

Martin Luther King III: Continuing his father’s work



Martin Luther King III said that if his dad were alive today, his biggest concerns would include nuclear war, healthcare and poor communities. OFFICIAL PHOTO/MARTIN LUTHER KING III

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Nearly 50 years ago, the world lost one of its greatest heroes. That hero’s son, Martin Luther King III, continues his father’s work, taking every opportunity to share his father’s vision, message and mission.

“Today, particularly in light of where the nation stands as it relates to leadership...we badly need to embrace my father’s message and we have to learn to disagree without being disagreeable and my dad showed us how that can be done,” said King.

The eldest son of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King III was only ten years old when his dad was assassinated in Memphis April 4, 1968.

Martin Luther King III went on to graduate from Morehouse College with a bachelor’s degree in political science.

Later, he became a community activist, county commissioner and president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the organization that his father led as its first president.

Like his father, King has led protest marches and has convened forums on police brutality.

“There’s a barbaric mentality today with police shootings of African Americans, but all of that can change when people rise up, which is why I applaud Black Lives Matter,” King said.

The civil rights leader said that, in this political

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LaMarcus Burns succeeding against all odds



Pearlean Nash with son LeMarcus Burns at the Sunflower County Parents and Students United office. PHOTO BY BEYOND EXPECTATIONS PRODUCTIONS

By Othor Cain
Editor

On the day traditionally observed as a day of service, in honor of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr., I traveled to Indianola, Miss. to meet 11 year old LaMarcus Burns and his mother.

LaMarcus, a fifth grade student at Carver Elementary School, a “D” rated school based on the 2017 Accountability Rankings recently released by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). Carver sits within the Sunflower County Consolidated School District.

In 2012, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant signed into law Senate Bill 2330, that required the merging of the Sunflower County, Drew and the Indianola School Districts, all of which were under

state control because of varied reasons including, accreditation issues, misuse of funds and sexual allegations. The law went into effect for the 2014 school year. A countywide school board was elected in November 2013.

Sunflower County Consolidated School District is currently ranked as an “F” district based on ratings from MDE.

On this cold wintry morning, LaMarcus, a special needs yet energetic young man was armed with a video game and a big bright smile when I met him at the offices of Sunflower County Parents and Students United, a community-non-profit organization that works to empower parents and help them navigate through the educational system, a place where LaMarcus and his

mother Pearlean Nash are very familiar with. “This place and its executive director Betty Petty have become a safe haven for us,” Nash shared. “I was referred to Ms. Betty and I’m glad I made that call.”

Nash, like most parents in the Mississippi Delta want “more” for her son. “He’s a good kid and shouldn’t be punished because of his health conditions,” she shared. “His learning experience shouldn’t be hindered because teachers are not equipped to deal with a child with special needs.”

LaMarcuss, has been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyper-Activity Disorder (ADHD) and is currently wearing a pacemaker. His mom describes him as a caring young man who lacks the ability to express how he’s

feeling. “When he’s dealing with something or his feelings are hurt, he normally retreats to silence or shyness...he’s not going to tell you,” Nash said. “He suffers in silence.”

Watching LaMarcus and understanding his behavior, Nash would receive calls from his school constantly complaining about him being disruptive. “In this one particular teacher’s class, LaMarcus would always get in trouble and punished with in-school suspension,” she said. “It was chronic suspension.”

After repeated conversations with school officials where she shared medical records and asked for assistance, Nash was at her wits end. “I had done all that I

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Civil rights veteran Rep. Lewis being honored in Mississippi

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Democratic U.S. Rep. John Lewis of Georgia will speak at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, months after refusing to join President Donald Trump there.

A private group called Friends of Mississippi Civil Rights Inc. announced Tuesday that it will give awards to Lewis, who helped lead the historic 1965 march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama; and Democratic Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, who also was active in the civil rights movement.

Events are set for Feb. 23 and 24 at the museum, which adjoins the Museum of Mississippi History in downtown Jackson.

When Mississippi Republican Gov. Phil Bryant invited Trump to the Dec. 9 opening of the two museums as part of the state’s bicentennial celebration, Lewis called it an “insult” to people who worked for racial equality.

Trump took a private tour of the museums and spoke for about 10 minutes to a group of invited guests inside, including some civil rights veterans.

People protested a few blocks from the museums, with some chanting, “No Trump, no Hate, no KKK in the USA.”

NAACP national President Derrick Johnson and Jackson Mayor Chokwe

Lewis
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In this Nov. 29, 2017, file photo, Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., and other members of the House Democratic Caucus leave a meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington. Lewis will speak at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, months after refusing to join President Donald Trump there. A private group called Friends of Mississippi Civil Rights Inc. announced Tuesday, Jan. 16, that it will give an award to Lewis, who helped lead the historic 1965 march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala. AP PHOTO/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE, FILE



Reflections on Soror Rosie L.T. Pridgen-Johnson



Pridgen-Johnson

The State of Mississippi of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. mourns the loss of Rosie L.T. Pridgen Johnson, Ph.D, our beloved sorority sister. Dr. Pridgen-Johnson was the epitome of finer womanhood, scholarship, sisterhood and service

Dr. Pridgen-Johnson was always the voice of reason. She had a wealth of knowledge which she freely shared. She was a woman of high moral character. She was an enthusiastic team player who loved her sorority and lived our oath.

"While she was Dr. Pridgen-Johnson to many, to her sorority sisters in Mississippi she was fondly know as "Soror Rosie." I first met Soror Rosie when I was at Alcorn State University over 30 years ago. At that moment, I noticed a young woman who was passionate about Zeta and passionate about representing the sisterhood with the utmost of elegance and grace. When Soror Rosie spoke, everyone listened. When she made suggestions, everyone agreed.

"When I became the Mississippi State Director almost six years ago, Dr. Pridgen-Johnson always offered love, support and sound advice during my administration. Just weeks before her passing, she informed me of her excitement to attend our Annual State Leadership Conference which will be held in March. She was a proud Mississippi Zeta, and supported her state in every way possible.

"There is no doubt that the life and legacy of Soror Rosie L.T. Pridgen-Johnson has reached and touched thousands of people across Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Yes, we are saddened, and yes, we will miss her, but we will continue the work of Zeta, in memory of our beloved Soror Rosie, with professionalism, sophistication, style and class, just as she would."

Serving for the Love of Zeta,
Vanessa R. Banks
Mississippi State Director
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Rosie... Rosie... Rosie, God really smiled on me when HE connected Rosie and me as friends. Then we became BEST friends.

For 40 years we shared a very special bond. Our friendship was built upon respect, trust, sisterly love, finer womanhood, everyday frank conversations and fun. We always enjoyed doing things together – football games, traveling, shopping, family gatherings, cooking or daily conversations on the phone.

Wherever we were, in the same city,

in another state and even in another country, we would always talk or send a text, just to stay in touch.

Today, my heart is really hurting. Where do I go from here now that Rosie is not here? Rosie, would certainly have an answer. She would say as she did on many occasions," It is what it is"... "Tie another knot and hold on," That is what I will try to do. As soon as the hot tears stop...and my heart starts to heal...I will pull from the nuggets of our numerous conversations and the values we shared and awesome reflec-

tions of the way we were...the wonderful memories of all the outstanding times that we had together. .the strong bond that we shared...the confidence in knowing that my friend would surely tell me to, "lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help."

In the days ahead the joy of the Lord will surely be my strength. God is now smiling as HE welcomes HIS angel, HIS servant and MY best friend home. I am so thankful for the time that I was blessed to have a very best friend.

LaVerne Gentry, Ph.D.

"Dr. Rosie L.T. Pridgen-Johnson was a trail-blazer and integral part of the Zeta Organizational Leadership Team. Her presence was a catalyst for quality. A friend, a leader and always striving for excellence, Rosie will hold a place in my heart and the hearts of the Sisterhood." – Dr. Mary Breaux Wright, International President, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.

The Zeta Organizational Leadership (ZOL) Program is a future-focused, nationally-structured intensified leadership training program that serves as the blue print for the leadership development and enhancement efforts of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. It was designed to ensure a future talent pool of leadership for Zeta on the national level of the sorority by delivering consistent, high quality training.

Dr. Pridgen-Johnson served on this committee from 2003 to 2018. In 2012, International Grand President Mary Breaux Wright re-appointed her as the co-chairperson of the ZOL Committee. She was later appointed chairperson. She has been instrumental in developing the current training methodologies used by the committee.

Listed below are reflections from the

2017 ZOL Steering Committee

"I have known Rosie for over 25 years. My thoughts of Rosie are of a woman who was calm; one who was always there to be the "voice of reason." She was always level-headed and never let anyone see her sweat. She was a true servant leader. Rest in peace my dear soror; my sister regional director; my friend; my ZOL steering committee team member." – Dr. Nell Williams Ingram, chair of the National Executive Board of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

"Working with Rosie was a humbling experience. She would strive for excellence in all that she did and had a way of making you want to excel to reach your full potential. When she walked into a room, you could not help but be amazed by her grace and style. She was the epitome of all of Zeta's principles. Her legacy will live on in the lives of those she touched." – Cheryl Brown, 2017 ZOL chairperson, Andrea Buckley and E. Fran Johnson

"Prior to serving with Dr. Rosie Pridgen-Johnson on the ZOL Steering Committee, I had the privilege of working with her in the South Central Region. Rosie's deep devotion, her quiet strength, sound judgment and loving

spirit will be forever cherished in the hearts of the countless lives she positively impacted." – Vicki Hammock, 2017 ZOL co-chairperson

"Rosie Johnson was such a beautiful person and could always see the positive in any situation. She had a way of making you feel as if you were the most important person in the room. Her cool calm nature could soothe almost any situation. I learned so much from her and truly enjoyed these last few years serving on the ZOL Team with Dr. Rosie Pridgen Johnson, a true Zeta Lady and Finer Woman." – Denisha L. Hendricks, EdD, National Director of Undergraduate Advisors

"One of God's beautiful angels – A Christian Woman of good works, prayer and faith. A Zeta Lady for all seasons with a heart of gold. As a member of the ZOL Team, Dr. Rosie Johnson was very professional, dedicated and an outstanding leader. She was admired and respected by all because of her pleasant personality, humble spirit and encouraging attitude. Rest my sister. One day we will meet in that great Boule' that will never end. Peace my dear Soror and felicity to your soul." – Donnie Faye Hull, National Director of Amicae Affairs
See photos on page 19.

