



## Red Sand: Addressing Modern-Day Slavery



Red Sand Project bags ready for the sidewalks. PHOTO BY AYESHA K MUSTAFAA

By Levell Williams  
Tougaloo Student Writer

Students, faculty, staff and other guests gathered in front of the historic Woodworth Chapel at Tougaloo College November 14 for the Red Sand Project press conference.

The event was hosted by the college’s Study of Modern-Day Slavery Institute. The goal was to promote awareness of the seldom recognized issue of human trafficking and mass-incarceration that affects an estimated 40 million people worldwide.

President of Tougaloo, B.W. Hogan, greeted the assembly, expressing the college’s gratitude for the privilege of hosting the Red Sand Project, a symbolic pouring of red sand between sidewalk cracks.

Tougaloo is the first HBCU to display the newest development of the project – an alarming Red Sand Earthwork, a shallow mote of red sand in the shape of the US-Mexico border. Hogan said that “it’s in [Tougaloo’s] DNA” to be a voice against such an atrocity as modern-day slavery.

Among those present were Tougaloo’s own Rukia Lumumba, activist for social equity and Derrick Johnson, president and CEO of the National NAACP. Key supporters of the event included associate professor of art Johnnie Maberry and national human rights and social justice expert/consultant

Sunny Slaughter.

Stephen Rozman, board member of the Historians Against Slavery and James Stewart, historian, whose cooperation with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation helped to fund the earthwork, were also present.

Maberry said that the Study of Modern-Day Slavery Institute gives the college a place to conceptualize student art for modern day slavery. At the ceremony, one of such artworks, Justin Ransburg’s “The Teacher’s Struggle,” was on display.

Rozman said that in all of his forty-six years of projects and grants, “this one is the most important.” The college has reached out to its fellows, such as Morehouse College, because, “The Mellon Foundation wants Tougaloo to be a model for other HBCUs,” according to Rozman.

Present also was Molly Gochman, creator of the Red Sand Project. She expressed her excitement for the Red Sand Earthwork’s completion. “I think [Tougaloo] is the perfect place,” she said.

She explained that five years ago, organizations kept telling her that awareness was the primary issue in modern-day slavery. Now, her Red Sand Project has spread to all fifty states and seventy countries. Red sand seeps between the cracks of sidewalks around the world, reminding observers of how victims all over slip through

Red Sand  
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## No holiday break for Hinds County District Attorney

Robert Shuler Smith is moving forward preparing his defense

By Othor Cain  
Editor

While most of us are preparing for traditional Thanksgiving Day celebrations which include preparing meals, socializing, welcoming family members home, entertaining friends and everything in between, Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith is preparing his defense. And he’s doing it as upbeat as possible. “As I’ve said before, we can not allow folk to think they can do anything they want to and get away with it,” Smith said. “This isn’t just about me, its about everybody that has faced or will face injustices...we can not quit.”

Smith and his defense team will appear in a Rankin County Court Wednesday for motion hearings. His team filed a new motion Tuesday asking the judge to allow his subpoena of the accuser Christie Edwards’ cell phone records be permissible in court and that the judge would deny an opportunity to quash the



Smith

same as filed by the state.

Last week, as *The Mississippi Link* first reported, another new development took place that could cause additional arrests be-

cause of ‘transferred intent.’ Under court mandate, the defense and prosecution are suppose to exchange the necessary information with each other in prepara-

tion for the upcoming January trial.

Juan Gray, an investigator with the Hinds County DA’s office attempted to serve Edwards at her Rankin County home. After several attempts of ringing the door bell with no answer, Gray left the home but stayed in the neighborhood. Gray later parked his car near the home. After sometime, Gray was greeted with a gun by a visitor in the home whom *The Mississippi Link* has learned is Edward Seward. Seward said he didn’t answer the door because he thought Gray was Smith. Upon greeting Gray, Seward had his gun pointed and appeared ready to fire.

A short time later, Edwards returned home and had a gun in her possession. You might recall that a gun has been a part of this case between Edwards and Smith. “The actions by Mr. Seward is a felony offense,” Smith said. “At best it is a threat against a pub-

Smith  
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## Defense saves the day and maybe coach Hughes’ job

By Tim Ward  
Contributing Writer

Soul Bowl 2017, no longer called the Capital City Classic, ended with a surprising outcome for many. “Nobody gave us a chance,” JSU coach Tony Hughes said. “Nobody but us. We fully expected to come in here and win this game.” Tiger Nation always roots for their Tigers to win.

But there is some truth to Hughes’ statement after the game. Offensive woes have hindered “the process” all season. Jackson State scored 20 points or more only twice and lost both games. Quarterback changes, offensive line injuries, play calling and more all factored in this season. JSU fans were hopeful Saturday but not as confident in years past.

Alcorn State University rolled into Jackson having secured a birth in the SWAC championship game in Houston, December 2. Alcorn will play the winner between Grambling and Southern, who play in the Bayou Classic this weekend. Alcorn really struggled offensively or you can say Jackson State dominated defensively.



The Darkside Defense was awesome PHOTO BY TIM WARD

JSU held Alcorn without a touchdown the entire game. Alcorn was stopped inside the 5 yard line and forced to kick a field goal.

Jackson State scraped together

250 yards of offensive, but never made it into Alcorn’s redzone. Terrell Kennedy’s 69 yard touchdown run provided the only points needed to win.

Kennedy gashed the Braves defense right up the middle late in the second quarter. Quarterback

JSU  
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## Fry your turkey safely, advise AMR medics

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Thanksgiving is a holiday people might not associate with building fires or burn injuries, apart from minor burns from wrestling a turkey out of the oven. But deep-frying turkeys definitely increases burn and fire hazards, sometimes with disastrous consequences.

AMR paramedics recommend following these safety tips from the Burn Institute to help you and your loved ones prevent serious injuries and property loss when using a turkey fryer.

**Never** leave turkey fryers unattended. Due to the risk, it is wise to have two fry cooks.

**Always** keep children away from the fryer. AMR recommends drawing a circle ten feet in diameter around the fryer and declaring it a “kid-free zone.”

**Always** use turkey fryers outdoors. Do not use them in garages or under carports.

**Always** keep fryers away from flammable materials. Do not use them under eaves or porches or near leaves, bushes or trees.

**Always** place fryers on a flat, stable, non-flammable surface such as concrete. Do not fry the bird on a deck.

**Never** overfill the fryer.

**Always** follow the fryer manufacturer’s warnings and recommendations for use.

**Never** heat oil above the recommended temperature.

**Always** use a thermometer to monitor food temperature.

**Never** move the fryer once it is in operation.

**Never** let the cooks consume alcohol while tending the fryer.

**Always** thaw your turkey completely before placing it in the fryer. Putting a still-frozen turkey in hot

oil can cause a “flash-over,” a sudden eruption of oil onto the source of heat. Then the oil itself can catch on fire.

**Always** lower the turkey slowly into the oil. Nearly all fryers come with a hook that attaches to the bird. Using the hook keeps your hands several inches above the hot oil.

**Never** stand directly over hot oil.

**Always** make sure the oil is completely cooled before removing it from the fryer.

**Always** use long-sleeved, flame-retardant gloves when putting the turkey into the fryer or taking the turkey or oil out.

**Always** keep a fire extinguisher with you when using a turkey fryer.

If the fryer catches fire, immediately call 911. The oil itself may be burning, so **do not attempt to extinguish the fire with water**. Hot oil doused with water can erupt with deadly results.

