



Jackson’s Top Cop announces retirement

By Othor Cain
Editor

After more than 30 years on the force, Jackson’s police chief calls it quits. Vance, who was named chief of police by former Mayor Tony Yarber announced Wednesday that he would retire at the end of the year.

When named in 2013 as Yarber’s choice for police chief Vance said then, “I started off as a recruit, and I worked my way up from beat cop to sergeant, from lieutenant to commander, to assistant chief all through those years. From a professional standpoint, obviously it’s a fulfillment.”



Vance

or hold-over capacity for longer than one hundred eighty (180) days in a position that is required by law to be filled by appointment of the governing body of a municipality, or by mayoral appointment with the advice and consent of the council or alderman. If such position is not filled within the 180 days after the expiration of the position’s term, no municipal funds may thereafter be expended to compensate the person serving in the position.

December 4, marked 150 days that Vance has been serving in a hold-over role. Thursday is the last council meeting for 2017 and the council agenda does not include an action item pertaining to Vance.

Vance
Continued on page 3

Retired Education Personnel group bestows scholarship on future educator

By Othor Cain
Editor

In the true essence of the spirit and reason for this holiday season, the Jackson Metropolitan Retired Education Personnel Association held its annual Christmas Social Tuesday and awarded another \$1,000 scholarship.

Formed in 1969, the group has been going strong for nearly 48 years, mentoring educators, awarding scholarships to future educators, sharing best practices and of course reminiscing on yester-years, fondly known as “the good old days.” Tuesday was no different when more than 100 retirees gathered in the community center on Albermarle Road in Jackson.



Curry

This year’s scholarship recipient was Monica Curry, a sophomore music education major at Hinds Community College in Raymond. When reached by phone, Curry was ecstatic with the honor. “Based on the criteria for the scholarship, I was humbled and honored to receive it,” Curry said. “I hope one day to become a vocal teacher and choir director. This scholarship will help me pursue my dreams.”

Another component of this festive holiday gathering is the music provided by the melodious sounds of the Jackson Metropolitan Retired Community Chorale. Founded by Ruth P. Hobbs in 1978 with six retired female teachers, the choir now seats more than

Educator
Continued on page 3

Actor, activist and father: Ossie Davis remembered

Ossie Davis would have turned 100 this year. His children remember his life

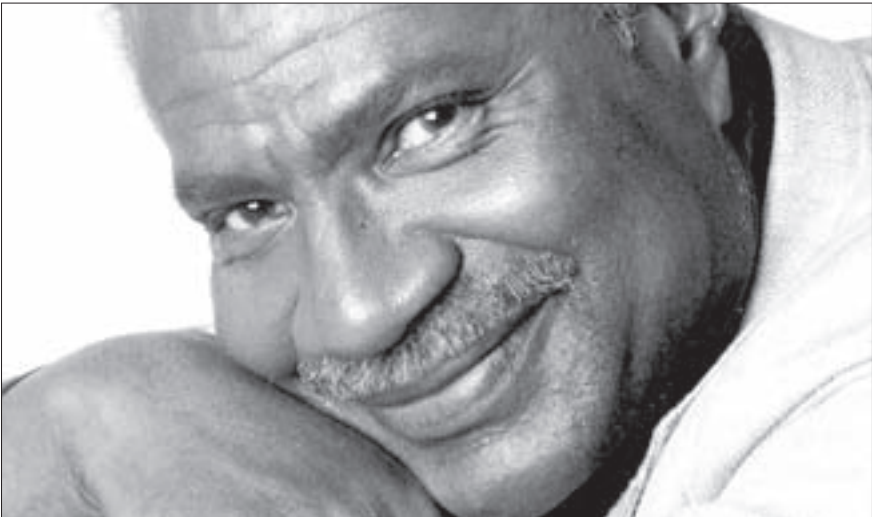
By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Entertainer and activist Ossie Davis would be 100 years old if he was alive today. Yet, it’s impossible to celebrate his life without also honoring the storied career of his wife and life partner, Ruby Dee.

Given the heightened racial tensions in America, it’s also hard to ignore that Davis and Dee always stood out as dedicated activists for freedom, justice and equality.

“We raised them well,” joked Nora Davis Day, one of the couple’s three children.

Nora joined her sister, Hasna Muhammad, and her brother, Guy, for an interview with the NNPA Newswire to



Entertainer and activist Ossie Davis would be 100 years old if he were alive today.
FAMILY OF OSSIE DAVIS

honor their mother and father for his birthday.

“I’ve always thought of being their children as ‘ordinary and extraordinary,’” said Day. “On Saturday, we did our chores, scrubbed the bathroom and we did our homework. They were serious about parenting, not unlike many homes.”

While Davis and Dee were famous actors, their children said that they never felt they had anything to brag about around the neighborhood.

“Many of our friends were in the same position,” Muhammad said. “We played with Sidney Poitier’s children, Harry Belafonte’s children and the children of other activists and actors.

We were all in the same position, so it’s wasn’t about, ‘Hey, my dad was on TV last night,’ because everybody’s dad was on TV last night.”

A host of stars lived in and around the family’s Mount Vernon, N.Y. enclave, including writer E.B. White, producer Dick Clark, actor Art Carney and boxer Floyd Patterson.

“As an adult and a parent myself, I came to discover just how wonderful and amazing our parents were and how thoughtful they were,” said Guy Davis, an accomplished blues musician.

Guy Davis pointed toward his parents’ activism and their deep friendships with folks like Paul Robeson and Malcolm X. Ossie Davis ultimately would give the eulogy at Malcolm X’s funeral.

Davis said his parents taught lessons even while administering discipline.

“They were like Joe Louis’ boxing gloves, the left and the right,” said Guy Davis. “One was the punisher and the other was the educator. They worked well together.”

Guy Davis continued: “When I got into trouble, dad would make me stand there with my palms facing up and he’d look me in the eye and tell me what I did wrong and take his belt off and ‘Wham!’ [hit my hands with the belt]. He could hurt you without ever harming you.”

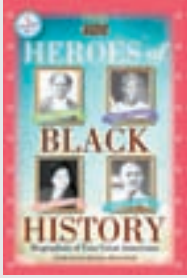
Meanwhile, Ruby Dee, “could light you up and your knees would be buckling, before you were hit.”

Mostly, the lessons taught by Davis and Dee were about life – particularly life as an African American. One lesson involved boycotting Christmas after the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing that killed four little black girls; others involved planning direct actions following the assassinations of Medgar Evers and John F. Kennedy.

Davis and Dee were prominently involved in the Civil Rights Movement and together they planned marches, sit-ins and other acts of civil disobedience and protests.

The children remembered making

Davis
Continued on page 3



Ward 6 Councilman moving full speed ahead



Aaron Banks receives award from family members Patricia (mom), Barron (dad), Aaron, LaTona (wife)

Banks joins national leadership circle
By Othor Cain
Editor

The proud family members of Ward 6 Councilman Aaron Banks gathered in his office Monday for a triple celebration. They celebrated Banks' birthday, him being just an all around good guy and his recent appointment to the National League of Cities (NLC) 2018 Community and Economic Development (CED) federal advocacy committee. This committee has the lead responsibility for developing NLC's federal policy positions on issues involving housing, community and eco-

conomic development, land use, recreation and parks, historic preservation and international competitiveness. The appointment was announced by NLC President Mark Stool, Mayor of Little Rock, Arkansas. Banks gleamed with joy and excitement as his family gathered in his office at City Hall. "Serving on this committee not only gives me the opportunity to represent the City of Jackson, but in addition, to put forth innovative policy positions, seek solutions for greater economic opportunities for Jackson and most importantly to learn," Banks said. As a committee member, Banks will play a key role in shaping NLC's policy positions and advocate on behalf

of America's cities and towns before Congress, with the administration and at home. "Serving on an NLC committee is one of the most effective ways for a local official to advocate for their community in Washington," Stool said. "I am thrilled to have Aaron Banks join a team of local leaders from around the country working to craft our policy platform and to solve the most pressing challenges facing our communities." Barron Banks, Aaron's father, was responsible for assembling the group to celebrate the young Banks' achievement. "We've been trying to celebrate Aaron for awhile now and this feels right. Aaron continues to make all of us proud," Barron said.



Gift award from mom and dad.



Banks finishes up work before celebration.

