

Nissan employees are ready for a vote

Some workers make public declaration to vote yes for union

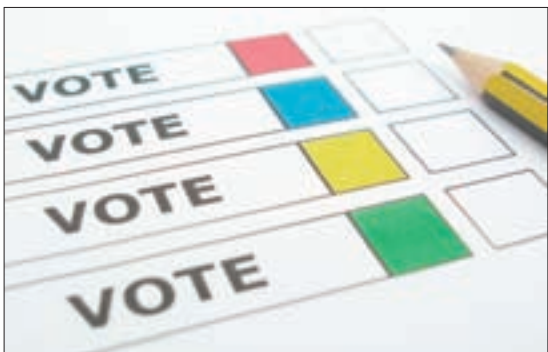
By Othor Cain
Editor

Monday, some Nissan employees, with legal and technical assistance from the United Auto Workers (UAW), filed paperwork

with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) seeking a representation election for blue-collar employees at Nissan’s Canton plant – one of only three Nissan facilities in the world – including

Tennessee, where workers are not represented by a union. This latest action is being billed as a forced attempt to call for a

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A shake-up in the police and fire departments in Vicksburg

Flaggs: “I wanted a police chief that I could communicate with.”



Vicksburg Mayor George Flaggs



Vicksburg Police Chief Milton Moore



Former Vicksburg Police Chief Walter Armstrong

By Othor Cain
Editor

The first order of business in his second term as mayor of the River City was to name new police and fire chiefs, an opportunity he felt he was denied during his first term because of a 1912 charter.

“I felt and still feel as if I was the only mayor in the country that did not have an opportunity to name his department heads,” said George Flaggs, in his down-

town Vicksburg office. “When a new administration comes in, I firmly believe that mayor should be able to choose whomever he/she wishes to work with.”

Flaggs, sworn in July 2, for a second term as mayor of Vicksburg, wasted no time righting what he felt was wrong. In an expected move, after successfully making amendments to the city’s charter, that now gives the mayor power to appoint a police chief and fire chief with one al-

derman’s approval. He ousted Walter Armstrong, who had been police chief for eight years. “I wanted a police chief that I could communicate with,” Flaggs said. “Someone that was vested in this community.”

Armstrong, who gave Vicksburg police officers their first promotional exam in 12 years, is proud of his service to the city and citizens. “It’s been a pleasure and an honor to serve the citizens of Vicksburg,” he told the *Clar-*

ion Ledger: “Law enforcement has always been a calling; it’s something I’ve wanted to do since I was a kid. I’ve had the pleasure of serving on a state and local level, and it’s been wonderful.”

Flaggs replaced Armstrong with Milton Moore, who has been with the department for 18 years. Before being named chief, Moore served the citizens with a

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Tributes pour in celebrating the life of Martha Rivera Chavis

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Martha Rivera Chavis was not just the wife of civil rights leader Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., but by all accounts, from those who knew the Dominican Republic-born activist, Rivera Chavis strived just as hard as her beloved husband for freedom, justice and equality for Blacks and other minorities.

“I met Martha in 1993 when she was head of the Women in NAACP [WIN] committee and she simply brought new life to that organization,” said Zach McDaniels, who served as the strategic adviser for Chavis, when he organized the Million Man March.

“Martha shook up the NAACP. She had a very vibrant spirit and to be around her and in her presence, was always something special,” said McDaniels who also worked as director of community affairs for famed Baltimore attorney Billy Murphy.

Rivera Chavis passed away in her home in Montclair, N.J. at 3 a.m. Thursday, July 6. She was 53.

“Our mother’s spirit, passion and love will always be with us,” Rivera Chavis and Chavis’ children, Franklin, Ana Elisabeth, John Mandela, and Reginald Louis Chavis, said in a statement.

Chavis and his wife met in the late 80s, after the civil rights leader spent time in An-



Chavis

gola, where American-backed rebels mined civilian areas.

At the time, Angola had one of the highest percentages of individuals with missing limbs, victims of the country’s brutal civil war, a fact that moved both Chavis and his wife.

When Chavis met Martha Rivera, she was 23 and employed as a French-to-Portuguese translator for Angola’s United Nation’s ambassador.

Angola’s U.N. Ambassador Manuel Pacavira introduced the couple at a New York City restaurant and Chavis said that although she was 16 years his junior, he was impressed with Martha’s sense of history and her knowledge of the contemporary movement in African, Latin America and the Caribbean – each striving for independence, freedom and equality.

“I was impressed that this young sister from the Dominican Republic had an African

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Deadly plane crash in Mississippi claims 16 lives

By Nina Brown
Intern

According to the U.S. Naval Institute, the crash of a KC-130T in LeFlore County, Mississippi is the deadliest Marine Corps aviation mishap since 2005.

On Monday at 4 p.m., the aircraft experienced structural failure at 20,000 ft. that caused it to explode mid-air, crashing into a soybean field in LeFlore County off Highway 82, at least 85 miles from the city of Jackson. There were at least five miles of debris from the plane crash.

Officials confirmed that weapons were aboard the aircraft that included several small ammunitions and personal weapons. As a precautionary measure, the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team were on scene during recovery.

Fred Randle, who serves as the director for the Greenwood-LeFlore Emergency Management Agency, confirmed 16 people died in the crash, including 15 Marines and one Navy Corpsman.



Crash site of a KC-130T in LeFlore County, Mississippi.

Just before 11 p.m. Monday, Randle briefed reporters and pleaded with on-lookers to stay away from the area for their own safety.

Officials said the Marine Aircraft KC-130T took off from the Marine

Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, North Carolina, with the intent to transport personnel and equipment to the Naval Air Field in El Centro, California and to make a stop at the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Ariz.

The Federal Aviation Administration informed the Marine Corps when the aircraft disappeared from the air traffic control radar over Mississippi.

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Officer Major Andrew Aranda did provide an update around 10:30 a.m. Tuesday roughly two miles from the crash site.

“Servicemen aboard this flight were on a training flight coming from Cherry Point, North Carolina heading to a Naval Air Facility in El Centro, California. They were on a mission to transport personnel and equipment, that’s what we know so far,” said Aranda.

He shared the standard investigation for an aviation mishap is still underway by looking at debris and collecting information from the debris to figure out what exactly happened, but he did not share who was officially helping with the investigation.

Aranda said that the Marine Corps was receiving outstanding support from the Mississippi Emergency Man-

agement Association, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), Mississippi Bureau of Investigation (MBI) and a few other agencies to get through the difficult time.

At 10 a.m. Wednesday, the Marine Corps held a press conference at the LeFlore County and Business Development Center in Itta Bena, Miss.


Brigadier General Bradley S. James, Commanding General of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing provided more updates stating there were at least two impact sights from the crash.

“Two large impact areas a half mile North of Highway 82 and half mile South of Highway 82, indicate something went wrong at cruise altitude. There is a large debris pattern,” said James. He also noted that the servicemen were great Americans representing The United States Marines Corps and U.S. Navy.

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Martha Rivera Chavis passed away in her home in Montclair, N.J. July 6. Rivera Chavis speaks in this undated photo. FAMILY PHOTO



(Left-right) Martha Rivera Chavis, Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., and Nelson Mandela in an undated photo. FAMILY PHOTO

conscience. A lot of times when you come from a place, you know where you are and you know your roots, but Martha knew what was going on in the contemporary world,” Chavis said.

Rivera Chavis graduated from Paris-Sorbonne University, the main inheritor of the old Sorbonne, which dates back to the 13th century and counts as one of the first universities in the world.

She spoke five languages fluently: Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian and English. She also worked as a translator for the Angolan ambassador.

“We had dinner with the ambassador in early September and by September 20, we got married,” Chavis said. “It was

not only love at first sight, but marriage at first sight.”

The couple brought home 10 Angolans, including six with missing limbs.

The injured foreign visitors remained in the Chavis’ home for more than a year with the couple traveling with them to Capitol Hill to bring light to the atrocities that were happening in Angola and other parts of Africa.

“Martha didn’t just show sympathy, she empathized and wanted to do something about it,” Chavis said.

She supported Chavis’ decision to leave his lifetime post as executive director of the United Church of Christ’s Commission for Racial Justice to become executive director of the NAACP,

even though it meant uprooting the family from Cleveland to Baltimore.

“The thought of leaving a secure position meant a lot of soul-searching for both of us. Reginald F. Lewis had convinced me to do it and Martha encouraged me to go for the NAACP job,” Chavis said.

“She would become a strong advocate for the NAACP and, at the time, the organization was struggling to attract younger people to come back and here I was with my young wife, in her late 20s. When I won, I would never forget the famous picture of Martha and me in *The New York Times*.”

Chavis continued: “She sang ‘Lift Every Voice and Sing’ with all of us and she always

remembered that I always used those words, those verses, in my speeches and sermons.”

Rivera Chavis would become head of WIN; she supported the women of the Million Man March and then spoke with actress Jada Pinkett and others at a later Million Women March, which she helped to organize.

She also became friends with African-American icons C. Delores Tucker, Dorothy Height and Coretta Scott King.

“Martha will be known for her passion, she was extremely passionate about her family about her culture and most of all about Dr. Chavis,” said Kent Matlock, the chairman of Matlock Advertising and Public Relations in Atlanta, Ga.

Matlock noted how pivotal

a role Rivera Chavis played in the unprecedented “Fair-Share” deal made between the NAACP and Denny’s Restaurants after the chain had been charged with racial discrimination at several of its properties.

The deal in which Denny’s pledged to hire and promote minorities and increase purchases from minority-owned business was estimated at more than \$1 billion over seven years.

“Martha was a strong civic-minded person,” Matlock said. “I trace it back to her [Dominican Republic] roots. She was high-spirited and committed. She had an understanding way about her and was very accepting of other people. The world was a better place with her in it.”

NAFEO president and CEO Lezli Baskerville issued a statement saying she knew Rivera Chavis to be a loving and devoted wife and mother.

“I knew her also as a courageous, strategic, freedom fighter who valiantly helped to shaped and lead campaigns for freedom, justice and human dignity for all persons, in her birth country, on the African continent, in Cuba, and in her adopted country of these United States,” Baskerville said.

A memorial fund has been established for Rivera Chavis, who will be buried in the Dominican Republic.

Those wishing to contribute may visit <https://nnpamarthachavismemorialfund.mydagsite.com/>.

A large advertisement for BlueCross BlueShield of Mississippi. It features a man and a woman in a medical setting. The man is wearing a black shirt and has a beard. The woman is wearing a blue polo shirt and has a stethoscope around her neck. They are both smiling. Overlaid on the image is the text "LIVE HEALTHY BLUE" in large, bold letters. Below this is the BlueCross BlueShield of Mississippi logo, which consists of a blue cross and a blue shield. Underneath the logo is the text "BlueCross BlueShield of Mississippi" and "It's good to be Blue." At the bottom of the ad is the website "www.bcbsms.com" and a small disclaimer: "Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, A Mutual Insurance Company is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. ® Registered Marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an Association of Independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans."

Nissan

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vote, however, Nissan workers said it has been a long time coming and nothing about it is forced.

“This day has been a long time coming,” said Rahmeel Nash, a Nissan technician, who has worked at the Canton plant for 14 years. “Mississippi has some of the best workers in the world...all we want is equal representation and for Nissan not to stand in the way of our vote.”

Nash said wanting a union... wanting to be a part of a union has nothing to do with the quality of work the employees produce. “We will continue making quality cars and we want you to buy Nissan vehicles...go buy an Infinity,” he said to laughs. “The time is now for the workers to demand fairness...Nissan needs to get out of the way and let the workers vote. It is our right.”

Through its Manager of Communications Parul Bajaj, Nissan issued the following statement:

“The 6,400 Canton employees are a key part of the Nissan family, and we are proud to provide them good, stable, safe jobs with some of the best wages and benefits in Mississippi. While it is ultimately up to our employees who will represent them, we do not believe that UAW representation is in the best interest of Nissan Canton and its workers.”

Thirty percent of the 6,400 employees must sign up for the vote and once the vote is taken, a 51 percent is required.

NLRB lists its requirements as: To start the election process, a petition and associated documents must be filed, preferably



UAW office located near Nissan plant where some workers gathered to encourage vote.



Antonio Hoover (left) and other Nissan workers talk about safety conditions at the plant in Canton and the need for a union.

electronically, with the nearest NLRB regional office showing support for the petition from at least 30 percent of employees. NLRB agents will then investigate to make sure the Board has jurisdiction, the union is qualified, and there are no existing labor contracts or recent elections that would bar an election.

Shortly after the petition is filed, the employer is required to post a Notice of Petition for Election in conspicuous places,

including all places where notices to employees are customarily posted. If the employer customarily communicates with employees in the petitioned-for unit through electronic means, the employer must also distribute the Notice of Petition for Election electronically to those employees.

The NLRB agents will seek an election agreement between the employer, union, and other parties setting the date, time,

and place for balloting, the ballot language(s), the appropriate unit, and a method to determine who is eligible to vote.

Once an agreement is reached, the parties authorize the NLRB regional director to conduct the election. If no agreement is reached, the regional director will hold a hearing and then may order an election and set the conditions in accordance with the Board's rules and its decisions.



Workers from Nissan and local religious leaders share that they have filed action to move forward with union vote.



Local clergy from Canton and Jackson support workers' efforts to organize a union. Pictured are Pastors Laura Powell, Jeff Powell, Issiac Jackson (State Baptist Convention), Bishop Thomas Jenkins Pastor of New Dimensions International and his wife Rose. Second row, Bill Chandler (MIRA).

Nissan has operated its Canton facility since 2003, after receiving more than \$1.3 billion from the state in incentives.

MS NAACP President Derrick Johnson, said, “If Nissan enjoys a good relationship with unionized workers in and around the globe, workers in Mississippi shouldn't expect anything less. With the support of student groups, community members, and religious leaders, the voices of Nissan Canton

workers who truly believe “We Deserve Better” will be heard across the state.”

Though employees have requested that the union vote take place over two days July 31 and August 1, it is ultimately up to the NLRB to set the date.

Next week, we will present Nissan's side of this story, we will also explore alleged intimidation tactics and gain access to videos some employees say are used to discourage a union vote.