Serving nearly 20 counties, AMR’s companies in Mississippi are the state’s busiest ambulance services. The Mississippi Department of Health has reported AMR companies transported more than 40 percent of ambulance patients statewide in some recent years.

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## JSU

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Benjy Parrish caught 7 passes. PHOTOS BY TIM WARD

Jordan Williams passed for 130 yards on 14 of 26 passes. He also extended some drives with his legs running for first downs.

As the clock expired, Tiger Nation erupted. Players, coaches, trainers, all rushed the field. Hughes was splashed with the Gatorade cooler as he walked across the field. The sounds of the Sonic Boom filled the stadium, blue and white pom poms rocking, cheerleaders tumbling, fans high-fiving, greek organizations dancing, it was a sight to see and one that the Tiger Nation hadn't seen enough in two years.

Despite winning three of the last four games, JSU has only won 6 in two years. Many of the



JSU coach Hughes

alumni have clamored for Hughes to be replaced. Some say give him one more year. Winning three of his last four and one of them being Alcorn definitely helped his cause. New offensive coordinator, new recruits, strong offensive line, who knows, maybe he can turn it around.

I remember years ago, when a coach winning only seven games a season would get him fired. Going to the SWAC championship game two of three years and not winning got coach Comegy replaced. Some have called for him to come back.

And this just in – Mississippi Valley State has confirmed that they will not renew Comegy's contract. Hmmmmm.....

## Red Sand

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Red Sand Project press conference at Tougaloo College.

the cracks of society.

But with the heighten awareness by this alarming red display, victims no longer have to go unnoticed. Victims' sentiments were, as she said, 'this project doesn't use one of our faces.' It is an excellent way to remind the public of the subtle but constant presence of trafficking.

According to Gochman, twenty-four human trafficking cases have been reported this year in Mississippi alone. Sadly, this does not speak for those cases, which may have occurred but not have been reported. The work of saving these 40 million untold victims and of caring for the survivors of modern-day slavery is a work that is far from done.

Selika Corley, advocate against human trafficking since 2012, told the story of her daughter's trafficking nightmare at the age of nineteen. "We were blessed," she said, noting that her daughter was recovered the following year. However, she admitted solemnly, "I'll never have her back, not the one who left here... We still have to deal with the triggers."

Unfortunately, Corley said that her daughter was a case of "re-victimizing the victim," as people did not believe her story; they claimed that she simply ran away from home out of teenage rebellion. After mentioning her daughter's silence about her traumatic experiences, Corley said, "I use my voice until she can use her own."

She noted that many find it difficult to believe that human trafficking could even happen in their communities. To this mindset Corley responded, "Just as sure as you have an elementary school or high school, it's [going on]," she said. She made it passionately clear that the issue is of extreme importance, yet far too little attention is given to it.

Tougaloo students at the press conference showed great concern for the issue. Christian Ratliff-Mason, a senior, opened with the first of multiple student presentations. Ratliff-Mason expressed that it is necessary to care for victims simply because they are people, even if one does not know them personally. A group of students gave a theatrical presentation of the less known forms of harassment, discrimination and sexual abuse that occur in American prisons, communities and even the military.

## Smith

Continued from page 1

lic official, aggravated assault against a law enforcement official and conspiracy."

Smith according to the latest motion believes he has the right to fully investigate and present his own defense, especially in a search for exculpatory information. That's information that has either been destroyed, missing or intentionally deleted that could prove his innocence, including cell phone records.

Smith alleges that the content of all the text messages have been lost due to the fact that the State never attempted, for almost two years to obtain the contents of the text messages from either the alleged victim's (Edwards) cell phone or his blackberry cell phone, which the State actu-

ally held in their custody for over five months in 2016 after arresting him. "I honestly believe that everything the court needs can be found in those messages," Smith said. "The burden of proof is on the prosecution...what do they not want the judge, the jury or the public to see," he asked?

Smith plans to appear in court Wednesday, while the country is preparing for a Thanksgiving feast. "Even with all of this, I hope to get some fishing in and rest just a bit," he said.

Smith, 46, of Jackson, is charged with two misdemeanor counts of simple domestic violence and two felony counts of (1) aggravated stalking and (1) robbery. These were filed as two separate indictments.



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# BOOK REVIEW: “WEDLOCKED: THE PERILS OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY”

BY KATHERINE FRANKE  
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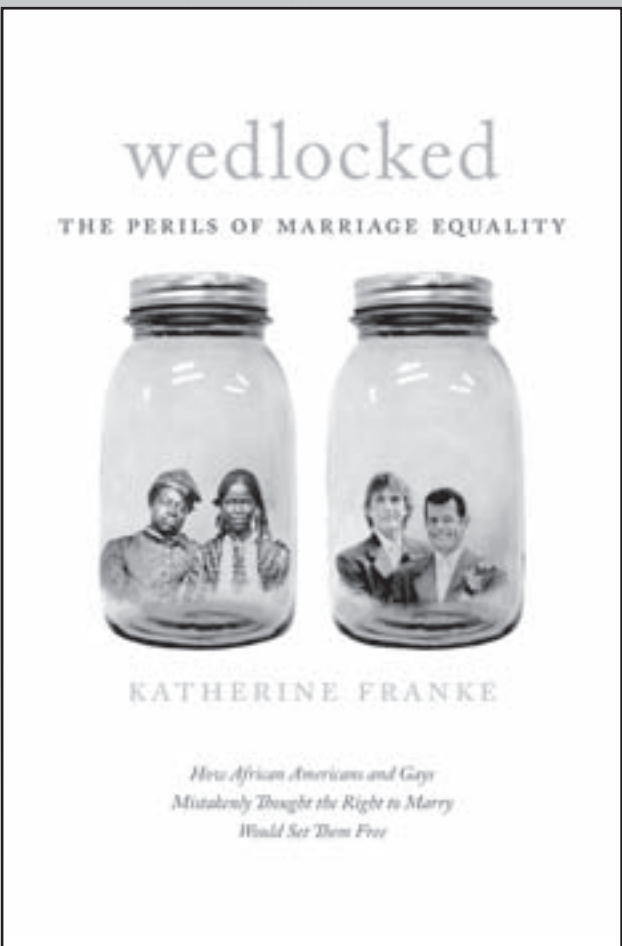
By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

You’re not in any hurry. The ring’s on your finger, the engagement was just announced, and you both feel like you’ve got plenty of time. Now’s your chance to enjoy the process of getting married. Here’s your opportunity to plan the future. But “Wedlocked: The Perils of Marriage Equality” by Katherine Franke asks the question: why marry at all? When President George Washington died, his will stipulated that his slaves be given their freedom when his wife, Martha, who inherited them, would die. This, says Katherine Franke, accidentally “put a price on”

Martha’s head but moreover, it was an acknowledgment on Washington ’s part that shows one complexity of slavery: marriage between the Washington slaves meant that freeing his without freeing hers could break up families. This issue, and others before and after the Civil War, illustrates how “many of the experiences of African Americans held out a message to the same-sex marriage movement today.” Throughout American history, Franke says, the “rules” of marriage for non-white or gay individuals hid a double-edged sword of enhanced rights and enforced matrimonial laws complicated by pre-Emancipation fluidity of relationships and looser

definitions of “marriage” within African-American communities then; and by somewhat of a lack of awareness in the LGBT community, complicated by different state laws now. The bottom line that’s often not emphasized: when a couple marries, the state suddenly “acquires a legal interest in your relationship.” Now, as then, marriage may also be legally “forced” on a couple: in the case of former slaves, to gain benefits in wartime; for LGBT couples, in the continuation of health benefits. Even after all that, marriage, as Franke reminds readers, has never offered a guarantee from discrimination. Is it possible, Franke asks, that

