June 29 - July 5, 20<u>1</u>7 Vol. 23, No. 36

Jackson Public Schools making great strides towards fixing infractions



Hiring qualified teachers and transportation woes are issues the district still face

By Othor Cain Editor

In a Monday work session, the Jackson Public Schools Board of Trustees; Freddrick Murray, JPS interim superintendent; JoAnne Sheppard, legal counsel for the district; and Dorian Turner, the board's attorney, were briefed on the status of the district with its Corrective Action Plan (CAP).

The CAP was initiated after the district was found to be in

violation of several state standards. An exhaustive audit last year by the Mississippi Department of Education, found that JPS was non-complaint in several areas including school buildings with missing fire ex-

tinguishers and smoke detectors, classrooms with no teachers, safety and security issues and transporting students to

Continued on page 3

Hampton takes top honor at NNPA Convention

Mississippi Link publisher named NNPA "Publisher of the Year"



AI McFarlane, chairman of NNPA Foundation presenting trophy to Hampton at annual conference. PHOTO MARK MAHONEY / NNPA

By Othor Cain

Not one to seek any type of fanfare...yet it comes. Not one to seek attention...yet its given. Not one to seek accolades... yet they are bestowed...and the recognition and honors continue for Jackie Hampton, the 10-year publisher and co-owner of *The* Mississippi Link newspaper.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) honored Hampton with its top award, 'Publisher of the Year,' during the group's annual conference last week at the Gaylord Convention Center at the National Harbor in Prince George's County, Md.

This award, voted on by members of NNPA is given to a publisher that exudes the qualities of service in the community, service to NNPA and the overall layout and impact of their newspaper.

Since 1993, The Mississippi Link has prided itself as being 'Keepers of the Knowledge for People Who Speak the Truth.'

Nominated for this honor by her long time friend and cohort Rosetta Perry, publisher of The Tennessee Tribune, Hampton had just completed co-hosting duties along side Perry for the conference's Merit Awards and was stunned to hear her name."I'm at a loss for words," said the affable Hampton, who admitted to being caught off guard by the honor. "I've learned so much from you," she said to her fellow NNPA publishers in attendance. "I don't look so much as to what I can get out of this organization. What I really enjoy is what I can give to this organization."

This year there were two finalists for Publisher of the Year, Hampton and Rod Doss, publisher of The New Pittsburgh Courier. "He's such a great person and he's been doing this a lot longer than I have and he's had an enormous impact on his community," Hampton said. "I called him and told him that I was voting for him."

Turns out Doss could have cast the deciding vote in her favor as he indicated to Hampton that he would be placing his vote for her. "I told him then it would be a win-win situation for everyone," Hampton shared.

Hampton is committed to excellence and community service. A valued member of College Hill MB Church all of her life, she serves as the church's announcer, president of the Pastoral Ministry, on the Public Relations Ministry, as a girl scout troop leader and has taught Sunday School for more than 30 years.

Hampton is an at large member of the board of directors for NNPA and serves on its Foundation Board. She has served as the Scholarship chair for the last five years and co-chair of the Merit Awards for two years.

Locally, Hampton has received numerous civic and community awards, including being recognized earlier this year as a Community Service Recipient of the Year honoree by the Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. during their 109th International Founders Day Observance.

In 2016, she received the Image Award in the field of media from Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity's Mu Sigma Chapter.

Hampton is called on often to either serve as a panelist or as a

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Emmett Till marker near grocery store site vandalized



The vandalized marker outside of Bryant Grocery Store on the Mississippi Freedom Trail memorializing the spot where Emmett Till allegedly whistled at a white woman.

By Jamiel Lynch

A civil rights marker about Emmett Till on the Mississippi Freedom Trail has been vandalized twice in the past two months, according to the firm that manages the trail.

The historical marker outside the grocery store where 14-year-old Till was accused of whistling at a white woman while visiting his family has to be refurbished due to the damage by vandals, said Allan

Hammons, whose company manages the Mississippi Freedom Trail.

He said that in May someone scratched the marker, and over the weekend, it was noticed that someone had peeled off the back of the maker, where it contained photos and writings about Till.

"This site is a significant moment in the civil rights move-

Continued on page 3

Will the Democrats' lawsuit against Trump work?

By Jill Disis **CNNMoney**

NEW YORK - Democrats say President Trump is for sale – and they're taking him to court to stop it.

Some of the nearly 200 Democratic lawmakers suing the president over his business holdings argue that Trump's refusal to respect the Constitution left them no choice.

"We don't do this out of any sense of partisanship, but because President Trump has left us absolutely no other option," Representative John Conyers of Michigan said Tuesday.

The suit claims Trump is violating the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the Constitution by accepting foreign payments through his empire of hotels, golf courses, trademarks and other properties, all without the consent of Congress.

Trump refused to sell his business holdings when he took



office. Instead he shifted the assets to a trust in his name. If the business succeeds while he is president, he will ultimately profit.

And the Democrats say foreign money is helping enrich him. The lawsuit cites press reports about a Saudi government-backed lobbying firm that paid for a room at Trump's

> **Trump** Continued on page 3

NNPA honors **Martin Luther King III with Lifetime Legacy Award**

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Book Review: Jabari Jumps



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ment," Hammons said. "People were outraged and shocked at this incredible criminal act. What Mississippi chose to do by creating the Freedom Trail was committing themselves to

telling the unvarnished truth."

Till was kidnapped and lynched in Money, Mississippi, in 1955, after the incident at the Bryant Grocery Store. Two white men were arrested in the case, but were acquitted by an all-white jury in Mississippi that same year.

Till's death, and the decision of his mother, Mamie Till Mobley, to show her son's beaten body in an open casket, was a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement. His mother allowed newspapers to print photos of Till's disfigured face in his casket, which fired up the civil rights move-

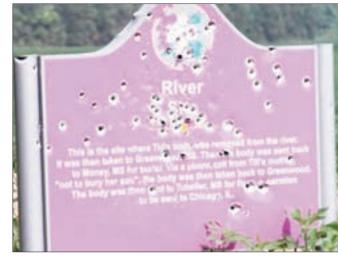
The marker outside the former Bryant Grocery Store was erected in 2011. Hammons said it will be removed this week and taken to his office for the necessary repairs, which will cost about \$500.

Last year, the sign marking the site of the teen's death was found riddled with bullet

Hammons said it is unknown if the vandalism was racially motivated or just a random crime. Till's marker is the only marker on the freedom trail that has been vandalized, he said.



Emmett Till Freedom Trail marker before vandals obliterated information on it.



A separate Till marker near the site where his body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River was discovered bullet ridden last year.

Continued from page 1

school on time.

In December of 2016, at its last board meeting of the year, State Superintendent Carey Wright made a special visit and issued a stern warning: "The stakes could not be higher for JPS," she said. "I urge you to act with urgency and use this opportunity to make immediate changes for the sake of the students of Jackson Public Schools."

During Wright's nearly 15-minute warning, she said, "I have serious concerns that the district is not taking the immediate actions needed to resolve its issues related to school safety and instructional practices. I felt compelled to inform the entire JPS Board of Trustees about the alarming conditions MDE representatives observed at these school and to convey my serious concerns about the district's ability to effectively implement its Correction Action

"Crafting a plan is one thing. Executing the plan is an entirely other matter. Every leader in JPS must act with urgency to take the necessary steps to ensure quality instruction is provided in a safe learning environment for all students each and every day," she said to a packed audience.

Four months (April) after that meeting, JPS hired Bailey Education Group of Ridgeland, Mississippi – an educational support company whose mission is to partner with all schools to Improve People, Practices and Learning to help the district move towards implementing its CAP.

One month into its contract with the district, officials from Bailey also warned the district of its continued failure to comply.

Ann Moore, a consultant with the Bailey Group, shared with district officials in May that internal reviews found continuing problems in several areas related to teacher instruction and safety.

"The district still has inoperable metal detectors and buses continue to arrive far after instruction time has started," Moore said.

Murray acknowledged during this meeting that a third of the district's fleet drops students off after the school's start time and that several drivers have taken on more than one route to address the problem but the district still lacked the appropriate number of buses and drivers.

Moore also shared with the board her concerns relating to a lack of qualified teachers. "There is at least one unlicensed teacher in each of the district's school," she said. "Although leaders have referenced a critical teacher shortage, there are indicators that licensed teachers were applying for vacancies but not being hired...this is one of your big-

Fast forward nearly two months later, the educational consultants returned and greeted the board with more promising news. Moore said the district has completed 88 percent of the actions in the CAP to date. However, issues regarding employing enough qualified teachers, getting students to school on time and maintaining and reporting accurate data remain as issues to be addressed.

Sharolyn Miller, the chief financial officer for JPS, said the district has purchased 44 new buses and that 22 of them were already on the ground. "We are excited to share with you that we've purchased 44 buses and 22 of them are in the process now of being outfitted," she said. "Additionally all of our existing drivers and incoming drivers will move to higher wages and begin making \$14.14 per hour as opposed to \$8-\$9...we thought this was important and would not only make us competitive but also help us with retention."

The district is conducting job fairs for bus drivers as a means of fully ensuring the violations are reduced. The next scheduled busdriver job fairs are July 15 and 22, 9 a.m. until 12 noon in the School Board meeting room located at 621 South State Street.

Murray said even with these advances, the true test will be getting the buses to schools on time. "Even with spending \$4 million buying new buses, increasing the salaries of bus drivers and the active recruitment we are doing, the buses still must be on time," he said. "That's the bar we're looking at."

Moore warned officials that there were areas that would require continuous work, including monitoring drivers. "Your transportation situation must be monitored closely and often...and in the area of collecting, inputting and reporting data, this has to happen and it must be done from a team approach," she said. "It isn't a quick fix and must be ongo-

Murray says he's confident the district would meet all of the requirements.

The Bailey Group shared with the district that MDE would submit a report within 30 days once the audit is completed.

The board approved continuing Bailey's contract of \$95,900 until the end of August at no additional charge.

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Hampton

Continued from page 1

keynote speaker for Historically Black Colleges and University's (HBCUs) Media Day activities. "I value the community that we serve and if I give my word, I want the community to have the assurance that it will be done," she said.

Two former editors understand why Hampton was given this coveted award. "Jackie is incredibly deserving of this honor," said Shanderia Posey. "As a former editor, I saw first-hand how tirelessly she worked to ensure the voice of the Black Press resonated with the masses on local and national levels. Because of her efforts scholarships have been granted to budding journalists, positive stories from the minority community are told and political stories are developed with greater perspectives."

"Having served as one of her editors, I experienced her passion and handiwork in continuously carrying out the historic purpose of the Black Press," said Gail Brown. "I was simply elated to read that she was recognized with this honor...until now, she has truly been one of NNPA's dedicated but unsung heroes."

For Hampton – award in hand – the mission and work continue. "Everyday we must work to ensure that our stories are told in a way that only we can tell

them," Hampton said. "We've got to be the voice for the voiceless and ensure that not only are we represented at the table but we are bringing others to the table with us."

THE MISSISSIPPI LINK • 3

This week Hampton attended a Mississippi Department of Education town-hall meeting where the state articulated its plans for implementation of the new national education mandate for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). "Education is the cornerstone for success and as a member of the Black Press it is our civic responsibility to ensure that our children are being educated properly."

About The National Newspaper Publishers As-

The NNPA is a national trade association of 211 black and women-owned U.S. media companies with a weekly print and digital readership of over 20.1 million black Americans. The Black Press of America is 190 years old. The NNPA is known as the Black Press of America and the Voice of Black America, because its member publishers are trusted, respected and embedded in their local communities where they provide significant influence and impact.

Learn more about NNPA at NNPA.org.

Trump

Continued from page 1

luxury hotel in Washington in January, and a celebration held there in February by the Embassy of

Lawsuits brought by members of Congress against presidents or their administrations aren't unprecedented, but the latest is significant for its scope The Republican-controlled House of Representa-

tives sued President Barack Obama's administration three years ago over its handling of the Affordable Care Act. That case is still pending. "But the lawsuit against Trump is unusual because it concerns his actions as a private citizen,"

said Kermit Roosevelt, a constitutional law professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. The White House has said it expects the Justice Department will move to have the case dismissed.

The Justice Department this month asked a federal court to throw out a similar suit filed by a government ethics watchdog group and some businesses. But lawmakers, in a press briefing Tuesday, insisted they had special reason to bring this case.

And though the Foreign Emoluments Clause has never been tested in court, they claimed the law would still be on their side. "There is a line of cases that say, essentially, when the president denies Congress the opportunity

to vote, then members of Congress have standing," said Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut. Their lawsuit cites a case from 1979: Senator Barry Goldwater and other lawmakers sued President Jimmy Carter over his decision to nullify a

The Supreme Court ruled against Goldwater, but it didn't deny his ability to bring a lawsuit, said Brian Frazelle, appellate counsel at the Constitutional Accountability Center, which is working on the congressional lawsuit.

Frazelle said a lower court granted standing to Goldwater and the other senators based on their

claim that Carter had deprived them of a vote to stop the treaty from ending. "That kind of argument could help the Demo-

crats," said Stan Brand, a Washington attorney who once served as general counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives under former Speaker Tip O'Neill, a Democrat. Brand said lawmakers can argue that Trump has

stripped them of their power to serve as a check on the president. The Emoluments Clause says only Congress can grant an exception and allow the president to accept gifts from foreign governments. But Trump hasn't asked. Others weren't so sure. Roosevelt said he thought

case lacks the "direct interference" at the center of the Goldwater case. "What they're saying is, basically, in all of the ways in which we interact with the president – we pass a bill and the president signs it and vetoes it

the argument for standing was weak because this

- we're concerned that he's going to be behaving corruptly, and that tarnishes our ability to faithfully exercise our duties," Roosevelt said.