Vicksburg

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Frank of captain and is also a Navy veteran having served during Desert Storm.

Under the amended charter, Flagg believes it will make city-government in Vicksburg more functional. “Each alderman and I will have oversight of departments now,” he said. “I become the police commissioner with the ability to appoint a police chief, so will the next mayor. The departments of Finance and Administration, Human Resource, Police, Fire, Grants and the newly formed Economic Development department, all fall under the oversight of the mayor's office.”

The two aldermen will also have oversight. Michael Mayfield, the alderman for the north ward, will oversee the Public Works and Community Development departments

and Alex Monsieur, the alderman for the south ward, will oversee the Recreation and IT departments as well as the airport.

Flagg explained that the amendments to the charter came without opposition. “We sent our changes to the governor, secretary of state and the attorney general for vetting and clearance,” he said. “No one took issue with it, nor did any one from the community; no one challenged it and it eventually became law.” These changes were enacted prior to this most recent election. “I did what was best for this city,” Flagg said. “Keep in mind it was done during my last term and I was running for reelection, I had no idea who would become mayor this time around.”

Flagg also made a change within the fire department, naming for-

mer Deputy Fire Chief Craig Danczyk fire chief and relieving Charles Atkins of his duties as chief. “We wanted again to go in a different direction...a more progressive direction,” Flagg said. “We wanted someone who we could work with, someone that is loyal to this city and this administration.”

Flagg sees a pathway towards the future. “We have so many upcoming projects in this city and we want to be able to showcase our city to the world,” he said. “The only city we compete with is Vicksburg...only ourselves.”

Flagg announced that Jimmy Buffett, founder of the popular chains of Margaritaville Resorts, would appear in the River City in 2018 upon opening of its newest spot.

Crash

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Among the 16 servicemen, nine of the Marines were from VGMR-452 in Newburgh, New York, six from 2nd Raider Battalion, Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, and one Navy Hospital Corpsman also from 2nd Raider Battalion Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Johnson said the Marines are working through the process in a four-phased approach which includes: 1. Recovery of the Remains and Effects and Notification of the Next of Kin. 2. Preservation of Our Impact Sights and Equipment. 3. Investigation. and 4. Clean Up and Restoration of Impact Sights.

James shared his thanks to the agencies for their continued support and help.

“This tragic mishap has brought together many wonderful people from federal, state and local agencies,” said James.

Those agencies include MS Bureau of Investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, MS Office of Homeland Security, Sheriff's Offices of LeFlore and Sunflower County, Mississippi Valley State University and a large number of other agencies. James also gave thanks to the rock-solid people of the local area that have been of assistance. He said, “You make the state of Mississippi great.”

Marshall L. Fisher, Commissioner of Mississippi Department of Public Safety, said the crash area has been secured by the Department of Public Safety along with help from the Department of

Wildlife and Fisheries and other law enforcement agencies. “We have a pretty large area to cover. Items are going to be recovered by teams on the ground, some of these may be unsafe,” said Fisher.

He notes that none of the items from the crash should be touched. “Removal of anything from any of these areas could be subject to criminal prosecution,” said Fisher. He told the public that ATF has leads pertaining to the removal of items from the crash site. He also stated that he and other federal agencies have been in contact with the U.S. Attorney's office in the Northern District. Fisher said that if anyone has stumbled upon anything to please call the number 1-800-ATF-GUNS.

Governor Phil Bryant took to his Twitter telling people to stay away from the site. “Please stay away from the crash site in LeFlore County. Taking anything from the debris field is a violation that will be prosecuted.” He also tweeted telling people if you find an item that could be related to the incident to immediately turn it over to authorities.

One witness of the deadly crash, Andy Jones, told the Associated Press that he heard a loud boom and saw the plane corkscrewing downward into the ground with one engine smoking. “I looked up and all I saw was the plane twirling around,” he said. “The plane hit the ground behind some trees in a soybean field. By the time Jones reached the crash site, fires

were burning too intensely to approach the wreck. “It was one of the worst fires you can imagine,” Jones said.

Another witness, Edna Beavers, told reporters with *The New York Times* that she was trimming her grass outside her Itta Bena home, when she glanced up and saw a huge plume of black smoke rising from a field just about a mile away. Beavers said the plane crashed along County Road 547, which is a dirt road that connects Itta Bena and Moorehead.

President Donald Trump took to his Twitter page at 5:09 a.m. Tuesday to share his condolences. “Marine plane crash in Mississippi is heartbreaking. Melania and I send our deepest condolences to all.”

Bryant released a statement on his Facebook page. “Please join Deborah and me in praying for those hurting after this tragedy. Our men and women in uniform risk themselves everyday to secure our freedom.”

At this time, the identities of the victims had not been released pending notification of next of kin. The Marine Corps said that while they are still investigating the details of the crash, their primary focus is to provide the necessary support and resources to friends, family and service members who are going through this difficult time.

James said the public may expect the roster of names within the next few days.

Salute to Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba Jackson, Mississippi's Leader

By Jerry Komia Domatob

***Attorney Chokwe Antar Lumumba rises
Amidst inherited crisis
As Jackson Mississippi's mayor,
With cheers celebrating, the frontrunner's valor***

***Almighty and everlasting Deity
Who champions success and piety
Grandly unleashes blessings
Even on Lumumba's foes cursing***

***Yes, Chokwe Lumumba's victory
Across Mississippi's Capitol territory
Evokes unbounded enthusiasm
Despite seething pessimism***

***Strong, weak, young and old
Across mosaic fold
Anticipate new era's dawn
Despite the thorny lawn***

***Residents mounting expectations
Regardless of long stand misdirection
Clutter as cloudy mountains
Though Lumumba might spark fresh fountains***

***People please, lower hope's altitude
And let's together, work with fortitude
Let's remodel and renovate Jackson
As we are all important stakeholders***

***Let's rally behind Lumumba, the leader
And support him as a revered elder
Let's foster Lumumba's fervent vision
And serve as achievers on mission***

***Mayor Lumumba's rise or fall
Like stars who soar tall
Glitters or falters on the community
As his ascension or dissension, depends on unity***

***Let's together with Mayor Lumumba
Revive Jackson as forest timber
Cheers, salutations and greetings
Right honorable Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba
A new day vividly dawns***

Jerry Komia Domatob is a professor of Mass Communication at Alcorn State University, Lorman Mississippi.

Drones, robots and 3D? ‘Oh, my’



Students in the JSU Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Program watch in amazement as the drone soars to great heights before landing. PHOTO BY KENTRICE S. RUSH/JSU



Steven Wansley, left, and his friend Joshua Good are sixth-graders at Olde Towne Middle School. They combined their ideas to design a car that they hope will be produced by Nissan North America in Canton one day.

By Rachel James-Terry
Mississippi Link Newswire

Agent Double OO7 from the James Bond film franchise was the catalyst for eighth-grader Ephraim Hill joining Jackson State University’s Verizon Innovative Learning Minority Male program.

Funded by a two-year grant from the Verizon Foundation, the program exposes young men, from Grades 6-8, to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The primary goal of

the initiative is to increase the number of minority leaders in emerging technology trends.

“My family used to love watching Agent 007, James Bond movies and MacGyver,” said Hill when asked why he was interested in technology. “We loved what they did with the cars and all the gadgets and stuff.”

Hill, who plans to get a degree in computer engineering, overheard his classmates at Blackburn Middle School talking about flying drones in the STEM

summer program, and he asked how he could get involved. “I got started last year, and this is my second year in the program,” he exclaimed.

The first 2017 summer session, June 5-16, was designed for new participants who learned app development and 3D printing. From June 19-30 advanced programming was provided for returning participants, like Hill, which included coding, robotics and drones.

During the year, students spend one Saturday a month

continuing what they learned over the summer.

Attendance has grown from 83 participants in 2016 to 112 students this year with 12 young men returning from the previous year.

“The program is wonderful. It really gets them hooked into STEM,” said Kamal S. Ali, chair of JSU’s Department of Industrial Systems and Technology.

The kids were so technologically advanced, according to Ali, they finished the entire

two-week curriculum within one week. “We had to redo the curriculum and expand it,” he stated.

Ali called the participants “very good” and agreed that the younger kids are more computer savvy than previous generations. “You have to give them a lot more challenging content,” he said.

One of the activities presented to the students was a drone-flying competition that took place on June 29, the day before the second summer session ended.

Students were separated into four teams in the courtyard of the JSU engineering building. Each team was given a tablet that they used to create a flight plan from takeoff to landing. The drone would take pictures of the journey, and the team with the best pictures would be declared the winner.

Ravion Lightfoot of Bailey APAC Middle School said that he heard about the program from friends on his soccer team and was immediately taken with the engineering component. “They were going to teach us how to make apps, and I was interested in learning how to do that,” said the 12 year old.

However, apps were not the only thing that Lightfoot learned to create. He and his project mate, Kevonta Jefferson, an eighth-grader at Blackburn Middle School, built a small robot that maneuvered like a remote control car, with the assistance of their professor.

“You would use it to pick up a drink or something – just tasks that are convenient,” Lightfoot explained, “There are other robots that can do more advanced things like search for targets and stuff.”

As they described how they constructed the robot, it was evident that the program had made an impression on the youth. Lightfoot, who wants to be a pilot, said that engineering could help him build his own plane one day.

Jefferson expressed that although he has his sights set on a basketball career in the NBA, he has “learned about engineering and it can be my backup plan if I don’t make it in sports.”

As a middle school liaison for the program, Jackson State doctoral student Kendrick Walker asserted that teaching and Big Data were a passion of his. He pointed out that the program not only offers cutting-edge training but also instruction in character development and entrepreneurship.

“I wish I had been taught that when I was their age. So, these young men don’t even realize the tools they’re being endowed with, and they’ll be ahead of their time when it comes to high school and even collegiate work,” said Walker, who also serves as an adjunct physics professor at the university.

While seated in a computer lab, Olde Towne Middle School sixth-grader Steven Wansley

said that his parents learned about the program via the Internet. “I’ve been on computers a lot looking for something to invent, and I’ve always wanted to be an entrepreneur,” said the 11-year old.

Through the assistance of 3D imaging, Wansley and his schoolmate, Joshua Good, created a car design that they hope to submit to Nissan North America in Canton.

“It’s a hybrid car that runs on wind power and gasoline,” Wansley said.

Making sure the car was climate-friendly was important to Good, who said, “I feel that most of the bad weather is caused due to the pollutants that are in the air. It (the car) stores wind in the generator; the wind turbine is collecting the wind while you’re driving.”

Wearing a constant smile, Wansley conveyed that the idea is for the car to be able to travel long distances without having to recharge it or refuel on fossil fuels. He asserted that the vehicle would be available for purchase by the time he graduated from middle school, but he was not interested in the assembly process.

“I want to design cars, but I’ll leave the building up to the experts.”

Melissa Moore, an analyst at Nissan, revealed that she was relieved she did not miss the registration deadline for her 11-year-old son Dillon Massey, who is a newcomer to the program. “Dillon is a tech person. His favorite subject in school is science,” she explained.

Moore disclosed that Massey seemed indifferent when she initially told him about the initiative, but after participating, it appears her son has had a change of heart.

“He was saying that he wanted to be a doctor or a gamer, but now he is saying that he intends to be an engineer, so we shall see about that,” she said.

Forest Hill High School football and girls basketball coach Charles Moore said that one reason he joined the program was due to routinely hearing young African-American males declare their hopes of landing in the NFL or NBA. Moore knew that once the statistics added up, there was “no way all those kids could be professional athletes.”

The coach expressed an enormous love for improving the plight of underserved communities and minority groups. He asserted: “Understanding the global economy and where our economy is currently headed is significant. If we don’t convince our young males to get involved and interested in STEM programs earlier, then we (minorities) will be lost,” he said. “We won’t be able to have a competitive edge in the next generation’s economy.”

Dina Smith-Walker, a middle school liaison, declared her most memorable moments of the summer were watching the young men absorb STEM instruction. “You can see the lightbulb turn on when you watch the students learn how to develop their own apps. To hear their ideas, and when they understand how they can take their apps, apply them in daily life, and make society better is awesome,” she said.

On July 26, as one of eight students chosen from 100, Hill will be traveling to Silicon Valley to present what he has learned in the program.

The eighth-grader exuded palpable excitement when he declared, “I just want to thank Verizon and JSU because if this (program) wasn’t here, I wouldn’t have the knowledge about technology that I have right now.”

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CHILD WATCH

Tell congress to stop picking on our most vulnerable children

By Marian Wright Edelman
NNPA Columnist



It is unfathomable to me that week after week I must continue to defend the Medicaid program that for more than 50 years has protected the health and well-being of tens of millions of America's most vulnerable. We know many of the 37 million children enrolled in Medicaid today are from poor or low-income families and that 40 percent of children with special health care needs benefit from Medicaid.

Among these children are almost half a million foster children, nearly 40 percent of them under age six. These children, invisible to many, are the most vulnerable of the vulnerable. Most have been abused or neglected, removed from their families and placed in foster care – either a family foster home, group home or child care institution – clinging to hopes of returning to their families or finding a new permanent family through adoption or with a relative guardian.

A growing number today are children of parents struggling with opioid addiction or other mental health challenges.

Fortunately, foster children who suffer from physical and mental health conditions at much higher rates than their peers who are not in foster care are eligible for Medicaid to help put them on the path to success.

But today Medicaid is facing the biggest threat in its over half a century history. The House of Representatives has voted to gut it and the Senate is poised to be equally cruel in the misnamed Better Care Reconciliation Act, jeopardizing the health and futures of millions of vulnerable children and families who count on Medicaid.

Virtually all children in foster care have suffered trauma in their lives and have greater health and mental health needs than children not in care. A study by the American Academy of Pediatrics finds children in foster care are twice as likely as their non-foster care peers to have developmental delays, asthma and obesity; three times more likely to have ADD/ADHD, hearing

problems and vision problems; five times more likely to have anxiety; six times more likely to have behavioral problems; and seven times more likely to suffer from depression. Not only does Medicaid ensure foster children access to basic health care but it gives child welfare agencies the opportunity to connect children to the critical behavioral health services and treatment they need to build a healthier future and enable them to live independently and contribute to society.