“the inability to marry creates a kind of freedom from the ‘bonds’ of marriage?” At a time when the rates of marriage in the black community are low and LGBT parents are demanding new legal definitions of “family,” will marriage become antiquated? Or is the “freedom” to marry just another way for society to meddle in the lives of marginalized individuals? Surely, few readers would consider “Wedlocked” a fun weekend read. It’s not exactly what you’d take to the beach with you. Fun, no. Interesting, absolutely. It’s also quite thought-provoking. Franke is, in part, director of the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law at Columbia



University, and in this book, she asks hard questions between jaw-dropping history lessons and proof that marriage is both burden and boon to anyone who’s not white and straight. That’s not to say that the institution is dead; instead, Franke wonders if, of all rights denied former slaves and gay individuals, marriage may’ve been the oddest choice

for legal battles. But which other right would’ve been better? The answer to that seems to be left open for discussion; indeed, readers are given much to ponder from this heavy-duty, scholarly book. Just beware that time is the key to opening “Wedlocked,” now in paperback. Enjoy and contemplate, but don’t be in any hurry.

## 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 Judy Garland

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
			N															A							

S E S E S E S E S  
B T X B I A Y N B O Z V A S V B S N E N V A Z C F  
S E S E S E  
C O I C U V A N T O Z F A S N B W C O B  
S E E S S E  
A N J C F W V B S N E N V A Z C F C O A C K N Y C W I  
E S E  
N T A N



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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.

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

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page B5)

## U-RENTAL Van Company



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# FILM REVIEW: “THE STAR” ANIMALS EMERGE AS UNSUNG HEROES IN ANIMATED VERSION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

By **Kam Williams**  
*Columnist*

Most movies based on the Bible have limited appeal beyond the faithful, because the stories are ordinarily dry adaptations basically recounting popular parables in straightforward fashion. A novel exception to the rule is *The Star*, an animated reimagining of the Nativity.

What makes the production unique is that it unfolds from

the point of view of a gang of anthropomorphic barnyard animals that apparently played a critical role in the birth of the Christ child. Who knew? Bo the donkey (Steve Yeun) is the ringleader of the meandering menagerie ultimately huddled around the manger in the iconic creche tableau everybody knows.

Furthermore, instead of serving up a purely pious plotline, this relatively-lighthearted re-

vision features a lot of humorous asides, much of it coming courtesy of a trash-talking camel played by the irrepressible Tracy Morgan (“Three wise men don’t get lost!”) Betwixt and between all the wisecracks, we witness the assorted ordeals of Joseph the Carpenter (Zachary Levi) and the Virgin Mary (Gina Rodriguez) as they negotiate the perilous gauntlet from Nazareth to a sacred stable in Bethlehem, in accordance with

New Testament lore.

Think of *The Star* as an irreverent cross of *Shrek* (2001) and *The Nativity Story* (2006). The movie marks the noteworthy directorial debut of Timothy Reckhart, who recruited a big name cast that included Oprah, Tyler Perry, Mariah Carey, Ving Rhames, Anthony Anderson and televangelist Joel Osteen.

To make sure you get the Christmas spirit, the score has been stocked with a profu-

sion of holiday classics, starting with the familiar strains of “Carol of the Bells.” If the name doesn’t ring a bell, it’s the catchy tune now better known as the “Give-a-Give-a-Give-a-Garmin” jingle from the GPS commercial.

Also on the soundtrack are such standards as *O Holy Night*, *The Little Drummer Boy*, *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, *We Three Kings* and *Ave Maria*.

The Nativity revisited as a

kiddie cartoon adventure guaranteed to enthrall tykes of any race, color or creed.

Very Good (3 stars)  
Rated PG for mature themes  
Running time: 86 minutes  
Production Studio: Affirm Films / The Jim Henson Company / Walden media  
Distributor: Sony Pictures Animation  
*To see a trailer for The Star, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVgQuZf5oIM>*

# FILM REVIEW: “DESTINED” CORY HARDRICT STARS AS BOTH A GANGSTA AND AN ARCHITECT IN ALTERNATE REALITY, SCI-FI SAGA

By **Kam Williams**  
*Columnist*

Sheed Smith (Cory Hardrict) is a drug dealer roaming Detroit’s mean streets in a bloody turf war being waged in the ‘hood where he was raised. Meanwhile, his doppelganger, Rasheed Smith (also Cory Hardrict), is an idealistic architect overseeing an urban renewal project designed to revitalize the same ghetto.

However, the two look-a-likes’ paths never cross. That’s because they exist in parallel universes. You see, *Destined* is one of those “What if?” affairs set in a couple of alternate realities. Thus, we are able to compare bad boy Sheed’s fate to that of his straitlaced alter

ego.

The picture was written and directed by Qasim Basir who made a spectacular directorial debut in 2010 with the relatively-moving *Mooz-lum*. This disappointing sophomore offering earns an A for ambition, if only a C for execution.

Hardrict stars as both Sheed and Rasheed in a split screen saga that flits back and forth between storylines that never intersect. Unfortunately, neither plot is well enough developed to fully engage the viewer.

I suppose Basir was too in love with his bifurcated, sci-fi script to consider jettisoning one-half and fleshing out the other into a

full-length feature. Instead, we’re treated to a one-trick pony that repeatedly illustrates the diverging fates of a guy who kept his nose clean and that of an identical stranger who ventured to the dark side.

An amusing idea that runs out of steam not long after the premise is established.

Fair (1.5 stars)  
Unrated  
Running time: 91 minutes  
Production Studio: Whitewater Films / Tilted Windmill Productions / Confluent Films  
Distributor: XLrator Media  
*To see a trailer for Destined, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6fzjsU7nqY>*



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PHOTOS BY ANITA YOUNG AND FREDRICK SMITH





# Thanksgiving – the need to quiet our soul

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



First Thes-salonians 4:11 says to “study to be quiet.” We need to learn how to still our soul to bring calmness when the storm is raging around us. We have to learn how to quiet our soul. Also, we must learn to be patient and learn to wait on God. He will not fail us.

Over the years, many dear folks have made decisions and moves that they lived to regret. The Psalmist said in Psalm 62:5, “My soul, wait thou on God.” Have we ever needed to say to ourselves, “Soul, stop and wait on God?” Some good saints of God have become dissatisfied for one

reason or another and left es-tablished congregations for something else, but they lived to regret their moves.

Over the process of time, many people have ended up with less godliness in their lives. Many of them have set aside previously held convic-tions of truth and moral prin-ciples. Many people have left the truth thinking they could still hold to the same truths, but before long they began to sacrifice standards.

First, the outward standards began to be sacrificed; next, the inward holiness began to be sacrificed. They began to open their homes to things that they never would have allowed because they started living in a different land sur-rounded by different values. There is no substitute for liv-

ing in holiness with the family of God.