A large advertisement for BlueCross BlueShield of Mississippi. It features a woman and a young girl sitting on a blue blanket outdoors, smiling. The woman is wearing a pink shirt and yellow sunglasses. The girl is wearing a denim jacket. The text "LIVE HEALTHY BLUE" is overlaid in large white and blue letters. Below the text are the BlueCross and BlueShield logos, and the text "BlueCross BlueShield of Mississippi" and "It's good to be Blue." The website "www.bcbsms.com" is at the bottom. Fine print at the very bottom reads: "Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, A Mutual Insurance Company is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. © Registered Marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an Association of Independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans."

No official word on what Vance plans to do after retirement.



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Go Further



As we look back over 2017 we thank God for his unfiltered grace and mercy. As we look forward to the holiday season we share God's love and his promise to never leave us.



From my family to yours wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year - 2018.
Senator Sollie Norwood

Praises of Hope Gospel Showcase celebrates organ and tissue donation

Mississippi Link Newswire

Faith can play an important role in the world of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

That was the message shared at the Praises of Hope gospel showcase hosted by the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (MORA) in Jackson. "Faith and the faith community can play a large part in the lives of donor families and transplant recipients," said Becky Pierson, manager of Community Outreach for MORA and organizer of the event. "We wanted to share the stories of some of the families who have been on either side of donation, and how faith has guided them on their journey as a donor family or a recipient waiting on a lifesaving gift," added Pierson.

Ashford Sanders, the featured performer at Praises of Hope, is well aware of the need for donation. At 31 years of age, the Canton, Miss. native has been on dialysis for seven years and will one day need a kidney transplant. "It's important. It's not only me. Children are born with kidney disease and they need donors. They need people to step out and to be donors," said Sanders, who was a finalist on BET's Sunday Best in 2012.

One of the attendees at the event was donor mom Cynthia Camel and she believes that faith helped direct her to donation after losing her daughter, Danielle Bryant, to a brain hemorrhage in 2012. "At that time in my life, I was close enough to God I didn't have to ask him why," Danielle saved multiple lives and Camel is



Ashford Sanders sings at Praises of Hope.

certain that the right decision about donation was made. "I just knew there was somebody out there that we answered their prayers," she added.

Dion Porter knows exactly what Camel means when it comes to a prayer being answered. In March of 2017, Porter, the pastor of Terry Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Terry, Miss., received a kidney from his aunt, Sharon Robinson, as a living donation. "When you first get a transplant, you just want to tell your story. You're grateful to your donor. Then it becomes bigger. It's not just about you being blessed with a kidney and your donor. Now

I am at the stage where I'm not just talking about myself, it's how can I speak on behalf of those in need," said Porter.

The pastor, who was on dialysis for five years, says that he always had faith that something better would come his way and now he pays his story of faith and donation forward. "I realize how much that faith has paid off but my faith, my works are different now. I tell them about donation and how we play a part and how we can help someone else who is waiting right now," said Porter.

To register as an organ, eye and tissue donor, please go to www.donatelifems.org.

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Hinds County Election Commissioner, District 2
Toni Johnson

New Vineyard Church Toy and Food Give-away

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PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY



Murrah choir getting ready for trip to Italy



The Murrah Mustang Singers strike a pose after a performance.

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Murrah Concert Singers have been invited to represent Jackson at the Festival of Gold in Italy. Murrah has taken first place in local, state and national competitions in the last year. They are now looking forward to delivering another award-winning performance on the international stage next spring.

“Music is something that is universal,” said student director Justin Bell. “If you are from Africa, or the United States, you can speak to people through music.”

The choir is currently raising \$100,000 to help pay for the trip to the Festival of Gold in Italy to be held in March 2018. On-line donations may be made to

the Murrah Choir’s GoFundMe account. Donations by check or money order should be made out to the Mustang Choir Booster Club and mailed to Murrah High School, 1400 Murrah Drive, Jackson, MS 39202.

For more information, please contact choral activities director Pierrdro Gallion at (601) 927-0345.

Jim Hill wins 2017 JPS STEM competition

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jim Hill High School JROTC STEM team won the 2017 JPS Fall STEM Competition. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Making up the winning team were Adora Guice, Jakayla Marzittie, Jakiya Brown, Vernecia Anderson, and Corinne April. The team’s coach was 1ST Sgt. Gayle Anderson and Lt. Col. Raymond Leonard was their mentor. All seven JPS high schools were represented by at least one team in the competition. The winning team, along with cadets from all seven JPS JROTC units, received an all-expenses-paid trip to Mississippi State University December 2. While there, they participated in a full day of STEM activities and orientation to the college environment.

The project theme was “What’s the Weather?” Like novice meteorologists, the participating cadets used their problem-solving and research skills. They collected weather data for the month of October 2017. Then they graphed,



Jim Hill JROTC STEM team presenting their winning poster entry

analyzed and presented their findings. They used this data to forecast the weather for November 2017. They then used the information to predict how it would impact the local economy or military operations.

Col. (Ret.) Paul Willis is director of JROTC Programs for Jackson Public Schools.

“One of the major challenges facing the nation is the need for greater emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in our public schools,” said Willis. “To help address this need, the U.S. Army Cadet Command contracted with MSU to provide a summer STEM resi-

dential program and a fall semester learning experience on behalf of the JROTC Program in JPS.”

According to Willis, the six-year partnership has provided a number of benefits for the participating JROTC cadets. First of all, it increased awareness of STEM academic programs and career fields. It has fueled cadets’ interests in higher education so that they can prepare for STEM-related careers. Additionally, the project has inspired the cadets to pursue academic excellence. It has also enhanced their leadership skills and character development.

Chastain eighth graders recognized for service, citizenship

Mississippi Link Newswire

Ward 4 City Councilman De’Keither Stamps honored eighth-graders of Chastain Middle School for community service. He presented a Certificate of Award after a successful food drive led by the team. The presentation was made at the December 5 meeting of the Jackson City Council. Teachers, students and parents of Chastain were on hand to represent the school.

The eighth-grade students, parents and teachers of Chastain collected 1,423 canned goods and nonperishable items. The donations went to Mississippi MOVE’s Help the Homeless Campaign.

Social studies teacher LaToSha Smith came up with the idea and rallied the eighth-grade team. Dina Smith, an information and communica-



Ward 4 City Councilman De’Keither Stamps presented a Certificate of Award to Chastain Middle School eighth-graders in honor of their community service effort.

tions technology teacher, accepted the award on behalf of the team.

“The teachers of the ‘Great Eight’ are teaching the students that it is important to be

well-rounded individuals,” said Smith. “This means not only being academically and behaviorally sound but being socially aware as well. It’s important to give to the less fortunate.”

JPS schools to make up inclement weather day

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson Public School District closed all schools and offices December 8 due to winter precipitation and hazardous road conditions. Inclement weather make-up days are necessary to meet instructional hour requirements. Therefore, the districtwide

Winter Break will be adjusted for all JPS schools as follows:

Thursday, December 21 will be a full, regular school day. Early dismissal will not be observed as originally planned.

Friday, December 22 will be a 60 percent day for all schools. The early dismissal schedule

will be observed. Early dismissal times are 12 p.m. for elementary schools, 12:30 p.m. for middle schools and 1 p.m. for high schools.

All schools and offices will be open Thursday, December 21 and Friday, December 22 as noted above.



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Hinds CC honors Foundation scholarship recipients



Students who received Trustmark Scholarships are (Front) Hannah Reihl of Vicksburg, Jakiyah Stirgus of Utica, Ariana Sirgew of Jackson, Jerry Thornhill of Raymond, Representing Trustmark Bank; Taneesha Blount of Jackson, Kaliann Green of Pearl, Breanna Green of Pearl, Wasia Shabbier of Pearl; (Back) Tristan Carson of Raymond, Paxton Files of Brandon, Jarrod Robinson of Terry, Alandria Ferguson of Terry And Kyra Carroll of Jackson.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

RAYMOND – The Hinds Community College Foundation recognized its 2017-18 scholarship recipients, donors and honorees at a reception Oct. 27 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus.

Others recognized were Antwayne Fisher of Jackson and Davis Soto of Forest who received the Jobie Martin Scholarship. Chloe Longley of Jackson received the Edward D. and Rebecca J. Brown Scholarship.

The Hinds Community College

Foundation awarded more than 600 scholarships in the 2017-2018 academic year. The deadline to apply for a scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year is Feb. 15, 2018.

For more information, visit www.hindscc.edu.



Chloe Longley



Antwayne Fisher and Davis Soto

Western Line, Petal and Corinth School Districts lead the state for kindergarten readiness

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Kindergarten students in Western Line, Petal and Corinth school districts earned the highest average scores on the fall 2017 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment thanks to the districts' efforts to strengthen pre-K programs in their communities.

