

Mississippi needs a song to sing

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Minutes after jazz artist Pam Confer sang her new song “Mississippi Beautiful” in the Mississippi State Capitol Rotunda, the world received news that President Donald Trump would be attending the December 9 grand opening of the new Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. The Museum of Mississippi History also opens to the public that day.

Confer’s new song will be permanently featured in Gallery Number 8 of the Civil Rights Museum and in light of the buzz surrounding Trump’s visit, Confer said that Mississippi needs a song to sing.

In an interview with *The Mississippi Link* prior to the press conference, Confer said, “I thought about the opening of the two new museums and said to myself, we need a new song, we need to be happy and proud.” One day while walking her dog Jazzie, the lyrics began to come to her.

Confer is dedicating her new song to the Mississippi Bicentennial, Dec. 10, which she hopes will show Mississippi in a new light. She said the lyrics continued to unfold as she thought, “It’s our birthday and this song could be a birthday gift to us.

Confer said the two museums depict that we are taking part in our own destiny. “We had no part in our destiny 200 years ago.” She confirmed, “the “we” includes Mississippians of all races, hues, cultures, backgrounds and religions.” She said, “It’s all so exciting to be able to frame Mississippi in a different way.”

Confer said the song starts out asking the question, who are we? Everything going forward answers the opening lyrics. She said her song allows Mississippians to say who we are rather than someone else saying who we are.

Confer softly began to sing, “Who are we, what do we stand for? Who are we, what do we claim? We are faces of joy and pain. Mississippi who are we, for nothing remains the same, for even the seasons change. We are



Pam Confer singing “Mississippi Beautiful.” PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON



Confer with producer Brandon Mitchell at press conference.

more than just a name. The more that we can see, the more we can believe we are beautiful, we are beautiful the moment we believe, the moment we believe it, we will be free.”

Confer said she truly believes that just because we are beautiful, it doesn’t mean that we are unflawed. Her hope is that Mississippians can use this song to ease some of our painful history. Though many have suffered, she does not want to define that pain but allow her lyrics to heal the pain.

The Monday press conference was well attended. Rep. Debra Gibbs, District 72, in her welcome, said that Confer exudes confidence. Using one of Confer’s favorite quotes, Gibbs said, “It’s not how you shine, but how you polish,” as she described this

award winning Mississippi artist.

Confer said that her song is for the diversity of Mississippi and would love for it to become the

state song. She said that Mississippi was once the 6th most diverse state in the country.

Dolphus Weary, former president of Mission Mississippi, said that Confer has used her gifts to bless so many. “In 1967 when I got on a bus to go to California, we rode across the Mississippi River bridge in Vicksburg, and all I could say was good-bye Mississippi, I’m gone and I’m never coming back,” he said.

Weary said he was so glad he came back. “It’s time for us to stop talking about what happened yesterday but rather ask ourselves what are we going to do today and tomorrow?” He said we need to create a new story because the old story is gone and that Confer’s song gives us the enthusiasm, the joy and the new energy to move forward and create that new story.

Also attending the press conference was Brandon Mitchell, one of Confer’s producers. She said that he was a professional and talented young musician. Marcus Singleton, her other producer, was not present.

Confer is director of Community and Public Relations at Nissan – North America in Canton. She serves as the choir director for the Nissan Canton Choir; the only choir in the automotive industry in the country. She is the executive producer, writer and singer of “Mississippi Beautiful.”



CBC meets with FBI director over Black Identity Extremists report

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

FBI Director Christopher A. Wray failed to explain why the agency he leads changed the name of a domestic terrorism designation from “Black Separatist Extremists” to “Black Identity Extremist,” during a recent meeting with a group of Congressional Black Caucus members about a leaked FBI document.

The leaked FBI document, titled “Black Identity Extrem-

ists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers,” sparked a wave of controversy and sharp criticism of the FBI.

At least one CBC member called the leaked document “COINTELPRO 2.0,” while another said that the report “calls for open season on black activists.” The document was shared widely with local law enforcement agencies across the country.

According to *Newsweek*, following the “fatal attacks on po-

lice officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, La., in 2016, the bureau expressed concerns about the threat of copycat attacks against law enforcement at the Republican and Democratic national conventions.”

Newsweek reported that other documents showed that “the FBI has monitored Black Lives Matter protesters.”

Those documents were released, because of a lawsuit to

CBC
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Richmond

A dark cloud looms in Mississippi ahead of Trump’s planned visit



COMPOSITE PHOTO AP

By Othor Cain
Editor

When news broke that President Donald Trump would visit the Magnolia State to participate in the grand opening of the highly anticipated Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, it sent shockwaves across the Magnolia State. For months, Mississippians have been planning, securing tickets, finalizing schedules, working behind the scenes all in preparation for this much anticipated affair. Until Monday. Monday, CNN reported that Trump would indeed visit the state. Monday, for some, plans changed when it was reported that Trump would participate in the events. Press secretaries and PR industry folk began to work over-time crafting messages.

Tuesday, the White House confirmed his visit and press statements were released within hours of the confirmation. Among those that responded was the leadership of the NAACP.

NAACP President Derrick Johnson said in a statement that Trump’s record on civil rights and fraught relationship with many in the African-American community made him an unwelcome guest at the Magnolia State event.

“President Trump’s statements and policies regarding the protection and enforcement of civil rights have been abysmal, and his attendance is an affront to the veterans of the civil rights movement,” Johnson said.

“He has created a commission to reinforce voter suppression, refused to denounce white supremacists, and overall, has created a racially hostile climate in this nation.”

Activists have threatened to boycott or protest Trump’s participation, which White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said would be unfortunate.

“I think that would be honestly very sad. This is something that should bring the country together to celebrate the opening of this museum and highlighting the civil rights movement and the progress that we’ve made,” she said at a White House press briefing.

Governor Phil Bryant, who extended the invitation to Trump, echoed Sanders’ statements Wednesday morning after announcing the expansion of Milwaukee Tools in three Mississippi cities, including

Jackson. “The president should be here and we are thankful that he is coming, Bryant said. “It is right and fitting.”

Bryant responded specifically to the NAACP wanting him to rescind his invitation to Trump. “Well that isn’t going to happen,” he said. “I think people should put aside partisan politics and propaganda and show the hospitality this state is known for.”

The Mississippi Link has compiled a few released reactions to Trump’s visit:

The Mississippi Association of County Democratic Chairs and Hinds County Democratic Party Chairperson Jacqueline R. Amos issued the following statement:

“Yesterday, we learned with great dismay that the president will participate in the opening ceremonies of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum this Saturday. As the direct political heirs to the Freedom Democratic Party and in the spirit of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, we call upon all the authorities involved to cancel any appearance and remarks by President Donald Trump immediately. Any reasonable person knows that the presence of such a hugely divisive and polarizing figure will pervert and diminish what could otherwise be a healing and teaching moment for our state. Trump attained the highest office in the land by appeals and tactics that do great and lasting violence to our civil rights heritage. His campaign appealed to the very worst demons of the American soul. He is a disgraceful president, a malicious influence, and an abominable human being. He has no place at a celebration of the very values and aspirations his presidency is clearly committed to destroy.

Congressman Thompson’s statement on President Trump’s attendance at Mississippi Civil Rights Museum opening

“With President Donald Trump accepting Gov. Phil Bryant’s invitation to attend the opening of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, I am hopeful he will begin to understand the pain he is causing in the black and underserved communities across America,” Thompson said. “His unfair budget cuts in agriculture, education, healthcare and housing disproportionately impacts people of color and is viewed by many as an act reminiscent

Trump
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Mississippi public universities contribute 60K jobs to Mississippi employment

By Dr. Glenn Boyce
Commissioner of Higher Education

In 2015, Mississippi Public Universities’ contribution to Mississippi employment was 59,258, or approximately 3.74 percent, jobs in Mississippi. The university system contributed \$3.78 billion, or approximately 3.5 percent, to total personal income in Mississippi.

On the Mississippi Business Journal’s Book of Lists 2017, the University of Mississippi Medical Center, with 9,000 employees, is listed as #3, behind Huntington Ingalls Industries and Keesler Air Force Base, with 11,000 employees each. Other universities on the list include:

#9 Mississippi State University: 4,740 employees, including extension service employees serving the citizens in every county of the state

#11 University of Mississippi: 4,200 employees

#27 The University of Southern Mississippi: 2,212 employees

In addition to the professors who support the university’s core mission of teaching and learning, many other employees are essential for student success. For example, Delta State University has placed an emphasis on improved retention and has invested in human resources to support these efforts.

This investment has paid off. Between the fall of 2015 and the fall of 2016, Delta State experienced significant increases in retention rates for first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshmen – 5.2 percent; first time, full-time, degree-seeking transfer students – 7.8 percent; and, all full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students – 3.7 percent. Sim-



Boyce

ply put, this means more students stayed in school and on the path to graduation – and on the path to being more productive, employable citizens of our state.

Similar efforts on all campuses have resulted in an 80 percent one-year retention rate for entering full-time freshmen, based on the Fall 2014 cohort.

Universities also employ scientists who conduct research that solves problems and helps Mississippians lead better, healthier lives. This past year, the university system received \$420.7 million in research funding from federal, state and private/corporate sources, supporting 2,407 projects.

Our campuses are like small cities, requiring the support staff to run them. This includes the campus police force,

the crews that maintain the buildings and grounds, the staff that run the physical plant and the employees who manage the residence halls.

Universities also support indirect jobs, including those supported by the renovation and construction projects on campus and those working in transportation that connects the campus and the community. Universities outsource some functions, such as food service and bookstores, supporting additional indirect jobs.

Additional jobs are supported through student spending on off-campus housing, in restaurants and other entertainment venues, in local retailers, including grocery stores, convenience stores, gas stations, clothing stores and book stores.

Mississippi Public Universities serve more than 95,000 students during the academic year. This requires a lot of hands on deck to meet their needs both inside and outside the classroom, which, in turn, supports the Mississippi economy.

The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning governs the public universities in Mississippi, including Alcorn State University; Delta State University; Jackson State University; Mississippi State University including the Mississippi State University Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine; Mississippi University for Women; Mississippi Valley State University; the University of Mississippi including the University of Mississippi Medical Center; and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Check your charity before donating this holiday season

By Secretary of State
Delbert Hosemann

Anyone who has spent time in Mississippi knows one thing for sure about Mississippians: they are kind, hospitable people. When we see a need, we want to help, particularly during the holiday season.

This generosity is reflected in charity statistics gathered by our office, which registers more than 3,600 charities soliciting contributions from Mississippi citizens.

For calendar year 2017 to date, charities registered in Mississippi (many of which are headquartered out of state) have reported more than \$96 billion in total revenue. This includes solicited funds, grant money and other sources of income. More than \$1.17 billion of this amount is attributable to organizations with offices in Mississippi.

Most of these charities are doing great work in our communities and we are thankful for their service. However, it is prudent to exercise caution and research the charity of your choice before you donate.

Here are some tips to ensure your donations are reaching those who need them the most:

- Avoid pressure tactics. You do not have to give before you have all the information.
- Watch for “same names.” Some scam artists intentionally use names resembling those of respected organizations.
- Be wary of telephone calls, and never give out your credit card



Hosemann

information to a solicitor over the phone.

- Verify mail solicitations.
- Always get a receipt. These are important for tracking mechanisms and tax-deduction purposes.

Finally, always review financial and other publicly-reported information. Consumer organizations recommend at least 65 percent of a charitable organization’s total expenses be spent on program activities directly related to the organization’s purpose.

The Secretary of State’s annual Report on Charitable Organizations is online for your reference, and includes financial information for all of Mississippi’s registered charities, including total revenue, expenditures toward charitable purpose and administrative expenses.

For more information, call the Charities Division at (601) 359-1599 or visit www.sos.ms.gov/ charities.

Merry Christmas to each of you and your families!



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CBC

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expose the surveillance filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights and the civil rights group Color of Change.

On November 29, Congressional Black Caucus Chair Cedric Richmond (D-La.) and 2nd Vice Chair Karen Bass (D-Calif.), provided an overview of their meeting with Wray in a teleconference with National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President Benjamin F. Chavis; NNPA National Chairman Dorothy Leavell, and a group of black publishers, editors and reporters.

CBC members who are also members of the House Committee on Homeland Security, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Committee on the Judiciary were present at the meeting.

“Listening to [Wray], especially considering meetings and discussions we’ve had with Attorney General [Jeff] Sessions, he appeared to be a breath of fresh air,” Bass said.

Wray said that no one would be investigated or targeted, unless they met three points of criteria: there had to be credible evidence of federal crimes; a credible threat of force or violence; and both of those points had to exist in furtherance of a social or political goal.

“Wray also admitted that the policy wasn’t new, the name simply changed, Bass said.

“They used to call it ‘Black Separatist Extremists’ and they changed it to ‘Black Identity Extremists,’” said Bass. “[Wray] didn’t have a lot of rationale for why that change took place, except for the fact that the people that fall under the category ‘Black Identity Extremist’ don’t seem to be separatists in today’s world.”

CBC members raised major concerns about the report, one of which was how the FBI even crafted the methodology to come up with the category of “Black Identity Extremists.”

“[Wray] essentially said that they used ‘open source’ documents, which means news reports,” said Bass. “Lord knows what that means.”

Bass said that, based on what she heard from Wray, the methodology seemed “flimsy.”

“When we raised our concerns that a new generation of black activists were being targeted for surveillance and harassment, [Wray] said repeatedly that there was no investigation of the Black Lives Matter movement,” said Bass.

Bass and the other CBC members let Wray know that they were “completely aware” that some activists in their communities were experiencing surveillance and harassment, even though they didn’t meet the requirements that Wray described that would lead to an investigation.