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Burns

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could...all that I knew how to do,” she said. “I knew my child needed to be in school and I knew that I wasn’t getting any where.”

Nearly two years ago, Congress passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – an update to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) – which provides new opportunities for states, districts and schools to ensure that all students have access to the crucial resources they need to be successful. The law also requires that schools and districts actively involve families, students and community members in key decisions about the future of schools and school districts.

The door is now open for advocates and parents across the country, to support students who need it the most. Understanding this new law and with a burning desire to help, Petty, gladly accepted the call and charge to help Nash and her son. “I’m an advocate for LaMarcus, a very bright young man and I’m committed to making sure he has all the resources and tools he needs to be successful,” Petty said. “I’m here to help his mom navigate through the system, to be in on the decision making process and not bear this burden alone.”

Nash says Petty and others have been a God-send. “LaMarcus just needs a little bit of extra help and guidance on his journey through school,” she said. “I’m on this journey with him

and these groups that are helping are a blessing from God.”

LaMarcus, like most 5th graders, enjoys sports, video games and being outside. He wants a normal life. “I know what going to school means, I know I’ve got to get a good education,” he said in between highlights from his video game. “I’m just tired of getting in trouble for things I didn’t do or can’t control.”

LaMarcus loves math and his math teacher. “He makes it easy to understand and he makes it fun,” he said. “I wish all of my teachers were like that.”

Wanting to make sure that LaMarcus is getting a well-rounded and balanced education, several organizations are collaborating to ensure he succeeds. Operating under the banner Partners for Each and Every Child, a collaborative, nonpartisan network of education researchers, advocacy organizations and policy experts who are committed to educational excellence for each and every child. They work to advance sound educational policies that are responsive to the needs of at-risk, under-served and politically underrepresented students. This collaboration, beginning with LaMarcus in Sunflower County, and with a goal of working with every school district in the state.

Next week, in part two of our three part series, get to know the partners and the work they do.

Lewis

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Antar Lumumba also skipped the museums’ opening because of Trump and said at an alternate event that day that they looked forward to a “grander opening” later.

Lewis will give a lecture Feb. 24 at the civil rights museum, which features a gallery of black-and-white jail mug shots of Lewis and other Freedom Riders arrested in 1961 in Jackson while challenging segregated interstate buses.

The Museum of Mississippi History takes a 15,000-year view, from the Stone Age through modern times. The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum concentrates on the intense span from 1945 to 1976. The two museums are funded by state money and private donations. They attracted more than 10,000 visitors the first weekend they were open and an additional 25,000 during the rest of December.

MLK

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climate, it will be essential to mobilize diverse groups of people.

“This election coming up in November is important, because we need a stopgap in Congress, because this president doesn’t have an understanding of what goes on in communities of color,” King said.

King continued: “Right now, the Republicans have the presidency, the House and the Senate, but, this coming election creates prospects of one or both houses being flipped to people who would have some sensitivity to issues [related to civil and human rights].”

King, the National Newspaper Publishers Association 2017 Lifetime Legacy Award recipient, is calling on African-American groups, Hispanics, women’s organization, the LGBTQ community and others to get out and vote.

“That is what needs to happen in November so that come January 2019, we can get legislation that will help,” he said.

King said his mother deserves a lot of credit for his father’s success and for keeping his legacy alive.

“My mom is partially responsible for what my dad’s legacy is, today, because she stayed on the battlefield and lived 40 years beyond my dad and she was able to establish the King Center just months after he died and this year will be 50 years since she did that,” King said.

He recalled his father’s famous, “I Have a Dream,” speech and declared that the dream has yet to be fully realized.

“The dream has not been fulfilled. There’s an aspect that’s been accomplished, because we have African-American billionaires and that was part of the dream, but we still have African Americans in poverty, we disproportionately lead the pack in every major area whether its heart disease, diabetes or hypertension, because of the level of stress that we as a people are forced to live under,” he said, adding that racism in today’s society contributes to that stress.

“We’ve seen communities from around the world, those that come here and are able to start a business, get a business loan while we’ve been here forever and we’re not able to get business loans,” said King. “This isn’t to suggest that we should have a victim’s mentality but you have to acknowledge the problem and know that you can overcome it.”

Living in the shadows of his dad isn’t easy, but it provides certain unique opportunities to contribute, King said.

“If I attempted to wake up and live in his shoes, I’d fail miserably, but it’s a major blessing to have his name and to try to carry it in such a way to make my parents proud,” he said. “I want to continue the legacy that my parents forged – a legacy of fighting for freedom, justice and equality for all.”

Finally, King reminisced about his father’s close relationship with the Black Press.

“Not just ownership, but the writers for the Black Press. Papers like the *Chicago Defender*, the *Atlanta Daily World*, the newspapers in Washington,” said King. “The Black Press was tremendously important then and it is important now, because that’s where we get our information.”

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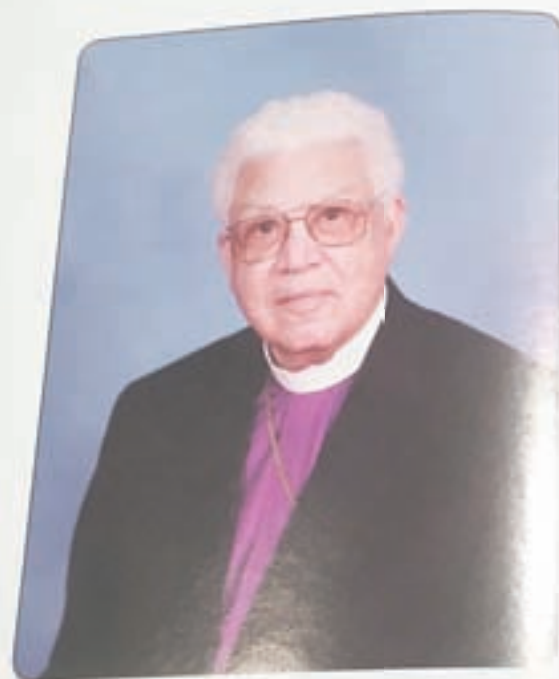
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Pictorial Highlights of the Celebration of Life of Bishop Hollis Musgrove

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

Mississippi Link Newswire

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

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

Three JPS elementary schools and one middle school earned an “A” rating. The district’s A schools are:

- Baker Elementary
- Davis Magnet Elementary
- Power APAC Elementary
- Bailey APAC Middle



Recognition of C-rated schools, from left – Interim Superintendent Fredrick Murray; Shawn Terrell, Provine; Alvanette Buchanan, Murrah; Wanda Quon, Pecan Park; and LaToya Burge Blackshear, Clausell



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

The nine schools that received a “B” rating are:

- Barr Elementary
- Casey Elementary
- Isable Elementary
- Key Elementary

- Lake Elementary
- Lee Elementary
- Spann Elementary
- McWillie Elementary
- Northwest Middle

Two high schools were among



Murray, left, and principals of A-rated schools – Christie Hollingshead, Bailey APAC; Sandra Reed, Power APAC; Kathleen Grigsby, Davis Magnet; Shaunna Nicholson-Johnson, Baker



Schools that advanced one letter grade, from left – Murray; Barr Principal Linda Murray (accepting for Poindexter Elementary); Jennifer Baker, interventionist, Boyd Elementary; Michael McDonald, principal, Lanier High; and Chuoconna Anderson, principal, Callaway High

the district’s “C” rated schools:

- Pecan Park Elementary
- Clausell Elementary
- Murrah High
- Provine High

Two schools, Lake Elemen-

tary and Spann Elementary, improved from F ratings in 2015-16 to B ratings in 2016-17. Additionally, the following schools were recognized for improving one letter grade:

- Poindexter Elementary*
- Boyd Elementary
- Callaway High
- Lanier High

JPS experienced several significant accomplishments including:

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

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

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

View the complete 2016-17 accountability results for Mississippi schools and districts.

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

2017 District Reading Fair



Pinkalicious and the Cupcake Calamity



Harold and the Purple Crayon



From the Notebooks of a Middle School Princess



Basketball



Luke Goes to Bat



Captain Underpants

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USM alumna takes flute to new heights with debut album

The Mississippi Link Newswire

University of Southern Mississippi alumna Christopher Leigh hopes to change people's perceptions and impressions of the flute with her debut album "Infrared."

The self-published album, released last month, features songs combining classical flute with a pop/rock flare. Leigh, who earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from USM in 2012, notes that the album also includes "big" songs that sound as though they burst from a movie soundtrack.

"I think one of my main goals with the project was basically to just let people know I'm here and that I'm trying to do something that I think is a little different and, hopefully, interesting," said Leigh, who recorded the album at Infrared Studio Productions in Little Rock, Ark. "I also wanted to turn people on to music they might not normally listen to and change their perceptions about what the flute can do and be and sound like."

For example: "I don't think people expect to hear distortion or overdrive on a flute," she noted.

Leigh, 33, credits professors at USM for advancing her drive to infuse the flute's classical stylings with a harder rock edge.

"Although I was a classically trained musician, I always had aspirations of doing something a little bit different," said Leigh. "I love classical music and I love rock n' roll, and I had been wanting for years to combine the two genres. My teachers at USM were in full support of the idea and really encouraged me to pursue it."

A Jackson, Mississippi native, Leigh spent her formative years in Little Rock, where she currently resides. She obtained her undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Central Arkansas.

Leigh is not currently signed to a record label – a fact that does not discourage or hinder her dreams. She points out that the avenues for self-promotion and distribution are much more prevalent today for artists, thanks to social media.

"This was very much a DIY project, which I think a lot of musicians are doing these days," she said. "It's not difficult to put yourself and your work out there for the rest of the world to see and experience as I think it used to be. With platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube, you can potentially have eyes on you from around the world in just minutes."

Leigh's musical influences cover a vast spectrum – from classical artists such as Bond and Vanessa Mae, to vintage rock acts like The Beatles, David Bowie, Allman Brothers, Golden Ear-



USM alumna Christopher Leigh's new album "Infrared" features songs combining classical flute with a pop/rock flare.

ring and Bad Company.

Leigh's immediate desire and ultimate goal with her debut album is to reach as many people as possible, particularly those unfamiliar with professional flutists. She also hopes to travel and perform – either in a group dynamic or solo.

"I want to try to engage more people with what I do and hopefully they will become interested in listening to my brand of music," she said. "It's a difficult sort of trial and error process at times, but it's fun, too."

