiently, they make them healthier.

JPS obtained its combi ovens through the fundraising efforts of the Jackson Heart Foundation.

Elizabeth Lacoste, executive director of the Foundation, explains why this initiative is important.

“The mission of our foundation is to lead the fight against heart disease in our local com-



Participating in the Combi Ovens Demonstration at Van Winkle Elementary were (from left) Bill Lee, Jackson Heart Foundation Board member; Fredrick Murray, JPS interim superintendent; Beneta Burt, JPS Board president and Jackson Heart Foundation Board member; Mary Hill, executive director, JPS Food Service; and Pryor Lampton, Jackson Heart Foundation Board member.

munity through education, prevention and early detection,” said Lacoste. “We are so excited that one of those ways has been to provide funds to help place the combination ovens in Jackson Public Schools.”

The foundation donated approximately \$60,000 to purchase combi ovens. With matching funds from the Food Service Department, the district was able to purchase six combi ovens.

The Jackson Heart Foundation is working on a fundraiser to provide additional funds to purchase more combi ovens for JPS schools.

“The JPS Food Service De-

partment is very appreciative of the funding provided by the Jackson Heart Foundation,” said Murray. JPS interim superintendent. “This effort assists us to provide healthier meals to our students.”

The steam ovens help food service staff improve the thousands of breakfasts and lunches served every month to students and staff.

“Van Winkle and other schools have been very positive about the healthier way we prepare meals,” explained Mary Hill, executive director of Food Service. “We are excited about this initiative as we help our students become healthy and fight obesity.”

Local pastors join JPS to improve outcomes for students

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jerry Young, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, recently hosted a pastors’ partnership breakfast with Jackson Public Schools. Local congregations listened as the district shared information on its status and challenges.

The organizations also learned how they could support local schools.

JPS Interim Superintendent Fredrick Murray gave remarks during the program. He expressed the unique outreach afforded by this partnership effort.

“Many of our scholars, faculty, and staff attend your houses of worship,” said Murray. “This is an opportunity for neighborhood churches and schools to come together in support of improving the academic and social outcomes of our scholars.”

Over 35 leaders of various faith-based organizations attended the breakfast. Some of them are already committed adopters and specialty



Participating in the JPS Partnership Breakfast were (from left) JPS Interim Supt. Fredrick Murray, JPS Board Pres. Beneta Burt, Board Sec. Camille Stutts Simms, and New Hope Pastor Jerry Young.

partners. Their first initiative is to support this year’s Summer Reading Program.

The Read On Jackson summer reading program challenges the entire city to read. Its goal is to engage 30,000 readers to read 100,000 books.

Young and district officials designed a Summer Reading Challenge that was presented to attendees following the meeting. The challenge is designed for local congregations to encourage their members

to read this summer. It is also a way to help JPS scholars fulfill their summer reading requirements.

Young, who is also president of the National Baptist Convention, announced plans to facilitate an interdenominational team to support the needs of the District.

Interested clergy and members may contact Partners in Education at (601) 960-8905 for more information about the team or the Summer Reading Challenge.

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Thomas looks forward to participating in the 2017 Student Sales and Marketing Conference

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Ebony Thomas, a Gulfport, Mississippi native and business administration major at Alcorn State University, is one of many of the university’s students that earn recognition for their outstanding academic efforts.

Ebony is among 100 of the nation’s top business students selected to participate in the National Sales Network annual Student Sales and Marketing Conference Saturday, Sept. 16 through Monday, Sept. 18 in Atlanta, Georgia.

The National Sales Network Student Sales and Marketing Conference is a powerful sales and marketing development program available to diverse students interested in marketing and/or sales.

With over 500 students applying for the conference, being one of the top students selected is something that Ebony takes pride in.

“It is an honor to have been chosen to attend the annual



Thomas

student sales and marketing conference,” said Thomas, a senior. “Being selected showed me that my hard work doesn’t go unnoticed.”

The conference will provide

Thomas with the opportunity to connect with other scholar business students while possibly solidifying a future with one of the sponsoring companies.

“I am most looking forward to connecting with other like-minded students with career goals and ambition that are similar to mine. I am also looking forward to meeting the many companies that sponsor the program to establish lasting relationships with different sales and marketing executives.

“This experience will be one of the greatest benefits to my future career in sales because it is an opportunity to build life-long connections as well as learn from some of the top companies in the world.”

Thomas salutes Alcorn’s School of Business for enhancing her skills in sales.

“Alcorn’s School of Business program has prepared me for this opportunity by providing me with the proper resources to thrive in sales. Having professors that encourage my success makes me want to go out and look for opportunities that will help me go further in my field.”

Jones earns Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Tennessee

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Alcorn State University alumna Luella Jones discovered her purpose during one of the darkest times of her life.

At the young age of 12, her mother was diagnosed with colon cancer. During a trip to the hospital, her mother’s pharmacist gave the pre-teenager details about her mother’s condition. What stood out for Jones was the pharmacist’s caring attitude.

“She sat me down and said ‘your mother is really sick and it is important that you make sure she takes each medication as directed and call if you need anything,” said Jones, who earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry in 2010. “At that moment my life changed. Not only was she just my mother’s pharmacist, but she took a genuine interest in me and was concerned about my well-being. That was the moment I knew I wanted to be a pharmacist.”

The pharmacist’s concern motivated Jones to aspire to care for others just like her. Which is what led her to earning a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center’s College of Pharmacy May 5 in Memphis.

Finishing her pharmacy education was a tough task that required Jones to give up leisure time. Now that she’s accomplished one of her main goals, she can say that it was all worth it.

“It’s hard to explain how I



Jones

feel with words, but I will tell you that I am truly grateful. The late night studying, missing birthday celebrations, weddings and all other extracurricular activities were all worth it. In order to accomplish something great, you have to make huge sacrifices.”

Faith is what Jones credits for her matriculations through medical school. She said that lots of praying and faith are key reasons why she was able to make her dream come true.

“None of this would be possible without me being spiritual. There were times when I wanted to give up, choose another career and should have failed, but my faith would not let me quit.”

With much experience, Jones hopes to share her journey with others who strive to follow the same path she did.

“It still doesn’t seem real to me today. Because I have gone through something so challenging, I can encourage and motivate others who may want to travel the same path.”

Keturah Antongiorgi promoted to captain in the United States Army

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Keturah Antongiorgi was honored with a promotion in rank for being a dedicated member in the United States Army.

The Alcorn State University alumna was promoted to captain during her promotion ceremony May 3 in Fort Hood, Texas. Prior to her promotion, Antongiorgi served as an executive officer for a company in The Warrior Transition Unit. She also served as a first lieutenant and platoon leader for an engineering company in the Army’s 1st Cavalry Division.

Antongiorgi is proud to have persevered through the long nights and early mornings of hard work that led her to being promoted.

“It feels great to know I’ve made my husband, son and family proud,” said Antongiorgi. “With great power comes great responsibility and to whom much is given, much is required. This is the beginning of a new chapter.”

The promotion made Antongiorgi reflect on her early days



Keturah (middle) getting pinned by her mother in-law and husband.

of joining the military. She remembers joining as an opportunity to fund her education. Little did she know during the time that it would be a life-changing experience for her.

“To be honest, initially it was to pay for college. Once my former military science professor afforded me the opportunity to attend the U. S. Army Airborne School, I got an official taste of what this

was all about. That experience opened my eyes and made me realize that what I was doing was far beyond me. From then on, I knew that this is where I wanted to be.”

One thing that Antongiorgi enjoys about being a part of the Army is the togetherness that everyone shares.

“Being in the Army, you meet people from all walks of life. Some you’d never run in

to unless otherwise being in the military. The talent, skills and experience all come together as one to accomplish the mission. No matter what part of the Earth you come from, the soldiers come together and speak one ‘Army language’ and stick together like family.”

Antongiorgi credits the Army for her punctuality, discipline and leadership skills.

Honor Students Organization presents donations to the Jefferson County Public Library

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jefferson County Public Library received a boost in their material after a generous donation from Alcorn State University’s Honor Students Organization.

The organization donated educational and cleaning material and supplies to the library May 26. A total of 16 individuals donated over 100 items that included pens, pencils, highlighters, notebook paper, toilet brushes, paper towels, laundry detergent, Clorox wipes, Pinesol and other school supplies.

Also included in the donation was a book giving the history of the university.

Brenda Rankin, branch manager for the Jefferson County Public Library, thanks



the organization for always keeping them in mind.

“I am so excited about their donation, and I am honored

that they chose our library as a place to donate to,” said Rankin. “We’re trying our best to keep our heads above

water, so any donation that we receive is greatly appreciated.”

The library is one of a few places in the surrounding areas that Wandra Arrington, assistant director for the Honors Curriculum Program, and her students provide services. She said that their mission is to continue to be a service to the library year around.

“The Jefferson County Library is an essential resource for youth and adults in the community, and we want to continue to support them during the fall, spring and summer months,” said Arrington.

“The Office of Pre-Professional and Honors curriculum programs continue to work to make a difference in the lives of our students and communities.”

Mathis accepts director of admissions position at Kentucky State University

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Justin Mathis continues to climb the ranks in his career in college admissions.

Mathis joined the Kentucky State University staff June 1 as the university’s new director of admissions.

Prior to his new role, Mathis served as the assistant director for recruitment at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He also served as a coordinator of admissions at Alcorn.

The new position holds new and exciting opportunities that Mathis is anxious to explore.

“It feels great. I’m excited and ready to work. I’m grateful to Alcorn State University for laying the foundation and giving me the opportunity for growth and development.”

Mathis plans to use his expertise to bring attention to what KSU has to offer in an



Mathis

attempt to add some of the nation’s best students.

“My goal is to publicize, promote interest and increase the overall knowledge of academic programs at the university as well as admit qualified, diverse individuals who will be successful and productive students at Kentucky State University in accordance with its overall goals and mission.”

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JSU helps JPS students communicate with art, celebrate communities, readjust behavior

By L.A. Warren
jsumsnews.com

Art projects that center on building community pride have helped reduce tension among elementary and middle school students, and now their works are on display at Jackson State University through June 30 thanks to a partnership between JSU and Jackson Public Schools.