Another factor: Even having this many lawmakers sign on might not be enough.

David Rivkin, a constitutional lawyer who was one of the architects of the GOP-led House's lawsuit against Obama, said standing can only be achieved when Congress as an institution sues the president, not individual members – even if it's nearly 200 of

The Obama lawsuit, for example, was approved by a House resolution. The chamber voted in favor of authorizing the challenge 225 to 201 under then-Speaker John Boehner. Five Republicans and every Democrat opposed.

"No matter how many members you have, as long as you do not have institutional authorization, you would not be able to gain standing," Rivkin said.

Michael James Day at College Hill

By Jackie Hampton

treaty with Taiwan.

Publisher

Although September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month, Mission Circle #3 of College Hill Baptist Church celebrated "Michael James Day," Sunday recognizing James who is living with Sickle Cell. An afternoon of music was held in his honor. Edna Caston is president of Mission Circle #3

James is considered a Sickle Cell warrior by family, friends, physicians and church members because of his bravery in living practically all his life with sickle cell disease. He is the son of Catherine James.

Stanley Smith, pastor of Crossroad Baptist Church who once served as youth minister at College Hill, said he often visited James in the hospital, but said as they talked, often times, the pain would come upon James and he would tell him to just hold on.

Smith spoke of the braveness of James' mother Catherine, who had to watch her son suffer on so many occasions. He said he often told her to just hold on and God would make a way. Smith told the congregation that the trials and tribulations have not stopped but God hasn't stopped either. He stepped away from the podium, and told James face to face, "There is no giving up; the winds may blow, tornadoes and hurricanes may come, but God will continue to make a way."

ed that the brother and sister duo

him a trophy and said, "Michael is a man of great faith." She encouraged him to keep his faith in Vernon Jasper, godfather to Continuing in the service, Jan James and his sister Alicia, stat-



James, (center) with niece Alyssa; mother Catherine; sister Alicia; and

Jasper at 'Michael James Day' at College Hill MB Church.

came as a package to him and he did the same for them as he did for his only son Jarrett and relatives. He said humbly that they referred to him as 'dad.' Jasper said in the beginning James' sickle cell condition was not as bad but it progressed. As he recounted the doctors saying James would not live to be 25 years old, thunderous applause arose when he announced that James is now 34. Jasper reminded James that so many people love him and to continue to be

Lottie Green, James' next door neighbor, told the congregation that she was not speaking as a neighbor but as one who considers herself his grandmother. She said she understands what James has to endure as a sickle cell patient because she has two grandchildren who also have James' sister Alicia presented

Taylor, director of The Westhav-

love you have given me and my

Michael T. Williams is the

announced that the Nine Iron Golf Club would present Michael with a \$1000 donation. Wiley also commended Catherine James for being such a

en Choir, sang I've Had Some

Good Days," bringing many to

Other music was presented by

The College Hill Male Chorus,

Westhaven Memorial Funeral

Home Choir, and soloist, Rev.

Willie Mitchell from Shady

James' mother Catherine said,

"I thank you all for all the love

you have given Michael and my

Circle #3, presented James a

check for \$3,100 from donations

given at the musical. College

Hill member Marshall Webber

Audrey Wiley, a member of

Grove Baptist Church.

great mother who adopted both Michael and Alicia when they were very young. James expressed his appreciation and gratitude from his seat, saying, "Thank you for all the

pastor of College Hill.



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Two Mississippi Museums set to open December 9

Landmark attractions prepare for world stage



By Othor Cain

One of the perks of sitting in the editor's seat is that I often get sneak previews, concert tickets, exclusive interviews and more.

This week, members of the media were granted an opportunity to join museum administrators and staff members of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) for an exclusive tour of The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum (MCRM) and the Museum of Mississippi History (MMH).

At first glance, from street level, you're in awe of the beauty of the magnificent and detailed structure...the design...the green space.

It sits far enough off the road, as if purposefully done, to give the illusion to visitors as they walk towards the entrance becoming entrenched, captivated and spell-bound...that for one fleeting moment, they ask, "Am I in Mississippi?"

Each museum is uniquely different, yet woven together through stories of struggle, sacri-

fice, survival and success.

The directors of these museums both possess a rare quality that intersects passion, purpose and

You hear it in their orchestrated words, you see it in their swag as

they guide the tour and you feel it with every succinct move they make.

The museums, each carefully designed by different firms, will serve as a pivotal place to tell our story and as a launching pad to change perceptions.

Exhibit fabricators – 1220 Exhibits for MMH and Exhibit Concepts Inc. for MCRM – are installing murals, display cases and immersive environments.

"We need your artifacts, whatever you have that you think will work," said Pamela Junior, director of the MCRM. "Everybody has a story, we want to tell it."

Construction of the two museums began in December 2013 and will conclude in late July when contractors formally transfer possession of the site to MDAH.

Museum collections staff anticipate moving artifacts from climate-controlled storage into the new collections facilities in August. Installation of artifacts will begin in September.

The MMH will explore the entire sweep of the state's history, from earliest times to present. "We are so excited for visitors here in Mississippi, but, also from around the world...we want to help showcase in a real authentic kind of way, Mississippi's true history," said Rachel Myers, director of the MMH. "We want to

be as transparent as possible."

The MCRM will focus on the period 1945 to 1976 and tell the story of the struggle for equal rights and fair treatment under the law. "It is important that we never forget," Junior said. "I envision this place being transformed into a global classroom in an effort to teach our history."

The museums are scheduled to open Saturday, December 9 at 11 a.m. with a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration throughout the day. The festivities, which will highlight the state's bicentennial celebration, will include remarks by state leaders, musical performers from around the state and food vendors.

Admission will be free opening weekend, however, the regular cost of admission is \$8 for entrance to one of the museums or \$12 for both. The cost for children is \$5. The museums will offer annual-renewable memberships at a rate of \$45 for an individual, \$75 for a family of four and \$100 for a family of more than four labeled as a family plus.

There are other amazing features and discounted rates available for tour groups, students and teachers.

For additional information contact the MDAH at 601-576-

998. See photos page 19.

















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Outgoing JPS Board president encourages service in departing message

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson Public School District celebrated the contributions of outgoing Board member Beneta Burt at the June 20 regular meeting of the Board.

JPS Interim Superintendent Freddrick Murray presented a commemorative plaque featuring a mounted gavel as a show of appreciation for exemplary service during her tenure on the Board.

Board Secretary Camille Stutts Simms also made a presentation on behalf of the Board.

Not surprisingly, Burt's departing remarks were centered around ser-

"Shirley Chisholm said, 'Service is the debt you pay for being here,"" said Burt. "I have given my very best to this community in terms of service. I don't intend to stop doing that. I would encourage everyone to know that your responsibility is to serve."

Burt will be most remembered for her contributions to health and wellness in JPS schools.

As a member of the Jackson Heart Foundation's board, she helped roll out combi ovens in JPS cafeterias. The Foundation has already placed ovens in nearly half of the District's schools. The initiative is ongoing and



service to the district June 30.

seeks to replace deep fat fryers with these healthier appliances in all of the

Burt has served as president of the Board since 2015. She was appointed to the JPS School Board in 2012 and hails from Ward 3 in Jackson.

District's cafeterias.

She is the executive director for the Mississippi Roadmap to Health Equity, Inc. She has served as president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Jackson and deputy director of the City of Jackson's Department of Human and Cultural Services.

She was appointed by Gov. Ray Mabus as liaison to the U.S. Department of Labor.

She is a member of New Hope

Board President Beneta Burt, right, recognized longtime JPS Interim Superintendent Freddrick Murray honored Bene-Board secretary, Vikki Mumford. Mumford is retiring from her ta Burt with a plaque commending her for exemplary service as a member of the School Board.

Baptist Church and served as secretary of the New Hope Community Development Corporation. Burt has one daughter, a granddaughter, and a great-granddaughter.

Burt's exit becomes effective June 30. She and current Board members met June 26 to approve the 2017-18 district budget.

Driver Job Fair

Description

JPS Bus

Jackson Public Schools is hosting a Job Fair for prospective bus drivers on the following Saturdays in June and July: June 17

June 24

July 15 July 22

These events will be held from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room located at 621 South State Street. Great drivers are in high demand. No experience is necessary. Successful candidates can look forward to competitive hourly rates, excellent benefits, and holidays off.

For online application and to see other vacancies, visit our Online Application page at http://www.applitrack.com/ jackson/onlineapp/

For more information, call (601) 960-8919.

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Phone: (601) 960-8919

Location

School Board Meeting Room 621 South State Street Jackson, MS 39211

JPS Food Service **Program mid-summer** celebration

Jackson Public Schools hosted a celebration for the Summer Feeding Program June 23 at Blackburn MiddleSchool, located at 1311 West Pearl Street in Jackson. The JPS Food Service Department partnered with Magnolia Health to sponsor this event.

The purpose of the event was to raise the awareness of the importance of the Summer Feeding Program in the city of

Officials from the City of Jackson, state of Mississippi, and Jackson Public Schools participated in the event.

Service Director Mary Hill at 601-960-

For more information contact JPS Food

JPS school board elects new board officers

Mississippi Link Newswire

At its June 6, 2017, regular meeting, the JPS Board of Trustees elected officers for the 2017-18 school year. The new Board officers are:

Richard Lind, president

Camille Stutts-Simms, vice presi-

Rickey Jones, secretary These officers will serve for one year beginning July 1, 2017.

Lind and Stutts-Simms were appointed to the JPS School Board in 2014 by Mayor Tony Yarber. Lind was appointed to fill the Ward 6 seat on the Board, and Stutts-Simms was appointed to fill the Ward 4 seat. Jones, also appointed by Yarber, took the oath of office in 2015 He is a resident of Ward 5

Kimberly Campbell resigned from June 30. the Board effective May 31. Kodi Hobbs also resigned from the Board



dent Beneta Burt's term will expire on wards

The Board consists of seven members appointed by the mayor of Jack-



effective June 15. Current Board Presi- son, selected from the city's seven

Mayor-elect Chokwe Lumumba will have three appointments to make after he takes office in July.

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MSU helps facilitate access to **AP classes with new partners**

The Mississippi Link Newswire

STARKVILLE, Miss. - Mississippi State University is helping facilitate a program that will allow students in rural Mississippi school districts to take advanced placement courses from leading American scholars.

Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, the Mississippi Public School Consortium for Educational Access is implementing a pilot program to teach advanced placement subject matter in select rural and low-income school districts which currently do not offer the courses.

As part of the program, over 20 students from seven participating school districts are taking part in a two-week preparatory summer academy for AP physics

When the students return to school in August, they will take an AP physics course taught by Meg Urry of Yale College, an internationally renowned astrophysicist and director of the Yale Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics.

The AP classes this school year will be taught in a "blended" style, combining online and in-person instruction from teachers within the students' schools and from Urry. The Yale professor will visit with students in-person while they are at MSU.

Murrah High School and Yale graduate Travis Reginal also will meet with students.

With private support, including a grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, the consortium is able to provide the preparatory summer academy and the advanced courses to students free of charge.

The academy helps students who have the aptitude and work



Jamaiya Fears (left) and Jala Scott, both Aberdeen High School students, make vector graphs of a "mine field" they created on MSU's Drill Field as part of the AP physics summer preparatory academy. PHOTO BY MEGAN BEAN

ethic needed to succeed at a high level reach their full potential. MSU faculty members and researchers, with input from local high school math and physics teachers, designed the curriculum for the preparatory academy.

The students are taught math and science methods in the morning and get to see practical applications of the lessons in the afternoon.

Program participants were selected by the participating school districts, which include Aberdeen, Booneville, Coahoma County, Holmes County, Pontotoc County, Quitman County and Scott County.

"Low-income, rural students can help build a better and more prosperous future for our country, and they deserve the same opportunities as other students to get a good education and go as far as their abilities take them," said Cooke Foundation Executive Director Harold O. Levy in a release announcing a \$200,000 grant for the consortium.

The Mississippi Public School Consortium for Educational Access is working in partnership with the Global Teaching Project, which has a mission of providing "a platform for great teachers from great schools around the world to bring highlevel instruction to students everywhere." Both groups are hoping to use this year's pilot program to scale and grow their efforts, which would continue to enhance educational opportunities for Mississippi students.

According to the College Board, approximately 85 percent of selective colleges report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admissions decisions, and millions of students have been able to graduate from college more quickly and at significantly lower costs because of colleges and universities awarding credit for AP scores.

Additionally, AP courses help prepare students for higher education by providing access to rigorous college-level work.

"We want these students to think about themselves differently, revise their ambitions accordingly and begin to transform their communities," Global Teaching Project CEO Matthew J. Dolan said.

The residential physics summer academy at MSU is providing students with intensive training in math and science. The students are receiving instruction both at MSU and in their AP physics classes from experts at MSU, Yale and Stanford University.

While at MSU, the high school students are visiting the Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems and Raspet Flight Research Laboratory.

"We're trying to show the kids how what they learn is applied to the real world," said Christina McDaniel, summer academy coordinator and an MSU instructor in secondary science education. "We want them to see how it is relevant."

A pre-assessment and postassessment test will be administered at the summer academy to identify strengths and weaknesses in the students' physics knowledge. Once the students have completed the course, MSU researchers will examine their scores on the AP physics exam to test the effectiveness of the instruction.

For more on the Mississippi Public School Consortium for Educational Access, visit www. educationaccessms.org.

MSU is Mississippi's leading university, available online at www.msstate.edu.

