



Reprint Mississippi Link 2017 A celebration of life during homegoing for Kingston Frazier

By Nina Brown
Intern

Courageous, inquisitive, energetic, kind and certainly handsome.

These expressions fall short of the many words that described 6-year-old Kingston Frazier. In the wee hours on the morning of May 18, Frazier dawned his wings and graduated into the gates of heaven. He was shot to death as he slept in the back seat of a car that had been stolen.

Homegoing services for the youngster were held at Morning Star Baptist Church at 12 p.m. May 26. Among those in attendance were Mayor Tony Yarber, Jackson Police Chief Lee Vance, Hinds County District Attorney Robert Smith, Hinds County Sheriff Victor Mason, Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker and Democratic mayoral nominee Chowke A. Lumumba.

The government officials gave their own words of comfort to the Frazier-Archie Family. Having the community come together to help them work through this devastating tragedy was the center of comfort to the family.

Yarber spoke in detail about the conversation with his son as to how the community can diffuse such senseless violence. “He (God) wrote the vision, made the plan, nothing got better. Kingston wasn’t bad. Folks still shooting each other; a pregnant lady got shot, and nobody got better,” Yarber said. “Kingston’s death was a rallying call but people were still shooting



Frazier

each other.”

The mayor also expressed his distaste for parts of the community that attacked Ebony Archie, Kingston’s mother, via social media. “Folks were acting like they knew what was going on and didn’t know nothing,” he said. “Even if the folks don’t change, I’m going to change. You can’t change nobody but you can change you.” Yarber spoke those words to encourage the citizens of Jackson to start to make the change within themselves. In a later interview, he gave his impression of the homegoing celebration for Kingston.

“The entire city mourned for Kingston,” said Yarber. He stated he was prayerful but impressed. When asked about what were his initial plans to bring the community together, he stated that he had no initial plans but to apprehend the perpetrators.

“There is magic in the mo-

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A year in review 2017 will never be forgotten Donald Trump, sexual assault cases dominate 2017 headlines

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Love it or hate it, 2017 will be a year not soon forgotten.

Barack Obama, a constitutional law professor, Nobel Peace Prize winner and the nation’s first black president, graciously handed the keys to the White House to a reality TV star who has been accused of sexual assault.

Shortly after his inauguration, President Donald Trump began signing dozens of executive orders that threatened to rollback much of the progress that was made during the previous eight years under the Obama Administration.

And, it was the Trump Administration that not only slashed funding for advertising during the open enrollment of the Affordable Care Act, but also cut the enrollment period for signing up for coverage through the federal healthcare exchange from 90 days to 45 days.

Despite those challenges, the ACA, also known as “Obamacare,” is still the law of the land and, this year, nearly nine million people signed up for coverage through the federal healthcare exchange.

Trump
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Trump

Reprint Mississippi Link top story 2017 Ushering in a new era of leadership for Jackson Lumumba sworn in as the youngest mayor in city’s history

By Othor Cain
Editor

His dad was elected mayor of the City of Jackson just days before the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Medgar Evers in 1913. He announced his candidacy [for the second time] for mayor of Jackson on what would have been Malcolm X’s 91st birthday in May 2016. His

dad died Feb. 25, 2014, less than a year in office as mayor. Two weeks after delivering an impassioned eulogy and laying his father to rest, he announced his candidacy [for the first time] for a special election to fill the seat left vacant by his dad, March 11, 2014.

Chokwe Antar Lumumba, 34, was officially sworn in as mayor of Jackson, Monday, before a standing room only crowd at Jackson’s Convention Center Complex. “We observe today not as a victory of our chosen candidate, but a celebration of our unity,” Lumumba said to a cheering crowd. “It’s about our

collective efforts to move Jackson forward.

A blessing deferred isn’t a blessing denied.

Having had hopes of fulfilling the unexpired term of his father in 2014, Lumumba said he was grateful for losing to former mayor Tony Yarber. “I’m actually grateful that we lost the election in 2014, not because the sincerity was not there, not because we didn’t believe we would have done a good job, but, we’ve been able to appreciate far more that’s going on with the city of Jackson, and I’ve been able to appreciate more within myself,” Lumumba shared on the website

democracynow.org.

“People have to remember, in 2014, not only did I bury my father in a two-month time span and then enter into an election, my wife was pregnant with our first child. And so there was a world of change. You had a first-time candidate, who had not run for junior class president, much less mayor of a city. And so, we’ve been able to, you know, gather more information and position ourselves better. Everything happens in a perfect timing. And so, we’re happy where we find ourselves at this time, to

Lumumba
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Jackson's First Family Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Ebony Lumumba and daughter Alake' Maryama PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON



Women for Progress of MS, Inc. Annual Kwanzaa Celebration

Mississippi Civil Rights Museum • Jackson, Miss. • December 26, 2017

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



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Trump

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With the GOP tax reform bill, which was endorsed by Trump, the Republicans scored a win for corporations at the expense of nearly everyone else.

According to CNN Money, “The final bill still leans heavily toward tax cuts for corporations and business owners. But it also expands or restores some tax benefits for individuals relative to the earlier bills passed by the House and Senate.”

CNN Money article continued: “The individual provisions would expire by the end of 2025, but most of the corporate provisions would be permanent.”

2. In February, when NSA chief Mike Flynn was forced to resign after lying to Vice President Mike Pence, Trump said to then-FBI Director James Comey, “I hope you can see your way clear to letting this go, to letting Flynn go. He is a good guy. I hope you can let this go.”

As a highly-politicized investigation into whether or not Russia meddled in the 2016 presidential election began to heat up, Trump fired Comey. Later, Flynn cut a deal to cooperate with special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe into Russian election meddling. Federal prosecutors charged Trump’s former campaign manager Paul Manafort, campaign adviser Rick Gates and former foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos with various crimes, including lying to the FBI and money laundering.

3. During “Black Press Week” in March, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), expressed a desire to draft articles of impeachment over Trump’s actions in the White House and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) called on the real estate mogul to resign.

Meanwhile, the Black Press celebrated its 190th anniversary and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) elected a new national chairman, Dorothy Leavell, the publisher of the Crusader newspapers in Chicago and Gary, Indiana.

“We are suffering and with a new administration in the White House, it will take someone who isn’t afraid, someone who will raise a lot of hell,” the fiery Leavell said after she was elected.

4. In 2017, Carolyn Bryant, the woman who accused young Emmett Till of grabbing and verbally harassing her 62 years ago, finally admitted that she lied during the trial of Till’s murderers. An all-White jury found her husband Roy Bryant and his half-brother JW Milam not guilty of the crime.

The Guardian reported that Bryant said Till had grabbed and verbally harassed her in a grocery store.

“I was just scared to death,” she said during the trial, according to **The Guardian**.

“That part’s not true,” Bryant confessed to Timothy Tyson, the author of a new book, “The Blood of Emmet Till,” **The Guardian** said.

5. In June, comedian Bill Cosby went on trial for a 2004 incident involving a former Temple University employee, who claimed the star drugged and raped her. A jury failed to reach a unanimous decision and a judge, who declared a mistrial, ordered a new trial for next spring.

6. In October, celebrated movie producer Harvey Weinstein was exposed as a serial sexual harasser and abuser with more than 100 women – including actresses like Gwyneth Paltrow and Ashley Judd – among his accusers.

The firestorm around the accusations ignited a movement and scores of women and men across the world shared their harrowing stories of abuse on social media using the hashtag #MeToo.

Celebrities and media personalities including Matt Lauer, Bill O’Reilly, Metropolitan Opera conductor James Levine, Charlie Rose, Louis C.K. and hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons were also accused of sexual harassment or assault and have either lost their jobs or stepped down from their companies.

Politicians like U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore (R-Ala.), Senator Al Franken (D-Minn.) and Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) also faced allegations of sexual misconduct.

The Trump-backed Moore lost a close special election senate for Alabama’s vacant senate seat in December after African American voters turned out in droves to support Democrat Doug Jones.

Meanwhile, several women have emerged with claims against Trump.

“People” magazine writer Natasha Stoyhoff accused Trump of attacking her in 2005 at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida.

“It doesn’t surprise me at all that Mr. Trump would criticize someone else’s inappropriate sexual behavior and not address his own,” Stoyhoff told the magazine.

Another Trump accuser, Melinda McGillivray, told “People” that Trump “is a complete

hypocrite.”

While the sexual harassment storm stirred across the country, many won’t soon forget the devastating hurricanes that ravaged Texas, Louisiana, Florida, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico in the summer and early fall.

7. Critics of the federal government’s response to devastation caused by the hurricanes noted that more than 30 percent of Puerto Ricans still lack access to electricity.

8. The president also took heat as he seemed to compare the actions of white supremacists to peaceful protesters after a woman was killed during a white nationalists’ rally in Charlottesville, Va.

“This week it’s Robert E. Lee. I noticed that Stonewall Jackson is coming down,” Trump said in defending the Confederate monuments. “I wonder, is George Washington next week and is it Thomas Jefferson the week after that? You really do have to ask yourself: ‘Where does it stop?’”

9. The president even found time to criticize NFL players for silently protesting police brutality and racial injustice in predominately black and minority communities.

Trump blasted players and said that team owners should get rid of them.

Kaepernick, who remains unsigned and is suing the NFL owners for colluding to keep him out of the league, has been recognized with several awards including *Sports Illustrated*’s Muhammad Ali Legacy Award, which was presented to him in December by Beyoncé.

10. In October, O.J. Simpson was released from prison in Nevada after serving nine years for a robbery conviction.

11. The NAACP named Derrick Johnson president and CEO of the oldest civil rights organization in America.

Johnson told NNPA Newswire that it’s important that organization work with the National Newspaper Publishers Association to keep the black community informed. Congressional Black Caucus Chair Cedric Richmond (D-La.) also pledged to work closer with the Black Press in 2017 and beyond.

12. The NNPA and Chevrolet sponsored eight students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Atlanta and Washington, D.C. to participate in the 2017 Discover The Unexpected (DTU) journalism fellowship program.

The 2017 class of DTU journalism fellows included: Alexa Imani Spencer and Noni Marshall from Howard University; Kelsey Jones and Taylor Burris from Spelman College; Jordan Fisher and Tiana Hunt from Clark Atlanta University; and Ayron Lewallen and Darrell Williams from Morehouse College.