The students’ artwork inside JSU’s Johnson Hall art gallery is also a collaborative effort between Parents for Public Schools and “Ask For More Arts” (AFMA), which is a grant-funded program by the Ford Foundation to help facilitate learning.

JSU has been involved with integrating art into JPS classrooms before, but in past years Parents for Public Schools and AFMA relied on local artists from the community to manage the project with elementary and middle school students.

Jimmy Mumford, interim chair of the Department of Arts in the College of Liberal Arts, said this year the groups decided to work exclusively with individuals studying art at JSU.

Mumford said the projects and relationships with the partnering groups are extremely important to preserving art because “most times when budgets are cut art programs are generally one of the first to be eliminated. Decision-makers must be aware that sometimes students may be unable to express themselves in written form and may need to rely on artistic communication.”

In addition, Mumford said, “As an artist you have to learn how to think critically. The biggest gain to having art is that it distinguishes between those who look and those who see. In other words, when many individuals look at something they often gaze at it. But when they see it they develop comprehension. Now, these students understand what they’re doing and can interpret life better.”

JSU gallery director LaNeysa Harris said many JPS schools



Elementary students from Jackson Public Schools admire the artwork of their peers during a visit inside the art gallery of Johnson Hall on the main campus of Jackson State University. The 3D piece produced by Brown Elementary is called “One Community.” It’s designed to enhance students’ understanding of their surroundings. Students used cardboard, pipe cleaners, modeling clay and paint to design and build structures. PHOTOS BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU

don’t have an art program, but “this initiative allows JSU to help make students aware of what art is and how it can be used to communicate ideas.” With a focus on communities, she said art allows students to show more pride in themselves, schools and neighborhoods because “it establishes a real sense of place.”

Jamecia McLaurin, 14, of Brinkley Middle School, said her team’s display took a lot of research, focus and time.

“The beauty is that we all worked together and cooperated,” said Jamecia, whose group project spotlights the life and legacy of martyred civil rights leader Medgar Evers. The artwork captures Evers’ work with the NAACP, his death and his convicted assassin, Byron De La Beckwith. Evers’ home, which is less than a mile from Brinkley, will earn a national marker this summer as a landmark and coincides with the title of the gallery display, “Meet Me At Marker 49.”

Jamecia and her peers have used art as an opportunity to brush up on Mississippi history and discover their own creative talent.

“I had not done art before, but now I would like to focus on more facial art,” she said.

Mumford hails the community aspect of the exhibition. “Usually people from outside Mississippi are the ones who most often visit Evers’ home, but for the first time in a long while people from the community are actually viewing it. This project allows students to research their own community and discover how it ties in to civil rights and other worldwide events.”

Willie Jones is the art coordinator at Brinkley – one of only a few JPS schools with an art club or class. He said a lot of his students didn’t even know much about Evers before the project began.

He said the greatest benefit of having art at Brinkley is that students can integrate their skills into other classes, such as developing diagrams in math and producing art pieces to accompany stories in English classes.

“With art, we allow students to use their phones and laptops to create digital designs. Art is fun, but it’s a lot of work. ... We learned much about kids and their abilities. Art really has smoothed out their attitudes when before many students were either hyperactive or jittery.”

Aron Smith, a senior graphics design major at JSU, assisted students at Brown Elementary,

which does not have an art program. Their project consists of a 3D model of the school, located in an area known as Midtown. The visual map, which is called “One Community,” is designed to enhance students’ understanding of their surroundings. Students used cardboard, pipe cleaners, modeling clay and paint to design and build structures.

“Our biggest objective was teamwork. Students gathered inspiration for the project from what they observed and valued in their community to expand their awareness: the playground, the garden, etc. They transferred those images to produce pieces for the art exhibit, which includes churches, cars and buildings.”

Of the students, Smith said, “I learned more about their curiosity to art. They were really engaged. They were so passionate that they barely put down their pens. ... I hope this experience will allow Brown to have a future art program so everyone can see the potential of what art can do for the school and the community.”

And, students weren’t the only ones benefiting. Smith said the project helped him to improve his communication skills with them as he watched how well and fast pupils worked.

Others were equally enthralled



Students marvel artwork depicting the community surrounding Walton Elementary School.

by their experiences:

Jadah Nichols, a student at Brown, embraces the joy of creating art. “We were able to visually show what our community is like. If you can’t explain something to people, you can always show them – sort of like using tools such as Braille to communicate with the blind. ... I hope my next school will include an art program to allow us to do another big project that will include developing another replica of a neighborhood. Art has helped me to open up to new things.”

Edie Graham, representing Parents For Public Schools of Jackson, said her group works with teachers and hires artists to assist schools. “This has been an awesome year for artists, artwork and student participation. ... The kids were so excited to see how everything has come to fruition. Now, they are sharing their experiences with their friends and what they’ve accomplished. Art helps kids grow and relate the craft to their schoolwork. It even makes them happier.”

LesTrina Bailey, a JSU senior elementary education major who plans to minor in art, worked with students from Johnson and Walton elementary schools. She described her experiences of working with the young talent as

“phenomenal.” At Johnson, she and students produced artwork using ceiling tiles measuring 6 feet tall, 8 feet wide. Their project incorporates the school’s motto: “Teaching Individuals to Grow and Excel While Reaching for the Stars.” The exhibit, which spotlights the Georgetown community and Freedom Corner, includes a quote by Evers that says, “The gifts of God should be enjoyed by all citizens in Mississippi.” It also pays homage to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have A Dream” speech. Overall, Bailey said she observed that students learned a lot from other students and noted the therapeutic benefits of drawing. “It relaxes people, stimulates their mind and helps steer them away from anger. Their grades even improved.”

Mumford, too, recalls art’s transformative magic.

“When I was younger I was far more successful in expressing myself artistically rather than verbally. A lot of these kids are the same way. While some students may want to be heard, others simply may want to be seen.”

He bemoans that many people, unfortunately, don’t see art as a career. They may think it’s no different than a musician or writer. A lot of people don’t value the arts because they don’t fully understand the discipline. Sometimes they may think a finished product took only two minutes to develop. In reality, artists must think strategically about everything placed on the canvas. Art imitates life because you have to learn how to see things differently. ”

Mumford said, “Everyday in my life I purposely try to view things differently – not in terms of just art but in everyday situations. Even if the event is bad, I try to think how I would handle it from an artistic standpoint. Then, I can begin to see the results of a bad situation that turns good. Most people are walking around blindly and often see the negative side of everything. In all art there’s a message, even in tragedy.”

Whole Schools Initiative Summer Institute teaches arts integration

The Mississippi Link Newswire

This week in Biloxi, the 2017 Whole Schools Initiative Summer Institute will be held June 12-16 at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College on the Jefferson Davis campus. The Summer Institute is a professional development opportunity for educational and community leaders to learn how to integrate arts into the school curriculum.

Whole Schools Initiative is a program of the Mississippi Arts Commission and Mississippi’s first comprehensive statewide arts education program. WSI uses the arts as a vehicle for promoting high-quality instruction and learning for students in all disciplines. This unique program goes beyond “art for art’s sake” and applies the arts across the curriculum.

“The Whole Schools Initiative Summer Institute harnesses the power of the arts to teach a wide variety of learners,” said Malcolm White, executive director of MAC. “Not everyone absorbs information in the same way, and the WSI Summer Institute is an immersive arts-integration experience that gives teachers and other educators tools to teach any child any subject.”

This year’s event features “The Magic of Magic,” led by illusionist Kevin Spencer. A community meeting, keynote presentation and track of workshops, “The Magic of Magic” gives educators insight into the practical applications of magic in the classroom. This program is supported in part by the award from the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Held annually, the WSI Summer Institute is open to any teacher (pre-k through 12th grade and pre-service, self-contained SPED and arts specialist) artist, school administrator, parent and community arts supporter. Workshops and arts experiences offered during the week-long event allow attendees to engage with presenters from across Mississippi and throughout the nation.

More information is available at <http://www.mswhole-schools.org> or by calling (601) 359-6030.

USM business students, faculty member inducted in Beta Gamma Sigma

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The College of Business chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS) at The University of Southern Mississippi inducted 48 students and one faculty member this spring. Beta Gamma Sigma is a business honorary that recognizes academic excellence in business studies only at schools that are AACSB accredited (Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business).

The Southern Miss chapter of BGS has achieved “highest honors” status for the 3rd consecutive year. Of the 563 chapters in the world, only 52 achieved this status this year.

Wanda Fennell, adviser to the Southern Miss chapter noted: “It is a privilege and honor to work with the members and leadership team of Beta Gamma Sigma at the University of Southern Mississippi. These are truly some of the best students at USM and are among the finest business students in the world.”

Students who are inducted are considered lifetime members. There are more than 791,000 individuals who have been inducted into BGS since 1913.

Listed below are the University of Southern Mississippi students and their hometowns. Six individuals were inducted at a previous time as undergraduate students and then again, received the honor as gradu-

ate students. Russ Willis, Management Professor of Practice, was inducted as a faculty member.

About The University of Southern Mississippi

Founded in 1910, The University of Southern Mississippi is a comprehensive doctoral and research-driven university with a proud history and an eye on the future. A dual-campus university, Southern Miss serves students on campuses in Hattiesburg and Long Beach, in addition to five teaching and research sites in Mississippi and through Online at Southern Miss. Since 2006, Southern Miss students have collected seven Goldwater Scholarships, three Truman Scholarships and 16 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. Our Drapeau Center for Undergraduate Research affords our students meaningful research opportunities, and as a proven leader in innovation, we conduct transformative research that translates into real-world solutions. As one of only 36 institutions in the nation accredited in art, dance, music and theatre, we are a haven for creativity and artistic expression. In the classroom or lab, on the playing field, or in the performance hall, we strive to have a positive impact not only on our students, but also the world around us.

Further information is found at www.usm.edu.

