February 15 - 21, 2018 Vol. 24, No. 16 50¢



Move over Patti LaBelle; make room for Nora Southern



Sweet Reflections by Nora ribbon cutting at McDade's in Maywood Mart.

Sweet Reflections by Nora on the shelves at area McDades

By Othor Cain

Admittedly, I didn't buy into the craze of Patti Pies when they first became a household name. I thought, "my mother was a beast with sweet potato pies and my sister is a very strong contender." To this date, I haven't tried one of them, but I've heard plenty of mixed reviews from the infamous video viral sensation that sang Patti's mega-hits to describe how well he liked her pies

'What is this?, Walmart should be on the pies and decorating the disashamed to sell these."

My aversion to store-bought pies changed last week when I was invited to cover a ribbon cutting ceremony at the McDade's Market in Maywood Mart. I arrived a little early to check the scene out; secretly hoping to purchase a pie before anyone arrived for the event. That didn't happen.

Upon my arrival, Nora and her

to the chatter where people asked, crew were busy placing price tags the store to begin the ceremonies. pies are housed. My plot to sample early, failed.

After watching church members, community members, city leaders, and well wishers trickle in to support Nora, it was now time for the big reveal. The large gathering at the direction of the leaders and members of Women for Progress gathered in the produce section of

Willie Jones, president of Women play area at each register where the For Progress, a group according to its website, facilitates the upward mobility of minorities by following the principles of cooperative economics, active support of minority business and economic development, led the ribbon cutting and big

"It is important for us to not only

Southern Continued on page 3

Trump's absence means black lawmakers will now celebrate new civil rights museum

The Associated Press

Congressional black lawmakers, some who boycotted an earlier grand opening of the civil rights museum in Mississippi, will attend a celebration later this month now that President Trump has come and gone.

"It could be called a counter opening," said Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss. "But what we're trying to say is the civil rights museum should not be highlighted by people who have no history in the civil rights movement, so we're trying to legitimize the museum by bringing participants and supporters who have a long-standing history of civil rights and not people who are there for the day and gone."

Thompson and others, including civil rights legend Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., civil rights groups and local activists boycotted the grand open-



Thompson

ing Dec. 9 after learning Trump would attend.

Instead, Thompson and Lewis will speak at a two-day event at the museum hosted by Friends of Mississippi Civil Rights. The weekend



event, which kicks off Feb. 23, includes an awards gala Friday and a day-long program Saturday featuring a town hall and symposiums.

Other speakers include Derrick Johnson, head of the National



NAACP, and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker. Rep. Cedric Richmond of Louisiana, chairman of the Congres-

Museum Continued on page 3

Access to safe, decent and affordable housing threatened across the nation



Derrick Johnson is president of the NAACP, which is among a coalition of civil rights organizations that reject new Senate proposal to overhaul Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

By Charlene Crowell TriceEdneyWire.com

In recent days, threats to the nation's housing finance system have emerged. At the center of the controversy are two key issues: the obligation of mortgage lenders to ensure broad mortgage credit for all credit-worthy borrowers, and secondly, whether the nation will enforce its own laws banning unlawful discrimination.

On February 2, a leaked Senate proposal to overhaul the secondary mortgage market's government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, would drop important access and affordability provisions that now govern the system. For example, the GSEs now are required to always serve all markets, as well as have in place affordable housing goals.

The proposal from U.S. Senators Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) and Mark Warner (D- Va.) was quickly and unanimously rejected by a broad coalition of civil rights and housing advocates that included the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, NAACP, UnidosUS (formerly the National Council of La Raza), National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, National Fair Housing Alliance, National Community Reinvestment Coalition, National Urban League, and the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL).

"Ten years after the 2008 Housing Crisis, it is disheartening to turn the secondary mortgage market back over to Wall Street," wrote the coalition. "Who can forget the 7.8 million completed home foreclosures and trillions of dollars in lost family wealth?"

"Many American still face immense housing challenges," the leaders continued. "This illconceived approach places the risk on the backs of hardworking families who already rescued

The draft legislation also fell short for Massa-

Johnson Continued on page 3

Poetry Out Loud pushes students out of their comfort zone and into the spotlight



Book Review: When They Call You a Terrorist



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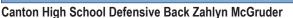
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CHS Tigers stake their claim on National Signing Day









Canton High School Wide Receiver Antoine Robinson





Southern

Continued from page

support Nora today but she needs our continued support," Jones said. "I'm excited by this momentum and what's happening in our city and our state."

