

New Horizon Church teaming up to rebuild South and West Jackson

By Othor Cain
Editor

Relocate, Revitalize, Restore.
Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as a rebuilders of walls and restorer of homes. (Isaiah 58.12)

According to the website of New Horizon Ministries in Jackson, the mission/vision of the I-58 Project

is designed to save the heart of the community and economic value in South Jackson.

The promise of this project is to rebuild a fallen community due to residential transfer and other negative references. Using various methods, this project will be the breach to the gap of this fallen community. This will be done by strategic placement

of positive practices, enforcements, and people within the community of which it will serve.

The I-58 Project will improve South Jackson by effectively solving problems and finding answers to its issues, bringing back the vitality of its inhabitants through the reconstruction of an existing community. The method is three-fold:

1. Relocate 200 families back into the South Jackson Community.
2. Revitalize lives by positively affecting the families that live in those communities
3. Restore communities by being a part of the neighborhoods where we

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Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann (L) and Bishop Ronnie Crudup of New Horizon Church (R) PHOTO BY EXSAIL

JSU first lady Deborah Bynum is all about faith, family, clothes and recycling



Deborah Bynum, first lady of JSU PHOTO BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU

By Rachel James-Terry
JSU

Deborah Elaine Bynum, wife of Jackson State President William B. Bynum Jr., is seated at a round conference table in her husband's office contemplating if there was anything she would change about her life.

"No," she says after only a few seconds. "Even the mistakes that you've made should be teachable moments, so you shouldn't have any regrets. My life experiences have prepared me for where I am right now. So had I not gone through any of that, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Born and raised in Atlanta, her family became the 10th black family to integrate the first public housing project built in the United States – Techwood Homes.

"We moved there in 1968. It was my first time being around people that were different. My best friend Pam and I enjoyed hanging out after school and attending the Girls Club, which was separate from the Boys Club during that time," she says.

Raised by her mother, Nellie Jackson, Deborah was one of eight children who grew up in the three-room unit that consisted of a living room with a bed and sofa, a middle room with two beds, and a kitchen that she vaguely recalls contained a table and chair.

She dubs her mother and mother-in-law, Ma Chris, now deceased, as "sheroes" due to their shared ability to single-handedly raise large families on modest resources.

"They accomplished so much with so little. Now, look at us, we have an abundance of everything," she says in a tone mixed with admiration and humility.

When Deborah learned that her husband was selected as Jackson State's 11th president she "had

First Lady
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It's time for Congress to pass a Hurricane Harvey emergency funding package



Some Gulf Coast lawmakers believe that at least \$150 billion will be needed just to aid Texas residents in reconstruction. (From left-right) Rep. Al Green (D-Texas), Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-Miss.), Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas)

By Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (MS-02), Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18) and Rep. Al Green (TX-09)

Historically, during times of national emergency, Americans unite to meet the challenge. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina altered the lives of thousands of Americans throughout Louisiana and Mississippi, damaging cities that have not been the same since. But, no matter our differences, we as a country have always come together in the face of tragedy. Now, it is time we act in unison once more.

Since August 25, the city of Houston along with Harris and Fort Bend counties have felt the effects

of Hurricane Harvey. The unprecedented storm dumped an estimated 11 trillion gallons of water on just Houston alone. First responders, emergency personnel and the U.S. National and Coast Guards along with hundreds of volunteers, were on the frontlines of the battle ensuring all those affected by Harvey were safe and dry.

As the natural disaster travels towards Louisiana and Mississippi, we ask for our great country to continue to stand with one another by volunteering, sending donations, and praying for strength, hope and perseverance to weather this storm.

If anyone would like to lend a

helping hand to the relief effort through donations, we are asking you give to local organizations that focus on people of color such as: The Black Women's Defense League, Raices, ICNA Relief, BlackAmericaWeb.com Relief Fund or the South Texas Human Rights Center. Any contribution will be greatly received as we ask Congress and President Donald Trump to provide immediate emergency funding and resources to deal with the crisis at hand. We believe at least \$150 billion will be needed just to aid Texas residents in reconstruction, with much more needed later as the storm continues

to travel the Gulf Coast.

In addition, Southeast Texas needs funding for storm surge protection research, just as New York and New Jersey received following the devastation of Hurricane Sandy.

Congress should pass an aid package not only to help the people of Texas, but to also provide an assurance to the American people that their government will be there for them in a time of crisis. This legislative package should not be weighed down in political rhetoric and partisanship. Instead, it should

Hurricane Harvey
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PHOTO OF THE WEEK TAX COLLECTOR FAIR AT TAX SALE

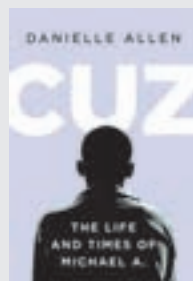
Hinds County Tax Collector Eddie Fair, assists a customer at this year's Delinquent Tax Sale at the Hinds County Courthouse. Held every year, starting the last Monday in August, this sale is an opportunity for Hinds County residents and those from out of state to acquire property. In his 14th year as tax collector, Fair believes it's also a way to help keep Jackson beautiful. "We think it is important for local folk to take advantage of these sales; it's a way to keep these properties on the tax roll and to keep Jackson beautiful," he said. "We must continue putting value in Jackson and all of Hinds County." Fair said he uses his monthly newsletter and his weekly radio show to inform citizens about the sale. The sale is held over a five-day period and Fair classifies this sale as a huge success. "The participation was really good," Fair said. Buyers pay the delinquent taxes on the property they want and participate in a bidding process of \$10 increments over the tax amount. "We've had in years past, some buyers to pay between \$10-20K over the amount owed for taxes. PHOTO BY OTHOR CAIN

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1st woman will command JSU's Air Force ROTC

Bynum vows scholarships for cadets

By L.A. Warren
JSU

Mississippi Congressman Bennie Thompson was among attendees Thursday for the installation of the first woman commander of JSU's Air Force ROTC, a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new location and a surprise scholarship announcement for cadets.

Thompson called the ceremony a "watershed moment" after hearing incoming commander Lt. Col. Shander Adams praise her retiring predecessor inside the J.Y. Woodard building on the main campus where Detachment 006 is housed.

Adams, a JSU alum, thanked outgoing commander Lt. Col. Timothy Henderson for developing a "culture of excellence and for making my job easier." She said, "I'm here to help future leaders who are focused on moral character, academic achievement and professionalism. We want to teach young people how to go out in the real world, survive and become productive citizens and successful leaders."

The Gluckstadt native learned last week that she would become JSU's first woman Air Force commander. Adams said she feels no pressure because "God has prepared me for this moment." She said she hopes to become a role model for other young women. "I actually want them to do better than I'm doing, even becoming general officers. If I teach them what I know to be successful, the sky is the limit. I just wish I had had somebody pull me to the side and tell me the secrets about life."



U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, with JSU ROTC's Lt. Col. Timothy Henderson and Lt. Col. Shander Adams, lauded the university for providing the nation with exceptional service members who'll risk their lives to defend the nation.

After the transition of command, JSU President William B. Bynum Jr. saluted the leadership of both officers, declaring they have served well both the university and the country. Bynum said all Americans must embrace our young people as they grow to become strong leaders.

"It's times like these when I'm so thankful to be a citizen of this great country. And I'm so very, very blessed to be in the state of Mississippi and so thankful that I get to lead this outstanding university. My family has a long, personal history of armed services," he said.

In an extraordinary show of admiration and support for those seeking to become officers, Bynum said JSU will offer free room and board to scholarship recipients of the Air Force ROTC and Army ROTC.

Despite JSU's fiscal challenges, Bynum said we owe this to individuals who are destined to go "beyond the call of duty, including possibly sacri-

ficing their lives for the freedoms we get to enjoy in this country."

Adams, the fifth child of 10 children, said she joined the military out of financial necessity after graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi. Upon enlisting, she was introduced to the core values of the Air Force. She left active duty four years later after the birth of a son and joined the Mississippi Air National Guard. The GI Bill enabled her to obtain her master's degree from JSU. Later, she entered Officer Training School.

After she put off plans to retire in 2018, she sought a new deployment. Henderson paved her leadership path to JSU by recruiting Adams to the JSU family a year ago.

A grateful Adams said she inherited a smooth-running organization from Henderson and vows to continue developing a diverse culture of excellence. "We will create successful leaders with a solid foundation and with a focus on service before self and excel-



JSU's incoming Air Force Lt. Col. Shander Adams vows to continue developing a diverse culture of excellence, academic achievement and professionalism at Jackson State University. PHOTOS BY ARON SMITH/JSU

lence in all we do."

Earlier, Henderson delivered an emotional farewell. He expressed confidence in his successor and told her she possessed the necessary skills to lead the detachment to higher heights. "I've seen your passion and enthusiasm," he told her.

As for himself, Henderson said, "It's been an amazing journey over the past couple of years. All of my experiences, struggles and successes have culminated into the best assignment in my 24 years." However, he explained that coming to JSU was drastically different than being in a 24/7 war-fighting command with special operations.

During his time at JSU, his focus turned to building the next generation of leaders and ensuring that expectations and standards were high for everyone regardless of race, gender or socioeconomic background. To cadets, he said he saw some part of him in each of them.

"Many days I bowed on my knees

at my desk asking God to give me the wisdom to help them, realizing I was holding a life in my hand." Because those young lives held onto every word, he explained that "it became a personal imperative to ensure that each cadet who entered these doors are challenged to think for themselves and be given the necessary tools to help them with decision-making."

Over two years, Henderson said he's observed cadets' personal challenges, their sorrows and joys, spent long hours in urgent care and once consoled a student considering suicide. However, through it all, he said he's been blessed by the impact they've had on his life. Fighting back tears, he told cadets "you have been my rock."

After Henderson's farewell address, the incoming commander told the audience that the Air Force is in a position to influence students and that she will aim to accomplish the goals of the command post to "the best of my ability." As well, she said she's thrilled to work with promising young adults at an HBCU that's making a difference in their lives. "The Air Force needs more minorities. We've found good quality people here at JSU. This is like a diamond in the rough."

Capping off his comments, JSU alum Thompson continued to lavish praise on Adams, saying, "Today is a great day for Jackson State University. It's a great day for the state of Mississippi, too. I know you'll do a good job."

He also thanked JSU for producing exceptional service members. He said the HBCU's talented cadets can match anyone in the world when given resources and opportunities that are afforded to others.

Thompson said, "The military is the cavalry when all else fails. When state and local resources are overrun you must call the military to be a backstop, and JSU's cadet training is equal to other institutions."

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First Lady

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church.” She smiles, revealing the deep dimples in her cheeks, and says: “I just went into praise God mode. And it really took my faith to another level.”

Some of the backlash that erupted from Bynum’s appointment could have easily eclipsed her elation, and any spouse caught in the crosshairs would have ostensibly bristled over the situation.

But, the couple appears to have navigated the difficult moment with equanimity, and Deborah offers kudos to her husband, saying: “He handled it well. It was really hard, but he didn’t waver.”

Bynum would further ease her concerns when he later explained that the dust-up was not so much about him as it was the selection process and that he understood and respected the palpable passion shown for the university.

“It’s one of those things. When people count you out, you work harder to cross that finish line,” she says, noting her firm belief that what is meant to be will be.

When asked which of her husband’s qualities will enhance Jackson State, she echoes his mainstay of student-centeredness and then adds: “Seriously, don’t mess with this students. He is passionate about helping them achieve their dreams and making sure that they are treated with dignity and respect.”

The first lady also vouches for Bynum’s capacity to empower his administration and that he incorporates the school’s heritage, history and mission in his decision-making process.

Supporting her husband’s vaulting higher-education career has not stopped Deborah from being a consummate achiever in her own right. As a 37-year employee of AT&T, she has won numerous awards for her paramount business performance, so many, in fact, that she no longer has the space to house them all.

She pauses momentarily, voices concern over sounding boastful, then slowly says, “I love my job and the relationships I’ve forged over the years as a senior account manager, so it’s nice to be recognized. When you enjoy what you do for a living, and you’re awarded in the end, it makes it even better.”

Service seems to be a calling of the first lady as reflected in the three initiatives – a clothing closet, a recycling program and a food bank – that she is poised to implement at



JSU First Lady Deborah Bynum chats and takes pictures with local community members and students at the university’s annual Crop Drop. PHOTOS BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU



During the HBCU’s freshmen and transfer students’ move-in day, parents were comforted by the steady presence of President Bynum and the first lady.

the HBCU.

The clothing closet idea stems from a conversation Deborah had with a close friend and fellow first lady. It would later materialize at Mississippi Valley State University during their four-year tenure and prove successful.

“College students, many being first-generation, may not have available funds to buy attire for a job interview or an event where they have to represent JSU,” she says.