Juniors	Hometown
Hannah Nicole Boykin	Waynesboro, MS
Jonathan Brent	Hattiesburg, MS
Victoria Ruth Brodbeck	Fairhope, AL
Walden Davis III	Decatur, GA
Matthew Keller	Metairie, LA; New Orleans, LA
Kody Ladner	Pass Christian, MS
Abbie Lee	Harrisville, MS
Hunter Martin	Foley, AL
William Lane Martin	Prentiss, MS
Marissa Martinez	Slidell, LA
Donald Leslie Motter Jr.	Hattiesburg, MS
Deidra Ollie	Madison, MS
Edward M. Paul	Greenville, MS
Warren Russell Reilly Jr.	Mobile, AL
Payton Alexis Riley	Wiggins, MS
Andrea C. Rivera Santiago	Pensacola, FL
Tally Shaw	Perkinston, MS
Jacob Paul Smith	Vicksburg, MS
Josh Sullivan	Laurel, MS
Zachary VanNorman	Madison, MS
Gabrielle Felice Williams	Hattiesburg, MS
Seniors	Hometown
Cody Block	Glendale, AZ
Jeranda Nicole Boykin	Mobile, AL
Neilly Buck	Gulfport, MS
Kaytlynn Marie Bush	Pearl/Brandon, MS
Alycia M. Coleman	Wilbax, MT
Kris R Evans	Forest, MS; Puckett, MS
Desirae Fairley	Hattiesburg, MS
Lachelle Holmes	Tylertown, MS
Jayne Jackson	Jackson, MS; Lahaina, HI, Maui County
Charles David Jones	Biloxi, MS
Ashley Kittrell	Mobile, AL
Christina Morris	Pascagoula, MS
Laanna Morrow	Purvis, MS
Tyler Murry	Indianola, MS
Raina Parker	Gulfport, MS
James E Shoemaker	Petal, MS
Masters	Hometown
Nishu Gupta	Hattiesburg, MS
Derek Halbasch	Woodland, CA
Nicholas Edward Johnston	Nacaise, MS; Picayune, MS; Bay St. Louis, MS
Jordan William Muscat	Barrie, ON, Canada
Melanie Theresa Santiago	Biloxi, MS
Masters, 2nd Recognition	Hometown
Michelle A. Batie	Chattanooga, TN
Erika Dear	Mendenhall, MS; Florence, MS
William Hewes IV	Gulfport, MS
Mallory K James	Laurel, MS
Lloyd Lambeth	Hattiesburg, MS
Alexis Tymkiw	Slidell, LA
Faculty	Hattiesburg, MS
Russ Willis	



Mississippi House Democratic Caucus

A review of the recent Special Session

By Rep. David Baria, Chair
MS House Democratic Caucus

Last week, the Legislature concluded a special session that drained another \$100,000 from an already stressed state budget. Thankfully, it only lasted a single day.

In that day we passed six bills, two of which were related to budgets that the leadership couldn't agree on during the regular 90-day session.

Other measures considered were required to clean up problems caused by ill-conceived revisions of the budgeting process enacted in 2016 that have threatened necessary programs, and to address the state's credit rating.

Some, including House Speaker Gunn, had been calling for additional revenue streams to address the looming public safety crisis created by documented road and bridge deficiencies. Instead, we adhered to the original MDOT and State Aid Roads budget proposals from the regular session.

The only thing different between the original regular session bills for MDOT and what was passed June 5 was the elimination of a string of Senate "pet projects" that had caused strong objections on our end of the Capitol.

The Attorney General's Office, whose budget was also left

unaddressed during the regular session, made a strong public plea for restoration of \$4 million cut from the agency budget so that important crime-fighting programs, like the cyber-crime unit, could continue. The request went unanswered, although members who handled his budget on the floor tried to assure us that the attorney general could "move funds around" to cover these programs. That's kind of like moving your reduced household budget around so you can pay for the mortgage, while the electricity bill goes unpaid.

Three of the remaining four bills addressed problems created by the so-called "Sweeps" bill of 2016, which required agency "special funds" to be deposited into the general fund.

Despite the fact that such "special funds" were statutorily created to fund particular agency programs such as the Crime Victims Fund, legislative leadership has taken possession of them with a promise to fund them via agency appropriations.

Two of these three bills afforded the Secretary of State the funding and authority needed to pay the City of Biloxi money owed to it from Point Cadet Plaza lease payments.

The fourth measure was creatively named "Financial and

Operational Responses That Invigorate Future Years (FORTIFY) Act." It increased the cap on the Rainy Day Fund among other things in an effort to strengthen the state's fiscal image, since our credit rating has been in steady decline for the past few years.

According to Standard & Poor's annual rating of the Mississippi economy provided May 1, 2017, "The negative outlook reflects our view of continued weakness in Mississippi's revenue trends and relatively slow economic growth, and our expectation that the state could continue to experience budget pressures as it manages through budget reductions and the incremental revenue loss from the scheduled implementation of recent tax changes." In other words, we needed to take steps to demonstrate that we can manage our budget better, and we took a small step towards doing so.

In short, we met in Special Session to clean up leadership decisions that have left our fiscal ship of state leaking and listing as we struggle under the lowest-ranked economy in the nation. And, we haven't felt the brunt of the funding drain that's coming in the next few years from massive corporate giveaways and tax cuts.

These decisions have been

made without much discussion or input in most cases, and the results speak for themselves.

We continue to implore the politicians in leadership roles in Jackson to study the effects of similar decisions made in Kansas and other states just a few years ago.

Mississippi can learn from the Kansas Experiment, and it's not too late to change direction here before economic conditions worsen to the point that they become irreversible.

House Democrats stand ready to do the tough work necessary to create economic conditions that spur job growth and invite businesses and young, bright people back into our state to lead us into the next decade.

The session closed on a somber note when 11 of our colleagues, members of the Legislative Black Caucus, came to the well to express their dismay at a member's thoughtless use of the word "lynch" in a social media post. Their impassioned speeches provided solemn and heart-wrenching reminders of dark days in Mississippi's past. As elected officials, each of us bears the responsibility to make sure that our words and actions reflect a Mississippi where all are treated with kindness, respect and understanding. There is simply no excuse to behave otherwise.

\$299,995 awarded to Jackson State University

Mississippi Link Newswire

Today, United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced The National Science Foundation has awarded \$299,995 to Jackson State University.

The Students Understanding Chemistry Concepts to Enhance STEM Skills (SUCCESS) project at Jackson State University will target at-risk and underrepresented students, with a focus on biology majors, and will enable them to successfully complete general and organic chemistry.

The SUCCESS project will provide three-day Chemistry Readiness Workshops prior to the start of a course, and an additional two-hour SUCCESS Session during each week of the semester. Enabling at-risk and underrepresented students to succeed in their chosen major will support diversification of the STEM workforce.

How these interventions promote student success will be documented, and the knowledge gained will complement successful approaches to undergraduate instruction across multiple STEM disciplines.

The impact of Chemistry Readiness Workshops, the modified Xavier University Chemistry Drill Program, and Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL) sessions



Thompson

on the success of students in general chemistry will be documented.

Data from the intervention groups will be compared to historical data and evaluated to determine whether these strategies: (a) improve attendance in chemistry classes, (b) decrease drop/fail/withdraw rates, (c) improve students' conceptual understanding of chemistry, and (d) improve student retention.

The results will be disseminated in biology and chemistry education conferences, and associated proceedings.

Overall, this project will contribute to what is known about the promoting student success in STEM with at-risk and underrepresented students. This project will support broadening participation in STEM and the STEM workforce.

For more information call 703-292-8070.

MDWFP invites youth to Fishing Rodeo events in Houston and Monticello

Mississippi Link Newswire

Youth 15 years and younger are invited to fishing rodeos being held at two locations in the state.

All events are free, and they provide a good opportunity for young anglers to fish a lake that is well stocked with catfish which are typically easy to catch. Participants are encouraged to bring their own fishing gear, catfish bait, and stringers. Families are invited to come enjoy quality time together in a safe environment.

The Houston rodeo is hosted by the Chickasaw Development Foundation and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) and is being held at American Legion Lake located at 248 Dulaney Street in Houston on Saturday,

June 17. Fishing will start at 7:30 a.m. Call the foundation office at (662) 456-3583 for more information.

Lake Mary Crawford is the site for the rodeo in Monticello on Saturday, June 24. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. Lake Mary Crawford is located 5 miles west of Monticello off Hwy 84. Contact the lake office at (601) 587-7853 for more information.

For more information about the youth fishing rodeo program, call the MDWFP Fisheries Bureau at (601) 432-2200.

For more information regarding fishing in Mississippi, visit www.mdwfp.com or call (601) 432-2200.

Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/mdwfp](https://www.facebook.com/mdwfp) or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.

Palazzo votes to hold VA accountable

Mississippi Link Newswire

Washington, D.C. — Congressman Steven Palazzo (MS-4) released the following statement following the final passage of the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act (S. 1094):

"For too long our veterans have suffered under the bureaucracy of the VA. Some have literally died waiting in line for care, and no one at the VA is ever held responsible for their actions. That changes today with the passage of the VA Accountability Act. The VA will finally, after many years, have the real ability to fire, demote or suspend bad employees. This is

a huge victory for our veterans."

The House has passed several bills in recent years to allow the VA to fire poor employees who have previously been protected by myriad union and labor rules; however, today marks the first time both chambers of Congress have agreed on passage.

Despite the veteran wait time scandal, massive construction cost overruns, VA employees committing crimes, and countless employees providing poor care, the VA leadership has had little ability to remove these underperforming employees.

S. 1094 passed the House overwhelmingly by a vote of 368-55 and will be sent to the president for final signature.



June 13, 2017

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Agriculture Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

AN OPEN LETTER

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I just wanted to let you know that not everyone in Mississippi appreciated your remarks about our state during the most recent meeting of the President's Cabinet. While others around the meeting table were espousing their travel agenda, you took the opportunity to say "While we are bragging about international travel I just got back from Mississippi and they like you there."

While it may not be politically correct for your party's Mississippi leaders to admonish this poor attempt at humor, we don't share that same weakness when our state is condescended in such a manner as your comments suggested.

Please make better use of your time, like providing the assistance that our small and large farmers in this country need instead of pushing a budget cutting agenda against our farm families. As my mother says, clean up your own backyard.... and stop disparaging Mississippi.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Chairman Bobby Moak
Mississippi Democratic Party
BM/kls

Mississippi Democratic Party Chairman Bobby Moak sent a letter to United States Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue about the Secretary's disrespect to Mississippi.