To learn more about Christopher Leigh's music, visit: <https://www.christopherleighmusic.com/home-1>

About The University of Southern Mississippi

Founded in 1910, The University of Southern Mississippi is a comprehensive doctoral and research-driven university with a proud history and an eye on the future. A dual-campus university, Southern Miss serves students on campuses in Hattiesburg and Long Beach,

in addition to five teaching and research sites in Mississippi and through Online at Southern Miss. Since 2006, our students have collected three Truman Scholarships and 17 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. USM students also lead Mississippi with 21 Goldwater Scholarships, an honor that recognizes the next generation of great research scientists. Our Drapeau Center for Undergraduate Research affords our students meaningful research opportunities, and as a proven leader in innovation, we conduct transformative research that translates into real-world solutions. As one of only 36 institutions in the nation accredited in theatre, art and design, dance and music, we are a haven for creativity and artistic expression. In the classroom or lab, on the playing field, or in the performance hall, we strive to have a positive impact not only on our students, but also the world around us.

Further information is found at usm.edu.

Bettie E. Woolfolk Middle School to celebrate National School Choice Week

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Yazoo City, Miss – Bettie E. Woolfolk Middle School will be holding an event to celebrate National School Choice Week 2018 at 3 p.m. Wednesday, January 24, in the gymnasium.

National School Choice Week is the nation's largest-ever celebration of opportunity in education featuring 20,000 plus participating schools.

WMS is a traditional public school serving grades 6 to 8 with a student enrollment of 504.

This event will feature scholars performing their arts and talents.

The event is open to students, students' parents, teachers and staff.

The school is located at 209 East 5th Street, Yazoo City, MS 39194.

For more information about the event, visit yazoocity.k12.ms.us or contact Barbara Henderson.



What?

Mississippi Public Broadcasting, Jackson State University and Tougaloo College, invite you to a preview screening of the new documentary by Stanley Nelson, *Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities*.

Featuring:

- A preview screening of the feature documentary *Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities* at the Mississippi e-Center in Jackson.
- A Q&A session with multiple Emmy award-winning and National Humanities Medalist documentarian Stanley Nelson, President Beverly Wade Hogan (Tougaloo College) and other distinguished guest.
- Reception following the program.

When?

Thursday, January 25, 2018 | 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Where?

Mississippi e-Center at Jackson State University
1230 Raymond Rd.
Jackson, MS 39204



RSVP

This event is free and open to the public but does require registration. RSVP today to reserve your seat. Seating is limited.

RSVP

Support Provided By:



This program is part of American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen, a public media initiative made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

For more information contact:
Erica Shelton
601-432-6436

See what's happening on our social sites:



mpbonline.org

Clinton Public School District Key Communicator

Tech Teacher of the Month



Congratulations to Tech Teacher of the Month, Abigail Kanicka at Northside. Kanicka developed a lesson where students created digital story maps using the Pic Collage app after reading a book on MyOn. Congrats and keep up the good work.

API president touts economic opportunities for blacks in the oil industry

By Freddie Allen
Editor-In-Chief, NNPA Newswire

Jack Gerard, the president and CEO of the American Petroleum Institute, said that there are incredible career and business opportunities in the petrochemical industry and he's committed to increasing awareness about those prospects in the black and Hispanic communities.

API is a national trade association that represents all facets of the oil and natural gas industry, according to the group's website, and its membership includes "large integrated companies, as well as exploration and production, refining, marketing, pipeline, and marine businesses, and service and supply firms."

In 2015, the natural gas industry supported more than four million jobs across the U.S. "from production to end uses such as manufacturing," the State of American Energy 2018 report said. "The number is expected to rise to 6 million jobs by 2040."

Gerard said that if you look at the energy industry, in general, there are still emerging opportunities for new job creation, low-cost affordable energy and export markets.

"The sky is the limit, to some degree, in our ability to expand and grow and I think that's exciting, particularly from the job perspective side," said Gerard. "What we're trying to do is broaden our base particularly in the black community about the opportunities that are avail-



Jack Gerard, president and CEO of API, said that the Black Press can play a critical role in educating the black community about business opportunities in the petrochemical industry. FREDDIE ALLEN/AMG/NNPA

able."

That's why Gerard has committed to speaking to students at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to dispel some of the myths about the petrochemical industry; some believe that many of the jobs are on oil rigs in Texas or Oklahoma.

"We've got to find those partnerships, everything from individual students, who are just rising up to begin to consider their own careers, to small businesses to opportunities all the way up to the C-suite," said Gerard.

People who work in the oil and natural gas industry are engineers, accountants and designers; they work in marketing, finance and transportation, Gerard said

Gerard said that the Black Press can play a number roles in educating the black community

about the opportunities in the oil and natural gas industry.

"We need to identify African-American leaders currently in the oil and natural gas industry and profile them; let them talk about their successes, let them share their stories with others," said Gerard. "We also have to continue our efforts to reach out and educate the community so that people just don't think that [only a handful of people] got lucky. No, no these opportunities are for everybody."

The president and CEO of API also said that the oil and natural gas industry must do a better job with communicating a clear message about the impact of the industry on everyday life.

The 2018 State of American Energy report noted that everything from artificial heart valves and air bags to seat belts and as-

tronaut's space suits are made with petroleum-based products.

Gerard added that the contributions of the oil and natural gas industry extend to the ubiquitous smartphones that millions of Americans use every day.

"The majority of the products and the components in that smartphone come to you via petroleum products, natural gas and oil," said Gerard. "Without natural gas and oil, you couldn't build that smartphone the way you use it today, even down to the circuitry that makes it such a high-tech instrument."

Gerard said that it's important that African Americans turn their focus toward the oil and natural gas industry, because the career and business opportunities will only continue to grow.

"We've got a lot of African-American groups that are apart from our strategy to better understand those interests and secondarily how to communicate and educate [the black community] about those opportunities," said Gerard. "We just have to stay at it; we have to persevere. We can't get frustrated after six months, and say 'well, its not working as fast as we would like it to.'"

Gerard continued: "These are long-term objectives. We're already gaining some traction. These are generational challenges that don't [change] overnight. We've got to keep pushing the understanding and the opportunity in the African-American community."

President Trump continues to deride African nations during immigration debate



President Donald Trump called Haiti and African nations "sh—hole countries," during a meeting about immigration reform with U.S. lawmakers. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By Freddie Allen
Editor-In-Chief, NNPA Newswire

Civil rights groups and lawmakers on Capitol Hill condemned racially hostile comments that President Donald Trump made during a recent meeting about immigration reform with Democrats and Republicans at the White House.

The New York Times reported: "President Trump on Thursday balked at an immigration deal that would include protections for people from Haiti and some nations in Africa, demanding to know at a White House meeting why he should accept immigrants from 'sh—hole countries' rather than from places like Norway, according to people with direct knowledge of the conversation."

The U.S. congressmen that attended the meeting, according to *The New York Times*, included: Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.); Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.); Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.); Senator David Perdue (R-Ga.); Senator Tom Cotton (R-Ark.); Representative Robert W. Goodlatte (R-Va.).

Trump's disparaging comments received quick condemnation in the civil rights community and across the political spectrum.

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association tweeted: "It is a glaring contradiction that as the U.S. is preparing to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr as a national holiday, President Trump utters racist statements against Africa and people of color."

In a statement about the President's comments posted to her Twitter account, Rep. Mia Love (R-Utah), the only Republican serving in the U.S. House of Representatives of Haitian descent, said that his "behavior is unacceptable from the leader of our nation."

Love continued: "My parents came from one of those countries but proudly took the oath of allegiance to the Unites States and took on the responsibilities of everything that being a citizen comes with. They never took a thing from our federal government. They worked hard, paid taxes and rose from nothing to take care of and provide opportunities for their children. They taught their children to do the same. That's the American Dream."

Love added that Trump must apologize to "the American people and the nations he so wantonly maligned."

Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-La.), the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, said that President Trump's comments are yet another confirmation of his racially insensitive and ignorant views.

"It also reinforces the concerns that we hear every day, that the President's slogan Make Ameri-

ca Great Again is really code for Make America White Again," said Richmond.

Richmond continued: "All of the reservations we have had about negotiating with him on immigration are well-founded. President Trump is clearly more concerned with ending the future flow of immigrants from Africa and the African diaspora than providing relief to Dreamers who came here through no fault of their own. Unfortunately, there is no reason to believe that we can negotiate in good faith with a person who holds such vile and reprehensible beliefs."

Marc Morial, the president and CEO of the National Urban League, said Trump's crude statement regarding immigration from Haiti and African nations is appalling for its lack of compassion, and stunning for its ignorance about the contributions of Haitian and African immigrants.

"Even more troubling was the fact that his slur was coupled with a desire for more immigration from overwhelmingly white countries like Norway," said Morial. "Congress must reject this divisive and racially-discriminatory approach to immigration policy."

Rev. Al Sharpton, the president and founder of National Action Network (NAN), said that Trump's deplorable statements while meeting with a bipartisan group of lawmakers at the White House regarding an immigration deal go beyond racial insensitivity.

"For the President to make these remarks just after he was quoted as saying all Haitians have AIDS and Nigerians live in huts, demonstrates a consistent pattern of racism and bigotry. It is further concerning that he is doing it in policy meetings that will impact laws in this country and abroad," said Sharpton. "Trump uses white nationalist rhetoric to continue to explicitly defile, disrespect and destroy communities of color. His lack of presidential decorum is a disgrace to our country's highest office."

Sharpton continued: "We must challenge the Senate and Congress to repudiate President Trump's comments and every senator that was in that meeting should publicly denounce him. They should also explain why they didn't say anything in the meeting – and if they fail to answer they should be targeted by the civil rights community as accomplices."

Sharpton said that Trump's comments were the ultimate disrespect to hundreds of communities who believe in the American Dream – the same dream of equality and justice that Dr. King had.

"We will not let Trump or his administration forget these words when we vote this year or in 2020," Sharpton said.

I moved to Florida and struggled to find the right schools for my children

By Donna Fletcher
Conference coordinator, National Science Teachers Association

As a parent, I recognize that I am my children's biggest advocate and I work hard to make sure that they have the best learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom.

When I relocated from Washington, D.C. to Florida, I struggled to find schools that were rigorous in their instruction, included strong community and parental involvement, provided a diverse selection of extracurricular activities and offered the support services my children needed.

Eventually, I found a school that met the majority of my expectations, but that school was located in a different county. As a result, I relocated to an address within that area.