The initiative will call for a mutual collaboration with alumni, faculty, staff and the local community. “We’re asking for gently used professional and formal attire. We’ll take suits, dresses, shirts, ties, shoes and accessories,” Deborah says.

Her desire to make the environment a better place for her children and grandchildren is the impetus for her recycling ambition that she describes as “near and dear to her heart.”

Of the Bynums’ six children, three are enrolled in college while the remaining three have graduated with one currently pursuing an advanced degree. So, the career couple is familiar with the increasingly growing cost of meal plans, which is why the

first lady is also championing a university food bank.

“A lot of college students are hungry. The meal plans are quite expensive,” she says. “I have to negotiate with our daughter, who is a sophomore, and ask her: ‘Are you really going to eat \$1,600 worth of food?’”

Thus, Deborah would like to offset some of the costs for parents when their offspring seek higher learning.

Although the timelines for the launching of the initiatives are still being fine-tuned, she hopes the clothing closet will be online by homecoming. The services will be provided to currently enrolled students for free, and the first lady’s only return request is that the gesture is paid forward.

Despite her growing roster of meetings and good intentions outlined for JSU, in a show of candor, Deborah says she does not go to sleep each night preoccupied with her title.

Instead, she says, “I go to bed at night praying: ‘God, please help my husband, cover him as he goes about doing your will and the duties for this great university.’”

New Horizon

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City, state and church leaders at the I-58 Project reveal of home in South Jackson.



Jason Goree gestures during his presentation of the restored home as others listen. PHOTOS BY EXSAIL

relocate and seek to be good neighbors.

Since its inception, the mission has expanded to include West Jackson. New Horizon Ministries has partnered with Mississippi Faith-Based Coalition and the Stratum Development Fund. Together, they’ve acquired over 200 properties. “This is a public-private partnership involving the state and the city,” said Bishop Ronnie Crudup Sr. of New Horizon Church. “We were able to acquire these tax-forfeited properties.”

The project’s name comes from the Bible verse Isaiah 58:12: “Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called repairer of broken walls, restorer of street dwellings.”

The group does not rent homes, they only sell them. “We can renovate a house and put a family in it and that is much cheaper than rent in this part of town,” Crudup said. “We are going to make something possible for people. They are going to save money, they are going to get a quality product.

Tuesday, the group unveiled its latest project in the 2400 block of Coronet Place in South Jackson. A few months ago the structure was a decaying eyesore in the community but the scenery yesterday included green plants, fresh landscaping, four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a spacious kitchen and deck.



Hosemann and Jackson Mayor Lumumba



Judge Janice Goree and contractor Leon Jones offer highlights.

Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann was on hand and raved about the restoration. “Jackson is on the fast track back to the way we remember it and the way we want it to be,” Hosemann said.

The cost of renovating this project was approximately \$50K and Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba couldn’t be happier that people are investing in Jackson.

“It’s about reminding people that they are not forgotten, that their community is not forgotten,” Lumumba said. “Our initiative in being a transformative administration is that while we build this city, that we look at opportunities not to move away, but instead to lift people up.

Hurricane Harvey

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be aimed at helping as many people affected by Harvey as possible.

It is essential for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to conduct a full and complete assessment of the entire Gulf Coast region’s infrastructure capabilities when it comes to flooding. Time and time again, we have seen our region suffer from hurricanes, and we must take steps to prevent another city from struggling to rebuild.

Americans from around the country have offered themselves in service to help their fellow citizens. Now, we as Members of Congress must do the same. The best way for us to do so

is with a comprehensive emergency funding package. Volunteers, first responders and so many others have stepped up to the plate, now it is up to us to hit the ball out of the park.

When Congress goes back into session, let’s pass this package without unnecessary political debates. The people of the Gulf Coast are depending on us.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-Miss.), Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) and Rep. Al Green (D-Texas) who represents Gulf Coast residents.

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Kingdom Community Development in partnership with the USDA National Resource Conservation Service would like to aid up to 15 Mississippi farmers and/or landowners in learning how to access monies to protect, restore, and enhance critical wetlands on agricultural lands.

Eligible farmers and/or land owners will be shown how to access the forms and online resources and how to apply for the funds associated with the reserve easement program. Information regarding future use of easement property will also be provided. On going support will be provided to all participants of the program.

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RSVP is required of all potential attendees a free lunch will be provided.

TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Agricultural Reserve Easements
- Cost Structure Provided
- Wetlands Reserve Easements
- Access to Application
- Programs General Review
- Application Process w/FAQ's

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Office of the Mayor
www.jackson.ms.gov
Chokwe A. Lumumba,
Mayor



Contact Person
Kai Y. Williams
Communications Manager
Phone: 601-960-2378 (o)
601-540-4028 (c)
Email: kwilliams@city.jackson.ms

For Immediate Release

Jackson loves Texas Supply Drive

Jackson, MS September 2, 2017:

Join the city of Jackson in the "Jackson loves Texas Supply Drive." We're asking Jacksonians to drop off supplies at designated locations around the city. The drive will go from 8:00am – 5:00pm, Tuesday, September 5th – Friday, September 8th. The Mayor is asking residents to contribute items to those impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Texas and Louisiana who are suffering greatly in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey," said Mayor Lumumba. "Jackson is a city full of love and compassion." The Mayor continues, "We understand that it is our responsibility as citizens to aid our neighbors when needed, so I have reached out to Mayor Turner and offered our assistance." Mayor Lumumba concludes, "We also extend this offer to all municipalities that need our assistance. Let's come together as a City, community, and family to contribute to the relief effort in any way that we can and show our neighbors that we care."

Items Most Needed:

Water

Personal Care Packets

Drop Off Locations:

Station 1 555 South West St.

Station 7 4265 N. State St.

Station 10 355 Woodrow Wilson Dr.

Station 11 3680 Terry Rd.

Station 15 4943 Clinton Blvd.

Station 16 1400 Lakeland Dr.

Station 17 1941 Canton Mart

Station 21 5381 Watkins Dr.

Station 24 1240 Wiggins Rd.

Station 25 4048 N. Siwell Rd.

Station 26 2223 Flag Chapel Rd.

Station 28 611 Terry Rd.

Precinct One 810 Cooper Rd.

Precinct Two 3645 Highway 80 W (Metrocenter)

Precinct Three 3925 West Northside Dr., Suite A

Precinct Four 5080 Parkway Dr.

City Hall 219 South President St.

Water Department 1000 Metrocenter, Suite 103

Hinds County School District Weekly Update



Arlandra Earl, State and Federal Programs Director / Hinds County School District

Earl joined the district in 2016 as the assistant director of Federal Programs and has been promoted to the new State and Federal Programs director for the Hinds County School District. She brings a wealth of educational experience and knowledge to the district. Earl states that through the efficient use of state and federal grants the HCSD Office of State and Federal Programs is committed to helping improve student achievement. Staff members are available to provide services and support to school district staff, parents, and community members as well as ensure the appropriate use of allocated state and federal funds. If anyone needs assistance or information, please feel free to contact the office of State and Federal Programs at (601) 857-7051.



Frankie Blackmon, Director of Instruction / Hinds County School District

Blackmon comes to the Hinds County School District with over 15 years in education. She has served as a teacher, academic coach, director of Curriculum and Special Projects, and a director of Federal Programs. She is a native of Ethel, Miss. and a graduate of Ethel High School. She received her bachelor's and specialist's degrees from the University of Mississippi and a master's degree from Mississippi Valley State University.



Daryl Jones, Athletic/Activities Director / Hinds County School District

Jones comes to the Hinds County School District with 22 years in education. He has served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and athletic director. Jones earned his Bachelor of Science in industrial technology from Jackson State University and a master of science in Educational Administration from Alcorn State University. He was also a 4 year letterman running back at Jackson State University, was named SWAC Freshman of the Year in 1985 and All SWAC in 1986. He was also selected to the JSU Sports Hall of Fame in 2006 and the JSU All-Century Team in 2011. Jones is married to Mona Jones and they have two kids, Daryl Jr. and Alea.

10.28 Struttin for the Pink
Harlem Nights Style

Cash Prizes for contests will be Awarded

Harlem Nights Attire Welcomed

Andre' Lee Band & Show

Charles Blakely

7pm - 12am

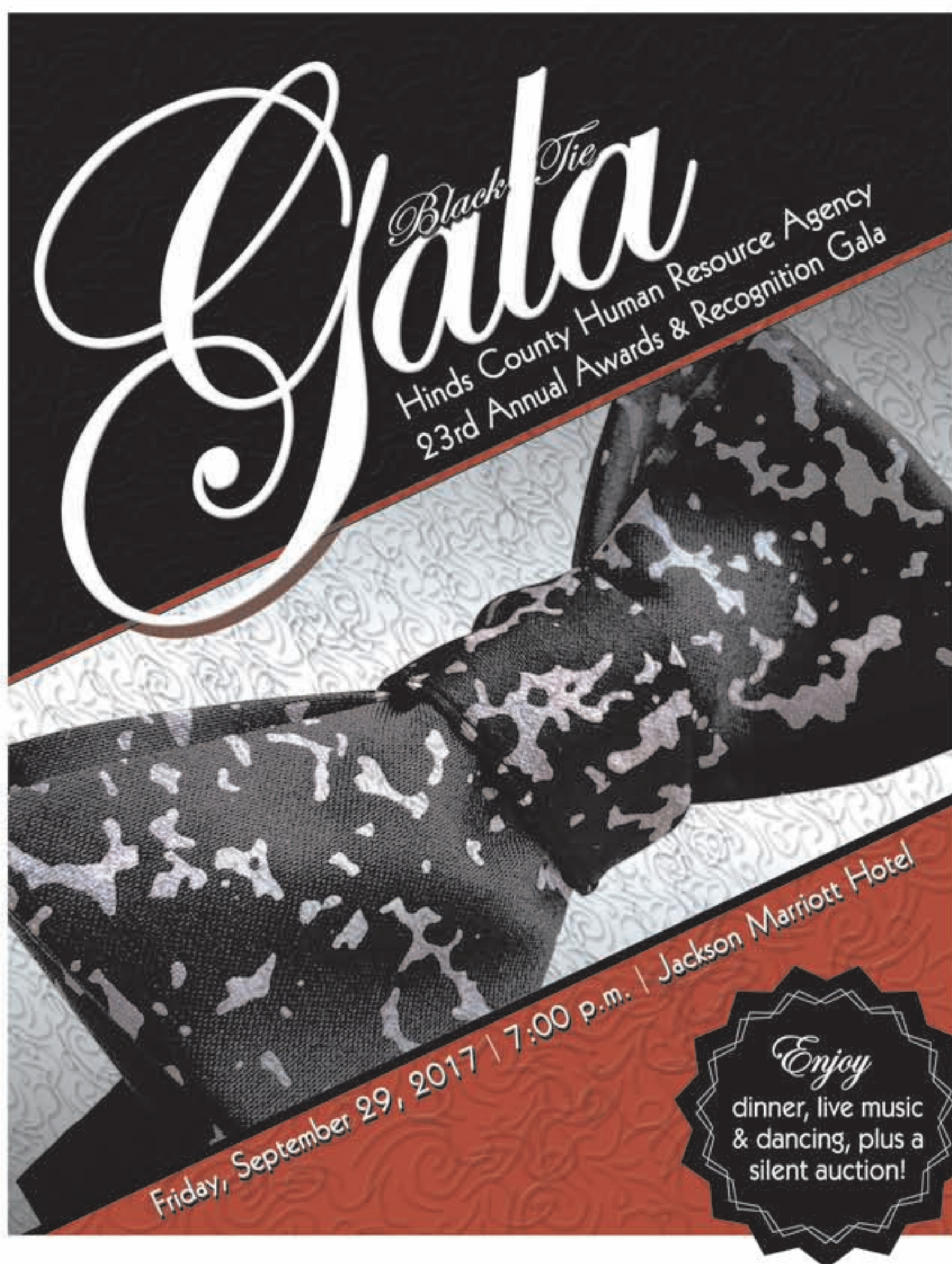
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At Hinds County Human Resource Agency, our goal is to help families and strengthen communities.

The Annual Awards and Recognition Gala is Hinds County Human Resource Agency's annual signature development event, which helps to provide critical matching funds for several services such as home-delivered meals, congregate meal sites, and Hinds County rural public transportation.

Denise Harlow, Chief Executive Officer of the Community Action Partnership in Washington, DC, will be featured as the keynote speaker for this year's Gala. Enjoy dinner, live music and dancing, entertainment, and a fabulous silent auction. Cash and credit cards accepted. Tickets are \$75.

The Gala provides an important opportunity to create awareness about our programs and services; to celebrate our clients who have transitioned out of poverty to self-sufficiency; and to honor our volunteers and community partners who work with us throughout the year to help eradicate poverty and provide a better life for more than 65,000 low-income citizens throughout Hinds County.