Can finger printing cause a lifetime of rejection?

By Harry C. Alford
NNPA News Wire Columnist



A few weeks ago, in the Chevy Chase neighborhood of Washington, D.C. Nicole Mason was hosting a party during the Memorial Day weekend. Her neighbor called the police and complained of loud noise. Usually this would cause a citation order, which would require her to go see a judge and possibly face a fine. But this policeman had other plans for this black female living in the richest zip code in Washington, D.C. He took her to the local police station where “she was photographed, fingerprinted and briefly put into a cell” according to the *Washington, Post*. She later received a formal apology from D.C.’s chief of police.

Besides humiliation and mistreatment Mason probably doesn’t know the worst thing that happened to her. She was fingerprinted. That will cause a lifetime of disruption. Whenever you get fingerprinted by police the results are sent to the FBI headquarters for entry into their database and will stay there forever. If she is up for a prominent assignment to a governmental board or a position that requires a security clearance the “arrest” is going to pop up. Not the unneces-

sary and stupid fingerprinting done by an admonished policeman. It will be assumed a criminal arrest. That could be next week or 15 years from now. It is there and it will never be expunged.

Minorities in this nation are plagued by this kind of unnecessary action on an ongoing basis. The fact is there are millions of young minorities who get into the FBI database and those fingerprinting records are there to stay, even if you were not indicted; not convicted; case thrown out or all charges are erased from your records. Those fingerprints remain in that FBI database and will be reported via any simple background check. To the person receiving the report he will think “arrest” and nothing positive is going to come out of this.

This alone is perhaps the biggest contributor to unemployment for the minority population. As an African American, I have seen far too many times that relatives of mine are thwarted from good job opportunities and the possibility of real wealth. It is an assault on minority employment with severe generational and economic consequences. How many times do some of my relatives get hired by a reputable corporation; work two months and then suddenly be escorted from the premises (background report ar-

rived) to never come back.

My sons matriculated at the College Park campus of the University of Maryland. The majority (majority!) of their black alumni have been picked up and fingerprinted for one stupid thing or another. The clear majority usually spent a few hours in holding or were released the following morning. Little do they know that the fingerprinting that was done may come back to haunt them.

I have written about the ride-share industry and how it has grown tremendously. Uber, Lyft and now others are filling a great need in this world. It is some of the best stock you can buy. What is even better they have hired a massive number of minorities as drivers. I can’t think of another industry other than the NFL and the NBA that has a higher percentage of minorities on their hiring roles.

So, what has their competition been trying to do? They want these drivers to be fingerprinted knowing that a large percentage will no longer take part in this employment boom. This is sinister. Watch out there are state legislators that, for some reason, are starting to “kick around” the idea of blocking ex-offenders and denying them re-entry into society.

I applaud other elected officials who are getting involved in this

“re-entry” issue involving ex-offenders.

Many want companies to “remove the box” on applications that ask if you have ever been arrested. That may make everyone feel good but the day of reckoning will come when the company routinely requests an FBI background check. They may want to hire the applicant but the HR policy or insurance requirements may demand the check and that calls off all employment chances for many.

The future of our nation depends on a successful re-entry program for our ex-offenders. More importantly, records should be accurate and detailed. They are not. It is just “cut and dry” with no other considerations. When one serves his time, he should be given a new start. Punishment becomes torture if there is no way out or forgiveness.

Our civil rights organizations should establish policy about this issue and become very active in the needed advocacy.

Parents, why do we allow such evilness to haunt our children? Let’s come together and make this world a much better place.

Alford is the co-founder, president/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce®. Website: www.nationalbcc.org Email: hal-ford@nationalbcc.org

Back to the Future: Civil Rights, Wade Henderson, and the next generation

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



“A final victory is an accumulation of many short-term encounters. To lightly dismiss a success because it does not usher in a complete order of justice is to fail to comprehend the process of full victory. It underestimates the value of confrontation and dissolves the confidence born of partial victory by which new efforts are powered.” – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., American Civil Rights Activist, “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?” June 1, 1967

As he prepared to step down as president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, it is likely Wade Henderson pondered the same question that Dr. King did 50 years earlier as he sat alone in a secluded rental house in Ocho Rios, Jamaica – the question that would become the title of his final book: *Where Do We Go From Here?*

Both men are part of the long, unfinished narrative of our nation’s struggle for equality for all its citizens. And at critical points in our history, both reached a period in their work as activists and advocates that called for contemplation of the future of our country and its continuing fight for civil and human rights.

In his book, Dr. King reflected on economic and social reform that would benefit all Americans, and specifically looked at the state of racial equality for African Americans at the very infancy of the civil rights movement following the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He also reflected on black nationalism, which appeared to be the next phase in the struggle of African Americans to attain basic civil rights – considering the effectiveness of the ideology, its tactics, and its ability to shape, mark and transform the movement for civil rights.

At the age of 15, Henderson attended the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom where Dr. King famously delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. Fortunately, Henderson’s passion for social justice did not stay on the mall of the Lincoln Memorial. Before taking the helm of the Leadership Conference for nearly 21 years, Henderson was the Washington Bureau director of the NAACP, directing the civil rights organization’s government affairs and national legislative program and he worked as the associate director of the Washington office of the ACLU.

Under his direction, Henderson grew the Leadership Conference’s number of member organizations from 170 to 200, including its first Muslim and Sikh civil rights groups, and he led the coalition through the passage of every major civil rights law in the past 20 years, including reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Fair Sentencing Act. And like Dr. King, Henderson recognized that a “generational change” was taking hold in the civil and human rights movement, including the rise of Black Lives Matter and newer forms of activism.

Rather than resist that change, Henderson embraced this newest phase, deciding that his work at with the coalition had reached its highest level and concluded that, “it’s at that point that I think it is best to step aside and to promote constructive change.”

Today, while progress has been made, we find ourselves fighting for much of what Dr. King fought during his time, and we face the rollback of many hard-fought-for reforms and legislation, but to his credit, Henderson built a well-earned legacy and simultaneously forged a path for the Leadership Conference and the next generation of advocates to lead and succeed.

The coalition will now be directed by Vanita Gupta, the first woman and first child of immigrants to head the organization. A long-time civil rights litigator and former head of the Obama administration’s Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, Gupta is confident in her belief that, “this organization is perfectly situated to address the current assault on civil rights that we are seeing today.”

As a member of the Leadership Conference, the National Urban League firmly believes the coalition has been entrusted to capable and intelligent hands and we look forward to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the Leadership Conference on the frontlines as we all work together to protect our progress.

He said, she said involves President Trump and James Comey

By James B. Ewers Jr.
President Emeritus
Teen Mentoring Committee of Ohio



The phrase he said, she said belongs in a Dear Abby column or a relationship book.

These words have always been associated with some type of chaos and confusion. Two people have a disagreement and each person has a side to tell. Neither wants to admit any wrongdoing so they dig their heels in and stand firm.

Usually friends and colleagues will pick a side so the histrionics just continue.

Well this time the impasse has reached the highest level of government. It has reached the White House and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Say what! Donald Trump, the president and James Comey, former director of the FBI are embroiled in a bitter struggle of who is right and who is wrong.

A lot of us didn’t know who Comey was until weeks before the presidential election last year. Of course, he alleged some wrong doing by Hillary Clinton which some say ruined her chances to become president of the United States. Democrats have been furious with him ever since.

If you are a Democrat, no worries, the Republicans are as mad as fire with him now.

Since January there have been many statements made about Russian ties to Trump. All of this speculation has caused Trump and his administration too many Alka Seltzer moments.

So, in typical Trump fashion, he fires Comey, then director of the FBI. Why? It seems Comey was probing too much and too often about Michael Flynn, former National Security Adviser and Trump himself.

Since taking office, Trump has had multiple contacts with Comey via in person meetings and telephone contacts. By contrast, President Barack Obama had two meetings with Comey during his time in office. The last time was simply to say goodbye as he was leaving office.

Comey became so paranoid that he started to document his contacts with President Trump.

Can you imagine documenting every meeting you had with your boss? I can’t.

For example, on February 14 in the Oval Office, Comey says Trump says, “I hope you can see your way clear to letting this go, to letting Flynn go. He is a good guy. I hope you can let this go.”

In my opinion and the opinions of many Americans who are grounded in truth and facts this president is always near the corner of guilt and shame. You know the old expression where there’s smoke, there’s fire.

Well, the smoke has gotten so thick that last Thursday Comey testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee. There he stated again his distrust of Trump.

Comey in my view felt some pressure to become one of Trump’s minions. Admiral Mike Rogers, director of the National Security Agency has felt no pressure. He said, “In the three plus years that I have been director of the National Security Agency, to the best of my recollection, I have never been directed to do anything I believe to be illegal, immoral, unethical or inappropriate.”

Comey while testifying on Thursday pretty much called the 45th president a liar. The very next day at a news conference Trump called Comey a liar. Liar, liar pants on fire but whose pants are on fire?

Let’s agree that both Comey and Trump are standing near the cliff when it comes to telling the truth. This embarrassment is playing out in real time so everybody

is shamed right now. It doesn’t matter if you are a Democrat or a Republican.

What do other countries think about this great land of ours? I am sure that our stock has gone down.

It will continue to go down because words like truth, justice and honesty are not taken seriously.

The Senate Intelligence Committee will probably call more witnesses to testify yet will the truth ever be known?

Christopher Wray has been nominated as the new director of the FBI. If he gets too close to whatever the truth is will he be fired too?

You can’t keep firing people. This isn’t The Apprentice.

It is my opinion that the checks and balances system has caused the 45th president fits and nightmares. You just can’t dismantle long standing programs with the stroke of a pen or a telephone call.

In the coming days stay tuned to more drama. As one artist said if it’s not one thing, it’s another. With trust evaporating like a cloud with the president and those who advise him, trouble seems to be the rule and not the exception.

Some Americans and world leaders are asking the question, do you miss him yet?