Kindergartners in all three districts exceeded the fall target score of 530 that demonstrates kindergarten readiness. Western Line students earned an average score of 574, Petal students averaged 564, and Corinth student averaged 557.

Statewide, the average score on the fall 2017 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment was 503. Only 20 of the state's 144 school districts demonstrated an average score of 530 or above. Nine of those 20 districts have invested in pre-K through the Early Learning Collaborative program.

Research from a four-year study show that 85 percent of students at the beginning of kindergarten with a score of 530 or above on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment are on track to become proficient readers by the end of 3rd grade.

Western Line offers pre-K in both of its elementary schools.

"Western Line has invested heavily in our pre-kindergarten program. The 75 students who participate in our pre-K program and then matriculate into our kindergarten program show learning readiness and assessment measures which far exceed those kindergartners who come to us without the benefit of our pre-K program. We continue to actively recruit students for our pre-K program and train teachers in innovative strategies for reaching early

instructional goals. This stronger foundation leads to students with increased aptitude for achievement," said Larry Green, superintendent of Western Line School District.

Petal and Corinth both have Early Learning Collaboratives (ELCs) in their districts.

"Early childhood education and pre-K continues to be a strong focus in the Petal School District. Through our efforts, kindergarten students are coming better prepared to start school, which allows our teachers to take them to the next level. In addition, we are able to connect with families sooner to better foster positive communication before their K-12 experience begins," said Matt Dillon, superintendent of Petal School District.

Mississippi's ELC program serves close to 2,000 in 14 communities and has made Mississippi a national leader in early childhood education standards. The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) recognized Mississippi's ELCs for the past two years for meeting all 10 quality standards for preschool. Only six states earned this recognition.

"Quality pre-K experiences are essential to a student's future academic success. Through our pre-K program, Corinth students are provided quality academic instruction and experiential opportunities that eliminate many of the emotional, social, and academic deficits that these children have when they start in our program. We find these children are better prepared for Kindergarten and continue to outperform those students who have not had a Pre-K experience," said Lee Childress, su-

perintendent of Corinth School District.

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment evaluates early literacy skills such as the ability to recognize letters and match letters to their sounds and a student's recognition that print flows from left to right.

Mississippi started testing incoming kindergartners at the start of the school year in 2014. Though the test continues to show the majority of kindergartners start school unprepared, students are showing incremental improvements.

Statewide, the percentage of students scoring kindergarten-ready has increased from 34.6 percent in 2014 to 36.9 percent in 2017. Students scoring below the target score has dropped from 65.4 in 2014 to 63.1 in 2017.

Roughly half of Mississippi school districts offered pre-K in 2016-17.

Making high-quality early childhood education accessible to all children is one of the primary goals of the Mississippi State Board of Education Strategic Plan.

"High-quality early childhood education is not only the pathway to kindergarten readiness, but it has a positive impact on academic achievement throughout a child's education," said Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. "Several studies have estimated that for every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education programs, the return on investment ranges from \$7 to \$12. Investment on the front end pays dividends on the back end of a child's education."

View the results at <http://mdereports.mdek12.org/report1/r2017-18.aspx>.

Singer, actor, educator to headline Attaché alumni dinner



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Attaché show choir's alumni dinner theater is set for Jan. 27. The fundraising event combines delicious cuisine, a silent auction and awesome talent on stage.

Clintonians shouldn't miss the 10th annual event at Mississippi College's Anderson Hall in the B.C. Rogers Student Center. The Saturday evening program begins at 7 p.m.

Attaché alums performing will include country singer/songwriter Shelly Fairchild, Broadway actor Heath Calvert and award-winning educator Brittany Wagner. The "Last Chance U" TV star, Wagner is widely acclaimed as the academic counselor to the nation's No. 1 ranked East Mississippi Community College Lions football team in Scooba.

"The Attaché alumni dinner theater is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year," said David Fehr, Attaché director. "We are grateful that our commu-

nity shows so much support and enthusiasm for this exciting event."

"Guests will also get to see the 2018 Attaché competition set – the Beatles," Fehr said.

In its 38th year, Attaché has been named the No. 1 show choir in America multiple times by the Show Choir Rating System. Attaché has hosted Show Choir Nationals in Nashville, Tenn., for 16 straight years.

The silent auction will feature unique jewelry, art and pottery; gift certificates for dry cleaning, house cleaning, restaurants, weekend get-away trips, concert tickets, collegiate items, and golf and hunting outings.

Tickets are \$45 per person and all the profits go to support Clinton High's Attaché show choir program.

Music patrons are advised to make reservations by Jan. 15.

To reserve tickets, contact Sara Graham at 601-573-8442.

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Democrat Doug Jones stuns Moore, Trump and the RNC to win Sessions' Senate seat

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A heavy African-American turnout in Alabama's special election propelled underdog Democratic candidate Doug Jones to victory, in a hotly-contested race against the flawed, yet heavily-favored, Republican candidate Roy Moore.

The New York Times reported that Jones defeated Moore 49.9 percent to 48.4 percent with 1.7 percent of voters preferring a write-in candidate.

According to CNN exit polling, 68 percent of white voters, including 72 percent of white men voters and 63 percent of white women voters, supported Moore, an alleged child predator.

Meanwhile, 96 percent of black voters supported Jones, including 93 percent of black men voters and 98 percent of black women voters.

Blacks accounted for a 29 percent share of all voters in the special election in Alabama.

Black voter turnout played a key role in getting Jones elected as Alabama voters were forced to choose between a Republican who's perceived as a racist and accused of child abuse and a Democrat who has earned his chops prosecuting the Ku Klux Klan.

The contest also was viewed, by many, as a test of racial progress in the Deep South, and the power of President Donald Trump's rhetoric to sway voters.

Trump campaigned hard for Moore, recording a robo-call for the former judge, and convincing the Republican National Committee (RNC) to back the man who was possibly banned from the local mall in Gadsden for badgering young women, according to *The New Yorker*.

On the day of the special election, #RoyMoore trended all day on Twitter with some straight-forward and emotional posts.

"That white supremacist #RoyMoore rode in on a horse to vote. Kudos to him," tweeted Greg Carr, chair of Howard University's Department of Afro-American studies and frequent guest on "NewsOne Now" on TV One. "As white supremacy dies, this is what it looks like. It won't go without a fight. Bannon. Trump. Moore. All of their comrades and enablers. They're daring humanity to respond."

One of Wisconsin Representative Gwen Moore's posts was retweeted more than 30,000 times:

"Another #RoyMoore supporter just called my office posing as an @AP reporter. Once their cover was blown they started screaming and called me and my staff the n-word and other racial slurs. I won't be intimidated. I won't stop speaking out. You will not shut me down. Believe it."

Already facing numerous accusations of sexual misconduct with children, Moore, in recent weeks, further aligned himself with the old South with his racially insensitive comments.

When asked by a reporter to explain the last time Amer-



Democratic candidate Doug Jones defeated former judge Roy Moore in a highly contentious special election in Alabama for Attorney General Jeff Sessions' vacated U.S. Senate seat. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ica was great, Moore didn't hesitate to respond with stunning clarity with an answer that seemed to out-Trump the president's comments when he was on the campaign trail.

"I think it was great at the time when families were united – even though we had slavery. They cared for one another," Moore said. "People were strong in the families. Our families were strong. Our country had a direction."

Later, he added: "The greatness I see was in our culture, not in all our policies. There were problems. We had slavery; we've overcome slavery. We've had prejudice; we still have prejudice, but we've turned the tide on civil rights. We've done a lot of things to bring this country around, and I think we can still make it better."

Moore's wife, Kayla, even got into the controversial fray.

One day before the election, Kayla Moore argued that her husband isn't a bigot.

"One of our attorneys is a Jew," she said. "Fake news would tell you that we don't care for Jews. And I tell you all this, because I've seen it and I just want to set the record straight, while they're here," she said gesturing to mainstream media outlets that were in the room. "One of our attorneys is a Jew. We have very close friends that are Jewish, and rabbis, and we also fellowship with them."

Moore has never been one to stay above controversy.

Even before the allegations that he pursued sexual relationships with teens, Moore was the most controversial major-party U.S. Senate nominee in recent memory, according to CNN.

He was booted off the Alabama Supreme Court bench when he served as chief justice for refusing to remove a two-ton statue of the Ten Commandments that he'd ordered placed on state property. He was elected back to the job, but ousted again in 2016 for refusing to abide by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing same-sex marriage.

Moore said that homosexual activity should be illegal and argued against removing

segregationist language from the state constitution.