With a background in education and familiarity with the District of Columbia Public Schools system (DCPS) through my older children, I constantly found myself comparing the materials being taught at my children's elementary school to the lessons that were taught in DCPS over 15 years earlier. To my chagrin, my younger children were lagging far behind, academically.

Therefore, my search to find a more rigorous academic program led me to placing my younger children in a private, Christian-based school. However, I have found that while private schools promote a superior academic experience, in actuality, they lack more than they deliver. Academic rigor, commu-

COMMENTARY

nity and parental involvement, extracurricular activities and the passion needed to encourage the love of learning were all missing from the private school my children attended. Thus, my search continues.

The new national education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), gives more power back to states to determine their own academic standards, but provides several grant opportunities to ensure school districts are implementing evidenced-based interventions to improve academic achievement. Student Support and Enrichment Grants combine several programs from No Child Left Behind to improve academic achievement by providing all students with funding for improved school conditions, well-rounded learning and efficient use of technology.

Title IV, Part B of ESSA also provides opportunities for communities to expand or establish community learning centers, which provide a broad array of resources; including meaningful parent engagement.

Florida has updated its academic standards in an attempt to align them with college-and-career-ready expectations twice, since 2011; the most recent update occurred in 2015. However, Florida's ESSA plan does not explain the process through which updates have occurred. Florida does attempt to emphasize a well-rounded education by including progress in science and social studies as an indica-

tor of school success. However, Florida fails to include progress in English Language Proficiency (ELP) as an indicator of school success and will only provide assessment instructions in English; despite a diverse student population.

Furthermore, Florida does not incorporate student subgroup (race/ethnicity) data in its school grading system. Student subgroup data will only be reported on school report cards. This process does not guarantee struggling subgroups will be identified and supported.

Florida proposes to use a simple A-F grading system to identify underperforming schools. For schools that do not earn a "C" grade after two years, the plan calls for the schools to close or turn over operations to a charter or an external operator.

While schools are held accountable for continued failure, as a parent, I am concerned about the impact on students who are enrolled during the two-year improvement period.

Lastly, Florida does not explain how it will use the set-aside Title I dollars for school improvement or how the state will encourage the equitable distribution of funds. Overall, while the plan clearly articulates its intentions, it provides little explanation for how the stated goals will be achieved.

How can I, as a parent, get more involved and engaged to help advocate for my children? For my children, who are in the middle of the pack, how can they receive resources to accelerate their abilities to the

next level? How does Florida's ESSA Plan empower parents to choose higher-performing schools with very few available spots for students zoned to underperforming schools?

Florida's ESSA plan is not an all-encompassing document; specifically as it relates to the lack of information regarding explanations for funding, school accountability and amended academic standards. The consolidated state plan should be viewed as one additional resource in the search to find answers and be empowered to impact our children's education.

As a parent, I believe my goal is to support instruction received inside the classroom by fostering added learning through enriching opportunities outside the classroom. As a parent, I recognize, I am my child's biggest advocate.

The ESSA resource website created by the National Newspaper Publishers Association is a great tool for parents looking to increase their engagement within the school system. Visiting the site frequently has provided me with information, research and the inspiration to keep pursuing my children's best academic interest.

Donna Fletcher is a mother to eight children, Conference coordinator for the National Science Teachers Association, and a fierce parent advocate. Fletcher has a bachelor of arts in psychology from the University of the District of Columbia and a masters in human development from George Washington University.

MS House of Representatives passes additional road and bridge funding legislation

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Recently the Mississippi House of Representatives passed an additional measure that will dedicate a new annual income stream to cities and counties for road and bridge maintenance.

House Bill 722 will create a new diversion of state use-tax collections, directing funds back to the cities and the counties to be used for road and bridge maintenance. This move is a re-direction of existing dollars.

House Bill 722 passed by a bipartisan vote of 118-0.

“This is one of the best things we’ve done for local government,” said Speaker of the House Philip Gunn. “Our efforts will put money back in the hands of the local people. This increases the diversions back to cities and counties, which is something our mayors and supervisors have been requesting for years.”

Use-tax is gathered from sales tax collected on any out-of-state purchases, including those made

online. Approximately \$310 million was collected last year. The new diversion will divert 35 percent of use tax collections, which is approximately \$108 million by today’s estimates.

The diversion would be broken down as follows to be used toward road and bridge repair:

- 15 percent of all use tax collections (approximately \$46.5 million by today’s estimates) of use tax collected will go to cities, dispersed in proportion with their current sales tax diversion

- 15 percent of all use tax collections (approximately \$46.5 million by today’s estimates) of use tax will go to counties, dispersed according to their current state aid road formula.

- 5 percent of all use tax collections (approximately \$15.5 million by today’s estimates) will fund an annual grant program administered through Mississippi Development Authority where cities and counties can request up to \$1.5 million additional funding per road and bridge project.

Assists at State Capitol



Justice Gillian of Jackson recently served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff. Justice is pictured with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, who sponsored her visit. Justice is the daughter of State Capitol police Lt. Gary and Janice Gillian and attends Terry High School. When asked about the week, Justice said, “Watching the senators in session opened my eyes to the processes that are taken to better our community. I have tremendous respect for the time and passion each senator puts forth for their community.”

Legislative Doctor of the Day



Dr. Shawn McKinney of Ridgeland, a breast surgeon at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, served as Legislative Doctor of the Day at the Capitol Thursday, January 11. In that capacity, Dr. McKinney was available to provide emergency medical treatment to lawmakers and critical staff. Dr. McKinney is standing with Senator Walter Michel, who introduced her to the senate.

For information about advertising in **The Mississippi Link** please call: 601-896-0084

Beat winter’s chill without cranking up your heating bill

Implement energy-saving tips to reduce usage and save money

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Very cold weather is moving into much of Mississippi again this weekend, and it will likely be a long time before the warmer temperatures of spring return. That means now is the time to implement energy-saving tips so you can reduce your usage and keep more cash in your wallet.

“Saving on energy costs doesn’t have to mean giving up comfort,” said Robbin Jeter, Entergy Mississippi vice president of customer service. “There are many quick and inexpensive do-it-yourself projects that can help keep your home warm and keep the cold out.”

Here are the top five winter energy savers:

- Adjust the thermostat. During the winter months, grab a sweater or a blanket to stay toasty, and set the thermostat to 68 degrees. Every degree higher can add three percent to your bill. So if you crank the heat up to 78 degrees, you’ve already added 30 percent.

- Conserve hot water. Wrap your electric water heater with a water heater blanket that can be found at your local home improvement store and set the thermostat to 120 degrees or medium.

- Replace air and furnace filters every 30 days or as required by the type of filter.

- When you change your light bulbs, replace them with newer, energy-efficient models that use less energy and last longer than incandescent bulbs.

- Seal air leaks. Install weather stripping around your doors, windows and any location where there may be a path between the inside and outside of your home.

Other tips include:

- Keep all doors and win-



dows closed when the heat is on.

- Open drapes to let warm sunlight in during the day. Close them at night to reduce heat loss.

- Schedule a heating system checkup with a licensed professional if you haven’t already done so.

- Do not block heat registers or air returns with curtains or furniture.

- Close the damper on fireplaces when not in use.

- Set the thermostat back to 55 degrees if away from home for several days.

More tips, as well as clear, do-it-yourself videos, to help put these ideas to work can be found at entergy.com/save-money. Customers can also visit Entergy Solutions, a program that offers incentives and rebates on a variety of energy-efficiency upgrades

year-round.

“Extreme temperatures in any season can bring spikes in your energy usage,” Jeter said. “Now is also a good time to sign up for Level Billing which helps eliminate spikes by paying an average amount each month. This is extremely helpful in managing budgets.”

Other convenient payment options include:

- Pick-A-Date, which lets customers choose the date when their bills are due.

- Automatic Monthly Payments, which save customers the trouble of writing and mailing checks.

Entergy also helps elderly and disabled low-income customers through its customer-assistance fund, The Power to Care, which is funded by Entergy employees, customers and shareholders.

To find out how to get this

or other types of bill payment assistance, or to contribute to the fund, visit entergy-mississippi.com or check the donation box on your monthly bill.

Entergy Mississippi, Inc. provides electricity to approximately 445,000 customers in 45 counties. Entergy Corporation is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations. Entergy owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, including nearly 9,000 megawatts of nuclear power. Entergy delivers electricity to 2.9 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy has annual revenues of approximately \$10.8 billion and nearly 13,000 employees.

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Live our life worthy of the Lord, be imitators of Christ

PART 2

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



It is a great honor to serve our Savior and live our lives for Him. But our Lord, Jesus has given us a very precise code of conduct. He has high expectations of us. If we fail to live up to what He asks of us, we bring shame on His Name. The Apostle Paul reminds us and all believers in Christ, we are called to sacred duty. The Christians in the city of Colosse were in need of guidance and encouragement. False teachers had been leading the congregation astray. The Colossians were confused about what it meant to live as Christians. As he did in a number of his other inspired letters, the Apostle Paul directed his readers back to the basic of

the faith. He reviewed the undeserved love that God showed the world by sending His Son as the substitute for sinners. He clearly teaches that Christ paid for sin, Christ has reconciled us to God and Christ gives us the pattern and the power to grow spiritually. Whenever Paul went, he preached the Gospel – to Gentile audiences, to hostile Jewish leaders and even to his Roman guards. Whenever people believed in the message that Paul spoke, they were changed. God’s Word is not for our information, it is for our transformation. Becoming a Christian means beginning a whole new relationship with God, not just turning over a new leaf or determining to do right. New believers have a changed purpose, direction, attitude, and behavior. They are no longer seeking

to serve themselves, but they are bearing fruit for God. How is the Gospel reaching others through your life? The best witnesses and evangelists will always be those that are truly gripped with the goodness of the Good News of who God is and what God has done for them in Christ. God’s plan to reach people with the Gospel is the church. We can make no greater investment of our resources than to help churches become infectious communities of Gospel-gripped people motivated and equipped to bring others into God’s family. People need to enjoy God and the Gospel. A highly motivated community of Christians will not have much impact on their local culture if they live in isolation from it. Not only is the church in the Book of Acts an example to us, so is Jesus

Himself. He was known as a friend of sinners. Sadly too many churches are full of people that feel their main job is to find ways to avoid contact with non-Christians. As leaders and members of churches, let us lead by example and let us encourage others through our teaching. We must set an example by finding some way to connect with people that may have no other contact with true Christians. Our local churches need to be communities that connect with those around them. Next week Part III “Live your life worthy of the Lord, be imitators of Christ.” 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