Foster children represent 29 percent of Medicaid expenditures for children's behavioral health services.

Jack and Linda Quirk became foster and then adoptive parents in California for Marissa, now 15; Reuben, 14; and Anna, 10, after their biological children went off to college. All three suffer from fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and intellectual and behavioral health challenges requiring extensive care.

Reuben, who is on the autism spectrum, has severe behavioral control problems related to attachment disorder and fetal alcohol exposure and is often uncontrollably violent. The family has moved to Illinois to be near a specialized residential facility to remain close to Reuben as he receives needed care. Without Medicaid the Quirks could not have afforded their adopted children's extensive specialized care and all three would almost certainly have been in more expensive long-term group.

Medicaid also helps keep children out of foster care by getting parents the treatment and services they need before they come to the attention of the child welfare system. The expansion of Medicaid to 11 million low-income adults in the Affordable Care Act gave many parents and other caregivers – some of them for the very first time – much-needed access to services to address problems that otherwise might have resulted in removal of children from their care.

Once children are in foster care, Medicaid helps child welfare agencies secure the funding necessary to offer mental health, substance abuse and other specialized treatment to parents to help stabilize families and return children home safely. Medicaid also helps place nurses and other health specialists inside child welfare agencies.

Without Medicaid to address the special needs of our vulnerable children placed in foster care, children are likely to stay longer in care, to be removed from families who can no longer meet their special needs, and to be placed in more restrictive and costly institutional settings at state expense. Although foster care is supposed to be temporary, the average length of stay is nearly two years.

For more than 30 years, many of the children with special needs who exit foster care to adoptive families have been able to continue to receive Medicaid to help their new permanent families care for them.

Missouri mother Lori Ross, president and CEO of Foster/Adopt Connect, and her husband adopted a sibling group of eight from foster care. The children have complex trauma, developmental delays, serious mental health diagnoses, and very challenging behaviors. Without Medicaid the family would already have hit its private insurance lifetime cap, which doesn't begin to cover the costs of their children's mental health services.

The in-home service for children with significant special needs developed with the help of Medicaid has given all of these children a permanent family and saved Medicaid tens of thousands of dollars annually in more expensive treatment options. Their oldest child, now 18, recently graduated from high school and is pursuing employment and independence with his parents' love and support.

Children placed permanently from foster care with relatives also are eligible for Medicaid. This has been especially critical as relatives are sought out to care for more and more children impacted by the opioid crisis. And we cannot forget about the estimated 20,000 children each year who transition out of foster care as they turn 18 without permanent families. These young people often received Medicaid in foster care for mental health and other health care needs, and can benefit from continued treatment as young adults to help keep them on course as they attend school or begin work.

Too often youths aging out of foster care are at increased risk of homelessness, joblessness and incarceration.

When Congress passed the Affordable Care Act (ACA) enabling young people to stay on their parents' insurance until the age of 26, it also required all states to provide continued Medicaid to age 26 for youths transitioning from foster care at age 18 or older who had been in care in the state. The loss of Medicaid for these young adults would dramatically increase their vulnerabilities.

Medicaid's indispensable services continue to be under unprecedented attack.

The House of Representatives has already passed the American Health Care Act that would slash Medicaid funding more than \$800 billion and put a severe cap on future spending.

The Senate is planning to vote this month on its misleading Better Care Reconciliation Act that would provide worse care for millions of children. It would end Medicaid as we know it and slash funding by 26 percent in the first ten years, a cut that would grow to 35 percent in 20 years, with much of the savings created by these cuts and caps going to fund more unneeded tax cuts for America's wealthiest individuals and corporations.

The contrast is stark and morally reprehensible when you consider the futures of children like the Quirks and the Rosses have lovingly welcomed into their families.

Any of you who are parents, grandparents, foster parents – as my parents were – or have adopted children know there is nothing more crushing than the thought of losing a child. Yet the cruel threats to Medicaid being considered in the Senate make that fear very real for tens of millions.

What do we value if we don't value a family's love for their child and the honor and commitment they have made to care for them? No amount of tinkering will make this terrible mean spirited bill safe for children in foster care, those adopted or other vulnerable children.

Call your Senators today. Call again tomorrow and the next day until they can open their eyes to the human reality that millions of children's lives and needs for family and stability are more important than tax cuts to powerful rich corporations or individuals. Children deserve nothing less.

The American Dream Act offers path to jobs, education, homeownership

By Robin Kelly
Illinois 2nd Congressional District (D-Ill)



These are dark times in Washington. It's no secret that President Trump and his team are working overtime to turn back the clock on our rights and divest from our communities.

If you want to know where the President stands on the welfare of the African-American community, look no further than his immoral budget. It eliminates programs that feed hungry kids, support veterans and help families buy their own home.

Republicans are slamming the doors of opportunity for our youth. For people of color, those doors appear to be barricaded, chained and padlocked.

We must resist. We must reverse their damage and prevent them from doing it again. Let's push forward and throw wide the doors of opportunity for all.

President Obama led our recovery from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. Together, we saved our economy and created more than 14 million jobs, more than ten times the number created under the previous President George W. Bush.

But today, we are seeing that jobs are being lost; wages aren't keeping up and bills are piling up. Tragically, my Republican colleagues' solution is more tax credits for the super-rich.

My solution is different. It's called the "Today's American Dream Act" and will empower families with the security of a good job, a good education, home ownership and access to healthcare.

I introduced this comprehensive, 25-section bill so our young people can live the American dream by training them for jobs, creating more good jobs and innovating the future.

Business leaders, especially in the technology and advanced manufacturing sectors, regularly tell me that they have thousands of open jobs, but don't have the qualified candidates. For example, Manufacturing Renaissance Chicago reports that there are 15,000 unfilled advanced manufacturing jobs in Chicagoland; these jobs pay an average annual salary of \$70,000.

My bill would help people get the training they need for good-paying jobs by investing in apprenticeships, training and re-training programs and expanded student aid for career and technical education.

Additionally, my "Community College to Career Fund Act" would partner businesses with our remarkable community colleges to develop curriculums that turn students into career-ready graduates.

If we used these programs to fill just 10 percent of Chicagoland's open manufacturing jobs, we'd add \$105 million in wages to our communities each and every year.

Filling open jobs with properly trained workers is a strong first step. We also need to create more jobs by investing in small businesses, funding local incubators and rewarding companies for expanding into new markets.

I can tell you that our young people are ready and eager to get to work. In April, I hosted my fourth annual Youth Jobs Fair. More than 300 young people came, resume in hand, looking for a job. Let's create jobs for them so they can build the American Dream for themselves and their families.

We also need to invest in tomorrow, by investing in the science-technology-engineering-mathematic (STEM) fields.

Right now, STEM jobs are driving our economy and continue to grow. According to the Level Playing Field Institute, there will be 1.4 million new tech jobs by 2020 but 70 percent will be unfilled.

Despite the massive need for qualified computer science professionals, just a quarter of all high schools offer Advanced Placement (AP) computer science classes. Many of these schools aren't in African-American communities. In fact, just 13 percent of students who took the AP computer science test were African American or Latino.

It's time to invest in STEM teachers so our young people can innovate the future. The "Today's American Dream Act" would provide aid to STEM teachers who are dedicated to educating the next generation of Mark Zuckerbergs.

Taken together, the "Today's American Dream Act" will train our young people for the opportunities of today and prepare them for the possibilities of tomorrow. It's time to pass the "Today's American Dream Act" and throw wide the doors of opportunity.

Congresswoman Robin Kelly represents Illinois' 2nd Congressional District. She is the former chief of staff to the Illinois State treasurer.

Follow Rep. Kelly on Twitter @RepRobinKelly.

State elected officials defy sham election commission

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



"We write to you to express our most urgent concern that letters just issued by the Trump Administration will pave the way for nationwide

voter suppression and purging, and violate the privacy of hundreds of millions of American citizens. We have little doubt that these letters –issued unilaterally without any vote or public discussion – would lead to an unprecedented, nationwide voter suppression effort." – Congressional Black Caucus letter to National Association of Secretaries of State, June 30, 2017.

It was clear from the moment it was announced that the federal "Election Integrity Commission" was nothing more than a vehicle for voter suppression.

With an intrusive request for personal voter information, the commission has ventured into the territory of intimidation. Fortunately, state officials aren't having it. At least 44 states are refusing to comply with the request, wholly or in

part.

"I find this request for the personal information of millions of Marylanders repugnant; it appears designed only to intimidate voters and to indulge President Trump's fantasy that he won the popular vote," Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh wrote in response to the request.

In my home state of Louisiana, Secretary of State Tom Schedler said, "My response to the Commission is, you're not going to play politics with Louisiana's voter data."

Even in the deep-red state of Mississippi, Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann told the Commission, "Go jump in the Gulf of Mexico."

I'm proud of the nation's state officials for standing firm in defending the rights of their constituents and resisting an obvious ploy to invade citizens' privacy and restrict their right to vote.

The commission's vice chair, Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, has repeatedly lost in lawsuits filed by the ACLU over his efforts to make it harder for people to register and vote. Last month, a federal magistrate judge

fined him \$1,000 for misleading the court by attempting to shield a document regarding his advice to Trump on how to make voter registration harder. And just this week, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law filed a formal Hatch Act Complaint against Kobach, accusing him of repeatedly exploiting his commission role to promote his candidacy for Kansas governor and to solicit campaign contributions.

"We deem the President's Election Integrity Commission to be a baseless tool to promote voter suppression and Mr. Kobach's unlawful abuse of his role as head of the commission for partisan ends only underscores the illegitimacy of the commission itself," Lawyer's Committee president and executive director Kristen Clarke said.

The 2014 report of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration – headed by Mitt Romney's lawyer Ben Ginsberg and President Obama's lawyer Bob Bauer – made several key recommendations:

- Modernization of the registration process through continued expansion of online voter registration

and expanded state collaboration in improving the accuracy of voter lists

- Measures to improve access to the polls through multiple opportunities to vote before the traditional Election Day and the selection of suitable, well-equipped polling place facilities, such as schools

- State-of-the-art techniques to assure efficient management of polling places, including tools the commission is publicizing and recommending for the efficient allocation of polling place resources

- Reforms of the standard-setting and certification process for new voting technology to address soon-to-be antiquated voting machines and to encourage innovation and the adoption of widely available off-the-shelf technologies.

It's unlikely the current administration is looking to implement those bipartisan recommendations; the report has been removed from the federal government's website.

With the vast majority of states opposed to cooperating with the commission, it's time to kill this insidious, anti-democratic sham.

Kill the commission, and work together on expanding democracy.

Great-grandmother among 45 at High School Equivalency ceremony at Hinds CC

The Mississippi Link Newswire

RAYMOND – Ruby Hardy came home to Jackson last year the way countless people make their way back home – to take care of family.

“I came back to take care of my mother,” Hardy said. “It prompted me to go into the job center, but I didn’t qualify much since I didn’t have a GED. I was even thinking of working in food service because I have to take care of a family.”

Hardy, 70, was among 45 people of varying ages and stations in life recognized during a ceremony June 30 at Cain-Cochran Hall on the Raymond Campus for achieving their High School Equivalency certificate, formerly known as the GED, this academic term.

The great-grandmother of five had left Lanier High School before her senior year was up and went to California, where she took part in a jobs program established by the federal government during the Kennedy administration, then worked several years for Pacific Bell in various roles.

“Back then, if you passed an entry-level test, you could just get a job and after about five years, you could move around,” she said. “Nowadays, the first thing they’ll ask you for is a GED or a high school diploma.”

She plans to become a certified medical data technologist and open her own business.

“To reach this milestone, it’s an awesome feeling,” she said. “I never thought I’d be at a loss for words, so that’s the only thing I can say. It’s just awesome.”

Hardy was among eight participants in the MI-BEST program at Hinds who received a GED during the ceremony. MI-BEST is Mississippi’s version of the nationally recognized Integrating Basic Education and Skills Training program, or I-BEST. It allows adult students to train for a job skill while earning their GED high school equivalency certificate at the same time. Students



GED recipients at Hinds Community College Raymond Campus



Ruby Hardy show off her GED certificate earned in the MI-BEST program.

are prepared to be job-ready in six months to a year, train in high-demand areas and earn national certifications.

Dickie Scruggs, former lawyer and founder of the nonprofit Second Chance Mississippi, spoke to this year’s recipients on the value of their accomplishment down the road in life. The collaborative effort with the state’s community colleges raises awareness and

funds for High School Equivalency and adult education.

“My charge to you today is simple,” Scruggs said. “If you will do one thing the rest of your life, you will succeed. Just three words – just show up. If you just show up, anything you undertake to do, chances are you will succeed.”

Other GED recipients who were honored Thursday and their stated hometowns included:

Brianna Allen, Vicksburg
LeDarius Anderson, Byram
Stephanie Bell, Vicksburg
Kadeem Bilal, Clinton
Michael Boyles, Clinton
Amy Bray, Raymond
Brittany Caldwell, Vicksburg
Willie Chapin, Utica
Jason Chapman, Jackson
Lateisha Chatman, Jackson
Tyler Davenport, Jackson
Tommy Dotson, Vicksburg
Brandi Eucare, Jackson
Connor Evans, Vicksburg
William Everett Jr., Jackson
Bobby Hannah, Jackson
Ruby Hardy, Jackson
Malik Harvey, Byram
Mandy Hart, Raymond
Cherie Hayes, Jackson
Alease Hobson, Jackson
Courtney Holmes, Jackson
Melissa Irby, Jackson
Isreal Jenkins, Clinton
Darien Johnson, Jackson
Kyra King, Vicksburg
Javen Love, Brandon
Rachel Majoria, Vicksburg
Antoniesha McCoy, Jackson
Timothy Myles, Clinton
Khaaliq Nunn, Jackson
Jenny Pettis, Raymond
Chester Price, Jackson
KaDarius Price, Jackson
Valanta Pruitt, Vicksburg
Jarrett Riles, Byram
Octivitia Smith, Jackson
Chyrianne D Sterling, Jackson
Olivia Tarver, Vicksburg
Frank Jr Tullos, Edwards
Rosemary Washington, Clinton
Alexandria Watkins, Raymond
Candace Watson, Byram
Robert Watson, Vicksburg
Tanya White, Jackson

Booster parents purchase instruments for growing band program

The Mississippi Link Newswire

CLINTON – Students in the Clinton Public School District band will have a few new instruments this fall, thanks to a donation from the band booster club.1. “The band is growing so rapidly and there was a need for instruments,” said band director Kevin Welborn.