Our programs and services would not be available without the invaluable support of our community and corporate partners.

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



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Introducing new principals for the 2017-2018 school year

Mississippi Link Newswire
Jackson Public Schools has named new principals to head 13 schools for the 2017-2018 school year. Many of the

district's new building administrators are homegrown leaders, rising through the ranks of JPS schools and district support offices.

A few are new to the district and some are returning to JPS to fill these important posts this school year.



Marvin Davis
Galloway Elementary
(Previously interim principal at Van Winkle)



Catrina Crawford
Isable Elementary
(Previously assistant principal at North Jackson)



Lutithia Luckett
Oak Forest Elementary
(Previously assistant principal at McLeod)



Zackery Hodge
Brown Elementary
(Previously assistant principal at Pecan Park)



Dr. Sandra Reed
Power APAC Elementary
(Previously CAO at Scena Consulting)



Kescher Love Rankin
Van Winkle Elementary
(Previously JPS lead interventionist)



Harrison Michael
Chastain Middle
(Previously assistant principal at Rowan Middle)



Donald Boyd
Siwell Middle
(Previously assistant principal at Kirksey Middle)



Paula Epps
Whitten Middle
(Previously assistant principal at Cardozo Middle)



Chuconna Anderson
Callaway High
(Previously assistant principal at Callaway)



Dr. Tawanza Domino
Jim Hill High
(Previously assistant principal at Jim Hill)



Shawn Terrell
Provine High
(Previously principal German-town High IB in Memphis, Tenn.)



Roderick Smith
Wingfield High
(Previously interim principal at Whitten Middle)

Record FAFSA completion rate

FAFSA completion rate increased by seven percent through collaborative efforts

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Woodward Hines Education Foundation (WHEF) and Jackson Public School District (JPS) celebrated a seven percent increase in the number of seniors completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), according to data from the National College Access Network (NCAN).

The sharp increase in FAFSA completions was fueled by activities funded through a FAFSA Completion Challenge grant from NCAN, funded by the Kresge Foundation, for JPS students. Jackson was one of only 22 cities in the nation to receive the grant.

“As a foundation focused on increasing the number of Mississippians who can access education and training after high school that leads to meaningful employment, this is a significant step in the right direction,” said Jim McHale, WHEF president and CEO. “Increasing the number of students who complete the FAFSA is critical for Jackson and for our state because research shows that students who complete the FAFSA are 90 percent more likely to directly pursue postsecondary education.”

The goal of the challenge grant was to strengthen urban higher education ecosystems by raising FAFSA completion rates among high school seniors in cities across the country. Kresge made a \$1.6 million grant to launch the program, which challenged Jackson and other winning cities to increase FAFSA completion rates by at least 5 percent for the graduating high school class of 2017.

“This achievement highlights two things we believe in the Jackson Public School District,” said Fredrick Murray, JPS interim superintendent. “First, our students are extremely competitive and will achieve amazing things when they have access to the appropriate resources. Second, our faculty and staff are committed to ensuring our students are college and career ready, which includes working with programs like Get2College to help students access critical financial aid resources.”

Get2College, the flagship program of WHEF, partnered with an array of local and state organizations to develop and implement a range of activities to provide JPS students and families with information and resources about completing the FAFSA. College Countdown

Mississippi, a collaborative effort of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi Department of Education, the Community College Board, and the State Office of Financial Aid, was an integral partner in the effort.

Other local organizations such as the Mississippi Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRAO), Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the City of Jackson, Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce Leadership Greater Jackson Program, 100 Black Men, Alignment Jackson, Greater Bethlehem Temple and Parents for Public Schools of Jackson provided workshops, hosted college application and signing days, and promoted FAFSA completion via social media to aid the effort.

“We would not have been able to achieve this level of success without relying on a broad network of partners committed to helping JPS students succeed,” said Kierstan Knaus, assistant director and college counselor of the Jackson Get2College Center. “Collaboration is a hallmark of our work in communities across the state, and the success of this effort is evidence that students benefit tremendously when organizations can work together on targeted initiatives like the FAFSA Challenge.”

Student leaders at Murrah High School, Provine High School, and Callaway High School were presented with checks of \$1,000 to recognize the achievements of each school. Seventy-six percent of Murrah seniors and fifty-two percent of Callaway seniors completed the FAFSA giving the schools the highest completion rates in the district, according to data from the U.S. Department of Education. The data also showed that Provine had the highest percentage increase in FAFSA completions among seniors. According to student level data, JPS had a completion rate of more than 75 percent, which exceeded the state average.

“We are very enthusiastic about the success of the FAFSA Challenge efforts for Jackson Public Schools,” said McHale. “The lessons learned through this project will help us identify ways to invest our institutional resources to increase college access, persistence, and completion for all Mississippians.”

JPS receives MDE audit report

Mississippi Link Newswire

On August 31, the Jackson Public School District received the results from a full investigative audit of 58 schools from the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). The audit took place from September 6, 2016 through July 31, 2017.

According to MDE, JPS is in violation of 24 out of the 32 standards that all Mississippi

public school districts are required to meet.

In August 2014, The Commission on School Accreditation directed MDE to conduct the full investigative audit of all 58 schools in JPS. The investigative audit was launched after a limited district audit of 22 schools cited deficiencies related to school safety and instructional practices.

MDE's Office of Accreditation will present the evidence to the Commission on School Accreditation. The commission will have to determine whether an extreme emergency exists in the school district. The Commission will hold a meeting on September 13.

The Board of Trustees, interim superintendent and administrative leaders of the school

district are carefully reviewing the nearly 700-page report. The district looks forward to the opportunity to address these findings September 13.

If the Commission makes any recommendations at this meeting, the recommendations will be presented to the Mississippi State Board of Education at the Board's regularly scheduled meeting September 14.

The Mississippi Link™

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Tougaloo College professor's study slated for publication

Study: Differential roles of 3-Hydroxyflavone and 7-Hydroxyflavone against nicotine-induced oxidative stress in rat renal proximal tubule cells

The Mississippi Link Newswire

In the Tougaloo tradition of critical inquiry, our award-winning chemistry professor, Bidisha Sengupta, is creating a breakthrough buzz. Her passion for science lights up the classroom and the lab, inspiring our next generation of scientific dreamers – with a hunger for knowledge. And now, the implications of Sengupta's innovation are percolating in the press – with her research slated for publication in the popular global journal, PLOS ONE.

The vocabulary in the summary is specialized. But connect the key words and the big picture possibilities become clear: long term smoking, chronic exposure to nicotine, decreased renal function, chronic kidney disease, cellular protective functions, promising approach, therapeutic drugs.

Sengupta is quick to emphasize that this is still a work-in-progress. But Tougaloo knows that each promising outcome is cause for celebration – precisely because the scientific road is uncertain, with a hoped for, but hypothetical destination. Her intellectual curiosity and the discipline that drives discovery – and precedes application – exemplifies the Tougaloo legacy of seeking knowledge through multi-faceted lenses – illuminating both the uncertainty and informed creativity of the scientific process.

Research Summary by Sengupta:
Long-term smoking is asso-



Sengupta explaining research.

ciated with chronic exposure to nicotine (NIC), which results in decreased renal function and chronic kidney disease (CKD).

High concentration of NIC induces production of reactive oxygen species (ROS, O₂·-, OH· and singlet oxygen), which are generally the peroxidizing agents in vivo, causing damages to lipids in cell membranes, proteins in tissues or enzymes, carbohydrates and DNA, thereby modifying the structure, function and dynamics of these potential targets.

Although cells and tissues have evolved both enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidant systems to combat these oxidative stresses, endogenous antioxidants are not quite sufficient under conditions of extreme oxidative stress, thus making it necessary to rely on exogenous antioxidants.

In this context, plant fla-

vonoids have proved to be highly effective and are therefore gradually emerging as viable alternatives to conventional drugs for various free radical mediated diseases. Flavonoids are abundant in common plant-based foods and beverages such as citrus fruits, apples, strawberries, soy products, onions, broccoli, teas and red wines, and they contain one or more aromatic hydroxyl (-OH) groups, which play an important role in the antioxidant activity.

However, the exact mechanism by which the -OH groups in the flavonoids act on their binding sites is still unclear. In the present study, critical insights on the mechanism of the therapeutical roles of the flavones are obtained by using two flavone prototypes, 3-hydroxyflavone (3-HF) and 7-hydroxyflavone (7-HF), against nicotine-associated oxidative stress and injury in

cultured renal proximal tubule cells and correlate their antioxidant properties with their chemical structure.

The data clearly demonstrates, for the first time, that while both 3HF and 7HF protect renal cells from NIC-associated cytotoxicity, the mechanism of their action is different.

The uniqueness of this study lies in the fundamentals of understanding the mechanism of cellular protective functions of a single hydroxyl group in flavone, and the importance of its position in the structure.

The wide applications of this promising approach would likely open an avenue for the screening and design of the most suitable flavonoid derivatives among other structural variants of this new generation of rapidly emerging potential therapeutic drugs.

Hinds CC Utica campus to unveil renovated J. Louis Stokes Student Center

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds Community College's Utica campus held a ceremony Aug. 31 to officially re-open the student center.

The J. Louis Stokes Student Center, a 21,066-square-foot facility, is open to students, staff and the public. It houses computer labs, student services offices, the campus bookstore and dining areas.

Speakers for the ceremony included Hinds President Clyde Muse, Utica Campus Vice President Tyrone Jackson, Hinds Community College Board of Trustees President Paul Breazeale and Alexis Williamson, president of the Utica Campus Student Government Association.

Renovations on the building began October 2013 with the first of three phases, which concluded this summer. The \$5 million proj-

ect was funded by the Title III, Part B Strengthening HBCUs funding formula.

"The third phase was the addition," said project architect Bill Campbell. "We gutted the entire first floor and put on additions to three sides of it to increase student dining, to create a student lounge space and create an enlarged kitchen and dining area."

The student center on the Utica Campus was dedicated March 19, 1998, to J. Louis Stokes, the sixth and final president of Utica Junior College. Stokes held the position during the college's merger with the Hinds Junior College District in 1982. From 1987-1993, he was vice president for continuing education and community services. From 1993 until his retirement in 1997, he served as executive assistant to the president for special projects.

USM professor earns competitive grant to conduct alzheimer's disease research

By Rachel James-Terry
jsumsnews.com

Vijay Rangachari, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at The University of Southern Mississippi, was recently awarded one of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) most competitive grants, the Research Project Grant or R01. This grant will enable him to further his research on Alzheimer's disease.

According to the NIH website, the R01 is the oldest grant available. These grants are designed to support health-related research and development. Rangachari is the only researcher at USM to have been awarded a R01.

"This award will significantly help in forwarding the discoveries we have made, and will allow us to make further new exciting ones," said Rangachari.

His research is focused on better understanding how Alzheimer's disease affects the brain by working to understand the mechanisms by which toxic amyloid deposits are formed in the brains of Alzheimer disease patients.

In Alzheimer's disease, a protein in the brain called 'amyloid-beta' changes shape or misfolds, then comes together to form clumps or amyloid aggregates within the brain. These clumps kill the neurons and lead to acute memory impairment in Alzheimer's disease patients.

"This particular project focuses on identifying the shapes and structures of those toxic amyloid aggregates. By identifying the specific shapes and identifying the way they propagate, one can understand the mechanism by which they kill the neurons and spread the pathology within the brain", said Rangachari.

USM graduate student Dexter Dean has been working in Rangachari's lab for the last four years. He explained that while there are two particular types of proteins which cause Alzheimer's disease, the protein they are researching, amyloid beta, often also causes restricted blood flow in the brain leading to ischemic stroke among Alzheimer patients.

The goal of Rangachari's research is to further understand what



Rangachari

and how these are happening in Alzheimer patients.

"This will give us insights into how this is happening which will help later on to develop a drug based on this mechanism," said Rangachari. "Unless you know what is happening, you cannot intervene."

Rangachari is grateful to the Mississippi IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) for its support of his work. "The funding from INBRE has enormously helped in developing the critical preliminary data needed to put forward this grant," he said.

Mississippi INBRE, directed by Mohamed Elasmri, associate dean and professor in the Southern Mississippi College of Science and Technology, is a statewide program supported by an award from the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences.

Mississippi INBRE's mission is to enhance the biomedical foundation in Mississippi, and reach out to its residents in order to improve health throughout the state. It also seeks to engage talented researchers and students in biomedical research projects to increase the state's research competitiveness and positively impact the health of citizens of the state.

For more information about Mississippi INBRE, visit, www.ms-inbre.org.

For information about the USM Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, including more on Rangachari's work at the university, visit <https://www.usm.edu/chemistry-biochemistry>.