One of Moore's accusers said he molested her when she was 14; another said that he tried to rape her and she fought him off. Still, Trump and the RNC threw their support behind him.

Fifty percent of voters said the allegations against Moore were definitely or probably true, while 44 percent saw them as definitely or probably false, according to preliminary exit poll results reported by ABC News.

A majority of voters (54 percent) said the allegations were a minor factor or not a factor at all.

Chris Cillizza wrote that, "Jones' victory means that for now Democrats are only two seats away from the majority – Vice President Mike Pence casts the tie-breaking vote when it is 50-50. While a Democratic move into the majority still looks like a long shot, it's now not out of the question."

Jones, an attorney and prosecutor, served as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, and won acclaim for prosecuting the remaining Klansmen responsible for the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing that killed four African American girls in 1963.

Shortly after mainstream news outlets predicted that Jones had won the special election, he took to Twitter to celebrate the victory.

"Thank you Alabama," Jones tweeted the night of the election.

In a statement about the Alabama Senate race, Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr., the founder of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, said that a coalition of black and white voters spared Alabama from international shame and disgrace by electing Jones to be the state's next United States Senator.

"The coalition that pushed Jones over the finish line can win and redeem the whole South," said Jackson. "It is a stinging repudiation of the divisive politics of Moore, President Donald Trump and strategist Steven Bannon and bodes well for Democrats looking at House and Senate congressional races in 2018."

Freddie Allen contributed reporting for this story.

NASA celebrates legacy of first black American astronaut

By Erick Johnson
Chicago Crusader/NNPA Member

Fifty years ago, a tragic accident ended the groundbreaking career of Major Robert H. Lawrence Jr., a Chicago native and stellar Air Force pilot who became America's first black astronaut.

On December 8, 2017 – the 50th anniversary of his death – NASA honored his often-ignored legacy and contributions to the agency.

Earlier this year, the *Chicago Crusader* reported about the lack of visibility of NASA's first black American astronaut and helped to raise awareness about Lawrence's incredible journey.

In planning a story for its annual Black History Month edition, *Chicago Crusader* staffers discovered that little was being done to honor Lawrence, while NASA held memorials to mark the 50th anniversary of three, white astronauts who perished in a fire aboard the Apollo 1 space module, during a preflight testing.

The *Crusader* story lauding Lawrence's achievements was published in dozens of black newspapers after the National Newspapers Publishers Association (NNPA) carried it on its news wire.

Born in 1935 to the late Gwendolyn Duncan and Robert H. Lawrence Sr., the future Air Force pilot was a man ahead of his time. Long before magnet and STEM programs were part of the high school curriculum, Lawrence excelled in math and science.

At 16, he graduated with honors from Englewood High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Bradley University. He married the late Barbara Cress from the prominent Chicago Cress family and entered the Air Force at age 21 before earning a doctorate in physical chemistry from Ohio State University, becoming the first astronaut at NASA to earn a doctorate degree.

As a United States Air Force pilot, Lawrence accumulated over 2,500 flight hours. In June 1967, Lawrence graduated from the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School (Class '66B) at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. In that same month, he was selected by the USAF as an astronaut for their Manned Orbital Laboratory (MOL) program, thus becoming the first black astronaut.

Lawrence died while training another pilot, Maj. John Royer, to perform the "flare" maneuver – an operation that Lawrence had already mastered – in the F-104 Starfighter.



Robert Henry Lawrence, Jr. was the first African American astronaut. USAF/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

According to NBC News, "Lawrence's memory languished in obscurity" partly due to the fact that the Pentagon only recognized someone as an "astronaut" if they actually flew to an altitude above 50 miles.

However, Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Va.) mounted a campaign that forced NASA to put Lawrence's name on the Space Mirror Memorial in 1997 – thirty years after Lawrence's death.

"On Dec. 8, 1997, on the thirtieth anniversary of his death, Lawrence had his name unveiled on the Florida memorial," NBC News reported.

The ceremony recognizing Lawrence, earlier this month – although spirited, at times – was a somber one for the 300 guests that included decorated NASA astronauts, dignitaries, relatives and friends, who had flown and driven miles across the country to honor Lawrence at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Lawrence's older sister, Dr. Barbara Lawrence, attended and spoke; another prominent Chicago resident who was present was E. Dawn Griffin, the oldest daughter of Ernest Griffin, founder of Griffin Funeral Home in Bronzeville. The Griffin Funeral Home, which closed in 2012, handled the funeral arrangements for Lawrence.

Members from Lawrence's college fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, also attended to honor one of their own. On the sprawling grounds of the NASA facility, they participated in a two-and-a-half-hour ceremony that began at the Center for Space Education and culminated with an emotional wreath-laying ceremony at the base of the national Space Mirror Memorial, a massive black granite structure where Lawrence's name is among those of 20 astronauts who either died in flight or in training.

The ceremony brought out some of NASA's astronauts and

biggest officials. Charles Bolden, America's first black NASA chief administrator and Stephanie Wilson, the second black female astronaut, attended the service. Another black astronaut, Winston Scott, played the trumpet in a band that performed various jazz songs, including, "Fly Me to the Moon." Reportedly, jazz was one of Lawrence's favorite musical genres.

Herman B. White Jr., a physicist and lecturer at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., Lawrence's alumnus, gave a presentation where a memorial scholarship and a conference room bear Lawrence's name. Recently, Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio renamed a dormitory in Lawrence's honor.

Bolden, who piloted the space shuttles Columbia and Discovery, praised Lawrence for his spirit. "He took that first step," Bolden said. "If he had lived, he would have been flying on that space shuttle also."

Col. Robert Cabana, who flew on four shuttle missions, agreed.

"Major Robert H. Lawrence truly was a hero," said Cabana. "He set the stage for what was to come."

Barbara Lawrence shared her experiences with her brother as they grew up on the South Side of Chicago. She said, when Robert was young, he was a very disciplined student and dedicated to learning.

"I'm truly proud to have been his sister," she shared. "He wasn't interested in being the first black astronaut. He was only interested in being given the opportunity to do what he wanted to do. I'm sorry he wasn't here a little longer, but I think his job was one that was well done."

The Chicago Crusader is a member publication of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Learn more about becoming a member at www.nnpa.org.

Chevrolet provides "mobile offices" for millennial think tanks in Seattle

NNPA Newswire

Chevrolet recently partnered with the National Millennial Community and sent out groups of influential young people to destinations around Seattle, Washington to execute think tank-style discussions on topics related to the success of today's multicultural millennials.

The National Millennial Community (NMC) is a progressive and diverse group of millennials that works to dispel negative stereotypes about the generation and represents the 80 million young people in this country by conducting think tanks, seminars and engagement opportunities with the CEOs of major corporations. The community's members present diversity in ethnicity, geographic location,



Participants in the National Millennial Community event in Seattle, Wash., use a tablet to perform research using 4G LTE Wi-Fi in the Chevy Trax. Chevrolet

gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion and more. Chevrolet and the National Millennial Community created these mobile think tanks in an effort to understand what networking, personal branding

and searching for jobs means for all millennials, factoring in the unique challenges facing that generation.

Offices

Continued on page 10

DRA and federal partner to deliver technical assistance, training to improve rural healthcare

U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration provides support

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are collaborating to provide technical assistance to rural hospitals in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Missouri. The Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program is administered by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.

Launched in August 2017, the program enhances healthcare delivery in the Delta region through intensive, multi-year technical assistance to providers in rural communities, including critical access hospitals, small rural hospitals, rural health clinics and other healthcare organizations.

The program provides hospitals and clinics with various financial, operational and quality-improvement assessments, consultations, educational training, planning and ongoing coaching to help healthcare leaders develop and implement a local health system that supports a continuum of care.

"Our region endures growing health disparities when compared to the nation as a whole. DRA is committed to improving the capacity of our rural communities so they can provide quality health care services to Delta residents," said Peter Kinder, DRA's alternate federal co-chairman. "This program will provide critical support to rural healthcare facilities and enhance their services to improve health outcomes while strengthening the local and regional economies."

DRA is collaborating with federal partners and rural health resource centers to assist providers and healthcare leaders with developing and implementing a system of care for their communities by targeting eight areas:

- Improve financial position and increase operational efficiencies
 - Implement quality-improvement initiatives to improve health outcomes
 - Increase use of telemedicine
 - Develop a community care coordination plan
 - Improve the health of area residents
 - Integrate social services to address socioeconomic challenges
 - Ensure access to and availability of Emergency Medical Services
 - Strengthen workforce recruitment and retention needs
- Selected healthcare facilities include:

Arkansas

Daughters of Charity Services of Arkansas (DCSA) in Dumas: DCSA is comprised of two rural health clinics and one wellness center serving Desha, Drew and Chicot counties. DCSA will collaborate with Drew Memorial Hospital, Delta Memorial Hospital, and Chicot Memorial Hospital to build a coordinated and more efficient local health system.