Nora has worked diligently to perfect her craft.

"This all started when I visited my children and they insisted that I bake for them," she said. "I would say, I'm here to relax on vacation...but they weren't having any of that.

Nora is also a member of The Church Triumphant Global, where she attends Saturday church led by copastor Tonya Ware. "I attend the Mastermind Class at my church and this class and my pastor kept me accountable during the process of becoming a businessowner," Nora said. "Relationships are so important and I'm blessed to be connected with this church."

After the ribbon cutting, guests were treated to a sampling of the famous sweet potato pies prepared by Sweet Reflections by Nora. Finally it was my chance to overcome a big hurdle. I tasted a store-bought pie and it was absolutely amazing. That little sample led me to purchase several small pies prior to my leaving. How does it compare to my mom's? I'll

take that answer to my grave, but I was in love at the first bite.

Nora's merchandise is housed in every McDade's store in Jackson with goals of expanding across the state

Nora has prepared herself for this day.

"She was persistent and put the work in," said Mark Larson, store manger at McDades in Maywood Mart. "You have to go through a lot to prepare food in retail stores. She came to me with her idea, she worked and got all of her inspections done and now she's here and is doing exceptionally well."

Nora is overjoyed by the show of support she received during the ribbon cutting. "There are so many people to thank including all of the ladies from Women for Progress, Councilman DeKeither Stamps, Vic Sexton with the city of Jackson and my entire church family," she said. "I will cherish this day for the rest of my life."

If you're looking for a sweet sensation, Sweet Reflections by Nora will satisfy all of your needs.

More pictures page 5.

Musuem

Continued from page 1

sional Black Caucus, has also been invited.

The state-of-the-art museum, which was years in the making, opened with much fanfare. The exhibits highlight the history of the civil rights movement in Mississippi, which was at the heart of efforts to register blacks to vote and dismantle Jim Crow.

Civil rights veterans say the museum is an important recognition of hard-fought efforts.

"Civil rights is a story that needs to be told and having someone that is the polar opposite of civil rights be the premiere focus of the opening of that museum – people just felt that it was an affront," Thompson said.

Republican Gov. Phil Bryant invited Trump to the grand opening of the museum and the Mississippi State History Museum saying the state should be proud the president was coming. Trump toured the museum and praised the work of civil rights veterans, including Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers, a Mississippi NAACP field secretary who was killed in the driveway of his Jackson, Miss., home in June 1963.

"Here we memorialize the brave men and women who struggled to sacrifice, and sacrifice so much, so that others might live in freedom," Trump said.

The White House called it "unfortunate" that law-makers refused to attend the opening.

"We think it's unfortunate that these members of Congress wouldn't join the president in honoring the incredible sacrifice civil rights leaders made to right the injustices in our history," Sarah Sanders, a White House spokeswoman, said then. Johnson, who boycotted, said the December event was "usurped by Trump's attempt to create a photo op for him."

"There's a difference between a grand opening and honoring veterans of the civil rights movement," he said. "This is about honoring the veterans and acknowledging the presence of the civil rights museum. It's just to say thank you."

Thompson, Richmond and others, particularly black and Latino lawmakers, have clashed with Trump over policies they say aim to set back civil rights gains and roll back voting rights protections. They also complained Trump recently made derogatory remarks about African counties and Haiti.

Bryant, as well as former Mississippi governors, was invited to attend the February program, said organizers. Bryant was in Washington that weekend for the Republican Governors Association's winter meeting.

Carlos Moore, co-chairman of the Friends of Mississippi Civil Rights, said he and others in Mississippi had planned to attend the December opening but decided not to when Lewis and Thompson opted out.

Some protested outside the event.

"To me Donald Trump is the total opposite of everything that Dr. (Martin Luther) King and Mr. Lewis stood for...," said Moore. "I didn't believe his comments would be from the heart. I thought it would be a dog-and-pony show."

Moore said he posted a notice on his Facebook page saying activists should host their own celebration and "don't let Trump rain on our parade."

Johnson

Continued from page 1

chusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, a member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

"I appreciate the dedication Senators Warner and Corker have shown to address this critical issue, but this draft isn't even close to a solution that works for families who hope to buy homes, said Warren. "This bill would end up creating more problems than it solves."