Hinds CC Agriculture Department to host Sept. 21 reunion, get-together

The Mississippi Link Newswire

RAYMOND – Hinds Community College opened its doors for the first time in September 1917 with a handful of students and a couple of programs, including agriculture, that were key to Mississippi then and continues to be true today.

Hinds will celebrate 100 years of community inspired service in the Agriculture program with a reception and dinner that will reunite alumni from a variety of programs associated with the Agriculture Department and spotlight some of the community and business partners.

The Agriculture Department celebration is 6 p.m. Sept. 21 at the T.H. Kendall III Agriculture Complex. The evening begins with a mix and mingle reception at the Sale Barn and continues with a dinner at McKenzie Arena, both off Seven Springs Road in Raymond.

For more information, contact Wayne Boshart, 601.857.3583, Melissa Washburn at 601.857.3334 or mcwashburn@hindsc.edu. Also see the Hinds Community Col-

lege Facebook page.

Roger Jones, who has worked in the Hinds Agriculture Department since 1970 and is now chair, keeps tabs on many of his former students but is hoping to reconnect with some of the alumni he hasn't heard from in a while. Among the goals of the reunion is to begin a new alumni chapter.

"This is a chance for them to come back, be able to reflect on a lot of things and maybe help us get some ideas on the future of the Ag program," he said. "I personally would like to invite former students from agribusiness management, veterinary technology, meat merchandising, the former agriculture diesel program, the former food processing technology program and the academic transfer students who majored in programs in agriculture, pre-vet and forestry. Our student organizations such as agriculture club and the livestock judging teams drew students from all these areas."

He also envisions better connections with those who work in companies that cater to agriculture, such as feed, seed, equipment and chemicals, as

a way to help his students get jobs.

The role of agriculture at the college can be traced to the start of the college itself in 1917, as an agricultural high school. The school operated a farm for both instruction as well as a source of food for the cafeteria. Students had tuition paid in exchange for working on the farm. Initially, eggs, milk, meat and vegetables were produced and processed by the department.

Expansion starting in the 1960s, coupled with changes in agribusiness technology, have transformed what the department produces, but not its importance to the college and, by extension, sustained agriculture as the state's biggest economic driver.

The 1970s brought the start of animal technology programs, and agribusiness was added to the curriculum.

In 1983, the first phase of a \$2.6 million complex on Seven Springs Road was completed. It houses the college's Billie Banes Livestock Evaluation Center, more commonly known as simply the Bull Test Station, Mississippi's first

such public bull test facility; McKenzie Arena, which houses multiple special events put on by the ag program; holding facilities and a sales arena for livestock; and classroom space for the veterinary technology and landscape technology programs.

Further innovation in the 21st century's opening decades has introduced the growing field of precision agriculture to Hinds. Students in the college's unmanned aerial systems program train to assist the farmers of today and tomorrow use technology to decide what to plant and where, variable rates of application of fertilizers and liming materials, as well as to determine irrigation strategies and pest control.

Another recently added program is the poultry option under agribusiness, which in May had its first three graduates.

"Adding new programs and updating existing curriculum is a constant need, one that Hinds alumni can help accomplish with their input, Jones said. "We are constantly trying to revise programs," he said.

Sanderson Farms internship gives Hinds CC Utica Campus student something to squawk about

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hard work and determination go a long way when you begin your career with that belief. At the age of 19, Utica Campus sophomore Khadejah Summers is ready to put that theory to the test.

Summers, a Port Gibson native studying plant soil science, completed a 10-week summer internship at Sanderson Farms in Hazlehurst learning the ins and outs of producing, processing and positioning poultry for consumer consumption.

The internship required 10 weeks of work, broken down into specified sections. As an intern, Summers received training and rotated through several divisions, from live production, to processing and then onto foods. She also received a mentor to guide her through the internship.

She was paid for 40 hours a

week, received regular feedback and evaluations plus an opportunity to advance into Sanderson Farms’ beginning trainee program. Among the processes she learned about were preparing the poultry, including evisceration and deboning and packing and shipping the products.

“This internship was the first job I have ever had. I loved it and learned so much. There is so much opportunity at Sanderson Farms. Everybody there is family and they made me feel at home. Some things I liked were shipping and packaging. Some things, not as much, such as – evisceration. But I truly enjoyed my summer with them and hope to go back next year,” Summers said.

Summers hopes to one day teach plant soil science on a college level.



Summers

MSU-hosted data summit features major policymakers, leaders



Mississippi Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, MSU President Mark E. Keenum, NSPARC Executive Director Domenico “Mimmo” Parisi, and Mississippi Speaker of the House Philip Gunn pose for a picture following Reeves’ keynote speech at the inaugural ‘Mississippi – A Data Driven State’ summit in 2016, held at Mississippi State University. PHOTO BY RUSS HOUSTON

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Data-driven planning and development, data science, and the value of using data to inform solid policy will take center stage Sept. 15 at the second annual Data Summit, hosted by the National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center (NSPARC) at Mississippi State University.

Sessions at the summit will cover a variety of topics, including how data can transform student progress in early education, help build “smart cities” and guide job seekers into fulfilling careers.

Legislators and representatives from multiple agencies, businesses and organizations, including some from outside of Mississippi, will meet at The Mill Conference Center, 600 Russell St., in Starkville for a full day of presentations, panel discussions, product demonstrations and breakout sessions – all focused on the undeniable value of data in economic and education decision-making.

“We are happy to welcome back old friends and to meet some new faces as we work collaboratively to use data-driven solutions to improve the quality of life for Mississippians and beyond,” said NSPARC Executive Director Domenico “Mimmo” Parisi. “Unlike opinions or personal biases, data have the best potential for leading to innovative answers to a wide variety of challenges, and it’s exciting to see a data-driven approach being embraced.”

Elected officials scheduled to attend the 2017 Data Summit include 3rd District Congressman Gregg Harper, R-Miss.; Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives Philip Gunn; Rep. John Moore, chair of the Mississippi House Education Committee; Rep. Angela Cockerham, chair of the Mississippi House Energy Committee; Rep. Chris Johnson; and Cecil Brown, Public Service Commissioner.

Gunn will share the morning keynote address, Harper will be

the lunch keynote speaker, and Parisi will give the final keynote address in the afternoon.

Other scheduled speakers include public agency leaders, including Mark Henry, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security; Kevin Cook, CEO of the University of Mississippi Medical Center; Craig Orgeron, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services; John Q. Porter, CIO of the Mississippi Department of Education; and Mike Mulvehill, associate superintendent of MDE.

Key speakers from the business world include Stephen Bye, president of C Spire and Breck DeWitt from Dell.

Other special guests include Andy Van Kleunen, CEO of the National Skills Coalition; Quentin Suffren, director of next generation learning for the Foundation of Excellence in Education; and Patrick Sullivan, president of the Missis-

sippi Energy Institute.

The Data Summit is free to attend, but registration is required by Sept. 10. For registration and additional information, including a full list of sponsors, visit datasummit.nsparc.msstate.edu, and follow the summit on Twitter with #msdatasummit2017.

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

About NSPARC

The National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center (NSPARC) at Mississippi State University is where information meets innovation. The center is committed to making positive impacts in people’s lives through practical solutions based on data science.

At NSPARC, scholars and professionals from diverse backgrounds work together to examine 21st century challenges that affect Mississippi, the United States, and the world.

For more information, visit nsparc.msstate.edu.

Clinton Public School District Key Communicator

DOVE Award

Congratulations to Student Database Manager Sharon Tompkins, recipient of the Dedication of Our Valued Employees — or DOVE — customer service award for the month of August. Tompkins worked tirelessly throughout the summer helping CPSD parents register their children online and into the start of the fall semester helping schools manage student info in PowerSchool. She handled this heavy workload with grace and a smile, providing excellent customer service to everyone she worked with. Congratulations and thank you for all you do. Go Arrows!



Tompkins

We are now accepting nominations for the DOVE Award for the 2017-18 school year. To nominate a CPSD employee for this award, please click here: <https://www.clintonpublicschools.com/cms/module/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=129>

Showchoir Camps of America



Sixteen members of Clinton High School’s Attaché Show Choir attended Showchoir Camps of America at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. More than 700 participants from across the nation attended the show choir camp in June.

Attaché members who attended the camp are (front row, from left) Asia Smith, Elizabeth Wilson, Mary Madison Pevey, Rachel Darnell, Mattie Pierce, Zuri Williams, Caroline Prather, and Katie Crawford; (back row, from left) Morgan Washam, Isaiah Johnson, Jack Loom, Jack Hill, Wesley Thomas, and Brandon Cox. Members not pictured are Davis Turner and John Middleton.

Swim Team Honors

Congrats to the Clinton Arrow Swim Team boys and girls who won or placed in the Arrow Invitational Swim Meet this weekend at Lakeland Courthouse. Results include:

Kaylee Goff placed 3rd in the girls 100 yard freestyle and 2nd in the girls 200 yard freestyle.

Timothy Morrow placed 2nd in the boys 200 yard freestyle and 3rd in the boys 100 yard butterfly.

Jordan Shannon placed 2nd in the boys 50 yard freestyle and 3rd in the boys 100 yard freestyle.

Brady Swann placed 1st in the boys 100 yard freestyle.

Kirby Berch, Brady Swann, Timothy Morrow, and Jordan Shannon placed 2nd in the boys medley relay and 3rd in the boys 200 yard freestyle relay.

Congratulations to all of our Arrow Swimmers and Coaches, and Go Arrows.

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NIH budget cuts will damage ‘The American System’

By Sandip Shah and Joe Black
Market Access Solutions

The Trump administration is pushing for dramatic cutbacks at the National Institutes of Health. The proposed \$5.8 billion cut from the agency’s annual \$32 billion budget would translate into 5,000 to 8,000 fewer grants per year for basic medical research.

But the impact of such cuts would actually be much broader, totaling \$15 billion in lost economic activity and 90,000 jobs lost nationwide.

That’s because NIH isn’t an isolated entity; it’s a hub of public-private partnerships. Without sufficient funding, these partnerships would dissolve and America would lose an essential catalyst to biomedical innovation.

The idea for a new cure often begins in an NIH lab. In the 90s, NIH research on genes and molecules led to the development of Gleevec, a chemotherapy drug that targets a signaling molecule inside cells, preventing them from turning cancerous and multiplying. It’s now on the World Health Organization’s List of Es-

COMMENTARY

sential Medicines. As recently as June, NIH researchers announced that they may have found the genetic cause of Cushing’s syndrome, a major hormonal disorder.

NIH research results can lead to a wide range of potential medicines, but they don’t turn into new drugs and therapies automatically. Actually, only a very limited set of medicines trace their roots directly to government funding. A 2011 study found that although 48 percent of medicines approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration from 1988 to 2005 cited a public-sector patent or publication, only 9 percent of the medicines were patented by public-sectors.

That’s because government research tends to be early stage – it’s often not specific enough to yield an actual experimental molecule. Rather, private sector investment and development of the basic research is critical towards creating innovative medicines and making them accessible

to patients. Bringing a drug to market is an arduous process. On average, it takes \$2.6 billion and 12 years of research and testing to bring a new drug to the pharmacy shelf. The NIH will never have sufficient resources to complete to this process – but the private sector does. It can funnel resources into the development and testing of new proposed medications.

To ensure that its discoveries don’t linger as laboratory curiosities but instead eventually become new medicines, the NIH is increasingly working hand-in-hand with biopharmaceutical companies. For instance, the NIH’s “Discovering New Therapeutic Uses for Existing Molecules” program matches researchers with compounds to test ideas for new applications. Eight biopharmaceutical companies, including giants AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly, and GlaxoSmithKline, participate in the program.

These partnerships kindle medical innovation. The combination of basic NIH research and applied R&D by biotech companies helps develop 75 percent of the most innovative new drugs annually. The success of these private-public partnerships shouldn’t be surprising. Public research has spurred the private sector to develop innovative products in a range of industries. Consider the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Its work in the digital realm launched the internet. Companies like Amazon, Skype and Netflix have built on this achievement to create products and applications that many of us would now struggle to live without.

American innovation is built on public-private partnerships. Cutting the NIH budget isn’t even penny-wise, though it certainly would be pound-foolish. The true cost of these budget “savings” is much too high.

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

Joe Black is a director at Market Access Solutions.

National Medical Association statement on Hurricane Harvey

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Dear NMA Membership, The recent devastation from Hurricane Harvey in the Houston area have impacted all of us in some way, whether it is concern about family, friends, and patients, or a reminder for some who have experienced a similar natural disaster. The impact of the severe flooding, displacement of families, and resulting dangerous conditions on our practices, patients, family and friends is tremendously troubling. While we are uncertain of the overall number of those directly or indirectly affected by the impact of this natural disaster we stand ready to assist wherever needed.