Louisiana

Natchitoches Regional Medical Center (NRMC) in Natchitoches: NRMC is a 100-bed, non-profit regional medical center serving rural residents located in Natchitoches, Winn, and Sabine parishes.

Mississippi

Tippah County Hospital (TCH) in Ripley: TCH is a 40-bed, county-owned critical access hospital that serves area residents in Tippah County.

Sharkey-Issaquena Community Hospital (SICH) in Rolling Fork: SICH is an acute-care facility jointly owned by Sharkey and Issaquena counties.

Missouri

Pemiscot County Memorial Hospital (PCMH) in Hayti: PCMH is a publicly owned and operated healthcare provider serving Pemiscot County and nearby areas.

Iron County Hospital (ICH) in Pilot Knob: ICH is a stand-alone critical access hospital that is owned and operated by Iron County.

About the Delta Regional Authority

The Delta Regional Authority is a federal-state partnership created by Congress in 2000 to help create jobs, build communities, and improve lives through strategic investments in economic development in 252 counties and parishes across eight states. To date, DRA's investments have exceeded \$3.7 billion – including contributions from federal, state and local partners – and have supported infrastructure improvements, workforce development and training, and increased community capacity.

These investments have helped create or retain more than 38,000 jobs, trained more than 8,400 workers for 21st Century jobs, and provided water and sewer service to more than 75,000 families since DRA was established.

Learn more at dra.gov.

Mississippi students selected for United States Senate Youth Program, receive scholarships

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) in conjunction with the 56th annual U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP) announces that Noah Harris and Morgan Atkins will serve as Mississippi delegates for the USSYP for the 2017-2018 school year. The high school seniors will participate in Washington Week to be held March 3-10, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

Harris is a senior at Oak Grove High School (Lamar County School District) and serves as the student body president. He is also president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, secretary for the Beta Club, and captain for the Oak Grove High School varsity basketball team. His future plans include earning a degree in political science and attending law school.

Atkins attends Center Hill High School (DeSoto County School District) and serves as senior class president. She's

an active member of the student council, Superintendent's Youth Leadership Council, and National Honor Society. She is currently the founder and president of the Youth Government Club. Her future plans include studying public policy and politics at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

While in Washington, the student delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense and leaders of other federal agencies. They will also participate in a meeting with a justice of the United States Supreme Court and the President of the United States. Each session includes an in-depth question and answer period. The students will also tour numerous national monuments and museums throughout Washington, D.C.

In addition to participating in Washington Week, the Hearst Foundations will award Harris and Atkins a \$10,000 under-

graduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history, public affairs, and/or related field of study. Transportation and all expenses for Washington Week are provided by the Hearst Foundations.

Each year this extremely competitive merit-based program brings the most outstanding high school juniors and seniors – two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity – to Washington, D.C. for an intensive week long educational study of the federal government and the people who lead it.

Alumni of the program serve as elected and appointed officials at all levels of government including two current United States Senators, a current governor, former senior political advisors to the President of the United States, former ambassadors and federal judges, and a host of other professionals.

Community faith outreach hosts party at MSH, Dec. 10



Volunteers from St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church of Clinton, Miss., at Mississippi State Hospital



Volunteers from St. Luther Missionary Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., at Mississippi State Hospital



Volunteers from Mt. Helm Missionary Baptist Church of Brandon, Miss., at Mississippi State Hospital



Volunteers from Virden Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., at Mississippi State Hospital

The Mississippi Link Newswire

More than eighty groups will provide parties and activities to over 700 patients and residents at the hospital this holiday season.

"The outpouring of love and support from all of our volunteer groups adds so much to the lives of our patients and residents during this joyous time. It is greatly

appreciated," said Sheila Shows, volunteer services director for the hospital.

Festivities at MSH will culminate Dec. 21, Santa Day.

An annual tradition, Santa Day is a day when community volunteers and leaders gather at the hospital dressed as Santa and deliver gift bags to each and every

patient and resident.

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

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It's time to draw near to God

PART 1

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



We read in Psalm 73:28, these words: "But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Thy works." Prayer is the key to drawing near to God. If we draw near to God, our prayer life is going to be deeper and richer than ever.

It is impossible to draw near to God with an abbreviated prayer life. There are depths in God that few are able to experience simply because most neglect the opportunity to draw near to God.

Does it trouble us that people with whom we have daily contact have not been won to Christ? Our central purpose as Christians is to spread the Gospel and win others to Christ.

Is God trying to get a mes-

sage through to us? We have to sift through the static to clearly hear His voice. "But it is good for me to draw near to God."

The Apostle Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 4, verses 15 and 16, "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Every member of the body of Christ has a place to fill, we are "fitly framed together:"

The place God has for us is important; and if we are out of place, it is a drag on the body. When we are floundering and drifting, we can't see where we belong. But if we draw near to God, we not only see our place more clearly, we

are in a position to be more effective in our responsibility.

Second Peter is filled with warnings, giving insight and uncovering what the devil was planning to do. We see the devil likes to work undercover and he does not like to be uncovered.

When the Apostle John came back from the Isle of Patmos and wrote First, Second and Third John, he had a burning message of love for the saints. Oh, how he stressed that we ought to love one another. Love is of God, and God is love. John stressed that because he had a burden. He saw the need of not letting our love grow cold. Love is no good unless we give it away.

Are we sharing our love with others? In John 13:35, Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another."

The Apostle Paul stated in Hebrews 2:1, "Therefore we ought to give the more

earnest head to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." Paul was giving this warning to help the saints to have insight concerning how the human works. We may think we have things going our way, but many a battle has been lost because one fellow thought he had the other fellow just about whipped and he let down his guard a little. We should always have our guard up because the enemy is working as never before. He is working on loved ones and he is working around the church all he can to try to discourage God's people. We need to get stronger in God all the time.

Next week Part II - "It's time to draw near to God"

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.

P R E S E R V E D

The best Christmas gift

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



In addition to thinking of ways to bless others, some of you may be spending this time of the year thinking about your life this past year...with a tinge of regret. Or you may be like me and simply thankful to have made it through the year with your sanity intact.

This week, I'd like to share three questions that have changed my perspective on my life and, most importantly, my relationship with God this past year: "Who are you?" "What do you want?" and "Where have you been?"

1. Who you are? - More than the others, this forced me to be honest about who I was spiritually, relationally, emotionally, physically and professionally. Regardless of my achievements or failures, I was reminded that who I thought I was always had to be asked in relation to what God said about me. Psalm 139:14 backs this up when it says "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

2. What you want? - I think the phrase that I uttered the most this past year was "I want things to be different." I had to make sure that the changes were made gradually (which allowed me to learn patience). This could have meant something as insignificant as different clothes. In the case of clothes, I learned two lessons: even if they make it in my size and I saw others wearing it, didn't necessarily mean that it was meant to be on MY body. In other words, I had to find what fit me best. Similarly, God's blessings for us are spe-

cific regarding not only our desires but, most importantly, our needs. We are reminded of this in Psalm 37:4 which encourages us to "Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart."

3. Where you've been? - This proved to be a tough one. There was always the temptation to leave out key details in order to make my decisions and where they ended up taking me look better than they actually were. But the fruit of those poor decisions always gave the story away. Thankfully, God's grace and mercy still covered me. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

What does all of this have to do with Christmas? As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, rather than spending money on things you don't really need, give yourself a gift that truly keeps on giving: the gift of an authentic life that honors Christ. A guest minister at my church a few years ago said that God's love was the reason why we should celebrate this Christmas season. And it's because of this love that we should love ourselves enough to give the best gift: a healthier emotional state, renewed mind and restored relationship with God.

May the joy of the Christmas season comfort you!

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.

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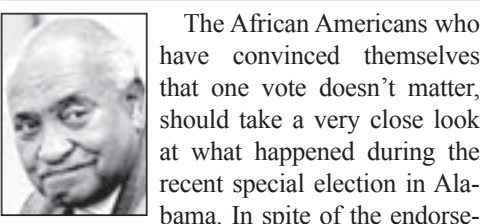


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Lessons from the African-American vote in Alabama

By Dr. John Warren
San Diego Voice and Viewpoint/NNPA Member



The African Americans who have convinced themselves that one vote doesn't matter, should take a very close look at what happened during the recent special election in Alabama. In spite of the endorsement of President Donald Trump and the extremely conservative white voters who supported Roy Moore, Doug Jones, the Democratic candidate won the for the United States Senate seat vacated by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Jones was the first Democrat elected to represent Alabama in the U.S. Senate in 25 years. How he won is very important to African Americans across this nation.