The eight fellows were rewarded for their intrepid, diligent work in the Chevrolet-backed program that provides students from HBCUs scholarships and summer internships at NNPA member, Black-owned newspapers.

13. Civil rights icon the Rev. Jesse Jackson also announced that he has Parkinson’s disease.

14. A tumultuous 2017 also saw TV One announce the cancellation of the popular Roland Martin’s NewsOne Now news show in December.

15. Black icons were mourned in 2017. The Black Press lost two of its most devoted freedom warriors. Walter “Ball” Smith, the publisher of *New York’s Beacon* and the *Philadelphia Observer* died November 10. He was 83.

One month earlier Oct. 22, Bernal E. Smith II, the president and publisher of the *Tri-State Defender* and a well-known civic leader in Memphis, Tenn., also passed away. Smith was 45.

Della Reese, 86, and Earle Hyman, 91, died in November; Robert Guillaume, 89, and Fats Domino, 89, died in October; rap star Prodigy, 42, died in June; singer Al Jarreau, 76, died in February; and activist Roy Innis, 82, died in January.

In December, Simeon Booker, a trail-blazing black journalist who covered the Civil Rights Movement for the iconic African-American magazines EBONY and Jet and who was the first black person to work as a full-time Washington Post reporter, also died. He was 99.

On August 19, 2017, activist and comedian Dick Gregory died at the age of 84.

“During the past six decades, Dick Gregory, would periodically write essays and editorials for the black-owned newspapers of NNPA members across the nation,” NNPA President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., wrote in a tribute to Gregory. “His pen and his voice were always on the side of the oppressed, who dared to speak up and stand up for freedom. Today, in Dick’s memory, we all are obligated to do no less.”

Chavis continued: “Every breath that we take, we should gain more and more strength to speak truth to power and to stand against all injustice.”

Frazier

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ment because people are feeling and wanting to do something about it,” said Yarber. He stated that he knew he didn’t want the community to cannibalize itself but wanted the citizens to realize the real issue.

“I knew the first thing needed was to bring people back to the real problem, and the real problem was not Kingston’s mother or her decision to go inside a Kroger. Three young men made a poor decision to reek havoc on a family, a little boy and the community,” said Yarber.

“What do you want to see come from Kingston’s death? More fathers are challenged to step up to the plate and father these young men,” Yarber said, as he also spoke to the big issue that floats around the city: “The kids have nothing to do.”

Yarber said that we have to get beyond that conversation of kids not having anything to do and get to a place where we are in a situation to have value for each other. “Until people have value for other folks, if I don’t value you, if I don’t value your life, me doing something to endanger others ..., there is no amount of community centers, no amount of police, no amount of programming, if that programming is not inside of you,” he said.

Vance gave his deepest condolences to the Frazier-Archie Family. He asked the community to wrap its arms around this family and love them “until we cannot love them anymore.”

Vance said, “There is no place for any other emotion attached to this family other than love.... I believe in the God we serve, and Kingston’s place in heaven is already reserved and now occupied.”

Vance suggests citizens of Jackson make Kingston’s death a start to the change that’s needed. “His name is to be lifted up in all things good,” Vance said. He also made reference to the late King of Pop Michael Jackson and his popular song, Man in The Mir-

Lumumba

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move forward the agenda that my father embarked on, an agenda of a people’s platform, one that was not only, you know, symbolic of his work in his short term as mayor, but symbolic of his work, a lifetime of work, that he subscribed to and also ultimately dedicated his family toward.”

During Lumumba’s swearing in service, on the same stage his father stood and was sworn in just four years ago, he became engulfed with emotions. “A son only holds his father’s hand for a short while, but he holds his heart forever,” he said as he fought back tears. “I can’t help but to be emotional today.”

He also paid homage to his mother. “My mom’s spirit was infectious, she was the first person to tell me that I was brilliant,” he said. “If you had the privilege of knowing her or meeting her, she is someone that you would never forget.”

Lumumba ran on a people’s platform. In Chicago a few weeks ago, speaking at the People’s Summit, Lumumba shared his thoughts about that platform. “From the moment we announced, we worked hard and aggressively on an agenda that included social justice, economic democracy and making certain that the people had a voice,” he shared. “That’s our story, and we’re sticking to it.”

Lumumba plans to implement “people’s assemblies.” “This speaks directly to our campaign promise which has become a staple in conversations around town, ‘when I become mayor, you become mayor,’” he said. “These assemblies will give residents an opportunity to participate in the decision making process.”

There’s a spirit of newness and freshness that is resonating in the city. Attorney and die hard Jacksonian Carlyn Hicks agrees. Hicks described Lumumba in a post on her Facebook page: My brother, my friend, and now...our mayor. The youngest mayor in the history of our city, an advocate’s advocate, a man’s man of integrity and candor, and a thoughtful, critically-thinking mind of sheer brilliance.”

Lumumba said in Chicago that all eyes were on Jackson.

“So what happens in Jackson, Mississippi, impacts each and every one of us. And so we have to make the decision that we’re going to start controlling the way electoral politics proceed. And so we’ve made the deci-

ror. “If you want to make a change, start with the man in the mirror.”

The chief made it clear that he was not a big social media person, but noted he was hurt by the miscommunication that was spread through social media. “The community should first learn what the truth is; unfortunately, it is not a good truth but it is the truth.”

Vance stated that in order to honor Kingston’s memory, one thing the community could do is learn about conflict resolution, to learn how to treat each other better, to build each other up instead of tearing each other down.

Smith gave prayerful and powerful words to the Frazier-Archie Family and to the church congregation, saying, “Children have a special place in the eyes of God. We mourn but also celebrate the life of Kingston, we have to lean and depend on God like never before.”

Frazier was honored by the entire Jackson community, including the state representative of the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, Nation of Islam Minister Dr. Abram Muhammad; Jackson Public School representatives, and numerous family members gave tributes and paid respects to young Frazier.

Three suspects have been apprehended and all have been charged with capital murder in the shooting death of Frazier. No bail was set for any of them. They are Dwan Wakefield and D’Allen Washington both 17 and Byron McBride, age 19, all from Jackson.

The three carjacked the Camry Frazier was asleep in at 1 a.m., while his mother, Ebony, ran into Kroger’s on I-55 Frontage Road. An amber alert was issued in search for the child, but he was found in the car during the day later on an abandoned road in Gluckstadt, Miss. in Madison County.

sion that we’re going to be the most radical city on the planet, that we’re going to make certain that we change the whole scope of electoral politics. No longer will we allow an individual to step before us and tell us all of the great things that they’re going to accomplish on our behalf, only to find that nothing in their past demonstrates a sincerity, a willingness or an ability to do so. What we must do in Jackson, Mississippi, in D.C., in Maryland, in Gary, Indiana, in Chicago, Illinois, is we have to start drafting an agenda for ourselves, creating an agenda, creating what we want to see, and then we draft the leadership which represents our agenda.”

Tackling the city’s budget is top priority for Lumumba, who is also known as a social justice activist and attorney. “Shortly after we take office, we have to pass a budget. And so, it’s important that we have the right people in place,” he said. “We have a transition team that’s in place right now, looking at the issues which Jackson is facing, making certain that we don’t make plans just off conjecture, but a fact-based analysis of where we find our city, and bringing together not only people who have the acumen and ability and skill to do the job, but people who have a passion, a passion which goes beyond just the way we see electoral politics, but a passion to change people’s lives.”

Lumumba is ready to get to work. He attends his first council meeting Thursday. “I love you. Its an honor to serve you and I look forward to changing the world with you,” he said during his inaugural address. Lumumba has not announced any appointments.

What does the name Lumumba mean? Many have; many do; and many will, mispronounce and misspell Lumumba’s name, including this writer. When asked the origin and meaning of his name, he shared a quick historical perspective with democracynow.org: So, my father changed his name when he was in law school, and accepted a name that he believed to be more culturally identifiable. Chokwe is the name of a tribe in the Angola region, a tribe that was resistant to the slave trade. The name Chokwe means “hunter.” Antar is the name of a historic poet and warrior who died while saving a woman from drowning; Antar means “poet” and “warrior.” Lumumba, given that name from our namesake, Patrice Lumumba, the former prime minister of the Congo, Lumumba means “gifted.”

Notable African-American deaths 2017



Earle Hyman broke racial stereotypes on Broadway and in Scandinavia in works by Shakespeare and Ibsen but was better known to millions of Americans as Bill Cosby's father on "The Cosby Show."



Dick Gregory was a pioneering satirist who transformed cool humor into a barbed force for civil rights in the 1960s, then veered from his craft for a life devoted to protest and fasting in the name of assorted social causes, health regimens and conspiracy theories.



Al Jarreau was a versatile vocalist who sold millions of records and won a string of Grammys for his work in pop and R&B as well as his first love, jazz.



Robert Guillaume dreamed of being the first black tenor to sing at the Metropolitan Opera, but he settled for acting onstage and on television — and won Emmy Awards for playing the same character, Benson DuBois, on two different ABC series.



Fats Domino, a New Orleans rhythm-and-blues singer, was one of the biggest stars of the early rock 'n' roll era. His two-fisted boogie-woogie piano and nonchalant vocals were heard on dozens of hits in the 1950s and early '60s.



A husky-voiced singer and actress, Della Reese spent almost a decade playing a down-to-earth heavenly messenger on the CBS series "Touched by an Angel" and became an ordained minister in real life.



An award-winning journalist and author, Booker provided pioneering coverage of racial injustice and the civil rights struggle for readers of Jet and Ebony magazines and was The Washington Post's first black reporter.

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

Holiday Greetings From The Superintendent Of Schools



Delesicia Martin, superintendent; Nancy Tillman, EL coordinator; and John Neal, associate superintendent

Dear HCSD Staff, Parents and Community Supporters

May the Holiday Season ahead be peaceful and enjoyable. As you go your various ways for the holidays, I want to sincerely thank each of you for the contribution you make to the success of the Hinds County School District and to the success of our learners. Together we are making a difference in the learning experiences and opportunities for each of our students. Thank you again for all you do for the young people and their families that we serve, and enjoy this special time of the year.

Sincerely,

Delesicia Martin, ED. D.
Superintendent of Schools



EL coordinator and Federal Programs show the spirit of giving



Members of the HCSD Maintenance Department show the spirit of giving

Best books of 2017

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Trust me on this: when you read more than 300 books a year, you come across some books that are not-so-good.