Bethune-Cookman signs MOU for 2030 **United Nations Agenda**

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Daytona Beach, Fla./ New York - Bethune-Cookman University will sign a strategic partnership agreement on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations headquarters in New York. This will be a landmark agreement for a higher education institution and the first MOU of its kind with a Historically Black College and University. The MOU will provide opportunities for initiatives that address the 2030 agenda that consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets.

"Bethune-Cookman University is uniquely positioned to assist in this transformation, and the IHRC believes in the institutional capacity, creativity and innovative partnerships to accomplish the 2030 agenda outcomes through educational outreach initiatives and programming," said Foday Mansaray, special diplomatic adviser speaking on behalf of the World chairman.

He added that the collaboration with Karibu Global Initiative and numerous participants, agencies and speakers such as Gale Gibson of Bethune Cookman University, the Borough president of Manhattan inspiring statement, the Head of UN Women, The minister of Women, Children and Gender Affairs of Democratic Republic of Congo, Madam Charlotte Malenga head of Chancery, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo and creativity Noella Nsawan of Karibu Global Initiatives in bringing together over six hundred participants from forty countries making it one of the most successful events ever held in support on women empowerment.

Through this partnership, B-CU will collaborate with the International Human Rights Commission (IHRC) and the 67 member countries to offer an array of education-related activities such as study abroad by partnering with local institutions, research, curriculum development and collaborative grant proposals.

The B-CU and IHRC have carefully selected five nations namely Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Senegal and Republic of Guyana in the Caribbean Island to start its pilot program.

A letter acknowledging Jackson and B-CU stated, "Dr. Edison O. Jackson, we at the IHRC are confident that your current leadership at this great institution of higher learning with a defined transformative agenda will continue the legacy of a premier Historically Black College and University. Together, we can foster partnership on a mutual benefits basis throughout Africa, the Caribbean Islands, and South America through structured and beneficial recruiting

For more information, contact, Gale Gibson Gayle, associate provost and dean of University College, 386-481-2064 or gayleg@cookman.edu

Small chips, big impact: MSU researcher studies cardiovascular, sickle cell disease

The Mississippi Link Newswire

STARKVILLE, Miss. - A Mississippi State University researcher is developing new miniature models to better understand the factors that lead to heart disease and sickle cell ane-

Renita Horton, assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering, is using clear polymer "chips" to create cellularized microtissue models, which she then uses to study the mechanisms that lead to cardiovascular related diseases. She hopes this work can aid in improving patient outcomes by identifying novel targets that can be exploited to mitigate some of the organ damage caused by sickle cell disease.

"In Mississippi, cardiovascular disease is a huge problem," Horton said. "If we can understand the factors that contribute to the disease, we may be able to identify strategies to better treat, if not prevent, the disease. Our aim is to create models that can generate results which can reliably show what one might observe in the body during disease."

Horton came to MSU in March 2016 after completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University's Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering. Horton established the Cardiovascular Tissue Engineering Laboratory in MSU's Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

The Lexington native is hopeful her research will enhance understanding of vaso-occlusions, a painful complication of sickle



cell anemia, and other mechanisms that contribute to organ damage and ultimately death in sickle cell patients. Horton was motivated to pursue this area of research after her older sister lost her battle to the disease.

Horton received her undergraduate degree from MSU in chemical engineering in 2005. She first became affiliated with Harvard when she participated in a National Science Foundation funded research experience for undergraduates summer program at the university's Materials Research Science and Engineering Center.

After graduating from MSU, Horton received a master's and doctorate from Harvard in engineering sciences with a concentration in biomedical engineer-

Approximately six undergraduate and master's students work in Horton's Cardiovascular Tissue Engineering Laboratory.

The lab designs biomimetic microsystems, which can mimic features of specific organs to predict the organ's response to different stimuli. In vitro models, such as those Horton uses, can serve a wide range of research purposes, reducing the risk to human or animal subjects. For example, cardiomyocytes, the cells that cause the heart to beat, can be cultured within the chips and then treated with different drugs to see the effects.

"With our microfluidic based models, we can look at what's

happening in a system, isolate a certain portion of that, and then start to ask questions on a more focused scale," Horton said. "We know that many different cells make up the heart and make it function, but with heart disease, we're really interested in when the heart starts to dysfunction. In our case, we start by manipulating cardiomyocytes to understand how they respond to changes in the microenvironment to enhance our understanding of disease onset. As we go along, we can build more complexity into our system to more closely mimic the whole organ."

As her research moves forward, Horton hopes to strengthen recent collaborations with University of Mississippi Medical Center, which has a clinic for sickle cell patients. With her chips, Horton will examine environmental factors that lead to vaso-occlusion.

The end goal, Horton said, is to use her small chips to have a big impact on the well-being of humans.

"If you have a positive or an adverse effect in the chip, this may suggest that a similar effect will likely be observed in a human or in animals," Horton said. "That's a huge benefit to some of the in vitro work we're trying to do here. The ultimate goal is finding solutions to help the patient. We want to use this not just to make observations, but to create something that's practical."

For more on the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, visit www.abe.ms-

Entergy Charitable Foundation supports Mississippi College STEM Institute

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi College's STEM Institute leaders are delighted to receive a \$5,000 grant from the Entergy Charitable Foundation.

Part of the MC School of Education, the Institute was launched in 2015. Its leaders seek to forge partnerships on the Clinton campus with schools and businesses across the Magnolia State.

"We are very grateful for the role Entergy is playing in promoting STEM education in our state," said School of Education Dean Cindy Melton.

Receiving the grant from Entergy customer service representative Robert Logan on June 20 strengthens the longstanding relationship between Mississippi College and the power company.

"We believe that community partnerships are integral for effective and impactful learning," Melton said. "Entergy continues to demonstrate that they are willing to step out and make a difference."

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. MC seeks to equip students with the skills to advance in a world that's seeing rapid changes in technology. "U.S. News & World Report" estimates there will be more than 1.2 million unfilled jobs across the USA in science, technology, engineering and math-

Debra Raddin, the STEM institute director, says the Entergy Charitable Foundation grant will be put to

The funds will pay for a program that supports teacher professional development through STEM education endorsement/certification, Raddin said. It will include an MC STEM Institute Innovation Day. Educators and other leaders will be invited to the university to explore problem solving and tackle global issues.

Each year, the Entergy Corporation and Entergy Charitable Foundation supply \$19 million in grants to nearly 3,000 non-profits in communities where its customers live. The region includes Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas. The foundation assists educational and literacy initiatives, among others, to support healthy, thriving communities.

A grant from the Mississippi-based Hearin Foundation led to the birth of the Mississippi College STEM Institute a couple of years ago.

JUNE 29 - JULY 5, 2017

USM president named chair of Conference USA **Board of Directors**



The Mississippi Link Newswire

University of Southern Mississippi President Rodney D. Bennett has been named chair of the Conference USA Board of Directors. Bennett, who will serve a two-year term as chair, was elected by his peers from among the league's university presidents at the June board meeting.

The chair provides leadership for the Board of Directors as they set policy to further advance the strategic objectives, innovative practices and new initiatives of the conference membership.

"I am honored to have been selected as chair of the Conference USA Board of Directors," Bennett said. "This is a critical time for intercollegiate athletics across the country, and I look forward to serving the conference in

Bennett indicated that possible areas of focus may include cost of attendance for student-athletes, academic standards and quality, compliance, media compensation packages, sports scheduling, and post-season play.

At the June meeting, the board also confirmed sites for 2017-2018 conference championships, including cross country in Hattiesburg Oct. 28, 2017, and baseball in Biloxi May 23-27,

Joining Bennett on the executive committee are: Louisiana Tech President Les Guice, who moved into the role of Vice Chair; Middle Tennessee President Sidney McPhee; Charlotte Chancellor Phil DuBois; and Marshall President Jerry Gilbert.

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 realworld 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.

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Mississippi Public Broadcasting showing of MC Festival of Lights wins major award

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi College Singers performing at the Festival of Lights impress audiences each year as they showcase the start of the Christmas

For the first time last December, Mississippi Public Broadcasting cameras captured the wonderful concert at Provine Chapel and aired the program statewide. The festival has remained a holiday tradition for more than three decades on the Clinton campus.

MPB's live broadcast across the Magnolia State was recently honored by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. The broadcast of the TV program filmed at MC was among five Southeast Emmy Awards granted to MPB.

The news was announced June 10 at an awards presentation at Atlanta's Grand Hyatt hotel. Leaders of the MC Music Department are ecstatic.

"The collaboration of the MC Music Department and MPB was a joy in every way," said Angela Willoughby, who chairs the department. "Their production staff was innovative, responsive and thorough from the preparation, through the filming and postproduction phase."

The skills shown by the MPB staff, she added, was equal to the "musical artistry of the MC Singers in the per-

Mississippi College Singers conductor Mark Nabholz also praised the fabulous work of MPB's staff and the student performers.

The technical work of the MPB staff, he said, was "superb and they knew how to maximize the acoustics of Provine Chapel to get what is being recognized regionally as the finest live recording of the year."



MC Singers



members of the MC Singers. "I'm thrilled that these talented and hardworking MC students see their efforts rewarded with such a high level of recognition," Nabholz said.

The MC Singers seek to team with MPB for the upcoming Festival of Lights broadcast in December 2017.

The premier singing group at Amer-He lauded the work of dozens of ica's second oldest Baptist college continues to be booked for concerts in the USA and overseas.

Following the 2017 Festival of Lights, the MC Singers will travel to Europe to perform the same holiday program in Vienna, Prague and Budapest between December 27 and January 6. In each city, the MC Singers will partner with Baptist churches to spread the good news about the birth of Jesus Christ.

The MC Singers will also perform at the Mississippi American Choral Directors Association Conference in Hattiesburg in March 2018. Their audience will be hundreds of junior and senior high students, the best singers at their schools.

The regional awards for Jacksonbased Mississippi Public Broadcasting represent quite an accomplishment for its gifted staff. MPB's Taiwo Gaynor saw his name appear on four of the five regional Emmy awards, including the live production at Mississippi College

"I am so grateful for my MPB team right now. It takes so many people to create the great programs that we are so very proud of."

Gaynor serves as director of post production. MPB's John Busbice also received an award with Gaynor for the MC Festival of Lights concert.

"It truly takes everyone to do the work that we do," Gaynor added.

Since 1970, Mississippi Public Broadcasting has won over 400 major awards. Another one of its regional Emmy awards in June was for the TV program Ed Said. It is the name of the MPB puppet that raps to children about the importance of healthy eating.

There's still time to order copies of the MC Singers 2016 Festival of Lights concert. To order a DVD (\$15 plus postage) or CD (\$10 plus postage), contact Dottie Serio of the Music Department at 601-925-3440 or Se-

Local students get lessons in STEM during CCC summer camp

The Mississippi Link Newswire

CLARKSDALE - STEM subjects science, technology, engineering and math - have grown in popularity in many schools across the country, and Coahoma Community College Division of Career and Technical Education (CTE) has been busy keeping local students in the loop.

CCC's CTE hosted its second annual STEM Summer Camp this week, giving 30 campers, ages eight to 11, a unique opportunity to keep their young brains stimulated over summer

Designed to spark an interest and understanding of the STEM fields in elementary and middle school students, the camp, hosted June 19-21 on CCC's main campus, included three-days of fun and engaging activities designed to promoted the STEM disciplines.

According to CCC Computer Science Technology Instructor Tony Newson, one of the camp's coordinators, students were showed how STEM affects everything around us.

"STEM plays a critical role in every job, every home and every aspect of advanced learning," Newson said.

"The integration of STEM disciplines is critical for all students, not just those who are naturally proficient in math and science. Our goal was to offer students personalized and individualized learning relevant to their interests and experiences."

Ultimately, organizers said they hope the camp has played an influential role in building a pipeline of future professionals that will serve in STEM related fields.

"We believe that the camp was a fun and engaging scholastic experience for all participants," said CCC Office Systems & Accounting Technology Instructor and Camp Coordinator Kimberly Hollins.

"Our hope is that by exposing the students to what STEM is all about and giving them supplementary skills and confidence in math and science,



Pictured, front row, from left, are campers Samiyah Williams, Clarksdale; Kennedy Bryant, Olive Branch; Arianna Anderson, Clarksdale; Birley Gipson III, Clarksdale; Joshua Ewings, Clarksdale; Adrienna Young, Lyon; Kamarrion Harris, Clarksdale; Tyler Washington, Clarksdale; Alayna Williams, Lyon; (back row) Lauren Warr, Southaven; Christen Turner, Clarksdale; Journee Carr, Friars Point; Jada Lockett, Lyon; MacKenzie Newson, Clarksdale; Zoey Ratliff, Clarksdale; Donovan Phillips, Clarksdale; Justin Hatcher, Clarksdale; Moleeka McClenton, Marks; and Katelyn James, Clarksdale. Not pictured are Darren William, Clarksdale; Damaria Smith, Shelby; and Lamond Smith, Shelby.



CCC Computer Servicing Technology Instructor Tony Newson, center, leads campers in a science experiment during a three-day STEM camps hosted by Coahoma Community College's Division of Career and Technical Education last week.

they will be encouraged to pursue higher education in STEM fields."

CCC's CTE STEM Summer Camp was made possible through a gener-

ous donation from the Nissan Plant of Canton, MS.

JUNE 29 - JULY 5, 2017

A return to decency

On June 9, 1954, Senator Joe McCarthy's constant personal attacks and character assassination of many good Americans was brought to a screeching halt when Mr. Joseph Welch asked him a single question: Have you left no sense of decency?

Unfortunately, the tactics used by McCarthy in the 1950's have come roaring back in 2017, by both sides. The Internet, cable TV, and talk radio, in an effort to sell ads and increase profits, have unleashed a similar pattern of personal attacks and character assassination.