P R E S E R V E D

Who's your daddy?... Check your DNA

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Some of my guilty pleasures are the judge reality shows like Judge Mathis and Judge Lauren Lakes' Paternity Court. My reasons for liking those shows vary but I must admit that I love watching the drama of the paternity tests and their results. Honestly, it's amazing to me how much information about their personal lives people are willing to share on television.

I'm also surprised at how hearing the words "You are not the father....or you are the father" could bring such joy or pain. And it all comes down to three letters: DNA.

DNA or deoxyribonucleic acid are the intriguing molecules that prove paternity on these shows. DNA determines the physical characteristics

that we inherit from our parents like eye color, height, and body type. Unless you are a twin, you have a unique DNA that no one else on the earth shares.

DNA stores information, can pass traits from generation to generation and, most importantly, answers questions about who you are in small pieces of hair, nails, skin, sweat, tears and blood, etc

It's only been through the use of modern scientific advances that we've learned how useful DNA can be. In some cases, it has set the wrongly convicted free from prison sentences.

Spiritual DNA (Destiny, Needs, and Authority) also answers questions about who we can be in our spiritual lives. Job 23:14 clarifies, "So he will do to me whatever he has planned. He controls my destiny." Have you allowed someone else to determine your destiny? Are you walk-

ing in your destiny and do you recognize God's plan for your life?

Another part of your spiritual DNA involves having your needs met through sincere prayer and a dialogue with God.

Do you know the difference between your needs and your wants? Who or what have you allowed to satisfy your needs?

Matthew 6:7-8 gives clear instructions on how to pray: "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Knowing your spiritual DNA also involves asking whose authority are you under. Who do you have authority over and how do you handle it? Have you given your authority away through sin and disobedience? And if you did, how do you get it back?

We have to recognize where our authority comes from and what it is to be used for. Romans 1:5 says, "Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name."

Knowing our spiritual DNA can change your life. However, your spiritual DNA (like your eye color) doesn't do anything by itself. But it does tell everyone who your spiritual parents are and what traits and behaviors you'll be passing on to others.

This Father's Day, I encourage you to celebrate your father (spiritual or natural).

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.

Serve God with all your strength

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



There is a lot of enjoyment in serving God. Skin color, nationality and age mean nothing, but we all are one in Christ Jesus.

We all are going to eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

When we get close to the end of life's journey, what are we going to do with all our things? Who will be getting our most precious collections? We must lay up treasures in Heaven.

If there is anything that we like to do that gets in the way of our serving the Lord, we must give it up. When we get in Christ, we have a real friend. Sin will take us to places of degradation, harm and even death.

The Apostle Paul was a changed man. He even loved things that he once hated because the Lord turned him around. That is the way it was with many of us. The Lord just turned us around.

God can deliver us from powers and influences that people have over our lives. However, God must take first place in our hearts. If we are going to walk with God, we have to walk God's way regardless of what people think or threaten us with. The early church (Acts) was threatened unto death and some of

them were killed, but they followed God even unto death.

One of the fastest ways to lose friends is to go all the way with God. Once we become serious about spiritual matters, forsaking all our idols, taking our eyes off the things of this world, turning to Jesus with all of our heart and hungering for more of Him, we suddenly become a lover of Christ. We stop pursuing material possessions and become obsessed with pursuing Christ. We began to dig into God's Word.

Rest assured, those of us who want to walk righteously before the Lord are going to face trials. In fact, the deeper our walk with Christ, our furnace testing becomes more intense. It is because the Lord wants to burn out the impurities in our hearts and to conform us into the image of His Son.

I want to encourage everyone to serve God. We must be definite when people ask us if we are going to Heaven. Yes, by the grace of God, we are going to Heaven. We must want to live for God more than anything. Serve God with all our strength.

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

REIGNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Green Pastures Baptist Church will be celebrate 29 years of thanksgiving and praises to Almighty God - June 25 - at 3:00 P.M. Pastor Charles Knight and the St. James Church will serve as special guest for the anniversary worship service. Please come, share, and be blessed.

The Central Mississippi Radio Association will this year team up with the Jackson Amateur Radio Club and the Vicksburg Amateur Radio for the annual public demo of emergency communications called "FIELD DAY" June 23 and 24 at the Rankin County Storm Shelter, 651 Marquette Road in Brandon Mississippi.

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Live Radio Broadcast
WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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Crossroads Church of God

Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others

Sunday Morning Fellowship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Sch: 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m.
(Fellowship following worship service 1st Sundays)

Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor
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Intercessory Prayer 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.
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Pastor

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WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class

TV BROADCAST
8:00 a.m. - Channel 14 (Comcast)

Prayer Everyday: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Cleveland, Miss. paramedic to be nationally recognized

The American Ambulance Association Awards Stellar Examples of EMS Professionalism and Heroism in Washington D.C. June 12-14, 2017

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Pafford EMS, the 9-1-1 ambulance provider based in Cleveland, Miss., has named Craig Sparks, paramedic to be recognized by the American Ambulance Association (AAA) as a National Star of Life during the Association's 2017 Stars of Life Celebration held June 12-14, 2017 in Washington D.C.

Sparks will be one of 108 other EMS professionals awarded as an AAA Stars of Life recipient among the nominees from the association's member companies located all over America.

In addition to numerous events and recognitions in D.C., Sparks will meet with Mississippi's congressional representatives and/or their staff members to offer his insights about providing advanced life support EMS services from the perspective of being one of the state's exemplary hands-on care providers since 2007.

Conservatively speaking, Sparks has tended to the EMS needs of at least 9,000 seriously hurt or very ill Mississippi



Sparks

citizens and visitors in their homes or hotels, on the state's roadways, at their workplaces or at the state's recreational playgrounds and wildernesses.

For more than excellently performing the responsibilities you would expect of a professional paramedic, Sparks was nominated for his Star of Life distinction

because of his dedication and commitment to teaching hundreds of EMT and paramedic students as a field training officer, a CPR instructor and an Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) instructor.

He is also on the faculty at Coahoma Community College's EMT program. John Paul Gates, his immediate supervisor in Cleveland says, "Regardless if he is caring for 9-1-1 callers, teaching EMS students, or if he has been deployed to Mississippi flood evacuations or hurricane responses, his compassion for his fellow man, shows in everything he does."

The American Ambulance Association's Stars of Life program celebrates the contributions of ambulance professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to their communities or the EMS profession.

The Stars of Life event honors the contributions of these heroes while shining light on the critical role EMS plays in our healthcare infrastructure.

USM veterans center stresses importance of free Hepatitis C testing

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Veterans, Service Members and Families is helping spread the word about a statewide initiative that will provide free Hepatitis C testing to enrolled veterans born between 1945-1965.

The Mississippi Community Veterans Engagement Board (MS-CVEB), in coordination with the G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson and the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System in Biloxi, has launched the program that will include testing at various sites across Mississippi and the Gulf South region on June 13.

"Hepatitis C is a horrific disease affecting up to 17 percent of our veterans, and most don't even know they have it," said Maj. Gen. (U.S. Army-ret.) Jeff Hammond, who serves as the USM center's director and also as MS-CVEB chairman.

"I'm going to be tested, to set an example, and I plead with members of our community to find a veteran and encourage him or her to participate in this testing," he said.

Hammond points out that the VA will provide no cost care for those who test positive (12-week medicine protocol) which, to date, has proven 95 percent successful.

Hepatitis C is a viral infection that causes liver inflammation, sometimes leading to serious liver damage. The hepatitis C virus spreads through contaminated blood. The virus is spread primarily by blood-to-blood contact associated with intravenous drug use, poorly sterilized medical equipment, needlestick injuries in healthcare, and transfusions.

A Department of Veterans Affairs study shows that new drug regimens for Hepatitis C have resulted in "remarkably high" cure rates among patients in VA's national health care system.

Since Jan. 1, 2014, the G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson has treated a total of 450 veterans

with rates of cure exceeding 90 percent.

Medical staff will provide walk-in testing for eligible veterans enrolled in VA health care, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the following locations:

G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center, 1500 E. Woodrow Wilson Dr., Jackson

Columbus VA Community-Based Clinic, 824 Alabama Street, Columbus

Greenville VA Community-Based Clinic, 1502 S. Colorado Street, Greenville

Hattiesburg VA Community-Based Clinic, 5003 Hardy Street, Tower B, Suite 402, Hattiesburg

Kosciusko VA Community-Based Clinic, 405 West Adams, Kosciusko

McComb VA Community-Based Clinic, 1308 Harrison Avenue, McComb

Meridian VA Community-Based Clinic, 2103 13th Street, Meridian

Natchez VA Community-Based Clinic, 105 Northgate Drive, Suite 2, Natchez

Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, 400 Veterans Avenue, Biloxi

Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System-Eglin Community Based Outpatient Clinic, 100 Veterans Way, Eglin AFB, Fla.

Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System-Joint Ambulatory Care Center, 790 Veterans Way, Pensacola, Fla.

Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System-Mobile, 1504 Springhill Ave; Mobile, Ala.

Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System-Panama City Outpatient Clinic, 2600 Veterans Way (along Magnolia Beach Road), Panama City Beach, Fla.

For eligible veterans who are not enrolled in VA health care, VA staff will be on site to initiate enrollment, or veterans may call 855-574-7286 to complete an enrollment application, or visit a nearest VA medical center or clinic.

Veterans can also enroll online at www.vets.gov.

Copharix™ initiates launch of chronic care and HCV services in 33 states across USA

The Mississippi Link Newswire

MATAWAN, N.J. – Copharix™ announces the initial launch of its innovative services designed to help improve healthcare outcomes. Copharix™ is a healthcare informatics and care coordination/management company that specializes in personalized health, personalized medicine and precision medicine initiatives.

Copharix™ Services include precision medicine data repositories, medication adherence services, chronic disease and Hepatitis C intervention programs. Other Copharix™ offerings include software solutions and coordinated delivery of healthcare therapies to improve patient outcomes. We focus on reducing care gaps, healthcare disparities and providing services that increase the capacity and efficiency of healthcare delivery.

Copharix™ initial services focus on eligible member participants who are at risk of (or have) multiple chronic diseases and/or Hepatitis C (HCV). Copharix™ Services are offered under the PHACSTM brand (sounds like "Facts").