Heavy rains have subsided and the true extent of the devastation is under evaluation. Many families have lost all personal possessions. As an organization, we offer our unwavering support to those impacted by this disaster in the form of aid and assistance with the necessary services needed to return to pre-Hurricane Harvey conditions. We are reaching out to our Region V leaders and our State and local affiliates to coordinate the needed assistance. I ask all members of NMA and our Auxiliary (ANMA) to be sensitive to the needs and concerns of our local, State and Regional members and their constituents in need.

As the full scope of assistance needed continues to be determined, we await the assessment by the mayor, governor of Texas, our regional, state and local contacts to make recommendations on where and what services we can offer. We are ready to coordinate donations or in-kind services through the NMA headquarters in conjunction with Region V and our State and local societies.

NMA will coordinate assistance with Locum Tenens and other relocation job opportunities. The Houston Medical Forum, a proud member of the NMA family, is currently accepting donations on behalf of victims. When donating please indicate on memo line “for Hurricane Harvey victims.”

Also, Healthcare Ready, a non-profit that works to ensure patient access to healthcare, including medicines, during times of disaster has activated RxOpen map, a free interactive map to show open and closed pharmacies in the region affected by Hurricane Harvey.

We ask you to continue to pray for comfort, safety, and peace of mind for all who have been impacted by this natural disaster. Please reach out to anyone you know in the area and offer assistance as this is going to be a long process of recovery.

Sincerely,
Doris Browne, MD, MPH
118th president of the National Medical Association

Forrest General Hospital’s September support group meetings, classes and events

Mississippi Link Newswire

Bereavement Support Group
Tuesday, September 19
11:30 a.m.

Highland Community Hospital Cafeteria Meeting Room
130 Highland Parkway, Pica-yune, Mississippi

The Bereavement Support Group is for individuals who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The meetings occur on the first and third Tuesday of every month and are free to the public. The first meeting of the month is held at the Asbury Hospice House, 304 South 40th Avenue, and the second meets at the cafeteria meeting room at Highland Community Hospital in Picayune, Mississippi. *For more information, call 601-288-2500.*

Better Breathers Support Group
Wednesday, September 20
12 p.m.

Forrest General’s LiveWell Center
Cloverleaf Medical Plaza (next to Wal-Mart)

5909 Highway 49, Suite 40

The Better Breathers Support Group gives patients, families and friends an opportunity to gather and share information about Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), as well as other breathing disorders. COPD includes conditions such as emphysema, asthma and chronic bronchitis. The group also has access to informational resources and speakers who are knowledgeable about the special needs of people with breathing disorders. The meetings occur on the third Wednesday of every month and are free to the public. Call 601-288-1951.

Brave Brilliant and Resilient
Tuesday, September 26

4 p.m.
Forrest General Cancer Center Brave, Brilliant and Resilient, the Forrest General Cancer Center Support Group, welcomes current patients and caregivers to talk with and support other cancer patients and caregivers. Each month a new topic will be presented and an open discussion will follow. The group meets once per month from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the Forrest General Cancer Center in the first floor conference room. For more information or to RSVP, contact Ellen Holbrook, RN, at 601-288-1743

Forrest General’s Family Birthplace Classes

Family Birthplace Classes are held in Forrest General’s Spirit of Women Conference Room at 28th Place, 421 South 28th Avenue. All classes last only one session except for the Childbirth Preparation Course, which lasts for two sessions or a longer Saturday session. Classes can be repeated. Classes are free for those delivering at Forrest General or \$25 for others who wish to attend, except the Saturday Childbirth Preparation Class, which is \$50. Please call to register, as space is limited. To register or for more information and verification of class locations, dates and times, call FGH OnCall at 1-800-844-4445 or visit forrest-general.com.

Childbirth Preparation Course

Prepares participants for labor and delivery and offers a tour of the Family Birthplace.

Classes meet for two weeks on Thursday from 6-8:30 p.m.

September 7 and 14

Saturday Childbirth Preparation Course

Prepares participants for labor and delivery and offers a tour of the Family Birthplace.

Meets Saturday from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

September 9

Breastfeeding Class

Provides details about breastfeeding for expectant and new moms, as well as breastfeeding mothers who are having difficulty nursing or have questions.

Meets Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

September 26

Forrest General’s Fitness for Two Classes

The Mommie & Me classes give mothers and their babies the opportunity to interact and exercise together using music, movement, story and rhyme. Topics for moms include parenting suggestions, relationship navigation and child development guidelines. From the first year until toddler years, children are developing social, language, cognitive and motor skills for the next season of life. The six week session charge is \$30. All classes meet at the Spirit of Women Conference Room in 28th Place, 421 South 28th Avenue.

To register or for more information on the following classes, call FGH OnCall at 1-800-844-4445. Register online at www.forrestgeneral.com/fitness4two.

Mommie & Me – The First Year

First year mothers can share stories about their first-year experiences as they learn developmental milestones for their babies.

Meets Monday mornings for six weeks, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

September 13 – October 18

Mommie & Me—Just Movin’

Just Movin’ is geared toward the early walkers, often 11 to 22 months old. Children experience activities that will develop physical, mental and social skills.

Meets Monday mornings for six weeks, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

September 11 – October 16

Mommie & Me – The Toddler Years

The Toddler Years class is the perfect launch into pre-school. Moms and their toddlers, age 22 months to three years, learn and grow while making great memories.

Meets Tuesday mornings for six weeks, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

September 12 – October 17

Coach’s Corner

This one-session class teaches labor and delivery, breathing techniques and the coach’s role throughout the childbirth experience. The coach and mother-to-be attend together. Curriculum benefits pregnancy first-times, as well as repeaters. An optional tour of Forrest General is included. Coach’s Corner is free for pregnancy exercise program participants.

Meets once a month, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Monday, September 18

Pregnancy Exercise Program

In a support group environment, the classes combine walking, strengthening, stretching and isolation exercises with education topics such as breathing techniques, discomfort releases, labor and delivery preparation and postpartum recovery. Program includes one free Coach’s Corner class.

Meets each Monday for six weeks, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

September 11 – October 16

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

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A series of free educational sessions will provide the community with valuable information on the Medicare and related programs

Forrest General Hospital is hosting an educational session to answer questions and provide information about Medicare.

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

“We encourage people in the community to attend one of our Educational Sessions. We wel-

come the opportunity to share information and explain the different plans that are available. This also allows us to answer questions to help participants understand how Medicare and other plans work together to pay medical claims and prescription drug purchases,” said Pat Riley, director of insurance operations

at Forrest General.

The next meeting will be located at 106 Madison Plaza, Suite A in Hattiesburg September 12 at 10 a.m.

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

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For more information please call:
601-896-0084
or e-mail:
jlinkads@bellsouth.net

How Mississippians can help Texas in Harvey recovery

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency has received an outpouring of requests from generous residents and businesses around the state about how to help Texans in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. There are many questions, rumors and offers circulating across social media outlets so MEMA has compiled the following official ways to give of your time and resources.

To donate to relief efforts

The most effective way to support disaster survivors in their recovery is to donate money and time to trusted, reputable, voluntary or charitable organizations.

Cash donations offer voluntary agencies and faith-based organizations the most flexibility to address urgently developing needs. With cash in hand, these organizations can obtain needed resources nearer to the disaster location. This inflow of cash also pumps money back into the local economy and helps local businesses recover faster.

Please do not donate unsolicited goods such as used clothing, miscellaneous household items, medicine or perishable foodstuffs at this time. When used personal items are donated, the helping agencies must redirect their staff away from providing direct services to survivors in order to sort, package, transport, warehouse, and distribute items that may not meet the needs of disaster survivors.

Donate through a trusted organization. At the national level, many voluntary-, faith- and community-based organizations are active in disasters,

and are trusted ways to donate to disaster survivors. Individuals, corporations, and volunteers, can learn more about how to help on the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) website.

In addition to the national members, The Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (Texas VOAD) has a list ofvetted disaster relief organizations providing services to survivors. Texas VOAD represents more than three dozen faith-based, community, nonprofit and non-governmental organizations.

To personally volunteer in the disaster areas

The State of Texas is asking volunteers to not self-deploy, as unexpectedly showing up to any of the communities that have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey will create an additional burden for first responders. The National VOAD has also noted the situation may not be conducive to volunteers entering the impacted zone and individuals may find themselves turned away by law enforcement.

To ensure volunteer safety, as well as the safety of disaster survivors, volunteers should only go into affected areas with a specific volunteer assignment, proper safety gear and valid identification.

At this time, potential volunteers are asked to register with a voluntary or charitable organization of their choice, many of which are already in Texas and supporting survivors on the ground.

The National and Texas VOAD websites are offering links to those who wish to register to volunteer

with community- and faith-based organizations working in the field.

Most importantly, please be patient. Although the need is great, and desire to help strong, it is important to avoid donating material goods or self-deploying to help until communities are safe and public officials and disaster relief organizations have had an opportunity to assess the damage and identify what the specific unmet needs are.

Volunteer generosity helps impacted communities heal from the tragic consequences of disasters, but recovery lasts much longer than today. There will be volunteer needs for many months, and years, after the disaster, so sign up now.

FEMA jobs

There are a lot of questions and rumors about FEMA job postings for Harvey. If you're interested in getting involved in the response, we want to make sure you're working through trustworthy sources. To verify, please visit the rumors section of our Hurricane Harvey page: <https://www.fema.gov/hurricane-harvey>.

If you'd like to help out the FEMA mission as a temporary hire, visit: <https://careers.fema.gov/hurricane-harvey>

The Mississippi State Emergency Operations Center is staffed and monitoring conditions and requests for resources both in and out of our state.

MEMA will provide updates as information becomes available. The best way to get up-to-date information during this event is to "Like" MEMA on Facebook, or "Follow" us on twitter @msema.

Habitat for Humanity seeking homeowner applicants



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area (HFHMCA) is a non-profit Christian organization whose purpose is to build and sell decent and affordable housing to families who need better housing.

HFHMCA is currently accepting applications for individuals and families interested in becoming part of the Habitat home ownership program in Madison, Hinds and Rankin counties. Informational meetings have been scheduled as follows:

September 2017

September 7, 5:30 p.m., Jackson Medical Mall

September 13, 12 noon, HFHMCA Offices at 615 Stonewall Street, Jackson, MS

September 30, 10 a.m., HFHMCA Offices at 615 Stonewall Street, Jackson, MS

October 2017

October 5, 5:30 p.m., Jackson Medical

Mall

October 14, 10 a.m., HFHMCA Offices at 615 Stonewall Street, Jackson, MS

October 18, 12 noon, HFHMCA Offices at 615 Stonewall Street, Jackson, MS

November 2017

November 8, 5:30 p.m., Jackson Medical Mall

November 16, 12 noon, HFHMCA Offices at 615 Stonewall Street, Jackson, MS

December 2017

December 6, 5:30 p.m., Jackson Medical Mall

December 16, 10 a.m., HFHMCA Offices at 615 Stonewall Street, Jackson, MS

December 20, 12 noon, HFHMCA Offices at 615 Stonewall Street, Jackson, MS

Those unable to attend a meeting can learn more by calling 601-353-6060 or visiting www.habitatmca.org. HFHMCA is an Equal Housing Opportunity Lender.

All hunters must take HIP survey before hunting migratory birds

The Mississippi Link Newswire

If you plan on hunting any migratory bird (ex: coots, ducks, geese, brant, swans, doves, woodcock, rails, snipe, or gallinules) you are **required** by federal law to participate in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey – something most hunters do already during the purchase of a Mississippi hunting license.

If you need to take the HIP survey, you may do so by phone by contacting the Mississippi Department of Wild-

life, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) License Bureau at 601-432-2055 during normal business hours. After business hours call 1-800-5GO-HUNT. Upon completion of the survey you will be provided with a HIP confirmation number to satisfy the requirement.

Lifetime License holders and Exempt License holders are still required to take the HIP Survey.

Information from HIP surveys is used by MDWFP and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to generate reliable estimates of

hunting activity and the number of all migratory game birds harvested throughout the country. These estimates give biologists information they need to make sound decisions concerning hunting seasons, bag limits, and population management.

For more information regarding hunting and outdoors in Mississippi, visit our website at www.mdwfp.com or call us at 601-432-2400. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.