This has led to keyboard cowboys and call-in guests on radio shows who will say anything, no matter how untrue and hurtful; to argue that those who do not agree with everything that they believe are the enemy.

We have begun to type and say things online and on air that we would never say to another person's face, or to someone at work or church. So I ask, just as Mr. Welch asked Sen. McCarthy, Have we left no sense of decency?

As a husband, father, neighbor, legislator, American and proud Mississippian, I wish for a return to civility. It requires both sharing and listening. So I would begin this civil journey by sharing what I be-



Hughes

COMMENTARY

lieve is best for our beloved State of Mississippi instead of relying on personal attacks, or hollow party sound bites. These beliefs guide

Foremost, the future of Mississippi definitely starts with a great education for all of our children, equally, and that a quality public school system is the biggest economic driver of any state. When we embrace that reality, Mississippi will move up from last place in all categories.

I believe it is far cheaper to edu-

cate a child for 13 years from K-12 than it is to pay for the incarceration of an adult for 20 or 30 years.

I believe Mississippi has great potential to be amazing in public education. However, we must understand that being 50th is what happens when we pay our teachers less than 48 other states, and spend less per student than 46 other states.

I believe that critical government services, such as mental health, public health, public safety, and roads and bridges are tremendous benefits to society and should be fully funded before we give tax cuts to foreign corporations and large campaign donors.

I believe that every law we pass should embrace that all men and women are created equal. Period.

I believe that the people and local businesses are far more important to the function of Mississippi government than political parties, foreign corporations, and political action committees.

I believe that no child gets to pick its parents, zip code, or their mental or physical health.

I believe our elected officials should be true public servants and 100 percent transparent at all times. There should be no room in our government for self-serving

politicians who put themselves before the people. It is wrong that the highest campaign donors control our state government. Public service should never be for private

I believe we must live within our means. But I also believe we must stop giving away our means to the highest campaign contributors and then shifting the tax burden to the poor and working class.

I believe in being fiscally responsible instead of fiscally conservative. Fiscally responsible means spending all money efficiently. Fiscally conservative means spending on programs you like.

I know that many of you reading this agree with me, regardless of political party affiliation, or whether you are from the Coast, Hills, Delta, Pine Belt or Jackson area. Let's remember that there is far more that unites us than divides

Let's begin to focus on common bonds and goals, instead of tearing down our fellow Mississippians.

My simple hope is that we return to a sense of common decency and treat everyone with basic respect, even those with whom we disagree.

Now I'm ready to listen. Mississippi State Representative

Jay Hughes, District 12, Oxford

ACLU of MS responds to 5th Circuit ruling in **HB 1523 Case**

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has overturned the preliminary injunction in the lawsuit, Barber v. Bryant, that had previously stopped House Bill 1523 from taking effect. House Bill 1523 allows freedom of religion to cover prejudice and to justify discrimination against LGBT Mississippians and single parents.

The following statement can be attributed to ACLU of Mississippi Executive Director Jennifer Riley Collins.

"We are disappointed that the appeals court has reversed the preliminary injunction placed on HB 1523 and dismissed the case. This decision places the plaintiffs and thousands more LGBT Mississippians and single parents in a position where they can actually be harmed for living as their authentic selves. This broad license to discriminate includes provisions that would seek to allow state employees to withhold marriage licenses from same-sex couples.

"We are ready to move forward with our case filed on behalf of ACLU members Nykolas Alford and Stephen Thomas, who are planning to marry in Mississippi in the near future. That case was put on hold until the court of appeals ruled. We will continue to proceed on behalf of Nykolas and Stephen to protect them, and other same-sex couples from this harmful and discriminatory law.

"Freedom of religion is one of the most fundamental rights as Americans, but that freedom does not give any of us the right to harm or mistreat others.

"The ACLU of Mississippi will continue to advocate for equal protection for our plaintiffs and the LGBT community in Mississippi. We stand ready to defend those who are harmed by any confrontations as a result of this ruling.

"We urge the community to contact us if they or someone they know experiences any discrimination."

Mississippi receives \$2.7 million to improve workforce data

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) won \$2.7 Million from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) for an innovative initiative to provide policy makers with real-time data concerning workforce development in our state. Mississippi is the first state ever to receive this grant.

MDES will use these funds to connect the programs that enable Mississippians to obtain career training and find good jobs with the education and employment information in Mississippi's advanced State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS).

"Connecting the SLDS data with our employment, training and supportive services will empower Mississippi to make better decisions about workforce development," said Mark Henry, MDES executive director. "We can track the progress of Mississippians who complete training and get jobs in the state, and then concentrate on the most successful programs to ensure that we are using the taxpayers' dollars in the most efficient and effective way."

Mississippi continues to be a pioneer in the workforce development technology field. MDES was the first state workforce agency to develop a mobile app that employers can use to find qualified workers, and that workers can use to find jobs.

The agency also launched a mobile app that allows people to perform their weekly certification for unemployment benefits using their phone. In addition, Mississippi leads

the first state consortium to successfully launch a multi-state unemployment insurance technology project.

According to Henry, "MDES's success with our other technology initiatives was the key to Mississippi becoming the first state to receive this type of grant."

Mississippi was also the first state to submit a state workforce plan, as required by the new federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and was the first state to have its state plan approved by USDOL.

MCPP Statement on the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Decision on HB1523

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Center for Public Policy (MCPP) President Forest Thigpen issued the following statement regarding a recent ruling by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to restore the "Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act (HB 1523)," a law passed in 2016, but suspended by a lower federal court before it took effect. HB 1523 was written to limit government action against people with sincerely held beliefs regarding marriage and sexuality.

"While the Fifth Circuit did not engage on the merits of the right conclusion by allowing the law to finally go into effect. This law strikes a balance between competing rights. It restrains government from penalizing people who hold sincere beliefs about marriage and gender," Thigpen said.

Statement of Lt. this case, it did reach Gov. Reeves on 5th Circuit Ruling

"House Bill 1523 simply protected Mississippians from government interference when practicing their deeply held religious beliefs, and I appreciate the Fifth Circuit clearing the path for this law to take effect," Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves

Thigpen conti-

nied, "The court called the legal challenge to HB 1523 'quite radical,' affirming that the plaintiffs have not suffered any injury from a law whose primary aim is to protect people from government discrimination. As the Court also observed, 'HB 1523 does nothing to compel the behavior of these plaintiffs; it only restricts the actions of state government officials."





State Auditor Stacey Pickering is president of National State Auditors Association

The Mississippi Link Newswire

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ -Stacey E. Pickering, Mississippi state auditor, was named president of the National State Auditor's Association (NSAA) June 15, after being elected by members of the organization, succeeding Stephen Eells, state auditor of New Jersey.

Members of NSAA are state auditors, elected or appointed, having external financial and/ or performance post audit responsibilities on a state-wide basis, or their designated representatives who are members of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers (NASACT). Members of NASACT include all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and US Territories.

As part of this role, Pickering brings the 2018 NSAA Conference to Biloxi, Miss., next June. "I am excited to showcase Mississippi, 'The Hospitality State,' to members of NSAA across the nation," said Pickering of the upcoming conference.

In September 2013, the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor hosted the Southwest/ Southeastern Intergovernmental Audit Forums Joint Meeting in Biloxi. Pickering continues to be an ambassador for our state to the auditing and government oversight community throughout the United



Mississippi Auditor Stacey Pickering and NJ Auditor Stephen Eells

Multicraft International opens Multicraft Ventures in Pelahatchie

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Officials from Multicraft International, state and local leaders celebrated the grand opening of the company's new division, Multicraft Ventures, LLC, in Pelahatchie. The project is a \$2 million corporate investment and creates 50

"The creation of Multicraft Ventures and 50 new jobs in Pelahatchie demonstrates Multicraft's ongoing commitment to doing business in our state, while reinforcing the fact Mississippi is a place where companies can enjoy long-term growth and success," Gov. Phil Bryant said.

Multicraft International is a Mississippi-based designer and manufacturer of automotive, outdoor power equipment, HVAC, industrial and consumer products.

"Multicraft

has been a world-class designer and manufacturer of sophisticated automotive electrical and electronic products in Mississippi since 1978. As we approach our fortieth year in business, we have taken advantage of dramatic changes in global business and technology to launch Multicraft Ventures," said Multicraft International CEO Andrew Mallinson. "We aim to provide a private equity launch pad for new business development, and we feel our model is unique in Mississippi."

"Ventures was formed to exploit new product opportunities in new markets and to create new business ventures in the state of Mississippi. A significant portion of our business model is built around taking our product develophave good product ideas but do not have the necessary resources for proof of concept, intellectual property protection, marketing, manufacturing, and more," said Multicraft Ventures president and shareholder Paul Jones. "The new division has the resources available for concept development, in-house prototyping, engineering design with full CAD ability, licensing and patenting, manufacturing design, testing, production facilities and capital access."

The Mississippi Development Authority provided assistance for building renovations. The city of Pelahatchie and the Rankin County Board of Supervisors are providing assistance for the project, as

"For four decades, Multi ment experience and attract- craft has been a key industrial hatchie, now houses Multi-International ing area entrepreneurs who leader in Mississippi, achiev- craft Ventures.

ing steady innovative growth while contributing to the quality of life in Rankin County. Pelahatchie is a logical location for Multicraft Ventures as the company launches this exciting new initiative, which will bring opportunity to the company, as well as to the community," said MDA Executive Director Glenn Mc-Cullough Jr. "MDA salutes the teamwork of the city of Pelahatchie, Rankin First and the Rankin County Board of Supervisors, which was instrumental in providing support for Multicraft Ventures."

Multicraft International was founded in 1978 by Ford Motor Company, with its original facility next to Multicraft's current location. The original facility, purchased and renovated by the city of Pela-



The Mississippi Link Newswire

WHITFIELD — Kirby Burgess Jr. of Clinton has been named Mississippi State Hospital's June Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

State Hospital

Burgess is a Mental Health Technician Supervisor in Inpatient Services, working on Building 201, and has been employed at MSH since 1994.

The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes employees who have made

outstanding contributions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital Inc.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety, and supporting recovery. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.



Burgess

A call to action from the president of the National Medical Association

Dear NMA Colleagues, Friends and Partners:

I am alerting you that Senate Republicans are preparing a bill in secret to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Although it has not been released publicly, it is apparently similar to the cruel bill that was passed by the House a few weeks ago. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the American Health Care Act as passed by the House would increase the number of people who are uninsured by 23 million in 2026 relative to current law.

We have been informed that votes in support of

the Senate version of the bill are already being lined up and that it will be introduced very soon.

I want to make it clear that this potential bill is an impending disaster.

The NMA has the power to avert this miscarriage of justice by taking some resolute preventive action. Constituents (especially those in the key states of Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Louisiana, Maine, Nevada, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia) must call 855-344-3184 to tell your senator to vote No. If appropriate, tell your senator's office that as a physician you are concerned that (your) patients may no longer have access to adequate health insurance. All those associated with the NMA should take a moment to immediately contact the senate and share this message.

Please act now. This is our chance to make an impact on history, to save lives, and protect the health of millions of Americans.

For the National Medical Association, Richard Allen Williams Richard Allen Williams, MD, FACC, FAHA, FACP, 117th president

GET YOUR CURRENT NEWS AND WATCH AP VIDEOS ONLINE AT: www.mississippilink.com

Gov. Bryant receives 2017 Champion for Children honor

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A coalition of Mississippi child care agencies presented Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant with the 2017 Champion of Children's Award Friday in recognition of his leadership, commitment and advocacy for protecting at-risk

John Damon, CEO of Canopy Children's Solutions and current president of the Mississippi Association of Child Caring Agencies, presented the award to Bryant by crediting the governor for changing the culture of foster care, child abuse prevention and family support services in Mississippi. MACCA is the sponsor of the first-ever award.

"Because of Governor Bryant, Mississippi is leading the way in improving our system of protecting children and strengthening families," said David A. Chandler, commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services.

In late 2015, Bryant appointed then Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Chandler as head of the state's child welfare program and committed to doing whatever was needed to improve the state's troubled foster care system. In 2016, Bryant made his priority bills to separate MDCPS

from the Department of Human Services, creating a stand-alone agency whose commissioner would report directly to the governor. That package of legislation included additional funding to allow for the hiring of more frontline social workers as well as a much-needed pay adjustment for those already on staff.

"Our children deserve nothing less," Bryant said when he signed the law creating MDCPS and increasing its state funding levels to cover a pay realignment for social workers and other service improvements. The governor has repeatedly stated that turning Mississippi's system of foster care and child protection/family support services into the nation's best would be his top priority for the remainder of his time in of-

Chandler and Damon both applauded Bryant's success and national influence as a leader in his work to improve foster care and other child and family well-being

"He has done so much and there has been tangible progress. This state is indebted to his leadership, vision and commitment to seeing that every child in Mississippi is safe and protected and thriving," Chandler added.

Gov. Bryant honors Mississippi social workers for saving child

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant on Friday honored two Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services social workers for their above-and-beyond actions which saved the life of a Madison County child earlier this year.

The first-ever Governor's Award for Outstanding Service in Child Protection and Well-Being was presented by Bryant on Friday to Tausha Rawls, a family protection specialist working in the Madison County office, and her supervisor Melody Vaughn, who is now on special assignment in Marion County.

In praising the two women for persisting in their investigation into the whereabouts of an unaccounted for 10-year-old despite the parents' insistence that the child did not exist, Bryant credited the MDCPS workers for saving the life of the

"Because of you, this child is alive and well today," the governor said. "You truly have made a difference because you did your job."