The CBC members asked the FBI to retract the document and issue a new message to local law enforcement agencies.

“One of the problems with this document is that it has been widely distributed to law enforcement agencies around the country,” said Bass. “Many of us referenced either our own personal experiences or experiences we were aware of during the ‘COINTELPRO’ years when if you send a document like this out to local law enforcement, in many of our opinions, you can declare open season on black activists, because then local law enforcement agencies can use the document as justification for doing whatever they want to do.”

COINTELPRO, or the “Counter Intelligence Program” of the FBI, was designed in part to “expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities of the Black nationalists,” during the 1950s and 1970s.

The FBI director expressed interests in meeting with CBC members regularly because, “We are the eyes and ears on the ground,” and the CBC offers diversity that the agency lacks, said Richmond.

Bass asked the Black Press to put the call out to their readers to let lawmakers know if they have experienced harassment or surveillance, a request that Richmond echoed.

Trump

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of Jim Crow policies of the south.”

The Mississippi Democratic Party says Trump is the wrong person for the job

Governor Phil Bryant invited the president to attend ceremonies for the opening of our state History and Civil Rights Museums. This invitation distracts attention from what should be a special day for dedicated people like Governor William Winter, Congressman John Lewis, Myrlie Evers-Williams, and the amazing struggles and achievements that bring these museums the attention they deserve. We can do better.

When scores of people who expected to celebrate this occasion are now making plans for protest, it’s abundantly clear this invitation tamped down the excited expectations of many. We can and must do better to not allow the progress showcased in these landmarks to be trampled on by anyone seeking cheap political points.

Amos Brown, NAACP board member, San Francisco branch president and native of Jackson, agrees that the president should stay away from the museum’s opening.

“As a freedom fighter and contemporary of Emmett Till, Trump’s visit is an insult. He has never been a supporter of civil rights or equal opportunity or justice,” said Brown. “He’s been silent on civil rights issues, and his silence speaks volumes.”



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JSU student overcomes lupus-related stroke with help of MRC Quest program



Martez Baldwin practices with the Jackson State University dance ensemble, as they prepare for their first performance of the school year.



Baldwin is back to his part-time job at the Jackson State University bookstore.

By Carey Miller
Health and Research News Service

The members of Jackson State University’s dance ensemble give each other nicknames to reflect who they are and what they’ve been through.

They call Martez Baldwin “Indestructibly Paid.”

“They say I’m indestructible because I’m not letting anything stop me,” Baldwin said. “And the paid part, they said that’s because I’ve paid my dues.”

Baldwin, 27, has lived most of his adult life under the shadow of lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease that attacks healthy cells in the body.

“What’s so hard about lupus is its unpredictability,” said Cecile Morvan, a clinical psychologist at Methodist Rehabilitation Center. “One thing that really causes it to flare up is stress. But how do you avoid stress, especially in college?”

Morvan served as Baldwin’s primary therapist at MRC’s Quest program. The program helps people make a successful return to work, school or home life following a brain or spinal cord injury. Baldwin entered the program in February after suffering a stroke due to lupus.

“Martez struck me as someone who is very determined, who will persevere,” Morvan said. “It’s got to be pretty scary to live with that sort of specter, that at any time you can have a flare.”

Baldwin did his best to manage his disease, knowing that lupus could bring his college grind to a halt at any time. It did just that right after Christmas last year.

“I really don’t remember what happened,” he said. “All I remember is on Dec. 31 we went to church for the Watch Night service. The next thing I remember is I’m in the hospital seven days later on Jan. 8.”

The day after the church service, Baldwin was acting erratically and unresponsive to questions. His roommate and best friend Mary Yancy called his mother, and they took him to the hospital. The hectic nature of the holidays had caused a lupus flare-up, which in turn led to Baldwin suffering an ischemic stroke. This type of stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is restricted, depriving it of oxygen.

“I knew I was getting sick, I had felt myself getting weak,” Baldwin said. “I was always

sleepy, which is a sign I’m going into a flare. But it was the holidays, so I just wasn’t thinking about it.”

Baldwin was first diagnosed with lupus in 2009. At that time, he was living in North Carolina, had just finished high school, and was excited to start college at nearby Winston-Salem State University.

“Two weeks before school started, my older sister took me to an amusement park,” Baldwin said. “We enjoyed ourselves, but later that day I noticed I had red bumps on my arms. We thought maybe we stayed in the sun too long.”

The next day, after developing a fever, Baldwin went to the emergency room. Probably a virus, they said, and sent him home. A week later, he was feeling worse, so he went back. A bad case of the flu, they said.

“Then the week school was supposed to start, I was too sick to go and I had started losing weight,” Baldwin said. “We knew something wasn’t right, so they finally admitted me into the hospital. After about three days, the doctor told me I had lupus. And my first reaction was, ‘what is lupus?’”

Lupus affects an estimated 1.5 million Americans, according to the Lupus Foundation of America. It mainly affects women of childbearing age, and is two to three times more prevalent in women of color. The foundation estimates 1 in 537 young black women are affected. Though much rarer, men can also develop the disease around early adulthood, as Baldwin did.

Because the disease is an autoimmune disorder, its symptoms are all over the map, ranging from joint pain to hair loss to more serious issues like cardiovascular disease and stroke. A recent study by the Lupus Center at Boston’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital found evidence that people with lupus are two to three times more at risk for stroke and heart disease.

“Basically your healthy cells are fighting themselves,” Baldwin said. “I thought maybe I had jinxed myself because I always told people I had a strong immune system.”

When Baldwin transferred to MRC’s inpatient rehab in late January, he began to regain the strength the stroke had taken from him.

“In therapy, we mainly worked on my left side,” he said. “My

strength was gone – I couldn’t even pick up a half-gallon of milk without my hand shaking. It felt so incredibly heavy for some reason.”

After a week of inpatient therapy, Baldwin was referred to the Quest program so he could achieve his goal of getting back to school and his job at the campus bookstore.

“I was supposed to graduate this coming December. But since I missed all of January, that wasn’t going to happen,” Baldwin said. “But when I came to Quest, they told me they would get me back to school and back to working.”

“Martez is very friendly and sociable, so he was really looking forward to getting back to school and being back with his friends,” Morvan said.

Morvan worked with Baldwin to develop mechanisms for coping with his disease, as well as stress management techniques to prevent future flares.

“Martez has really managed to keep a positive attitude in light of what he’s been through,” Morvan said.

Baldwin also continued to work on regaining his strength with physical therapist Patricia Oyarce.

“The main thing I focused on with Martez was general endurance and conditioning,” Oyarce said. “I knew that he wanted to go back to the dance ensemble, so I focused on making that possible.

“We did a lot of high-level balance and conditioning activities. I taught him interval training to help build cardiovascular conditioning – meaning you do bursts of high-intensity exercises for two to four minutes and then you do a lower intensity, and then you come back.”

Baldwin at first wasn’t sure how the therapies would get him back into dancing shape.

“At first I was like, what is this for? But as time went on, I could see where she was going with it,” Baldwin said.

Now back at JSU, Baldwin is pursuing his life plan that was inspired by a certain famous TV moderator.

“I want to be a crime scene investigator, then after I have a few years of that under my belt, I want to go to law school,” Baldwin said. “Then I want to work as a lawyer and eventually retire as a judge. That’s my plan. It’s always been my plan since I was 12. I can thank Judge Judy

for that.”

“He says he never misses Judge Judy, she’s his favorite,” Morvan said.

He’s also back to work at the campus bookstore, where his outgoing personality charms both customers and coworkers.

“Martez is a great person and

a great worker, and he was sorely missed when he got sick,” said JauJuana Watts, operations manager at the JSU bookstore. “Now that he’s back and we are all conscious of his illness, we try not to overexert him. So far he’s able to do a lot.”

He’s also back to rehearsing

with the JSU Dance Ensemble, which had its first performance of the school year in September.

“I think Martez is very aware of what he has to do and how he has to be very careful to manage his condition,” Morvan said. “But he’s not going to let that stop him from reaching his goals.”

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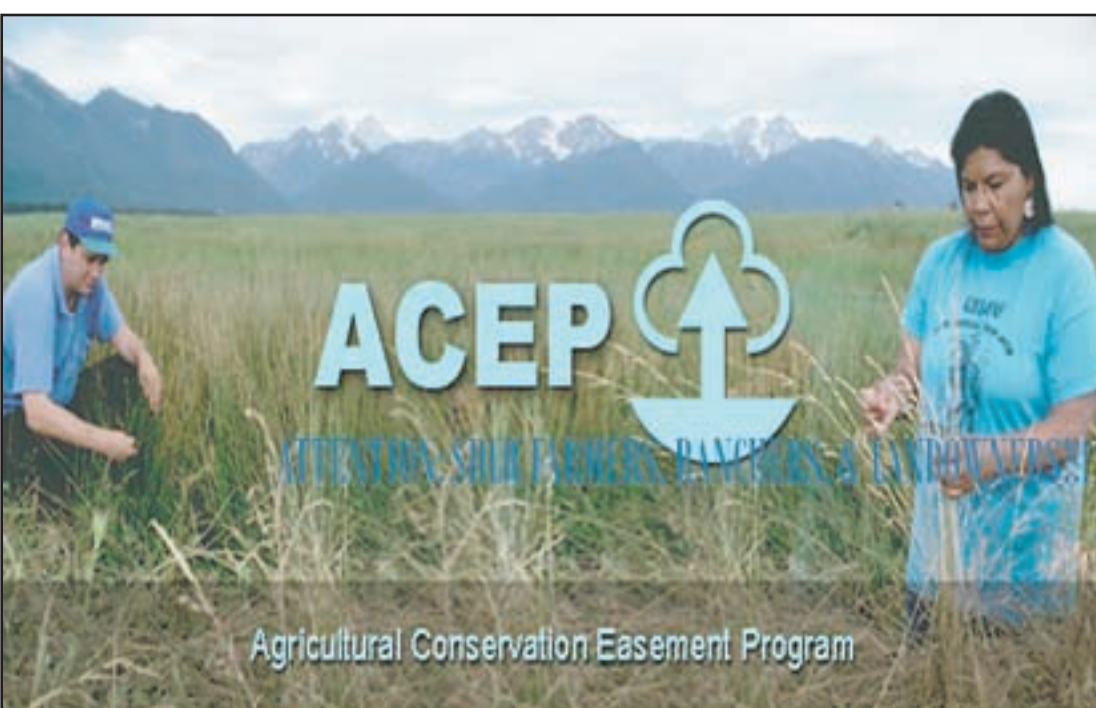
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TWO
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MUSEUM OF MISSISSIPPI HISTORY
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New JPS board members take the oath of office

Mississippi Link Newswire

Six new school Board members were sworn before the regular School Board meeting held November 28. Jackson Mayor Chokwe Lumumba appointed each of these members in the weeks before the district was to observe the Thanksgiving holiday break. The City Council approved the nominees after an open interview process.

The newly appointed School Board members are:

- Ed Sivak, Ward 1
- Letitia S. Johnson, Ward 2
- Barbara Hilliard, Ward 4
- Jeanne Hairston, Ward 5
- Andrea Jones-Davis, Ward 6
- Robert Luckett, Ward 7

Just one seat remains unfilled. But this contingent gives the district more than the four members needed to make up a quorum. These new members come to Jackson Public Schools with impressive and diverse professional and civic backgrounds.

The November 28 meeting was the first since the former board voluntarily resigned in October. This action was taken as part of an alternative school improvement agreement between the offices of Governor Phil Bryant and Mayor Lumumba.

“First of all, let me thank the board members,” said JPS Interim Superintendent Fredrick Murray. “We do appreciate your willingness to serve. There’s a lot of work ahead of us, and it is true commitment. We thank you for your commitment to this work. Our children and our city will be better for it.”

After introducing the board to the student board representatives from four JPS high schools, Murray yielded his



Hon. Denise Sweet Owens renders the Oath of Office to Jeanne Hairston.



Hon. Patricia Wise renders the Oath of Office to Barbara Hilliard.



Hon. Patricia Wise renders the Oath of Office to Andrea Jones-Davis and Robert Luckett.

time to the board. One of the board’s first orders of business was to elect officers. Board members voted for Jeanne Hairston to serve as president, Ed Sivak as vice president and Barbara Hilliard as secretary.

About the school board members

Jeanne Middleton Hairston has worked most recently as a consultant with Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Children’s Defense Fund in Washington, D.C. Her career spans more than three decades as an educator and administrator. She is an active presenter in areas involving student rights and educational opportunity.

Barbara Hilliard taught secondary English at a number of JPS schools before starting the International Baccalaureate program at Jim Hill High School. She was also a coordinator of the Advanced Placement curriculum. She has shared her expertise in advanced academics as a conference presenter and professional development trainer for more than 20 years.

Letitia Simmons-Johnson is an ac-



Hon. Latrice Westbrook renders the Oath of Office to Latitia Simmons Johnson.



Hon. Latrice Westbrook renders the Oath of Office to Ed Sivak.

complished attorney with a strong financial background. The mother of five has two graduates of Jackson Public Schools and three children still attending schools in the district. She was first appointed to the board in August. Following the prior board’s voluntary resignations, Simmons-Johnson was reappointed by Lumumba and approved by the City Council.

Ed Sivak is the executive vice president/chief policy and communications

office for Hope Enterprise Corporation where he has worked since 2000. Sivak is also a member of the Better Together Commission, the independent group charged with transforming the Jackson Public School District under the school improvement agreement referenced above.

Andrea Jones-Davis is dean of enrollment management and executive director of eLearning at Tougaloo College. She is also the founder and instructional

leader of Toot, Teach and Roll, a transformed school bus modified to deliver arts, crafts and technology instruction to students.