As early as 2008, Congress moved swiftly to enact the Housing and Economic Recovery Act. This bipartisan legislation provided strong regulatory oversight of the housing finance system and brought forward important affordable housing goals to ensure that hard-working families would be able to access mortgage loans. But with the housing market's lengthy path to recovery, many have renewed calls for legislative reform of Fannie and Freddie. And just as the GSEs are now pledged to serve the entire market, some want to take away the system's access and affordability requirements. That kind of change would harm black families and communities, as well as other low-wealth families.

"The big-ticket items that we are looking for is the national duty-to-serve and affordable housing goals that have a regulator able to enforce those," said Scott Astrada, CRL's director of Federal Advocacy.

Days later, on February 5, Mick Mulvaney, the White House hand-picked acting director for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) announced he would move the bureau's staff for its Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity (OFLEO) directly under his control.

The Dodd-Frank Act mandates that OFLEO perform "oversight and enforcement of federal laws to ensure the fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory access to credit"

By moving fair lending experts to the CFPB's director's office, to focus instead on consumer education and coordination, there are real concerns that the OFLEO will be unable to perform its enforcement and oversight mission.

"This action could open up the floodgates on lending discrimination, which

"This action could open up the floodgates on lending discrimination, which would damage the ability for people of color to build wealth," noted Debbie Goldstein, CRL's executive vice president. "One of the reasons the CFPB was established was because lending discrimination targeted people of color with predatory, high-cost loans that led to foreclosures."

Mulvaney's personnel shift is yet another consistent sign that the nation's financial cop-on-the-beat is walking a new patrol.

Since assuming unlawful leadership at CFPB, Mulvaney has also dropped a lawsuit against predatory payday lenders, supported repeal of the bureau's auto lending guidance that took direct aim at pervasive and discriminatory practices. He has also made clear his plans to reopen rulemaking under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA).

HMDA is a federal law that requires most financial institutions to provide mortgage data to the public. It ensures that mortgage lenders are serving the credit needs of communities in which they are located. The annual HMDA report is the only comprehensive one that enables a comparison of private mortgage lending compared to that of government-backed mortgages like FHA, VA and USDA. This report is also unique for its tracking of mortgage lending and denials by race and ethnicity. This unique feature enables policymakers to discern discriminatory trends

As 2018 commemorates the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, we must remain vigilant in the fight for access to safe and affordable mortgage loans – for many consumers, the single, largest investment of their lifetimes.

With hard-fought anti-discrimination laws now under assault, this generation has a duty to protect and defend all civil rights laws. Failure to do so would be to forget that the nation enacted the 1968 Fair Housing Act for this very purpose.

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



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Nissan announces collaboration with Disney's "A Wrinkle in Time"





Mississippi Link Newswire

Nissan North America recently announced its collaboration with Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures for its forthcoming film "A Wrinkle in Time" based on the classic 1962 novel by Madeleine L'Engle. The film's star-studded cast includes Oprah Winfrey, Mindy Kaling, Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine and Storm Reid. Ava DuVernay is the film's director. It hits theaters March 9.

"This epic adventure which takes audiences across dimensions of time and space depicts a world where intergalactic travel is possible," said Jeremy Tucker, vice president, Marketing Communications & Media, Nissan North America.

"It's fitting that the all-new Nissan LEAF, equipped with Nissan's latest advanced technologies, makes an appearance in the film. Nissan is proud to support "A Wrinkle in Time" as well as its cast and director who are working to imagine tomorrow, today."

Science and break-through technologies play an important role in "A Wrinkle in Time." Nissan is the world leader of electric vehicle sales, selling more than 300,000 units since its first introduction in 2010. As the halo vehicle for Nissan Intelligent Mobility, it was a natural tie-in for the all-new Nissan LEAF to be in the film.

The all-new 2018 Nissan LEAF further strengthens Nissan's position as the global leader in zero emission electric vehicles (EV). The best-selling electric car of all time has been

completely reinvented for its second generation, combining greater range with a dynamic new design. The new Nissan LEAF also comes with Nissan's latest advanced technologies, including e-Pedel and ProPILOT Assist, to create the ultimate EV package.

The world leader in electric vehicles, Nissan is debuting a new "A Wrinkle in Time"-inspired ad campaign for the allnew Nissan LEAF in tandem with the film's premiere. The ads feature Nissan Intelligent Mobility technologies and are running nationally beginning in early February.

DuVernay is the first woman of color to direct a live-action film with a production budget over \$100 million.