Thankfully, you come across more of them that are good, great, or even stellar. Here’s my list of the Best of 2017, those things that you absolutely cannot miss, the books you should want in your hands now, in no certain order...

Fiction

Anyone who’s read the “Little House on the Prairie” books and loved them will want to read “Caroline: Little House, Revisited” by Sarah Miller. This book imagines the thoughts and dreams of Laura Ingalls’ mother; the surprise is that Miller lets Caroline Ingalls be frustrated, angry, and real.

For those who need a good scare, “The Last to See Me” by M Dressler is what you need. Narrated by a woman who’s dead-not-dead, it’s a cat-and-mouse tale of a “hunter” who comes to rid an old mansion of a mischievous spirit. But does he have the right spirit? Gotta find out for yourself.

Everything about “The Trick” by Emanuel Bergmann is going to captivate you. Everything. It’s the story of an old man who lived a full, tumultuous, dangerous life; and a little boy who’s losing what he loves best and decides to trust the most unlikely person to fix it. It’s about love, most of all, but it’s not sappy – it’s funny and charming and you can’t miss it.

Here’s another chiller, but for a different reason: “When the English Fall” by David Williams. It’s the story of the end of the world, told from the point-of-view of a quiet, introspective Amish man. It’s one of those “what if?”– novels, with a slight twist of the weird. The ending will leave you squirming, so what’s not to love?

And finally – a Christmas tale that can be read any time: “The Deal of a Lifetime” by Frederick Backman is the story of a man who hates Christmas because of all the horrible things that have happened in his life. What would he give to make the holiday better? Read this under-70-page book but bring the tissues. That is all.

Bonus: “One Good Mama Bone” by Bren McClain and “The Ada Decades” by Paula Martinac were close runners-up. The first is about a mother’s love; the second is a look at history through the eyes of two lesbian women. Both are worth a second look.

Non-Fiction

Have you ever wondered where your feet have been? That may be an odd question, until you’ve read “The Ground Beneath Us” by Paul Bogard. Indeed, this book is about dirt but that’s not all: you’ll read what that dirt consists of, what else is down there, how scientists find fossils and remains, what keeps our ground stable (or not) and what comes from what’s below.

There never seems to be an end to the ubiquitous Hollywood biography, but “Hank & Jim: The Fifty-Year Friendship of Henry Fonda and James Stewart” by Scott Eyman is a keeper. It’s warm and funny, but also very sad and poignant. This book will give you lots of insight, not only into these two stars and their families, but also how Hollywood used to work, back in its hey-day.

For the reader who loves a cheer-worthy story, “Never Caught” by Erica Armstrong Dunbar is the story of Ona, who was owned by George Washington. Through a series of laws, Washington tried to keep her enslaved but she was smarter than he thought. Not only did she escape, but she stayed free right beneath his nose. It’s a tale that will make you outraged, but it’ll also amaze you.

Here’s a surprise: “Scores” by Michael D. Blutrich. It’s the true story of a gay man who ran his New York City nightclub with help from the Italian mafia. When he was arrested for something totally unrelated, he decided to work with authorities to shut the mob down. Just a little bit dangerous? Yep, and a rompish can’t-miss, too.

Another pleasant surprise was “The Long Haul” by Finn Murphy. It’s a slice-of-life look at over-the-road trucking, including some of those kinds of stories you’d ask a trucker, if you could. For the curious, it’s a must-have.

Kids Books

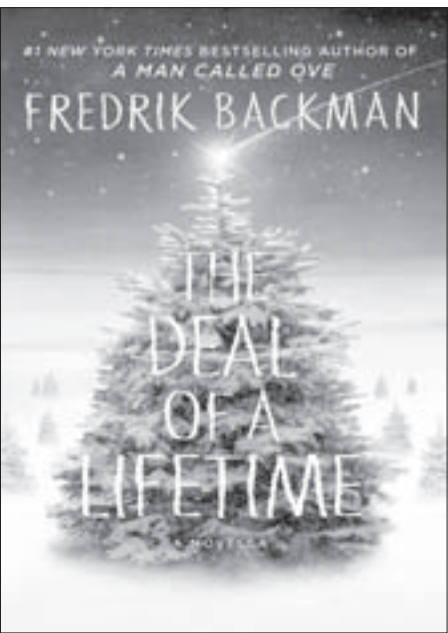
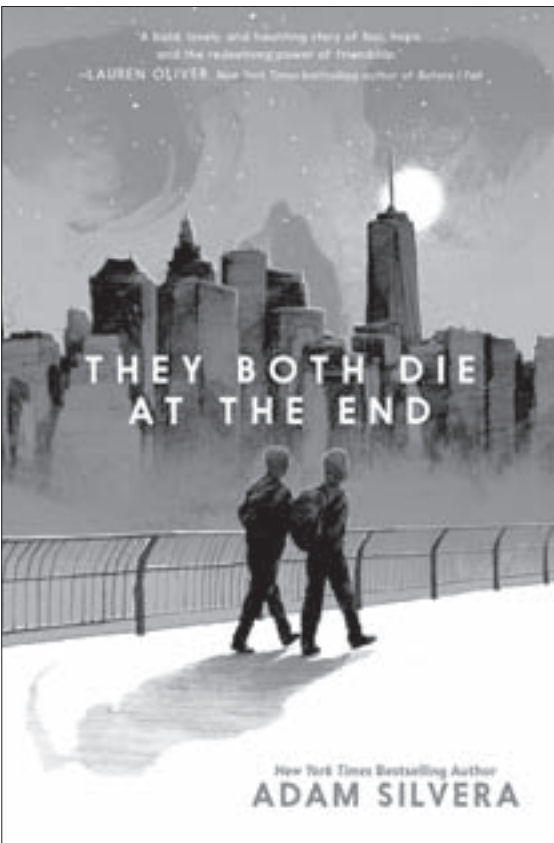
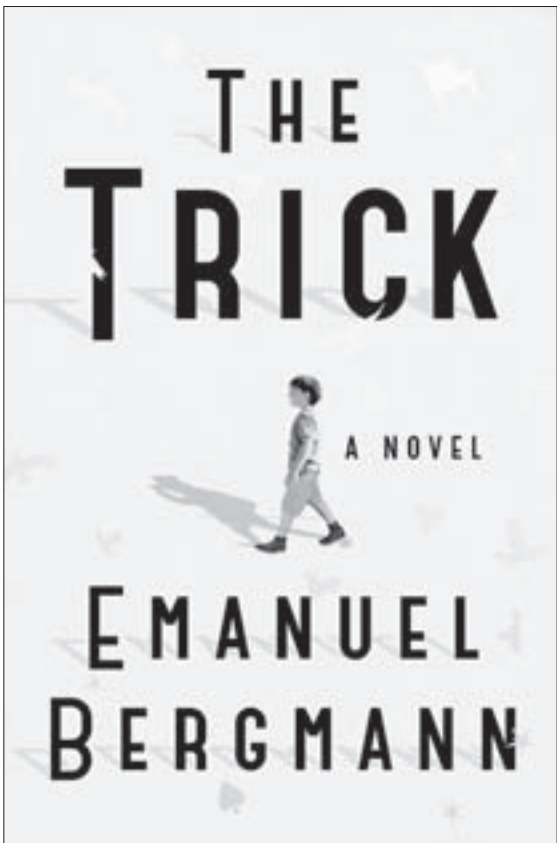
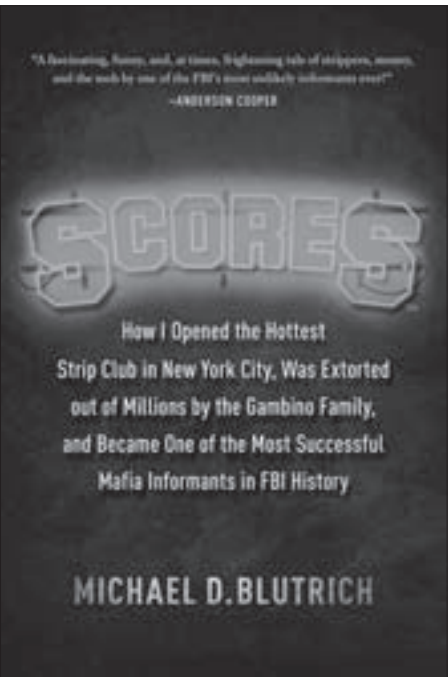
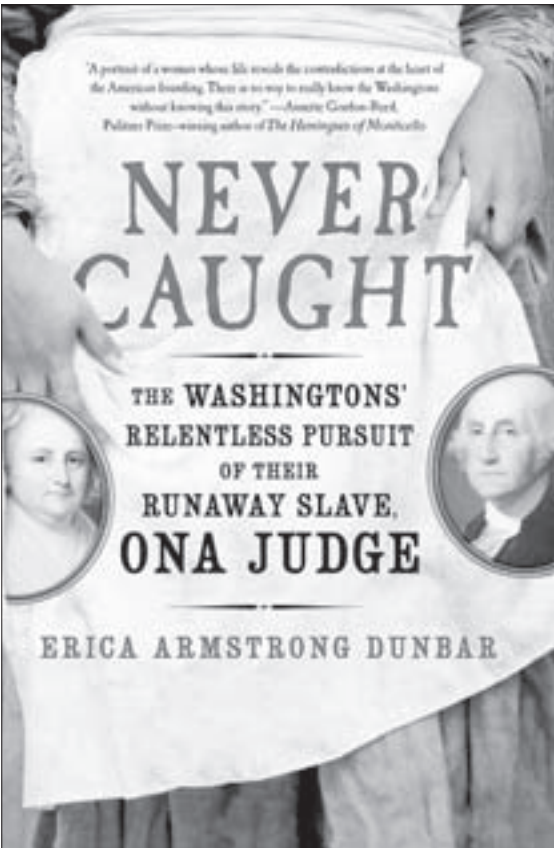
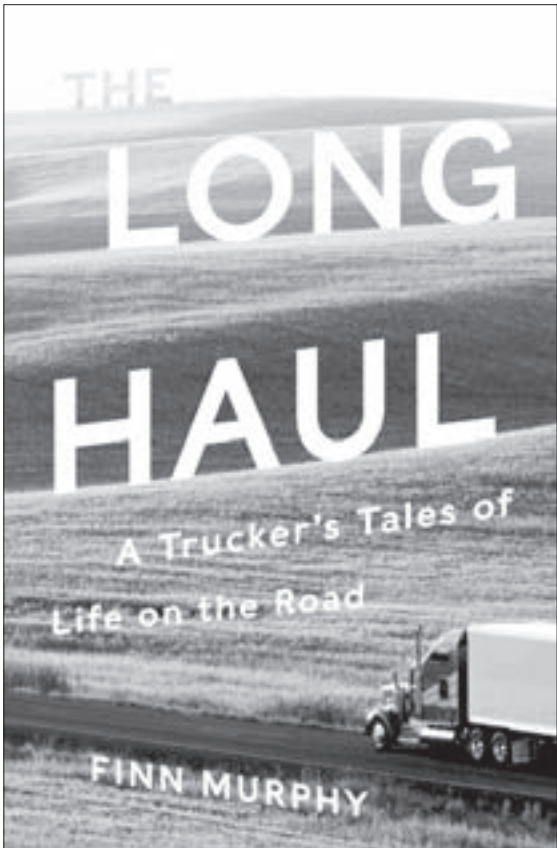
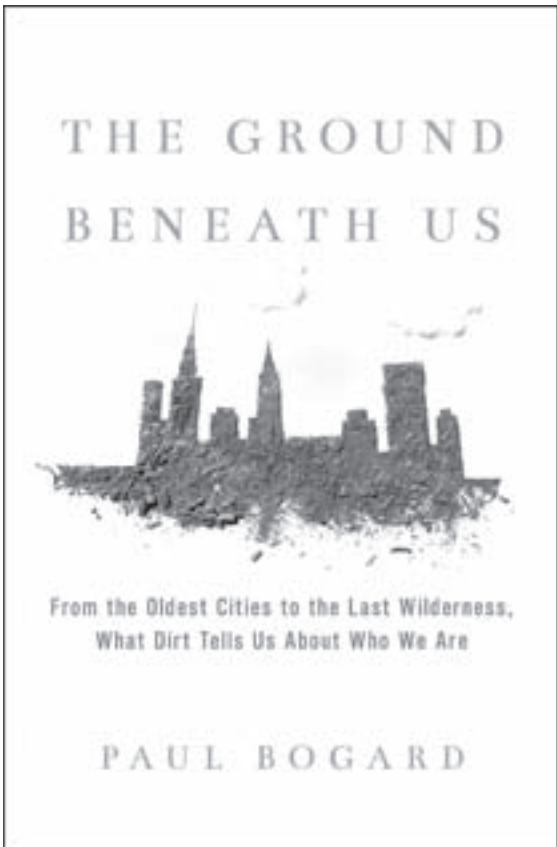
Just three of them:

With bullying in the news, your child will want to read “Dirt” by Denise Gosliner Orenstein – especially if she’s an animal lover. This novel is about a little girl who lives in poverty and thus is essentially invisible. She’s okay with that, until her father falls ill and goes to the hospital and she’s alone. Then she finds a filthy, matted pony who won’t go home. What happens next will captivate any 7-to-12-year-old.

“The Song from Somewhere Else” by A.F. Harrold, illustrated by Levi Pinfold is another book with bullying at its theme. It’s the story of a little girl who befriends a friendless boy from school – but that doesn’t make her very popular. Get this book for your older-elementary-school-to-early-middle-schooler, but read it yourself first. You’ll love it, too.

And finally, “They Both Die at The End” by Adam Silvera is a tale of two teenage boys that will die today. Death-Cast has told them so – and so, what will they do with their final day? There’s fun in this book, a few laughs, a bit of surprise romance, and a tale that will make anyone 14 and older think about living life to the fullest.

And there you are. A pile o’books to get you started for the new year. Look for them all and Season’s Readings!



Alpha Kappa Alpha donates backpacks to JPS schools



The Board of Trustees and interim superintendent accept 200 backpacks from Angela Brown, Rose Franklin and Carla Kirkland of the Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. presented Jackson Public Schools with 200 backpacks at the Board meeting December 19. Interim Superintendent Fredrick Murray accepted the donation on behalf of the district.

“We are truly grateful for this generous donation,” said Murray.

Since the start of the school

year, the chapter has distributed almost 300 backpacks filled with supplies to JPS students. The donation is part of Alpha Kappa Alpha’s One Million Backpacks Project. The international initiative promotes academic enrichment by furnishing essential educational items.

Carla Kirkland co-chairs the One Million Backpacks project for the sorority’s local chapter.

“We are committed to serving the Jackson community

and continuing to invest in tomorrow’s leaders,” said Kirkland. “We believe education is central to that investment, so, we seek to support students in the capital city by providing them with resources that are essential for the learning process.”

Angelia Brown is the other co-chair of the One Million Backpacks initiative. Rose Franklin serves as the president of the chapter.

Graduation dates rescheduled for 2017-2018

Mississippi Link Newswire

The JPS graduation ceremonies originally scheduled to take place on May 21 and 22, 2018, at the Mississippi Coliseum, have changed in an effort to meet school attendance guidelines mandated by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Although the district scheduled the graduation dates over a year ago, it recently learned that the current dates for graduation would not give seniors the correct amount of instructional hours required by the state in

order to graduate. The academic year provides a minimum of 180 teaching days in which both teachers and pupils are in regular attendance for scheduled classroom instruction. The school district must ensure, that during the academic school year, a minimum of 140 hours of instruction is provided for each Carnegie unit of credit offered and 70 hours for each one-half unit offered, except for remedial instructional programs, dual enrollment/dual credit, correspondence courses, MS

Virtual Public School courses, and innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education.

In order to meet the instructional hour requirements for this school year, graduation ceremonies for the 2017-2018 school year will now be held on May 23 and May 24, 2018, at Jackson State University’s Athletic and Assembly Center located at 1400 John R. Lynch Street in Jackson.

Below is a list of the graduation dates and times:

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

School	Time
Murrah High	1–2 p.m.
Provine High	3–4 p.m.
Jim Hill High	5–6 p.m.

Thursday, May 24, 2018

High School	Time
Callaway High	1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Forest Hill High	3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Wingfield High	5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Lanier High	6:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

This notice is intended to let students, teachers, administrators, and parents know so they will have plenty of time to reschedule plans to attend graduation ceremonies and make arrangements for family celebrations after graduation.

District completes second school consolidation study

Mississippi Link Newswire

As part of its Corrective Action Plan, in response to an audit performed by the Mississippi Department of Education, the Jackson Public School District conducted a second study into the feasibility of consolidating schools. The district’s first study led to board approval of the consolidation of Poindexter Elementary and Barr Elementary schools last school year.

The findings of this most recent study were presented to the Board of Trustees by Interim Superintendent Fredrick Murray and the district’s Leadership staff December 19, during a board work session.

The increased costs to maintain aging buildings, school architecture design, combined with decreased state funding and a decline in student enrollment, led the district to conduct this study.

The district looked at schools with approximately 200 students or less and schools with costly infrastructure repairs. As part of the study, the district researched projected cost savings, transportation, staffing, food services and exceptional education services.

As a result, the following schools met the qualifications for consolidation:

Brown Elementary – 193 students, 13 teachers, 23 support staff

French Elementary – 200 students, 16 teachers, 21 support staff

George Elementary – 129 students, 11 teachers, 11 support staff



George Elementary was built in 1962. It is one of four schools JPS studied for consolidation.

Woodville Heights Elementary – Costs for repairs approaching \$4 million.

Brown Elementary was originally constructed in 1962 and has a projected cost for repairs of about \$4.38 million. In the event of the school’s closing, its students would attend Galloway Elementary School.

French Elementary was built in 1951 and will need \$2.73 million in capital improvements. The school’s students would be transferred to Lake Elementary and Raines Elementary schools.

George Elementary was originally built in 1907. The school needs close to \$2.75 million in repairs and renovations. Students at George would attend Isable and Casey Elementary Schools.

Although enrollment at Woodville Heights Elementary was over 300 students, the study revealed the school needs some expensive improvements. The

school was built in 1969, and repair and renovations costs are projected at close to \$4 million. With the corridors located outside of the main building, the school’s design presents some unique challenges. Students must go outside each time they transfer from class-to-class and to the cafeteria. If it closed, the school’s students would attend Bates, Oak Forest and Timberlawn Elementary Schools.

Transportation and exceptional education services would be provided to all students relocated to other school sites. Teachers and staff members of closed schools would be extended opportunities to fill vacancies at other schools and offices across the district.

The school consolidation study was presented to the board as information only. Currently, no recommendations have been made on closing or consolidating schools.



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‘Holidays Under the Stars’ brings joy to Blackburn students, community



Camera shy? Not these angels. PHOTOS BY ARON SMITH/JSU

By L.A. Warren
jsumsnews.com

Hundreds from Jackson State University and the community milled about on the Gibbs-Green Plaza Nov. 30, to indulge in the annual "Holidays Under the Stars."

As in years' past, JSU partnered with Blackburn Laboratory Middle School to provide gifts to students and brighten their Christmas.

WJSU-FM on-air personalities Gina Carter-Simmers, general manager, and Dwain Doty, news director, emceed the event.

Carter-Simmers described the popular occasion as “a meaningful event in the lives of children who are academically awesome.”

The affair included an array of fascinating activities and treats: face painting; selfies; photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus; a miniature train ride; hot chocolate and cider; singing and dancing and a jazzy performance by the Sonic Boom.

Kimberly Hilliard, executive director for JSU's Office of Community Engagement, said Holidays Under the Stars was created five years ago as a gift to the community. "We want people to know that we care about them. This is also a time for our students to enjoy this festive occasion before commencement and the holiday break."

Heather Wilcox, neighborhood development assistant for the Center for University-Based Development, said JSU delights in partnering with Blackburn as part of the campus Angel Tree Project. She said counselors helped identify deserving, high-performing students.

In addition, Wilcox said staff at the middle school provided a wish list that was distributed widely at JSU. Fifteen different departments adopted 16 Blackburn scholars. “We know that Jackson State is a community, and the community is Jackson State. We want to assist in any way we can. Blackburn is near and dear to our campus.”

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Public Safety	
College of Science, Engineering and Technology	
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Division of Research and Federal Relations	
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Carter-Simmers and Doty encourage the crowd to get into the groove.



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Tiffany Dockins, director of JSU's legal operations in the Division of General Counsel, started the Angel Tree Project about eight years ago, urging Blackburn to join the university in helping underserved students and their families have a joyous Christmas.