Robert Luckett is director of the Margaret Walker Center for the Study of the African American Experience at Jackson State University. He also serves on the boards of the new Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Leadership Greater Jackson, the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership and others.

Murrah choral director receives 2017 Outstanding Music Educator Award

Mississippi Link Newswire

Murrah choral music director Pierrdro Gallion has been selected for a statewide award by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). The NFHS Music Committee selected Gallion for the 2017 Outstanding Music Educator Award.

Gallion has been the director of choral activities at Murrah since 2008. He has led Murrah choirs to success at district, state and national competitions. Choral groups routinely earn advanced and superior ratings for performances.

In the fall of 2016, the Murrah Concert Singers and Madrigals competed at the River Land Choral Festival in Pearl, Miss. Compet-

ing against almost 50 choirs, the groups received honors for Best Overall Choir, Best in Class and the Grand Champion Award for the highest score. On these successes, they advanced to the 2017 Festival of Gold last spring in Los Angeles. Murrah’s Concert Singers, Boys, Girls and Madrigal choirs received All Superior Ratings.

The Murrah Choir has set its sights on the international stage this year. They are preparing for a spring 2018 concert in Italy.

The NFHS Outstanding Music Educator Award was first given in 1989. Since that time, 163 sectional and 293 state awards have been presented. Gallion’s is one of 12 state awards presented for 2016-2017.



Gallion

Circle B Hardwood hero of the week

Mississippi Link Newswire

Kacey Bradford is the Circle B Hardwood Hero of the Week for November 20. Bradford is a 6-1 senior at Murrah High School. She had 15 points, 10 rebounds and two blocked shots against West Jones High School.

Circle B will donate \$120 in Bradford’s name to the WJMI Circle B Brand Foods JPS High School Basketball Fund. At the end of the season, one nominated player will be randomly selected to receive \$1,800 for their high school basketball program.



Bradford



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The Mississippi Link™

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MSU celebrates new home of the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library and Williams Collection of Lincolniana



Officials celebrate the grand opening of Mississippi State's \$10 million addition to Mitchell Memorial Library, home of the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library and the prestigious Frank J. and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana. Pictured, from left to right, are U.S. Rep Gregg Harper, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, MSU Dean of Libraries Frances Coleman, MSU President Mark E. Keenum, former Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice Frank J. Williams, Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant, Virginia Williams and an actor portraying Abraham Lincoln.



C.D. Smith (left), president of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board of Trustees, visits with John F. Marszalek, Ulysses S. Grant Association managing editor and executive director, during Thursday's [Nov. 30] ceremony celebrating the opening of the new addition to MSU's Mitchell Memorial Library. PHOTO BY MEGAN BEAN

The Mississippi Link Newswire

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Mississippi State, statewide and national leaders heralded the opening Nov. 30 of MSU's \$10 million addition to Mitchell Memorial Library, home of the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library and the prestigious Frank J. and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana.

Leaders in education, history, libraries and government — including the Librarian of Congress and the Archivist of the United States — praised the 21,000-sq.-ft. addition. The facility contains a state-of-the-art museum chronicling Grant's life and his significance in American history and a gallery dedicated to the Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana, a recent donation that was considered the largest privately owned Abraham Lincoln collection in America.

With hundreds of thousands of historical documents and items housed on-site, the new addition makes Mississippi State a leading destination for research on the Civil War and two presidents who shaped the course of American history.

"The Frank J. and Virginia

Williams Collection of Lincolniana and our remarkable Ulysses S. Grant Collection have made Mississippi State and the Grant Presidential Library a truly national center for the study of the American Civil War," MSU President Mark E. Keenum said.

MSU is one of six universities in the nation housing a presidential library. The Grant Library is managed by the Ulysses S. Grant Association and MSU under the direction of John F. Marszalek, Grant Association managing editor and executive director, and Frances N. Coleman, MSU dean of libraries.

"In 1862, President Lincoln admonished the American people with, 'it is not that we can imagine better, but can we all do better?'" said Ulysses S. Grant Association President Frank J. Williams. "I am pleased to say that with these galleries, the collections that support them, the wonderful staff that serve them and the people that use them, we have, in a significant way, done better."

Skip Wyatt of FoilWyatt Architects in Jackson planned the overall facility expansion, and Washington, D.C.-based HealyKohler Design created

the interior museum and gallery spaces.

The Grant museum contains artifacts and interactive media that allow visitors to engage with the context of the times and discover intimate details of Grant's personal life and beliefs. Brooklyn-based StudioEIS created four life-size statues to highlight different phases of Grant's life.

Thursday's ceremony featured remarks from Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, archivist of the U.S. David Ferriero and other U.S. and Mississippi officials.

"I'm here to give a pledge," Hayden said. "You will have the full resources and services of the Library of Congress to supplement and be a partner with you as you try to expand these resources. We wanted to say that publicly here today."

The Grant Presidential Collection consists of some 15,000 linear feet of correspondence, research notes, artifacts, photographs, scrapbooks and memorabilia. There also are 4,000 published monographs on various aspects of Grant's life and times. The collection housed at Mississippi State is the largest single collection of Grant papers and additional items in the world.

The gallery for the Frank J. and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana displays, on a rotating basis, more than 100 of the 17,000 priceless artifacts and 12,000 books included in the Williams Collection, which the former Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice and his wife, Virginia, have amassed over several decades. The gallery exhibit includes commentary from Williams on the relevance and importance of featured items.

"Lots of people could take credit for what we are celebrating today, but it was a real team effort," Ferriero said. "As [MSU quarterback] Nick Fitzgerald tweeted Sunday night, 'a program is bigger than one person. We pride ourselves on our ability to always give relentless effort.' The results of that relentless effort are evident as I walk around this campus today."

The new addition to Mitchell Memorial Library also contains MSU's Congressional and Political Research Center, which houses nine congressional collections, including cornerstone anthologies on MSU alumni and former U.S. congressmen Sen. John C. Stennis and Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery. Other

collections include those of U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn, former U.S. Reps. David Bowen and Alan Nunnelee, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, former Mississippi Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck, State Rep. Steve Holland and State Sen. Jack Gordon.

Others spoke at the dedication ceremony.

"Thousands upon thousands will come to see these exhibits," Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant said. "They will marvel that it is here in Mississippi and they will come to know us better. This is a great day for Mississippi's future."

"There is no other library like the one we are celebrating today," U.S. Rep. Gregg Harper said shortly before announcing he would like MSU Libraries to be the home of his congressional papers. "This structure is now a one-of-a-kind collection, including the Frank J. and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana, as well as Mississippi State University's Congressional and Political Research Center, which houses nine congressional collections, including those of many well-known MSU alumni ... If it's OK with Dean Frances Coleman, I would like to be the

10th."

"Today, we're reminded of the importance of preserving and protecting the papers and artifacts of our shared history, so that we may study it, learn from it and move forward together, stronger and with greater understanding," said C.D. Smith, president of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board of Trustees.

"This is going to provide opportunities for all of our students in the state of Mississippi and beyond," MSU Dean of Libraries Frances Coleman said.

"We have been fortunate to have people working with us to make sure this project is done right," said John F. Marszalek, Grant Association managing editor and executive director. "The result is before you now for everyone in the nation to see. Our greatest days are ahead of us."

For more information, see the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library website at www.us-grantlibrary.org and the Frank and Virginia Williams Collection website at library.msstate.edu/williamscollection.

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

MVSU's Tanner selected as VP of MADE

The Mississippi Link Newswire

ITT BENA, Miss.—A Mississippi Valley State University faculty member has been selected to serve as an officer for a state organization dedicated to ensuring student success.

MVSU's Director of Academic Success and Student Development Heather Y. Tanner was recently chosen as the vice-president elect of the Mississippi Association for Developmental Education (MADE).

Tanner said she is thrilled to have the opportunity to help the organization strive towards its mission to improve the theory and practice of developmental education.

"I am honored and excited to be elected as the Vice President of MADE," Tanner said. "I am humbled that my peers in developmental education would nominate me."

A native of Culver City, Calif., Tanner is a graduate of Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, La., where she obtained a bachelor of arts in spanish linguistics.

The former Miss. Southern University (1996-97) has worked for the Los Angeles Unified School District as an English as a second lan-



Tanner

guage (ESL) and adult basic education instructor.

In 2005, Williams returned to Southern University to serve as the study abroad coordinator and service learning instructor within the Center for International Education before joining MVSU in 2015.

However, Tanner said her passion has always been motivating and mentoring students.

"Throughout my career in higher education, I have always

maintained a teaching position, in some capacity, so I can encourage and motivate students to strive for excellence and admirable achievement," Tanner said.

"It is one of my personal goals to always aspire to keep my finger on the pulse of my audience. This is what led me to present 'Strategies for Increasing Retention for Summer Development Programs' at last year's MADE conference at Coahoma Community College.

The MADE chapter is a member of the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE).

MADE was founded in January of 1981 when James Barber, from Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez, called together a group of developmental educators from across the state to form an organization based on the National Association for Developmental Education.

Over the years, MADE has become a driving force in colleges and institutions across the state, insuring that students receive an education that is based on their beginning capabilities and one that will take them as far as they can go.

For more information about MADE, visit www.mymade.org

Hinds CC honors foundation scholarship recipients



Among those recognized were front row, from left, Devante Dixon of Raymond, Tanner Berry of Pearl, Arthur Thomas of Jackson; back row, from left, Bryan Boyd of Edwards, Kenneth Anderson of Jackson, Colby Cockrell of Mendenhall and Juan Lopez of Vicksburg. All received the CN scholarship.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

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

The Hinds Community College Foundation awarded more than 600 scholarships in the 2017-18 academic year. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is Feb. 15, 2018.

For more information, visit www.hindscc.edu.

Hinds Community College, celebrating

its 100th year of community inspired service in 2017, is a comprehensive institution with six convenient locations in the central Mississippi area. Hinds opened in September 1917 first as an agricultural high school and admitted college students for the first time in 1922, with the first class graduating in 1927. Today, Hinds stands as the largest community college in Mississippi and offers quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills.

'08 JSU alum Rev. Kevin Murriel, will deliver 2017 Fall Commencement address

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Rev. Dr. Kevin R. Murriel, senior pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, will be the keynote speaker for the 2017 Fall Commencement, which will be a combined ceremony for undergraduates and graduates.

The ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 8, in the Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center. Due to expected full capacity, overflow will be in the Rose E. McCoy Auditorium.

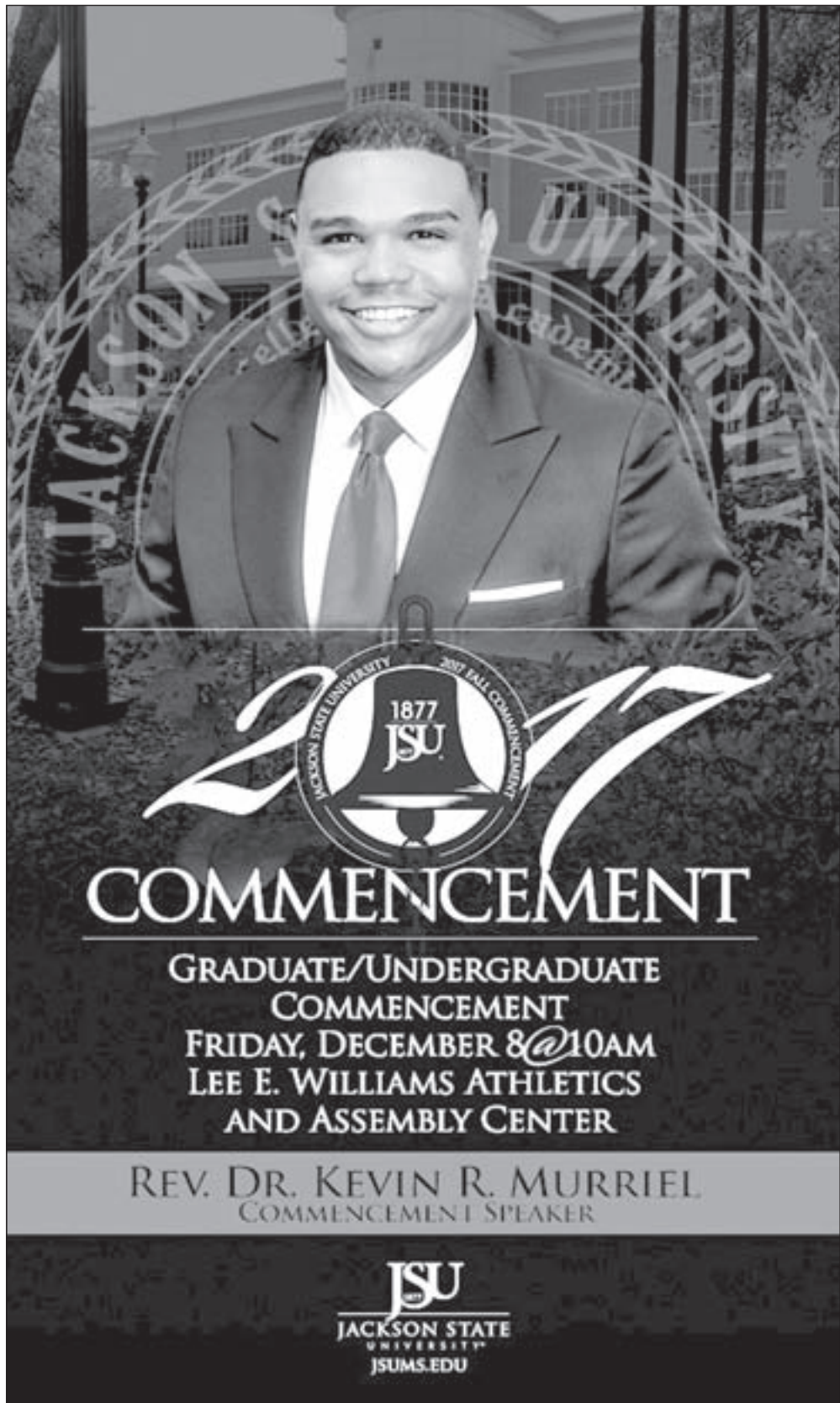
Murriel is a biblical scholar and arguably one of the greatest visionaries and orators of this generation. He is a native Mississippian and a 2008 graduate of Jackson State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in business administration. Also, he was named the 2008 "Student of the Year" for the College of Business.