In January 2017, a tip was called into the MDCPS child abuse prevention 1-800-222-

PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS 8000 hotline expressing concern that a young child had not been seen by neighbors in a Canton apartment complex for an extended

Mississippi Republican Gov. Phil Bryant,

right, reads the citation as he honors Tausha Rawls, left, and Melody Vaughn, two

Mississippi Department of Child Protection

Services social workers for their actions

which saved the life of a Madison County

child earlier this year, with the first ever

Governor's Award for Outstanding Service

in Child Protection and Well-Being during a

statewide meeting of MDCPS social workers

in Jackson, Miss., Friday, June 23, 2017. AP

Rawls, the frontline worker assigned to the Madison County MD-CPS office, immediately investigated the allegation and despite the parents' denials eventually assisted law enforcement in discovering that the critically malnourished child had been extremely neglected and locked away in a closet. The 10-year-old child and multiple siblings were rescued and placed into state custody. According to information released by the Madison County District Attorney's Office, the parents were arrested and charged with felony counts of child

abuse and neglect. State and local law enforcement officials described the situation as "one of the worst cases of child abuse" they've ever seen.

"Basically, I just caught the mother in a lie," Rawls said. "Sometimes a report can have incorrect information but in this case I had a name, age, birth date and social security number for the child. The mother was lying. She said 'I don't know about a child like that.' I knew that she was lying so we kept investigating."

Rawls and Vaughn notified the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation and continued to pursue the inquiry until the child was discovered.

Rawls, a native of Jackson, began work with MDCPS as a family protection specialist in July 2016. she is a social work graduate of Jackson State University. Vaughn, an area social work supervisor for MDCPS, previously worked in the Madison County office and is now assigned to Marion County.

"These are just two of the hundreds and hundreds of dedicated, hard-working professionals we have on our front lines at MDCPS. Every day, these men and women make a huge difference in the lives of the children and families that we serve," said Commissioner David A. Chandler.

Also on Friday, Chandler recognized two other MDCPS employees as co-winners of the agency's Walter F. Weathers Award for Outstanding Social Work. They are Latosha Christmas, a family protection specialist working in the Hinds County office, and Bryan Estes, a family protection specialist assigned to Tippah County.

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Stay the course...and follow God's directions

By Shewanda Riley Columnist



"You on the fastest route despite heavier normal than traffic " After hearing

my GPS calmly state this as I was staring at a line of red brake lights ahead of me on the highway, I chuckled and told her that she was wrong this time. It looked like the route I was on was the worst one. Then I laughed again because I realized I was talking to GPD and was so glad no one else was in the car.

Perhaps anticipating that I was going to get off on the next highway exit, my GPS stated again that my exit was at least a half mile away and with the long line of cars

ahead of me it seemed like it would take me an hour to get it. So, I got off on the next exit which was less than 200 feet away.

It took the GPS a few minutes to recalculate the directions but she kept trying to get me back on the highway. Now that I was on the highway service road, I sailed along and looked to the left laughing at the poor people stuck in traffic.

While I was driving, the GPS kept directing me back on the highway which I refused to do because I knew that I was now on the fastest route. Then, it happened: a slow down on the service road. And now instead of me flying by the cars on the highway, they were now flying by me and everyone else who made the mistake of taking the service road.

At this point, I half way expected the GPS voice to mock me and say "I told you to stay on the highway. That's what you get for not listening." Instead, the GPS came back on and said "In 200 feet, take a left." This time. I listened to her directions and was able to make it home but it was 30 minutes after the original time that the GPS predicted. I only had myself to blame for wasting time and having to take the scenic route.

This reminded me of how I've sometimes gotten off track from the path that God has designed for me simply because I wanted to do it my way. Never mind that God is the creator of the universe and knows the plans for my life, the end from the beginning. I've made the mistake

of figuring that my finite mind knew a better plan. And just like I had to do with the GPS, I had to recalculate and get back on the path that God has created for me. Proverbs 4:25-27 encourages us to remain focused on God's path: "Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left...."

God's plan is always safer and more exciting than the scenic route also known as the path of disobedience.

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.



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Sunday School 8:45 a.m. *MONDAY*

10:00 a.m.

Intercessory Prayer 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

*The call will last only 30 minutes

Classes: Children • Youth • Adult - 7:00p.m.



Michael T. Williams Pastor

Satan is a powerful foe

Part II

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



There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Some men once brought a woman to Jesus and said they had

caught her in the very act of adultery. They asked Jesus what He thought should be done about it. He stooped down and wrote on the ground. I do not know what He wrote, but He probably wrote some sins that her accusers had been committing; then Jesus stood up and said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone." There was only one man there who could have cast a stone, and He did not want to. Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground again. When He got up, He turned to the woman and asked 'where are her accusers?' She said that she had none. He said, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

There is no rest when we are under condemnation. Isaiah 57:20-21 reads: "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace saith My God, to the wicked."

The world is under condemnation today, and people are seeking, trying to find rest and satisfaction. The only way anyone can really be free from guilt and condemnation is to come to Jesus Christ. Proverbs 28:13 tells us, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

As long as we cover a sinful condition in our lives, we will not prosper spiritually. If we do not deal with it, if we keep overriding our conscience and living with guilt and condemnation af-

ter the Spirit has shown us where we have failed and come short of the glory of God, we will eventually come to the place where we can sin freely, without guilt.

The Bible speaks of God sending people a strong delusion that they might believe a lie and be damned when they do not measure to what they know.

There are people who can go out and drink and not feel bad about it, but they once felt that it was wrong. There are people who puff on cigarettes and do not feel bad about it anymore. There are individuals who are living in adultery and fornication and saying that God accepts them that wav.

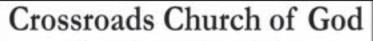
Why have those people changed? They so hardened their hearts against God, the Word of God, and the Spirit of God that they became past feeling.

We all know that men are living together as husband and wife, and women likewise. That is sodomy; yet they are saying that God has made them that way. They have so hardened their hearts against God that they feel it is all right. They cannot be saved as long as they feel they are all right.

Before anyone can get saved, they have to realize and acknowledge their sins. Also, we have to receive a love for the truth. If we do not feel that what we are doing is wrong or sinful, how can we be saved?

We have to repent before we can receive salvation, and how can we repent of something that, in our heart, we feel is not sin-

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,



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Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation grants promote MC Wellness

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi College's ninehole disc golf course, the installation of outdoor fitness equipment, and free exercise classes are some of the amazing high-

The Farmer's Market on the Clinton campus, free grab and go healthy breakfasts for employees, and water aerobics classes at Alumni Pool are part of the long list, too.

MC Wellness for Life's vision for employees, students and the Clinton community to enjoy healthier lives received a powerful boost from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation grants.

"MC Wellness for Life has grown tremendously over the past two years thanks to the wonderful support from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation," says wellness coordinator Piper Wal-

"This health and wellness initiative has enabled the addition of several opportunities for physical activity on campus," Walters added. MC employees, students, and Clintonians all see the benefits.

The 2017 opening of the disc golf course attracted dozens of MC supporters for ribbon-cutting ceremonies. President Lee Royce, Kinesiology Department Chairman Chris Washam, and Walters joined Mayor Phil Fisher and Clinton Chamber of Commerce leaders for the event in late March.

Players signed up for the inaugural Clock Tower Disc Golf



MC Disc Golf Course ribbon-cutting ceremony in late March 2017.

Tournament drawing 20 teams on a windy day. The disc golf course is located on green space near the University Place residence halls. It's another major step as MC wellness programs

There's more to come. Mississippi College officials are making plans to host the second Clock Tower Disc Golf Tournament April 12, 2018. Players toss a plastic disc off a tee, and eventually try to land it in a chain-catching metal basket. Disc golf mirrors traditional golf as far as rules go. Courses are popping up across Mississippi cities like Jackson, Pearl, Starkville and Hattiesburg as well as communities across the

Mississippi College wellness programs don't take a vacation during the summer. The Clinton campus hosted a recent Farmer's Market featuring fresh fruits and vegetables on sale for faculty and staff. In June and July, hundreds of MC campers in the cafeteria will be given free bracelets in a promotion of healthy food choices and drinking water.

In 2016, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation grants created MC's walking track and fitness course near the Longabaugh soccer field.

Since day one, Piper Walters has trumpeted Blue Cross & Blue Shield Foundation of Mississippi grants that make a difference for so many people.

MC Wellness initiatives enable folks of all ages to "make healthy choices in their daily lives by providing information, resources, programs and more," says Walters, a kinesiology instructor from Clinton. The Mississippi foundation's generous financial support "has allowed us to do just that."

Yoga classes, kickboxing, a rigorous bootcamp, individual fitness testing equipment, and nutrition awareness programs are pieces of a strong package to benefit the Mississippi College family year-round.

Washam is thankful to the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Foundation of Mississippi for making campus wellness programs click. He's happy to have Walters serving as wellness director. "I have been very impressed with the variety and scope of the activities Piper instituted on campus and in the community."

This Fall, the 2017 Hap Hudson Homecoming Road Race October 21 remains one of the key dates in Clinton as MC supporters step up their fitness lev-

For more information, contact MC Wellness Coordinator Piper Walters at 601-925-7752 or pwalters@mc.edu

Senate healthcare bill is disastrous for the HIV and STD community

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Today, AIDS United, NAS-TAD, the National Coalition of STD Directors, NMAC and The AIDS Institute join together to condemn the inhumane Senate healthcare bill, which will decimate Medicaid, change private insurance reforms that protect people living with or at risk of HIV and/or STDs, and undermines public health infrastruc-

"The Senate healthcare bill will be catastrophic for our nation's health care system. If passed, not only will people living with or at risk of HIV and STDs suffer, but our efforts to end the HIV and STD epidemics will be impeded," stated Jesse Milan Jr., president and CEO of AIDS United.

"The changes to Medicaid, including the repeal of the expansion and the drastic cuts to funding beginning in 2020 will harm people living with and at risk for HIV and STDs. This proposal guarantees limited access to care and benefits," added David C. Harvey, executive director of the National Coalition of STD Directors.

"This bill creates a false narrative that says it will help people with pre-existing conditions, but instead it allows states to waive essential health benefits such as vital prescription drugs, mental and behavioral health services, and preventive services. These cuts would allow insurers to deny the services people who are living with and who are at risk for HIV and STIs need to stay healthy," commented Paul Kawata, executive director of NMAC.

"In addition, this bill eliminates funding for vital services provided by the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which funds 12 percent of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's budget beginning in FY2018, just over three months away. This will decimate the federal government's response to public health issues, including HIV and other STDs, and exacerbate the cuts proposed in the FY2018 President's Budget," observed Michael Ruppal, executive director of The AIDS Institute.

"We call on the Senate to reject this bill and protect people living with or at risk of HIV and STDs. The Senate must keep its promise to the American people and protect their care," finished Murray C. Penner, executive director of NASTAD.

AIDS United (AU), NAS-TAD, the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD), NMAC, and The AIDS Institute (TAI) are national non-partisan, non-profit organizations focused on ending HIV in the U.S. They have been working in partnership to identify and share resources to sustain successes and progress we have made in HIV and STD prevention, care and treatment in the United States.

Middlemen are not passing on all drug discounts intended for patients

By Sandip Shah Market Access Solutions

Over 400,000 Americans with cancer suffer from a second disease - "financial toxicity." The symptoms include missed mortgage and rent payments, raided retirement accounts, and decisions about whether to take medicines as prescribed or ration them to save money. Such choices can be deadly.

Given these grim choices, it's no surprise that more than threequarters of Americans think that prescription drugs costs are "unreasonable." They largely blame pharmaceutical companies. But the story is more complex – pharmacy benefit managers and big chain pharmacies play a key role in driving up pharmaceutical prices.

PBMs work as the middlemen in the drug market, negotiating drug prices with pharmaceutical companies on behalf of 266 million Americans' employersponsored and Medicare insurance plans. They determine which medicines are covered by

plans at which co-payment or co-insurance levels.

In the past five years, four PBMs have secured a nearmonopoly, together accounting for 80 percent of the market. In theory, their bulk buying power gives them leverage to extract big discounts from drug makers. And they do – the problem is that they increasingly keep the lion's share of discounts rather than pass them on to customers.

"PBMs used to be the sheriff," explains the executive director of the Community Oncology Alliance. "But they've become sheriff, jury, judge and executioner, all wrapped into

The negotiation process is opaque, due to PBMs' vested interest in keeping pharmaceutical costs high. Take, for instance, Sovaldi, the breakthrough hepatitis C cure made by Gilead Sciences that retails for \$85,000. PBMs have negotiated discounts that reduce that price by tens of thousands of

Why doesn't Gilead just reduce the list price off the bat? An executive at Gilead recently said that if it slashed Sovaldi's list price by tens of thousands of dollars, the middlemen would "rip up our contract" and refuse to include the drug in its formu-

Consider the viewpoint of the PBM. It'd prefer a bigger rebate off a higher list price than a small rebate off a much lower price. Because the rebates are hidden, insurers and patients have little idea of the amount PBMs keep for themselves.

Pharmaceutical companies, on the other hand, are making an increased effort to be more transparent about their pricing.

For instance, a public report from Johnson & Johnson showed that the drug company had offered \$11 billion discounts and rebates in 2016, which should have given patients 35 percent off the list price of medicines. Pfizer officials explained to the media, in detail, how they arrived at a list price for a new cancer drug.

Pharmaceutical companies' rebates and discounts make no difference if middlemen like PBMs and pharmacies avoid passing the savings on to pa-

PBM profits are enormous. Express Scripts, America's largest PBM, racked up \$660 million in profits in 2015. Its former CEO used to earn \$1 million a week. That's seems unfair when PBMs' business practices force patients to go without their medicines.