Dockins said, "The project grew into something much bigger by recognizing honor students for all their achievements – three students from each grade. And, some families don't have a lot to provide their children this time of year."

Eventually, the Angel Tree Project combined forces with the Office of Community Engagement, which started Holidays Under the Stars.

"Seeing the smiles on kids' faces and joy in parents' hearts is a blessing. It's also a blessing to have all departments come together with passion and a desire to give," said Dockins, whose holiday wish is to "bring happiness to everyone I meet." Furthermore,

she said, "You must do unto others as you would have them do unto you. I try to be that beam of bright light and sunshine for all people that I meet."

Holidays Under the Stars was a first-time experience for Veronica Cohen, vice president of JSU's Institutional Advancement and External Affairs. She said the joy of the event was seeing families and children receiving their gifts as a result of the benevolence of Jackson State. "With the community and JSU coming together, you could see the children were excited. This is why this event is so important."

Corine Harris, an alum and former employee of JSU, attended with her grandchildren and said she had a blast.

“This is a very beautiful and very nice event. It’s good to give back to the community. It’s not just about gifts because another special reason for the season is that we get together and fellowship.”

Majoraenna Kelly, a 16-year-old Jim Hill High School student, echoed that sentiment. She attended the event with her brother who attends Blackburn.

“The holidays are about being with your family and having fun. I was excited to see my brother go onstage to receive his gifts. It’s a good thing for Jackson State and Blackburn to come together,” Kelly said.



Santa (Coach Derek Scott, associate athletic director for Internal Operations) and Mrs. Claus (Dr. Debra Mays-Jackson, vice president and chief of staff) bring excitement to a little boy with a big wish during JSU's annual "Holidays Under the Stars."



JSU cheerleaders rally the crowd to get excited about the holidays.



Hot chocolate is always a satisfying treat.



MADDRAMA Performance Troupe wows the crowd.

WE ARE MISSISSIPPI BICENTENNIAL CONCERT TO AIR ON MPB THIS MONTH



This concert will be broadcast **three times** this month on **Mississippi Public Broadcasting:**

Tuesday, December 26, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 28, 2017 at 10:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 31, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Music director and conducted by Jay Dean, Artistic Director of the Mississippi Opera.

We Are Mississippi is a live concert filmed during FestivalSouth 2017, that celebrates Mississippi's Bicentennial Celebration. It will feature major Mississippi performers and include a taste of all the music that has made Mississippi famous around the world, Blues, Gospel, Jazz, Rock and Roll, Country, Classical, and Patriotic. ***We Are Mississippi*** is also a salute to Mississippi's greatest songwriters and performers such as Robert Johnson, Jimmie Rodgers, Elvis Presley, Charley Pride, Craig Wiseman, Glen Ballard, Tena Clark, Ben Peters, and B.B. King.

Performers scheduled to appear are world renown Blues artist Vasti Jackson; Tom Malone (from Saturday Night Live, the David Letterman Show, and The Blues Brothers movies); The Roots Gospel Voices of Mississippi; David Lee (Winner of the 2015 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Contest); the Mississippi Bicentennial Symphony Orchestra; the Mississippi Bicentennial Singers; music directed and conducted by Jay Dean, and hosted by veteran Mississippi actor Gary Grubbs.

Mississippi's music and musicians are revered around the globe, and indeed, "our music is our most powerful international voice." ***We Are Mississippi*** is designed to give our viewers a deeper understanding and appreciation of our glorious musical heritage and what we, as a state, have contributed to the entire world.

This concert was filmed before a live audience during FestivalSouth on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi on June 10, 2017, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Secretary of State's survey reveals educated workforce, community support are top needs for businesses

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A recent survey by the Secretary of State's Office of almost 100,000 business owners revealed common hurdles to starting a business, investing, and expanding operations in Mississippi. Chief among them: continued lack of an educated workforce.

More than 1,800 business owners responded to the survey, which included nine questions focused on business needs, employee qualifications, and other Mississippi business barriers.

"We need more jobs, higher wages, and greater opportunities for all Mississippians, but the message businesses are sending us is clear. We will fail to accomplish these goals if we do not have an educated workforce," Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann said. "The main thing needs to stay the main thing – an educated workforce."

Among other responses, the

survey shows:

- About 75 percent of Mississippi businesses find it moderately to significantly difficult to find an educated workforce
 - It takes more than 47 percent of businesses three months to a year (or more) to find a qualified employee for an open position
 - About 45 percent of current businesses said they would expand in Mississippi if they had an educated workforce
 - More than 45 percent of businesses require employees to hold a two-year degree or higher; and
 - More than 30 percent of businesses said an educated workforce is most important to their business, and 20 percent said community support was most important.
- "We have traveled all over our State to visit elementary to high schools, and I sense the movement of our educators to provide not only basic education but also technical training," Hosemann

said. "More and more of this collaboration will be with our community college system to fulfill the now obvious current and future need for an educated workforce."

The Secretary of State's Office is responsible for managing the corporate documents of about 175,000 LLCs, corporations, and limited partnerships. Businesses are surveyed on a variety of topics intermittently throughout the year. Results are used to address economic development tools like Y'all Business (www.yallbusiness.sos.ms.gov), a website offering free consumer and demographic information to burgeoning businesses, and are shared with business leaders and economic development and state government stakeholders.

For more information about the Secretary of State's Business Services Division, visit www.sos.ms.gov/BusinessServices or call (601) 359-1633.

AG to U.S. Transportation Secretary: Reverse withdrawal of rule requiring airlines to disclose baggage fees upfront

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Attorney General Jim Hood joined 16 attorneys general in a letter last week asking U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao to reverse the department's decision to withdraw a rule requiring airlines and third-party booking companies to disclose baggage fees and other charges upfront.

The Transportation Department announced earlier this month it was withdrawing the Transparency of Airline Ancillary Service Fees rule, which was proposed during January 2017. The rule would have made it far easier for consumers to understand the full cost of their plane tickets, but the department said in a notice posted online that the rule would have been "of limited public benefit."

When a customer books a ticket, the baseline price is typically all that is shown. Carry-on baggage fees, checked baggage

fees, seat fees, and more are not disclosed until booking is nearly complete – or even after tickets have been purchased. The rule would have required airlines to post all the fees up front at the beginning of the booking process, rather than surprising consumers at the end. U.S. airlines are expected to earn \$57 billion from fees this year and \$7 billion from baggage fees alone.

"Traveling, especially during the holidays, is stressful enough without hidden fees," said Hood. "Consumers should be able to make informed choices about the cost of their travel, and that's why we're asking the Transportation Department to demand transparency from the airline industry."

The letter details the many different fees that airlines are increasingly charging consumers for basic services, which were previously considered standard services covered by the basic ticket price. In addition to bag-

gage fees, some airlines charge for printing boarding passes at the airport, allowing passengers to select seats, and even providing assistance to children traveling by themselves.

According to a 2016 study, travelers paid an average of \$100 in fees per round-trip on Spirit Airlines, \$97 on Frontier, and \$86.92 on United. "We regularly hear reports from consumers in our states who are confused and frustrated by these fees, which significantly alter the total cost of travel," the attorneys general wrote.

The letter also states that while they are committed to working collaboratively with the Transportation Department to protect consumers and ensure the country's aviation industry is able to grow, "this decision by your Department works against those goals, making it harder for Americans to be informed consumers when they travel."

New style ambulances help AMR paramedics care for patients

The Mississippi Link Newswire

You may have recently noticed different-looking AMR ambulances on Mississippi streets and roads.

AMR Central Mississippi, the ambulance service for Hinds, Simpson and Smith counties, recently acquired eleven 2017 ambulances built on Ford's "Transit" chassis. The new trucks are replacing older models in AMR's local fleet of some 45 ambulances.

Eight of the 11 new vehicles are now in service in metro Jackson. AMR put the first on the street in early October. AMR plans put the other three into service in the first quarter of 2018.

AMR companies serving the Mississippi coast and several northern counties have also acquired the same new ambulance design.

Jim Brown, an AMR paramedic based in Jackson, said the new vehicles have several features which help the crew take care of the patient.



Brown said, "The patient's head is better aligned with the paramedic's seat right behind the top of the stretcher so it's easier to monitor my patient's condition and, if necessary, to provide advanced therapy such as inserting an oxygen tube into the patient's airway. In general, everything is laid out so that supplies and equipment are right there in convenient reach."

Mark Allen, AMR's local lead mechanic, said many crews

have said the new trucks have a smoother ride than older models.

Paramedic Brown likes the new trucks' ride. He said, "Definitely, the ride is smoother, especially on open roads. On city streets, this suspension and smaller tires go over bumps more tolerably and out on interstates and four-lanes, these new trucks ride like a dream. A softer ride helps reduce the patient's anxiety and physical discomfort.

A steadier ride makes it easier for me to treat my patient."

An obvious change is up front: The larger windshield and windows and sloped nose give the ambulance crew better visibility.

Brown said, "From inside the cab, you can see really well almost all the way around the truck. It's like riding in a bubble. That enhances safety for everybody -- our patient, the crew and everyone else on the road."



Allen said the previous style of ambulance will be phased out over the next few years.

Serving 17 counties, AMR companies are Mississippi's busiest ambulance services. In recent years, the Mississippi Department of Health has reported AMR companies transport more than 40 percent of ambulance patients statewide.

About American Medical Response

American Medical Response,

Inc., America's leading provider of medical transportation, provides services in 36 states and the District of Columbia. More than 25,000 AMR paramedics, EMTs, RNs and other professionals work together to transport more than 4.4 million patients nationwide each year in critical, emergency and non-emergency situations.

For more information about AMR, visit www.amr.net and follow @AMR_Social on Twitter.

It's time to draw near to God

PART 2

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



We read the following words from Psalm 73:28, “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.” Not only do we need to hear God’s voice through His Word, we need to have clear spiritual sight. “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he” (Proverbs 29:18). Again, if we are drifting away from God, we will not see where we are going spiritually. We need a crisp spiritual vision. “But it is good for me to draw near to God.”

Satan tries to saddle the saints with all kinds of weights. A weight here would be anything that hinders one on the Christian pathway.

If we are not diligent, those weights will pile up. “But it is good for me to draw near to God.”

Drawing near to Him causes us to cut loose of all things that would weigh us down. “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God. The nearer we draw to God, the deeper our roots go. God wants us to be grounded and settled. When we are drifting, we are not rooted and grounded. “But it is good for me to draw near to God.” There we will find ourselves anchored to the Rock. So, when the storms of life blow hard against us, we will be able to stand.