Murriel received his Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Duke University – also being named by the dean and doctoral committee as the Degree Marshal of the 2014 doctoral cohort.

He was the youngest person and first African American in the program's history to receive such a designation. An elder in full connection in the North Georgia Conference, Murriel leads more than 5,000 members at Cascade.

A dynamic preacher, avid reader and social activist, Murriel's research focuses on translating the methods of the Civil Rights Movement into a modern day strategy for social justice and racial reconciliation.

His doctoral dissertation, "Unveiling Racism: Racial Reconciliation and a Heterogeneous Model for American Christian Life," takes strategies deployed during the Mississippi Church Visit Campaign of 1964 to desegregate white churches and offers the church a universal for-



mula for racial reconciliation, hope and progress.

Murriel is author of two books and is founder and owner of Redd House Publishers, LLC, a publishing company committed to producing and distributing Christian books that make a difference in academic, social and ecclesial arenas.

His newest book, "Breaking the Color Barrier: A Vision for Church Growth through Racial Reconciliation," was named to the 2015 Hot New Releases List on Amazon. The book addresses the growing need for churches to model reconciliation in a racially divided society.

Since accepting his call to ministry at age 18, Murriel has shown a significant record of

helping people live with confidence by encouraging them to develop and maintain a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ. He is a community leader and faithfully serves on several boards that include the Andrew and Walter Young Family YMCA, the Georgia Higher Education Commission, the Atlanta College Park District Committee on Ministry, the North Georgia Board of Congregational Development, and The Joseph and Evelyn Lowery Institute.

For leading the church with the highest percentage growth from 2015-2016, Murriel received the 2016 Denman Award for Evangelism in the Atlanta College Park District. Gammon Theological Seminary also named him the 2016 Emerging

Prophetic Leader. Additionally, he has served as chaplain for the day at the Georgia State Senate and is a featured speaker at churches and events throughout the country.

Murriel is an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and believes that one should work hard to achieve in every field of human endeavor.

Murriel is married to Dr. Ashleigh Murriel, a native of Atlanta, and they are the proud parents of a daughter, Scarlett Grace. They serve as executives of The Murriel Foundation, Inc., a 501c(3) nonprofit organization committed to developing young leaders from minority populations.

His motto in life is "Live God, Love God, Follow God; and in all things, stay the course."

A 'wheel deal': JSU student-athletes give bikes to elementary pupils with perfect attendance



A pupil is honored by JSU student-athletes for not missing a day of school. Each month, two students at Clausell Elementary will be awarded a bicycle.



JSU student-athletes engage with Jackson Public Schools pupils at Clausell Elementary.

jsumsnews.com

Student-athletes in the Division of Athletics donated 10 bikes to Clausell Elementary School to reward deserving students for maintaining perfect attendance. The event is a community-service activity and internal competition between JSU athletes and their sport to raise the most coins.

Each team decorated a coin box corresponding to their sport, which was also divided by gender. The coin drive started in mid-October and lasted until early November.

JSU Athletics' Michael C. Anderson instructs academic readiness mentoring and academic readiness monitoring (ARMS) classes that consist of student-athletes of all sports.

He said, "Many people are remembered because of the things they say, while others may be remembered because of the way they look, but we the student-athletes of Jackson State University want to be remembered for making a differ-

ence in the lives of others."

Anderson and student-athletes visited Clausell Nov. 17 to encourage students to attend school every day and remind them of the importance of being present in the classroom. Of the 10 bikes, two will be rewarded each month. Two students with perfect attendance were rewarded a bike this month; two others will be presented the same prize in December, and so on.

JSU team competitors were thrilled to be involved in the community-service project.

"To see the smiles on their little faces were priceless," JSU student-athlete Marlisa Scott said.

JSU softball player Nava Fisher, said, "I know for sure we made a difference today in their lives."

Alyssa Fisher, another softball player, said, "This really made the whole thing come to light that Dr. Anderson was pushing so hard for us to understand. ... This was amazing."

JSU Communications wins big at 2017 HBCUgrow LEAD Awards



Jackson State was among recipients showcasing their HBCUgrow LEAD Awards. University Communications executive director Maxine Greenleaf, top row left, and director of social media Spencer McClenty, bottom row second from left, accepted the awards for JSU.

By LaToya Hentz-Moore
jsumsnews.com

Jackson State University's Department of University Communications were presented with three LEAD Awards on Nov. 9 for outstanding work in social media advertising, viral profiles of "People of JSU" and the university's main website.

JSU won a gold award for the campus website, www.jsums.edu. JSU also earned silver awards for "People of JSU" and marketing.

The university's director of social media, Spencer McClenty, said: "'I was really excited that we were being awarded for some of the work we've done. I always tell people,

that my job is a fun job. The work we do with the People of JSU project and the other social media work we do is very important in communicating the messages of the university to our constituents. But it's also just fun and exciting for us. So, we were excited to be recognized for our work."

The LEAD Award levels were platinum, gold, silver and bronze.

HBCUgrow is dedicated to assisting HBCUs with enrollment and alumni giving and tackling challenges in the changing landscape of marketing. For more information about HBCUgrow LEAD Awards, visit www.hbcugrow.com.

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Op-ed: Is Education Secretary Betsy DeVos weak on student loan protections?

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA News Wire Columnist



In case you haven't yet heard, Richard Cordray, the first-ever director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), resigned in late November. President Trump's unlawful appointment of Mick Mulvaney to serve as the Bureau's acting director signals a distinct shift in the Bureau's future.

Since enactment of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act, this column has chronicled how the consumer's 'financial cop-on-the-beat' was working on their behalf. Besides powerful enforcement authority to bring nearly \$12 billion in restitution and forgiveness to financially-harmed consumers, CFPB's director is also legally empowered to promulgate rules that bring clarity and transparency over a range of financial services.

The ballooning and unsustainable debt of student loans is a key area in which the CFPB took strong enforcement actions during the Obama Administration, but the current occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue pledged to curb CFPB's actions and appointed an Education Secretary, Betsy DeVos, to delay if not deny much of what CFPB accomplished, particularly in student lending.

For example, the "Gainful Employment" (GE) rule was finalized in 2014 and took effect in 2015. Even so, DeVos has called



Education Secretary Betsy DeVos delays two critical financial service rules that hurt consumers. In this photo, DeVos speaks at the 2017 Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in National Harbor, Maryland. GAGE SKIDMORE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

for a new negotiated rulemaking process for it and another key rule known as "Borrower Defense to Repayment" that was set to take effect this year.

With neither rule available to financially harmed consumers, a series of negotiated rulemaking sessions on each was scheduled to revisit both rules. From November 13-15, the first negotiated rulemaking was held on the rule known as "Borrower Defense to Repayment." This week (December 4-7), another rulemaking session was convened to address the GE rule.

Thousands of students who enrolled in now-defunct programs were left with debts that the Department's delay in rulemaking only worsens. What they do have are academic credits that no accredited educational institution will accept, and/or certificates and degrees that do not provide the

requisite skills and knowledge in the fields studied. Any delay in their ability to secure financial forgiveness adds only more stress to an already lengthy wait. Additionally, schools with poor performing records continue to enroll students and increase the scope of the national student debt crisis.

Currently, the Department of Education has approximately 95,000 pending complaints seeking relief under the Borrower Defense rule.

When the negotiated rulemaking session for the "Borrower Defense to Repayment" rule was held, participating consumer advocates noticed a slant towards business interests compared to those who supported consumers and students. The rulemaking session included industry lobbyists, representatives of for-profit colleges, consumer advocates and government officials. Participant

requests to make the proceedings publicly accessible were denied. The Department of Education refused to allow live-streaming of its rulemaking, despite its availability and that it is frequently utilized at every level of government.

"These sessions and rules will impact millions of Americans, most of whom do not live in the District of Columbia or cannot afford to miss days at work," noted Ashley Harrington, a policy counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) and a negotiated rulemaking participant. "Many of those left outside the meeting room and its process are the very same students who have been and will continue to be most affected by predatory practices at the institutions these committees are examining."

Harrington continued: "With over 44 million Americans in debt for \$1.4 trillion in loans, we all need as much transparency as possible."

This precedent set by the mid-November rulemaking does not bode well for the session on the GE rule. This rule would require that career and technical training schools lead to income levels that enable its students to afford their student loan repayments.

Particularly for black and other consumers of color, higher education has been preached as the best way to earn entry into America's middle class, and reach financial independence. To finance educational costs, many of these consumers borrowed more heavily than other consumers before

unfortunately discovering what they were promised was not being delivered.

While student borrowers grapple with rising debts, a recent CFPB report showed that, during the past five years, more than 50,000 student loan complaints were filed. Additionally, more than 10,000 other related debt collection complaints were filed on both private and federal student loans. As the report details student loan complaints by state, it is proof that student debt is indeed a national problem on multiple levels.

For example, CFPB's analysis found that the growth in the number of student loan complaints exceeded 100 percent in 11 states: Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington State and West Virginia.

The largest number of student loan complaints came from one of five states that tallied 2,600 complaints or more: California, New York, Florida, Texas and Pennsylvania. In these states and three others – Georgia, Illinois and Ohio – debt totals tallied by complaints ranged from a low of \$53 billion in Georgia, to a state high of \$129 billion in California.

Commenting on these findings, Seth Frothman, CFPB's Student Loan Ombudsman said, "These complaints help us to recognize and work to stop industry practices that harm consumers and can serve as the first step in a process that halted industry practices harming some of the most

vulnerable individuals, saved hundreds of millions of dollars for tens of thousands of student loan borrowers, and strengthened aspects of the student loan repayment process to protect millions of consumers."

Transparency has been CFPB's watchword, not just in student loans, but in every lending area. Now with a new acting director, a slow drag on rules could turn into a stop. And all the while, consumers with any unresolved or pending complaints on file with CFPB are forced to wait to learn their financial fates.

"The 'Gainful Employment' and 'Borrower Defense to Repayment' rules work together to protect borrowers and their families at both ends of college attendance," noted CRL Policy Counsel Whitney Barkley-Denney, a participant in the GE negotiated rulemaking. "If properly enforced, GE would stop deceptive and predatory programs from enrolling new students."

Barkley-Denney concluded: "Borrower Defense to Repayment helps borrowers who have already been deceived get back on their feet. Borrowers and taxpayers deserve to know that the Department of Education is looking out for them from the time they are making their enrollment decisions until they finish paying their last student loan."

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's Communications deputy director. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Black faith leaders encourage their flocks to sign up for Obamacare

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Newswire Editor-In-Chief

Faith leaders in the black community are encouraging members of their congregations to sign-up for healthcare coverage during the Affordable Care Act's open enrollment period that ends December 15.

Reverend Edwin Sanders, the senior pastor and founder of the Metropolitan Interdenominational Church in Nashville, Tenn., said that supporting positive dialogue about healthcare is a part of the faith tradition.

"We lift up healing as a benefit of our relationship to the God that we serve; we talk about the God who is a healer," said Sanders. "There is a way in which those of us who are disciples, especially in the tradition of Jesus Christ, have a commitment to trying to make sure that we sustain these kinds of opportunities for people to get healed in our communities."

Sometimes, that commitment means working with political leaders.

Congressman James Clyburn (D-S.C.) helped to launch the "Soul 2 Enroll" campaign, a national healthcare initiative aimed at mobilizing faith communities during the open enrollment period of the Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obamacare."

During a recent press conference on Capitol Hill, Clyburn said that faith is about much more than a relationship between you and the God you serve.

"We are instructed that 'faith without works is dead,'" said Clyburn. "If your brother or sister comes to you hungry or naked – and I believe if James were writing his epistle today, he would add sick – you feed them, you clothe them and provide them with healthcare."

Pastor Marquez Ball of Uplift Church in Laurel, Maryland said that healthcare is not a game to score political points.



Reverend Edwin Sanders, senior pastor and founder of the Metropolitan Interdenominational Church in Nashville, Tenn., at a panel discussion on the role of faith leaders in fighting the AIDS epidemic during the 2017 CBCF Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. FREDDIE ALLEN/AMG/NNPA

"Healthcare is a whole life issue," said Ball.

Uplift Church is just one of the organizing faith partners for the "Soul 2 Enroll" initiative.

That group also includes: the National African-American Clergy Network, Joseph A.C. Smith Ministries, the National Action Network, the Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, the Skinner Leadership Institute, The United Church of Christ and Values Partnerships.

During a discussion about the Affordable Care Act between congressional and faith leaders, Barbara Williams-Skinner, the co-chair of the National African-American Clergy Network, said that despite the budget cuts imposed on the ACA by the Trump Administration, the faith community is marching forward.

"The faith community knows how to do one thing: we know how to make bricks with no straw and we're going to do it again," said Williams-Skinner. "Healthcare is not a privilege; it is a right of every child of God."

Reverend De-Ves Toon, the national field director for the National Action Network (NAN), said that NAN has helped to sign people up for healthcare cover-

age through the ACA since 2013 in more than 100 cities.

"All of our chapters have health and wellness committees that are doing on-the-ground outreach in their perspective cities," said Toon. "We just don't focus on this during the open enrollment period, we do this year-round."