In order to provide Copharix™ PHACSTM services at a scale that will have a measurable impact on overall healthcare outcomes, Copharix™ entered into a business relationship with MinuteClinic™ the retail medical clinic of CVS Health™

MinuteClinic™ operates walk-in health care centers where licensed health care providers, such as nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs), diagnose and treat common illnesses and perform certain medical screenings. The collaboration with MinuteClinic™



enables Copharix™ eligible members to visit one of the 1,100 MinuteClinic locations nationwide for physical assessments.

Copharix eligible members can visit their local MinuteClinic™ during regularly scheduled hours and receive, a low cost (or no-cost) to the participants, physical assessment that is an initial step in the Copharix™ process for helping patients pursue a path toward better health.

The physical assessments performed by MinuteClinic™ on behalf of Copharix™ will establish benchmarks for Copharix™ personalized care plans that utilize key personal health data to design strategies for coordinating care and managing health risks" says Copharix™ CEO, Robert E. Dansby, Ph.D.

During the physical assessments, patients will receive vital information about their health and will be counseled on ways to reduce their health risks. Copharix™ will provide patient centered programs that address patient needs and enable them to take charge of their health.

Every MinuteClinic™ location offers physical assessments year-round at times that work for patients. Clinics are open seven days a week, including evenings, with no appointment needed. Copharix™ will use the on-line MinuteClinic™ locator

to direct its eligible members to selected MinuteClinic™ locations.

Participants can choose to check wait time online, hold a place in line or schedule a future appointment by visiting www.MinuteClinic.com.

Participants may also obtain assistance from the Copharix™ support center.

One in four Americans have multiple chronic conditions that last a year or more and require ongoing medical attention or limit activities of daily living. According to the CDC, that number rises to three in four Americans aged 65 and older.

Approximately 71 percent of the total health care spending in the United States is associated with care for the Americans with more than one chronic condition.

Among Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries, people with multiple chronic conditions account for 93 percent of total Medicare spending.

Reported cases of acute HCV infection increased more than 2.9-fold from 2010 through 2015. CDC estimates that 33,900 new HCV infections occurred in 2015. Approximately 3.5 million USA citizens are currently infected with HCV. In 2013, HCV associated deaths exceeded the combined number of deaths from 60 other infec-

tious diseases.

Copharix™, in collaboration with MinuteClinic™ and other health services partners, will work to address these growing healthcare problems. Copharix™ will provide chronic care management services for its eligible members that are aged 65 years and older.

Copharix™ will facilitate CDC recommend one-time testing for HCV infections among its selected eligible members who are adults born during 1945-1965 and who meet other Copharix™ eligibility criteria.

Dansby added, "We are launching the first wave of our innovative personalized health services as we expand our engagement with local communities."

About Copharix

Copharix™ is a healthcare informatics and care coordination/management company that: (a) develops and provides healthcare analytics, informatics and information services and solutions utilizing "big" databases of healthcare transactional and clinical data; (b) works in close collaboration with various participants in the healthcare delivery value chain to address healthcare needs; (c) provides innovative healthcare analytics, informatics and information services that are designed to enable more accurate evaluations of healthcare outcomes and to facilitate processes for improving the quality of such outcomes; and (d) invents innovative methodologies which are embodied in patented software to leverage healthcare market generated data and provide indexes of healthcare performance at the provider and patient levels.

Pearl Street AME Church blood drive in honor of Jeremiah Westmoreland

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Blood Services will be holding a blood drive in honor of Jeremiah Westmoreland at the Pearl Street AME Church Friday, June 23, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The MBS Donor Coach will be at the church, located at 2519 Robinson Road.

Donors will receive a T-shirt (while supplies last). Donors can now check their overall cholesterol levels on their MBSCoconnect account.

All donors are automatically registered for a chance to win a new Ram 1500 Big Horn 4 X 4 truck in the Mississippi Blood Services Road to Life 9 Blood Drive when they donate blood now through August 18.

MBS is joining with Mac Haik Flowood and Mac Haik Madison to give one lucky donor a brand new vehicle to be given away August 25.

Donating blood is safe, simple and it saves lives. Donors must be at least 16 years

old (16- and 17-year-olds need signed parental consent, visit our Web site for a copy of the form), weigh at least 110 pounds and have a valid ID.

Mississippi Blood Services (MBS) was founded in 1979. Mississippi Blood Services is the only not-for-profit blood center headquartered in Mississippi.

MBS supplies a safe and adequate supply of blood and blood products to Mississippi hospitals from the Tennessee line to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Mississippi Blood Services is Mississippi's blood service.

Download the free MBS app for your smartphone and/or tablet and keep up with all things MBS! #Give1Save3.

Visit us at msblood.com or call us at (888) 90-BLOOD (902-5663) for information.

You can also visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/give2live and follow MSbloodservices on Twitter.

GET YOUR CURRENT NEWS AND WATCH AP VIDEOS ONLINE AT:

www.mississippilink.com

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR
GROUP 1 SEWER SYSTEMS EVALUATION STUDY
CITY PROJECT 17B0504

The City of Jackson (City), Mississippi is requesting proposals (RFPs) from qualified firms for the purpose of selecting Contractor(s) with which to negotiate a Professional Service Contract for Group 1 Sewer System Evaluation Study (SSES) services described in the RFP. Proposers will be qualified on the following criteria:

- Proposer's qualifications, experience, and client references.
- Demonstrated understanding of the scope of the project and ability to complete the work in conformance with project requirements.
- Availability of adequate equipment and personnel for the project.
- Experience and qualifications of Project Manager, key staff, and subcontractors assigned to the project.

The Cost Proposal of those proposers deemed qualified will be opened, evaluated, and three contracts awarded based on the best cost proposal from a qualified proposer.

Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 by no later than 3:30 p.m. local time, on Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

Interested firms may obtain a copy of a detailed Request for Proposals and any addenda at no charge from the City's website at www.jacksonms.gov. The Request for Proposals is also available for review with the Office of the City Clerk.

Technical Proposals (one original and five copies) shall be submitted sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Technical Proposal for Technical Services for Group 1 Sewer System Evaluation Study, City Project 17B0504."

The Cost Proposal shall be submitted in a separate, sealed envelope labeled: "Original Cost Proposal, City Project 17B0504."

One original and two copies of the completed and signed EBO Plan shall be submitted in a separate, sealed envelope labeled: "EBO Plan for City Project 17B0504."

The Technical Proposal, Cost Proposal, and EBO Plan shall be deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated.

A MANDATORY Pre-Proposal Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 1:30 P.M., local time, in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room located on the first floor of the Warren A. Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Attendance by Proposers intending to submit on the project is required. All potential Subcontractors and other interested parties are invited to attend.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each proposer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan with the proposal submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a proposer from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the City of Jackson's Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the program are available at the following location: 200 South President Street, Room 223, Jackson, Mississippi; or can be accessed from City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity webpage.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all proposers 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 proposers will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals 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.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City of Jackson encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City of Jackson, as well as those who seek to contract with the City of Jackson on various projects and/or conduct business in Jackson to assist the City of Jackson in achieving its goal by strongly considering City of Jackson residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

Jerriot Smash
Interim Director of Public Works

Terry Williamson
Legal Counsel

Marshand Crisler
Chief Administrative Officer

6/15/2017, 6/22/2017

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP
OF AREANA DENISE MARTIN, A MINOR

CAUSE NO. P.2017-47 S/2

TO: THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF A
African- American Female child born on
July 30, 2012 at Central Mississippi Medical
Central in Jackson, Mississippi to a
Nineteen (19) year old African American female,
An adult resident citizen of Hinds County, Mississippi

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Ruby Williams who is seeking Petition for Guardianship.

THE Petition which has been filed in this matter is important and you must take immediate action to protect your rights, if any.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint or petition at 11:10 O'clock A.M. on the 20th day of July 2017, in the courtroom of the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse at Jackson, Mississippi, before Honorable William Singletary. In case of your failure to appear and defend, a judgment may be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire. If you file an Answer or other pleading, you are required to mail or hand – deliver a copy to the attorney for the Petitioners, Damon R. Stevenson, 1010 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, 769-251-0207.

ISSUED under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 13th day of June, 2017.

Eddie Jean Carr,
Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi

By: K. Howard, D.C.

6/15/2017, 6/22/2017, 6/29/2017

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
SIGN VARIANCE FOR RESULTS PHYSIOTHERAPY

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR RESULTS PHYSIOTHERAPY TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017 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.

6/15/2017 6/22/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 77-3-16 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, requesting names to be added to a list of contractors and suppliers qualified to perform contracts within the scope of proposed utility projects concerning construction, extension, and/or repair of electric public utility facilities for or on behalf of Entergy Mississippi, Inc. Names of qualified contractors or suppliers desiring to be added to such list may be submitted to supplierqualification@entergy.com.

Please include contact information, type of contractor or supplier and a description of qualifications. Questions Call 1-844-387-9675.

3/9/2017 thru 12/28/2017

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Advertisement for Bids
Bid Frozen Food Meat Products, Crackers & Chips

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Pre-vailing Time)July 11, 2017,at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud.The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing pagreen@jackson.k12.ms.us, calling (601) 960-8799, or documents may be picked up at the above address.

6/15/2017, 6/22/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

The bid which was published on June 8, 2017 for the items below is being canceled. The specifications will be reviewed and another ad will be posted later on. Thanks

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, June 27, 2017, 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 is cancelled.

68052-062717 Special Gun Units for the City of Jackson is Cancelled.

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT 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, July 18, 2017, 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.

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: June 8, 2017 & June 15, 2017

Terry Williamson, Legal
Marshand Crisler, Acting CAO
Jerriot Smash, Public Works Director

6/08/2017, 6/15/2017

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

6/15/2017, 6/22/2017

Office
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for Rent

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The Long And The Short Of It

Mississippi households resoundingly choose **NEWSPAPERS** as the advertising source they rely on most prior to going shopping. No other option even comes close! (*Pulse Research, June 2016.) So... the long and short of it is that your business ad needs to be where people choose to shop - in **NEWSPAPERS**!