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P R E S E R V E D

Solitude: A Christian (and writer's) best friend

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“God sometimes has relationships end so he can make room for the ones he wants us to have in our lives” A few years ago, I was talking to a friend about some recent changes with some close friendships when he shared these profound words with me. He also reminded me that God will allow relationships to shift as He calls us to deeper levels of intimacy with Him. Along with these relationship shifts comes refreshing solitude which might be one way God isolates us so we can hear his voice better. In order to make room for those changes, God sometimes will allow

friendships to shift or completely end. The bible has many stories from Moses who got the Ten Commandments from God (Exodus 19:20) to Jesus praying alone in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 28:26). In these and other examples, solitude seemed to happen before an elevation in ministry. John 8:29 says, “The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.” This scripture seems to remind us that God’s presence will remain with us as we strive to live in His will. Maybe it’s because I’m a writer, but I find times of solitude or when I feel most lonely that I express myself best in my writings. What I’ve found that works best for me during those most emotional times is to take

a pen and write my feelings in a journal. It took a while, but I’ve come to embrace my seasons of solitude. I also remember a fellow writer sharing a few years back how she also struggled with feeling lonely. She noted, however, that she saw her solitude as the best choice when she wanted to write. I admired how she embraced solitude and the words of John Lubbock, “The whole value of solitude depends upon one’s self; it may be a sanctuary or a prison, a haven of repose or a place of punishment, a heaven or a hell, as we ourselves make it.” In other words, solitude is what you make it. Over the past six months, I’ve had to put this quote into practice as I found myself spending more time by myself. Some of the solitude was be-

cause of my work and school responsibilities. Other times were because I just felt the need to be alone. And for me, an extrovert who loves people and being around people, I found it odd. Now, I’ve come to relish those times where it’s just me in the presence of God. So many of us enjoy the presence of God with gospel music, but I’m learning there is a life changing peace that comes from submitting yourself to the powerful presence of God. Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

Truth will Stand!

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



God reveals truth through His Holy Spirit. The Word and Spirit go together. If we were to build a building, we could lay bricks on top of one another, but if we did not put any mortar between those bricks, they would fall. The same thing applies to truth. We can preach the truth; however, unless we add the mortar which is the Holy Spirit, the truth will not hold up. The Bible says it is appointed unto man once to die and after this is the judgment. If a man refuses God’s truth, he chooses to live in error and sin. One day we will stand before God and be judged according to our choice: whether we accepted or rejected truth. We are going to be judged by what we did with the truth.

God gave Moses the law so that man could know His truth. Moses described God in Deuteronomy 32:4 in this way: “He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgement: A God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.” The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. First John 1:6 says, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.” Truth is revealed to any who will do His will and walk in the light. As long as we are under the Holy Spirit’s leadership, we will continue in God’s truth. Some men are leaving out the mortar: they are preaching the truth, but they are leaving out the Holy Spirit. John 14:17 states, “Even the spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him.” If we lack the

Spirit of God, we do not belong to God. We might have a form of godliness, but we are denying the power of it. The church is under the leadership and government of the Holy Spirit. Leadership goes before to show the way and to guide, and the government rules and controls. To be controlled by the Holy Spirit is evidence of His leadership. Are we willing to be led? Do we follow where He leads? When Judas betrayed Christ, he betrayed truth. My friends, when we stand on the truth we must make up our mind to endure suffering and persecution or we will not make it. Truth cost Christ His life. The Bible says the righteous shall suffer persecution. If we live and obey the truth, we will be persecuted; however, God’s grace is sufficient. We must decide to obey God rather than man. David said,

“Let me fall in the hands of God, not in the hands of man.” Why did he say that? Because God has mercy and some men do not show any mercy. The Scriptures say that heaven and earth shall pass away, but His Word shall not pass away. When we face eternity, the Word (or Truth) will judge us. Everything else in this world will be burned up, yet the truth will be standing. When we stand before God, we are going to face His truth. What are we doing with truth? Are we obeying it? First, we need to make sure that we know, what is truth? God is truth, His Word is Truth and Jesus is Truth! Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.

Pastor’s Desk Homecoming 2017

By Pastor Marcus Cheeks
Special to The Mississippi Link



Praise God for allowing us to arrive at another year of faith, family and fellowship. It is such a joy to serve God in this place with you. As we celebrate Homecoming 2017, it is my prayer that we will reflect on the goodness of God and embrace our potential through His great expectations. Serving the most High God grants us the unmerited favor to seek every blessing ordained by our heavenly father. Earlier this week the Holy Spirit raised a question within me from the book of Genesis; “Is anything too hard for the LORD?” This is a rhetorical question that implies the answer within the very question itself. Abraham and Sarah faced unsurmountable odds after being told they would have a child at an old age. Today, just as in the days of Abraham and Sarah, nothing is too hard for the Lord. Our annual homecoming celebration creates an excellent time and opportunity to witness the power of God as He moves us through each life-stirring event. Celebrating 83 years of worship has been filled with spiritual and physical challenges. But through them all, God has not failed us. “Nothing has been too hard for the Lord!” Occasionally we need to be reminded that we serve an omniscient God. He is everywhere and in everything and thanks be to God, He can do anything. This season in the life of True Light has been ordained and ordered by God. It is the will of God that we seek Him daily by acknowledging Him in all of our ways.

I encourage you to look beyond the obvious and view the possibilities that God has ordained for not only the church, but our community as well. It may appear, in the face of high crime, increased use of drugs and the breakdown of the traditional black family, that all is lost and we are aimlessly moving through life. But let me remind you, “nothing is too hard for the Lord.” As the Hebrew boys were forced into a fiery furnace, Jesus stood in the midst of the fire as a witness that, “nothing is too hard for the Lord.” As Moses stood on the banks of the Red Sea, with Pharaoh on his back, he realized that “nothing is too hard for the Lord.” As we recognize, learn to handle, and by the grace of God, overcome every test and trial, we too must understand, “nothing is too hard for the Lord.” God is moving in this place [True Light Missionary Baptist Church] and as He moves, let us embrace the steps He has ordered for our lives. We are, “The Light,” and we must work to ensure the light of the Lord does not lose its luster. This is the season the Lord has ordained to accomplish the vision. As we work to fully implement Genesis: The New Sunday School, enhance our media ministry, strengthen the teaching and preaching ministry and engage our community by spreading the gospel, we must embrace the reality that, “nothing is too hard for God.” I challenge you to not only embrace the great expectations of God, but put your arms around one another and watch God take us to higher-heights. We have been, are, and forever will be, “One In Jesus!”

Crossroads Church of God

Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



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

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

Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor
231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046
Church: 601-859-2858

REIGNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Priestley Chapel M.B. Church of Canton, Miss. cordially invites you to join them September 24, 2017 at 10 a.m. as they honor Rev. and Mrs. Robert E. McCallum for 36 years of dedicated service to Priestley Chapel. The theme is “Honoring a Visionary Leader, Leading God’s People to Greatness,” Jeremiah 3:15. The guest minister will be Rev. Wayne Moore, pastor of Mt. Olive M.B. Church of Bolton, Miss. For More Information, please call 601-761-0246.

True Light Baptist Church

224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202 | Phone: (601) 398-0915

Join Us!
for our Light Line Prayer Call
each Wednesday morning at
6:00 a.m.


The Light Line PRAYER

Rev. Marcus E. Cheeks, Pastor
Small Group Study | 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service | Sundays 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study | Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

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*The call will last only 30 minutes





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WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

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



Michael T. Williams
Pastor



The nation must come together to help Hurricane Harvey victims rebuild

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



“During difficult times like this, we’re reminded that we’re bound together and we have to look out for each other. And a lot of the things that seem important, the petty differences melt away, and we focus on what binds us together and that we as Americans are going to stand with each other in their hour of need.” – President Barack Obama

As Texas and Louisiana begin to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, our thoughts and prayers – as well as whatever donations we can spare – are with the people who were impacted. We pray for the families of those who lost their lives, and for the safety of the first responders and ordinary citizens who have risked their own lives to save others.

We in the Urban League Movement are supporting our colleagues in the region, Judson Robinson, president and CEO of the Houston Area Urban League and Erika McConduit, president and CEO of the Urban League of Louisiana, as they develop plans for the herculean task of helping their communities recover and rebuild.

The nation has responded with concern and generosity, but also with a bit of counter-productive armchair quarterbacking. It’s natural to imagine, when confronting the horror of a tragedy, that things could have been different, of only one decision or another had gone a different way.

Houston, which took the brunt of the damage, was ordered by Mayor Sylvester Turner not to evacuate. To

many watching from afar – especially after scenes of rescue by boat became commonplace, this decision seemed ill-advised. Sadly, American memories can be short, but Houstonians remember. A dozen years ago, as Hurricane Rita bore down on the city, more than 2.5 million residents tried to evacuate at the same time. More than 130 people died in the ensuing chaos, more than have been lost to any storm in Texas since 1900.

Cities face many challenges day-to-day, but when a natural disaster is bearing down, all efforts should be focused on saving lives. That’s why much of the nation reacted in horror to the news that The Border Patrol would not suspend checkpoints during the storm – deterring immigrants from seeking shelter from the storm and putting lives at risk.

Texas has passed one of the most stringent anti-immigrant laws in the nation, essentially outlawing Sanctuary City policies like Houston’s. Four days after the storm hit, a federal judge blocked enforcement while legal challenges proceed, but as it was in force during the worst of the crisis, Turner issued a personal reassurance that he would personally defend any immigrant detained as a result of seeking shelter from the storm.

The late children’s television host Fred Rogers said when he was a child and frightened by the news of disasters, “‘Always look for the helpers,’ she’d tell me. ‘There’s always someone who is trying to help.’ I did, and I came to see that the world is full of doctors and nurses, police and firemen, volunteers, neighbors and friends who are ready to jump in to help when things go wrong.”

I would challenge us to go one step further, and be the helpers.

The Charlottesville Declaration: An appeal to the Church in America

By Rev. CJ Rhodes and Jemar Tisby
Special to The Mississippi Link

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 1 Peter 4:17

In Charlottesville, Vir., the violence of white supremacy visited our nation once again; its demonic presence has not been exorcised from us. From the founding of this nation until the present hour, the idolatry of whiteness has been a pro-death spirit within our republic. It is easy for us to scapegoat the domestic terrorists who incited violence that ended in the deaths of three Americans. We can call them extremists who do not represent American values, but upon closer examination, the ideology deployed as a weapon in Charlottesville haunts every institution of the country, including the church.

Thus, it is with great concern for the soul of this nation that we, the undersigned, covenant to “cry loud and spare not” (Isaiah 58:1) against America’s national sin, beginning within the body of Christ. White supremacy – often called by many names including racism, white privilege, “alt-right” and the KKK – is an insidious doctrine that in manifold ways steals, kills and destroys the inviolable dignity of all God’s children (Genesis 1:26-28). It suppresses the truth of God (Romans 1:18), and walks out of step with the true Gospel (Galatians 2:14). All that is left for an unrepentant stance toward sin is God’s justice and judgement. Alas, many of the Lord’s followers remain hard of heart and hearing, making God’s judgement upon this nation seemingly inevitable.

Judgment begins with the household of God, which has been particularly instrumental in the creation and maintenance of racial inequity. From Puri-

tan pilgrims to Evangelical revivalists, churchmen have been seduced by the spirit of the age, calling evil good and good evil. The blood of indigenous peoples, Africans and other people of color, cries out from American soil to God our Maker. As premature calls for peace seek to silence the pregnant rage of this generation, the words of Scripture come freshly to mind: “Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division” (Luke 12:51-53).

Because of this, we do not need cheap grace, cheap peace, cheap reconciliation. We need a revival of spirit, a revolution of values, and the abundance of righteous justice in this land. Now is the time for the church to again be the moral compass for this nation. Now is the time for a prophetic, Spirit-led remnant to bear credible “word and deed” witness to the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As in the generation that preceded us, we especially call upon those born-again disciples who still cherish the authority of Scripture and the enablement of the Spirit. We declare that old time religion is still good enough for us in this new era, religion that provides us a full-orbed Gospel of evangelism and activism. May we be salt and light witnesses against the kingdom of darkness, knowing that we war not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).

To this end, we call upon white leaders and members of the Evangelical church to condemn in the strongest terms the white supremacist ideology that has long existed in the church and our society. Nothing less than a full-throated condemnation can lead to true reconciliation in the Lord’s body.

Additionally, this condemnation must not be in word only, but also in deeds that “bring forth fruits worthy of repentance” (Luke 3:8). As Dr. King notes in ‘Letter from Birmingham Jail,’ white apathy is worse than white supremacy.

We also appeal to the black church to urgently remember its historic role of living within the pastoral-prophetic tension in U.S. Christianity. We call black Christians and others back to a prophetic vocation embodied in the ministries of Lemuel Haynes, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Maria W. Stewart, Richard Allen, Charles Price Jones, Charles Harrison Mason, Nannie Helen Burroughs, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary Mcleod Bethune, Fannie Lou Hamer, Gardner C. Taylor, J. Deotis Roberts, and John Perkins. Now is the time to remind the nation and ourselves of the personal and social power of the Gospel.

Lastly, we invite Christians of good will to join in reading, learning and acting on insights found in the ways in which the church both legitimated and resisted white supremacy throughout the last several centuries. Armed with saving knowledge and theological and historical truth, we can persuasively call for repentance and be repairers of the breach. White supremacy will be cast out and dismantled, God willing, by prayer and fasting. We fight for victory in the name of Jesus our Lord! Amen.