Exit polls showed that 98 percent of African-American women who voted supported Jones and 93 percent of African-American men who voted chose the Democratic candidate. The Jones' victory by 1.5 percent clearly shows that, without the black vote, Jones wouldn't have won the special election. Equally important is the fact that this degree of African-American voter participation in an off-season special election, demonstrates what we can do, when we choose to get involved. African Americans cannot allow "voter suppression" tactics, like additional photo identification requirements, to deter us from going to the polls.

According to Nonprofit VOTE, "In all but two states, voting age citizens convicted of a felony are barred from voting for some period of time." In Washington, D.C., Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Utah, the voting rights of returning citizens are restored automatically once they're released. In Florida, Iowa, Kentucky and Virginia, ex-offenders are forced to petition the government to have their voting rights restored.

African Americans are disproportionately affected by voter suppression tactics and laws that deny ex-felons the right to vote; that's why we should be focused on "voter registration" and not candidate endorsements at this stage of the game. We cannot allow apathy and indifference to take the place of the hard won battle for voter participation on the part of African Americans. Just as we rallied and voted for President Barack Obama, we must rally and vote against the policies and political candidates promoted by the Trump Administration. We have to do whatever it takes to defeat those who would continue to support a system of economic inequality dressed up as tax reform that ultimately harms the majority of Americans.

Jones' victory in the special election in Alabama demonstrates that black votes matter and that black voters cast crucial votes in elections, where white voters are decidedly split; that's the real lesson. We make our victories and define our value. Let's not let others do that for us. Every black vote counts and can make a difference in the Deep South and across the nation.

The San Diego Voice and Viewpoint is a member publication of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. Learn more about becoming a member at www.nnpa.org.
John E. Warren is the publisher of the San Diego Voice and Viewpoint and a contributing writer for the NNPA Newswire.

Offices

Continued from page 1

Precious Angel Smith, one of the program participants, said that she's working to dispel the negative stereotypes that millennials don't understand the importance of working hard and that they're too obsessed with technology to engage with the world around them.

Smith said that it can be hard searching for jobs and networking as a black millennial.

"Being black sets me apart as it is, then when you add the fact that I'm a woman and a millennial, that's when things get sticky," said Smith. "Because of those three attributes, I constantly find myself having to go the extra mile and surpass the expectations that have been predetermined for me."

Smith continued: "I've learned that in this world, being a black millennial will never be easy, I will have to continue to work three times as hard as [white men]. However, one thing I will never do is

Toyota – A history of milestones and successes in Blue Springs

By Glenn McCullough Jr.
Executive Director of Mississippi Development Authority

Global leaders worldwide recognize Mississippi's automotive industry is a powerful economic driver. Each day, thousands of Mississippians work to ensure automotive manufacturers and suppliers deliver top-quality products to their consumers.

Since 2011, Toyota's Mississippi team has produced the Corolla, the world's best-selling vehicle model, in Blue Springs. The plant and its 1,550 team members have achieved numerous milestones putting Toyota Mississippi and our automotive industry in the global spotlight, demonstrating "Made in Mississippi" is a stamp of quality around the world.

Toyota Mississippi started exporting Corollas from Mississippi to Central and South America and the Caribbean in 2014. The plant celebrated the production of its 500,000th vehicle the following year, a milestone reached faster than any other Toyota plant in the country. This achievement

is a prime example of Toyota Mississippi's skilled and productive workforce. Earlier this year, Toyota Mississippi began celebrations commemorating the 10th anniversary of the plant's groundbreaking, which took place in April 2007. On that day, the world realized industry-leading Toyota found the formula for success in Mississippi, a fact the company has proven numerous times since then.

In honor of the anniversary, Toyota announced it was rolling out the red carpet for visitors in Blue Springs by building a nearly \$10 million interactive visitors center to offer public tours showcasing how thousands of Mississippians successfully produce Corollas. Toyota also announced donations totaling \$350,000 to focus on the next generation of skilled team members through STEM and family literacy programs – two examples of the philanthropic spirit Toyota Mississippi shares throughout the state. A free community concert in downtown Tupelo capped anniversary celebrations in November. Before the close of this monumental

year, Toyota Mississippi will achieve another major milestone as the plant rolls its one millionth Corolla off the line. Since Day 1, Toyota Mississippi and its employees have proven they can compete and win on a global scale from North Mississippi. One million of the world's best-selling vehicles have been assembled in Blue Springs, a town of approximately 150 residents before Toyota arrived.

Every state wants a Toyota plant. Automotive manufacturing plants contribute greatly to the economy and create thousands of direct and indirect jobs. It takes the dedicated teamwork of many individuals to win a plant like Toyota Mississippi. It takes the hard work of many more to help them achieve long-term growth and success once a company does choose a location to build a plant. Economic development is fiercely competitive. Mississippi competes successfully to retain and recruit private capital investment to the state.

While we are a comparatively small state, we are able to punch above our

weight as a result of strong statewide collaboration. The foundation of Mississippi's economic development success is built on effective teamwork involving local economic developers, utilities, education leaders, workforce training professionals, the Mississippi Development Authority, the Legislature and Gov. Phil Bryant – all operating with a high level of trust, cooperation and competence.

Toyota Mississippi's decision to locate in Blue Springs and the thousands of careers created as a result must be attributed to strong, committed leadership at all levels of government playing to win for the people of Mississippi. The plant's many successes and milestones over the last decade are the direct result of a strong, quality, trained workforce committed to a job well done.

MDA congratulates Toyota Mississippi on reaching the one-million mark. The state of Mississippi looks forward to many more celebrations and milestones as we move together forward with Toyota.

Republican bill robs the poor to feed the rich

By Marian Wright Edelman
NNPA Columnist



The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act recently passed on a nearly straight party line Republican vote in the U.S. Senate is, like the House-passed bill, a moral abomination. Their enactment would be the death of America's dream for tens of millions of children. The House and Senate bills favor the wealthiest Americans and most powerful corporations over poor and moderate-income children and families – billionaires over poor babies and powerful corporations over poor children. They are evil.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. warned that "America is going to hell if we can't use her vast resources to end poverty and make it possible for all of God's children to have the basic necessities of life." With both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives now having passed extremely unjust tax bills, I must ask how can 278 political leaders, 51 Senators and 227 House members, act against the best interests of so many in their states and across our nation to line the overstuffed pockets of powerful special interests with government money?

What religious texts do these members of Congress and those who lobby them read? How did they miss the clear warnings of the prophets and gospels and tenets of every great faith to care for the poor, the sick, the lame and the orphan? Where did they learn that acting as Robin Hood in reverse by denying the poor and powerless child the basic survival needs of food and shelter to give to the wealthy and powerful is acceptable?

There are 565 billionaires in the United States – the 400 richest of

whom have a combined net worth of \$2.7 trillion. More than 13.2 million children – 1 in 5 – live in poverty in America. Their families of four make less than \$24,563 a year. More than six million children live in deep poverty, at less than half the poverty level.

A majority of both houses of Congress and the Trump Administration seek policies to reward millionaires and billionaires and non-needy corporations and add nearly \$1.5 trillion – around \$150 billion a year for the next ten years – to our national deficit to do so. And to pay for it, they will deny poor and moderate-income children and families healthcare, food, housing, child care and other survival assistance or help parents get needed jobs at livable wages to support their families.

Consider some of the facts about these tax cut bills:

Both the Senate and House bills lavishly benefit the wealthiest households and individuals. The Senate bill doubles the estate tax threshold, enabling individuals to inherit tax free up to \$11 million and couples up to \$22 million. The House bill would eliminate the estate tax entirely.

More than 60 percent of the Senate bill's individual tax cuts in 2027 go to the richest one percent of households making \$1 million or more; 48 percent of current tax-paying households would face tax increases according to the Tax Policy Center. The Senate bill ends individual tax benefits after ten years while making permanent tax cuts for corporations. The House bill continues both individual and corporate tax cuts.

The Senate's \$1,000 Child Tax Credit increase to benefit families with children and make up for elimination of the personal exemption for

dependents provides little or no assistance to poor and middle-income working families. Yet, both the Senate and House bills enable higher income families to qualify for the credit for the first time. Neither Senate nor House bills make the credit fully refundable to help working families with the lowest incomes. Both bills would end eligibility of children in low-income working immigrant families for the credit without Social Security Numbers. Tax paying immigrant families are required currently to have only an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number to qualify for the Child Tax Credit.