Sanders said that because of the rich oral tradition of the black community, everyone from the American Heart Association to local community health centers comes to the doorsteps of the church to promote answers to health problems.

"God is the one that gives the intellect, God is one that gives the wisdom to doctors and to researchers to help them to develop the modern day cures that are increasingly available, but we need to make sure that more is done to make sure those cures and those medical responses are available to [our congregations]," said Sanders. Sanders continued: "As far as the open enrollment period, I think it ought to be a message that we are including in every worship experience."

For more information about signing up for healthcare coverage, visit Healthcare.gov.

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Bicentennial photo exhibit coming to Jackson, Dec. 7

The Mississippi Link Newswire

As part of Mississippi’s bi-centennial celebration, the Mississippi Arts Commission, in partnership with Tougaloo College, will present the photography exhibit “Music and Dance in Central Mississippi” from Dec. 7 through Feb. 16, 2018, at the first floor gallery of the Bennie G. Thompson Academic and Civil Rights Research Center at Tougaloo College. Exhibit photographs were taken by folklorist Kaitlyn Berle.

This exhibit is a curated showcase of photographs that highlight various music and dance traditions practiced in Central Mississippi. Featured artists include bluegrass fiddler Bill Rogers, the Canton South-ernairs, Mr. Sipp, old-time musicians Jack Magee and Tim Avalon, seven-note singers Jim Moore and Sarah Woods, dance caller Bridget Edwards, sacred harp singer Mark Davis, St. Peter’s Cathedral Dancers, Rev. Jessie Primer, Jr., hip hop artist Stephen Brown and the Choctaw Tribal Dancers.

“The Mississippi Arts Commission is pleased to partner with Tougaloo College to present these photos that depict the unique cultural traditions of the people of Mississippi, traditions unique to our state that serve to enliven and unify our communities,” said Malcolm White, executive director of MAC. “An important part of our work at MAC is to document these traditions and make resources available to ensure their survival.”

The opening reception for the exhibit will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. During the reception, several of the exhibit’s featured artists will be present to share stories and educate



the public about their traditional practices in a facilitated discussion.

This exhibit is sponsored by the Mississippi Arts Commission and funded through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts.

This event is free and open to the public.

Children with special needs share a magical moment with Santa at Northpark during sensory-friendly santa event

WHAT: Santa welcomes children of all ages and abilities. This compassionate, sensory-friendly event allows families with children with all spectrums of special needs to experience the time-honored tradition of a Santa visit, in a comforting environment prior to public hours. Accommodations are made to support the sensory, physical and developmental needs of this special audience.

WITH: Sensory-Friendly Santa is held in partnership with Autism Speaks, the world’s leading autism science and advocacy organization dedicated to funding research into the cause, prevention, treatment and cure for autism, increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders, and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

WHEN: Thursday, December 7, 8:45-10 a.m.

COST: Visits with Santa are free. Space is limited and families are encouraged to reserve a time in advance at: www.autismspeaks.org/santa2017 Keepsake Santa photo packages will be available for purchase during the event.

WHERE: Northpark Center Court
1200 E Countyline Rd Ridgeland, MS 39157

About Northpark
Northpark Mall is the only enclosed climate controlled mall in Ridgeland, Miss. Conveniently located one mile east of I-55 at the intersection of County Line and Wheatley Roads; Northpark Mall serves the nearby communities of Ridgeland, Madison, Jackson, Flowood and Pearl.

About Cherry Hill Programs
Cherry Hill Programs represents over 85 years of combined experience and leadership from two of the most respected pioneers in the experiential photo industry. They bring the magic with authentic Santas for the young and young-at-heart. Cherry Hill Programs operates in hundreds of venues across the country during the Christmas season, utilizing innovative technology. Delivering a magical experience. Every time.

Community faith outreach hosts party at MSH

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Volunteers from Greater Fairview Missionary Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., shared their time and talent Dec. 2 to bring food, fun and joy to patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital.

Greater Fairview Missionary Baptist Church is one of more than 80 groups who will provide parties and activities to over 700 patients and residents at the hospital this holiday season.

“The outpouring of love and support from all of our volunteer groups adds so much to the lives of our patients and residents during this joyous time. It is greatly appreciated,” said Sheila Shows, volunteer services director for the hospital.

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

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



Volunteers from Greater Fairview Missionary Baptist Church of Jackson shared their time and talent Dec. 2 to bring joy to patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital.



Volunteers from New Travelers Rest Missionary Baptist Church of Jackson visited residents at Mississippi State Hospital, Dec. 2.

to each and every patient and resident.

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



Volunteers from Community Faith Outreach of Jackson shared their time and talent Nov. 23 to bring food, fun and joy to patients and residents at Mississippi State Hospital.

Living a Christ-like example

PART 1

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



We read in Matthew 5:16 these words: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

The Christian is to be an example in word. The words we speak ought to reflect godly character. Too often one gets caught up in carelessness of speech, failing to be on guard as they should. Without realizing it, one can become involved in conversation unbecoming to the Christian.

Words influence others; therefore, it is necessary in our speech to reflect a Christ-like example. Slang words must

be eliminated from the Christian's vocabulary, for these words are only substitutes for words that actually take God's name or Christ's name in vain.

The Christian must avoid words that imply vulgarity or filthiness of any sort. We who profess godliness must lay aside everything that is hurtful to our Lord.

It would be well for each who professes Christianity to examine oneself to see if he or she is living a life that is pleasing before God. It is easy to profess to be a Christian, yet fail to truly live the way a Christian should.

The Lord wants our light to shine. Why? So all can see Him through the life we live. We are to be witnesses to those around us of God's goodness, grace and power.

Christ dwelling on the inside radiates out and makes the difference in the Christian's life. The things we do and the way we conduct our lives will have a great effect on those around us. Men cannot see our hearts, but they can see the deeds of our lives. If one's heart is truly right with God, his goodness will show forth on the outside. We may be the only Bibles some people will ever see or read.

This world is full of spiritual darkness. Satan, the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2), has blinded the minds of men and women today. In many instances, they do not know right from wrong. Therefore, souls grope in a lost condition, not knowing nor caring how to live. They are in great need of someone to shine

the light of the glorious gospel across their pathway and to show them the way of salvation and deliverance from the bondage of sin. We are in the world, but we are not of it.

Christ has put us here to be a light and an example of the reality found in salvation. Honest hearts that see the light will come to Christ.

In John 12:32, Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

Next week, December 15, 2017, Part II – Living a Christ-like example.

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

PRESERVED

Regifting God's grace

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Regifting. Chances are that you have either done it or have had it done to you. And for many people, regifting is the simplest way to get rid of presents that you received that you didn't want.

I had a conversation with my parents a few years ago about regifting Christmas gifts. Both me and my mother agreed that we'd done it because it was a way to be a blessing to others.

One of the morning news shows did a story about the best way to regift. One of the ways they mentioned was to add a little something of your own to your gift before you give it to somebody else. For example, if someone gave you a candle, they suggested buying a nice candleholder to go along with it.

Later, I thought about how we do the same thing with the gift that God gave of his only son Jesus. I thought about how we regift Jesus to others. Some present lives that honor God through words and actions. Others regift God's love with hypocrisy. Matthew 6:4 says that we should "give our gifts in private, and our Father, who sees everything, will reward you."

For some, regifting Jesus follows this model. They give their time, talent or treasure in support of community organizations. Others might take it one step further and create community organizations or ministries that help others. Rather than seek the "spotlight," they work behind the scenes being a blessing to others. These people act as Jesus' hands

extended regifting his grace and love to others.

In the last year, I've had the chance to be both the giver of and receiver of words of encouragement. When I was unsure and doubtful about personal and professional decisions I'd made, I was given words of encouragement that shifted my focus from my worries of the present to the promises of the future. Months later, when a friend was in a similar position questioning things that were happening in his life, I was able to offer him similar words of encouragement. Even though some friends told me to send him on his way because he had too much "drama," I had to regift the gift of God's grace.

Another way to regift Jesus to others is to speak words of encouragement. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says "therefore encourage one another and build each other up." Encouragement isn't necessarily deeply spiritual; sometimes it's just sincere words that uplift and inspire others. These can be as simple as "You can make it," or "Things are going to get better" or "You are smart/handsome/beautiful." These simple words may seem insignificant but to those who need to hear them, they can transform a life.

Some might forget about big gift giving until next Christmas but we should always remember to regift God's grace.

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.

Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master


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www.collegehillchurch.org
Chick@collegehillchurch.org

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Prayer Everyday: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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Worship Service | Sundays 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study | Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

PHONE NUMBER: | PASSCODE:
(218) 486-1348 | 224 235 578 #

*The call will last only 30 minutes

Crossroads Church of God
Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



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

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

Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.

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

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



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Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

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www.mississippilink.com

Hundreds rallied for Meek Mill, but what about the rest?



Mugshot of Meek Mill. PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

By Lynette Monroe
NNPA Newswire Guest Columnist

Recently, hundreds of fans and supporters held a rally outside a Philadelphia courthouse, chanting for Robert Rihmeek Williams a.k.a. Meek Mill, to be released. The rapper was sentenced to two to four years in prison for violating his parole, stemming from 10 year-old charges, including drug possession and carrying a firearm without a license. Several media outlets have reported that the presiding Judge Genece Brinkley is now under investigation by the FBI.

In the United States, there are more than 61,000 people incarcerated for parole violations. So, to all of a sudden see thousands of people chanting and tweeting #FreeMeek-Mill is ironic to say the least. Mass incarceration is a part of the rudimentary diet of black people, appearing on the menu alongside predatory lending and housing discrimination.

It is difficult to find a black person who has been exempted from interaction with the criminal justice system; either through the incarceration of family and friends, an overnight stay for traffic violations, or extended restrictions due to parole or probation agreements. I have a brother, cousin, and boyfriend incarcerated, right now.

In Meek Mill’s case, I agree with the sentiment that the two- to four-year sentence is unwarranted, however, our sole concern should not be whether or not the subsequent consequence for the violation of these terms is fair; he agreed to them and has violated those terms several times. The issue is a system that does not carry out justice equally, a system where if Meek Mill were white, statistically he would less likely be arrested or incarcerated in the first place.

Now, I know we protest for unarmed civilians murdered at the hands of police. It’s easy to yell, “F–k the Police!” standing in a crowd of thousands of people, but where was that same outrage when Kalief Browder was held in Rikers Island for three years without a trial. He later committed suicide and Jay-Z produced a documentary about Browder’s tragic life.

And what about the millions of black men and women trapped in a system of injustice that don’t rap or rise to the attention of people like Jay-Z? Their stories go untold in the absence of media coverage, sometimes, because they don’t fit the narrative that establishes purity as a prerequisite for

grace.

The support for Meek Mill in the black community wasn’t unanimous; blacks seem to have a much harder time forgiving these transgressions than their white counterparts.

In August, when an 8-year old biracial black boy was hung by a rope in Claremont, New Hampshire by several older, white children, Claremont Police Chief Mark Chase said that the culprits should be protected. “Mistakes they make as a young child should not have to follow them for the rest of their life,” he stated in response to inquiries about the investigation.

In September, when 26 year-old Katie Layne Quackenbush of Tennessee was charged with attempted murder for exiting her vehicle and shooting 54-year old Gerald Melton, her attorney and father, Jesse Quackenbush claimed she and her friend were being harassed and threatened with sexist remarks. “She didn’t try and kill this guy, she had no intention of killing him. She didn’t know that she hit him,” he said immediately after her arrest.

Why can’t we, as black people defend our family and friends with matching zeal? Why must we send our young men and women into the belly of the beast to “learn a lesson” we couldn’t teach them at home? Why have we accepted the disproportionate incarceration of black Americans as the norm?

Some still view incarceration as a subconscious right of passage to adulthood for black youth in America.

Take a few minutes and think about the number of people that you know who are currently incarcerated, have been incarcerated or on probation. Now, did you march in the streets for them? Did you sign a petition for them? Will the FBI investigate the judges who sentenced them? Hell, did you offer to put money on their books? Did you accept a collect call? If so, probably not as much as you could have. Not as much as you should have. But, I bet you were at the “welcome home” party.

Anyway, I’m really happy for y’all. I’m a let y’all finish marching for Meek, but remember, according to a study by The Marshall Project, as of April 2017, an estimated 61,250 Americans are incarcerated for technical parole violations. They deserve your support, too.

Lynette Monroe is a graduate student at Howard University. You can follow her on Twitter @_monroedoctrine.

If black lives really matter to black people, then it’s time to stop watching the NFL

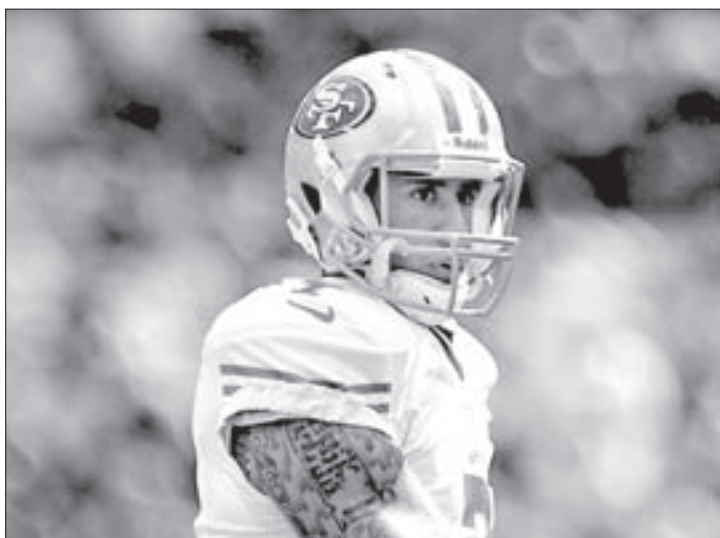
By Chris B. Bennett
The Seattle Medium/NNPA Member

For years, the African-American community has been asking and insisting that our professional athletes do more for our community. We ask them to give money towards initiatives and good causes, we ask them to be role models, and we ask them to stand up, speak up and speak out on issues affecting our community.