Fear destroys faith. Fear and faith cannot exist in the same heart. Where fear takes hold, the enemy will be there to give them another move: “Go this way” or “Go that way.” No doubt, we have heard it said that every time the devil opens his mouth, he is lying to us. We should do as the Psalmist records in Psalm 46:10, “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.” In other words, we must quiet our soul.

We need to quiet our mind and quiet our heart. In quiet-ness there is strength. The work of righteousness shall be peace, and its effect is quiet-ness.

Many powerful thoughts

can be brought forth from Isa-iah 40:28-31. In verse 29, we find that the Lord gives power to the faint and strength to the weak. Verses 30-31 read: “Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall walk, and not faint.” If we learn to wait on God, we will never be dis-appointed. God will never fail us.

Happy Thanksgiving to all families.

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 Asso-ciation of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.

# P R E S E R V E D Lifestyle of thankfulness

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“Actions speak louder than words.” We’re all familiar with this phrase and apply it to various personal and profes-sional areas of our lives. In my own life, I often remind myself of the truth in this phrase as I work on showing my apprecia-tion to others.

Many of us don’t have a hard time thanking God for what He has given us. It’s very easy to thank God when enjoying bless-ings that you have prayed in faith to receive. We eagerly share our testimony with others about how good God has been to us.

However, I think God wants more from us than just words of thankfulness. I believe that God wants us to develop a lifestyle of thanksgiving. Like worship, be-ing thankful to God should be a daily part of our lives. Thank-fulness is not only about what you receive but the attitude in which you receive it: the attitude of gratitude is what some call it.

Just like having a bad atti-tude changes your perception, so does having an attitude of thankfulness. And that attitude comes from making thankfulness a part of your life...not just an afterthought to a conversa-tion.

For example, I try to make it point to thank people who do things for me. The challenge always comes in how to thank them. One friend is satisfied with a note of thanks, whereas another wants a monetary show of appreciation. Another friend just wants a good, home-cooked meal every now and then. I know how important it is to say thank you to each one of them for the

big and small favors that they do for me, however, when I show them with my actions, it means so much more.


The way we show God our thankfulness is to live according to his word, love with the uncon-ditional grace that He showers us with and outwardly show our appreciation. We show thanks to God when we share his love and are compassionate towards oth-ers. We show thanks to God for his transforming power when we turn away from sin and embrace holiness. It’s not always easy but we should strive to give our time, talent and treasure to oth-ers without expecting anything in return.

Psalm 28:7 reminds, “The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.”

Does your lifestyle of thank-fulness to God depend on whether and how He is bless-ing you? The obvious answer is no...we should be thankful to God for who He is and not for what He does. When we remind ourselves of that every day, it becomes easier to be thankful. The more we thank (and think of) God, the more thankful we become. Like the lifestyle of worship, the lifestyle of thank-fulness requires that we com-pletely give our hearts to him.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiv-ing Holiday.

Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relation-ship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email her at [preservedbypurpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @ shewanda.



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# Mississippi artist hand crafts ornaments to accompany the National Christmas Tree

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Ornaments by a local Mississippi artist will dazzle President’s Park (White House) in Washington, D.C. as part of the 95th annual National Christmas Tree Lighting display. Teresa Haygood from Jackson, designed ornaments that showcase artistic, architectural, cultural and historic elements of Mississippi’s major regions in glittering mosaic globes.

The handcrafted ornaments will adorn one of 56 trees representing each U.S. state, territory and the District of Columbia from Dec. 1, 2017, through Jan. 1, 2018, as part of the America Celebrates display.

“It is an honor to decorate my home state tree and help the nation celebrate the holidays in one of our most recognizable national parks, especially during Mississippi’s bicentennial year,” said Haygood, mosaic artist tapped by the Mississippi Arts Commission to represent the state. “I am excited to be a part of the America Celebrates display because I see it as an opportunity to shine a spotlight on Mississippi’s proud tradition of artistic excellence.”

Haygood decorated globes provided by the National Park Service with glass mosaic on the outside surface of each sphere using tiny pieces of opaque and translucent stained glass that allow light to shine through and illuminate the designs, some of which overlap and create an interesting artistic effect.

Each of her ornaments tells a story about an aspect of the state or a particular region. One ornament commemorates Mississippi’s bicentennial year; another depicts a magnolia flower in honor of the “Magnolia State.” Among other design inspirations are Elvis Presley’s birthplace in Tupelo, Miss, the Choctaw symbol for happiness and “the crossroads” of Highways 61 and 49 where blues legend Robert Johnson sold his soul to the devil to gain success.

Presented by the National Park Service and National Park Foundation, the National Christmas Tree Lighting is one of America’s oldest holiday traditions.

The first lighting took place 95 years ago on Christmas Eve in 1923, when President Calvin Coolidge lit a Christmas tree in front of 3,000 spectators on the Ellipse. Since



Malcolm White and designer Teresa Haygood show off Mississippi ornaments.



Handcrafted Mississippi ornaments will decorate christmas tree in Washington, D.C.

1923, each succeeding president has carried on the tradition.

Through a partnership with the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America’s national parks, Hallmark Channel will exclusively broadcast the National Christmas Tree Lighting December 4.

**About the National Park Service.**

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 417 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. The National Park Service has cared for the White

House and its grounds since 1933. President’s Park, which includes the Ellipse and Lafayette Park, was officially included in the national park system in 1961.

Visit us at: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov), on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/national-parkservice](http://www.facebook.com/national-parkservice), Twitter: [www.twitter.com/natlparkservice](http://www.twitter.com/natlparkservice), and YouTube: [www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice](http://www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice).

For more event information and updates, please visit [www.thenationaltree.org](http://www.thenationaltree.org) and follow the National Christmas Tree on Twitter at @TheNationalTree. Join the conversation online using the hashtag #NCTL2017.

We’re Hiring!

## Field Organizer: Northern Region



The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Democratic Party is hiring a field organizer in the northern portion of Mississippi to assist in party-building efforts. This position reports directly to the Mississippi Democratic Party chairperson and Administrative Committee chairperson.

**Duties include but are not limited to:**

- Building and managing volunteer canvasses and call centers
- Reaching volunteer recruitment goals
- Planning and managing surrogate events
- Reaching supporter identification goals
- Persuading voters to support our candidates
- Getting out the vote in your area
- Training volunteers one-on-one and in group settings
- Outreach to constituency groups, clubs, and organizations
- Other duties as assigned
- Required skills:**
- Experience working for or volunteering on Democratic political campaigns
- Enthusiasm for Democratic politics
- Great time management and organization skills
- Competent in Microsoft office products

- ucts
- Ability to train and instruct volunteers
- Excellent listening skills and ability to communicate effectively, both in writing and verbally
- Strong organizational, management and interpersonal skills
- Experience in setting and achieving measurable targets, managing teams, and coordinating between multiple stakeholders
- Ability to handle multiple priority projects and meet established timelines
- Ability to execute strategic goals and work effectively with regional and local leaders
- Enjoys working with varied members of the general public
- Valid driver’s license, reliable transportation, must pass background check.
- The Mississippi Democratic Party is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate based on appearance, religion, disability, gender, age, race, origin, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Interested candidates should submit their resume, cover letter, and three references to [msdemjobs@gmail.com](mailto:msdemjobs@gmail.com) no later than the close of business of December 1, 2017. No phone calls will be accepted.

The Mississippi Highway Patrol will begin the 2017 Thanksgiving Holiday Enforcement Period Wednesday, November 22, at 6 p.m. and conclude Sunday, November 26, at midnight.