To celebrate other visionary

African Americans, Nissan and DuVernay are rolling out the "Forward Faster Class." This series of digital video vignettes will feature the insights of forward-thinking African American influencers sharing their tips for other self-starters looking to blaze a path to success. These vignettes will debut in mid-February during Black History Month on NissanUSA.com.

"For Nissan, Black History Month represents the opportunity to celebrate African history and history makers while keeping an eye on what's yet to come," says Lanae Jackson, Nissan's Multicultural Marketing manager. "The 'Forward Faster Class' does just that."

About Nissan North Amer-

ica
In North America, Nissan's

operations include automotive styling, engineering, consumer and corporate financing, sales and marketing, distribution and manufacturing. Nissan is dedicated to improving the environment under the Nissan Green Program and has been recognized annually by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency as an ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year since 2010.

More information on Nissan in North America and the complete line of Nissan and Infiniti vehicles can be found online at www.NissanUSA.com and www.InfinitiUSA.com, or visit the U.S. media sites Nissan-News.com and InfinitiNews. com.

Operating with more than 247,500 employees globally, Nissan sold 5.32 million ve-

hicles and generated revenue of 11.38 trillion yen (USD 103.6 billion) in fiscal year 2014. About Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.

www.mississippilink.com

Nissan Motor Co., Ltd., Japan's second-largest automotive company, is headquartered in Yokohama, Japan, and is part of the Renault-Nissan Alliance. Nissan delivers a comprehensive range of more than 60 models under the Nissan, Infiniti and Datsun brands. Nissan leads the world in zeroemission mobility, dominated by sales of the LEAF, the first mass-market, pure-electric vehicle. Nissan LEAF is the best-selling EV in history.

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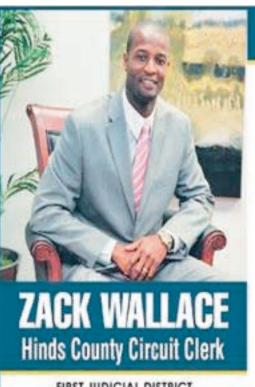
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Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Sweet Reflections By Nora

Nora Southern, Owner

McDade's Market Maywood Shopping Center Jackson, Miss. • February 9, 2018







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FEBRUARY 15 - 21, 2018

JPS to receive 2018 PREPS Value-Added Awards



Murrah High School received the PREPS Award for English II. The school was ranked in the top 10 among Mississippi high schools by U.S. News and World Reports and was a bronze medal recipient on its National Best High Schools list.

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson Public School District is proud to announce that seven of the district's schools will be recognized for educational performance on state tests. The Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools (PREPS, Inc.) named these schools 2018 Value-Added Award recipients. The four elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school are:

Grades 3-8 Schools Casey Elementary Davis Magnet Elementary Power APAC Elementary McWillie Elementary Bailey APAC Middle Northwest Middle High School English II Murrah High

These schools will be recognized at an awards luncheon and ceremony to be held Monday, February 26, at the Jackson Hilton during the 2018 Mississippi Education Partnership Conference hosted by PREPS and MAPE which celebrates achievements and collaborations in schools.

About PREPS Awards

The PREPS Value Added analysis began in June 1997 and allows for valid comparisons of educational performance on the prior year's state testing while taking into account the impact of differences in the socioeconomic background of the students considered in the research. The model is used in the PREPS Value Added Awards Program to identify high performing schools among Mississippi public school districts who are members of the PREPS Consortium. Schools which are deemed as adding value are those performing significantly better than other schools with comparable socioeconomic circumstances. PREPS follows the mission of actively providing research and evaluation for public schools.

As a non-profit organization, PREPS is dedicated to serving Mississippi Public Schools.

Learn more about the conference and award presentation by visiting the PREPS website or call (601) 318-6229.

2018 JV/9TH grade basketball champions

JV: Murrah 38, Forest Hill 37

Congratulations to the Murrah Lady the 2017–2018 JPS JV Championship.

The Lady Mustangs defeated the Lady the Lady Mustangs is Yolanda Ellis. The by a score of 38–37. The head coach of Donley.

Mustangs JV basketball team on winning Patriots of Forest Hill January 25, 2018, head coach of the Lady Patriots is Nakia



The Murrah Lady Mustangs with (adults from left) JV head coach Yolanda Ellis, asst. coach Ricky Pugh and varsity head coach Tangela Banks. Alvanette Buchanan (not pictured) is the principal of Murrah High.