And yet, as you read this article today, there are pro football players that have taken a stance against oppression, police brutality and the killing of black people by law enforcement officers all across this country. Yet, these athletes are under attack by the media, by “fans” who claim that they have ruined the game of football, because they will not stand during the national anthem...and yes, the players have even come under attack by the 45th occupant of the White House.

The Black Lives Matter movement and the many of the NFL players are standing up (or kneeling) for justice and “just us.” We are demanding justice for things that happen to just us. We demand justice for the racial profiling that happens to just us. We demand justice for the excessive force that is used against just us. And we are demanding justice, on behalf of millions of voiceless African Americans all across the country, for the lives that have been lost as a result of law enforcement officers shooting us (unarmed, black Americans) at alarming rates.

Numbers don’t lie, and videos don’t lie either. Black men are killed by police officers in extrajudicial shootings at much higher rates that far outweigh the rate of that white men are shot and killed by police officers, which



indicates to me that these killings repeatedly happen to just us; and think about the number of videos that we have seen that show black people gunned down, choked out, manhandled and beaten; while at the same time we see videos of whites blatantly disrespecting police officers and daring them to do something to them, and those suspects are able to walk away unharmed.

In protesting these atrocities, Colin Kaepernick chose to take a knee during the national anthem, because he didn’t want to stand up for the flag of a country that oppresses black people and people of color. In fact, Kaepernick was quoted as saying, “To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.”

For taking such a stance, Kaepernick is no longer employed as an NFL player. We hear all the excuses about why he does not have a job as a quarterback in the NFL. You can believe the excuses if you want, but I would challenge

you to answer this question: Do you honestly want to see Kaepernick playing quarterback against your favorite team on Sunday? Your honest answer would probably be “No,” because despite any flaws or inconsistencies that he may have in his game, Kaepernick is a game changer. He is a legitimate dual threat quarterback, who can find his way to the end zone anytime he touches the ball. So, why is he unemployed? You can answer that question for yourself.

As a result of what many believe was the blackbaling of Kaepernick by the NFL, many people across this country, many of them black women, decided to boycott the NFL this season; and the boycott is and was successful, so much so that the NFL, mainstream media and the 45th occupant led people to believe that the low ratings of NFL games this season were a result of white men not watching the NFL, because black players were protesting that national anthem. Then, the 45th occupant of the White House, in his puppeteering ways, stepped forward and said that the NFL

should fire anyone, who refuses to stand for the national anthem, and accused those who chose to kneel during the national anthem of disrespecting the flag and being unpatriotic. Black folks took offense and I believe that they decided to watch the games in protest to “45;” I bet the ratings increased, too.

Now, fast forward to Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones stating that players on his team, who do not stand for the national anthem will not play, and “45” praises him for doing so. Ironic? I don’t think so. Don’t let them fool you, “45” and NFL owners have been joined at the hip in the process from the very beginning.

The 45th occupant of the White House carried the water of the NFL owners, helped sway some sort of public opinion against the players and now the owners feel empowered to bring down their oppressive hammers on the players. The 45th occupant of the White House will take credit for bringing “law and order” to the plantation, and the NFL owners will walk away with little or no blood on their hands.

The real story is that a handful of players have stood up for what they feel is right. Now the question is, what is the African-American community going to do to support them? Do you have the courage to turn the channel when your favorite team(s) play on Sunday? Do you have the courage to publicly tell people that you support the players who choose to take a knee for justice and not just us? Do you have the courage to proudly wear the jersey of Colin Kaepernick, Michael Bennett or any other player who chooses to kneel or sit during the national anthem?

The American plutocracy gets its immoral tax bill

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



“I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep forever.” Thomas Jefferson said that about slavery, but he might well have been talking about what is now happening in Donald Trump’s Washington.

Republicans are putting the finishing touches on a tax bill that takes from the poor to give to the rich. Then they plan to turn to savaging federal programs for the poor to make up for the deficits they’ve created. Millions of vulnerable Americans will suffer for their greed and their folly.

The tax bill – cobbled together in secret meetings without a public hearing, passed with handwritten amendments in the columns, legislators forced to vote without reading it – is simply a disgrace.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, lower-income people will end up paying \$5.3 billion more in taxes, while those earning \$1 million or more will pay \$5.8 billion less. The Tax Policy Cen-

ter reports that nearly the top 1 percent will pocket two-thirds of its tax breaks. Ten years from now, when all the measures kick in, those earning \$75,000 or less per year will end up paying on average more in taxes.

This is a brazen expression of money power, as the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* put it, an example of American plutocracy – a government of the wealthy, by the wealthy, for the wealthy.

The vulnerable will suffer the costs. An estimated 13 million will lose health insurance. Those workers who get their insurance in the state exchanges will be hit with 10 percent increases in rates or more. Graduate students will be faced with massive tax hits, as the bill taxes tuition that universities waive (money that the students have never seen). Ten million low-income parents will be stripped of the child tax credit. This while the top one-tenth of 1 percent, who make over \$4.5 million a year, pocket an average tax cut of \$127,000. The plunder has become immoral.

Now, the Republican Congress will turn to savaging programs for the poor to help pay for the tax cuts. Next “we’re going to go into welfare reform,” Donald Trump threatened at a rally

last week. Sen. Marco Rubio reassured business leaders not to worry about deficits; the next step will be “reducing spending. That will mean instituting structural changes to Social Security and Medicare for the future.”

The House Republican Budget Resolution makes their priorities clear. It projects 40 percent cuts in programs for low- and moderate-income Americans by 2026. This includes cuts in Medicare, which will be turned into a voucher, losing value over time; more than \$1 trillion in cuts from traditional Medicaid; and 30 percent cuts in food stamps, leaving millions without food assistance. Hit hard will be Pell Grants that help low-income students pay for college, child nutrition assistance for the very vulnerable and SSI benefits for the disabled and impoverished elderly. Domestic services – everything from education to transportation – will be cut. Spending on low-income programs is already as low as a percentage of the economy as it was in 1970.

Trump, of course, pledged that he would not cut Social Security and Medicare during the campaign. That pledge seems no longer operative. He promised a health care plan for “everyone.”

Not true. He said the rich would not benefit from the tax cuts. Not true. He said that he would not benefit. A lie.

Republicans claim the tax cuts will produce growth and jobs. They claim the spending cuts will reduce deficits and help sustain growth. These are but excuses for the immoral.

The moral calculus is clear. We will be judged, the Bible says, by how we treat “the least of these.” In Isaiah 10:1-3, it is written: “Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless. What will you do on the day of reckoning, when disaster comes from afar? To whom will you run for help? Where will you leave your riches?”

But politicians respond not to what is moral but to what is popular. What will be the reckoning at the polls? Will Americans fall for the smoke and distractions? Or will they vote in large numbers against those who impose this folly? Only a political reckoning will curb the damage that is being done to this country.

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR LEASE OF HANGAR SPACE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES AND/
OR HISTORICAL TERMINAL BUILDING
AT HAWKINS FIELD AIRPORT
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 7000-009-17

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (“JMAA”) requests Proposals from qualified respondents (“Respondent”) for development and operation of Hangar Space and Associated Facilities and/or Historical Terminal Building at the Hawkins Field Airport (“HKS”).

JMAA will receive Proposals to perform the Services at JMAA’s administrative offices, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208, until 3:00 p.m. central time on December 18, 2017 (the “Deadline”).

JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents and Criteria for Selection. Any Addenda issued clarifying and/or changing instructions in Information for Respondents; and/or answering questions in relation to the Information for Respondents shall become part of the Information for Respondents. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Ms. Robin Byrd, JMAA’s Manager, Procurement, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208)
Post Office Box 98109
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109
Attention: Robin Byrd, Manager, Procurement
Telephone No.: (601) 360-8616
Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713
E-Mail: rbyrd@jmaa.com

or from JMAA’s website at www.jmaa.com/resources/rfprfb-center/.

A pre-proposal conference (the “Pre-Proposal Conference”) will be held in the Hawkins Field Terminal Building, 558 West Ramp St., Jackson, MS 39208 at 3:00 p.m. central time on November 15, 2017. Attendance at the Pre-Proposal Conference is Strongly Encouraged for all Respondents. If a Respondent cannot attend, then a representative of Respondent should be in attendance. Respondents are encouraged to submit any questions concerning this RFP, in writing, prior to the Pre-Proposal Conference. JMAA will try to answer all written questions received in advance at the Pre-Proposal Conference. After the meeting, representatives of JMAA will be available to take attendees on a tour of the Hangar and Associated Facilities locations.

Based on the Proposals received, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent or Respondents with the Highest and Best proposed used for the properties individually or combined

JMAA reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Proposals, for any reason, any time before execution of an agreement with Respondents selected by JMAA.

12/7/2017

LEGAL

City of Jackson, Mississippi
Bid Specifications for Legal Publications 2018

Scope
The City of Jackson, Mississippi (“City of Jackson”), seeks competitive bids for the City’s annual contract for legal publication.

Bidder Requirements
Sealed bids will be received in the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall in the City of Jackson until 3:30 P.M., Tuesday December 19, 2017. Each bidder shall submit an original and two (2) copies of the bid using the bid form supplied by the City of Jackson. Additionally, each bidder must submit documentation that shows its qualifications and compliance with all criteria set forth in Section 13-3-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. All bids must be sealed and plainly marked “Bid for Legal Publication” on the outside of the envelope.

The bidder must use the bid form provided by the City of Jackson. The bid form must be signed by an authorized representative. Failure to submit the signed bid form and failure to submit documentation that shows qualifications and compliance with all criteria set forth in Section 13-3-31 will result in rejection of the bid.

Bid Price
Bidder shall quote a per word rate of one hundred word advertisement to the nearest one millionth of a dollar, e.g. 0.999999. The quoted per word rate will be for a first, second, and third publication. Bidders shall also include a flat rate for supplying a proof of publication.

All prices quoted shall be firm and fixed for the specified contract period. The bid will be used for the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Term of the Agreement
The term of the agreement is for a one year period: January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Publications will be made on an as need basis. The method of requesting ads shall be by email.

Award
The determination of the low bidder will be used on a “per word” rate, of a one hundred word advertisement, published three (3) times and a single proof of publication. The quoted per word rate will be for a first, second, and third publication, and evaluated to the nearest one millionth of a dollar (e.g., \$0.999999).

Order of Communications
Questions regarding this bid shall be in written format. Written responses to the questions submitted shall be issued. Bidder questions and responses will be made a part of the bid file.

All questions regarding the Specifications for Legal Publications 2018 should be forwarded, by U.S. mail, to Kristi Moore, City Clerk, City of Jackson, P.O. Box 17, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39205, or by email to kristim@jacksonms.gov.

12/7/2017

LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT
PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION TO FIRE CAPTAIN

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi (hereinafter “City”), will receive sealed proposals for the Development, Administration and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to Fire Captain, at the Office of the City Clerk at 219 South President Street in Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 or P. O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 until 3:30 p.m. central standard time, Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form for the Development and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to Fire Captain are on file in the Office of the Director of Personnel Management, 1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102, Jackson, Mississippi, 39209, and copies will be provided upon request. All proposals must be submitted to the City Clerk no later than 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 9, 2018 in a sealed envelope, addressed as follows:

For Delivery: City of Jackson
City Clerk
City Hall
219 S. President Street
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

For Mailing: City of Jackson
City Clerk
P.O. Box 17
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

All proposals must be delivered or mailed in a sealed envelope (mailed proposals must be contained in a sealed envelope inside the mailing envelope) and labeled in the lower left corner as follows:

SEALED PROPOSALS FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION
TO FIRE CAPTAIN TO BE RECEIVED AND OPENED AT CITY HALL
3:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018

The City reserves the right to reject any and all such proposals.

12/7/2017 12/14/2017

LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT
PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION TO DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi (hereinafter “City”), will receive sealed proposals for the Development, Administration and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to District Fire Chief, at the Office of the City Clerk at 219 South President Street in Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 or P. O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 until 3:30 p.m. central standard time, Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form for the Development and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to District Fire Chief are on file in the Office of the Director of Personnel Management, 1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102, Jackson, Mississippi, 39209, and copies will be provided upon request. All proposals must be submitted to the City Clerk no later than 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 9, 2018 in a sealed envelope, addressed as follows:

For Delivery: City of Jackson
City Clerk
City Hall
219 S. President Street
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

For Mailing: City of Jackson
City Clerk
P.O. Box 17
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

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SEALED PROPOSALS FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION
TO DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF TO BE RECEIVED AND OPENED AT CITY HALL
3:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all such proposals.

12/7/2017 12/14/2017

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

Sealed bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Thursday, 01/18/2018 , for:

RE: GS# 113-145 NWARC Roof Replacement ()
Mississippi State University - Division of Agriculture, Forestry & Vet Medicine

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

Professional: PryorMorrow PC - Columbus
(Columbus, Mississippi, through the Office listed herein)
Address: Post Office Box 167
Columbus, Mississippi 39703
Phone: 662-327-8990
Email: mail@pryor-morrow.com

A deposit of \$100.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

Calvin R. Sibley, Bureau Director
Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management

11/30/2017, 12/7/2017

LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT
PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION
TO FIRE LIEUTENANT/ DRIVER OPERATOR

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi (hereinafter “City”), will receive sealed proposals for the Development, Administration and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to Fire Lieutenant/Driver Operator, at the Office of the City Clerk at 219 South President Street in Jackson, Mississippi 30205-0017 or P. O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 until 3:30 p.m. central standard time, Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form for the Development and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to Fire Lieutenant /Driver Operator are on file in the Office of the Director of Personnel Management, 1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102, Jackson, Mississippi, 39209, and copies will be provided upon request. All proposals must be submitted to the City Clerk no later than 3:30 p.m., Tuesday January 9, 2018 in a sealed envelope, addressed as follows:

For Delivery: City of Jackson
City Clerk
City Hall
219 S. President Street
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

For Mailing: City of Jackson
City Clerk
P.O. Box 17
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

All proposals must be delivered or mailed in a sealed envelope (mailed proposals must be contained in a sealed envelope inside the mailing envelope) and labeled in the lower left corner as follows:
SEALED PROPOSALS FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION
TO FIRE LIEUTENANT/ DRIVER OPERATOR
TO BE RECEIVED AND OPENED AT CITY HALL
3:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018

The City reserves the right to reject any and all such proposals.