Galen Anderson wrote, “A

man’s life is like either the tumbleweed or the oak tree. Some people just grow like the weed. They are of no value in their youth, and as the years of life come, they break loose and become a blotch on society. They have no useful purpose in life – just drifters. Their loved ones will mourn their loss, but society will not miss them. Then there are those whose lives are like the oak. They have turned from the frivolity of this life and have invested in things that have genuine worth. Their influence for good will live on in the lives of others after they are gone. Their death is noticed because their lives were spent bettering the nation and the community. They will be missed.” Drawing near to God will cause us to be like that giant oak tree that stands tall through the furious storms of life.

How can we draw near to God? We find the answer in

James 4:7-8, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” We have this promise that if we put forth the effort to draw nigh to Him, He will definitely draw nigh to us. Now, our steps are small, but His are giant steps. My friends put forth the effort to draw near to Him and we will attain to that goal and the results will astound us. “It is good for me to draw near to God.” Happy New Year, 2018! To God be the Glory!

Next week Part II – “It’s time to draw near to God”

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

Ain't nobody got time for that

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“I woke up to get me a cold pop and I thought somebody was barbecuing. I said ‘Oh Lord Jesus! It’s a fire!’

Then I ran out. I didn’t grab my shoes or nothin’...I ran for my life...I got bronchitis. Ain’t nobody got time for that!” When I first heard these words by the internet sensation floral head scarf and gold tooth wearing Sweet Brown nearly five years ago, I have to admit that I burst out laughing. She was so serious about escaping a fire that it was oddly comical. Then I watched the even funnier auto tuned music video featuring her signature phrase, “Ain’t nobody got time for that!”


Sweet Brown appeared so sincere about making a wise and quick decision in the middle of a crisis. Her video was funny but there was a lot of truth in it. She had to stop thinking about her “cold pop” and think about saving her life. She didn’t hesitate. More importantly, she knew she was in danger and got herself to a safe place.

The video made me think about how so many of us do the opposite of Sweet: we see danger behind us or ahead of us and do one of two things: we either pretend the danger isn’t there or we falsely believe we can handle it. For example, the signs are clear that your relationship isn’t healthy, the job is about to fire you and your finances are suffering. Yet, instead of using Godly wisdom, we linger too long and end up getting hurt. Or worse, like Lot’s wife, we keep

focusing on our past unwilling to look ahead and embrace new opportunities that God is offering. Luke 17:31-33 warns, “on that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot’s wife. Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.” We continue to make time for and hold onto things that God is trying to get us to let go. One question you might want to ask yourself as 2018 begins is whether you are foolishly making time for something or someone that you really need to let go. You keep making time for it or them, but God is showing you through actions and circumstances that you ain’t got time for “that” (foolishness and fools) because he has better things for you.

At the end of one year and the start of a new year, we should reflect on the message of Philippians 3:13-14 that encourages us to focus on the future and bigger picture: “Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” because after all, “Ain’t nobody got time for that!”

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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Why are there attempts to erase black women’s role in history?

By Oscar H. Blayton
Attorney

One of my favorite uncles, Uncle Buck, served in World War II with the Red Ball Express. The “Red Ball” was a heroic transportation unit that was Gen. George Patton’s lifeline for crucial supplies during the Third Army’s push against the Nazis in 1944. In 1952, Hollywood made a film about their exploits. But while the Red Ball was a predominantly black unit, their story was told in a film that used almost all white actors. Had it not been for my Uncle Buck, I may never have known the true history of this heroic, predominantly African-American outfit.

American popular culture has a way of erasing or diminishing the presence of African Americans from this country’s history. Perhaps the Red Ball’s story was whitewashed because the true story could not be told without relating how the black G.I.s suffered under racial segregation and unfair conditions spawned by notions of white supremacy in the U.S. military.

The facts of a nation’s history do not flow like the waters of a serene river. They are churned, and tumble and roil about in conjunction with fiction to create a national myth that becomes the narrative of the dominant culture.

Currently, two historic events are being characterized in a manner that erases the significant contributions of black women. The #MeToo Movement is being recast in the national narrative to fit into a more comfortable version of U.S. history. A seminal moment within this movement was when white celebrities began to use the hashtag to make people aware of the extent of sexual abuse suffered by women in this country. But this moment came 10 years after the movement was begun by a black woman, Tarana Burke.

After mostly white celebrities began to use the hashtag, *Time* magazine chose as its 2017 “Person of the Year” the women who participated in the #MeToo Movement, but elected to identify them mainly as the “Silence Breakers” and largely omitting the fact that they are a part of the #MeToo Movement. This distortion by the nation’s premier news magazine possibly has created another seminal moment in the movement by “twisting” its identity and creating a course change in the flow of history.

It is not being overly sensitive to ask why *Time* magazine chose to modify the identity of the movement by placing the “Silence Breakers” veil over the #MeToo Movement. This Movement has an identity. Calling it out of its name, distorts that identity.

Popular culture is the forerunner of historical narrative in much the same way that newspapers are the forerunners of history books. When historians of the next century research original source material on the movement that brought about a greater national awareness of sexual abuse, they may only view this movement through the distorted lens of *Time* magazine that diminishes the importance of people of color.

Kimberlé Crenshaw, a professor of law at Columbia Law

School and the University of California, Los Angeles and co-founder of the African-American Policy Forum, initiated the #SayHerName Movement that seeks to prevent the erasure of women of color from the narrative of unjust police violence. Her admonitions about the dangers of allowing the erasure of women of color from the national narrative hold true for all aspects of American life, not just injustices carried out by “law enforcement” officials.

Even when women of color are held up as heroes, the compliments tend to be delivered with the back of the hand.

Roy Moore’s defeat in Alabama for a U.S. Senate seat was due in large part by the determination and hard work of black women. But the narrative was often rounded out to portray black women as two-dimensional cut-outs.

Deneen Brown, a black woman, needed to write a commentary in the **Washington Post** to remind America that black women did not just recently pop up out of the ground to head to the polls and vote in the Alabama Senate race. They have fought against injustice in that state for so many years, it seems like eons. And the fight has been carried on largely without the help of most white women in that state.

Another black woman, Angela Peoples, penned a commentary for the *New York Times* schooling those who consider themselves allies of black women to not just thank them for saving Alabama (and America) but to follow their lead. Summing up, Peoples wrote “[W]e don’t need thanks – we need you to get out of the way and follow our lead.”

Black women are moving this country in the direction that it needs to go, despite the push back engendered by notions of white supremacy – notions that often are buried deep within the souls of our white friends who see themselves as our allies. Even so, the odds are that if we Black men and Black women - do not demand accurate historical narratives, the contributions of Black women will again become but a faint memory. Uncelebrated and unrecounted. Such is the custom of America.

So now, black folk must say “Enough!” For far too long we have been invited to join in the labors necessary to build this nation, but we are seldom invited to the party when the work is done. When the taste of fear over the possibility of a Senator Roy Moore is no longer remembered, we do not want this nation to return to discounting the importance of black voters and our concerns.

When the moral compass of the nation finally points principally in the direction of eradicating sexual harassment, we do not want to forget that Tarana Burke, a black woman, started the ball rolling 10 years before *Time* magazine took notice. Black folk contribute greatly to this country, and it is time we demand the proper respect for that. We can begin by demanding that black women be appropriately and strategically centered in both this nation’s politics and in its struggle for gender equality.

In defense of black women and girls

Black women and girls deserve more respect, visibility in the #MeToo movement

By Ed Gray
North Dallas Gazette/NNPA Member

This has been a monumental year for the reaffirmation of women’s rights in the workplace and the ballot booth. This is long overdue. The battle for the rights of women, and specifically black women and girls, has gone on for centuries. In America, the spotlight on this fight for women’s rights shines brightly on white women, while black women, who have often fought more vigorously for equality and justice, are largely consigned to the shadows of the movement.

TIME magazine placed “The Silence Breakers” on their cover, noting that the tenacity and courage of the women’s voices could be heard over the walls of systemic oppression.

Still, in the stories of Dajerria Becton, a teenager who was violently handcuffed and thrown to the ground by an overzealous McKinney, Texas police officer and Sandra Bland, who was arrested and died in police custody in Prairie View, Texas, that oppression seems unsurmountable.

Most acts of extrajudicial violence and aggression towards black women never become national headlines and many black women suffer in quiet silence as their complaints of sexual harassment are ignored and discounted, regardless of their socioeconomic status.



Mainstream America labels black women as angry Jezebels unfit for normal, social interactions. Black American pop culture hypersexualizes our young girls while condemning them for being too fast. There is a deafening silence in the black community that is complicit in the degradation of our black women.

When we do speak, instead of a healing, sometimes our words just cause more wounds.

One of the most influential hip-hop artists of all time, Tupac Shakur spoke directly to black women in “Wonda Why They Call U Bitch”:

“You leave your kids with your mama ‘cuz your headin’ for the club

In a skin-tight miniskirt lookin’ for some love

Got them legs wide open while you’re sittin’ at the bar

Talkin’ to some n**ga ’bout his car

I guess he said he had a Lexus, what’s next?

You headin’ to his car for some sex.”

Today, some people would criticize Shakur for slut-shaming, while others would applaud him for telling it like it is.

White women have been applauded for coming forward to tell their stories of sexual assault and harassment under the #MeToo flag. The movement would be much stronger and more credible, if its leaders forced mainstream media to also carry the stories of black women on their morning shows and popular websites.

Black men must bear some of the blame for mainstream media’s ignorance and apathy towards the plight of black women. We band together, as brothers, ignoring the anguished cries of our sisters. We must stop, look and listen.

We must reject R. Kelly for

his alleged abuse of black women and girls with the same unanimity that black voters in Alabama rejected the alleged sexual predator Moore.

We must step in the name of love and in the name of justice with respect for our black mothers, wives, sisters and daughters. This respect must begin in the black community; we must clean our own house, first. We must elevate our women from social media hashtags to highly-valued and respected members of the global community.

In “Keep Ya Head Up,” Shakur offers a critique on the exploitation of women in the black community:

“And since we all came from a woman

Got our name from a woman and our game from a woman

I wonder why we take from our women

Why we rape our women, do we hate our women?