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Sue Hicks 601-981-3060 www.mspress.org

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CITY HALL
219 S President St
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2659 Livingston Road
DOLLAR GENERAL
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
JJ MOBIL
Northside Drive and Flagg Chapel
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
MCDADDE'S MARKET
Northside Drive
MCDADDE'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive
SPORTS MEDICINE
Fortification and I-55
TWO SISTERS KITCHEN
707 North Congress - Jackson, MS

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Countyline Road and State Street
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
REVELL ACE HARDWARE
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
RITE AID
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave
RITE AID
114 E. McDowell Rd
RITE AID
6075 Old Canton Rd

CANTON
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B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
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3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
FRYER LANE GROCERY
Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY
507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
LACY'S INSURANCE
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
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Terry Road

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Week of June 11, 2017

A.M.E. South Mississippi Conference Church School Convention convenes in Vicksburg

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Writer

The Eighth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church held its church school convention at Bethel A.M.E. Church and Vicksburg City Auditorium June 9-10.

Comprised of Jackson and Vicksburg, the South Mississippi Conference addressed the theme “Be Fruitful and Multiply” while highlighting Genesis 1:22.

Anthony C. Mills Sr., presiding elder, explained in his message: “We arrived at our theme after much prayer and thought. So, we are entering into this year’s church school convention with praises to God for bringing us to this point and with the faith of involving our young people in a model church

school, worship, christian education events, bible bowl and recognition of our graduates.”

The opening worship service featured Stacey J. Spencer as keynote speaker. The broadcast journalist who received her B.S. degree from Rust College spoke about her growing years in Jesus Christ. Spencer noted that she concentrated on the light that He injected in her soul, despite difficult phases of her life.

“He promised me He would stay with me if only I would be obedient to Him. For my faithfulness, I was walking with a new stride,” she told youth.

Spencer acknowledged that though obstacles continued in her path, “Jesus said, ‘Go through.’” She said jubilantly: “Your ‘yes’ is

a signal to God that you are open and ready to be used by Him. When I said ‘yes,’ my enemies couldn’t touch me. God said let your light shine. He has a torch for you that represents crazy faith that will not let you hide in misery.”

During the Christian Education event Carolyn Johnson tuned her message to obedience. “If your parents have to tell you more than once to do something, you’re disobedient. There are people on Facebook who are catfishing, pretending to be somebody that they are not. They are predators trying to get you away from the comfort of your parents. We [Christian adults] want you in a place where your honor can dwell and God’s honor dwells in you,” she indi-

cated.

Stephanie Burkes pitched that the youth are children of God in that they were created in Jesus to do the things He intended for them to do. “It is crucial to stay close to Christ. Find a church or college ministry that is supportive to your walk with God,” she said to high school graduates.

Burkes then pitched that the youth should remember from whence they came and to remember that they are a chosen people: “When people make you want to feel like you don’t have a seat at the table, you remember where you came from and that your family and friends support you and are praying for you. All the trials and tribulations are the places to get you to greatness. You are God’s very own possession. No one is equipped to do what you can do but you.”

The History of Songs workshop was conducted by Minister Jamine Whipps of Tougaloo College. Whipps pointed out that each song is unique in that it has its own meaning. She challenged youth to learn to apply the songs to their lives. Hold on to God’s Unchanging Hand and Blessed Assurance were among songs that Whipps taught.

Winners in the essay/oratorical contest were: Jaidyn Pedyfoot, first place (age group 6-9); De Mya Posey, first place; Jakera Williams, second place (age group 10-13); and Te Yah Woodberry, first place; and Steven Williams II, second place (age group 14 and up).

Some attendees voiced their appreciation for the convention. “I really enjoyed this conference because it was very inspirational. It uplifted my spirit with God and gave me more joy in spirit. It taught me a life lesson that fear is not allowed in our lives, but when God tells you to move, do so and complete your tasks,” gleaned April Walls.

Rev. Percy Jones of Quinn Chapel and Lampton Memorial commented: “Although you’re winning your battle today, there are still obstacles that you can’t fight, but there is an invisible spirit that will fight it. Youth must learn to discern and give all to Jesus.”



Stephanie Burkes challenges listeners to remember that they are God’s chosen people. PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT



Rev. Percy Jones and April Walls give A. M. E. South Mississippi Conference Church School Convention high marks.



Rev. Cora Lowe directs children in Christian exercise.



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HBCU students “discover the unexpected” with the black press

By Noni Marshall
and Alexa Imani Spencer
NNPA/DTU Journalism Fellows

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) kicked off the second year of the “Discover The Unexpected” (DTU) Journalism Fellowship program with an “Immersion” event in Detroit, Mich.

Chevrolet, the sponsor of the program, hosted the student scholars and a handful of NNPA publishers and editors for an interactive experience designed to prepare the fellows for a summer working with the Black Press.

The 2017 DTU journalism fellows are: Alexa Imani Spencer and Noni Marshall from Howard University; Kelsey Jones and Taylor Burris from Spelman College; Jordan Fisher and Tiana Hunt from Clark Atlanta University; and Ayron Lewallen and Darrell Williams from Morehouse College.

The trip commenced with a welcome ceremony at a repurposed firehouse that serves as the commercial studio of Ed Welburn, the former vice president of Global Design at General Motors (GM). Representatives from GM and the NNPA greeted the fellows. The all-new 2018 Chevrolet Equinox was parked at the entrance.

Chevrolet sent an all-new Equinox to each of the participating NNPA member publications for the DTU fellows to use for a month during the program.

After a joyous welcome from the program’s team, Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the NNPA and Michelle Alexander, the diversity marketing manager for Chevrolet, delivered remarks.

Serving as this year’s Road Trip Navigator, Jamilah Lemieux, the vice president of News and Men’s Programming for Interactive One’s, expressed the importance of black media.

“I am a firm believer in the urgency of protecting the future of black media, of making sure that



The 2017 NNPA “Discover The Unexpected” Journalism Fellows (from left-right): Noni Marshall, Alexa Spencer, Darrell Williams, Tiana Hunt, Ayron Lewallen, Taylor Burris, Jordan Fisher and Kelsey Jones. (Freddie Allen/NNPA)

we have ample opportunity to not just tell our stories well, because we’ve always been able to tell our stories well, but to amplify them,” Lemieux said.

After Lemieux’s poignant remarks, the scholars were led outside of the firehouse where one bright red and three splashy orange Chevrolet Equinoxes awaited them. The DTU fellows in teams of two, accompanied by Chevrolet staffers and coordinators from the program, piled into the four SUVs ready to explore Detroit. Scavenger hunt clues rang clearly through the speakers of the Equinox and they were off to navigate the city. The clues led the teams to four, distinct locations: Dilla’s Delights, Detroit vs. Everybody, N’Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

At each stop, the students interviewed the shop owners, clerks, curators, and museum guides, documenting their visits for their first assignments as DTU fellows. Burris said that speaking to the

clerk at Detroit vs. Everybody, a boutique clothing store, was her favorite part of the scavenger hunt.

“It was obvious that Sade, the clerk, was very knowledgeable about what their brand means and how it is continuously uplifting the community and defying the odds,” said Burris, who will partner with Ayron Lewallen at *The Carolinian* this summer.

The scavenger hunt ended with a tour of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

Ken Barrett, the chief diversity officer for GM, gave brief remarks about the importance of the program and the role of journalists in society.

The final day of the Detroit immersion event included an inspirational speech from Chavis at GM headquarters. The DTU fellows sat quietly around a conference room table, focused closely on his words, as he reminded them that they represented an emerging generation of journalists.

Chavis also noted that this year

marks the 190th anniversary of the Black Press in America.

“This is an opportunity not just to reaffirm [our] 190 year legacy, but to represent that legacy in new and more profound ways that match the challenges and opportunities we face in our communities,” Chavis said.

The DTU fellows were given the opportunity to meet with representatives from the NNPA member newspapers, where they will work this summer: Shalon Bell from *The Atlanta Voice*; Adria Jervay of *The Carolinian*, based in Raleigh, N.C.; David Baker of *The Louisiana Weekly*, based in New Orleans; and Kevin McNeir from *The Washington Informer*, based in Washington, D.C.

In these breakout sessions, the senior newspaper staffers shared their expectations with their new writers. Anxious to get started, the fellows asked questions and marveled at the history of the newspapers they were soon to join. There was a fresh excitement in the air after the student scholars connect-

ed with the editors and representatives from the NNPA member publications.

Next on the schedule, was a trip to the Content Studio, an organization within GM, that develops communications resources for the brand and improves how the company operates efficiently, strategically, and consistently within the public social web.

There, the fellows were able to see how the marketing side of Chevrolet has expanded, technologically, by partnering with many different agencies in order to have a worldwide impact.

According to Alexander, the NNPA/DTU journalism program is an extension of the partnerships that Chevrolet holds in high esteem.

“As a brand, [Discover The Unexpected], ties into our philosophy of finding new roads and ingenuity,” Alexander said. “We, as a brand, feel like this is something important that we are committed to.”

As the trip came to an end, the DTU fellows shared final hugs

and goodbyes.

For some of them, the Detroit Immersion event was a life-changing experience; most of them had never been exposed to the Motor City’s rich history.

For all of them, one thing was true: “Discover The Unexpected” was far more than just a program. It’s a family.

“I was impressed by the immense love we have received from the whole General Motors staff, NNPA, and the fellows,” said Jordan Fisher, who will join Kelsey Jones at *The Atlanta Voice*. “I don’t take that for granted. It’s refreshing to see that and feel it.”

To learn more about NNPA “Discover The Unexpected” Journalism Fellowship program, visit www.nnpa.org/dtu.

Alexa Spencer and Noni Marshall are 2017 DTU Journalism Fellows and Howard University students, who are creating content for *The Washington Informer* this summer. Follow Alexa on Twitter @alexaimani. Follow Noni on Twitter @noni_nnpadtu.

Former FBI Director James Comey testifies

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

During dramatic testimony before the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, James Comey, the former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the nation’s top law enforcement official, called President Donald Trump a liar five times and told 17 U.S. senators and the nation, that he was uncomfortable being in a room alone with him.

Trump fired Comey May 16, shortly after he requested additional resources from the Justice Department for the investigation into Russia’s interference in the 2016 presidential election, according to *The New York Times*.