12/7/2017 12/14/2017

Office Space
for Rent

Garrett
Enterprises
Building

(Near Jackson Medical Mall)
2659 Livingston Road
Jackson, MS 39213
2500 Square Feet
Call: 601-209-9199

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

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, December 19, 2017, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

55063-121917 18-Month Supply of Aluminum Sign Blanks

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV.

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

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

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

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

11/30/2017, 12/7/2017

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RFPS

Advertisement for RFPs
Re-Bid - RFP 2017-12 Lead Partner for Teacher Support

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 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) December 21, 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 [HYPERLINK "http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us"](http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us) www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

12/7/2017, 12/14/2017

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
LEGAL PUBLICATIONS FOR 2018

Pursuant to Section 21-39-3 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson"), seeks competitive bids for the City of Jackson's annual contract for legal publications.

Sealed bids will be received in the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall in the City of Jackson, until 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 19, 2017 for the publication of the City of Jackson's proceedings, ordinances, resolutions, and other notices required to be published. All submitted bids should be sealed and plainly marked "Bid for Legal Publications" on the outside of the envelope.

Each bidder is responsible for documenting its bid with the necessary attachments evidencing its qualifications and compliance with all relevant criteria set forth in Section 13-3-31 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

Each bid must be submitted on the bid form provided by the Office of the City Clerk. Bid forms may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk. Each bidder must quote a per word rate of a one hundred word advertisement to the nearest one millionth of a dollar, e.g. 0.999999. The quoted per word rate must be for a first, second and third publication. Bidders must also include a flat rate for supplying a proof of publication.

The determination of the low bidder will be based on a per word rate of a one hundred word advertisement, published three (3) times and a single proof of publication. The successful bidder will be awarded a one-year contract for the term of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

By: Kristi Moore, City Clerk

12/7/2017, 12/14/2017

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
Labor & Equipment to Perform Various Public Works Water Projects
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, January 2, 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 supplying all labor, equipment and materials (as specified) necessary for the "Labor & Equipment to Perform Various Public Works Water Projects". Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The length of the contract from the issuance of the Notice to Proceed will be (365) calendar days. The contract will involve multiple on call contracting services solely for the purpose of providing labor, equipment, and materials to repair the City of Jackson's water infrastructure system. The contractor will be given work orders to repair the water infrastructure system within an agreed time to complete. The Contractor 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 agreed time between the City of Jackson and the contractor 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 and 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) ordinance. 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 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.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and Proposals forms are on file and open to public inspection on the 4th floor (Engineering Division/ Water/Sewer Division) of the Warren Hood Building located at 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205. One (1) copy of the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be procured at the Water/Sewer office on the 4th Floor of the Hood Building, upon payment of \$100.00 dollars for each set, 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 December 14, at 9:00 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.

Each bidder must submit with his bid a separate attachment stating his qualifications to perform the work. The Statement of Qualifications shall list projects of similar size and nature, a list of references with name and telephone number, a list of key personnel who will perform the work, and other information supporting the bidder's qualifications. Failure to provide this information will cause the Contractor's proposal to be rejected by the owner as non-responsive.

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 of Public Works

11/30/2017, 12/7/2017

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
Labor & Equipment to Perform Various Public Works Sewer Projects
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, January 2, 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 supplying all labor, equipment and materials (as specified) necessary for the "Labor & Equipment to Perform Various Public Works Sewer Projects". Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The length of the contract from the issuance of the Notice to Proceed will be (365) calendar days. The contract will involve multiple on call contracting services solely for the purpose of providing labor, equipment, and materials to repair the City of Jackson's sewer infrastructure system. The contractor will be given work orders to repair the sewer infrastructure system within an agreed time to complete. The Contractor 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 agreed time between the City of Jackson and the contractor is exceeded.

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Robert K. Miller
Director of Public Works

11/30/2017, 12/7/2017

A N Y T I M E O N L I N E

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

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NCYIGV MJPTHWEASXUBOKQDFLZR

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OPPOSING VALUES
SXXSOPAM DNWQGO

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The Mississippi Link

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or e-mail jlinkads@bellsouth.net
www.mississippilink.com

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The Mississippi Link

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CASH & CARRY
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.
MCDAD E'S MARKET
Northside Drive
MCDAD E'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

UPTON TIRE
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
FRYER LANE GROCERY
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
BYRAM
DOLLAR GENERAL
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HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE

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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
TERRY
SERVICE STATION
at Exit 78
CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue
RAYMOND
HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WELCOME CENTER
505 E. Main Street
SUNFLOWER GROCERY
122 Old Port Gibson Street,
Raymond, MS
LOVE FOOD MART
120 E. Main Street,
Raymond, MS
RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY
126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND CITY HALL
110 Courtyard Square, Raymond
RAYMOND COURTHOUSE
UTICA
HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP
Mississippi Hwy 18
PITT STOP
101 Hwy 18 & 27
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BOLTON LIBRARY
BOLTON CITY HALL

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Week of December 03, 2017

Auctions

OPEN EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Friday, Dec. 8, 2017 10:00 am
New Albany, MS.
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Need to sell your equipment, call now!

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SWAC football all-conference teams released

The Mississippi Link Newswire

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The Southwestern Athletic Conference released its 2017 All-Conference Teams Thursday with 12 players from the SWAC West Division champions Grambling State being tabbed for the most individual honors.

The teams were announced two days prior to the 2017 Toyota SWAC Football Championship at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas, after ballots were cast by the league’s head coaches and sports information directors.

Fifty players were named to this year’s All-Conference teams. Players were ranked in their position based upon the number of votes received. Ballots required voters to rank their selections in order.

After helping lead the Tigers to a conference-best 10-win season, Grambling State quarterback Devante Kincade was the voters’ choice for the SWAC Offensive Player of the Year award. Following up on his SWAC Preseason Offensive Player of the Year nod, Kincade completed 59.7 percent of his passes and threw for 2,409 yards with 19 touchdowns against just three interceptions. The senior held the top passing efficiency with a rating of 143.8. Additionally, Kincade accounted for the



Grambling State quarterback Devante Kincade, Grambling State linebacker De'Arius Christmas, Prairie View A&M kicker Zach Elder and Mississippi Valley State wide receiver Quinn McElfresh were among the large individual awards winners announced on the 2017 SWAC Football All-Conference Teams Thursday by the Southwestern Athletic Conference. PHOTO COURTESIES: GRAMBLING STATE, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE SPORTS INFORMATION.

most total yards of offense as well with 2,649 yards.

De'Arius Christmas was tabbed as the SWAC Defensive Player of the Year after he was ranked fourth in the conference in tackles with 76, third in the SWAC with 14.5 tackles for a loss, to go along with 3.5 sacks (18th in SWAC), and two forced fumbles (tied for fourth in SWAC).

Mississippi Valley State junior transfer wide receiver Quinn McElfresh was named the SWAC Newcomer of the Year after leading the conference in receptions per game (5.2), was ranked second in receiving yards per game (80.8), led in receiving yards (889) and added five touchdowns.

Prairie View A&M kicker Zach Elder was honored with the SWAC Freshman of the Year award after ranking tied

for third in the conference in scoring (72 points) as he made 42-of-43 PATs and converted on 10-of-12 field goals. He led the SWAC in PAT percentage (97.7).

Broderick Fobbs was dubbed the SWAC Coach of the Year after leading the Tigers to another double-digit win season and a third consecutive trip to the SWAC Championship. Grambling State lead the conference in points per game (32.0), was second in points allowed per game (19.4) and boosted the conference’s best run stopping defense (allowed 94.0 yards per game), most interceptions (16), most sacks (41) and one of the nation’s top turnover ratios (plus 21) as well as the SWAC’s top red zone offense (converted on 90 percent of chances).

SWAC East Division winner

Alcorn State had the second most amount of selections with nine. SWAC West Division runner up Southern and Prairie View A&M followed closely behind with eight selections apiece on the teams.

Mississippi Valley State had four selections while Alabama A&M and Alabama State each garnered three selections apiece. Arkansas-Pine Bluff had two selections and Jackson State had one representative.

Joining Kincade on the preseason first-team offense are: running backs De’Lance Turner (Alcorn State), Martez Carter (Grambling State) and offensive linemen Trent Scott (Grambling State), Timothy Gardner (Alcorn State), William Waddell (Grambling State), Kenyon Brantley (Alcorn State), and Sam Baptiste (Alabama State), wide receiver

Norlando Veals (Alcorn State) and Khadarel Hodge (Prairie View A&M) and tight end Dillon Beard (Southern).

Joining Christmas on the first-team defense are: defensive linemen Aaron Tiller (Southern), La’Allan Clark (Grambling State), Brandon Varner (Grambling State), Vernon Moland (Alabama A&M), De’Arius Christmas (Grambling State), Kenneth Davis (Alabama A&M), Jalyn Williams (Prairie View A&M), Danny Johnson (Southern), De’Aumante Johnson (Grambling State), Ju’Anthony Parker (Prairie View A&M) and defensive backs Danny Johnson (Southern), De’Aumante Johnson (Grambling State), Ju’Anthony Parker (Prairie View A&M), and Ronnie Scott (Alabama State).

Kicker Marc Orozco (Grambling State), punter Jamie Gillan (Arkansas-Pine Bluff) and Darius Floyd (Prairie View A&M) were each tabbed as first team selections for special teams.

Offensive Player of the Year: Devante Kincade (QB) – Grambling State Defensive Player of the Year: De’Arius Christmas (LB) – Grambling State

Newcomer of the Year: Quinn McElfresh (WR) – Mississippi Valley State Freshman of the Year: Zach Elder (K) – Prairie View A&M

Coach of the Year: Broderick Fobbs – Grambling State

2017 All-SWAC Football Team		
FIRST TEAM		
OFFENSE		
QB	Devante Kincade	Grambling State
RB	De’Lance Turner	Alcorn State
RB	Martez Carter	Grambling State
OL	Trent Scott	Grambling State
OL	Timothy Gardner	Alcorn State
OL	William Waddell	Grambling State
OL	Kenyon Brantley	Alcorn State
OL	Sam Baptiste	Alabama State
WR	Norlando Veals	Alcorn State
WR	Khadarel Hodge	Prairie View A&M
TE	Dillon Beard	Southern
DEFENSE		
DL	Aaron Tiller	Southern
DL	La’Allan Clark	Grambling State
DL	Brandon Varner	Grambling State
DL	Vernon Moland	Alabama A&M
LB	De’Arius Christmas	Grambling State
LB	Kenneth Davis	Alabama A&M
LB	Jalyn Williams	Prairie View A&M
DB	Danny Johnson	Southern
DB	De’Aumante Johnson	Grambling State
DB	Ju’Anthony Parker	Prairie View A&M
DB	Ronnie Scott	Alabama State
SPECIAL TEAMS		
K	Marc Orozco	Grambling State
P	Jamie Gillan	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
RS	Darius Floyd	Prairie View A&M
SECOND TEAM		
OFFENSE		
QB	Austin Howard	Southern
RB	Herb Edwards	Southern
RB	Sta’Fon McCray	Prairie View A&M
OL	Mustaffa Ibrahim	Alcorn State
OL	Corbin Finlayson	Prairie View A&M
OL	Shawn Pierce	Prairie View A&M
OL	Alvin Solomon	Mississippi Valley State
OL	Christian Rodriguez	Southern
WR	Quinn McElfresh	Mississippi Valley State
WR	Darrell Clark	Grambling State
TE	Jordan Jones	Grambling State
DEFENSE		
DL	Michael Brooks	Alcorn State
DL	Tashad Charity	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
DL	Linwood Banks	Grambling State
DL	De’Vohn Reed	Prairie View A&M
LB	Patrick Harbin	Mississippi Valley State
LB	Trae Ferrell	Alcorn State
LB	Shawn Bishop	Jackson State
DB	Dylan Hamilton	Alabama A&M
DB	Everett Nicholas	Mississippi Valley State
DB	Andre Augustine	Southern
DB	Deago Sama	Alcorn State
SPECIAL TEAMS		
K	Corey McCullough	Alcorn State
P	Trevor Vincent	Alabama State
RS	Danny Johnson	Southern

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DVD REVIEW: “ROSENWALD”

BIOPIC CHRONICLING CAREER OF FORGOTTEN JEWISH PHILANTHROPIST RELEASED ON DVD

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Julius Rosenwald was born August 12, 1862 in Springfield, Illinois to a couple of German-Jewish immigrants who met each other in the U.S. His father was a traveling salesman who plied his trade by foot until he was able to save enough money to afford a horse.

Raised in a house located right across the street from the home of President Abraham Lincoln, Rosenwald dropped out of high school and moved to New York City to learn the ins-and outs of the garment industry. The aspiring clothier was befriended there by Henry Goldman, co-founder of Goldman Sachs Investment Bank and a future financier of his business ventures.