The purchase included four sousaphones (tubas used by the marching band), four baritones and six mellophones, as well as low-reed instruments including one baritone saxophone and one tenor saxophone. The cost of all the instruments was approximately \$60,000.1.

“The most successful fundraisers have historically been from the boosters operating the concession stand at home football games, the marching championship and the indoor competition that is hosted by the band boosters,” said DeAnna Dillard, 2016-17 band booster president. “With this type of community support plus other contributions that are privately made to the organization, the Clinton band boosters had a successful year in paying all of its necessary expenses to help fund the program, plus make a major contribution of instruments to the growing band.”

There are now 224 students in the high school band, grades 9-12, and approximately 600 band students in grades 6-12. The growth of the band is a good thing, but it brings with it other needs, Welborn said. “We’re about to start looking at acquiring a second semi-trailer, but not built out on the inside,” he said. “It would simply be for all the props and more uniforms and things like that. It wouldn’t be as elaborate an undertaking or as big of a purchase we made two years ago with the semi we have now.

Uniforms will also be a priority, he said. “Right now we don’t have enough,” he said. “We are putting the front ensemble in all black uniforms, which fortunately goes with our show theme. That will open up more marching uniforms that we can possibly use. After this year our top priority will be getting uniforms.”

The biggest growth area for the band is in sixth grade, combined with a very high rate of retention throughout the junior high and high school. “Usually after the first year band programs lose some,” he said. “But in the past two years we’ve had pretty large beginner classes and the retention rate has been high for the past three years in not only beginner band, but all the way through the high school grades.”

Alcorn: The Magazine, coach Montez Robinson amongst Alcorn’s four nominations for the 2017 HBCU Awards

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Lorman, Miss.– Alcorn State University continues to build its reputation for producing excellence.

The University is nominated in four categories in the seventh annual HBCU Awards that will be held in Washington D. C.’s Gallup Building Friday, July 14.

Alcorn is nominated in the following categories: Alcorn: The Magazine for Best Alumni Publication, Montez Robinson for Male Coach of the Year, Ariel Walker for Awards in Individual Achievement and the Honor Student Organization for Best Student Organization.

Alcorn: The Magazine has received high praise this year. The magazine won the Grand Award in the Print and Electronic Media Category at the 2017 College Public Relations Association of Mississippi (CPRAM) Awards Ceremony in May. The Magazine also won first place in CPRAM’s Special Publications Category.

Head Men’s Basketball coach Montez Robinson was named the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Coach of the Year in March. During the 2016-2017 season, Robinson led the Braves on an 11-game winning streak that would result in the team clinching a number two seed in the SWAC Tournament in Houston, Texas. He also led the Braves to the Men’s SWAC Championship game.

Ariel Walker, a Detroit, Michigan native who earned a bachelor’s degree in biology/pre-medicine in May, was presented the Award of Excellence at Alcorn’s 2017 Spring Commencement Exercise. Walker gained valuable experience on her internship at the Army Research Laboratory in Aberdeen, Maryland where she conducted research that focused on equipping soldiers’ boots for battle and explosions. She received the internship through the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf).

Alcorn’s Honor Student Organization is one of the University’s most active student-led groups. The organization held numerous community service events that include donating school and cleaning supplies to the Jefferson County Library, cleaning at the Christian Volunteers Service Center in Port Gibson, Mississippi and volunteering at the Mississippi Cultural Crossroads, which is also located in Port Gibson.

Created by HBCU Digest founding editor Jarrett L. Carter Sr. in 2011 and crowning winners in the fields of leadership, arts, athletics, research, and community engagement, the HBCU Awards is the first national awards event to recognize the influence and impact of HBCUs on American culture.

Alcorn State University is a premier comprehensive land-grant university that develops diverse students into globally competitive leaders, and applies scientific research through collaborative partnerships that benefit the surrounding communities, state, nation, and world.

Hinds CC Creative Learning offers several summer workshops, learning opportunities

The Mississippi Link Newswire

RAYMOND – Hinds Community College, Creative Learning Fifty-Plus and MSU have partnered to offer the following summer enrichment opportunities at the Eagle Ridge Conference Center:

- AARP Smart Driver Course, Creative Learning Fifty-Plus will offer an AARP Smart Driver Course monthly on the last Tuesday on the following dates from 12 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

- Summer – Aug.29, Fall-Sept. 26 and Oct. 31. \$15 AARP members and \$20 for non-members, payable to AARP day of class. This is a four hour refresher course, required once per three year period to maintain an insurance discount.

- Quick Bites and More, Thursdays, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Creative Learning Fifty-Plus invites you to come experience one of these great FREE programs offered through the MSU Extension Service which provides information and how-to’s in a wide variety of topics through interactive video. Hinds Community College,

Creative Learning Fifty-Plus, invites you to come to the Eagle Ridge Conference Center and join us for the free Quick Bites programs being offered through the Hinds County Mississippi State University Extension Service. These short sessions provide information in a wide variety of topics through interactive video. The programs are held in the Global Room #366, third floor, and are free to the public, so bring a brown bag lunch and join us for some fun creative learning.

July’s topics to include:
July 6, Art in Bloom, Lynette McDougald instructor, plant and soil sciences.

July 13, Drought Tolerant Plants for Hot Dry Times, Lelia Kelly consumer horticulture specialist.

July 27, Diseases of Backyard Fruits and Vegetables, Rebecca Melanson assistant extension professor.

For program details and to register contact Linda Anderson, MSU, Hinds County Extension Office at 857-3242.

- Camp Silver Eagle-Intergenerational program, Operation

Conservation: The Wonderful, Winged and Wild! Ted Kendall AG Complex, McKenzie Facility, located on Seven Springs Rd., off Hwy. 18. July 17-21, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Come get connected: You, the backyard and all that lives there! Not just in terms of our own backyards, but in terms of our community as part of our backyards. Camp Silver Eagle, offers unique, one of a kind, fun and creative learning experiences for adults of all ages, youth (13-16), and children (6-12).

Past year participants have ranged from 4-90 and everywhere in between. We also welcome those with special needs upon pre-assessment for planning purposes.

This year’s programs facilitated by MSU Extension and Research staff, will feature the following areas of interest: Focus Pollinator, Butterflies, Birding 101 and Everything Bird watching, Herb Gardening Made Easy-Indoors or Out, Struts and Ruts: White-tail Deer History and Biology and Ecology of the Wild Turkey, program related activities and crafts.

Certificates for those home-schooled and those seeking volunteer service time are available.

Admission is \$40 for adults, or \$60 for an adult and the 1st child, \$15 for second and \$10 per child thereafter. Special rates for groups of 10 or more. Youth over 17 are considered adults.

Mail your registration fee payable to HCC, to: HCC Eagle Ridge Conference Center-Melody Field, Fifty Plus, P.O. Box 1100, Raymond, MS 39154-1100.

The Hinds Community College, Eagle Ridge Conference Center is located on the back side of the Eagle Ridge Golf Course, 1500 Raymond Lake Rd. off Hwy. 18, across from the campus.

Classes and Activities are located on the third floor, take the hallway to the right and follow the signs.

Pre-registration is preferred, however, walk-ins are welcome based on space availability.

Contact Melody Field, HCC +50 coordinator at 601-857-3773 or mfield@hindsc.edu. for more information or to register.

USM receives Advanced Nursing Education Workforce grant

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The College of Nursing at The University of Southern Mississippi has been awarded a \$1.2 million grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration that will be used to provide specialized training for students in the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) or Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) programs.

The Advanced Nursing Education Workforce grant will enable the college to distribute traineeship funds for students who plan to work in underserved areas after completing the advanced programs. The grant will provide longitudinal immersion clinical practice experiences in primary care and behavioral health care facilities.

The grant is focused toward students already certified in one of these specialties and who are seeking a second certification, along with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

“Both programs are intensive, and for nurse practitioners who are already in practice, it is difficult for them to give up their full-time practice to return to school,” said Dr. Melanie Gilmore, FNP program director and director of the grant project. “The traineeships will allow NPs to return to school with financial assistance to seek a second certification and a doctoral degree.”

The two-year grant is the first of its kind obtained by the USM College of Nursing. The grant proposal stemmed from an identified need in Mississippi – to produce advanced practice nurses prepared at the highest degree level who are dually certified for healthcare providers delivering holistic care.

“We believe that the support created from this grant will attract more highly qualified students and assist the university in meeting the healthcare needs of the state,” said Dr. Lachel Story, assistant dean for Research and Evaluation.

To learn more about advanced degree programs offered by the USM College of Nursing, call 601.266.5445 or visit: <https://www.usm.edu/nursing>

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.

Further information is found at www.usm.edu.

J-5 drum majors, J-Settes, JSU extras have ‘just’ right stuff for C Spire commercial

By L.A. Warren
jsumsnews.com

Film directors and producers cheer when a perfectly executed scene becomes a showstopper, and they experienced such a moment when the Sonic Boom’s J-5 drum majors and several J-Settes pranced and gyrated in a segment of a C Spire Wireless commercial that will begin airing statewide in August.

The swanky moves were a sight to behold for visiting crew members from Los Angeles and other parts of the country as a few members of Jackson State University’s internationally renowned band shimmed down a row of rousing “fans” during a simulated tailgate party recently.

The commercial is designed to help the wireless provider kick off football season in Mississippi and spotlight C Spire’s “We Work For You” campaign.

JSU was among several state universities enlisted to help market C Spire’s message about the company’s products, services and investment in university football.

Another aspect of the commercial is to convey that C Spire is capable of enhancing wireless services via mobile satellite cell towers in places such as the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium, for example, where thousands of gridiron fans gather to watch the JSU Tigers in head-to-head matchups against rivals on the turf.

Roderick Little, marching band director of the Sonic Boom, described JSU’s involvement as “excellent from a public relations standpoint.”

Furthermore, Little said, “With the Sonic Boom of the South being one of the most powerful public relations units of the university, I think it’s only right that we participate so that we can continue to represent our university in the very best light.”

As for JSU student participants, Little said this opportunity could be as close to show business as they may experience – especially with all the tailgating props, cameras and food.

“It puts students in a different type of professional mindset. We are always entertaining, so I hope this will remind them to always be at your best.”

Band members learned patience is a virtue when working with major production companies. Yet, they remained undaunted despite the lag between scenes.

“Waiting is like a great Sunday dinner,” Little said. “If you really want a good meal, you gotta wait for it to be prepared correctly. In order for the production team to get the shots they need, it must take its time and, eventually, all will come out the way they want.”

Erick Evans, an account supervisor for local marketing and branding company the Ramey Agency, represents the C Spire account. He works with a



J-5 drum majors and the J-Settes strut during a simulated tailgating scene at the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium for a C Spire commercial that will begin airing in August ahead of football season. PHOTO BY L.A. WARREN/JSU

team of experts (graphic designers, art directors, copywriters and production personnel) to facilitate the strategic direction for the wireless company. Also, Evans was instrumental in keeping the tailgate commercial running smoothly and on schedule and assisting with getting appropriate shots.

“Mississippi has a strong relationship with football, and we wanted to think of a way to help C Spire be a part of that because it is a very big sponsor of football. The sport is great, but where many people come together is tailgating and the ‘fandom’ aspect of that,” Evans said.

“The point of this spot is really for us to bear hug the whole state of Mississippi and present tailgating and the energetic spirit of fans. Also, we want to show that C Spire goes above and beyond to make sure that people have a network and can use their devices in the midst of game day.”

C Spire’s current campaign is “We Work For You,” and Evans said, “Our client is really hoping that Mississippi consumers understand that no matter what they need there is always an employee or customer service person who works for them. And, we want to make sure we’re giving universities credit and that they know we work for them, too. We love JSU. I’ve had an opportunity to work with the band on several other productions because the Sonic Boom is such an iconic group in our state. This commercial would not be the same without the Sonic Boom.”

Lead JSU drum major Abraham Duffie, a senior math education major from Detroit, described his experience in the commercial as eye opening.

“I’ve never been in a commercial be-

fore. I’ve gotten to see how behind the scenes work, especially with us doing shoots over and over again. Throughout the day, there was really good food, and I’m actually enjoying this experience that most people wouldn’t get. I’m just happy to be part of the Sonic Boom and Jackson State.”

J-Sette Niani Bailey, a junior biology major from Chicago, said her involvement was incredible, too, just by being in front of and behind the scenes because she got to see everyone running around.

“Being in this production involved smiling a lot especially with the camera being so close up on you. I also got a chance to meet different people and learn their various roles,” she said.

Bailey acknowledged that waiting and the scorching heat were the hardest parts for her. Despite the weather conditions, she said, “The show keeps going.” Also for her, it seemed “people behind the scenes have it easier because they get to lounge and eat when they want to. Still, I’m very grateful for the experience.”

Another drum major, Johnathan Johnson, was equally thrilled by the entire experience.

Johnson, a junior computer engineering major from Chicago, said, “It’s really enlightening to see how much work and effort go into preparing these commercials. I love the passion that everyone has for creating this type of production. Although the band is used to getting a lot of attention, this is a heightened level of excitement for all of us. In no way has this experience been grueling. It’s actually been quite fun. I wish it could have been a little cooler,

but it’s still very entertaining.”

So, what does the Mississippi-based C Spire firm think of JSU’s involvement and the tailgating angle?

Jim Richmond, vice president of marketing for the wireless company, said, “C Spire traditionally likes to invest its promotion dollars in places where people are passionate. Obviously, there’s a lot of passion in the state of Mississippi for football. We do things for our fans, and we want their devices to work where and when they want them to.”

A Mississippi native, Richmond said he knows Jackson State very well. “As I watched the monitors of the recordings today, you could feel the excitement driven by the Jackson State folks. It’s exciting for us to have JSU capture this spirit.”