Still waiting on God

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be merciful to those who doubt. – Jude 21-22 “Oh forms, where are you?” I jokingly called out a few years ago not really expecting my financial information for my taxes to say, “Here we are!” I sat on my bed and thought about the last place I saw them. Not finding them there, I retraced my steps to the last place I remember seeing them and but still no forms. I could only laugh because I remember making a point to put the documents in a place that I wouldn’t forget..but now couldn’t remember where that was. As I was walking around and going in and out of boxes, I repeated, “I know God that you know where they are, show me where they are.” Within 10 minutes of me saying that, I reached into a box and pulled out the forms. Even though I thanked God for allowing me to find those crucial financial documents, I also thought something else: if you can answer this one prayer so easily, what about these other ones that are much more important to me? What was God’s response? Other than a loud rumble of thunder that made me sit down on my living room couch rather quickly, I didn’t hear anything. Not being a fan of thunderstorms, I was silently hoping the thunder wasn’t the answer. As I sat, I thought about friends and loved ones who’d also been waiting for some longstanding prayers to get answered

while others had been answered quickly. One friend who had shifted her prayer to get a “yes” from God concerning a relationship problem was now praying for peace so that she could accept what was now looking like a “no” from God. When a prayer goes unanswered for an extended time, should our prayers shift to something else? Is there ever a point when an unanswered prayer to God means that the answer is “No?” I’ve thought about this more and more lately as I’ve looked back on unanswered prayer requests. To encourage myself, one day I re-read an old prayer journal and marveled at how God had answered so many prayers. There were more answered than unanswered prayers, but I was still wondering about those few petitions that I was still waiting on. As I continue to wait, is the solution to remind myself of all the great things He’s done and the scriptures that confirm how truly awesome He is? I’d be disappointed if the yes I’d been praying for was answered with a clear no from God. But like my friend was preparing herself, at least I’d have an answer. Despite my many questions, I still believe that the purpose of prayer is dialogue with God and not getting “things” or material blessings. And so I wait...and continue the dialogue. Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

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Let the teachers teach

By Tom Miles
State Representative for House District #75



While the nation has seen the majority of states steer away from the mandatory testing system that has shackled our classroom teachers and students for over a decade, Mississippi is still stubbornly hanging on. This, despite the fact that only a handful of states are now using mandated tests to determine whether or not a child should be allowed to graduate.

For the second year in a row, I have filed a bill to abolish all the statewide testing used as exit exams for our students and replace this testing with the ACT test.

Last month, I asked my social media friends what improvements they would like to see in our public education system. Not surprisingly, the one thing everyone seemed to agree on was that it is time to eliminate mandatory state testing and free up teachers so that they can do their jobs. While we'll never get back the many hours that our professional educators have spent working to tick the checkboxes on this imposed system, we should now turn our attention on a way to dismantle this idea that state tests are the final determiners of whether our students can succeed. Or, whether or not they can proceed to the next level of their education.

We all recognize that public school teachers feel the need to "teach to the test" because theirs and their school's success ratings are directly correlated to their students' performance on these tests. We know that test taking has evolved into such an important part of a student's education experience that special programs, performances and curriculums infuse every aspect of school life with the "importance" of these tests. There is something fundamentally wrong with forcing our teachers to "teach to the test" while ignoring important concepts and learning opportunities related to their subject matters.

Why use the ACT test instead of state-mandated exit tests?

First, the state pays for all juniors to take this test. Using the ACT will drastically curb the test-taking industry that takes valuable taxpayer money to continue the mandated programs.

Second, no college asks what a student made on their state exit tests; they ask what they made on their ACT. If a so-called purpose of the state exit tests is to make sure students are ready for college, the ACT will tell us that. And teachers can get back to making sure our students are exposed to as much information as possible instead of narrowly focusing on state testing criteria.

Many educators recognize that some very smart students are just not good test takers. Their anxiety at test taking time affects their scores, and some students dread the test taking so much that they would rather drop out of school than complete the exit exams. In these cases, the tests are resulting in the exact opposite results they should.

I am hopeful that my idea will be supported by my colleagues.

It's time to let the teachers teach.

For more information on this idea, you may visit www.fairtest.org.

Representative Tom Miles serves as State Representative for House District #75 in Scott & Eastern Rankin Counties.

Passing the baton: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s anti-poverty crusade

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



"We read one day, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.' But if a man doesn't have a job or an income, he has neither life nor liberty nor the possibility for the pursuit of happiness. He merely exists." — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., American Civil Rights Activist, "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution," March 31, 1968.

It is near universally known that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream. For the most part, that dream is closely tied to his courageous work around racial inequality and injustice. This dream conjures up images of little black boys and girls joining hands with little white boys and girls as brothers and sisters.

But Dr. King had another

dream. It was a dream of economic justice for all of our nation's poor. Tragically cut down by an assassin's bullet before the start of the new Poor People's Campaign, Dr. King would not live to see the launch of his dream for economic justice.

Fifty years later, as the baton passes from the legacy of Dr. King to the leadership of Rev. William J. Barber II, the poor of our nation have another advocate to fight on their behalf.

Barber is no stranger to social justice movements centered on fighting for the poor and the most vulnerable. During his time as the president of the NAACP's North Carolina chapter, Barber led "Moral Mondays" protests at the North Carolina state house. His coalition of protesters transcended race, socio-economic or ideological divides. They were united in a multi-issue struggle, mirroring the kind of coalition Dr. King and Ralph Abernathy envisioned for the Poor People's Campaign a half century ago.

The conditions of poverty that spurred Dr. King to action in 1968 continue to motivate

Barber in 2018. According to the latest census figures, more than 40 million Americans live below the federal poverty line today. During Dr. King's time, 35 million Americans lived in poverty. While the latest job figures show that racial gaps in employment are slowly closing, earning income inequality and the consolidation of wealth at the top of the economic food chain remain stubborn fixtures of our top-one-percent centric economy.

Dr. King spoke of "the presence of a kind of social insanity which could lead us to national ruin," in 1968. Today, we are bracing for the impact of the regressive Tax Reform law — legislation that permanently cuts taxes for corporations, but offers this relief temporarily for middle and working-class Americans. Members of Congress pushed hard to give tax cuts and breaks to the wealthiest Americans, but have not found the same political will to fund the Children's Health Insurance Program, leaving millions of American children at risk of losing vital healthcare coverage.

Politically, our country is

a far cry from the "war on poverty" declared by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, when the federal government's priority was "not only to relieve the symptoms of poverty, but to cure it and, above all, to prevent it." Today, as we watch the social safety net systematically unraveled beneath our feet, it is clear that we are fighting a targeted war on the poor.

For thousands, that fight will be fought under the banner of "The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival," led by Revs. Barber and Liz Theoharis. The agenda is "to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality" with close to five weeks of action at statehouses around our country and at our nation's capital.

We in the Urban League Movement were privileged to engage with Barber and discuss his mission and vision first-hand when he spoke at our 2017 Conference in St. Louis. His address left us energized and inspired to continue the work of my predecessor,

Whitney M. Young, who worked hand-in-hand with Dr. King and other leaders of the era as executive director of the primary civil rights organization dedicated to economic empowerment.

The work of the Poor People's Campaign culminated with a Poor People's March on Washington shortly after King's assassination, and a six-week occupation of the Washington Mall by march participants and advocates. With the campaign's revival soon upon us, it is clear that the spirit of 1968 is alive and well — and its spirit has a new-found home in Washington.

I was recently honored with an invitation to discuss Dr. King's economic justice dream at the new exhibit of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, "City of Hope: Resurrection City & the 1968 Poor People's Campaign." We stood among the relics and pictures of past but felt very connected to our struggles in the present. Dr. King's struggle remains our nation's struggle, and we must continue to move towards equality and economic justice for all.

Sessions stands for outmoded, unjust law-and-order policies

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



Attorney General Jeff Sessions gets it wrong. On core issue after core issue — civil rights, voting rights, women's rights, police reform and particularly mass incarceration — he is a destructive force.

The United States locks up more people per capita than any country in the world. China, run by a brutal Communist Party that is paranoid about dissent and upheaval, doesn't put people behind bars at the rate we do.

In the last years of the Obama administration, a bipartisan consensus formed about the need to reduce unnecessary imprisonment. Republicans signed on because it could save money. Democrats liked it because it offered hope that fewer lives would be destroyed for making a mistake.

Sessions, upon becoming attorney general, turned his back on this movement, instructing U.S. prosecutors to charge the most serious provable offenses. He has boosted private prisons, reinstated the

federal asset forfeiture program and moved to lengthen drug sentences. Most recently, he instructed prosecutors to enforce U.S. laws making marijuana illegal, even in states that have legalized it such as Colorado and California. So much for Trump's campaign pledge that he is a "states' rights" supporter.

While Republicans protest that mass incarceration isn't about race, you know it is certainly about race. People of color, African Americans particularly, are a disproportionate part of those locked up. The institutionalized racial bias of our criminal justice system is notorious and indisputable. Black fathers warn their sons about driving while black. Blacks are more likely to be stopped, more likely to be searched if stopped, more likely to be detained if searched, more likely to be charged if detained and more likely to be imprisoned if charged. Black men are imprisoned at six times the rate of white men.

The result is shameful. In 2014, the Bureau of Justice Statistics showed that black men have a staggering one in three chance of going to prison in their lifetimes. Hav-

ing a record makes getting a decent job more difficult. Serving time makes that even worse. Many states still disenfranchise those convicted of a felony even after they have served their time. Michelle Alexander has termed this a new Jim Crow, yet another way to keep down the black vote.

Finding alternatives to incarceration, particularly for nonviolent crimes, should not be a partisan issue. And in Illinois, to some extent, it isn't. Once elected, Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner pledged to reduce the number incarcerated in the state by one-fourth by 2025. Recent reports suggest it is down by about nine percent this year. This isn't due to any one reform. Prosecutors and judges are asked to use common sense in deciding whether to seek prison sentences.

In Chicago, widespread use of "ankle bracelets" allows police to keep track of offenders without locking them up. Reducing waiting times for trial helps. In Chicago, a staggering nine of 10 people in jail are waiting for trial, not serving a sentence. Seven of 10 are charged with non-violent crimes. The West Side

Chicago neighborhood North Lawndale will host the first "restorative justice community court." The court enables the offender and a victim to determine what an appropriate remedy would be — from community service to repayment of costs, resulting in both more social peace and fewer people in prison. And on fulfilling the agreement, the offender's record is erased — a big plus for his or her future.