In an effort to enforce traffic laws and reduce traffic crashes, MHP will participate in Operation Crash Awareness and Reduction Effort during the holiday period. As part of Operation CARE, all available troopers will be assigned to saturation patrols to combat speeding and distracted driving issues. Safety checkpoints will also be established during the period to remove impaired drivers from the roadways and promote seatbelt usage.

During the period in 2016, MHP investigated 171 crashes with two fatalities and made 67 DUI arrests on state and federal highway systems. We are asking motorists to join with us in making the roadways safer in Mississippi and to include safe driving as part of their traveling plans.



Captain Johnny Poulos  
Director, Public Affairs Division  
Mississippi Highway Patrol  
P. O. Box 958  
Jackson, MS 39205  
Office: 601-987-1391  
Cellular: 228-234-5384  
[jpoulos@dps.ms.gov](mailto:jpoulos@dps.ms.gov)

## Students from Jackson, Clinton, Natchez and Southaven attending Mississippi School for the Blind visited the Capitol



Students and staff from the Mississippi School for the Blind and Jane D. Harty, (rear), teacher of the visually impaired, visited the Capitol on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, to learn more about state government noting the students had never toured the building. The students are top left, Marcell Burns of Clinton, bottom left, Belen Paniagua of Jackson, Jonathan Bell of Hernando, Da’Jon Prater of Natchez and Brittany May of Jackson.

## The Mississippi Link™

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November 23 - 29, 2017

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# Nissan Supports STEM Education in Canton Mississippi through SAE International's Award-Winning A World In Motion Program



The Mississippi Link Newswire

WARRENDALE, Pa. – Thirty-nine teachers (K-2) in the Canton Public Schools system engaged in hands-on training with SAE International's award-winning A World In Motion program Nov. 15 at Goodloe Elementary in Canton, Miss.

The training, along with ongoing teacher support and classroom materials and curriculum for over 1,000 students

was made possible through continued support by Nissan.

AWIM is a teacher-administered, industry volunteer-assisted program that brings science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education to life in the classroom for students in Kindergarten through Grade 8. Benchmarked to the national standards, the AWIM program incorporates integrated STEM learning experiences through hands-on activities

that reinforce classroom STEM learning.

"Nissan has been instrumental in the community for their long-term commitment to education," said Chris Ciuca, director of Pre-Professional Education for SAE International. "Their support highlights the importance of cooperation among industry and education to ensure that our young students have the learning tools they need to succeed."



The Rolling Things, Pinball Designers, Engineering Inspired By Nature and Straw Rockets challenges were developed through the generous support of Nissan in 2011. Each primary challenge required students to participate in different engineering-related activities, then measure and record data based on their observations.

"Nissan supports many educational programs in both Mississippi and across the country

to help our youth learn and grow," said Steve Marsh, vice president, Manufacturing, Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant. "We are proud to work with SAE International to bring their award winning training to Canton."

SAE International is a global association committed to being the ultimate knowledge source for the engineering profession. By uniting over 127,000 engineers and technical experts, we

drive knowledge and expertise across a broad spectrum of industries. We act on two priorities: encouraging a lifetime of learning for mobility engineering professionals and setting the standards for industry engineering. We strive for a better world through the work of our philanthropic SAE Foundation, including programs like A World in Motion® and the Collegiate Design Series™.

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# Pastor and Mrs. Stanley L. Smith Anniversary

Pastor Stanley Smith and First Lady Stephanie celebrate 6 years  
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PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



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For Group Rates and More:  
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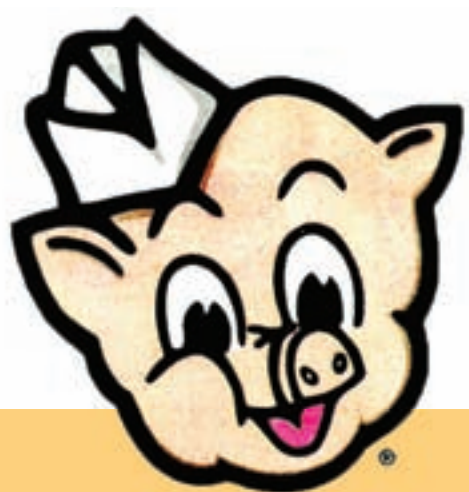


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# A JPS elementary and middle school among the top in the state



JPS Interim Supt. Freddrick Murray, left, and principals of A-rated schools—Christie Hollingshead, Bailey APAC; Sandra Reed, Power APAC; Kathleen Grigsby, Davis Magnet; Shaunna Nicholson-Johnson, Baker



Recognition of B-rated schools, from left – Nicole Menotti, Spann; LeKeisha Sutton, Lake; JPS Interim Supt. Freddrick Murray; Dionne Woody, Key; Kevin Culver, Northwest Middle; Cynthia Veals, Lee; Catrina Crawford, Isable; Rhoda Yoder, Casey; and Linda Murray, Barr

## Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Education released letter grades for schools and districts based on the state's A-F accountability system that evaluates how schools and districts performed in the 2016-17 school year.

The Mississippi State Board of Education approved the results during its October 20 board meeting. The grades are based on the results of the Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP) for English language arts and mathematics. MAP tests were administered to students in grades three through eight and in high school for the first time during the 2016-17 school year. These tests are aligned with the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards. They will continue to be used in future years to assess students statewide.

Three JPS elementary schools and one middle school earned an "A" rating. The district's A schools are:

Baker Elementary  
Davis Magnet Elementary  
Power APAC Elementary  
Bailey APAC Middle  
The nine schools that received a "B" rating are:

Barr Elementary  
Casey Elementary  
Isable Elementary  
Key Elementary  
Lake Elementary  
Lee Elementary  
Spann Elementary  
McWillie Elementary  
Northwest Middle

Two high schools were among the district's "C" rated schools:

Pecan Park Elementary  
Clausell Elementary  
Murrah High  
Provine High

Two schools, Lake Elementary and Spann Elementary, improved from F ratings in 2015-16 to B ratings in 2016-17.

Additionally, the following schools were recognized for improving one letter grade:

Poindexter Elementary\*  
Boyd Elementary  
Callaway High  
Lanier High

JPS experienced several significant accomplishments including:

Davis Magnet Elementary ranked No. 1 elementary school in the state.

Bailey APAC ranked No. 5 middle school in the state.

An increase in the number of "B" rated schools.

An increase in the high school graduation rate.

"We are proud of the accomplishments of our students and commend teachers, students, and staff on the gains made on the state tests," said Interim Superintendent Freddrick Murray. "We have been deliberate in analyzing our shortcomings in an effort to make the necessary improvements. We are also working very closely with our partners to continue to leverage the collective impact that it will take to move Jackson Public Schools to a high performing District."

\*Poindexter Elementary consolidated with Barr Elementary at the end of the 2016-17 school year.

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# JLJ's commitment to the Children's Campaign of Mississippi reaches \$1 million

*Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Junior League of Jackson, for decades a strong supporter of children's health, has made commitments totaling \$1 million to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, a philanthropic effort to fund expansion of pediatric facilities at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The nonprofit organization's gift includes a \$400,000 donation to the campaign in May. Since then, the group has pledged another \$600,000, bringing their giving to \$1 million. So far, more than \$60 million has been raised toward the campaign's \$100 million goal.