Rosenwald eventually moved to Chicago where he not only started a family with his wife Gussie but embarked on an en-

viable career as an entrepreneur. By 1906, he’d parlayed his success into a 50 percent stake in Sears Roebuck, and he subsequently orchestrated its expansion from a mail order catalog company into a mammoth, department store chain. And, by the time he retired as CEO, he’d accumulated a fortune which, adjusted for inflation, would amount to over a billion in today’s dollars.

Believe it or not, that impressive accomplishment pales in comparison to Rosenwald’s considerable cultural contributions as a philanthropist. For, as a devout Jew, he took to heart his faith’s solemn mandate to engage in compassionate charitable activities.

He was outraged by the disgraceful mistreatment of African Americans in the South where most were denied access to decent public schools and librar-

ies, based on the “separate but equal” rationale sanctioned by the Jim Crow system of segregation. After all, white supremacy was predicated on the belief that the education of minorities was a threat to be denied at all costs.

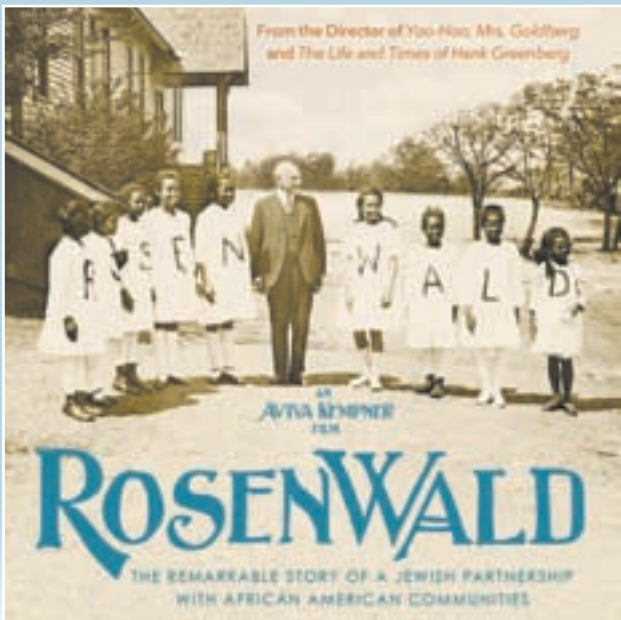
So, in 1912, Rosenwald decided to join forces with Booker T. Washington in order to afford black southerners a fair shot at the American dream. Between then and his death in 1932, he would underwrite the construction of over 5,500 school buildings in poor, rural African-American communities. By the time he was done, a third of all black kids living in the South would be attending one of his institutions.

Of course, this development rankled inveterate racists, and many a Rosenwald school became the target of the Ku Klux Klan torch. Not one to be easily discouraged, however, Rosen-

wald quickly resurrected any edifice burned to the ground, some on more than one occasion.

It is important to note that Rosenwald did not restrict his philanthropic efforts to the South. For instance, he opened YMCAs for blacks in 25 cities where the organization’s facilities were designated “White Only,” including his hometown of Chicago. He also erected Rosenwald Courts, an upscale apartment complex in the Windy City which became home to Joe Louis, Jesse Owens, Quincy Jones and other icons.

In addition, he sponsored substantial scholarships for promising African-American artists and academics, whether they were living in the U.S. or abroad. Among that program’s beneficiaries were Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Arna Bontemps, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Gordon Parks, Jacob Lawrence, Ralph Bunche, Dr.



Charles Drew and Marian Anderson.

Directed by Aviva Kempner (The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg), Rosenwald is an inspirational and informative documentary which belatedly gives a little-known humanitarian his due. Paying homage, here, are a number of luminaries like Congressman John Lewis, director George C. Wolfe, Pulitzer Prize-winner Eugene Robinson and the late poet laureate Maya Angelou, each of whom is a grateful alum of a Rosenwald school.

A touching bio about a selfless, self-made billionaire who’d probably prefer to be remembered as a tireless pro-

ponent of the notion that black lives matter.

Excellent (4 stars)
Unrated
Running time: 96 minutes
Distributor: Ciesla Foundation

DVD Extras: Over 4 1/2 hours of bonus features and a free, downloadable teaching guide.

For theatrical screening information in your area, visit: www.rosenwaldfilm.org

To see a trailer for Rosenwald, visit:

To order a copy of Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African-American Communities, visit: <http://www.jewishfilm.org/Catalogue/films/rosenwald.htm>

DVD REVIEW: “VALERIAN AND THE CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS”

LUC BESSON’S VISUALLY-CAPTIVATING, SCI-FI SPECTACULAR COMES TO HOME VIDEO

By Kam Williams
Columnist

In 1997, Luc Besson released The Fifth Element, a visually-captivating sci-fi adventure which netted four Cesars, including Best Film and Best Director. A couple of decades later, Luc is back with Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets, an even more innovative, outer space odyssey, if that’s possible. The groundbreaking extravaganza is based on “Valerian and Laureline,” a comic book series written by Pierre Christin and illustrated by Jean-Claude Mezieres.

The futuristic tale is set in the 28th Century, and stars

Dane DeHaan in the title role as a time/space traveling military officer for Alpha, a city with a thousand planets. Straitlaced Major Valerian patrols that universe with Laureline (Cara Delevingne), a sergeant well-versed in virtual reality operations.

He also happens to have a crush on his relatively-rebellious sidekick, although she routinely rebuffs his romantic overtures. And they report directly to Commander Arun Filitt (Clive Owen) who, in turn, answers to General Okto Bar (Sam Spruell) as well as Alpha’s Minister of Defense (Herbie Hancock).

The film unfolds on Mul, a

utopian paradise inhabited by a peaceful species of bald, bejeweled, barely-clothed creatures. It isn’t long before their carefree frolicking is irreversibly disrupted by an unprovoked attack on the planet by an unknown army of hostile aliens.

The picture abruptly shifts from this devastating apocalypse to a serene scenario worlds away where we find Valerian and Laureline relaxing on a sandbar and soaking up rays. He awakens from a bad dream, a subtle suggestion that everything that we’ve just witnessed might’ve merely been a figment of his imagination.

It would be criminal for me

to spoil your cinematic experience by divulging any further developments. Suffice to say that the protagonists proceed to embark on a breathtaking, intergalactic roller coaster ride worth way more than the price of admission.

Along the way, they cross paths with an array of colorful characters ranging from a space age pimp (Ethan Hawke) to a solicitous stripper with a heart of gold (Rihanna). But people mostly serve as distracting interruptions in this eye-popping, special f/x-driven spectacular to remember.

All I can say after watching it is, “Wow!”

Excellent (4 stars)



Rated PG-13 for action, violence, suggestive material and brief profanity
Running time: 137 minutes
Production Studio: Europa-Corp
Distributor: Lionsgate Home Entertainment
Blu-ray/DVD Combo Pack Extras: Citizens of Imagination: Creating the Universe of Valerian (a multi-part documentary); Enhancement Pods; The Art of Valerian Photo Gal-

lery; teaser trailer; and the final trailer.

To see a trailer for Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNrK7xVG3PM>

To order a copy of Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets on Blu-ray/DVD Combo Pack, visit: <https://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B075FMD4HW/ref%3dnosim/thslfofire-20>

Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to ‘decode’ the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Bill Clinton

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

G

A

E N N E N

O K B G A M K J N A I F P O I S E N B G A S K

S X X S O P A M D N W Q G O

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Sudoku

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

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

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 15)

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BOOK REVIEW: “BLESSED LIFE”

BY KIM FIELDS WITH TODD GOLD,
C.2017, FAITH WORDS
\$22.00 / \$26.50 CANADA • 215 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You have much to be thankful for this year.

There’s a roof over your head, for beginners. You know where your next meal will come from. You can read, obviously. Running water, electricity, friends and family, the list goes on. Author Kim Fields (with Todd Gold) counts those happy things, too, and in her new book “Blessed Life,” she knows who gets credit.

Born in Harlem with a pedigree in performing – her grandmother was a dancer; her mother, an actress – Kim Fields recalls how much she loved Harlem, but she says she

“would not trade growing up in Hollywood,” which is where she moved with her mother when Fields was six.

At age eight, as her mother’s L.A. star was on the rise, Fields tried out for her first role in a TV ad, later appearing in other commercials. She met Janet Jackson and they often played together, a friendship that led Fields to an appearance on Good Times, as a friend of Jackson’s character.

Shortly after that first quick appearance, Fields was hired for a new spin-off television show, in part because she could roller skate. The show wasn’t a hit with audiences at first, but NBC had faith in The Facts of Life.

“Going through puberty on

television was not fun,” says Fields but she “handled” things. It helped that her mother kept her grounded; finding a church and connecting with God at age fourteen also made a difference.

Those things helped Fields during her trials and lifted her higher when things were good. Friends helped her search for love, introducing her to men and offering support when love went wrong.

Professionally, work came and went in large roles and small projects. Fields went to college, worked behind-the-scenes in the film industry, fell in love and got married. When that relationship fell apart, she became depressed and stayed in

bed for weeks, asking God if he “still got a plan, right?”

He did. It involved a new love, a family, more work, new focus and maturity.

“What I’ve come to terms with,” says Fields, “is that as long as I’m moving forward.... I’m winning at least half the battle.”

“Blessed Life” is a bit of fresh air in the star-biography genre.

While so many H’wood memoirs get oversaturated with chummy shouts of Look-Who-I-Know, author Kim Fields’ ubiquitous (in star bios) name-dropping feels incidental and totally natural here. Fields (with Gold) doesn’t seem to be reaching to impress anyone; rather,

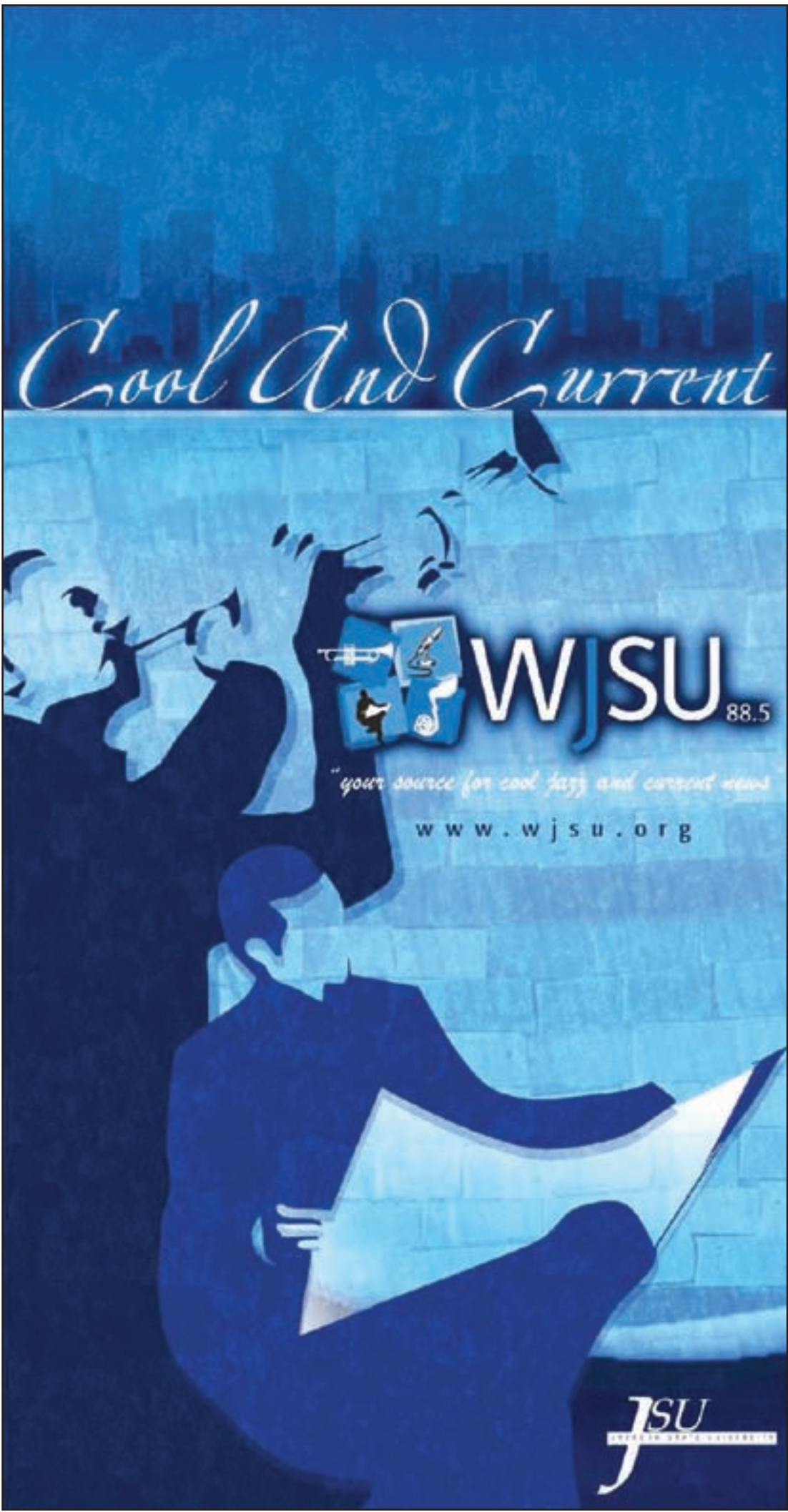


her anecdotes are breezy and fun and pretty matter-of-fact, but she’s also open to laying out the ups and downs of being a child-star, grown up. Even that is told simply, but with just a little embellishment and a lot of gratitude.

Overall, we take the good, we

take the bad, and we get a sense that the best aspects of Fields’ TV characters reflected the best of her, too.

Most happily, this peek at stardom isn’t heavy on the drama and for that, reading “Blessed Life” is something to be thankful for.



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