Reducing excessive incarceration is necessary but not sufficient. Those released from prison or avoiding prison need job training, jobs and affordable transportation. Some need drug rehab and psychological assistance. They need hope and a hand up, not simply a get-out-of-prison card.

The parallel is what happened with welfare. The repeal of welfare and its implementation in various states reduced the welfare rolls. However, it didn't reduce poverty or the vulnerability of the impoverished mothers who were pushed off the rolls. They need job training, jobs, affordable transportation, child care, health care and more. And that hasn't been forthcoming.

Young people make mis-

takes. They get in the wrong crowd; they grow desperate or cynical. Too many fall for drugs and gangs.

We need a process that insures a mistake does not condemn them to a life of crime. An offender may be released from jail, but if his or her record keeps him or her from getting hired, the chances of returning to jail are high. Nearly 50 percent of ex-offenders in Illinois are back in prison within three years.

Reducing the number of people in jail would save a lot of money. Those savings could help defray the cost of education, training and transportation subsidy for those who are released. We need to invest more in these things as a society — for those coming out of high school as well as those coming out of prison. Instead of locking people up, we could decide to help them up. Surely that would make America better.

In the 1960s George Wallace vowed to stand in the schoolhouse door to keep African-American children from getting in. Now Jeff Sessions is standing in the prison door to keep young people of color from getting out. Surely we can do better than that.

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www.mississippilink.com

To truly remember Dr. King, political action and infinite hope must outweigh anti-democratic forces

By Rep. Gregory W. Meeks
D-N.Y.



Often lost in our celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. is his unwavering testimony of hope and his political action in the face of despair and nihilism, forces that have the potential to thwart otherwise transformative movements. We often remember King’s hope as a more passive “dream” instead of the definitive declaration of “Normalcy, Never Again” which was the intended title of his revered 1963 speech. Nonetheless, no time is riper than 2018 to commemorate King’s true legacy by exercising political action and demonstrating unwavering hope in the face of circumstances that naturally call for the blues.

No doubt, anti-democratic forces have penetrated American politics and those forces have the potential to breed widespread hopelessness and political apathy. For example, gerrymandering – the partisan act of creating voting districts in favor of one’s own political party – has led to situations like that in Virginia, where 55 percent of voters

pulled the levers for Democrats to only lose the House of Delegates by the drawing of straws. These Virginians, and other marginalized voters, could lose hope and sit out future elections conceding that their votes and voices matter little.

Anti-democratic proposals – including a bid by Jeff Sessions to require Census respondents to answer self-incriminating questions about their immigration status – have the potential to discourage participation in a process that determines the size of each state’s congressional delegation and each state’s receipt of federal funds for essential programs like quality public education. Such forces do more to depress civic participation, and they create a disconnected class of Americans, rather than encourage lawfulness.

Many pre-civil rights era measures that suppressed minority voters, like poll taxes and literacy tests, have despicable descendants that plague the modern-day electoral system. Discriminatory voter identification laws, voter roll purges, limitations on early voting procedures and other impediments to voter registration and ballot casting continue to

suppress Americans to this day.

Despite the times, if the legacy of King means anything, today’s challenges are a call for increased involvement in our democratic process. A number of democratic victories reaffirm King’s call to “accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.” A recent federal court decision that found North Carolina’s partisan gerrymandered districts, which unjustifiably favored Republicans 10 to 3, unconstitutional provides persuasive arguments as to why the Supreme Court should conclude the same in two pending cases. If the Supreme Court adopts North Carolina’s reasoning, the result may be a more leveled political playing field during 2018 midterm congressional elections, and a more accountable Washington, as a result.

Democratic Senator Doug Jones’ statewide victory in Alabama is also an example of why our infinite hope should always trump finite disappointment, especially in the electoral process. If only a few voters lost hope and decided to sit out the Alabama senatorial race, the result could have been status quo in the Senate during a time where

resistance to anti-democratic forces in Washington is needed more than ever.

We must heed the words of the great man we honor today, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who warned us that “history will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.”

As chair of the Congressional Black Caucus’ Political Action Committee, I am inspired by King’s infinite hope now more than ever before.

This year, concerned citizens can make King’s philosophy real in the voting booth. Lawyers can do the same in the courts, as well as advocates throughout the halls of Congress and state legislatures. If we all maintain hope and action, the outcome will be a more democratic America where our institutions reflect our true values, not the perverted aspirations of the powerful few.

Congressman Gregory W. Meeks represents the 5th Congressional District of New York and is the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus’ Political Action Committee.

Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy

By Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
President and CEO of the NNPA



As the world community observes and celebrates the 89th birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., it is important for black America to assess how far we have come 50 years since the tragic brutal assassination of King in Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968.

As a young worker for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), under the visionary leadership of King from 1963-1968 in North Carolina, I still have many vivid memories. I remember King’s admonition to “Stay focused on building an inclusive beloved community, and to not let evil in high places divert us from the pathway that will ensure freedom, justice and equality for all.”

Today, as we acknowledge and pay tribute to King’s freedom-fighting legacy, there are 47 million African Americans in the United States and more than a billion people of African descent in Africa, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, South America, Europe, Asia and in other places throughout the African diaspora. We are all called to remain vigilant and vocal in our unified demands for freedom, economic empowerment and equality.

Let no vulgar utterance of “shithole,” racist rhetoric or arrogant actions by evil in powerful high places divert our attention and focus from what we should be doing to continue our long struggle for liberation from centuries of abject oppression, slavery, poverty and racism. King, in his final years, had to consistently remind us that our struggle was local, national and international. One of King’s most famous quotes was, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

As we reflect and renew our commitments to the dream and activism of King, we dare not become complacent or satisfied with the status quo of economic inequality and racial disparity in the U.S. and throughout the world. We dare not become comfortable with the growing unnatural climate disasters caused by environmental injustices and global warming.

We dare not fall asleep amidst the welcomed resurgence of youth and student activism who know so well the contradictions of the evils of police brutality, mass incarceration, healthcare inadequacies, unemployment and too-low wages and failing educational systems in a nation that has an abundant concentration of wealth at the very top levels of society.

This year also marks the 191st year of the Black Press in America since this first publication of *Freedom’s Journal* in New York City March 16, 1827. Every hour, day, week, month and year the Black Press continues to publish and distribute the truth and advocate for freedom and justice in the U.S., Africa, the Caribbean and throughout the world. King wrote editorials and op-eds for the Black Press at a time when the so-called mainstream media would cast negative coverage about the progress of the Civil Rights Movement.

This year, 2018, should be the payback year with the largest black voter turnout in American history. All of those repressive elected politicians that have supported voter suppression need to be removed from office by the overwhelming power of massive voter mobilization and turnout in every state legislative and congressional voting district across the nation. Our time has come again. Let’s unify and win more victories at the voting booths. Let’s strengthen black-owned businesses, and our families and communities. Subscribe to and support the Black Press.

We owe it to the memory and living legacy of King to strengthen and reify all our national civil rights organizations. We should all be networking together with stronger operational unity. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has elected the new leadership of Derrick Johnson, and we all should be card-carrying members of the NAACP. The African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa has elected the new leadership of Cyril Ramaphosa, and we all should be supportive of the ANC to ensure that Nelson Mandela’s and Oliver Tambo’s legacies are carried forward to new heights in South Africa.

In fact, throughout the African diaspora, we should be unifying and working together with a renewed energy, determination and vitality. Sisters and brothers standing together with mutual respect and commitment is the order of today. Keep your heads up. Put your fists back up in the air. It is movement-building time again. Long live the spirit and memory of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org. You can follow Dr. Chavis on Twitter @drbenchavis.

Remembering the 1968 Memphis sanitation workers’ strike

Never forget why Martin Luther King Jr. was in Memphis

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Martin Luther King, Jr. didn’t plan to get involved in the Memphis garbage worker’s strike. He hadn’t planned to be there on the fateful day when he was shot April 4, 1968. King was pressured to go the first time and found the garbage worker’s strike compelling. He promised to return, and felt it important to keep his word, despite a packed schedule.

Memphis was so very important, because the 1,300 black men who worked in the city’s sanitation department were treated despicably. Two workers had been crushed in a garbage compactor in 1964, but the faulty equipment had not been replaced. On February 1, 1968, two more men, Echol Cole, 36, and Robert Walker, 30, were crushed in the compactor. The two men were contract workers, so they did not qualify for workmen’s compensation, and had no life insurance. The city of Memphis paid \$500 plus one month’s pay for their funeral expenses. Walker’s wife, Earline, was pregnant at the time of his death.

Memphis garbage workers were notoriously ill-treated. They were poorly paid, at \$1.60 (the minimum wage) to \$1.90 per hour. They were not paid

overtime, even though they were often required to work more than eight hours a day. Their pay was so low that many held second jobs, or received public assistance. They were not paid to work when there was inclement weather, like rain or snow. And their supervisors, mostly white, were much better paid, no matter what the weather.

After the deaths of Cole and Walker, garbage workers demanded better wages, better working conditions, and union recognition. The city council agreed, but the racist, indifferent mayor, Henry Loeb, vetoed the city council’s action. The men went on strike February 11, 1968, and stayed out 64 days, until April 12.

Have we forgotten the poignant pictures of grown men carrying hand-lettered signs that said “I Am A Man,” and the irony of these hard-working men having to declare that which should have been perfectly obvious? Memphis black garbage workers were not treated as men, but as disposable beings considered only useful for dealing with other people’s rubbish.

They weren’t the only ones. Many black people, even after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, received unequal pay, and thoroughly unacceptable terms and conditions of work. The city of Memphis was violating national labor laws,

but, because the people they were abusing were black, nobody cared, and nobody noticed until the garbage workers went on strike.

The Association of Federal, State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) is the union that the Memphis garbage workers were affiliated with. They have developed a campaign called “I AM 2018,” that is focused on organizing and on a series of events to commemorate the strike, to honor the memories of Cole and Walker, and to focus on the dignity of work.

The “I AM 2018” campaign is needed now, more than ever, as worker dignity continues to be assailed. The U.S. Department of Labor seems to be on a campaign to rescind Obama-era rules that improve life for workers. For example, an Obama rule would require employers to pay four hours of wages to workers who are “on call” whether they are used or not. Why? Because, if the workers are on call, they are tethered to the telephone and need to be paid for their time. Since “45,” was elected, though, many companies have lined up to ask the Department of Labor to rescind the proposed rule. They say that the rule is too costly for corporations and businesses and that it will cost the nation jobs. New York State Senator Chris Jacobs says the proposed rule will be a “devastating blow” to

business. In this aggressively and myopically pro-business climate, who wants to bet that the proposed rule will be rescinded?