"The Junior League of Jackson, from its very beginning, has been focused on improving the lives of children in Mississippi," said Heidi Noel, JLJ president. "Our efforts and gifts are focused on an enduring impact, one that will help children and families now and in the future. This project, updating and expanding pediatric facilities, will do just that, and it is a project we are proud to support through philanthropy and awareness."

The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi construction plans include an enlarged and renovated neonatal intensive care unit, more rooms for the pediatric intensive care unit, more operating rooms and the creation of an imaging clinic especially for pediatric patients. A new pediatric clinic will make care for outpatients more convenient and comfortable for



Celebrating the Junior League of Jackson's \$1 million commitment to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi are, from left, Children's of Mississippi CEO Guy Giesecke; Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine; JLJ President Heidi Noel; Dr. Mary Taylor, interim chair of Pediatrics; and Dr. Brian Kogon, chief of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery.

families.

Expansion of the Children's Heart Center is also on the drawing board. "With these generous gifts, the Junior League of Jackson is making a lasting investment in the lives of Mississippi children," said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

"We are so grateful for the legacy of the Junior League of Jackson's philanthropic support of UMMC and Batson Children's Hospital."

Pediatric cardiology is among departments that will put the Junior League of Jackson's philanthropy to good use.

"Having additional operating rooms, more space for critical

care and an imaging center dedicated to pediatric patients will only increase the advances we are already making in treatment of congenital heart disease," said Dr. Brian Kogon, professor and chief of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery.

The Junior League of Jackson is a longtime supporter of pediatric

care at UMMC, raising the funds used to construct the Children's Cancer Center, which opened 1991, and sending hundreds of volunteers to Batson Children's Hospital over the years for programs ranging from Rockin' Mamas in the neonatal intensive care unit to car seat safety and parties for patients.

"Having a facility ready to care for the state's sick and injured children is vital to families in Mississippi, said Dr. Mary Taylor, interim chair of Pediatrics. "In the effort to provide the best of care to our children, it is critical to have allies. We are thankful for the friendship of the Junior League of Jackson."

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Forrest General Hospital hosts Mobile Learning Lab for physicians and staff

Grant Breland learning more about the device that helped save his life earlier this year.

*Mississippi Link Newswire*

Hattiesburg, Miss. — Forrest General Hospital hosted the Abiomed Mobile Learning Lab November 17. The Mobile Learning Lab is a highly interactive, facilitated learning experience brought directly to the hospital. It will offer enhanced training for experienced staff as well as provide additional training and exposure for newer staff through hands-on learning.

The Impella heart pump is the only therapy approved by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) as safe and effective for heart recovery in patients with advanced heart failure requiring Protected PCI, or patients in cardiogenic shock due to a heart attack.

"The physicians at Forrest General are committed to providing patients the highest quality care and staying up-to-date

on the most current technological advances. We've used the Impella device here since 2015 with fantastic outcomes for patients. Training provided at the Mobile Learning Lab will ensure our staff is highly trained to effectively use the Impella heart pump, one of the most innovative cardiology technology solutions available for our patients," said Robert Wilkins, MD, interventional cardiologist.

Impella, the world's smallest heart pump, is a minimally-invasive heart pump that offers hemodynamic support for patients during certain heart procedures. It is a temporary device that assists the heart in pumping blood to the body's vital organs, allowing it to rest and potentially recover. The Impella heart pumps are approved by the FDA to provide treatment during high-risk percutaneous

coronary intervention (PCI) procedures, and in the emergent treatment of cardiogenic shock, a condition that typically occurs during or after a heart attack.

The Mobile Learning Lab offers cardiologists, nurses and cath lab staff at Forrest General a convenient opportunity to learn about the Impella platform and how these heart pumps can best be used for those patients in critical need of cardiac support. The Mobile Learning Lab contains various Impella simulators, animations and key information, all presented by a team of Abiomed trainers.

The Impella platform of products were developed by Abiomed Inc., based in Danvers, Mass.

To learn more about cardiology and structural heart services at Forrest General, visit [forrest-general.com](http://forrest-general.com).



LEGAL

Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicles

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following car will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.

2014 KIA GDI – KNADM4A34E6391636

Registered to Portia Turner  
KIA Motor Financing Company, Lien Holder

Date of Sale: November 24, 2017

Place of Sale: Archie Towing & Storage & Recovery, 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.  
Time: 10:00 A.M.

11/9/2017, 11/16/2017, 11/23/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

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

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

3/9/2017 thru 12/28/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017 AT 12:00 P.M. IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

A. OLD BUSINESS

1. CASE NO. 2017-24, REQUEST BY: CENTURY CONSTRUCTION/HELM PLACE III, LLC (APPLICANT: STUART POVALL), TO CONSTRUCT UP TO 70 NEW HOMES FOR PHASE III OF HELM PLACE DEVELOPMENT AT MULTIPLE LOCATIONS, LOCATED IN THE FARISH STREET HISTORICAL DISTRICT (CASE NO. 2017-24 WAS TABLED AUGUST 31, 2017 DUE TO LACK OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION).

2. CASE NO. 2017-45, REQUEST BY: DR. ROSLIND MCCOY SIBLEY (APPLICANT: ROY C. FARRIS, II), TO INSTALL A CONCRETE HANDICAPPED RAMP W/ WROUGHT IRON RAIL, RESURFACING OF EXISTING FRONT PARKING AREA, INSTALL A SIDEWALK FROM BUILDING TO STREET AND A YIELD SIGN AT INTERSECTION (ON CITY PROPERTY) AT 526 N. FARISH ST., LOCATED IN THE FARISH STREET HISTORICAL DISTRICT. (CASE NO. 2017-45 WAS TABLED NOVEMBER 8, 2017, APPLICANT/REPRESENTATIVE DID NOT ATTEND MEETING)

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CASE NO. 2017-47, REQUEST BY: DOUG PYRON (APPLICANT: JOHN WEAVER), TO BUILD A NEW ONE STORY GARAGE, EXTEND CONCRETE DRIVEWAY TO THE GARAGE AND BUILD A NEW BRICK RETAINING WALL AT 719 GILLESPIE ST., LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

4. CASE NO. 2017-48, REQUEST BY: MICHELE D. BIEGEL (APPLICANT: JEFF SEABOLD), TO REPLACE EXISTING CLAPBOARD SIDING WITH HARDIE PLANK, ADD A TWO CAR GARAGE AND REPLACE WINDOWS AT 1240 ROSEHILL CIRCLE., LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

5. CASE NO. 2017-49, REQUEST BY: JENNIFER STUDEBAKER, TO INSTALL A 3 RAIL GENESIS WITH QUAD FINIALS 5' WROUGHT IRON FENCE IN THE FRONT/SIDE YARD WITH A GATE FOR EACH WALKWAY AT 932 GILLESPIE ST., LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

II. OTHER ITEMS

DISCUSSION

1. PRESENT UPDATED CITY OF JACKSON'S HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY PACKET.

III. ADJOURN

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9	4	1	3	2	5	6	8	7
2	6	8	4	1	7	3	9	5
7	8	2	9	4	6	1	5	3
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Week of November 19, 2017



# Major announcement from Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. on his health and future



Jackson

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On July 17, 1960, I was arrested, along with seven other college students, for advocating the right to use a public library in my hometown of Greenville, S.C. I remember it like it was yesterday, for that day changed my life forever. From that experience, I lost my fear of being jailed for a righteous cause. I went on to meet Dr. King and dedicated my heart and soul to the fight for justice, equality, and equal access. In the tradition of the Apostle Paul, I have offered myself – my mind, body and soul – as a living sacrifice.