If you would like to add your name as a signer of the Charlottesville Declaration, please email: submit@raanet-work.org with your name and title as you would like them to appear.

To see a listing of everyone that has signed the Charlottesville Declaration, visit <https://www.raanetnetwork.org/charlottesville-declaration-appeal-church-america/>

Kaepernick’s protest is part of a patriotic tradition

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



Colin Kaepernick, the former quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers, is being blackballed – itself a revealing phrase – from the National Football League with the collusion of the all-white owners. He is ostracized because a year ago he exercised his First Amendment right to free speech by taking a knee during the playing of the national anthem.

Kaepernick isn’t hooked on drugs. He isn’t a felon. He hasn’t brutalized women. He is treated as a pariah because he protested the continued oppression “of black people and people of color.” He wanted, he said, to make people “realize what’s going on in this country.”

“There are a lot of things going on that are unjust, people aren’t being held accountable for, and that’s something that needs to change,” Kaepernick said.

Born in Milwaukee, Wis., one of the most racially segregated

cities in America, Kaepernick is particularly concerned about police brutality and the shocking police shootings of unarmed African Americans.

Surely his cause is just. Tens of thousands have joined peaceful demonstrations against police brutality in cities across the country. That movement, led by Black Lives Matter, put the issue of our institutionalized criminal injustice system back on the national agenda. Under President Barack Obama, the Justice Department reached agreements with dozens of police departments to change police training and tactics. There was bipartisan agreement to change racially discriminatory sentencing practices.

Kaepernick’s protest was non-violent and dignified. The San Francisco 49ers, the NFL and President Obama all agreed that it was a protected act of free speech.

Yet the owners of the NFL and their front offices have ostracized Kaepernick. No follower of the sport would question his skill level. There are 64 quarterbacks on NFL teams, many

of whom can’t hold a candle to Kaepernick. He’s ranked as the 17th best quarterback in the league. When he came back from injury last year, he started the last 11 games, racking up a 90.7 QB rating, with 16 touchdowns running and passing and only four interceptions, while playing on a team sorely lacking in talent. That rating was better than stars like Cam Newton, Philip Rivers and Eli Manning, among others.

Sports writers report that Kaepernick is loathed by the white owners and front offices, some of whom denounce him as unpatriotic. But what Kaepernick did – a dignified, nonviolent protest to raise awareness of a true and just cause – is the height of patriotism. It is the essence of democratic citizenship.

Others claim Kaepernick is excluded because he would be divisive, and teams have to be run with military discipline. But, our military has learned to succeed with people of all races,

genders, sexual preferences and political perspectives. Almost 70 percent of the players on NFL teams are African American. For most of them, Kaepernick’s protests are not as divisive as Tom Brady’s open support of Donald Trump. Last year, Kaepernick’s teammates voted to give him the annual award for “inspirational and courageous play.”

No, Kaepernick is being treated as a pariah by the private club of white owners who are terrified of controversy. They clean up big time from public subsidies – tax breaks, public contributions to stadiums, television contracts – and they tremble at anything that might disrupt the gravy train. They want to make an example of Kaepernick as a way of teaching the rest of the players a lesson, hoping to keep plantation-like control of their players.

Kaepernick stands in a proud history of African-American athletes who have used their prominence to protest racism at home and unjust wars abroad. They have chosen to speak out at the height of their powers and in their prime money-making

years. Often they have paid a high price personally, in their careers, their finances, their stature. And yet in the end, their sacrifice helped make this country better.

Muhammad Ali opposed the Vietnam War and was prosecuted for refusing to be inducted into the armed forces, stripped of his title and barred from fighting. He lost some of the best years of his boxing life, but his protest helped build the anti-war movement that eventually brought that tragic and misbegotten war to an end.

Curt Flood, an all-star centerfielder for the St. Louis Cardinals, refused to be bought and sold “like a slave.” His protest and litigation cost him much of his career, but it broke open the owners’ control of players, opened the way to free agency and transformed baseball.

Jackie Robinson broke open the racial barrier in baseball. He endured seasons of racial insult, on and off the field. His remarkable skill and character transformed baseball, and helped spur the civil rights movement. He joined Dr. King in the dem-

onstrations for civil rights. In his autobiography, “I Never Had It Made,” published just before his death, he related his own feelings about the national anthem, as it played at the beginning of his first World Series game:

“There I was, the black grandson of a slave, the son of a black sharecropper ... a symbolic hero to my people. The band struck up the National Anthem. The flag billowed in the wind. It should have been a glorious moment for me as the stirring words of the National Anthem poured from the stands. Perhaps, it was, but then again ...

“As I write this 20 years later, I cannot stand and sing the anthem. I cannot salute the flag; I know that I am a black man in a white world. In 1972, in 1947, at my birth in 1919, I know that I never had it made.”

Colin Kaepernick stands in a proud tradition. For choosing to speak out, he has been shut out. The collusion of the owners not only violates antitrust laws; it tramples basic constitutional protections. The NFL owners should be called to account, not Kaepernick.

Editorials and Letters to the Editor may be e-mailed to editor@mississippilink.com or mailed to 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. The views and opinions expressed on the Op/Ed pages are not necessarily the views and opinions of *The Mississippi Link*. *The Mississippi Link* also reserves the right to edit all material for length and accuracy.

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LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 3989

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Socrates Garrett has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to operate a Night Club with an event hall within a C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict on property located at 3645 Highway 80 W. – Suite 2000, in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Parcel 1:

Start at the Northwest corner of the SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 1 Township 5 North, Range 1 West, Hinds County, Mississippi, and run South, 1049.0976 feet; thence East 325.5026 feet to the Point of Beginning.

From the Point of Beginning run South 54 degrees 12 minutes 55 seconds West, 45.000 feet; thence South 35 degrees 47 minutes 05 seconds East, 31.333 feet; thence South 54 degrees 12 minutes 55 seconds West, 116.250 feet; thence South 35 degrees 47 minutes 05 seconds East, 572.241 feet; thence South 88 degrees 31 minutes 16 seconds East, 289.826 feet; thence along a circular curve to the left (R=308.9071feet) a chord bearing North 41 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds East, 475.791feet; thence North 09 degrees 15 minutes 02 seconds West, 566.554 feet; thence South 54 degrees 12 minutes 55 seconds West, 394.415 feet; thence North 35 degrees 47 minutes 05 seconds West, 164.333 feet; thence South 54 degrees 12 minutes 55 seconds West, 394.415; thence North 35 degrees 47 seconds 05 minutes West, 164.333 feet; thence South 54 degrees 12 minutes 55 seconds West 391.500 feet back to the Point of Beginning, said parcel being situated in the SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 1, Township 5 North, Range 1 West and in the NW ¼ of NE ¼of Section 12, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, Hinds County, Mississippi.

Parcel 2:

Those certain non-exclusive easements in Operating Agreement by and between Jackson Properties, et al. and McRae's Inc., et al., dated December 17, 1976 and filed February 18, 1977 at 11:15 A.M. in Book 2432, Page 1, being amended by First Amendment to Operating Agreement by and between Jackson Properties, et al. and McRae's Inc., et al., dated August 25, 1977 and filed September 26, 1977 at 4:50 P.M. in Book 2480, Page 337 and Second Amended recorded in Book 2485, Page 505. Without affecting the special warranty contained herein, this conveyance is subject to the liens and exceptions set forth in Permitted Exceptions attached hereto.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 25th day of August 2017.

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

9/7/2017, 9/21/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF JACKSON ZONING ORDINANCE

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in anywise affected thereby, that the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, will be conducting a public hearing on proposed text amendments to the City of Jackson Official Zoning Ordinance as adopted on May 29, 1974 and subsequently amended.

Amendments to the text of the Zoning ordinance are intended to provide for a more efficient Zoning Ordinance and establish more effective zoning regulations for each of the zoning districts. Copies of the proposed text amendments will be available for review at the Office of City Planning 200 S President Street, Suite 204, Jackson, and MS 39201. For additional information please submit an email to eainsworth@city.jackson.ms.us.

The said proposed text amendments will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this the 31st day of August, 2017.

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

9/7/2017, 9/21/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
SIGN VARIANCE FOR ORANGE THEORY FITNESS

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR ORANGE THEORY FITNESS TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

9/7/2017 9/14/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE

ZONING CASE NO. 3987

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that College Hill M. B. Church has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting five (5) Variances from the setback and parking requirements to allow for the construction of a new sanctuary, other structural improvements and to address any parking deficiencies of the property in the R-4 (Limited Multi-Family) District, for property located at 1600 Florence Ave. in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, Block H, Jackson College Addition, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof on file and of record in Plat Book 2, at Page 16, and also in Plat Cabinet A, at Slot 194, in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 25th day of August 2017.

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

9/7/2017, 9/21/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE

ZONING CASE NO. 3988

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Michael J. Paduda, III has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a front yard Variance for the construction of patio in the front yard setback of the property in the C-1A Restricted Commercial District, for property located at 3304 North State St. in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot 6 and 5 ft off the South side of Lot 5, Block 7, Gordon's Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 1, Page 96, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description..

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

A. OLD BUSINESS
- NONE

B. NEW BUSINESS
1. CASE NO. 2017-35, REQUEST BY: BYRD L. PAYNE, TO FRAME AN EXISTING DECK, ADD A ROOF AND SCREEN IN THE DECK AT 1102 LYNCREST AVE., LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT.

2. CASE NO. 2017-36, REQUEST BY: CURRY BALLARD (OWNER: DANIELLE BEARD) TO MAKE EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS BY SHIFTING A FRONT DOOR, REPLACING SIDE ENTRY DOORS WITH WINDOWS, REPLACING BRICK STEPS AND EXISTING BRICK SIDEWALK, REPLACING ROOF, REPLACE/REPAIR EXTERIOR WALLS WITH CEMENT STUCCO PLASTER AND OTHER ALTERATIONS AT 911 EUCLID AVE., LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT.

3. CASE NO. 2017-37, REQUEST BY: JOEL FYKE PROPOSE ADDITION OF LANDSCAPING, INCLUDING HARDSCAPE BRICK WALKWAY, PORCH AND FENCING AT 1335 LINDEN PLACE, LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT.

4. CASE NO. 2017-40, REQUEST BY: JAYE COLEMAN TO DEMOLISH HOMES LOCATED AT 1609 ST. ANN ST. AND 1925 LAUREL STREET IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT.

II. OTHER ITEMS
DISCUSSION
- NONE

III. ADJOURN

9/7/2017, 9/14/2017

LEGAL

Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 25th day of August 2017.

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

9/7/2017, 9/21/2017

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9/7/2017 9/14/2017

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DOLLAR GENERAL
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DOLLAR GENERAL
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707 North Congress - Jackson, MS

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RITE AID
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COMMUNITY MART
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HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
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K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
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Terry Road
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Week of September 03, 2017

Mississippi Science Fest presented by C Spire to celebrate STEM and feature Apollo 13 astronaut

Mississippi Link Newswire

The 2017 MS Science Fest (MSF) presented by C Spire, launches September 22-23 in Jackson, Mississippi's LeFleur Museum District (LMD). Leaders from all four museums of the LMD organized the event to showcase the Magnolia State's innovative science, technology, engineering and mathematic (STEM) industries and organizations. LMD is seeking coverage from all media outlets for interviews, pre-event and day-of coverage.

LMD President and Executive Director of Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum Aaron Rodgers states, "The LeFleur Museum District is incredibly excited to host the first annual Mississippi Science Fest. As educators, historians and scientists, we feel it is exceedingly important to promote STEM initiatives and activities that inspire the next generation of Mississippi innovators, engineers and visionaries."

The Mississippi Science Fest aims to engage students, families, adults and educators in a fun and interactive environment providing science education, workforce development and a glimpse into Mississippi's future. MSF will offer special exhibitors, events and programs that celebrate STEM and illustrate the vital role that Mississippians serve in these fields.

STEM-themed field trips to each museum will be held Friday, September 22. That evening at 6 p.m., Apollo 13 Astronaut and Mississippi native Fred Haise will present our keynote address at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum.

The festival will also include an Ag Tech Hackathon and a ticketed celebratory event Saturday night, Discovery Night: Journey to Space at the Mississippi Children's Museum. A full schedule of activities for the festival and tickets can be found at www.mssciencefest.org. Tickets can also be purchased September 23 at any participating museum.

C Spire, MSF's presenting sponsor, recognizes the importance of technology education and increasing Mississippi's digital literacy and technical workforce.

"At C Spire, we believe that some of the world's brightest future scientists, engineers, mathematicians and creative thinkers will come from Mississippi," said Hu Meena, C Spire CEO. "That's why we are so excited to present our home state with a festival designed to encourage technology education and inspire our future workforce."