Richmond said, “Early on, I was telling our production team – which is not from around here – what we wanted to do. We started talking to them about what Jackson State represents. Now, I’ve been watching our director today as she’s been working with the JSU folks, and she’s very excited as well. It’s going to be wonderful to see the end product. I encourage folks to follow us on Facebook and other social media sites because we’ll take photographs and videos from these shoots, and we’ll be promoting C Spire and the production prior to the commercial. If you’re a JSU fan, it’ll be something extra for you.”

Right now, it’s unclear how much the 30-second commercial that will air through the end of football season is costing C Spire, but one thing that’s clear is that appearances by the Sonic Boom, J-Settes and JSU extras are priceless.

William Bishop heads worship leadership program at Mississippi College



Mississippi College music professor Will Bishop

The Mississippi Link Newswire

William Bishop’s diverse musical tastes run from Elvis Presley to the blues and timeless church hymns dating back to the Renaissance.

A native of Cordova, Tennessee, Bishop will join the Mississippi College Music Department faculty in August. The 32-year-old professor will serve as the first director of the Christian university’s new worship leadership program.

It’s an innovative multi-disciplinary degree on the Clinton campus to give students a solid grasp of church music along with Biblical studies, graphic arts, and theatre techniques.

Undergraduates will learn about contemporary Christian music, the sounds of church choirs and much more. At the same time, students must build

their creative social media skills to promote church activities year-round.

Mississippi College’s new degree program responds to the rapidly changing needs of churches in the 21st Century, Bishop says. “It’s what best for your church” from one season to the next.

Will earned his bachelor’s in music history Summa Cum Laude at the University of Memphis in August 2006. His master’s in music ministry came from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas in 2008. Bishop received his doctorate at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2015.

Bishop’s introduction to learning in the Aven Fine Arts Building came as one of the professors at the Mississippi College Music Camp in late June. More than 50

teens from Mississippi and nearby states enjoyed music classes at the five-day residential camp and had fun, too.

In between music camp activities, Bishop stayed busy house hunting in Clinton.

For the past seven years, Bishop served as associate minister of worship at Mobberly Baptist Church in Longview, Texas. During his tenure, he led Mobberly’s Academy of Performing Arts with more than 100 students and ten teachers from 2010 through 2014. He joined the East Texas Baptist University faculty in Marshall, Texas in 2012.

Bishop remains pretty familiar with the landscape in metro Jackson. He served as associate pastor of worship and music ministries at Briar Hill Baptist Church in Florence from 2008 through 2010. Will has done extensive

research on hymnology education at evangelical colleges and seminaries.

Away from duties at church and on campus, Will, 32, is an active family man. He and his wife, Jamie, are the parents of two young children. He’s a big fan of the Memphis Grizzlies in the NBA and the Memphis Tigers football team.

This summer’s career move to Mississippi College and its award-winning Music Department is “a great fit,” Bishop says. It brings him closer to his family in the Memphis area and gives him the opportunity to lead a new MC music program with much promise for years to come.

Department of Music Chair Angela Willoughby and other colleagues say they are thrilled to welcome Bishop aboard at Mississippi College.

Attorney General Hood recognizes Military Consumer Protection Month

The Mississippi Link Newswire

July marks Military Consumer Protection Month, and Attorney General Jim Hood is offering guidelines to prevent members of the military from falling victim to targeted fraud. “Unfortunately, our nation’s heroes are commonly targeted by scammers,” said Hood. “It is very important to protect our active and reserve service members from criminals while they are out protecting us from other types of threats. My office is here to serve and protect military men and women from potential scams whether they are in Mississippi or overseas.” Military Consumer Protection Month was launched in 2013 by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and is now supported by

multiple organizations and partners. The following guidelines are for our military and their family members to keep in mind to protect themselves:

- Always verify an email source before responding. Scammers will try their best to look as legitimate as possible – always do your research.
- Some scammers may ask veterans for payment while trying to receive military records. Most military records are free for veterans and some of their close family members. Beware of these types of scams while trying to receive records.
- Place an active-duty alert on your credit report. This alert will notify creditors to take more precautions in protecting

your credit while you may be deployed.

- Beware of payment methods like Western Union or MoneyGram. Keep in mind that government and companies of virtue will not be persistent in you using these ways to pay.
- It is very simple for a scammer to use a bogus Caller ID. Be positive that who you are talking to is that certain person.

If you suspect you have been the victim of a scam, or the intended victim, immediately report it to local law enforcement and the Attorney General’s Office Consumer Protection Division at 601-359-4230 or 1-800-281-4418.

Consumers should also contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP.

While enjoying America’s waterways play it safe

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Before you head out for a day on or near the water, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) encourages you to make sure you have life jackets for everyone and that you wear them. In the last 10 years, 88 percent of all USACE public water-related fatalities were men and 68 percent were between the ages of 20 and 60, according to data compiled by the USACE National Operations Center for Water Safety. The center also reports that 84 percent of all public water-related fatalities involved people not wearing life jackets and found that the greatest number of water-related fatalities involved people swimming in areas not designated for swimming. In addition, 27 percent of boating fatalities involved people falling overboard. Several people who drown never intended to be in the

water; they unexpectedly fell from a boat or dock into the water. When this happens, a person will reflexively gasp and can inhale up to one liter of water and drown in less than a minute. Even a strong swimmer can drown from a fall into cold water because it causes an involuntary gasp (or torso) reflex. A life jacket can help save your life by allowing time for rescue. Some researchers believe cold water is anything lower than normal body temperature of 98.6°F. Others get into trouble swimming out to retrieve a boat that floated away, or swimming in association with a boat. Swimming in natural waters is not the same as swimming in a pool. Even strong swimmers can get into trouble and be gone within seconds. It takes an average of 60 seconds for an adult to drown and just 20 seconds for a child

to drown. Swimming ability also decreases with age. Swim at a designated swim beach. These areas have been inspected to provide a safe swimming environment. At all USACE beaches you swim at your own risk so adults please watch your children, because most people drowned within 10 feet of safety. Many shorelines at USACE lake and river projects have drop offs and you can be in water over your head instantly or pulled under by the current. USACE is the nation’s largest federal provider of water-based outdoor recreation, managing more than 400 lake and river projects in 43 states and hosting more than 250 million visits per year. They provide a diverse range of outdoor activities close to home and to people of all ages. For more information on USACE recreation sites and activities, visit www.CorpsLakes.us.

Gov. Phil Bryant sets September 12 as special election date for House District 102

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Gov. Phil Bryant has set Sept. 12 as the date for the special election for House District 102. The seat was recently vacated

when former Rep. Toby Barker was sworn in as mayor of Hattiesburg. The qualifying deadline is July 24. If no candidate re-

ceives a majority of votes cast on Sept. 12, a runoff will be held on Oct. 3. District 102 covers parts of Forrest and Lamar counties.

OOMA’s August events and programming

The Mississippi Link Newswire

OOMA has an exciting month of studio classes and new exhibitions lined up for August. Highlights include: **Cars in Art – II, IP Casino Resort & Spa Exhibitions Gallery, Biloxi, August 22 – October 21** Cars in Art II explores artistic response to the automobile, which has transformed life in the 20th century more significantly than any other single factor, irrevocably changing the appearance of our environment and our experience of it. The photographers, painters, and sculptors included in this exhibition examine an aspect of our lives that is usually taken for granted.

Cycles: The Art of Steve Prince, The Beau Rivage Resort & Casino Gallery of African American Art, Biloxi, August 29 – October 28 Steve Prince is an artist, educator and art evangelist. His mediums are print making, drawing and sculpture. Prince is a native of New Orleans and the crescent city’s rich tradition of art, music and religion pulsate through his work. He uses the language of the line in a rhythmic and powerful way. His art is inherently narrative and metaphorically complex. He uses a rich, visual vocabulary of signs and symbols to tell stories that express his unique vision founded in hope, faith and creativity.

Opening Reception for Cars in Art – II and Cycles: The Art of Steve Prince, Thursday, August 31, 5– 7 p.m. **Beginning Wheel Throwing, Wednesdays, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and September 6, 1– 4 p.m.** **Beginning Handbuilding in Functional Pottery, Thursdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and September 7, 6–9 p.m.** **Intermediate Wheel Throwing, Tuesdays, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and September 5, 6– 9 p.m.** **Multiple sessions of Date Night on the Pottery Wheel, Mudslingers, and Home school classes.** Hope to see you this month.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



WRIT OF ELECTION

TO THE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF FORREST AND LAMAR COUNTIES, MISSISSIPPI:

A vacancy exists in District 102 of the Mississippi House of Representatives due to the resignation of Toby Barker on or about July 1, 2017.

Therefore, pursuant to Article 4, Section 77 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 and Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-851, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby issue this Writ of Election, and hereby declare that the special election to fill the vacancy in House of Representatives District 102, as such district existed for the 2015 legislative elections, shall be held on **September 12, 2017**. This special election shall be held and notice thereof shall be given in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 23-15-851 and 23-15-833.

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-851, the qualifying deadline shall be **July 24, 2017**. Candidates shall qualify pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-359(8).

If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in the special election, then a runoff election shall be held on **October 3, 2017**, in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-833.

All other relevant state laws not in conflict with the terms of this Writ of Election shall further apply.

The Election Commissioners of Forrest and Lamar Counties shall govern themselves accordingly.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, this the 7th day of July, in the year of our Lord, two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.



PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR



C. DELBERT HOSEMAN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE



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Burnin' like a heat wave! Now is the time to prepare for summer temps

*Energy-efficient solutions and billing options
can help customers manage energy bills*

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Summer is here and what's better to go with sizzling summer temperatures than some cool savings? Before temperatures start burnin' like a heat wave, take time to prepare for their effect on your energy bill by implementing some simple and efficient solutions at your home or business.

"Actual temperatures haven't yet reached the 100 degree mark this year, but they have been in the 90s with high humidity," said Robbin Jeter, Entergy Mississippi vice president of customer service. "Since heating and air conditioning make up more than half of your monthly energy bill, making a few small energy-efficient changes now will help your A/C run less, and keep more cash in your pocket."

Top ways to save energy and keep your costs lower without sacrificing comfort are:

- Get your A/C inspected. Inspectors can make sure your system is leak-free and operating as efficiently as possible. Don't forget about air filters; some units require monthly cleaning or replacing. Get incentives of up to \$100 with a tune-up.
- Set your thermostat at 78 degrees or the highest comfortable temperature. Every degree lower than 78 can raise your bill



as much as 3 percent. So if you crank down the A/C to a cooler 72 degrees, you've already increased your bill by 18 percent.

- Buy a programmable thermostat. As energy usage rises, costs also rise. If you spend most of your day outside of the house, set your thermostat to automatically shut off or raise the A/C setting when you're away. Get a \$125 incentive on select advanced smart thermostats.

- Use fans to cool off, but remember – fans cool people, not rooms. Ceiling fans, box fans and oscillating fans use very little electricity and circulate the air, which helps you feel several degrees cooler. Just remember to turn them off when you leave the room.

- Close blinds, shades and curtains to keep the sun out and the cool air in. Also, close air conditioning vents in rooms that are not in use.

- Seal cracks and holes around

doors, windows and duct work. Weather stripping and caulk will help keep the cold air inside the house and the hot air outdoors.

"We also encourage you to visit entergy.com/savemoney to access a variety of energy-saving tips and calculators that will help you determine the best cost-cutting scenarios to suit your needs," said Jeter. "And to avoid the billing spikes that extreme temperatures can bring, we suggest you sign up for Level Billing if you haven't already done so. That way, you can better control your monthly budget."

What's more, you can benefit from Entergy Solutions, which offers numerous additional ways to help you lower your energy bill and find new ways to save energy – and money – at your home or business.

For customers struggling to pay their summer energy bills, Entergy helps low-income, dis-

abled and elderly customers through its customer-assistance fund, The Power to Care, which is funded by Entergy employees, customers and shareholders, and administered by The Salvation Army.

In addition to The Power to Care, bill-payment assistance also is available through the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. In 2016, some \$4 million in assistance was provided to more than 26,600 Entergy Mississippi customers through these programs. For more information, visit Help for Paying Your Electric Bills.

Entergy Mississippi, Inc. provides electricity to approximately 445,000 customers in 45 counties.

Entergy Corporation is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations. Entergy owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, including nearly 9,000 megawatts of nuclear power.

Entergy delivers electricity to 2.9 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

Entergy has annual revenues of approximately \$10.8 billion and nearly 13,000 employees.

July 4th weekend boating enforcement statistics

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks conservation officers concluded the 2017 Operation Dry Water Weekend, which this year included the July 4th holiday.

The heightened emphasis period began Saturday July 1 and ended Tuesday, July 4 at midnight.

Throughout this period, MS conservation officers issued:

- 72 alcohol and drug-related citations
- 4 boating under the influence (BUI) citations
- A total of 445 citations issued.

The holiday weekend was an extremely safe statewide boating weekend; fortunately, there were only two minor boating accidents.

Sadly, one drowning was reported.

Officers conducted approximately 2,800 safety checks on vessels operating on Mississippi's public waters. Boating traffic was down slightly compared to previous years, possibly due to recent flooding from heavy rains statewide.

Conservation officers were utilized during the holiday weekend conducting "saturation" patrols and safety checkpoints.

"Our goal is to provide the safest environment possible along Mississippi's public waterways," states Colonel Steve Adcock.

For more information regarding hunting and outdoors in Mississippi, visit our website at www.mdwfp.com or call us at 601-432-2199.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.

State Auditor Stacey Pickering issues demands against GreenTech Automotive Inc.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

GreenTech Automotive Inc., located in Robinsonville, Miss., owes the state of Mississippi nearly \$5 million, and State Auditor Stacey Pickering is ordering that the money be repaid with interest and investigative costs.

The Office of the State Auditor issued a formal demand totaling \$6,360,019.60 to Charles Wang, president and CEO of GreenTech automotive Inc., which includes the remedies for failure to perform, interest and recovery costs.

Greentech Automotive Inc.

received \$3,000,000 from the Mississippi Development Authority on behalf of the Mississippi Industry Incentive Financing Revolving Loan program, and a \$2,000,000 loan was also given to Tunica County on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to secure land for the Greentech Automotive production facility.

As a condition of receiving these funds, GreenTech Automotive Inc. agreed to invest \$60,000,000 into Tunica County and create 350 new full-time jobs along with several other commitments. These were never fulfilled.