Throughout my career of service, God has kept me in the embrace of his loving arms, and protected me and my family from dangers, seen and unseen. Now in the latter years of my life, at 76 years old, I find it increasingly difficult to perform routine tasks, and getting around is more of a challenge. My family and I began to notice changes about three years ago. For a while, I resisted interrupting my work to visit a doctor. But as my daily physical struggles intensified I could no longer ignore the symptoms, so I acquiesced.

After a battery of tests, my physicians identified the issue as Parkinson’s disease, a disease that bested my father.

Recognition of the effects of this disease on me has been painful, and

I have been slow to grasp the gravity of it. For me, a Parkinson’s diagnosis is not a stop sign but rather a signal that I must make lifestyle changes and dedicate myself to physical therapy in hopes of slowing the disease’s progression.

I am far from alone. God continues to give me new opportunities to serve. This diagnosis is personal but it is more than that. It is an opportunity for me to use my voice to help in finding a cure for a disease that afflicts 7 to 10 million worldwide. Some 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson’s every year.

I will continue to try to instill hope in the hopeless, expand our democracy to the disenfranchised and free innocent prisoners around the world. I’m also spending some time working on my memoir so I can share with others the lessons I have learned in my life of public service. I steadfastly affirm that I would rather wear out than rust out.

I want to thank my family and friends who continue to care for me and support me. I will need your prayers and graceful understanding as I undertake this new challenge. As we continue in the struggle for human rights, remember that God will see us through, even in our midnight moments.

KEEP HOPE ALIVE!  
Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.



# History of Thanksgiving is a quest for unity

By Marc H. Morial  
President and CEO  
National Urban League



“This history [of Thanksgiving] teaches us that the American instinct has never been to seek isolation in opposite corners; it is to find strength in our common creed and forge unity from our great diversity. On that very first Thanksgiving celebration, these same ideals brought together people of different backgrounds and beliefs, and every year since, with enduring confidence in the power of faith, love, gratitude, and optimism, this force of unity has sustained us as a people. It has guided us through times of great challenge and change and allowed us to see ourselves in those who come to our shores in search of a safer, better future for themselves and their families.” – President Barack Obama, 2016

While Thanksgiving is clearly a celebration of gratitude for a bountiful harvest, its origin and history in the United States tell an unexpected tale of unity that is particularly relevant in these divisive times.

While the early history of the United States is rife with atrocities committed against Native Americans, the “first Thanksgiving” – a three-day feast in 1621 – was a peaceful moment of fellowship between the English settlers and the Wampanoag among whom they lived.

In one of two existing accounts of that feast, Edward Winslow wrote of the “many of the Indians coming

amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted.” Another English settler who arrived shortly after that first feast, William Hilton, wrote in a letter to his cousin described “the Indians round about us” as “peaceable and friendly.”

Over the next century and a half, Thanksgiving was celebrated at different times by the separate colonies. The Continental Congress issued the first National Proclamation of Thanksgiving in 1777: “It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive Powers of these United States to set apart Thursday, the eighteenth Day of December next, for Solemn Thanksgiving and Praise...” Over the year, various days of Thanksgiving would be proclaimed by Congress and Presidents, as well as governors, but an annual, recurring, nationwide holiday would not be proclaimed until 1863, in the middle of the Civil War.

He was prompted by the writings of magazine editor Sarah Josepha Hale, who wrote to him September 28, 1863: “You may have observed that, for some years past, there has been an increasing interest felt in our land to have the Thanksgiving held on the same day, in all the States; it now needs national recognition and authoritative fixation, only, to become permanently, an American custom and institution.”

Lincoln’s proclamation was more than a declaration of a holiday, but a heartfelt plea for the end of the war and a reunification of the nation. He

invited his fellow citizens not only to set apart the last Tuesday of November “as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens,” but also to “fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.”

In an effort to lengthen the Christmas shopping season and stimulate the economy in the midst of the Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt briefly changed the date of the holiday to the next-to-last Thursday, but the move was considered an affront to Lincoln’s memory and triggered partisan outrage. November 30, 1939, was considered “Republican Thanksgiving” and November 23 as “Democratic Thanksgiving” or “Franksgiving.” The experiment appeared to fail, with no measurable boost to the 1939 and 1940 Christmas shopping seasons. On December 26, 1941, Congress passed a law making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday of November, where it has remained – a bipartisan celebration – ever since.

It’s instructive that we find the pivotal moments in the development of modern Thanksgiving in the United States at the time of the Civil War and the Great Depression. We are once again facing a crisis of division. As we give thanks for the blessings that have been visited upon us, let us also remember to pray for healing and a reunification of our nation.

# Tax Deform for Corporations and the Wealthy

By Julianne Malveaux  
TriceEdneyWire.com



Desperate for a policy win, Republicans have proposed “tax reform,” which is really an attempt to reward their base at the expense of the rest of us. Whether you look at the 429 page (really? Who reads all of that) House of Representatives version (which reduces the number of tax brackets, raises the standard deduction, eliminates the personal deduction), or the equally long Senate version that does some of the same (the Senate keeps the seven tax brackets, as is presently the case), the consistency between the two versions is that the corporate tax rate will be cut from 35 percent to 20 percent).

Cutting the corporate tax rate will cost more than \$1.5 trillion, an astounding sum from the so-called “deficit hawks” who have previously said that adding to the deficit is bad news. Now, because they can’t “repeal or replace” the Affordable Care Act, and have kept none of their other promises, their goal is to get a tax bill passed, no matter what the cost. Ordinarily, significant changes in the tax code would be the subject of hearings and debate. This time around, Republicans would rush this thing through “by Thanksgiving.” That’s hardly enough time to read the whole bill, much less react to it.

I call it tax deform, not tax reform, because many of the proposals are just deforming outcomes for people in the middle and at the bottom. For example, eliminating the personal deduction works against families who have three or more children. Eliminating some deductions hurts, for example,

teachers who spend about \$500 a year from their pockets to buy school supplies. Increasing the amount of the childcare deduction works against low-income families if what is now a credit is changed to a deduction. With a credit you get money back if the credit is more than the tax you owe. With the deduction you get no money back.

All of these changes are designed to make up for the revenue that will be lost by cutting the corporate tax rate. State and local tax exemptions are on the chopping block, which will hurt people who live in high-tax states like New York and California (incidentally, states that voted against 45). The ability to deduct mortgage interest will be curtailed for people whose homes cost more than \$500,000. In some places, like Manhattan, parts of Washington, DC and San Francisco, \$500,000 may not buy much. But Republicans need a win, and they are willing to do almost anything to get it.

So they are willing to tax university endowments, even though those endowments generate much needed-operating funds and scholarship dollars for colleges and universities. On the other hand, they have proposed changing the 539 (the funds that parents can use to set aside money for their children’s education) so that these funds can also be used to fund private education. Meanwhile, through the budget, public education is being cut. And though deductions are being eliminated for individuals, corporate loopholes remain.