The Senate's permanent corporate tax cuts are partially paid for by repealing the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate and tax penalty. This will leave 13 million fewer people insured in ten years, raise health insurance premiums for many more and destabilize the health insurance marketplace.

The \$1.5 trillion ten-year deficit the House and Senate bills create will cause deep cuts in Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), child care, education, Pell Grants, housing and other critical child services.

No funds will be left over for the next decade to end child poverty for the more than 13.2 million children struggling to grow up healthy and educated.

Imagine spending \$1.5 trillion or even one-tenth of that each year on children's needs? Two years ago CDF commissioned the Urban Institute to assess steps to end child poverty right now. We identified modest improvements to nine programs we knew helped reduce child poverty: increasing the value of SNAP's food benefits, providing housing subsi-

dies for poor and near-poor families with children, making the Child Tax Credit fully refundable, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit for the lowest income families, creating a subsidized jobs program, increasing the minimum wage, expanding the federal child care subsidy program, making the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit fully refundable, and helping more families get child support payments. Implementing all these improvements together would lift 60 percent of all poor children and 72 percent of poor children of color from poverty for a year, at a \$77.2 billion federal and state government cost – less than half of one year of the \$1.5 trillion deficit increase. A \$1.5 trillion investment could lift these children from poverty to adulthood.

We must tell Congress to reject this morally indefensible tax boondoggle and instead invest in protecting children and maintaining any semblance of fairness.

Not one new dime in tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires as long as more than 13.2 million children are poor, and millions of children are hungry, uneducated, homeless and without health coverage. Stand up and fight. A nation that does not stand up for its children does not stand for anything and will not stand tall in the future.

Marian Wright Edelman is the president of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information, go to www.childrensdefense.org. Follow the Children's Defense Fund on Twitter @ChildDefender.

jeopardize my morals and values in an attempt to be accepted in the workforce."

Xavier Robertson said that sometimes millennials are stereotyped for lacking a strong work ethic.

"This is a misunderstanding," said Robertson. "It's not that we don't like to work, it's that we like to do work that matters and for people that care."

Robertson continued: "We want to make an impact and we want to be respected. Millennials want to be challenged and inspired on a daily basis, so that we can maximize our potential."

During the Seattle trip, Chevrolet provided millennials with the Chevy Trax sports utility vehicle to use as a mobile working space. The 4G LTE Wi-Fi within the vehicle allowed the teams (up to seven devices) to connect to the Internet, research necessary information and collaborate on their findings. While traveling to their various destinations, the drivers used

Apple CarPlay or Android Auto for navigation and playing music. Chevrolet equipped the Trax with a printer, coffee machine and other office gadgets that were plugged into the 12-volt outlet in the rear seats. Once each team arrived at their destination, the front passenger seat folded down, providing a completely flat working desk for laptops, tablets or writing.

Following the think tanks, the National Millennial Community participants traveled to a central location and crafted a tool kit designed to help their peers find jobs and network more effectively.

Smith said that as a member of the National Millennial Community, she has benefitted in ways that she could have never imagined. Smith said that she has not only traveled to different states to share different perspectives as a millennial, she has also had the opportunity to meet CEOs and owners of major corporations.

Robertson agreed that the experiences provided through the National Millennial Community are life-changing.

"The National Millennial Community is an awesome group of diverse individuals working to inform people about the misconceptions about millennials," said Robertson. "This community not only assembles millennials from around the country to talk about these issues, but we also had the opportunity to talk face to face with the leaders of influential brands in the United States."

Robertson continued: "We are able to have a direct impact on the conversation about us. Very few times are there opportunities where you can sit down and have conversations that can impact the world and through NMC, we can do that."

You can follow the conversation, on Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #ChevyThinkTanks.

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SECTION 901

ADVERTISEMENT

City of Jackson, MISSISSIPPI

Federal Aid Project No. SRSP-0250-00(035) LPA 105812-401000
Barr Elementary School

The City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will receive bids for the Safe Route to School Project for Barr Elementary School for a project length of .72 miles, Federal Aid Project No. SRSP-0250-00(035) LPA 105812-401000 no later than 3:30 PM, Local Time, January 9, 2018, at the City of Jackson located at 219 South President Street, Jackson Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

The installation of sidewalks, and warning signs. And the maintenance of existing warning signs, traffic signals and signal pole. All other related items of work required to complete the project as shown and specified in the Contract Documents.

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

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

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

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

The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations:

- City of Jackson Office (Engineering Division), 219 South President Street, Jackson Mississippi.
 - IMS Engineers, 126 E. Amite Street, Jackson Mississippi, 39201
- All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained from Engineering Service located at 126 E. Amite Street, Jackson Mississippi, 39201 upon payment of \$100.00 for each set, which will not be refunded.

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

The proposal and contract documents in its entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date above designated.

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the "Mississippi State Highway Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, 2004", together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications.

The attention of Bidders is directed to the provisions of Subsection 102.07 pertaining to irregular proposals and rejection of bids.

BY _____
Robert K. Miller
Director, Department of Public Works
City of Jackson, Mississippi

12/14/2017, 12/21/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

City of Jackson

Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

06509-011618 – Compact Hydraulic–Excavator

07051-011618- - Lowboy Trailer

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

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

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

Hellene Greer, CPPB, NPCA: Manager
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1025 or 960-1022

12/14/2017, 12/21/2017

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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, JANUARY 10, 2017 AT 12:00 P.M. IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

A. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

B NEW BUSINESS

1. CASE NO. 2018-01, REQUEST BY: JENNIFER WELCH, TO ADD A WOOD PORCH IN THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE AT 935 HARDING ST., LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

2. CASE NO. 2018-02, REQUEST BY: WILLIAM MCCLAIN, TO DEMOLISH EXISTING DAMAGED STRUCTURE AND BUILD A NEW STRUCTURE BACK TO ORIGINAL SCALE AT 149 E. COHEA ST., LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

II. OTHER ITEMS

DISCUSSION

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

III. ADJOURN

12/21/2017 12/28/2017

LEGAL

Request for Proposals

Jackson Zoo Café, Jackson, MS

The Jackson Zoological Society (JZS) is soliciting proposals for an operator (Operator) to manage Food Service and Concessions (Café), to be located at the Jackson Zoo, 2918 West Capitol Street Jackson, MS 39209. The Operator selected must be prepared to open the Café and any named additional options by March 10, 2018.

Proposals are due no later than 3 p.m. CST on January 11, 2018 at the administration office of the Jackson Zoo. Contact Guest Services Manager Sheba Moses via email smoses@jacksonzoo.org to receive the complete RFP for directions to submit. A copy of the RFP packet may also be picked up at the Jackson Zoo, 2918 West Capitol St., Jackson, MS during regular business hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A mandatory pre-proposal on-site meeting of interested operators will be held at the Jackson Zoo on December 21st, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., at which time questions concerning the RFP package will be addressed.

For a proposal to be considered, the proposer shall have at least two (2) or more years of continuous experience within the last five (5) years in the ownership, management and operation of a restaurant facility, Food Truck services, Concession Stand or similar operation.

Respondents must submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal to: The Jackson Zoo; Attn: Cafe proposal; 2918 West Capitol Street; Jackson, MS 39209.

12/14/2017, 12/21/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

SIGN VARIANCE FOR COOKOUT

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR COOKOUT TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT HAS BEEN

SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018 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.

12/21/2017 12/28/2017

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Abandoned Vehicle


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

2007 Toyota Camry 4TIBE46K37U094030
Registered to Amanda Roundtree
Westlake Financial Services, Lien Holder


Date of Sale: January 5, 2018
Place of Sale: Northside Used Auto Parts,
4432 Northside Drive,
Jackson, MS

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.

Time: 10:00 A.M. 12/21/17, 12/28/17, 01/4/18



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DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
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MCDADDE'S MARKET #2
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707 North Congress - Jackson, MS

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6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
REVELL ACE HARDWARE
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
RITE AID
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave
RITE AID
114 E. McDowell Rd
RITE AID
6075 Old Canton Rd

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3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
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“THE ENDLESS SUMMER: 50TH ANNIVERSARY” INTERVIEW

BRUCE BROWN

LEGENDARY DIRECTOR REFLECTS ON SHOOTING CLASSIC SURFING DOCUMENTARY

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Born in San Francisco December 1, 1937, the legendary Bruce Brown is best known for directing, narrating, shooting, editing and producing The Endless Summer, a groundbreaking documentary filmed on beaches all around the world on a shoestring budget in 1966. Here the Oscar-nominee and second inductee into the Surfing Hall of Fame reminisces about his career and the enduring popularity of his surfing classic, a half-century after its release.