I think it’s time to kill for our women

Time to heal our women, be real to our women

And if we don’t we’ll have a race of babies

That will hate the ladies that make the babies

And since a man can’t make one

He has no right to tell a woman when and where to create one

So will the real men get up

I know you’re fed up ladies, but keep your head up.”

Urban League movement reflects on a year of empowering Americans through jobs, education, financial literacy and healthcare

By Marc H. Morial
*President and CEO
National Urban League*



“From your founding, amid the great migration, to the struggles of the civil rights movement, to the battles of today, the Urban League has been on the ground, in our communities, working quietly – day in, day out – without fanfare; opening up opportunity, rolling back inequality, making our union just a little more perfect.” – President Barack Obama

The New Year is a time to reflect and assess, and organizations like ours are not immune from the impulse. Since our founding in 1910, The National Urban League has remained resolute in its foundational resolution to invest in the economic empowerment of underserved urban communities. Every year, for more than a century, we have reflected on and tallied the economic and societal effects of the programs and initiatives provided by the National Urban League and its nationwide network of affiliates. This census provides keen insight on the people we serve, the communities we empower,

and the work that always lies ahead.

Through the hard work of our 88 affiliates in 36 states and the District of Columbia, our latest figures show the Urban League was able to offer services ranging from job placement to education programs to more than 1.4 million people nationwide. Some of the highlights of our movement’s work, from the latest census:

- More than 35,000 participants were placed in jobs, at an annual salary of \$26,360 – a salary increase of \$5,199 from the previous year.

- Urban League affiliates counseled or trained 6,374 welfare-to-work clients, of which 2,115 were placed in jobs.

- Nearly 15,500 entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs received information on financial and credit management and marketing their businesses – an increase of more than 6,000 over the previous year.

The Movement’s 152 housing and community programs counseled 71,697 residents in diverse housing and community development programs, ranging from financial literacy to support services for veterans and foreclosure prevention.

- There were 11,168 partici-

pants in homeownership programs, of whom nearly 1,600 became first-time homeowners at an average purchase price of \$148,882.

- The Urban League Movement provided more than 326,000 people with healthcare services and information, ranging from sickle cell awareness, nutrition, mental health and services for women, infants and children.

- The movement’s 298 affiliate-led programs actively prepared 141,190 students for college, work and live with a variety of education initiatives, including STEM programming and workforce alternatives.

- Activities elevating awareness and support for inclusive and equitable social policies – addressing police misconduct, voter protection and registration, civil rights and social justice – engaged 567,300 citizens nationwide, and increase of 13,000 over the previous year.

But the struggle to continue to make strides in civil rights and racial progress is thwarted by the open hostility of the Trump administration to longstanding civil rights laws. The struggle to continue to make strides in social policy that narrows the wealth and equity gaps and lifts whole communi-

ties out of poverty is thwarted by tax cuts that would benefit the very, very rich and corporations, policies that rip holes into our social safety net and drain our government of money it needs to provide even the most basic of services to its citizens.

It is at moments such as this that I am reminded of Coretta Scott King’s response to those who questioned the success of the civil rights movement. She reminded the skeptics that, “the struggle is a never-ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation.”

Like so many of you, the National Urban League will take stock and gather courage for the twelve months ahead. We resolve to invest in those communities hardest hit by the inequities and injustices in our society. We will continue to protect our progress against any and all threats. We will sound the alarm and stand at the frontline of the battle to create a more just and equitable society for all.

So, Happy New Year to you and your family, and if you’re still looking to make and keep a resolution, what could be nobler than protecting our nation’s hard-fought-for progress?

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS AND NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, MS, at 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time, Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

911 Call Dispatch Center Repairs - City of Jackson Project No. 18B7000-0702

Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished and sealed and deposited with City Clerk prior to the hour and date above designated. A copy of the construction documents (plans and/or specifications) for the construction being sought has been filed with the City Clerk of Jackson, MS.

Contract documents are being made available through online electronic file downloads. For a copy of the contract documents contact COOKE DOUGLASS FARR LEMONS ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS PA, 3100 N State Street, Ste 200, Jackson, MS 39216, P: 601.366.3110 and at the local plan rooms. No hard copies will be distributed to bidders. Questions regarding plan clarifications or requests for information should be directed to the architect as follows:

Cooke Douglass Farr Lemons Architects & Engineers (CDFL)
3100 North State St
Suite 200
Jackson, MS 39216
601.366.3110 – P

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex in consideration for an award.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact of the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program, as attached, are available at 200 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and or conduct business in the City, to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities in respect to any bid submitted or to accept any proposal which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.

A PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD – NON-MANDATORY

All Contractors who intend to submit "BIDS" are encouraged to attend a pre-bid conference to be held at Warren Hood Building, 5th Floor Conference Rm, 200 S President St, Jackson, MS on January 3, 2018, at 10:00 AM.

James Anderson
Interim City Attorney

Robert K. Miller
Director of Public Works

12/21/2017, 12/28/2017

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

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, 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

Advertisement for RFPs

RFP 2017-17 Digital – Full Color Production Printing System

Sealed, written formal rfp proposals for the above rfp will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) January 17, 2017, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all rfps, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfps are opened. Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing pagreen@jackson.k12.ms.us, calling (601) 960-8799, or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

12/21/2017, 12/28/2017

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
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 4T1BE46K37U094030
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

Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
CEBQFDFZMLUOVGRKNYASTPIJHWX

NOT THAT I BELIEVE YOU CAN
RKT TMCT U E F V U F I F W K P B C R
HAVE IT ALL : I BELIEVE YOU
MCIF UT CVV U E F V U F I F W K P
CAN HAVE IT ALL . JUST NOT AT
BCR MCIF UT CVV LPST RKT CT
THE SAME TIME
TMF SCGF TUGF

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
Jackson, Mississippi
PROJECT NO. 15B4502.401

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of Country Club Drive Bridge Replacement, City Project No. 15B4502.401. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The entire project must be completed within (45) calendar days. The contract will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the contract time is exceeded.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full an equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) plan. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Michael Davis with the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Specifications and Proposals forms are on file and open to public inspection on the 4th floor (Engineering Division) of the Warren Hood Building located at 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205. One copy of the Contract Documents may be procured from EJES Inc. (405 Briarwood Drive, Suite 110, Jackson, MS 39206) upon payment of \$100.00, which will not be refunded. The Standard Specifications adopted by the City Council may be procured from the Department of Public Works, if desired upon payment of \$5.00 dollars for each specification.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on January 11, 2018, at 10:00 A.M. local time, in the 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi law and possess a certificate of responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Contractors establishing its classification as to the value and type of construction on which it is authorized to bid. Each bidder must deposit with its proposal, a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid for the work, payable to the City of Jackson, as the bid security.

The successful bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded. Attorneys-in-fact who sign Bid Bonds or Payment Bonds and Performance Bonds must file with each bond a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney.

Proposals shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City of Jackson's City Clerk prior to the hour and date designated above. Each bidder shall write its certificate of responsibility number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing its proposal.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all informalities

Robert K. Miller
Director, Department of Public Works

12/28/2017, 1/4/2018

Sudoku Solution

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

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Jackson, MS 39213

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LEGAL

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

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

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

3/9/2017 thru 12/28/2017



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Though there is a lot of competition, newspapers are the number one form of advertising that Mississippi residents have used in the past month to make a purchasing decision. (Pulse Research, June 2016). Why not save your steps and check the sales in your paper first!

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Capitol Street and Monument Street
CITY HALL
219 S President St
GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX
2659 Livingston Road
DOLLAR GENERAL
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
JJ MOBIL
Northside Drive and Flagg Chapel
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
MCDADÉ'S MARKET
Northside Drive
MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive
SPORTS MEDICINE
Fortification and I-55
TWO SISTERS KITCHEN
707 North Congress - Jackson, MS

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Countyline Road and State Street
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
REVELL ACE HARDWARE
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
RITE AID
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave
RITE AID
114 E. McDowell Rd
RITE AID
6075 Old Canton Rd

CANTON
A & I
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
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Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY
507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
LACY'S INSURANCE
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

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DOLLAR GENERAL
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VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE
5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON
DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

RIDGELAND
RITE AID
398 Hwy 51

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SERVICE STATION
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RAYMOND
HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WELCOME CENTER
505 E. Main Street
SUNFLOWER GROCERY
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LOVE FOOD MART
120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS
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RAYMOND CITY HALL
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RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA
HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP
Mississippi Hwy 18
PITT STOP
101 Hwy 18 & 27

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Services-Legal

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Services-Medical

CANADA DRUG CENTER: Safe, affordable medications. Licensed mail order pharmacy. **SAVE up to 75%!** Get \$10.00 off your first prescription. Free shipping! Call 855-401-7432

Services-Medical

LIVING WITH KNEE OR BACK PAIN? Medicare recipients may qualify to receive a pain relieving brace at little or no cost. Call now! 877-863-6359

MISSISSIPPI MEDICAID RECIPIENTS: Get your incontinence supplies, catheters, and enteral feeding supplies shipped to your door at NO COST. Call: 1-866-271-0827

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! Cut your drug costs! SAVE \$\$! 50 pills for \$99. FREE shipping! 100% guaranteed and discreet. Call 1-866-603-6765.



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Week of December 31, 2017

Tiger nation mourns the loss of JSU Hall of Fame member the “Hoss” Leflore

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Funeral services were held for Southwestern Athletic Conference and JSU Sports Hall of Fame member LyVonne “Hoss” LeFlore, Dec. 22 at Christian Union MB Church in Carthage, Miss.

Imagine a trimmer version of Charles Barkley in his prime playing in the SWAC in the early 1960s. That will give you an idea of basketball player LyVonne “Hoss” LeFlore during his career at Jackson State.

At 6-5½, LeFlore wasn’t the Tigers’ tallest player. Still he played center and was among the top rebounders in the SWAC while earning All-Conference honors three consecutive seasons.

LeFlore was that guy in the SWAC.

“He was a man among boys,” says SWAC Hall of Famer Lonnie Walker, whose Alcorn State teams had some heated battles with LeFlore and Jackson State when Walker played for the Braves.

“It’s a dream that came true,” LeFlore says of his Hall of Fame selection. “It wasn’t expected. I enjoyed playing in SWAC. It was stiff competition. When I came through, other colleges in the



Leflore

IN MEMORIAM

South weren’t open to black players. I enjoyed playing in the SWAC. If I had it to do again, I would.”