Neddie Winters announced as speaker at Next Worship on the Water

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mayor Errick D. Simmons announced that his faith-based race-reconciliation initiative, Worship on the Water, will meet Sunday, July 30, 2017, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Schelben Park.

Simmons will be joined by Neddie Winters, president of Mission Mississippi, who will deliver this

month's message.

Worship on the Water was recognized by the United States Conference of Mayors as a 2017 City Livability Award Outstanding Achiever, one of only five initiatives nationwide to be so honored.

The goal of this initiative is to foster community and promote unity. Every

fifth Sunday in a month, Simmons hosts a non-denominational service at Schelben Park.

"Worship on the Water is a program that reaches across lines of race, class, and religion. Mission Mississippi is a pillar of this community and I am proud to be joined by a true servant. I am excited to hear

what Dr. Winters has to say to us all. When the common denominator of faith brings us all together in worship, we are truly One Greenville," said Simmons.

"We are asking the community to come out and worship together, Sunday, July 30, 2017, 2-3 p.m. at Schelben Park"

Mississippi fifth in the nation for Opioid prescriptions

Opioid and heroin summit planned this week in Madison

WHO: Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Mississippi State Medical Association, Mississippi Attorney General's Office, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, University of Mississippi Medical Center, and sponsors

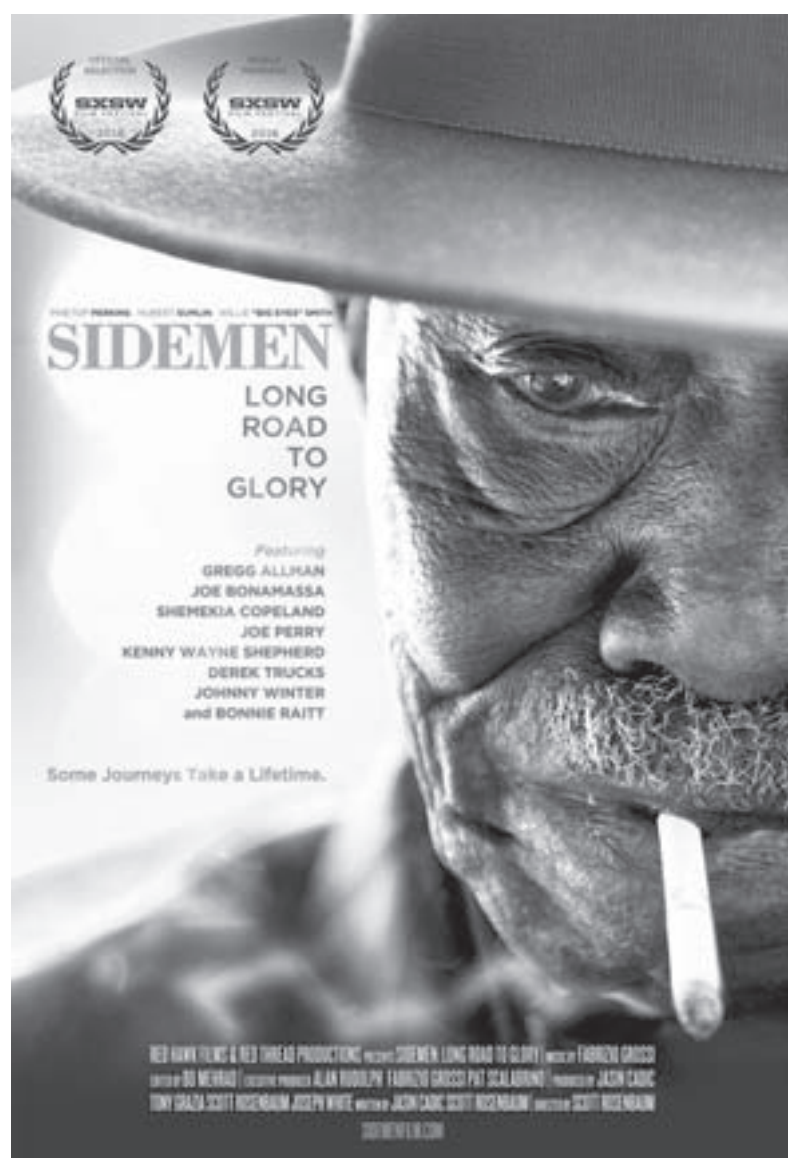
WHAT: 2017 Mississippi Opioid & Heroin Drug Summit

WHEN: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 – Thursday, July 13, 2017

WHERE: Broadmoor Baptist Church, 1531 Highland Colony Parkway in Madison

WHY: Alarming increases in opioid and heroin deaths – what can Mississippi do? Learn about threats and trends from public safety officials; listen to public health and treatment advocates; and join with the families touched by addiction.

For more information on the summit agenda, visit drugsummit.com or call 601-898-2345.



Mark your calendars!

Join us Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. for a screening of *Sidemen: Long Road to Glory* in the Sanders Soundstage.

Sidemen: Long Road to Glory provides an intimate look into the incredible lives of three of the last Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf sidemen; piano player Pinetop Perkins, drummer Willie 'Big Eyes' Smith and guitarist Hubert Sumlin.



The mission of GRAMMY Museum Mississippi is to provide unique learning opportunities based on the enduring legacies of all forms of music; the entire creative and technological processes of recording; and the history of the GRAMMY Awards with a focus on the continuing achievements of Mississippians.

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P R E S E R V E D

Surviving a storm of faithlessness

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Like most great mountain top faith-empowering experiences, there is usually a season of faith-trying experiences that follows. We survive storms like getting fired, finding out our spouse or significant other has betrayed us or a bad diagnosis from the doctor. Yet, we end up nearly drowning in the sea of faithlessness that often follows these storms. In fact, it is in those seasons of going through the valley that our faith is tried the most. If we trust God while we walk through the valley, we develop the spiritual stamina that increases our faith.

How do you survive the storm's aftermath? Do you adopt the boldness of Peter,

start out walking on water, then take your eyes off Jesus and panic when you feel yourself drowning? Some of us may be even bolder and decide to ride the waves of doubt, despair, and confusion and fear that often follow a storm because we don't know what better to do. Like spiritual surfboarders, we try our best to ride on top of those waves. Nevertheless, like all good surfers, we may have one or two times that we wipeout and find ourselves engulfed by the waves. We don't realize that God has given us power through our faith to make the storm waves calm down.

A few years ago, I had one of those weeks where a mini storm occurred in my home all related to an area of my life where I'm the weakest: mechanical problems.

The following happened

within days of each other: the dishwasher stopped working in the middle of a wash cycle leaving the dishes half washed and resting in a pool of water on the floor, the living room lamp blew a light and half the light bulb got stuck when I attempted to replace it and even in the midst of all this, I experienced a brief electrical blackout at home.

Had these things happened about 15 years earlier, I probably would have been anxious. What, if anything, was God trying to tell me? Had I opened the door to these calamities through sin and was now reaping the harvest in my electrical life?

One thing I realized based on my response is that I did a much better job at keeping my focus, a key factor in keeping faith. My focus remained on God and the promises in His

word. Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith, it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Reflecting back, I realize that there was also a bigger spiritual lesson in this: the sudden losses of power were similar to when a major life-altering experience causes us to lose our faith-focus. Just like optical vision exams test our depth of vision, we have to focus through the eyes of faith on what appears farthest from us and not the things that are closest and distract us.

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

Try the spirits by the Word of God

Part I

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



In Jude's epistle, we read verses 1-4: "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness (indecent, lustful), and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

Jude gave us a warning. After God had brought deliverance and understanding of the basic principles and doctrines that brought the Church of the Living God into view and after the glory of God was manifested in the midst of the people, it was still necessary for God to inspire Jude to write to the saints.

He told them to contend for the faith that was once delivered unto them because certain ungodly men had crept in unaware. There is hardly anything the devil can come up with but God has it covered in His Word,

which sets us straight and gives us understanding.

Even some of our churches today have false, ungodly teachers who have crept in and are twisting the Bible's teachings to justify their opinions, lifestyle, or wrong behavior. In doing this, they may gain temporary freedom to do as they wish, but they will discover that in distorting Scripture, they are playing with fire. God will judge them for excusing, tolerating and promoting sin.

Some people avoid studying the Bible because they think theology is dry and boring. Those who refuse to learn correct doctrine, however, are susceptible to false teaching because they are not fully grounded in God's truth. We must understand the basic doctrines of our faith so that we can recognize false doctrines and prevent wrong teaching from undermining our faith and hurting others.

Even today, some Christians minimize the sinfulness of sin, believing that how they live has little to do with their faith. However, what a person truly believes will show up in how he or she acts. Those who truly have faith will show it by their deep respect for God and their sincere desire to live according to the principles in His Word.

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



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Michael T. Williams
Pastor



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Wednesday
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Church: 601-859-2858

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



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

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



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Raw produce and fresh-squeezed juices: Handle them safely

PRNewswire-USNewswire

Whether from a supermarket, farm stand, or your own garden, fresh fruits and vegetables are highlights of summertime. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration reminds you that safe handling of produce and fresh-squeezed juice is especially important during the summer months, because food-borne bacteria multiply faster in warm weather and fresh fruits and vegetables are often consumed raw.

To keep nutritious produce and fresh-squeezed juices safe, follow these food safety tips to prevent food poisoning:

Buy Right

Purchase produce that is not bruised or damaged.

When selecting pre-cut produce (such as a half a watermelon or bagged salad greens), choose only those items that are refrigerated or on ice.

Bag fresh fruits and vegetables and keep them separate from raw meat, poultry, and seafood in your cart and shopping bags.

Wash Thoroughly

Wash all produce under plain running water before eating, cutting, or cooking,



and dry with a clean cloth towel or paper towel to further reduce bacteria that may be present.

Scrub firm produce, such as melons and cucumbers, with a clean produce brush.

For pre-packaged produce, read the label – if it says pre-washed and ready-to-eat, you can use it without further washing. And even if you plan to peel a fruit or vegetable, it's important to wash it first so dirt and bacteria aren't transferred from the outside to the inside.

Prevent Cross Contamination

Always wash hands before and after preparing food.

Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils, and counter tops with soap and hot water between the preparation of raw meat, poultry, and seafood and the preparation of produce that will not be cooked.

If you use plastic or other non-porous cutting boards, run them through the dishwasher after use.

Prepare Safely

Cut away any damaged or bruised areas on fresh fruits and vegetables before preparing and/or eating. If it looks rotten, discard it.

Store Properly

Keep perishable fresh fruits and vegetables in a clean refrigerator at 40° F or

below, separated from raw meat, poultry, and seafood.

Always refrigerate produce that is purchased pre-cut or peeled.

Check Your Juice

Children, older adults, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems (such as transplant patients and individuals with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and diabetes) risk serious illnesses or even death from drinking juices that have not been pasteurized or otherwise treated to control harmful bacteria.

Look for pasteurized or otherwise treated products in your grocers' refrigerated sections, frozen food cases, or in non-refrigerated containers, such as juice boxes, bottles, or cans.

Untreated juices sold in refrigerated cases of grocery or health food stores, cider mills, and farmers' markets must contain a warning label indicating that the product has not been pasteurized.

Warning labels are not required for juice or cider that is fresh-squeezed and sold by the glass.

If you are unsure if a juice product is pasteurized – be sure to ask.

Johnson O. Akinleye elected 12th Chancellor of North Carolina Central University

The Mississippi Link Newswire

DURHAM, N.C. – Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D., who has served as interim chancellor of North Carolina Central University since January 2017, has been elected to the position on a permanent basis by the Board of Governors of the 17-campus University of North Carolina.

UNC System President Margaret Spellings formally nominated Akinleye during a special meeting of the board held in Chapel Hill.

“Dr. Akinleye is a strategic thinker and no-nonsense leader,” said Spellings. “His distinguished career includes extensive experience in senior administrative leadership roles at public, private and church-affiliated institutions. He sees building a relationship with the campus and community leaders as a priority and he understands the need to maximize the full value of being in the Research Triangle. I’ve had the benefit of watching Dr. Akinleye lead on an interim basis during a challenging period at N.C. Central, I’m confident that he will build on the proud traditions and storied history of the institution while continuing the legacy of great leaders before him – most notably the late Dr. Debra Saunders-White.”

At NCCU, Akinleye worked to expand the university’s academic partnerships, including new agreements with community colleges and introduced a robust online, distance-education program, NCCU Online. He also created K-12 initiatives and implemented a security strategy to increase safety for campus constituents.

Before his appointment as interim chancellor, he was named acting chancellor from August 2016 to January 2017. Prior to that role, Akinleye was named acting chancellor NCCU’s provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, where his responsibilities included faculty development, academic planning and assessment, enrollment management, and academic oversight of NCCU’s seven schools and colleges.

“I accept the awesome responsibility as the 12th Chancellor for North Carolina Central University with humility,” said Akinleye. “I look forward to leading NCCU in a manner that honors our mission and to working closely with UNC general administration to fulfill the university’s system-wide mission and goals that accrue to the benefit of the citizens of the great state of North Carolina. Moreover, I will continue to assess, evaluate and transform the university to increase efficiencies, sustain shared resources, expand its academic portfolio, enhance its brand and reputation, as well as excel in the competitive global marketplace and evolving higher education landscape.”

Prior to joining NCCU’s leadership team, Akinleye served as associate vice chancellor for academic programs at UNC Wilmington, where he was involved in leading online and distance education programs, increasing academic offerings, and leading the development and formation of the College of Allied Health. Earlier in his career, he held various leadership posts at Edward Waters College and Bethune-Cookman University in Florida. He began his academic career as a faculty member at Bowie State University in Maryland.

Akinleye received an undergraduate degree in telecommunications and a master’s degree in media technology from Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University. He earned his Ph.D. in human communications studies



Akinleye

from Howard University.

The chancellor search process, which originally began in January, was first led by NCCU Board of Trustees chairman George Hamilton. The North Carolina Central University Chancellor Search Committee sought candidates that who embodied effective executive, administrative and academic leadership.