Increasing transparency in the PBM and pharmacy supply chain process, and remediation strategies from lawmakers to address potential conflicts of interest, are necessary to limit the financial burden that patients face today.

Sandip Shah is the founder and president of Market Access Solutions, a global market access consultancy, where he develops strategies to optimize patient access to life changing

How to beat the healthcare odds in these uncertain times

States

A recent Gallup poll revealed that Americans list healthcare as tied for the nation's No. 1 problem, right along with dissatisfaction with government. Each of those was named by 18 percent of the people polled, far outdistancing any other worry.

Maybe it's no coincidence that those two issues cause equal amounts of anxiety among Americans, says Chris Orestis, executive vice president of GWG Life (www.gwglife.com).

"There's a lot of debate in Washington about what role government should play in healthcare, and I think a lot of people are worried that lawmakers aren't coming up with good answers," says Orestis, who has written extensively about what he refers to as the nation's Healthcare Hunger Games.

"That Gallup poll is an indication that people around the country have come to realize how important healthcare coverage is for them, and how easy it is to lose it."

With so much uncertainty about what would replace Obamacare if the move to repeal it continues, it may fall to each individual to take measures to make sure the odds are in their favor," Orestis says.

The key to doing that, he says, is to understand how to get the most out of what you already have. Some factors to consider include:

Weigh employer-provided options. Most Americans get health insurance at work, and usually there are coverage options to choose from. Employees need to consider how much medical care they think they

The Mississippi Link Newswire and their families will need in Concerns about healthcare the coming year. "If you don't re on the rise in the United expect to need a lot of healthcare, select a plan that has lower premiums, but higher deductibles and co-pays," Orestis says. "If you know you'll need lots of care and prescriptions, choose the plan with higher premiums, but lower deduct-

ibles and co-pays." Make sure you understand Medicare. Medicare offers numerous choices that allow people to put together the best combination of benefits for their needs and budgets. But beware, Orestis says. "Enrolling in Medicare can be complicated," he says. "If you're not careful, you can miss out on coverage you need or pay more in premiums, co-pays and deductibles than you realize or can afford."

Plan for long-term care. "Many people eventually require some type of long-term care, such as a nursing home or assisted-living facility, and the cost is hefty. It can be difficult to qualify for Medicare and Medicaid to pay for long-term care, and if you do qualify there are restrictions," Orestis says.

Long-term care providers prefer some sort of private pay, such as personal savings, longterm care insurance, annuities or exchanging a life insurance policy for long-term care benefits. "You need to plan ahead," he says, "because the worst time to start planning is when you're already in a crisis."

Ultimately, the best strategy is to stay healthy so you need as little healthcare as possible.

"If you invest in your physi-

cal, mental and emotional health toda, you'll be repaid with a better lifestyle and less need for doctors and prescription medicine in the future," Orestis says.

Forrest General Hospital to offer seminars to educate the public on high quality, affordable healthcare options

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Series of free educational sessions to provide the community with valuable information on the Medicare and related programs

Forrest General Hospital is hosting a free educational session July 11 to answer questions and provide information about Medicare.

Information will be shared about Medicare, Medicare Supplemental Plans, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, and how to enroll in the plan of your choice.

"We encourage people in the community to attend one of our

educational sessions. We welcome the opportunity to share information and explain the different plans that are available. This also allows us to answer questions to help participants understand how Medicare and other plans work together to pay medical claims and prescription drug purchases," said

Pat Riley, director of insurance operations at Forrest General. The next meeting will be

located at 106 Madison Plaza, Suite A in Hattiesburg July 11 at 10 a.m.

For more information or to reserve a place at the event, contact Jennifer Prather at *601-288-8119*.

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING RANDALL J. FISHMAN, E. NICHOLAS BELI-SOMO, BOBBY WEBB & RANDI BELISOMO A REZONING FROM SUD SPECIAL USE DISTRICT TO C-2 (LIMITED) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO ALLOW FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPERTY FOR COMMER-CIAL PURPOSES WITH A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A FAST FOOD RESTAURANT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1001 W. COUNTY LINE RD. (PARCELS 712-3-2 & 712-3-6), CASE NO. 3967.

WHEREAS, Randall J. Fishman, E. Nicholas Belisomo, Bobby Webb & Randi Belisomo has filed a petifion to rezone property located at 1001 W. County Line Rd. (Parcels 712-3.2 & 712-3-6), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, from SUD Special Use District to C-3 (General) Commercial District to allow for the redevelopment of the property for commercial purposes with a Use Permit to allow for a fast food restaurant; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has recommended a modification to the petitioned request to rezone the property from SUD Special Use District to CI- (Limited) Commercial District to allow for the redevelopment of the property for commercial purposes with a Use Permit to allow for a fast food restaurant; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and Meresmd citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m. Monday, May 15, 2017 consider said change, based upon the record of the case as developed before the City Planning Bog., and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on March 2, 2017 and March 16, 2017 and that a hearing would be held by the Jackson City Planning Board on April 26, 2017, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the Sate of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board had recommended approval of the rezoning of the above described property to C-2 (Limited) Commercial District with a Use Permit for a fast food restaurant; and

WHEREAS, the Council after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that such changes would be in keeping with sound land use practice and to the best interest of the City and that there has been a substantial change in the land use character of the surrounding area that justifies rezoning the property and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the request in said application since any previous City Council action; and

WHEREAS, the Council, after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that the operation of a fast food restaurant at the above location would not be detrimental to the continued use, value, or development of properties in the vicinity and that a Use Permit be granted for a fast food restaurant within the C-2 (Limited) Commercial District of the City of Jackson with the conditions that the Use Permit be granted on an annual basis; that the Use Permit be granted to the owner/operator of the fast food restaurant, and that subsequent owners or operators of a fast food restaurant at this location must apply for and receive a new Use Permit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:

Section I. That the property located in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, more particular described as follows:

Parcel 712-3-6

Commence at the intersection of the center line of Hanging Moss Road (as relocated and the center line of County Line Road as both streets exist this date and run thence North 88° 57 30" East for a distance of 447.10 feet to a point; run thence South 01. 00' 30" East for a distance of 40.0 feet to the point of beginning.

Run thence South 01° 00' 30" East for a distance of 200.0 feet to a point, run thence North 88° 57 30" East for a distance of 172.17 feet to a point; run thence South 40° 45' 30 West for a distance of 205.13 feet to a point; run thence South 82° 27' 30" West for a distance of 158.74 feet to a point; run thence North 85°42' 30" West for a distance of 161.56 feet to the point of curvature of 9.53° curve, having a central angle of 23° 22' 17", continue thence along said curve to the right for a distance of 245.23 feet to the point of tangency of said curve; run thence North 39° 52′ 30″ East for a distance of 90.24 feet to a point; run thence North 77° 40′ 30″ East for a distance of 251.41 feet to a point; run thence North 88° 59' 30" East for a distance of 26.69 feet to the point of beginning.

The above described land lying and being situated in Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW 1/4 of NE 1/4) of Section 3, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi, and containing 2.792 acres more or less.

Parcel 712-3-2

ALL OF THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 6 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A CONCRETE RIGHT-OF-WAY MONUMENT FOUND AT THE

INTERSECTION OF THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF HANGING MOSS ROAD AND THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF COUNTY LINE ROAD (ALSO KNOWN AS THE MADISON-HINDS COUNTY ROAD); THENCE ALONG THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF HANGING MOSS ROAD IN A SOUTH-ERLY DIRECTION SOUTH 01 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST 59.19 FEET TO A CONCRETE RIGHT-OF-WAY MONUMENT FOUND AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF HANGING MOSS ROAD AND THE NORTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF INTERSTATE HIGH-WAY 220; THENCE ALONG THE NORTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF IN-TERSTATE HIGHWAY 220 IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION SOUTH 40 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 18 SECONDS WEST 188.80 FEET TO AN IRON PIN FOUND; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 172.31 FEET TO AN IRON PIN FOUND; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 200.4 FEET TO AN IRON PIN SET ON THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF COUNTY LINE ROAD; THENCE ALONG THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY LINE ROAD IN A EASTERLY DIRECTION NORTH 89 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 299.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING CONTAINING 1.17 ACRES.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the property on 1001 W. County Line Rd. (Parcels 712-3-2 & 712-3-6) with Conditional Use Permit to allow for a fast food restaurant within a C-2 (Limited) Commercial District of the City of Jackson with the conditions that the Use Permit be granted on an annual basis; that the Use Permit be granted to the owner/operator of the fast food restaurant; and that subsequent owners or operators of a fast food restaurant at this location must apply for and receive a new Use Permit. However that before a Use Permit is issued for any structure to be erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

SECTION 2. That the cost of publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by the

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its passage and after publication of same by the petitioner.

Council Member Priester moved adoption, Council Member Stamps seconded.

Yeas- Barrett-Simon, Foote, Priester, Stamps and Tillman. Nays- None.

Absent- Hendrix and Stokes.

Kristi Moore, City Clerk

ATTEST: Kristi Moore, City Clerk

I, Kristi Moore, the duly appointed, qualified City Clerk and lawful custodian of records of the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi and seal of said City, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Ordinance passed by the City Council at its regular zoning meeting on the 15th day of May, 2017, and recorded in Minute Book "6L", pages 801-802.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this 9th day of June, 2017. (SEAL)

LEGAL

JUNE 29 - JULY 5, 2017

SECTION 901 ADVERTISEMENT

CITY OF JACKSON STATE STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

FEDERAL-AID Project No. TGR-0250-00(047) LPA/107200-801000

The City Clerk of the City of Jackson will receive bids for the new street layout from Hartfield Street to Sheppard Road along State Street, Federal-Aid Project No. TGR-0250-00(047) LPA/107200-801000, no later than 3:30 P.M., Local Prevailing Time, July 25, 2017, in the City Clerk's Office located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., July 14, 2017, in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room on the first floor of the Warren Hood Building, 200 S. President Street, Jackson,

The Completion Date for this project is December 18, 2019.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

- Road Diet design features;
- Resurfacing, and reconstruction improvements; Improved traffic signalization;
- Replacing and/or upgrading water and sewer utility lines where needed as well as storm drainage;
- · Multi-use Trail with ADA compliance;
- Landscaping Improvements;
- Bioswales between the curb and Multi-use trail to filter stormwater.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

The attention of bidders is directed to the Contract Provisions governing selection and employment of labor. Minimum wage rates for Federal-Aid projects have been predetermined by the Secretary of labor and are subject to Public Law 87-581 Work hours Act of 1962, set forth in the Contract

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged and women's business enterprises will be afforded the full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. The DBE goal for this project is 5 percent.

The award of this contract will be contingent upon the Contractor satisfying the DBE/WBE requirements.

The plans, contract documents and special provision, and proposal forms are on file for public inspection at the following locations:

- 1. City of Jackson Engineering Division, 200 S. President Street Suite 424, Jackson, Mississippi 39201.
- 2. Neel-Schaffer, Inc, 125 South Congress Street, Suite 1100, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201.

All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained from Neel-Schaffer, Inc. 125 South Congress Street, Suite 1100, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201. (Mailing address: P.O. Box 22625 Jackson, MS 39225-2625) upon payment of \$400.00 for each set, which will not be refunded.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a Surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the City of Jackson as bid surety. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Contract bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount.

The proposal and contract documents in its entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the City Clerk, 219 South President Street Jackson, MS prior to the hour and date above designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty (60) days after the date of actual bid opening, without Owner's consent.

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the Mississippi Road and Bridge Construction (the 2004 edition) together with all amendments and/ or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications. The 2004 Edition of the Mississippi Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, adopted by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, as referred to herein, may be purchased from the Mississippi Department of Transpor-

Bidders are hereby notified that award will not be made to any bidder submitting a proposal involving omissions or irregularities outlined in Section 102 of the 2004 Edition of the Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, or accompanied by letters qualifying any manner the conditions under which the proposal is tendered.

the Advertised Date for receipt of bids.

The City of Jackson, Jackson, Mississippi

Jerriot Smash Interim Public Works Director Marshand Crisler Chief Administrator Officer Nakesha Watkins Legal Counsel

LEGAL

SECTION 901

ADVERTISEMENT

CITY OF JACKSON TIGER - GRANT WEST COUNTY LINE ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

The City Clerk of the City of Jackson will receive bids for the Tiger Grant West County Line Road Corridor Improvements, Federal-Aid Project No. TGR-0250-00(047)/107200-802000, no later than 3:30 P.M., Local Prevailing Time, August 1, 2017, in the City Clerk's Office located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:30 A.M., July 14, 2017, in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room on the first floor of the Warren Hood Building, 200 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

The Completion Date for this project is January 2, 2020.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items

- · Relocating approximately 7,000 feet of the CN Railroad to include three bridges. · Construction of approximately 250 linear feet of four-lane asphalt road-
- way with curb and gutter and subsurface drainage. · Replacement of one fully actuated traffic signal and modification of a
- second traffic signal.
- Reconstruction and extension of approximately 2,500 linear feet of twolane asphalt residential streets including Rand Street and Guice Lane.
- · Closure of at-grade crossings of the railroad at Richmond Grove Road and Brown Street.
- · Construction of cul-de-sac on Brown Street.
- · Landscaping and gateway signage.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

The attention of bidders is directed to the Contract Provisions governing selection and employment of labor. Minimum wage rates for Federal-Aid projects have been predetermined by the Secretary of labor and are subject to Public Law 87-581 Work hours Act of 1962, set forth in the Contract

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged and women's business enterprises will be afforded the full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. The DBE goal for this project is 5 percent.