Just as King stood with Memphis garbage workers, we would now stand with the “I AM 2018” campaign, and with the “on call” workers who can’t get respect or compensation for their availability. We are still not finished with the work King started, not finished with the struggle for economic justice. We have not attained equality or developed an economic agenda for shared prosperity, for workplace dignity and for human rights.

We must remember Cole and Walker, who were killed because Memphis just didn’t care enough to have working equipment for their garbage workers. We must remember the audacity that black men had to strike and a time when they might lose their jobs for simply talking back; And we must reclaim audacity and resist the current administration’s attempts to dehumanize all of us.

The struggle for justice clearly must continue.

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and founder of Economic Education. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available to order at Amazon.com and at www.julianne-malveaux.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.

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 23, 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 23, 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 23, 2018

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

1/4/2018 1/11/2018 1/18/2018

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 23, 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 23, 2018 in a sealed envelope, addressed as follows:

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P.O. Box 17
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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 23, 2018

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

1/4/2018 1/11/2018 1/18/2018

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

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

2011 Cadillac STS 1G6DF5EY9B0145460
Registered to Ketedres McGriggs or Kathleen
GM Financial, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: January 26, 2018

Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS

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

1/11/2018 1/18/2018 1/25/2018

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

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

2011 Dodge 150 1D7RB1CP3BS636571

Registered to Roderick Lee Thomas
Ally Financial, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: January 26, 2018

Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS

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

1/11/2018 1/18/2018 1/25/2018

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4002

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Leslie Rosella has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from NMU–1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District to C3 (General) Commercial District to allow for a daycare for dogs on the property located at 1005 Greymont Ave., in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lots 24 and 26, Block 74, Belhaven Heights, Part 1, a subdivision according to the map or plat on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 1 at Page 41 thereof, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of December 2017.

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

1/4/2018, 1/18/2018

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed and electronic 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, 02/22/2018 , for:

RE: GS# 103-278 School of Engineering - PH II
Jackson State University

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

Professional:Cooke Douglass Farr Lemons Architects & Engineers
PA

Address:3100 North State Street, Suite 200
Jackson, Mississippi 39216
601-366-3110
preece@cdfi.com

Phone:

Email:

A deposit of \$0.00 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

1/18/2018, 1/25/2018

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4003

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Shanta Galloway has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1A (Single-Family) Residential District to C-1A (Restricted) Commercial District with a Use Permit to allow for a commercial child care center on the property located at 4426 Hanging Moss Rd., in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

LOT 2, HARRELL SURVEY, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 11 Page 16, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of December 2017.

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

1/4/2018, 1/18/2018

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed and electronic 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, 02/15/2018 , for:

RE: GS# 109-210 School of Medicine (Simulation Equipment)
University Medical Center

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

Professional:Cooke Douglass Farr Lemons Architects & Engineers
PA and Eley Guild Hardy Architects - Jackson, P.A., a
Joint Venture

Address:3100 North State Street, Suite 200
Jackson, Mississippi 39216

Phone:601-354-2572

Email:jeley@egh.ms

A deposit of \$0.00 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

1/18/2018, 1/25/2018

Office
Space
for Rent

Garrett
Enterprises
Building

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Sudoku Solution

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

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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 23, 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 23, 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 DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF TO BE RECEIVED AND OPENED AT CITY
HALL
3:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018.

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

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Black History Month February 1-28, 2018

Schedule of Activities



**Hanging Moss Road
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Phone: (601) 982-5219
Bro. Curtis W. Pittman
Minister**

February 4, 2018
Super Sunday
Sunday Morning
9:40am – 9:50am

"A Black History Moment"

Primary Bible Class – Sis. Jasper/Smith/Doss

Note: All members are asked to wear casual attire with their favorite NFL jersey

February 7, 2018
Wednesday Night – Way Back Wednesday
Food Served: 5:30pm – 6:20pm
Guided-Tour:

(Looking back at our pathway to voting rights on "Bloody Sunday")

Black History Program – 6:30pm

"A Black History Moment"

Adult Bible Classes – Bro. Pittman/Bro. Stribling

Guest Speaker: Ms. Pam Junior

Closing – Dismiss for bible classes

Note: All members are asked to wear attire from the '70's (Disco attire & afros)

February 11, 2018
Sunday – African Attire
Sunday Morning
9:40am – 9:50am

"A Black History Moment"

Toddlers Bible Class – Sis. Watts/Williams

Note: All members are asked to wear African attire

Best "African outfit" wins a prize

February 14, 2018
Wednesday Night
Food Served – 5:30pm – 6:20pm
Guided-Tour:

(Looking back at our pathway to voting rights on "Bloody Sunday")

Black History Program – 6:30pm

"A Black History Moment"

Marriage Class – Bro. Smith/Hervey

Guest Speaker – Judge James Graves

Closing – Dismiss for bible classes

February 18, 2018
Black Sunday & Black Hair Day
Sunday Morning
9:40am – 9:50am

"A Black History Moment"

High School Bible Class – Bros. Hall/Cain/Bart

Note: All members are asked to wear black & showoff your black hair styles

February 21, 2018
Wednesday Night
Food Served: 5:30pm – 6:20pm
Guided-Tour:

(Looking back at our pathway to voting rights on "Bloody Sunday")

Black History Program – 6:30pm

New Convert Class – Bro. Catchings

Speaker: – Dr. Timothy M. Quinn

Closing – Dismiss for bible classes

February 24, 2018
Saturday – Black History Banquet – 6:00pm
Tickets \$40 Adults/\$15 Children under 12

February 25, 2018
Sunday – Hat Sunday & Black Business Owners' Expo
9:40am – 9:50am

"A Black History Moment"

Intermediate Bible Class/Jefferson/Stribling

Note: All members are asked to wear "hats" – Best "hat" will win a prize

February 28, 2018
Wednesday Night – YOUTH NIGHT
Food Served – 5:30pm – 6:20pm
Black History Program – 6:30pm

*Note: All Black History activities will take place in the
all Purpose Building*

Youth Trip to Tour The Museums – February 17, 2018 – 10:00am
Tickets \$7

Door Decorating Contest
(Prize for best decorated door)

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If you attend Sunday Morning Bible Class and Wednesday Night Bible Class and arrive on time, your name will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 bill. You may enter each Wednesday and Sunday beginning February 4-28, 2018. The winner will receive the prize on Sunday, March 4, 2018.

Note: You must arrive on time to be eligible for the drawing.

2018 Hyundai Tucson AWD

By Frank Washington
AboutThatCar.com

DETROIT – Impressive, that is the first thing that came to mind when we saw the 2018 Hyundai Tucson crossover.

For the new model year, it added a 7-inch audio display system with expanded availability of Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, HD Radio and heated seats. More than 90 percent of 2018 model year Tucsons will have these technologies.

Our test vehicle was black on black in black. At least that's what the combination used to be called years ago; black on the exterior, black dash and black seats. Or, triple B.

The Tucson sported Hyundai's hexagon grille, headlights that had LED accents, LED DRLs, a rear spoiler and rear LED brake lights. The crossover even had LED approach lights in the door handles.

The black wheels were accented with burnt orange wheel caps and followed through with burnt orange caps on the air valves which added some refinement to the look. Those wheels were 19-inches.

Hyundai said the "roof rails are sleek and low-profile for a clean, yet functional appearance. From the rear, a Z-shaped character line above the rear wheel accentuates an aggressive, sporty side profile. The rear angle conveys stability and a wide, sporty stance, for agility both on and off-road." Overall this Hyundai Tucson had a no-nonsense look, right down to the twin bevel chrome exhaust tips.

Inside, there was a black pattern on the seats. They were comfortable, everything was in easy reach and the con-



trols didn't require interpretation. They were intuitive. The odometer and speedometer were oversized circles with large numerals. In other words, they were easy to see. And they were black with white numerals reversed out with a smaller TFT information screen between them.

We climbed into the back seats and found them to be very spacious. There was plenty of headroom as well as legroom. They were a little hard but not uncomfortable.

This Tucson also had a panoramic roof. The retractable part came back as far as the second row seats. The one control button system was a little sensitive but we think that is a matter of touch learned over repeated use.

As good as this Tucson looked; the impressive part was under the hood. It came in the form of a 1.6-liter turbocharged direct injected four cylinder engine that made 175 horsepower. That may not sound like much but this engine also made 195 pound feet of torque and it was available from 1,500 rpm to 4,500 rpm.

That's low-end oomph and it was available from just

about any speed. Plus there was a seven-speed dual clutch automatic. It was smooth, fast and the changing of gears was silky. This engine had an EPA rating of 24 mpg in the city, 28 mpg on the highway and 25 mpg combined.

Acceleration was really swift. Handling was great too. And really surprising was the ride. It was smooth, just not what you'd expect out of a small crossover. An inch longer wheel base made a difference. It was an inch wider too.

The chassis was more rigid. The mass of the Tucson has been centered better and the suspension had been tuned for precise handling. It all combined to make the 2018 model ride like a much larger vehicle.

Our test vehicle was equipped with all-wheel-drive that could be locked for extremely slippery road or off-road excursions. The system also included something Hyundai called Active Cornering Control, which automatically transferred torque to the wheels with the most traction. It reduced understeer and enhanced performance by braking the inside rear wheel and delivered more torque to

the outside wheel. There was also hill start assist and downhill braking control. What's more you could use the drive mode selector to put it in sport.

Hyundai engineers put a lot of work into reducing noise, vibration and harshness by increasing rigidity throughout the chassis. For instance the front and rear suspension setups were 20 percent stiffer.

Our test vehicle had satellite radio, blind spot alert, a rearview camera with cross traffic alert, two 12V plugs, an auxiliary jack and a USB jack, roof rails, lane change assist, a smart key and push button start-stop, a smart power lift gate and voice controls.

Voice controls was our only problem with the test vehicle. We tried to use the voice control feature and it didn't come close to who we wanted to call. We tried three times and it failed to find the correct name. Other than that, the 2018 Tucson Night AWD was a delight to drive. And at \$30,220, we thought it was well equipped and reasonably priced.

Frank S. Washington is editor of AboutThatCar.com.