“I am excited about the selection of Dr. Johnson O. Akinleye as the 12th chancellor of our great institution,” said Hamilton. “Dr. Akinleye has a keen understanding of the landscape of higher education in North Carolina and nationally. Having served as both provost and interim chancellor at NCCU, Dr. Akinleye has demonstrated the skills and competencies necessary to ensure the institution’s future success. He knows our strengths and growth potential, and, as an added plus, he will hit the ground running on day one.”

About North Carolina Central University

North Carolina Central University is a constituent institution of the UNC System and prepares students to succeed in the global marketplace. Selected as 2016 HBCU of the Year by HBCU Digest, NCCU offers flagship programs in the sciences, technology, nursing, education, law, business and the arts. Founded in 1910 as a liberal arts college for African-Americans, NCCU remains committed to diversity in higher education. Our alumni excel in a wide variety of academic and professional fields. Visit www.nccu.edu.

About The University Of North Carolina

The oldest public university in the nation, the University of North Carolina enrolls more than 225,000 students and encompasses all 16 of North Carolina’s public institutions that grant baccalaureate degrees, as well as the NC School of Science and Mathematics, the nation’s first public residential high school for academically gifted students. UNC campuses support a broad array of distinguished liberal-arts programs, two medical schools and one teaching hospital, two law schools, a veterinary school, a school of pharmacy, 11 nursing programs, 15 schools of education, five schools of engineering, and a renowned arts conservatory. The UNC Center for Public Television, with its 12-station statewide broadcast network, is also under the University umbrella.

North Carolina Central University prepares students to succeed in the global marketplace. Selected as 2016 HBCU of the Year by HBCU Digest, NCCU offers flagship programs in the sciences, technology, nursing, education, law, business and the arts. Founded in 1910 as a liberal arts college for African-Americans, NCCU remains committed to diversity in higher education. Our alumni excel in a wide variety of academic and professional fields. Visit www.nccu.edu.

Annual Head for the Cure 5k raising awareness, funds in the fight against brain cancer

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The annual Head for the Cure 5k Run/Walk will take place Saturday, August 12, 2017 at the Madison Healthplex and Performance Center in Madison, Miss.

Presented by the Head for the Cure Foundation, the event helps fight brain cancer. A portion of the funds supports Baptist Cancer Ser-

vices, a division of Baptist Medical Center. It begins at 8 a.m., and the Kids Fun run begins at 9:15 a.m.

Baptist Administrative Director of Oncology Services Deniece Ponder said, “This race is about raising awareness and funding research to help conquer brain cancer. The highlight of the event is at the end when the


Keeping the Faith awards are given to those fighting the disease.”

Head for the Cure works to inspire hope for the community of brain cancer patients, their families, friends, caregivers and other supporters, while celebrating their courage, spirit and energy.

Head for the Cure events mark a day of celebration

where those diagnosed with brain cancer are honored and celebrated by their friends and families, those who have lost their battles are remembered, and we carry on the fight.

For team and individual registration cost and dates, please visit headforthecure.org and click on the events tab or call 816-218-6871.



MS NAACP Monthly Health Awareness

World Hepatitis Day

July 28, 2017

There are 5 types of hepatitis viruses- A,B,C,D and E.

Hepatitis A is spread by either direct contact with an infected person's feces or by indirect fecal contamination of food or water.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) can be spread through:

- body fluids
- urine
- semen

• from mother to infant soon or right after birth

A blood test is needed to diagnose HBV, and vaccinations are available to protect people at high risk for infection.

Hepatitis C (HCV) is most commonly spread by exposure to contaminated blood or needles.

Symptoms for HCV are similar to other types of hepatitis, and like HBV, a blood test is needed for diagnosis. Both HBV and HCV increase a person's risk for liver cancer.

People with HBV often develop **Hepatitis D (HDV)**, which is spread through contaminated blood products and unprotected sex with an infected person.

Hepatitis E virus (HEV) is found in underdeveloped areas of the world and is spread by the fecal/oral route. HEV causes acute hepatitis, which usually goes away on its own.

UV Safety Awareness

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the U.S., but there are other complications from overexposure to the sun as well. These include eye problems, a weakened immune system, age spots, wrinkles and leathery skin.

Things to remember :

1. Slip on clothing to keep your body protected.
2. Slop on sunscreen to all exposed areas of the body.
3. Slap on a hat to keep your scalp, neck and top of your head protected.
4. Seek the shade between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun is at its strongest.
5. Slide on protective eyewear to keep your eyes sun-safe.

1072 J.R. LYNCH STE. 10
JACKSON, MS 39203
PHONE: 601.353.8452

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SECTION 901

ADVERTISEMENT
Revised

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, 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 9:00 a.m., July 21, 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 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 Provisions.

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:

- City of Jackson Engineering Division, 200 S. President Street Suite 424, Jackson, Mississippi 39201.
- 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 Transportation.

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 o'clock Noon, of the day preceding the Advertised Date for receipt of bids.

The City of Jackson, Jackson, Mississippi

BY
Jerriot Smash
Interim Public Works Director

Robert Blaine
Chief Administrative Officer

Terry Williamson
Legal Counsel

7/13/2017, 7/20/2017

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

68052--080817 - Special Gun Units
for City of Jackson

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT
WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV

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

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a

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

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

Hellene Greer, CPPB, NPCA, Manager
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1025 or (601)--960-1533

7/13/2017, 7/20/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

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

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

F	A	D	S			B	I	D	S
E	R	I	E			S	U	S	H
E	E	L	S			A	T	L	A
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			M	I	N	I	M	A	L
P	R	I	E	S	T	S			
S	O	L			U	S	O	P	E
A	M	I	S	S			P	A	L
L	E	A	S	E			O	G	L
M	O	D	E				D	E	E

© Feature Exchange

Cryptogram Solution

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
W	Y	J	Q	P	X	K	O	B	T	V	U	N	A	I	M	H	S	O	O	Z	L	E	F	C	R

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The JACKSON MUSIC AWARDS ASSOCIATION

MUSIC FROM THE SOUL

Weekend KICKOFF Reception

FRIDAY JULY 21, 6:00PM

SETH POWER

TIGER ROGERS

EUNICE WAMBARI

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL
AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR
CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED
SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH
THE REHABILITATION OF TAXIWAY
ALPHA, PHASE 2 AT THE
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
(JMAA PROJECT NO. 012-17-A)

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") will receive sealed bids at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN"), Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, in the City of Jackson, Rankin County, Mississippi, until 2:00 p.m. central time on August 3, 2017 (the "Bid Deadline"), for construction and related services in connection with the Rehabilitation of Taxiway Alpha, Phase 2 at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 2:05 p.m. central time on August 3, 2017 (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the Bidder's company name and Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number and with the wording: "Rehabilitation of Taxiway Alpha, Phase 2 at JAN, JMAA Project No. 012-17-A." Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received by JMAA after the Bid Deadline will not be considered for any cause whatsoever. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

JMAA will award the Work to the Lowest and Best most responsive and responsible Bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Information for Bidders. The Information for Bidders contains, among other things, a copy of this Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders and an Agreement to be executed by JMAA and the lowest and most responsive and responsible Bidder. Any Addendums issued clarifying and/or changing plans and specifications; clarifying and/or changing instructions in the Instruction to Bidders; and/or answering questions in relation to the Instructions to Bidders, including plans and specifications, shall become part of the Information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered part of the Agreement.

The Information for Bidders, including plans and specifications, is on file and open for public inspection at JAN at the following address:

Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport
Suite 300, Main Terminal Building
100 International Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39208
Telephone: (601) 939-5631 ext. 462
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713
Attention: Joyce Tillman, Facility Engineer

A copy of the Bid Documents (including plans and specifications for the Work) may be obtained upon payment

of a \$250.00 refundable fee per set. Bid documents must be returned to the printer in useable condition no later than thirty (30) days after opening of Bids for purchase cost to be refunded. The Engineer for this Project reserves the right to determine quality of plans upon return. Payment for the bid documents is to be in the form of a company or cashier's check made payable to AJA Management & Technical Services, Inc. The check may be presented upon pick-up of the Bid Documents at the following address or may be mailed to the following address:

AJA Management & Technical Services, Inc.
912 North West Street
Jackson, MS 39202
Telephone: (601) 352-6800
Facsimile: (601) 352-6807
Email: ajenkins@ajaservices.com

Bid Documents may be picked up or shipped to the person making the request. Documents will not be distributed or mailed, however, until payment is received.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 10:00 a.m. central time on July 18, 2017 in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference.

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; to waive informalities in the bidding process; and to hold and examine bids for up to ninety (90) days before awarding the Contract to perform the Work.

If it becomes necessary to revise any aspect of this Request for Bids or to provide additional information to Bidders, JMAA will issue one or more Addenda by posting on JMAA's website (<http://jmaa.com/RFQrfb-center/>). JMAA will also endeavor to deliver a copy of each Addendum, to all persons on record with JMAA as receiving a copy of the Information for Bidders, via email.

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 22% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
AUTHORITY

DATE: July 5, 2017
/s/ Carl D. Newman, A.A. E.
Carl D. Newman, A.A. E., Chief
Executive Officer

7/6/2017, 7/13/2017

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 08/08/2017, for:

RE: GS# 371-143 Walking & Bike Path - PH I
Department of Finance and Administration

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: Neel-Schaffer, Inc. - Jackson
(Jackson, Mississippi, through the Office listed here in)
Address: Post Office Box 22625
125 South Congress Street, Suite 1100
Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2625
601-948-3071
Phone: jonathan.kiser@neel-schaffer.com
Email:

A deposit of \$50.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

Glenn R. Kombrek, Bureau Director
Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management

7/6/2017, 7/13/2017

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP

RFP 2017-06 Online Professional Learning Video Content Provider
and Video Management System

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) August 01, 2017, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all rfp's, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfp's are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing pagreen@jackson.k12.ms.us, calling (601) 960-8799, documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

7/13/2017, 7/20/2017

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, July 25, 2017, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following Bids:

55034-072517 – Twenty-Four-Month Supply of Thermoplastic Pavement Markings

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

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

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1638. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 08/08/2017, for:

RE: GS# 382-003 Civil Rights & History Museums
(Camera Surveillance System)
The Mississippi Museums (Office of Capitol Facilities)
(Department of Finance and Administration)

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: ECD Architects Engineers, a Joint Venture
Address: 418 East Capitol Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
601-354-2572
Phone: thall@cdfi.com
Email:

A deposit of \$0.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

Glenn R. Kombrek, Bureau Director
Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management

7/6/2017, 7/13/2017

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Advertisement for Bid
Bid 3060 Bailey APAC School Kitchen Equipment

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) July 17, 2017, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing pagreen@jackson.k12.ms.us, calling (601) 960-8799, or documents may be picked up at the above address or download from the JPSD website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

7/13/2017, 7/20/2017

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

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

7/6/2017, 7/13/2017

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO THE PUBLIC, OWNERS OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND TAXPAYERS OF
THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AND OF THE JACKSON
MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

You are hereby notified that the ad valorem tax assessment schedule of motor vehicles in the City of Jackson and in the Jackson Municipal Separate School District containing assessed valuation of all motor vehicles in said City and School District which the City shall use in the collection of ad valorem taxes thereon for the taxable year beginning August 1, 2017, has been prepared, filed, equalized and approved by the Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, pursuant to Chapter 588, Laws of 1958, as amended, subject to the right of motor vehicle owners and taxpayers to object to any of said valuations appearing on said assessment schedule; that said schedule for special equipment, trailers, motorcycles, ambulances and hearses is now ready for inspection and examination by the public, at City Hall located at 219 S. President Street in the City of Jackson and said schedule for passenger vehicles and light trucks is located in the computer system of the Hinds County Tax Collector and is now ready for inspection

and examination by the public at the Hinds County Chancery Court Building, and that any objection to valuation of motor vehicles set forth and contained in said schedule shall be made in writing, setting forth in detail the grounds for such objection and claim for adjustments, with a full and complete identifiable description of the motor vehicle involved, and filed in duplicate with the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, at City Hall located at 219 S. President Street, in Jackson, Mississippi, on or before 6:00 p.m. on July 18, 2017 as provided by law, and particularly Section 27-51-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

The Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will meet in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 219 S. President Street in said City on said date and will then commence hearing any objection to any valuation of motor vehicles set forth and contained in said assessment schedule which has been made in writing and filed with the City Clerk, as hereinabove provided, and will remain in session from day to day thereafter, considering such objection and claim for adjustment until all parties in interest have been heard and such objection for claim for adjustment is disposed of as provided by law.

7/13/2017

LEGAL

SECTION 901
ADVERTISEMENT
Revised
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 8, 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 21, 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 Illinois Central Railroad to include three bridges.
- Construction of approximately 250 linear feet of four-lane asphalt roadway 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 two-lane 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 Provisions.

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.

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 Transportation.

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 O'clock Noon, of the day preceding the Advertised Date for receipt of bids.
The City of Jackson, Jackson, Mississippi

BY
Jerriot Smash
Interim Public Works Director
Terry Williamson Legal Counsel
Robert Blaine
Chief Administrative Officer
7/13/2017, 7/20/2017

JSU Baseball named NCAA statistical champions in stolen bases

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson State baseball team continues to receive honors for its outstanding 2017 season. The Tigers were named the NCAA statistical champion in stolen bases and stolen bases per game.

The Tigers, who finished the season with the best overall and conference record (30- 17-1, 20-4 SWAC) during the regular season and won the east division title, finished the season with 141 total stolen bases and 2.52 stolen bases per game, in 48 games this season.

This marks the sixth time that the Tigers have been crowned the champion in stolen bases per game.

JSU last accomplished the feat in 2010. Prior to that Jackson State had the most steals per game in three consecutive seasons (2003-2005). The Tigers earned the crown for the first time in the 1990 season.

Bryce Brown led the Tigers with 27 stolen bases,



JSU head coach Omar Johnson

CJ Newsome racked up 26, Jarvis Warner had 18 and Cornelius Copeland contributed 17 stolen bases.

This is the first time in conference history that a SWAC school has been crowned the NCAA statistical champion for stolen bases, dating back to 1972.

Mississippi College Lady Choctaws basketball camp wraps up



MC Lady Choctaws summer basketball camp staff

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Players on girls basketball teams in the Pine Belt, the Delta, metro Jackson and cities in Louisiana learned valuable lessons at Mississippi College.