The award of this contract will be contingent upon the Contractor satisfying the DBE/WBE requirements.

The plans, contract documents and special provision, and proposal forms are on file for public inspection at the following locations:

1. City of Jackson Engineering Division, 200 S. President Street Suite 424, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. 2. Neel-Schaffer Inc., 1230 Highway 51 North, Madison, Mississippi, 39110.

All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained from Neel-Schaffer Inc., 1230 Highway 51 North, Madison, Mississippi, 39110, upon payment of \$400.00 for each set, which will not be refunded.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check on a solvent bank or a

Bidder's Bond issued by a surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the City of Jackson as bid surety. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Contract bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount.

The proposal and contract documents in its entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the City Clerk, 219 South President Street Jackson, MS prior to the hour and date above designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty (60) days after the date of actual bid opening, without Owner's consent.

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the Mississippi Road and Bridge Construction (the 2004 edition) together with all amendments and/ or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications. The 2004 Edition of the Mississippi Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, adopted by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, as referred to herein, may be purchased from the Mississippi Department of Transpor-

Bidders are hereby notified that award will not be made to any bidder submitting a proposal involving omissions or irregularities outlined in Section 102 of the 2004 Edition of the Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, or accompanied by letters qualifying any manner the conditions under which the proposal is tendered.

No (bid proposal) will be sold after 12:00 0'clock Noon, of the day preceding the Advertised Date for receipt of bids.

The City of Jackson, Jackson, Mississippi

6/29/2017, 7/6/2017

Jerriot Smash Marshand Crisler Interim Public Works Director Chief Administrator Officer

Nakesha Watkins Legal Counsel

6/29/2017, 7/6/2017

Office Space for Rent

Garrett Enterprises Building

> (Near Jackson Medical Mall)

2659 Livingston Road Jackson, MS 39213

2500 Square Feet

Call: 601-209-9199

6/29/2017

No (bid proposal) will be sold after 12:00 o'clock Noon, of the day preceding

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.

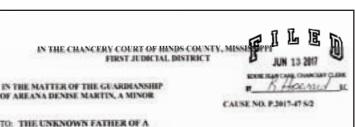
3/9/2017 thru 12/28/2017

LEGAL

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

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR RESULTS PHYSIOTHERAPY TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JULY 6, 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 INFORMA-

6/29/2017



African-America Female child born on July 30, 2012 at Central Mississippi Medical Central in Jackson, Mississippi on Nincteen (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 mu take immediate action to protect your rights, if any.

You are summened 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 contrason of the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse at Jackson, Minissoppi, before Honorable William Singletury. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment may be extered against you for the money or other things

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 352-01, 769-251-0207.

ISSUED under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 13 to day of





Eddie Jean Carr, Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi

Help Wanted/Drivers

Drivers: \$5.000 Orientation Completion Bonus! Unique Flatbed or DryVan Fleet! Excellent Annual Pay, Full Comprehensive Benefits! 1yr Class-A CDL Call: 1-855-856-7985

6/8 6/15 6/22 6/29

Help Wanted/Drivers

Drivers- \$40-60k Per Year! Paid Time Off! Late Model Equipment! Co. pays 75% of Health Ins! CDL-A w/2 yr exp. 844-361-0170 x103

6/15/2017 6/22/2017 6/29/2017 7/6/2017 7/13/2017 7/20/2017

Crossword Solution



Cryptogram Solution

WILL COME AND A POSITIVE VPEYVVW AX GROE MSEX OVP ERRUPME

LEGAL

JUNE 29 - JULY 5, 2017

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE **JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017 AT 12:00 P.M. IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

- I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS A. OLD BUSINESS
 - NONE
- **B. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 1. CASE NO. 2017-24, REQUEST BY: CENTURY CONSTRUC-TION/HELM PLACE III, LLC (APPLICANT: STUART POVALL), TO CONSTRUCT UP TO 70 NEW HOMES FOR PHASE III OF HELM PLACE DEVELOPMENT AT MULTIPLE LOCATIONS, LOCATED IN THE FARISH STREET HISTORICAL DISTRICT.
 - 2. CASE NO. 2017-29, REQUEST BY: BEVERLY AND DAVE FULCHER (APPLICANT: JOHN WEAVER) TO DEMOLISH A NON CONTRIBUTING NEW STORAGE BUILDING, AND ADD A TWO STORY BEDROOM AND PLAYROOM AT 1343 ST. MARY ST., LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT.
 - 3. CASE NO. 2017-30, REQUEST BY: JENNIFER WELCH TO REMOVE BRITTLE VINYL SIDING AND REPLACE WITH 8.25" HARDIEPLANK AT 1107 BELLEVUE PLACE, LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT.
- II. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSION
 - 1. NOTICE OF PROPOSED RAILROAD COMMUNICATION TOWER BY GOLDER ASSOCIATES INC.

III. ADJOURN

6/22/2017, 6/29/2017

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

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

IN THE MATTER OF AMANDA BROWN AND PHILANDRA BROWN, MINORS

BY AND THROUGH DEFRIA JACKSON.

MOTHER AND NATURAL GUARDIAN

PETITIONER AND NEXT FRIEND

CAUSE No 5-217-859

PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO SETTLE AN UNLIQUIDATED CLAIM OF

COMES NOW, the Petitioner and files this Polition for Authority to Settle as

Unliquidated Claim of Minor owned by the said minor, and for other relief, and for grounds therefore would respectfully show unto the Court:

natural mother of Amanda Brown and Philandra Brown, minor children. Amanda Brown is sixteen years old, having been born on November 2, 2000. Philandra Brown is fourteen years old. having been born on November 27, 2002. The minor children's father, Tommy Davis, will be summoned to the final hearing by publication, or join into same. The father's current post office addressed is unknown to the Peritioner after diligent search and inquiry

The Petitioner is an adult resident citizen of Hinds County, Mississippi, and is the

That said minor children have a claim for unliquidated damages for personal injuries resulting from an accident which occurred in Rankin County, Mississippi, on or about October 24, 2015. That the minors suffered no cognizable injuries but went to a healthcare provider to be examined as a precautionary measure.



That Petitioner's version of the facts and circumstances surrounding the above described accident, so far as they are known by Petitioner or can be ascertained by Petitioner, is that on the date above said minor children were in an automobile accident in or around Rankin Cou

That said Cynthia Brantley, and her liability insurance company, Progressive Insurance Company ("Progressive") dispute the liability, extent and liquidated value of the stained by said minors, if any, as a result of the accident subject of thi

That Cynthia Brantley and Progressive have offered to pay \$6,200.00 to Philandra Brown and \$5000.00 to Amanda Brown, misor children and Petitioner, on condition that they be completely and legally discharged from all claims of every kind and character against them and at said offer of comprenise and settlement is further conditioned upon the same ed and authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction, and upon the Petitioner being authorized and directed by said court to execute and deliver an indemnifying agreng, discharging, acquitting, and indomnifying Cynthia Brantley and Progressive and all its of them from any and all liability whatsoever for the aforesaid injuries to the minor and any claims arising from said injuries, in substantially the same form as the document attached bereto

That the claim growing out of the injury to the minor is, as aforesaid, a disput claim in as much as Cynthia Brantley and Progressive have controverted the amount of d policy of liability insurance issued to him by Progressive Insurance Company, being policy

That the minor's related medical expenses to date are as follows:

Amanda Brown

\$125.00 \$960.00 Prescription Cost \$20.00

Total Medicals

Philandra Brown \$125.00 University Medical Center \$960.00 Prescription Cost \$11.99 **Total Medicals**

\$3118.56

That said minor is released from all medical treatment

That the Mississippi Division of Medicaid has paid all the associated expenses, but has not asserted a lien. See Exhibit A and B, a letter from the Mississippi Division of Medicaid. That there has otherwise been no assignment of any medical bills, hospital hills, doctor's hills or expenses, nor is any party subrogated to any part of any recovery.

Petitioner prays for general relief and for such other special relief as the Court deems appropriate 10.

The total settlement is for \$6,200.00 and \$5000.00 respectively. Said sum is a fair settlement and it is in the minor children's best interest that said settlement be made.

That Petitioner and said miner have been represented by Trent L. Walker and Lee and Associates, and said attorney has rendered good and valuable legal services. That Petitioner has entered into a contract with said attorney for the payment attorney's fees and expenses related to said action, which are \$2,064.60 for the claim of Philandra Brown and \$1,665.00 for the claim of Amanda Brown. That Petitioner should be authorized by this Court to make such payment. from the settlement funds herein described.

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner prays that upon a final hearing hereof the Court may authorize Petitioner: (1) to compromise and settle the said claim of said minor and said minor's parents for the total sum of \$6,200.00 and \$5,000 respectively; (2) to execute and deliver in the form of the instrument attached hereto as Exhibit "A," a full, final and complete release and acquittanced of Cynthia Brantley and Progressive and all of its subsidiaries persons, firms, remarkations, and/or corporations, both known or unknown, from any and all liability in the premises, including all claims of every kind and character which said minor, or (3) to pay any and all outstanding and unpaid medical expenses and/or any liens which may be and Associates for services rendered and expenses incurred from the settlement fund-(5) tender the balance of the settlement minus expenses, to Defria Jackson as mother and next

and Lee and Associates for services rendered and expenses incurred from the set funds hereire, and (5) tender the balance of the settlement minus expenses, to Defria on as mother and next friend of Philandra Brown and Amunda Brown for the exclusive use and benefit of the minor children.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, thin 2 may of Mart

LIPPROVED AS TO CONTEXT AND FORM

ters set forth in the foregoing Petition for Authority to Settle Unliquident Chim of disse are true and correct to the best of the knowledge

SWORN TO AND SCHOOLSHED I NOTARY PUBLIC

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

IN THE MATTER OF AMANDA BROWN AND

CAUSE NO. G-2017-809

BY AND THROUGH DEFRIA JACKSON PETITIONER AND NEXT FRIEND MOTHER AND NATURAL GUARDIAN

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on the 25th day of July, 2017, at the hour of 9:30 eV. Philandra Brown, Minors, before Judge Denise Owens at the Chancery Court of Hinds Cou located at Jackson, Mississippi Courtle

6/22/2017, 6/29/2017, 7/6/2017

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219 S President St

GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX

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

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MCDADE'S MARKET

Northside Drive MCDADE'S MARKET #2

653 Duling Avenue **PICADILLY CAFETERIA**

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350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue **SHELL FOOD MART**

5492 Watkins Drive **SPORTS MEDICINE**

Fortification and I-55

TWO SISTERS KITCHEN

707 North Congress - Jackson, MS

UPTON TIRE

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

716 Roby Street - Canton, MS **B & B**

702 West North Street - Canton, MS **BOUTIQUE STORE**

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

TRAILER PARK GROCERY 22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

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807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS RIDGELAND

RITE AID 398 Hwy 51

Terry Road

TERRY SERVICE STATION at Exit 78

CITY HALL West Cunningham Avenue

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Kirk returns home to teach at bowling camp

By Matt Le Cren

The Naperville Sun

Attending the Powerstrike 300 camp helped Aurora resident Violet Kirk become one of the best high school bowlers in

The former Waubonsie Valley star was back at the camp Wednesday, but in a different capacity.

Kirk is a counselor at the three-day camp, which is run by former Waubonsie coach Marty Miller at Bowling Green Sports Center in West Chicago. Several dozen young bowlers received instruction while 17 college coaches watched.

"The camp really helped me with getting my fundamentals more solid and also learning



about colleges," Kirk said. "Being coached by the college players, I was able to learn about scholarship opportunities and how college works."

Kirk was a member of Waubonsie's 2014 state championship team and finished 12th in the 2015 state meet.

She attended Powerstrike in 2014 and 2015, when she re-

ceived instruction from former Oswego East star Giselle Poss, the 2013 state champion.

"I learned a lot going into my senior year," Kirk said. "Giselle really helped me a lot learning about lane play.

"Because my fundamentals were so solid, she could help me with more mental things a lot of people don't get to work on at the camp because a lot of people here are beginners. I was thankful for that."

Miller, who recently stepped down after guiding Waubonsie to five state trophies in the past six seasons, hires former students to coach at the camp. He brought on Kirk after she graduated last year.

"That's one of the most grati-

fying parts of this," Miller said. "They are on the payroll now, but they've learned the life lesson of putting something back and that's really important.

"I pay for them to get certified by the USBC, so it means the camper has the benefit of getting good, industry-standard information."

In addition, the counselors pass on what they have learned in college. Kirk earned all-conference honors as a freshman last year at Jackson State, finishing fourth at the Southwestern Athletic Conference Tourna-

"It's cool to be on the other side now because I've had experience," Kirk said. "There were things I didn't get told before I

went to college, so I try to give people who are going to college more knowledge than I had so they don't have any questions.

"For example, NCAA bowling is extremely intense. You miss one spare and it's a huge deal because that can really bring down your team. Spares are a big deal because the shots are so much harder and the strike rate is lower, so if you don't spare, you're hurting your

Such information is appreciated by campers like Natalie Cura, who will be a senior at Waubonsie. She helped the Warriors finish third at the 2017

"It was helpful to hear her perspective on things," Cura said. "It is good to hear from other people, not just from coaches, about how they have similar problems to me so they can help me to perfect it."

In fact, teaching is a learning process for Kirk, an aspiring graphic designer who made the dean's list and is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

"It's a lot different," Kirk said. "You have to learn people's personalities and how they learn pretty quickly because you only have three days with them.