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FILM REVIEW: “THE POST”

HANKS AND STREEP CO-STAR IN SPIELBERG FREEDOM OF THE PRESS THRILLER

By Kam Williams
Columnist

The Post is a picture fated to be compared to a couple of classic newsroom thrillers: All the President’s Men (1976) and Spotlight (2015). Like the former, it’s set in Washington, D.C. in the seventies and revolves around an attempt by the Nixon administration to prevent the publication of incriminating information leaked to the *Washington Post* by a whistleblower. And it’s eerily similar to the Best Picture Oscar-winner Spotlight in that they’re both ensem-

ble dramas recounting an idealistic newspaper’s legal battle on behalf of Freedom of the Press. Risk-averse Hollywood honchos have a very predictable habit of parroting success, which means it’s just a matter of time before a knockoff of a big hit arrives in theaters. In this case, Spotlight’s Academy Award-winning scriptwriter, Josh Singer, was tapped to tweak first timer Liz Hannah’s original screenplay about the Pentagon Papers. So it makes sense that one might have great expectations

of the production, given that it was also directed by the legendary Steven Spielberg and co-stars Tom Hanks and perennial Oscar-nominee Meryl Streep. But while the movie is certainly worth seeing, it’s actually a disappointment, given the cast and crew’s impressive pedigree. The picture’s point of departure is Vietnam in 1966, which is where we find Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara (Bruce Greenwood) on a fact-finding tour. Upon landing back in the States, he lies through his teeth on the tarmac to put a positive

spin on the odds of America winning the war. Fast forward five years, which is when military analyst Daniel Ellsberg (Matthew Rhys) goes rogue after becoming disillusioned by the government’s continued cover-up. He then proceeds to turn over to the *Washington Post* and other publications an internal, Department of Defense report about the war. Dubbed the “Pentagon Papers,” the top secret files refute the irrationally-optimistic assessment being presented to the public by the president.

The decision to publish the documents was a no-brainer for the *Post*’s editor, Ben Bradlee (Hanks), and owner, Katharine Graham (Streep). What ensued was a Constitutional crisis ultimately settled by the U.S. Supreme Court which had to weigh the Freedom of the Press against President Nixon’s (Curzon Dobell) request for an injunction preventing dissemination of the classified documents in the interest of national security. Too bad the story Spielberg opted to tell is primarily a tale

of female empowerment that quite frankly doesn’t ring true. Why resort to politically-correct revisionist history reflecting present-day values when simply ratcheting up the tension around the original landmark legal case probably would’ve proved far more riveting? *Very Good (3 stars)*
Rated PG-13 for profanity and brief violence
Running time: 115 minutes
Production Studios: Dreamworks Pictures / Amblin Entertainment / Participant Media
Distributor: 20th Century Fox

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 Oprah Winfrey

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

G K L L H R T Q C A U L V T L A H A A U N A T
 A T T T

G K A U G L B C H D R Q C S L Q M Q H M S K Q

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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.

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

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)

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BOOK REVIEW: “SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE”

BY **IJEOMA OLUO**
C.2018, SEAL PRESS
\$27.00 / \$35.00 CANADA • 248 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

It’s all there in front of you. Plain as day. Plain as the nose on your face with nothing left to tell, it’s all in black and white – or is it?

When it comes to racism, says author Ijeoma Oluo, it’s complicated and in her new book “So You Want to Talk about Race,” there may be shades of gray.

In a world of white supremacy, Oluo’s “blackness is woven” into her life, her preferences, her comfort level. When she was a child growing up in Seattle, her blackness led to questions, because her mother is white.

As a student, it affected Oluo’s education and that bothered her. Even so, she didn’t talk about it much until “something inside me began to shift.”

She began to realize that racism was the root of what was making her so uncomfortable. But is it “really about race?”

It is, Oluo says, “if a person of color thinks it is...” or if it “disproportionately or differently affects people of color.” Part of the problem here, she says, is that we can’t agree on a definition of racism. It’s something “that we have to talk about...”

And yet, she says (mostly

to white people), “You’re going to screw this up” by saying the wrong thing. Even the most well-meaning person can verbally blunder and you can fix your faux pas, or you can make things worse. Complicating matters, you must be mindful of intersectionality, because no one is singular.

“And it all starts with conversation,” says Oluo.

That people of color are “disproportionately criminalized” is not “all in our heads” and Driving While Black is a real thing. Black students need affirmative action to level a long playing field. Our school systems, she

says, must learn “cultural sensitivity for black and brown children.” Cultural appropriation isn’t just something that happens to African Americans. No, you can’t touch Oluo’s hair. No, you can’t say “the N word” but you can fight racism, though “it is not at all fun.”

When Oluo says that her book is going to make you uncomfortable, sit down. She’s not lying to you. “So You Want to Talk about Race” is squirmy.

Though, obviously, white America is who Oluo is talking to here, she ultimately speaks to people of all races as she points out the fine lines we all walk:

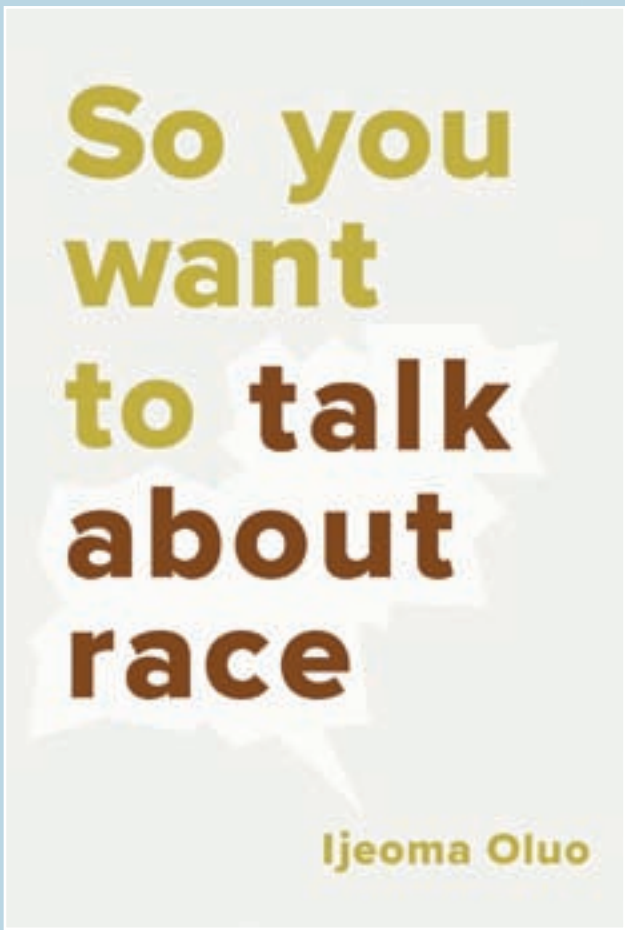
what’s insulting to one person is not to another and hurts can run entirely along racial lines.

Here, though, Oluo helps navigate the waters with keep-your-mouth-shut advice on one hand and tips on how to speak out without being unintentionally racist on the other. To do it, she uses candor, anger, exasperation, and – though she says

she’s not feeling funny – some humorous stories to illustrate the many analogies for which she reaches.

Overall, this book will do exactly what its author sets out to do: it’ll spark conversation and it’ll make you think.

“So You Want to Talk about Race” proves that black and white isn’t always clear at all.



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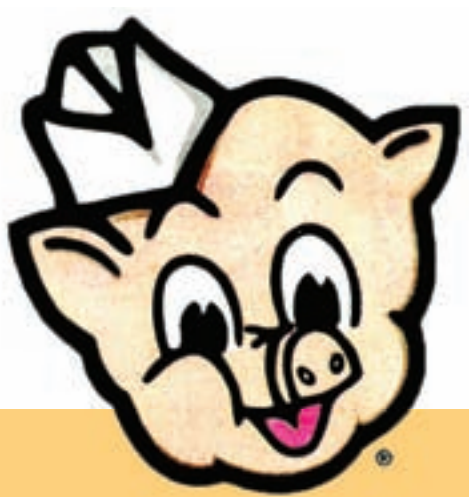


PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



January 17 - 23, 2018

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Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

1574 West Government Blvd.
BRANDON, MS
Crossgates Shopping
Village
Down Home, Down The Street™

the price you see is the price
you pay at the register.
www.pigglywigglyms.com

No Cards Needed To Shop Our Low Prices

USDA CHOICE BEEF

BONLESS RIBEYE STEAKS

PER LB.

\$8⁹⁹

USDA CHOICE BEEF

BONELESS RUMP ROAST

PER LB.

\$2⁹⁹

BOSTON BUTT

PORK ROAST

PER LB.

\$1¹⁹

FAMILY PACK BEEF

BOTTOM ROUND STEAK

PER LB.

\$3⁷⁹

FAMILY PACK

PORK STEAKS OR WESTERN STYLE PORK RIBS

PER LB.

\$1⁵⁹

BONELESS

BREAST TENDERS

PER LB.

\$1⁹⁹

REGULAR, THICK, GARLIC

BRYAN SLICED BOLOGNA

12 OZ.

2/\$3

COOKED, BROWN SUGAR, HONEY HAM & TURKEY BREAST BRYAN

LUNCH MEAT

10 OZ.

2/\$5

REG. OR BEEF BRYAN

SMOKED SAUSAGE

12 - 14 OZ.

2/\$5

FRYER

LEG QUARTERS

10 LB. BAG

\$3⁹⁹

BRYAN

JUICY JUMBOS

15 OZ.

2/\$4

WASHINGTON

RED DELICIOUS APPLES

PER LB.

79¢

FRESH PRODUCE

FRESH EXPRESS SALADS

7 - 11 OZ.

\$1⁶⁹

RED RIPE

TOMATOES

4 PACK

\$1¹⁹

FRESH RUSSET

POTATOES

4 LB. BAG

\$1⁶⁹

DAIRY & FROZEN DEPARTMENTS

PIGGLY WIGGLY SALADS

7-11 OZ.

\$1⁶⁹

PIGGLY WIGGLY SLICED CHEESE

7-8 OZ.

\$1⁷⁹

ASSORTED 100 YOPLAIT GREEK YOGURT

4-5.3 OZ.

79¢

SELECT SUNNY D PUNCH

64 OZ.

\$1⁰⁰

SELECT PICTSWEET SOUP / STEW VEGETABLES

24 - 28 OZ.

2/\$5

FROZEN GORTON'S FISH

STICKS, FILLETS, PORTIONS 15.2 - 24.5 OZ. PKG.

\$4⁹⁹

TOTINO'S PIZZA ROLLS

44.5 OZ.

\$5⁹⁹