Forest Hill Lady Patriots with (adults from left) JPS Athletics Director Clint Johnson, asst. coach George Marshall, head JV coach Nkia Donley, varsity head coach Charles Moore, asst. coach Charles Robinson and Principal Victor Ellis

9th grade: Provine 64, Wingfield 43

on winning the 2017–2018 JPS Boys 9th Grade Championship. The Rams defeat- is Sirdonta Washington. The head coach

Congratulations to the Provine Rams ed the Wingfield Falcons by a score of for the Falcons is Juan Wyatt. 64-43 January 25. The Rams head coach



Provine Rams with (adults from left) JPS Athletics Director Clint Johnson, 9th Grade head coach Sirdonta Washington and head varsity coach Otis Gaines. Shawn Terrell (not pictured) is the principal at Provine High.



Wingfield Falcons with (adults from left) asst. coach Oliver White, JPS Athletics Director Clint Johnson, varsity head coach Spencer Gatlin, Principal Roderick Smith and 9th Grade head coach Juan Wyatt

Makeup days for Jackson Public Schools

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jackson Public School Board of Trustees has approved a plan to make up days that were missed due to inclement weather and the resulting water crisis. Classes were canceled for seven

The district will use its two inclement weather days, March 30 and April 2, and the Parent-Teacher Conference Day that was scheduled for February 19 to make up three of those days. Additionally, four days will be made up by extending the school day by one hour from February 12-April

Activity	Elementary	Middle	High
School Day Begins	7 a.m.	7:25 a.m.	7:30 a.m.
Instruction Begins	7:45 a.m.	8:05 a.m.	8:25 a.m.
School Day Ends (Dismissal)	3:15 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	4:30 p.m.

By extending the school day by one hour for 39 days, the district will meet and exceed its students' academic needs and the requirements for instructional time. Additional extended days were added to give the district inclement weather days for the remainder of the school year.

Parent-Teacher Conference Day will be re-

No Saturdays will be used for makeup days for students. Also, spring break and high school graduation ceremonies will not be changed. However, the last day of school, May 23, will be a full day of school instead of a 60 percent day. School districts are only allowed to have two 60 percent days per school year. JPS had 60 percent days December 22, 2017 and January 19, 2018.

Beginning February 12, JPS will observe the revised bell schedule above.

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MVSU Alphas recognized for highest GPA in state

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The mission of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is to develop leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence while providing service and advocacy for the community.

Mississippi Valley State University's Zeta Phi Chapter recently exemplified all that this mission entails, earning numerous awards during the Mississippi Alpha Network District Conference Jan. 19-21 in Olive Branch.

Most notably, the chapter was recognized for attaining the highest cumulative grade point average – 3.24 – among the fraternity's 10 collegiate chapters in the state.

"Receiving the Highest GPA award among all the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. chapters in the state of Mississippi was a huge achievement to all of us," said Zeta Phi member Kamberlin King of Itta Bena, who also serves



Pictured, from left, are members of MVSU's Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Kamberlin King of Itta Bena, Antonio Bell of Indianola, Denzel Washington of Greenville, Jordan Freeman of Greenwood, Cornelius Washington of Lucedale, and Trenlon Harris of Moss Point.

as president of MVSU's Student Government Association. It was a great representation of not only the fraternity, but also Mississippi Valley State University. Our dedication to education was put on display at the district convention."

That wasn't the only accolade the chapter received.

Zeta Phi finished second place overall in the District Step-Show competition and member Trenlon Harris of Moss Point was a finalist in the Belford V. Lawson ora-

torical contest.

In addition, Harris and King joined members Cornelius Washington of Lucedale, Denzel Washington of Greenville, Jordan Freeman of Greenwood, Nekeya Washington of Clarksdale and Tommy King of Greenwood, Miss. in being recognized as "District Scholars," earning a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Zeta Phi's commitment to excellence and leadership is seen throughout the MVSU student community as they

have several individuals who represent the institution as student leaders.

In addition to Kamberlin serving as SGA president, Tommy reigns as Mr. MVSU 2017-18; Freeman is the SGA vice-president; and Harris is the SGA treasurer.

"We are a chapter of brothers who refuse to settle for mediocrity and know that business must be handled in the classroom first before being handled anywhere else. This is an achievement that we plan to continue to receive for years to come," King said.

Founded in 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. was the first African-American, intercollegiate, Greeklettered fraternity.