Inspiration for the MS Science Fest

In 2016, with support and assistance from The Franklin Institute, the Mississippi Children's Museum piloted the first MS Science Fest. They hosted 23 exhibitors from across the state and over 600 visitors attended the one-day event.

Reflecting on the success, MCM President & CEO, Susan Garrard saw the evident desire from the community for this event, noting, "STEM jobs are the future of Mississippi. The Mississippi Science Fest is a great way to expose children to educational concepts in an exciting and engaging



Lt. Governor Tate Reeves



Jackson Mayor Antar Lumumba

way, as well as provide them examples of STEM-centered career paths they may have not had the opportunity to ever consider."

This year the festival has been significantly expanded to include events throughout the LMD, which includes the Mississippi Children's Museum, the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum.

A study from the Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America (ASTRA) predicts an 11 percent increase in STEM job opportunities in Mississippi be-

tween 2015 and 2024.

MSF and its partners believe it is vital for children and families to experience STEM education on a level that challenges and encourages them to explore further. The nationally regarded Science Festival Alliance's evaluation data illustrates the importance of festival attendees interacting with STEM professionals. This interaction dramatically increases interest and knowledge in science among attendees. MSF will also work to create opportunities for STEM professionals to gain exposure and become more deeply involved with their community.

District hosts Founder's Day



Mississippi Link Newswire

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District hosted Founders Day in commemoration of the District's 144 years of service to the nation.

This event celebrates the founding of the Vicksburg district by Capt. William Henry Harrison Benyaard on August 18, 1879. The Corps of Engineers has maintained a continuous presence in Vicksburg.

Col. Michael C. Derosier, Commander of the Vicksburg District, opened the ceremony with remarks about the District and its team members.

"Communication is key, but there is also another element that is very evident in the District, and is very present in the room today. It is a passion for excellence, it is a passion for our mission and it is a passion for what we do," he said.

The district started the ceremony by inducting four new members into its Gallery of Distinguished Employees. The recipients were Robert L. Flemming, Douglass J. Kamien, Glenn O. Oliver and Larry Harper. Tisha Parker, daughter of the late Larry Harper and Harper's grand-

children were present to accept his award and speak on his behalf.

Parker stated how Harper felt about the Corps and how much he loved his job. "The Corps of Engineers was his second family," she said.

The Vicksburg District recognized team members with 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 55 years of service. Willie J. Davis was recognized for his 55 years of service in the Government of the United States of America.

The ceremony concluded with a cake cutting with a saber, held by Col. Michael C. Derosier, the senior serving member Willie J. Davis, and newest serving member Kimberly Day.

The District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers encompasses a 68,000-square-mile area across portions of Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana that holds seven major river basins and incorporates approximately 460 miles of mainline levees. The district is engaged in hundreds of projects and employs approximately 1,000 people.

To learn more about the Vicksburg District, visit our website. www.mvk.usace.army.mil

Hundreds of cyclists will ride toward a World Free of MS at Bike MS: Mississippi 150

Mississippi Link Newswire

More than 150 cyclists are expected to raise over \$65,000 to help people affected by MS at Bike MS: Mississippi 150, a 2 day, up to 150-mile journey with route options for all levels of cyclists. The ride takes place October 7-8 in Ridgeland along the beautiful backroads of the Mississippi countryside and along the famous and scenic Natchez Trace just as the fall foliage begins to turn.

Bike MS, hosted by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, attracts nearly 100,000 participants nationwide in more than 80 rides. To date, Bike MS cyclists, volunteers, sponsors and donors have raised more than \$1 billion so people affected by MS can live their best lives as we stop MS in its tracks, restore what's been lost, and end MS forever.

Bike MS includes people living with MS, their friends, families and neighbors, as well as corporate teams and individuals who are driven to support critical MS

research and life-changing services for people living with MS.

People living with MS can also participate in "I Ride with MS," a special program supported nationally by Biogen and Primal that recognizes Bike MS cyclists living with the disease.

Bike MS is supported nationally by premier National Sponsors Bicycling Magazine and Primal, the apparel provider of Bike MS.

When: October 7 - 8, 2017

Where: Start/Finish Line - Embassy Suites Ridgeland, 200 Township Ave., Ridgeland, MS 39157

Participation/volunteer registration: bikeMS.org, 855-372-1331 or fundraisingsupport@nmss.org.

Why: Bike MS brings people together as individuals and as teams to conquer a challenge and share an unforgettable experience with friends, family and coworkers - while raising money to make a difference in the lives of people affected by

MS.

Hashtags: #bikeMS and #DontJustRideAbout Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are leading to better understanding and moving us closer to a world free of MS. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with at least two to three times more women than men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 2.3 million worldwide.

For more information about multiple sclerosis and the National MS Society go to nationalMSSociety.org or call 800-344-4867.

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The 2017 NISSAN MURANO

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If cars can be considered works of art, then the Murano is a Picasso. The Murano is decidedly modern in its design, and while its lines are not the cubist disjointed lines of a Picasso painting, they do work together to suggest continual fluid movement.

The Murano was a head-turner when it was first launched 12 years ago. Today, line it up next to its competitors in the mid-size SUV/Crossover category (Jeep Grand Cherokee, Ford Edge, Toyota Highlander) and the more athletic, back-to-the-future styled Murano definitely stands out.

2017 Nissan Murano profileInside stands out as well, with an interior design that feels open and modern, much like a conversation lounge. The expanded center console actually plays a key part in this design. It creates extra space between the two front seats, allowing passengers in the back to have a better view of what's going on up front. Front armrests are also built directly onto the console, again, contributing to the modern feel of the vehicle.

Borrowing the "NASA-inspired zero gravity seats" from the Altima, all of the outboard passengers can ride in comfort. Also adding to the enjoyment of the refined interior is a panoramic moonroof.

The Murano comes in four trim levels. The base model S starts at \$29,560 and starts out



with BlueTooth and streaming audio, 18-inch wheels, smart key, and dual-zone climate control. For about \$10,000 more, you can move all the way up to the Platinum edition, which includes everything in the other models plus 20-inch wheels, LED headlights, climate controlled front seats, and a heated steering wheel as well as heated rear seats. In-between the

S and Platinum, leather seats, USB ports, and Bose audio get thrown in.

All Muranos are powered by a 3.5-liter V6 mated to the Xtronic continuously variable transmission (CVT). With that you get 260 horsepower and 240 lb-ft of torque.

At a time when many auto makers are opting for small turbo-charged engines, this

makes the Murano seem less modern. However, when you factor in that this vehicle will get 28 mpg on the highway, it becomes obvious that Nissan made fuel economy a priority in this new design. Even the all-wheel drive model gets the same fuel economy as the front-drive version, suggesting that Nissan found ways to lighten up without having to re-

tool for a new powertrain.

Riding on an independent strut suspension up front and a multi-link in the rear, the Murano's ride is exceptionally well-balanced for a car in this price range. Handling sits in the sweet spot of involving the driver while isolating outside noise, vibration, and harshness.

The 2017 Nissan Murano is definitely on the cutting edge

of design, both inside and out. It stands out among its competitors in the mid-size crossover category, and offers a lot of bang for the buck. It's a modernist's crossover in every sense of the word.

Editor's Note:

The 2017 Nissan Murano is a stylish choice for empty-nesters who aren't concerned with sportiness or off-road capacity.

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BOOK REVIEW:

“CUZ: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MICHAEL A.”

BY DANIELLE ALLEN

C.2017, LIVERIGH

\$24.95 / \$33.95 CANADA • 256 PAGES

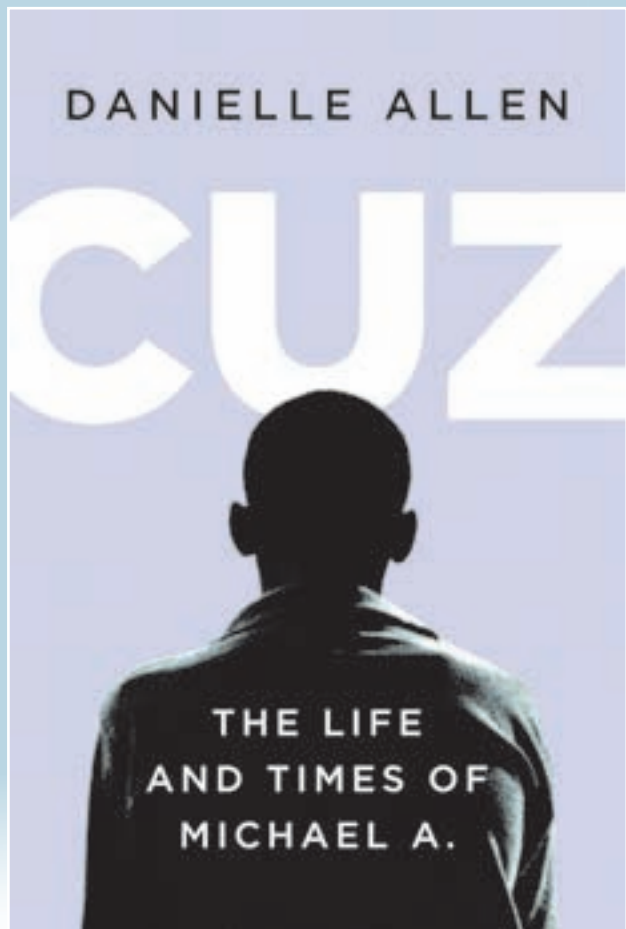
By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

It was a youthful indiscretion. A mistake made due to immaturity or naïveté. Something you did to look bigger, older, or bolder. You knew better but it shouldn’t cost you everything, should it? As in the new book “Cuz” by Danielle Allen, it shouldn’t cost you your life. He was her baby cousin. Although Danielle Allen was only eight years older than Michael, that’s how she always thought of him. He was a megawatt-smiling, introspective child with an easy-going way, a beloved mischief-maker in a huge family. She remembers when he was born.

She remembers when he died. It began when he was fifteen. Allen says that her sprawling family always watched out for one another but Michael’s mother had been raising three kids alone and she ran into some trouble. She learned that her oldest son, Nicholas, was gang-banging when she spotted him on the street. She thought she’d saved Michael from all that but when he was just fourteen, he was arrested for attempted car-jacking. California’s unique laws put him in juvenile hold, then in adult prison until he was twenty-six years old. While there, he fell in love with an imprisoned transgender woman; Allen noted the

relationship, but she figured that the woman was out of the picture when Michael was released. Being the cousin with the proper resources, Allen began helping Michael put his life together: she paid for an apartment, enrolled him in college, helped him get a job, but he couldn’t yet handle any of those things. He became depressed. He floundered. He moved in with Bree, the transgender woman. Later, Allen learned that Bree came from a world of violence that Michael couldn’t properly deal with, and that was how he died. So who did it? Allen says that she and Michael grew up with

a Do-the-Crime-Do-the-Time attitude, but she only partially lays blame on Michael’s choices. Outside forces, cultures of violence, and the system, she believes, were just as much at fault... While “Cuz” is very good and a thought-provoker, it has its problems. As a professor at Harvard University, author Danielle Allen cannot deny the effect of her job on her writing – which is something she admits. That lends an aura of authority to her story, but it can also feel lecture-like. Allen also includes Michael’s writings within her book; some were lengthy and could have benefitted from editing.



And while there are a lot of grief-raw questions left hanging in-story, readers are also left with a sense of grace and compassion from “Cuz.” Allen never points fingers, but we’re skillfully led to see what’s what. She’s rightfully angry at what happened to her cousin, but it doesn’t hide her empathy for families who endure hard-

ship to visit their imprisoned loved ones, and it doesn’t lessen her humanity toward the people whose imprisonment doesn’t make sense. That, mixed with an aching, soaring joy are what you’ll find in “Cuz,” and it’s going to make you think – hard. Can you afford to miss that? No, make no mistake.

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 Elton John

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																		X			

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



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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

			3			4
		3			5	6
		5	4	7		
1			7			9
	8			4	6	
	5					4
6		8	2	5		
		2	4	9		
			7	6		

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)

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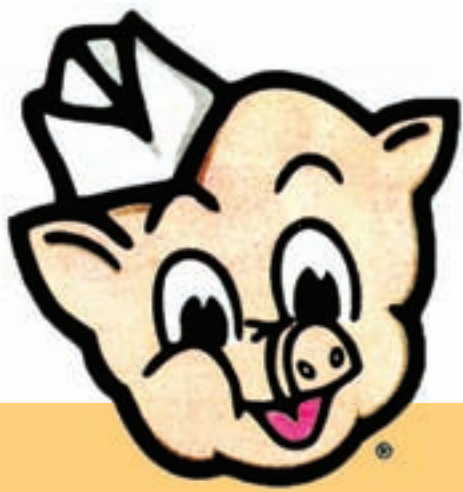
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