Dribbling, shooting, defense, exercise drills, and lots of games were packed into a few days on the Clinton campus.

A June 28 awards ceremony at the A.E. Wood Coliseum capped off a busy few days for players, coaches and support staff at MC’s Lady Choctaws hoops camp.

It all starts with the leadership of MC Lady Choctaws head basketball coach Paul Duke, and a hard-working staff logging long hours.

Duke hands the credit to his talented staff that includes Lady Choctaws assistant coach Jalessa Taylor and some of his MC players. “We have a great staff – they are unbelievable.”

Affordable prices and fundamentals practiced on the court show results over the regular basketball season. The location in Clinton and nice athletic facilities for campers are also selling points.

Basketball players coming to Mississippi College over the summer always work up a sweat. They hone their hoops skills “from early in the morning until late at night,” says Ken Gilliam, the MC continuing education director. He oversees sports, music and church camps attracting 6,000 young people in June and July.

This week’s latest crop of 81 basketball campers on the Clinton campus traveled from schools stretching from John F. Kennedy High School in Mound Bayou to Laurel Christian School in Jones County. They came from Baton Rouge Episcopal High and Madison Central High, among others.

MC Lady Choctaws graduate assistant Isaiah Butler got as much out of the camp as the players. “I loved working with the girls, teaching and watching them learn.”

A former Brandon High hoops standout and ex-Mississippi State player, Butler’s got big plans ahead on the hardwood. He will spend time working out and shooting baskets to prepare for a 12-day pro basketball tour in Germany in late August.

The 2017 summer season began with the Lady Choctaws

Team shootout June 3 followed by the Lady Choctaws Team Camp June 8-10. There were other key June dates on Duke’s hoops calendar at MC.

Some of the “graduates” of MC Lady Choctaws hoops camp end up as players on Duke’s teams. Other campers were impressed with the Clinton campus and become Mississippi College students primarily for its strong academic programs.

Serving as the head coach for the Lady Choctaws team for more than two decades, Duke always gets a kick out of summer camp season. “We’ve got great camps,” the coach says. “They are a lot of fun.”

In the months ahead, the Mississippi State and MC graduate will tweak the Lady Choctaws hoops camp to improve the product in June 2018. “Camps are recruiting – you’ve got to work on them year-round.”

MC will host its 2nd summer football camp July 11. MC head football coach John Bland and his staff will team with counterparts from the University of Central Arkansas to stress gridiron skills to visiting high school players.



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Postal Service celebrates Civil and Women's Rights legend Dorothy Height

The Mississippi Link Newswire

INDIANOLA, MS – Ironically, the calendar may read Thursday, but July 13 will feel like Wednesday In Mississippi again, when the U.S. Postal Service hosts a stamp dedication honoring long-time Civil Rights and Women's Rights activist Dorothy Height.

The event begins at 11 a.m. at the Henry Seymour Library, 200 E. Percy Street, with scheduled honored guests and speakers including City of Indianola Mayor Steve Rosenthal and Tracey Nance, president of the Dorothy Height Quad Counties Section of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW).

Height, who in February became the 40th stamp in the venerable Black Heritage commemorative stamp series, was a tireless activist and dedicated her life to fighting for racial and gender equality.

She became one of the most influential civil and women's rights leaders of the 20th century and made a lasting impression in the Magnolia State with her 1964 creation of the "Wednesdays In Mississippi" program.

The activist group was interracial, interfaith, and each week, teams of women from northern communities traveled to Mis-



issippi Tuesday and returned home Thursday, spending all day Wednesday with their southern peers. By establishing bridges across societal, regional, racial, and class boundaries, the ultimate goal was to end the violence and cushion the transition of racial integration as civil rights efforts progressed.

Eventually, the program was managed from Jackson, and two years later, became Workshops In Mississippi, a program to help poor women better themselves and their families.

"The Postal Service is proud to honor civil rights icon Dorothy

Height, an American treasure, whose illustrious career spanned almost a century," said Ronald Stroman, deputy postmaster general and chief government relations officer, when he originally dedicated the stamp. "The Dorothy Height Forever stamp will serve as a lasting tribute to her life and legacy of seeking equality and justice for all Americans, regardless of ethnicity, gender or race."

In 1963, the Height-led NCNW joined the Council for United Civil Rights Leadership.

Height was an architect of the August 1963 March on Washington, where she shared the stage with Martin Luther King Jr. It was Height who pushed to include a voice of youth like John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and insisted on no time limits for King's speech.

Gender equality also was important to Height, who fought for the rights of women, particularly women of color.

President John F. Kennedy named her to his commission on the Status of Women, which was chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt.

Height attended the 1963 White House ceremony where Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act.

In 1971, she helped form the

National Women's Political Caucus.

In 1977, Height officially retired from the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), for which she worked for 40 years.

In addition to numerous honorary degrees, Height received the nation's two highest civilian honors. In 1994, President Bill Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. A decade later, President George W. Bush presented her with the Congressional Gold Medal. In 2009, she was a guest of Barack Obama when he was sworn in as the nation's 44th president.

The Dorothy Height stamp features artist Thomas Blackshear II's portrait of Height. The painting is based on a photograph shot by Lateef Mangum in 2009. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp.

Customers unable to attend the Indianola dedication event can find the stamp on sale at Post Offices nationwide.

Customers may also purchase the Dorothy Height Forever stamp online at the Postal Store usps.com/shop or by calling 800-STAMP24 (800-782-6724).

A variety of stamps and collectibles also is available at ebay.com/stamps.

Retrial date set in Cosby sexual assault case

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In June, a 12-member jury split on whether to convict or acquit Bill Cosby on three counts of indecent aggravated assault stemming from an incident between Cosby and former Temple University employee Andrea Constand, that happened more than a dozen years ago.

A re-trial date of November 6 has been set by Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill, the District Attorney announced via Twitter.

After more than 52 hours of deliberation, the panel alerted O'Neill that they could not reach a unanimous verdict. Prosecutor Kevin Steele immediately announced plans to retry the case.

In 2015, Reuters reported that Steele "campaigned for district attorney on the promise of becoming the first in the United States to charge comedian Bill Cosby with sexual assault." Steele narrowly defeated Republican Bruce Castor for the seat; his margin of victory was less than a percentage point.

Tom Mesereau, the famous attorney who successfully defended actor Robert Blake in the murder of his wife and pop star Michael Jackson on child molestation charges, told TMZ that a retrial is a waste of taxpayers' money and a gross waste of time.

"I predicted the mistrial. I thought the defense would win and they did a great job," Mesereau said. "Whenever prosecutors lose, they immediately say they want a retrial. It's a weak case and they should have known that."

Mesereau continued: "It's a very weak case and I think the judge helped Bill Cosby when he limited the other accusers who could testify in the case and, on the other hand, he helped the prosecution when the one witness the defense wanted to use to impeach the accuser, the judge wouldn't let in."

So far, neither Cosby nor his spokesman Andrew Wyatt, have commented on the retrial announcement.



Cosby



Constand

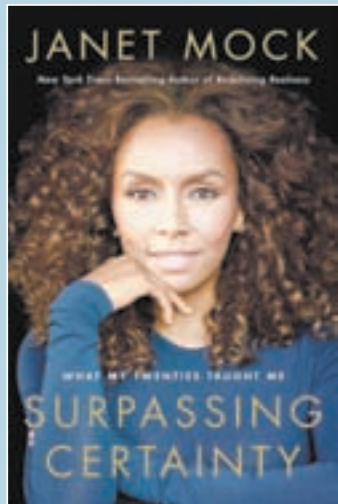
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BOOK REVIEW: “SURPASSING CERTAINTY”

BY **JANET MOCK**
C.2017, ATRIA
\$24.99 / \$33.99 CANADA • 228 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

When you were twenty, you wanted only to impress. If people looked at you, wasn’t that good? You wanted to be seen, watched, adored by those you saw as desirable. But what, exactly, did you want people to notice? Was it your hair, your body or, as in “Surpassing Certainty” by Janet Mock, was the whole you on display?

At age nineteen, Janet Mock should never have been where she was, three nights a week.

Her Thursday-through-Saturday schedule was meant for women over 21; that was the legal age for dancing as a stripper in a Waikiki clubs, but the proprietress of the club jokingly offered to “give” Mock two of her own birthdays, and that was that: Mock was a dancer, albeit a self-conscious one.

She was afraid that someone could spot her secret from the bar rail.

At a very young age, Mock knew she was a girl in a boy’s body. Her mother looked the other way while Mock wore

feminine clothing and grew out her hair, and she ignored when Mock started taking female hormones as an adolescent. After saving every penny, Mock flew to Bangkok to finalize her transition at eighteen; months later, she realized that nobody saw her as anything but a pretty black woman.

But the club, well, money was good there and she settled in. She sometimes made a cool grand a week, and she didn’t have to sleep with customers; the club’s owner, in fact, urged her girls not to do so. “Love

can wait,” she’d said, but when Mock met the man she’d ultimately marry, there was no reason not to take the plunge.

He was a Navy man who took Mock’s truth in stride, but the two grew apart: Mock quit dancing before she quit the marriage to move to New York City to attend college, where she felt empowered as a woman in control of her life. She made friends, decided what she wanted to do with her life, landed the job of her dreams and, “I was home.”

Filled with florid prose and

swoony drama, “Surpassing Certainty” is one of those memoirs that feels like a long conversation.

That can be a good thing, and it can be bad.

In speaking directly to readers, author Janet Mock offers an aura of girlfriendship. We’re privy to many details – maybe even too many – and the information is meted out as if we’re all Sex-in-the-City in a bistro somewhere on a Sunday afternoon.

And yet, this conversation doesn’t seem to have a point.

Mock writes at great length about stripping. She tells about her many loves, fusses too much about her appearance, and shares thoughts about men that reflect her youth at the time. Except for a juicy admission of omission in her last book, this seemed like a lot of navel-gazing.

Heavy sigh.

If you read Mock’s first memoir and are eager for more, by all means, find this one because you’ll love it. For most readers, though, “Surpassing Certainty” may not completely impress.

Film Review

The Fate of the Furious

8th installment of car crash franchise arrives on home video

By Kam Williams
Columnist

There are a number of action films whose opening scenes alone are well worth the price of admission. Taken (2008), District B-13 (2004) Super 8 (2011) and Dawn of the Dead (2004) are four which automatically come to mind. Feel free to add The Fate of the Furious to the list of flicks that grab you by the throat right off the bat.

The fun starts in Cuba, which is where newlyweds Dom (Vin Diesel) and Letty (Michelle Rodriguez) are happily honeymooning. But their nuptial bliss is interrupted when Dom comes to the rescue when a repo man threatens to cart off his cousin’s vintage jalopy.

Dom talks the guy out of towing and into a drag race to settle their differences. What ensues is heart-stopping careening around the colorful streets of Havana leading to a crowd-pleasing photo finish right at the ocean shore.

Next, we find the bride and groom relaxing back at the hotel. Letty, aware of her biological clock ticking, brings up the idea of starting a family. However, before they decide, Dom goes for a fateful walk alone during which he stops to lend a hand to a damsel ostensibly in automobile distress (Charlize Theron).

Truth be told, it’s Cipher, a cyber-terrorist bent on world domination through the acquisition of a gizmo capable of shutting down the electrical grid. She blackmails Dom into joining her criminal enterprise by showing him something very incriminating on her cell phone.

Just like that, the stage is set for a high-octane battle of brawn, muscle cars and wits which has Dom squaring off against his wife and a reassembled gang composed of returnees: Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson), Tej (Ludacris), Ramsey (Nathalie Emmanuel) and Roman (Tyrese) as well as new team leader Frank (Kurt Russell), his awkward assistant Eric (Scott Eastwood) and ex-villain Deckard (Jason Statham).

Forget the idea of following the plot. It’s messy and there are way too many characters to follow. Just sit back and soak in the spectacular stunts, the playful badinage between Hobbs and Deckard, and the comic relief coming courtesy of Roman.

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated PG-13 for profanity, suggestive content, and prolonged sequences of violence and destruction

Running time: 136 minutes

Distributor: Universal Pictures Home Entertainment

Blu-ray/DVD Combo Pack Extras: The Cuban Spirit; In the Family; Car Culture; All about the Stunts; extended fight scenes; and feature commentary with director F. Gary Gray.



Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9				10				
11				12				
13				14		15		
			16			17		
18	19	20						
21			22			23	24	25
26		27			28			
29					30			
31					32			

ACROSS

1. Passing trends
5. Offers
9. Canal
10. Japanese dish
11. Snaky fish
12. Book of maps
13. Salted sausage
15. Precedes an alias
16. Token
18. Vicars
21. Sun’s name
22. Sports match
26. Awry
28. Little pigment
29. Engage
30. Eye
31. Style
32. Legal document

DOWN

1. Fines
2. Location
3. Pickle herb
4. Bun topping seed
5. Except
6. Large religion
7. National capital
8. Strong rope fiber
10. Holy people
14. Abuse
17. Crustacean
18. Sacred poem
19. Juliet’s boyfriend
20. Book by Homer
23. Call a pager
24. Women’s magazine
25. Desire
27. South southeast

© Feature Exchange

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 Henry Winkler

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				E															T						
O	T	E		E	P		U	P	W	S	A		O	W	Q		A	I	D	O	B	A	K		D
G	T		E	B	D	O		O	I	E		Y	S	B	U	U	B	W	A	D		E	P		W

(For puzzle answer keys, see page 13)

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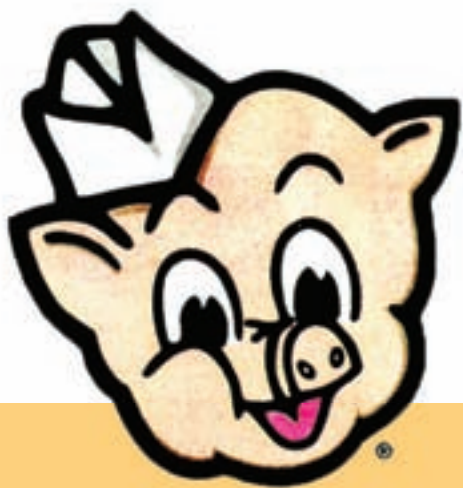

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