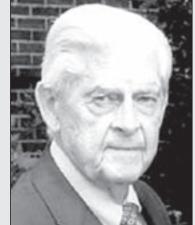
Advisors for MVSU's Zeta Phi chapter include Interim Vice President of University Advancement Dameon Shaw, Records Evaluator Kortney B. Haymore and Graduate Advisor Preston Brownlow.

Clinton Public School District **Key Communicator**

Education Hero

Congratulations to retired CPSD Superintendent Virgil Belue, recipient of the Education Hero award from the Mississippi Association of Partners in Education.

Belue was CPSD's first superintendent and served in this role from 1970-1992. Under his leadership, the school district grew from three to seven schools and a vocational center while emerging as one of Mississippi's top school districts.



After retiring with 17 years on the Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System, in 2013, Belue was honored by the Mississippi Legislature for 60 years of public service.

MAPE will present Belue with the Education Hero award at the 16th annual Governor's Awards luncheon, Tuesday, Feb. 27 at the Jackson Hilton.

"Deal It" at Northside



Some of our 2nd graders played "Deal It" this week to practice comparing 3-digit numbers. Students chose three playing cards to make a 3-digit number and compared that number with their partner to see which was less and which was greater. The students loved it.

USM alum and wife dance into national spotlight as part of Apple commercial

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Except for a twist of fate, Christopher Grant might have spent the past 10 years studying ecosystems instead of adagios. He might have been examining coral reefs instead of advertising scripts. He might have been partnering with scientists instead of a pretty brunette from New York.

But destiny has a profound way of tapping you on the shoulder at just the right time. And Chris, a University of Southern Mississippi graduate, was keen enough to accept the intervention that helped catapult him to dancing stardom.

The endearing story of Christopher and Lauren Grant has enough twists and turns to fill any ballet hall. A superstar husbandwife team. Collaborators. Dreamers. The closest of friends. And renowned professional dancers. You may not know them personally. But chances are lofty that you have seen their artistry on a TV or mobile device.

Chris, a 2007 USM graduate, and Lauren, a 2005 graduate of New York University, snared the lead roles in Apple's recent holiday commercial called "Sway." The captivating video has amassed more than 10.2 million views on YouTube.

How a young man from Jackson, Miss., and a young woman from Long Island, N.Y., meet, fall in love, marry, tour together as professional dancers and land a gamechanging video spot involves a mixture of hard work, timing, and perhaps, a sprinkle of serendipity.

Although he took a somewhat circuitous route to his chosen career, Chris firmly believes that he was born to be a dancer.

"Absolutely. No question about it," he said during a break from teaching a master class recently at his alma mater. "I have no doubt that I'm doing exactly what I was born to do. I have to dance. I have no choice."

It might be a stretch to say Lauren was practicing dance steps in the womb. But then again.

"On the day I was born, my mom said that I was an actress out of work," said Lauren. "I've been dancing and performing since I was about 3 years old. There's a freedom that comes with dancing that is unlike anything else for me. It's about being lost in the present."

Professor Stacy Reischman Fletcher, interim director, School of Performing and Visual Arts at USM, coordinated the Grants' "guest artist residency" appearance earlier this month that included master class instruction and a weekend workshop. Reischman Fletcher estimates that she spent hundreds of hours working with Chris during his time as a USM student. She taught him modern technique, composition, senior capstone and thesis writing – among other critical necessities.

"Chris always had a love for dance and a drive to learn all he could about it," said Reischman Fletcher. "His heart, his generosity and his partnering ability allowed



USM alum Christopher Grant, right, and his wife, Lauren, demonstrate one of many moves while teaching a master class in dance recently on the Hattiesburg campus. PHOTOS BY DANNY RAWLS

him to stand out. He took risks and was committed to the vision of the work."

Returning to the Hattiesburg campus for the first time in years, Chris was flooded with wave after wave of nostalgic emotions

"I got pretty choked up about it because a lot of feelings returned," he said. "This is where my love and appreciation for dance really began. I started remembering all the fun I had during my time here. The football games. The classes I loved so much. USM will always be very special to me."

USM sophomore Casey Collier says the opportunity to watch the Grants in action, while learning under their tutelage, made the Master Class experience unforget-table. The three days of intense instruction showed her the significance of creating movement and expression with a partner.

"Their class was all about giving and receiving information from your partner," said Collier. "The tools they taught stretched my mind and creativity and pushed me out of my comfort zone."

Amazingly, dance was not Chris' foremost career choice. Upon graduation from McLaurin High School (Florence, Miss.), Chris enrolled at USM with dreams of becoming a marine biologist. When not immersed in his challenging classwork, Chris found time to nurture his favorite recreational pursuit – dance. In particular, hip-hop dance.