"I have to figure out what we're going to work on and how am I going to be able to get my point across to them so they can understand it and reach their full

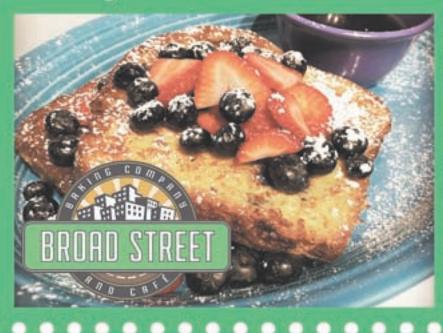


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JSU Athletics receives nearly \$1M from MDHS to support 2 summer camps for youths

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) has awarded Jackson State University's Division of Athletics a \$952,500 grant to support community engagement, which includes free summer camps on the main campus for approximately 400 youths, as well as professional development for adults.

This award is the largest singleyear amount ever received by the division, and it will focus on the following:

- Mental capacity (assessing students' current cognitive skills)
- Academic enrichment (reading and math)
- Physical fitness (general exercises involving JSU's nine-sponsored sports, with a special focus on combating obesity - a huge problem in Mississippi).

Wheeler Brown, JSU's athletes director said the university is ecstatic to partner with MDHS to fulfill their shared values.



"This award is a testament to the commitment by JSU and the state of Mississippi to the quality of life for our young people - academically, physically and mentally. As well, it speaks highly of our professional staff that worked diligently for months to secure this agreement, which has a strong potential to continue and expand in the coming years. Because the future of Mississippi will be in the hands of our young people, we must encourage good lifestyle choices today to secure a healthy tomorrow"

healthy eating options and will re-

ceive free breakfast, lunch and two

Camp Session I will be from 8

a.m.-5 p.m. July 10-14; Camp Session II will be from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. July 17-21. Both sessions will include JSU

coaches, athletics trainers and medical staff members. Additional camps and services will be offered throughout the academic year.

For more information, call 601-979-3410, 601-979-2291 or 601-

To register for Camps I and visit https://epay.jsums.edu/ Campers will be exposed to C20107 ustores/web/product detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=301.



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NNPA honors Martin Luther King III with Lifetime Legacy Award

By Lauren Victoria Burke NNPA Newswire Contributor

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) honored Martin Luther King III with the 2017 Lifetime Legacy Award, as the group wrapped up its annual summer conference, at the Gaylord Convention Center at the National Harbor in Maryland.

King, the oldest son of the iconic civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., said that the tribute tops all others he's received, because the Black Press has meant a lot to his family, especially his father, as he fought for freedom, justice and equality.

"The NNPA is one of the most impactful institutions our community has and every week the newspapers of the Black Press reach at least 22 million people in our communities," said King. "And every week the Black Press tackles issues that we deal with, that we cannot find in the mainstream newspapers."

King continued: "The Black Press provides the information that's needed for African Americans and if not for the Black Press, I would say that, during the Civil Rights era, my father would not have been successful. The African-American [journalists] had their ears to the ground to what was important in our community."

King, who attended the awards ceremony with family members, graduated from his father's alma mater, Morehouse College, with a degree in political science. While at Morehouse, King was selected by former President Jimmy Carter to serve in the United States delegation to the Republic of Congo for participation in their centennial celebration

Like his father, King participated in many protests for civil rights and one of the more no-



(From left-right) Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the NNPA; Denise Rolark-Barnes, outgoing chair of the NNPA; Dorothy Leavell (far right), newly elected NNPA chair honor Martin Luther King III with the NNPA's Lifetime Legacy Award at the Legacy Awards Gala at the National Harbor in Prince George's County, Md., June 23. PHOTOS BY FREDDIE ALLEN/AMG/NNPA

table acts of civil disobedience came in 1985 when he was arrested at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. protesting against Apartheid and for the release of freedom fighter Nelson Mandela.

"This is a special time," King said, as he spoke to NNPA members, friends and industry leaders in attendance at the award ceremony.

Showing a lighter side, King quipped, "I like the word 'legacy,' but it means you're getting

impact of social media and how it can be difficult to understand the shorthand that some young people use to communicate via

"I have to ask the kids to tell me what these things mean, because I don't do Twitter or Facebook," he said.

Striking a more serious tone, King, the former president of the legendary Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said that the black community "must do better."

King continued: "We have to educate our community. We, as a community, have the ability to do much more."

In an effort to help African King also talked about the Americans realize and capitalize on the vast spending power in the community, King founded Realizing the Dream, a foundation that is focused on text and social platforms like helping community-based organizers to ignite investment in local neighborhoods and to foster peaceful coexistence within America and abroad.

"If we decide to divest, or even talk about [boycotting] some of the companies where we are spending billions of our dollars...we won't see insensitivity," King said.

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the NNPA, said that the organization was especially proud and delighted to present the prestigious award to King.

"For decades, more than anyone else, Martin Luther King III has continued to personify and represent the living legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for freedom, justice and equality," Chavis said. "He has carried on his father's legacy quite honorably, quite admirable, and quite successfully."

In 2008, as former president and CEO of the King Center, King spoke on behalf of then-Democratic Presidential Nominee Barack Obama at the Democratic National Convention, where he highlighted the need for improved health care, quality education, housing, technology and equal justice.

King also served on the Board of Directors for the Drum Major Institute for Public Policy and co-founded Bounce TV, the first independently-owned, digital multicast network featuring around-the-clock programming geared towards African Ameri-

"I remember going to my mother's alma matter in Ohio and seeing the statue of Horace Mann which was inscribed with the words 'be ashamed to die until you have won some kind of victory for humanity," King said.

"As a child, those are words that are very powerful. As an adult, I say we can win victory at schools, we can win victory in our places of worship, we can win victory in our cities, our counties, our states, our country and some may win in our world."

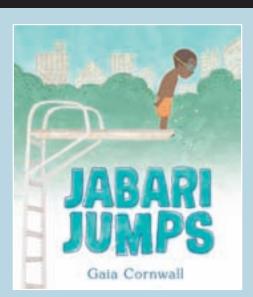
King continued: "I say, be ashamed to die until you have done something to make your community better."





Martin Luther King III





"JABARI JUMPS" GAIA CORNWALL C.2017, CANDLEWICK PRESS \$15.99 / \$22.00 CANADA • 32 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer Columnist

You can do it.

Yes, you can. You just need to take a deep breath and then blow it out. Find the courage inside yourself. Think of something else and do it. Don't be scared. As you'll see in "Jabari Jumps" by Gaia Cornwall, good things come to those who get brave and take the leap.

Jabari loved to swim.

He was really good at it, too. He'd gone to all his swimming lessons and he passed every test. He was so good at swimming that he was ready to jump off the diving board. He even told his dad about it.

The diving board was "high and maybe a little scary..." There were a lot of rungs to climb to get to the top – Jabari could tell that from the side of the pool. Other kids on top of the diving board looked tiny from below as they sprang up and splashed down into the water. It was a long, long way to dive, but Jabari thought it looked like fun – and besides,

he was a "great jumper."

As he stood by the ladder, he looked up. Way up.

Then he turned around and looked at the other kids in line. They'd been standing there awhile; maybe they should go first. In fact, maybe a "tiny rest" was a good idea before tackling such a huge thing. And oh, Jabari forgot to do his stretches before swimming that's very important. Maybe tomorrow would be better for diving off the board.

But then Daddy said some-

thing that Jabari never thought about. Daddy knew exactly what Jabari was thinking, and he had some helpful advice. There were many ways to dive off a board and into a pool. You can jump feet-first or with your arms above your head, backwards or forwards, straight or flipping head over feet, but there was only one way to get to the top to do it.

And so Jabari did...

More than three out of five Americans don't know how to swim. In the African-American community, that number is considerably higher. "Jabari Jumps" may help fix that.

It's okay to love swimming, according to author Gaia Cornwall's energetic little main character. It's okay to get all wet and take swim lessons. It's actually fun, and Cornwall 's illustrations make it seem so.

But, as your child will see, it's also okay to be scared of doing something you've never done before. In this, Cornwall makes it clear to even the smallest youngster that Jabari's

faux-bravery is wavering even as he brags about his big plans in the pool. There's plenty of reassurance here, though; Jabari's father is a great supporting character, understanding and calm with no belittling.

In the end, well, I'm sure you know where this book goes. Kids might, too, and it's a joyous finale that will leave young readers with a smile and maybe an urge to learn to swim. If that's what you want to foster in your child, then give him "Jabari Jumps." Do it.

Film Review

13 Minutes

Historical drama recreates 1939 attempt to assassinate Hitler

By Kam Williams Columnist

Believe it or not, over a dozen different attempts to assassinate Adolf Hitler (Udo Schenk) were made before he took his own life in April of 1945. The year before, he only suffered minor injuries in the bombing that was the focus of Valkyrie (2008), a docudrama starring Tom Cruise.

Directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel (Downfall), 13 Minutes chronicles the first try after Hitler had taken control of Germany. The incident occurred in Munich November 8, 1939 in a hall where the Fuhrer was scheduled to deliver an address.

Trouble is, Georg Elser's (Christian Friedel) homemade time bomb went off too late, as Hitler had completed his remarks and exited the building 13 minutes earlier accompanied by several henchmen, including Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels (Ulrich Matthes), Deputy Fuhrer Rudolf Hess, and the architect of the Holocaust, Heinrich Himmler (Ulrich Noethen).

Later that same day, Georg was apprehended while trying to slip into Switzerland. Border guards took him into custody upon discovering incriminating evidence in his possession suggested a connection to the explosion.

He was soon delivered to Germany's Chief of Police Arthur Nebe (Burghart Klauszner) and Gestapo Chief Heinrich Muller (Johann von Bulow) for interrogation, but refused to answer any questions until they threatened to arrest his girlfriend Elsa (Katharina Schuttler), too. Georg confessed to protect her, but they still didn't believe the simple carpenter could have possibly acted alone, given the powerful explosion that claimed 8 lives and wounded 62.

So, they resorted to torture to extract the identities of his suspected accomplices that only existed in their imaginations. But Georg had nothing further to share, other than an explanation of exactly how he'd secretly amassed enough gunpowder to construct a weapon of mass destruction.

13 Minutes employs an unorthodox story structure, as it opens with the failed coup, and is followed by a series of Georg's flashbacks. While behind bars, he reminisces.about everything from his disgust with Nazis to his ill-fated relationship

A long-overdue tribute to an unsung hero who came that close to changing the course of history. Excellent (4 stars)

Rated R for sexuality and disturbing violence

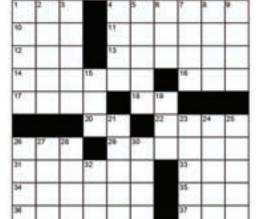
In German with subtitles

Running time: 114 minutes

Production Studio: Lucky Bird Pictures Distributor: Sony Pictures Classics



Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS 1. Climbing vine
- 4. Bayer's competitor Rio de Janeiro
- 11. US's neighbor
- 13. Alice in Wonderlands Mad 14. Provincial capital
- 17. Island 18. Paid (abbr.)
- 20. North Dakota (abbr.)
- 22. Seaweed
- 26. Ship initials29. Custard filled pastry
- 31. Washington city
- 33. Compass point 34. Type of watch
- 35. Bard's before

- 36. By means of this
- Francisco
- 9. Not one
- 21. Demobilize
- 23. Comforts

- 30. Crafty 32. Bullfight cheer

Cryptogram

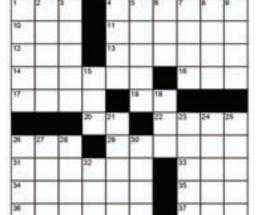
A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Marie Osmond

OVP NSSF EV CS QCYS EV LQNQMS GAYY UVLS QNF Q HVXA

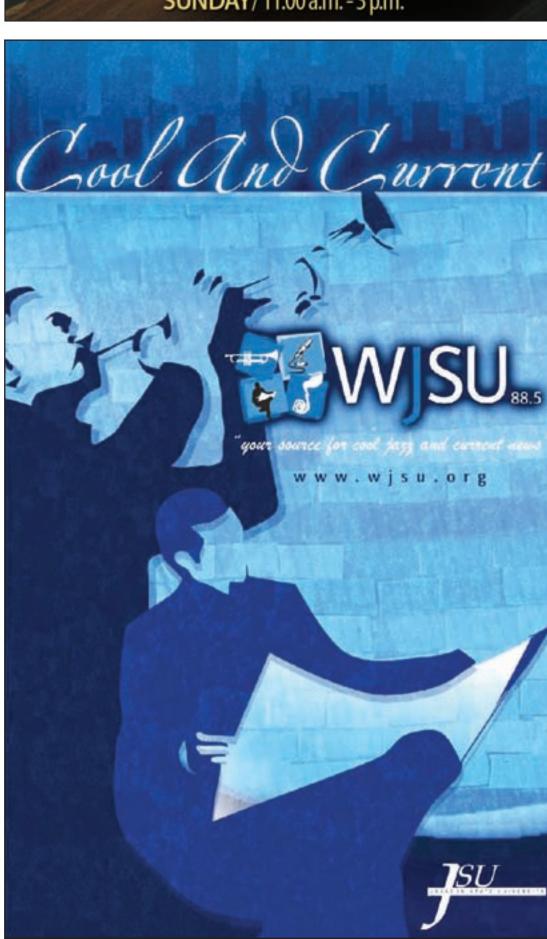
(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)





- DOWN
- 2. Disease cause 3. Rustic
- 4. Hurt 5. Association
- 6. Picnic visito 7. Tigers
- 15. TV lawyer Matlock 19. Dekaliter (abbr.)
- 24. Sign
- 25. Clean feathers 26. Mormon State
- 27. Sensible 28. Former wound





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