Comey gave a stunning and blunt account of his interactions with President Trump, between January 9 and April 11, 2017. Comey declined to answer some of the senators’ questions due to the sensitive subject matter; the committee convened a classified meeting after the public session.

Additionally, questions by Senator Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) and other senators revealed that Attorney General Jeff Sessions will have more questions to answer about his meeting with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

Sen. Harris also asked Comey,



Comey testifying before the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence June 8.

“...the Attorney General, did he have access to information about the investigation in those two weeks?”

Comey answered: “In theory, sure, because he’s the Attorney General.” There was an undercurrent of questions around Sessions throughout the hearing with Comey, last week.

The backdrop of Comey’s testimony reads like something out of a 1950s spy novel from the

Cold War that the bureau’s longest serving director, J. Edgar Hoover, would have more likely been involved in.

Incredibly, less than six months into Trump’s presidency, there is no disputing that the Russian government deliberately interfered with an American presidential election.

In a testament to how far Republicans have gone to lower the bar for Trump, the same party

captained by Ronald Reagan in the 1980s to be Russia-wary is silent on the prospect that Trump and his associates have unusually close ties to the former Soviet Union.

Some Republicans assert the president was vindicated, because he’s not specifically under investigation, but the investigation is on-going; who knows where it will lead. Former FBI director, and now special coun-

sel on the Russia matter, Robert Mueller is currently in charge of the investigation.

Mueller has spent the last two weeks hiring high-powered prosecutors. The most impressive higher to date is Andrew Weissmann, who has taken leave from his job from the Justice Department’s criminal fraud section. Weissmann has prosecuted New York mafia figures and former Enron CEO Ken Lay.

Comey’s testimony comes only a day after two Trump Administration intelligence officials, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and NSA Advisor Michael Rogers, refused to answer questions regarding conversations they had with President Trump, about the Russia investigation during a separate hearing before the Select Intelligence Committee June 7.



Senator Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) asks former FBI Director James Comey questions during a hearing before the U.S. Senate Select Intelligence Committee June 8. PHOTO BY LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE/NNPA



BY KEVIN HART, NEIL STRAUSS

C.2017, 37INĀ

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Neither parent ever denied

Throughout his life, Hart paid

There was no shoulder-shrugging, though, when Hart got a post-high-school job selling athletic shoes. He set a goal of being the store's best salesman, and found a mentor who encouraged him and a group of people who showed him what being a grown-up was like. He worked long hours and made the job fun – so fun, that his co-workers encouraged him to try an open mic

He met someone who taught him the fundamentals of being a comedian, and he became a husband and father on his way up the fame ladder. On his (temporary) way down, he never lost

You might expect to LOL while you're reading – and, again, you will – but remember, this isn't a comedy club. There are chuckles here, but you prob-

Pay close attention to the chapter titles here. Read the introduction (it's "mandatory"). Look for the "lessons" and laugh. "I Can't Make This Up" is a treat, for real.

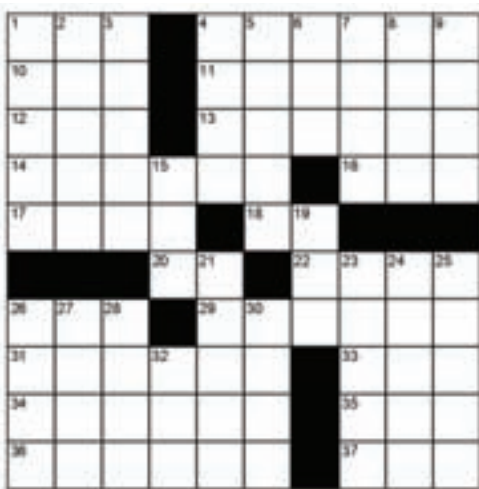
DVD Review

John Wick: Chapter 2

Keanu Reeves reprises role in splatterfest sequel arriving on DVD



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. American Cancer Society (abbr.)
4. Poem
10. Lick
11. Painter Georgia
12. Not against
13. Playground toy
14. Roman satirist
16. Sample
17. Cain's brother
18. Boston locale
20. Education (abbr.)
22. Dress
26. Hotel
29. Chemical compound
31. Kindest
33. Stinger
34. UN cultural branch
35. First woman
36. Confer
37. Crimson

DOWN

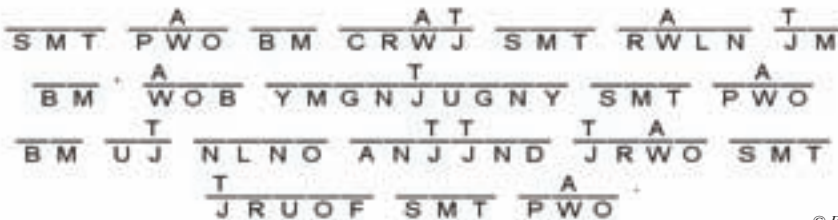
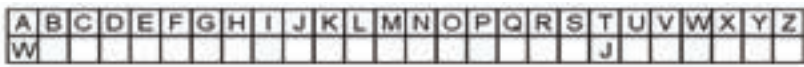
1. Greek 'A'
2. Imitation chocolate
3. Fern seed
4. Pear type
5. BB Player Abdul Jabbar
6. Downwind
7. For fear that
8. Far away
9. Moist
15. Lager
19. Gone by
21. 70's music
23. Brownish yellow
24. Put through a hole
25. Animal type
26. Rebuff
27. Ache
28. Experts
30. Pack
32. Time zone

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Cryptogram

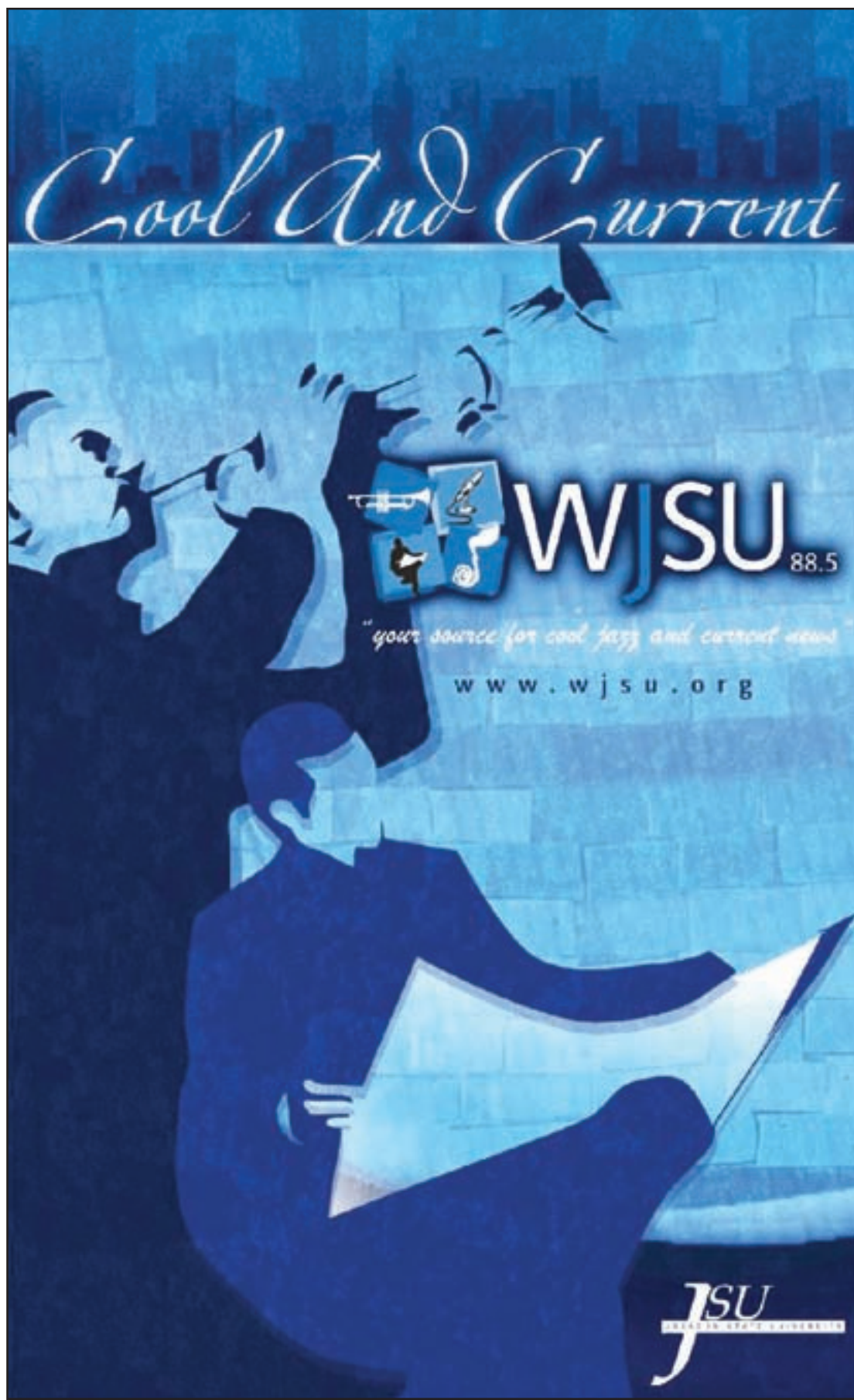
A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Jimmy Carter



© Feature Exchange

(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)

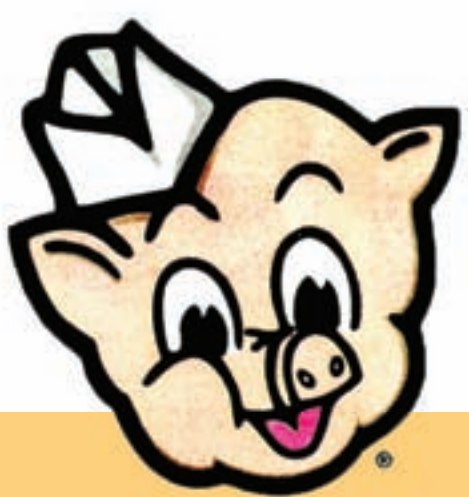


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