Blessed with natural rhythm and timing, he danced as often as possible in the local night spots. He danced in his dorm room; in parking lots; in hallways. A chance encounter one Halloween evening altered the course of his collegiate studies.

"I remember me and some others guys were on frat row just doing some impromptu dances," said Chris. "This girl dressed like Alice in Wonderland came up to me and complimented my moves. I saw her again later on campus and she said, "You know we have a dance program here. You should think about looking into it. I honestly had no idea that you could major induce the same of the latest that the

in dance or anything like that at USM." is

Armed with a bachelor of fine arts de-

gree in dance performance and choreography, Chris left Hattiesburg bound for the ultimate dance mecca – New York City. There he met fellow dancer Lauren Yalango while both were auditioning for Pilobolus Dance Theater in 2007. A year later they began dating. In the summer of 2014, they were married. Today, they live and work in Manhattan, N.Y.

Their talents have carried them across the globe performing in numerous stage productions. As members of Pilobolus Dance Theater, they made national and international TV appearances.

Last summer a phone call from their agent changed the trajectory of the Grants' already hectic and successful careers.

"Our agent said that a big-name company was looking for dancers to star in a new commercial," said Lauren. "It was all very secretive. They specifically wanted a couple that could move like one organism. Our agent thought we would be perfect and asked if we wanted to submit an audition tape. We didn't have any idea what the commercial involved, but we thought it was worth a shot."

After passing the first screening, the Grants were asked to submit a second audition tape. Shortly thereafter, the couple found themselves being whisked to the Czech Republic and its capital city, Prague, for Apple's elaborate commercial shoot.

In the commercial themed, "Move Someone This Holiday," a woman (Lauren) walks down a snow-dusted street and briefly stops to whip out her iPhone X. She dials up Sam Smith's "Palace" – transmitted through her AirPods. As she dances wistfully through the gorgeous scenery, she bumps into a handsome stranger (Chris), who catches her mid-twirl. As they lock eyes and imaginations, the woman puts one of her AirPods into his ear, establishing a connection that enables them to move together.

The commercial runs for less than two minutes. But the breathtaking flips, dips, and spectacular symmetry of these polished artists required five days of filming – and up to 14 hours per day.

Math and Science Tournament at MC



Sumner Hill and Clinton High School were among 47 schools from across the state to compete at the Mississippi College Science and Math Tournament Feb. 5. Each of the 12 students took a written exam in math and biology. The ninth graders competed against other students in grades 9-12, many who have completed Advanced Placement courses. Students that excel on the tests are awarded scholarship money to MC. Those placing in the top 20 percent on a test receive \$1000 a year, while those placing in the top 10 percent receive \$2000 a year, renewable for four years. Four students placed on the Biology test: Top 10 percent – Clark Hensley; Top 20 percent - Makayla Cole, Cameron Humphries, Nicole Ingram

School Counseling Week



CPSD is celebrating School Counseling Week. Our counseling program is committed to excellence by being prepared to support our students' needs. Our emphasis includes the personal, social, academic and career development of students by implementing a comprehensive program.

8 • THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

FEBRUARY 15 - 21, 2018

Poetry Out Loud pushes students out of their comfort zone and into the spotlight

By Rachel James-Terry jsumsnews.com

Out of twelve high school students, three reigned supreme in the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest for the central region of Mississippi in JSU's Student Center, Feb. 7.

For the ninth year running, Jackson State's Margaret Walker Center in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation and the Mississippi Arts Commission hosted Poetry Out Loud – a program that encourages high school students to learn about poetry through memorization, performance and competition.

"This event every year turns out to be one of the favorite parts of the work that we do. It's always impressive to see these young people and their love of poetry and their commitment to it," said Robert Luckett, director of the Margaret Walker Center. "Seeing such a great diverse group across Central Mississippi is really inspiring."

Securing the first place slot was Desiree Roby, a sophomore from Christian Home Educators Connection. Roby, who placed third in last year's contest, was nearly rendered speechless when she learned that she had won.

"I'm still kind of mind-blown about it. I'm so happy to be here,"

Roby offered a witty and straightforward recitation of "Snow Day" by Billy Collins and "Thoughtless Cruelty" by Charles Lamb. She explains that she selected "Snow Day" due to the dry humor it con-

"That's very natural for me. Then I'll pick one or two that pull me out of my comfort zone." Roby said, "I like being challenged. So this, as a contest, is kind of challenging for me, so I'll do anything."