LeFlore earned the nickname “Hoss” because he was a workhorse on the inside for Jackson State while playing against the likes of All-Americans Willis Reed of Grambling State and Zelmo Beaty of Prairie View A&M, both of whom went on to star in the NBA.

LeFlore made up for what he lacked in height with sheer determination, guile and jumping ability.

“He didn’t look to shoot the jumper, but he would get a lot of points,” Walker says. “He’d get the rebound and put it back, and

he would run the floor. He could run like a deer. He could outrun all the centers.”

LeFlore’s tenacity and sportsmanship are what Walker remembers most about him, though.

“He was always hungry when we played them,” Walker says. “After the game, he would pat you on the butt and say, ‘Good ballgame.’ I respected him for that.”

LeFlore says the hunger and tenacity that he showed on the basketball court were by-products of his upbringing in Carthage, Miss., where he was a member of the last team that played its home games on an outdoor court and won the State Championship.

“I guess at the time coming out of the cotton field, I finally got a chance to go to college on a scholarship,” he says, “I did my best to do my best. I was a hungry player.”

LeFlore’s jumping ability was the foundation of his game. There was no such thing as measuring athletes’ vertical leap when he played. That was a time every black college conference seemingly had at least one jumping jack with pogo sticks for legs who could just about jump out of the gym and supposedly take a quarter of the top of the backboard.

“I was that guy,” he says.

LeFlore also prided himself in being a heady player who studied the game.

“I tried to use footwork, make sure my opponent was blocked out and that I got position,” he says. “I had to play smart because players were so much larger than me. I wasn’t the power forward like I should have been.”

The teams that LeFlore played on at Jackson State were loaded with talent. His teammates included Ed Manning, who played 11 seasons in the NBA, and Jerry Yarbrough, a two-time All-SWAC pick. Cleveland Buckner, who scored 33 points for the New York Knicks in the game that Wilt Chamberlain set the NBA record with 100 points, was Jackson State’s starting center LeFlore’s redshirt freshman season at Jackson State. “I didn’t mind being redshirted,” LeFlore says. “Coach (Harrison Wilson) had told me before hand, and I expected to be redshirted. It helped me develop having that extra year.”

LeFlore and his Jackson State teammates made history his junior season when they faced Evansville in the first round of the 1964 NCAA Division II tournament. A Mississippi law

prevented schools in the state from competing against integrated squads. The previous year, Mississippi State coach Babe McCarthy sneaked his all-white team out of Starkville, Miss., to play Loyola of Chicago, which had four black starters in the NCAA Tournament in East Lansing, Mich., and the law was struck down.

Jackson State lost 97-69 to Evansville, which featured future NBA player and coach Jerry Sloan, but the Tigers gained a place in history as the first black school from Mississippi to compete against an integrated team.

“I’m very proud of that,” LeFlore says. “That was important. I can look back at it and talk about it and see how far the school has progressed. Now you can play anyone you want to play.”

Ironically, The Baltimore Bullets chose Sloan in the second round of the 1965 NBA draft and LeFlore in the seventh round. Sloan played one season for the Bullets before he was traded to the Chicago Bulls, where he became one of the top defensive players in NBA history. LeFlore suffered a different fate. Too small to play center, he moved to power forward, where he had to adapt to playing facing the basket. The transition

wasn’t a smooth one, and LeFlore ended up playing for the Harrisburg (Pa.) Patriots in the Eastern League after the Bullets released him.

LeFlore worked on his game with the Patriots. He learned to play facing the basket and improved his ball handling, intent on making an NBA roster, and was named All-Eastern League for the 1965-66 season. However, he suffered a knee injury in his second season with Harrisburg when an opponent undercut him while he was in the air. He underwent surgery and went through physical therapy and tried to rehabilitate the injured knee, but it was never quite right again, and his career was over.

“I was determined I was going to come back,” LeFlore says, “but it just didn’t go that way. One of my strongest points was my jumping ability, and it wasn’t the same. I was disappointed because that was something I wanted.”

Playing professional basketball had been Plan A for LeFlore. After his injury, he moved on to Plan B, which was teaching, and taught and coached in the Harrisburg School District.

LeFlore also served on Jackson State’s Sports Hall of Fame Committee.

Men’s Basketball recap: Tigers 54, ball state 70

The Mississippi Link Newswire

MUNCIE, Indiana – The Jackson State men’s basketball team lost its final non-conference game of the season Friday evening, falling 70-54 to Ball State at Worthen Arena. With the loss JSU falls to a 3-10 overall record and Ball State improved to 8-4.

Paris Collins finished the game with a game-high 17 points on 7-14 shooting from the field and 3-5 from three point range. He also recorded a game-high six steals to go along with four rebounds and three assists. Darius Austin scored 11 points and had a team high five

rebounds.

JSU shot 36.2 percent from the field (21-58), 42.9 percent in threes (9-21) and 75 percent from the line (3-4). BSU connected from the field at a 50 percent rate (23-46), 40.7 percent from three point range (11-27) and 65 percent from the line (13-20).

Kyle Mallers, Sean Sellers and Francis Kiapway each scored 11 points for BSU.

NEXT UP: The Tigers open Southwestern Athletic Conference play on Jan. 1 when they host Alabama State at the Lee E. Williams AAC. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.



2017 Nissan Titan

By Frank S. Washington
AboutThatCar.com

DETROIT – Strictly business is the first thought that came to mind during the week-long test drive of the 2017 Nissan Titan 5.6-liter Endurance V8 SV 4WD SC.

In plain language this was a truck. There was no king cab, no crew cab, there was just a regular cab with an eight foot bed. There were four tie-downs; a bed light as well as under rail LED lights and a step up at the left corner of the rear bumper to step up and to get a better look into the bed to handle cargo.

We had the Endurance trim line. At its heart was a 5.6-liter V8 that made 390 horsepower and 394 pound-feet of torque. It was mated to a seven speed automatic transmission. This Titan had a fuel rating of 15 mpg in the city, 21 mpg on the highway and 18 mpg combined.

We had the four-wheel-drive version of this Titan. There was a dial drive mode changer and the truck could be shifted into two-wheel-drive or four-wheel-drive high or four-wheel-drive low. And it could do that on the fly, read while moving.

We left it in two-wheel-drive



since we didn’t go sloshing through the woods, or go off road. We didn’t have anything to tote or to tow either. But if we did, this Titan could carry up to 1,950 lbs. and pull up to 9,560 lbs.

There were no power seats and that made us think initially the truck was a throwback. But it had just the right touch of conveniences for what was needed.

The smart key made getting

in and out a snap or should we say a push of the button. In other words, it had push button lock and unlock. It also had push button start and stop. There was a manual tilt and telescope steering wheel.

We thought the blind spot alert was particularly effective since the truck’s bed can distort your sense of how close vehicles are to you or you to them. The Ti-

tan was not difficult to drive; a couple of times we cut turns too short and the rear tires clipped a curb here and there but we adjusted.

The Titan looked good but this was a work truck. It had a towing package that included extendable, folding, power, heated tow mirrors with puddle lights, a trailer brake controller and a trailer light check function.

Running boards and grip handles for both driver and passenger made it easy to get into the cab. Once there, we found thick black cloth quilted seats that reminded us of the suspension seats in long haul trucks. They were nice. And there was a six-inch wide shelf behind the passenger seat and the same size tray behind the driver’s seat.

The center console was huge;

big enough to set a laptop or other papers on and do some work. There were auxiliary USB and 12V jacks beneath the center stack. Open the center console and find shallow compartments and trays for whatever stuff you might have. And this was actually a 40/20/40 bench seat and what we called the console was actually the armrest. There were also a dual set of cupholders and a column shifter.

And lest we forget, the 2017 Titan looked good. It had chrome bumpers fore and aft as well as chrome door handles. The grille was chrome with painted inserts and front tow hooks. Front and back sensors made parking a snap.

Three was no touch screen inside but there was a five-inch color display screen and a TFT screen between the odometer and speedometer. This Titan was equipped with satellite radio, Bluetooth, streaming audio and Nissan Connect.

This 2017 Nissan Titan offered just enough creature comforts to make you comfortable as you drive to the next job. The sticker was \$39,505.

Frank S. Washington is editor of AboutThatCar.com.

DVD REVIEW

MAYHEM

REVENGE-FUELED SPLATTERFEST GIVES NEW MEANING TO “HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT”

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Attorney Derek Cho (Steven Yeun) was a rising star working his way up the corporate ladder at Towers and Smythe when he was blindsided by a false accusation of making a million-dollar mistake. He was callously fired on the spot by the sadistic director of operations (Caroline Chikezie) and escorted by the heartless Grim Reaper (Dallas Roberts) to the basement of the building where he was pressured to sign a confession as a condition for receiving a severance package.

It’s obvious he’d been stabbed in the back by a colleague at the cutthroat law firm. But he has no idea who it was. While weighing his options, he swaps sob stories and forges an alliance with Melanie Cross (Samara Weaving), a client also screwed over by the firm.

Before the two can be kicked to the curb, they’re afforded an opportunity to even the score, thanks to divine intervention. For, an outbreak of Red Eye has the authorities sealing the offices of Towers and Smythe, with no one being allowed to either enter or leave the building.

The highly-contagious virus sweeping through the ventilation system is not fatal, but it does cause those infected to act out their primal impulses, whether violent, sexual or elsewhat. So, the Center for Disease Control orders the skyscraper quarantined for the next eight hours, the time it will take for the antidote to take effect.

Meanwhile, Derek and Melanie’s infection not only makes them morph from model citizens into bloodthirsty killing machines, but conveniently provides an excuse for their ensuing



reign of terror, namely, the virus made me do it. Soon, the pair proceed to track down their enemies to dispatch them, one-by-one, with a variety of unorthodox implements, ranging from buzzsaw to nail gun.

Directed by Joe Lynch (Wrong Turn 2: Dead End), Mayhem is a sophisticated social satire that might be best

described as a compelling cross of Office Space (1999) and The Purge (2013). Lynch has deftly blended the wry, anti-establishment wit of the former with the temporary lawlessness of the latter into a riveting, revenge-fueled splatterfest you won’t ever forget.

A righteous bloodbath in the boardroom!

Excellent (4 stars)

Unrated

Running time: 87 minutes

Studio: Circle of Confusion / Royal Viking Entertainment

Distributor: RLJE Films / Image Entertainment

DVD Extras: Creating Mayhem: The Making of the Film.

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 11)



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