The good news is that the House and Senate have different versions of tax cuts (let’s cut the nonsense and stop calling it reform), and they will have to negotiate some compromises to get a bill through. The bad news is

that both houses agree that the corporate tax rate should be cut, no matter what kind of deficit it causes. We’ve walked down this “trickle down” path before. The theory is that if you cut corporate taxes, corporations will have more money to pump into the economy, and that will generate jobs and more economic growth, which will generate more tax dollars. There is no evidence whatsoever that such a theory works. Indeed, it didn’t work when Ronald Reagan was president, and most recently, bailing the banks out in 2008 didn’t pump more money into the economy as the theorists hoped. Instead, banks held onto the money many hoped they would invest, and tightened credit requirements making it more difficult for individuals and businesses to borrow and impeding growth.

Why are Republicans so intent on rewarding corporations at the expense of individuals, especially those with incomes below \$100,000? Because too many of them have been bought and paid for by their corporate interests. And we know the millionaires and billionaires in Congress and the White House will benefit from these changes. We just don’t know by how much, since 45 has still not released his tax returns.

The man who said he’d stand for the working class is standing beside the tax reform that will hurt them. But they voted for him believing the hype. When will they figure out that they got played?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available via [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit [www.julianne-malveaux.com](http://www.julianne-malveaux.com)



# The 7th Annual Central Conference on Alzheimer's a huge success

By Gail H. Brown  
Contributing Writer

As the nation celebrates the Thanksgiving holiday, there is much to be thankful for. However, for the more than five million Americans suffering from Alzheimer's, the holiday season can be a challenge for them and their caregivers.

Recently, Alzheimer's Mississippi, Inc. presented its 7th Annual Central Alzheimer's Caregiver Conference: "Caring for the Caregiver," with free admittance for caregivers and students, as well as 5.5 hours of CE's for registered healthcare professionals.

More than 200 attendees were educated about this devastating disease that is impacting more than 53,000 Mississippians.

Held at First Baptist Church of Jackson, "Caring for the Caregiver" keynote speaker Beth A.D. Nolan, Ph.D. of Positive Approach™ to Care (PAC), a training and advocacy organization offering techniques used by professionals and families working or living with dementia or cognitive impairment.

"Family caregivers and professionals alike had the opportunity to learn useful, practical skills to help people with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia have a better quality of life," said executive director TJ Harvey. Caregivers and others were pleased to learn and engage in Nolan's illustration of the Hand-Under-Hand Techniques to help calm and gain the confidence of some Alzheimer's patients during behavioral challenges.

"I would love [to see] more conferences [like this one] for caregivers to be done in rural areas," said Armeka Henderson, a licensed social worker. A number



Att'y. Ronald Morton gives legal advice.



Door prize winner shows off gift. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALZHEIMER'S MISSISSIPPI INC.



Keynote speaker Beth A.D. Nolan (left) demonstrates Hand-Under-Hand calming technique with participant from the audience.

of caregivers also expressed how much they appreciated the conference.

Alzheimer's Mississippi is dedicated to supporting families and caregivers around the state through regular support group meetings, community education programs, outreach workshops and conferences.

Alzheimer's is an epidemic that continues to escalate as Americans live longer. Currently, one in every three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or related dementia. There are more than 206,000 caregivers in Mississippi caring for a loved one with the disease.

Harvey says the organization is grateful for its sponsors and exhibitors who helped make this year's conference a huge such.

Major sponsors included: The MIND Center at UMMC, UnitedHealthcare, Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities, St. Catherine's Village, Sta-Home, The Blake at Township, the Senior Resource Guide, Heart of Hospice, Grace Hospice Foundation and First Baptist Jackson.

For more information, please contact Alzheimer's Mississippi at 601-987-0020 or [info@alzms.org](mailto:info@alzms.org).



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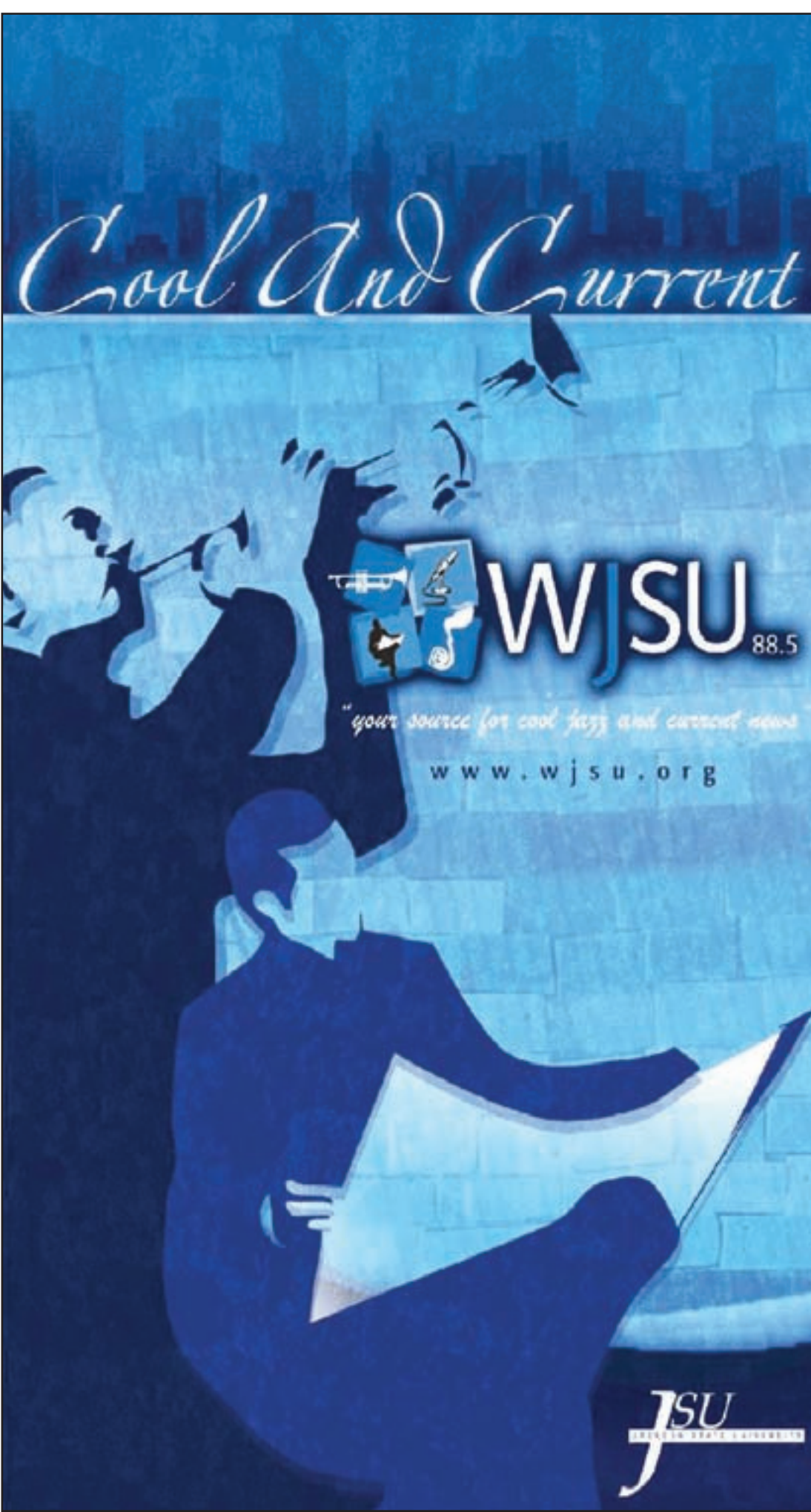
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