Kam Williams: Hi Bruce. I’m honored to have this opportunity to interview you.

Bruce Brown: Well thanks for having me.

KW: When did you develop an interest in surfing? When did you develop an interest in filmmaking? And how did you come to combine the two?

BB: I was about 12 years old, as a kid growing up in Southern California around the ocean. We

started swimming, body surfing then junior lifeguards. Around 14 riding a surfboard. I think I developed an interest in filmmaking about the same time. I didn’t go to film school, but just figured out how to get the job done by doing it. I got some cheap still cameras to take pics of me and my buddies surfing. Back then, we were the only surfers. Then I got an 8mm movie camera to show other people, and to recruit someone to go surfing with. I took it with me everywhere. I combined the two because I needed a job, I guess. We just wanted to find a way to make money and be in the water so we decided to see if we could make a living filming each other surfing. I never thought anyone would want to watch it, let alone still be talking about it 50-years later, but they are. And I am so grateful to everyone who loves the film.

KW: The Endless Summer is a classic with an enduring appeal to generation after generation. Why do you think it’s still so popular a

half-century after it’s release?

BB: I guess it struck a nerve for a lot of different reasons. Before we blew up The Endless Summer to 35mm for the theaters, I showed the film for two years on my regular circuit. I narrated it live during that two-year period. I’d learn things from the audience. If I said something, and the audience groaned, I’d know not to say that again. So, I just sort of worked out the kinks by interacting with the crowd. In fact, we modified all my films from showing to showing. So, it was kind of a trial and error thing because I’d show the thing – and it was hugely popular – and sold out the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium seven nights in a row. Then, we went back for a rerun two months later, and it sold out seven more nights. That’s what prompted us to fix the narration and blow the film up to 35mm to show it at theaters. It was interesting that people outside of the surfing community enjoyed the film as much as the surfers.

KW: What was your approach to shooting the film?

BB: Well, with the surf, you never know what’s going to happen. So, you just hope for the best and make it up as you go along. But make sure you have a good surfer to shoot. A good surfer can make crappy waves look much better.

In the old days, Bill Edwards, Dewey, Butch, Pat O’Connell and Wingnut were great. Today, there are so many guys that are good, it’s just amazing. You used to be able to drive by a surf spot and know who it was, now there are tons of guys. I like to think our films encouraged them to try the sport.

KW: How do you explain the appeal of surf documentaries? Is it a combination of the waves and the humans attempting to conquer them?

BB: Not sure I can answer this question. I don’t know, because I don’t watch surf documentaries. And I never really thought of The



Endless Summer as a documentary. It was a journey and our story to share about surfing around the world.

KW: How do you know when you’ve captured a great shot?

BB: Well, I shot Endless Summer before digital. I didn’t know what the shot looked like until after it got developed. So we just

shot a lot and then edited what we thought worked.

KW: How did it feel to have your son and grandson follow in your footsteps?

BB: Great! We all worked together in the editing room during the making of Endless Summer II, and on my motorcycle films as well.

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BOOK REVIEW: “TIME FOR KIDS: HEROES OF BLACK HISTORY”

BY EDITORS AT TIME FOR KIDS MAGAZINE
C.2017, TIME INC. BOOKS
\$9.99 / \$11.99 CANADA • 192 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Who do you look up to?
Who is the person you most want to be like when you grow up? The one you go to when you need advice, a kind word, or new direction? Is it a parent who puts your head on straight? Or a teacher that always knows what to say? Do you look up to someone close to you now or, as in “Time for Kids: Heroes of Black History,” is it someone much bigger than that?

If you had to make a list of everything that happened in Black

History, you’d have to put the year 1500 on the top of your list because that’s where African-American history began. On your list, there’d be a lot of names and dates, too, but four names may stand out for you...

Born in 1820, Araminta was a slave because her parents and grandparents were slaves. Called by her mother’s name, young “Harriet” worked hard at everything she did but she was beaten because she was also “rebellious.” It was that rebellion – and fear of being sold – that made her escape

from her master. It was freedom that made Harriet Tubman want to help others to escape, too.

When Jackie Robinson began playing baseball, there were “rules” that told him where he could eat, live, and even get a drink of water. But Robinson wanted to play ball and so he smashed a few rules to be the first African-American major-leaguer.

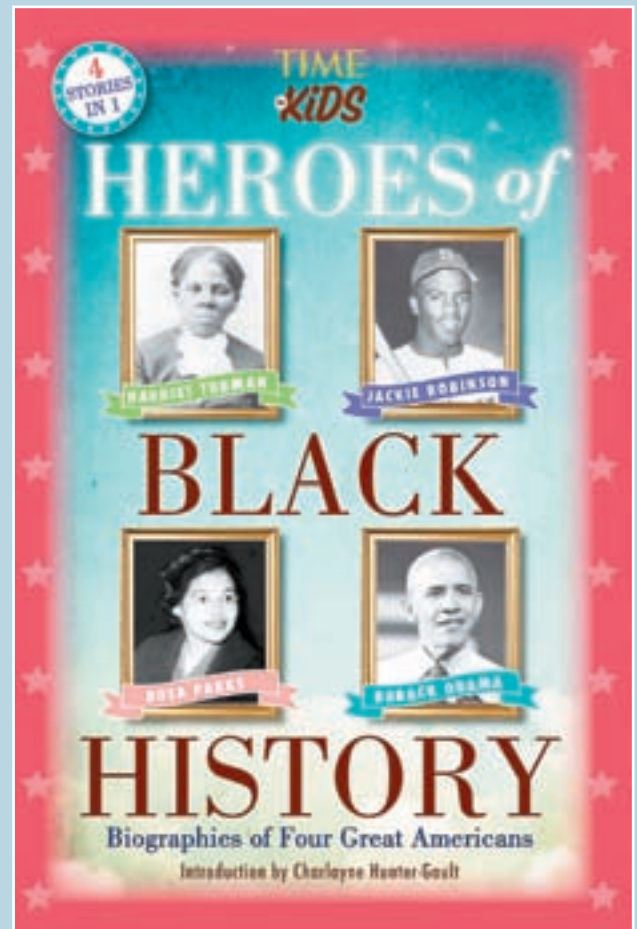
Even before he was born, “Barry” Obama’s mother believed in him: Barry’s real name is Barack, which means “blessed” in his father’s native language. Barry was

a good student, and had a sense of humor, but he was teased because he was the only black kid in his school. That was all just a memory when Barack Obama became President of the United States.

And “On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks stepped onto a bus – and into history.”

So your child has been given an assignment to read one biography this winter. Just one – but one will turn into four when you’ve got “Time for Kids: Heroes of Black History” on your shelf.

The first thing kids will notice



about this book is its easy-to-understand narrative and easy-to-read print; it’s just enough of a challenge, but not overly so. Kids will also like the artwork in this book, including photographs from different eras in history. The four subjects here are examined with a young audience in mind: each mini-chapter includes a bit about the childhoods of Tubman, Robinson, Parks and Obama, which keeps the information relevant for

children. Parents will appreciate that there’s a glossary and thumb-nail bios of other black heroes for plenty of further learning.

Though it can surely be read by anyone, “Time for Kids: Heroes of Black History” is really meant for kids ages 8 and older, especially those who love history. If you know a child like that, you might as well find it now. It’s a book your kids will want to look up.

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 Stevie Nicks

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

I
C F W E K L C R F N S N L J F M L P F S Q
M
Z B Y F R Q W Y Y S Z F N A W E K N A L N
M M M
Z B Z S Z P F L R R B W E Y N W R R F O W E
M
Z F



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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.

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

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)



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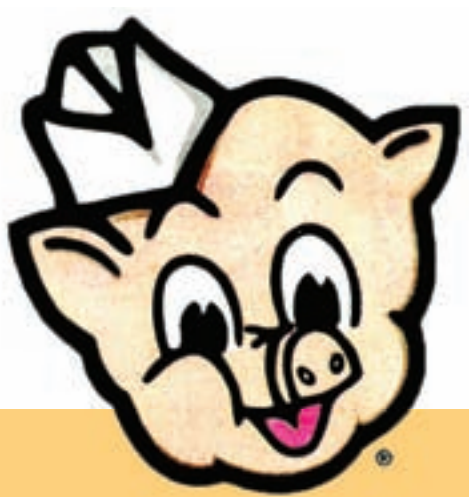
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