She admits that initially she didn't have an interest in poetry, but now loves it because she can connect with the work and tell a

Taylor Mills's oration of two very moving works gained her the honor of second place. A sophomore at North West Rankin High School, Mills chose the poems "I Go Back to May 1937" by Sharon Olds and "Poor Angels" by Aaron

"I think it's a good experience. It's a good thing that gets you out of your comfort zone and it kind of lets you see what you can do," she said.

The theatre student also said the contest gives her the chance to hone her acting chops and divulged that one of her favorite actors is Oscar winner Meryl Streep.



Desiree Roby, left, Taylor Mills and Olivia Bond are the three finalists of the Poetry Out Loud contest hosted annually by the Margaret Walker Center at JSU.



Jasmine Thomas, a graduate student, from JSU's creative arts collective Outspoken, gave an explosive poetry performance for the students.

Mills's advice to newcomers:

whole contest is about discovery."

School was the only Jackson Public

School student to participate in Po-

etry Out Loud. However, that didn't

stop the sophomore from snatching

"I was very surprised. I almost

cried. I couldn't say anything. I

was just like: 'Oh, my gosh,"'she

The eleventh grader reveals that

when she entered the contest, she

just wanted to reach someone's

heart. "If I didn't advance, I would

just be grateful that I did what I had

to do and God allowed me to get

the third and final contest spot.

said.

here," she said.

Olivia Bond from Murrah High

"Try your best because you don't sentation of "El Olvido" by Judith that out of the three regional conknow how good you can be. This Ortiz Confer. She said her second tests held annually he most looks poem "The Properly Scholarly Attitude" by Adelaide Crapey resonated with her because it rejects the unequal treatment of women.

"I chose it because it championed women... It's not about what you see, but about who I am and what I can do," said Bond. "I think we (human race) can be better. They say the future is female, but really I think the future is human."

Bond's mother Cassandra expressed her excitement over watching her daughter become a top three finalist. "I'm glad that God favored her to go to the next level of the contest."

Ken Bolinsky, state coordina-



"I Go Back to May 1937" by Sharon Olds. PHOTOS BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU

Bond delivered a confident pre- tor for Poetry Out Loud, admitted forward to the event hosted at the HBCU. "It's been a wonderful partnership with Margaret Walker and JSU," he said.

> The coordinator credits educators for ensuring that each year the kids are better prepared. "They're a little bit more centered and they know what to expect," he said. "The quality of the students today was just outstanding. Everyone can go home feeling like they've done their best."

The three winners will advance to the state finals in March, and the champion will attend the national finals in Washington, D.C., for an opportunity to win \$20,000.

JSU Athletics unveils 2018 football schedule, with season opener Sept. 1 against So. Miss

www.mississippilink.com

The Jackson State University Athletics Department has announced its 2018 football schedule. JSU's 11game schedule features five teams with winning records and one that played in a bowl game.

The Tigers open the 2018 season on the road in three noted games in which JSU and the opponent are no strangers. The season opener is a historic meeting against Southern Miss, Sept. 1, in Hattiesburg. The two teams have met only twice (1987 and 2002). One of the highlights of the schedule is the South-

ern Heritage Classic in Memphis, Tennessee, Sept. 8. JSU and Tennessee State will meet for the 26th time in the annual clash in Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium. The classic has become a southern tradition, and one of the best football classics in the country. The 47,407 attendance figure from the 2017 classic ranks No. 5 in the nation.

On Sept. 15, the Tigers travel to Tallahassee, Florida, to face the Florida A&M Rattlers. The two teams last squared off four years ago when JSU beat FAMU 22-17 on a game-winning Hail Mary in Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium.

The Tigers will open conference play Sept. 29 in the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium in the home opener. The Tigers will host Alabama A&M in the 11th Annual W.C. Gordon Classic.

In October, the Tigers will welcome back all alums, including former gridiron standout Vincent Dancy the first-year head coach of in-state rival Mississippi Valley State. The Tigers will host the Delta Devils for the 2018 homecoming game, Oct. 13. The Tigers will then host North Alabama in the first-ever gridiron meeting between the two programs, Oct. 20.

The Tigers' season home finale is set for Nov. 3 when JSU hosts Prairie View A&M for senior day. The regular season finale will end in Lorman Nov. 17, as the Tigers and the Alcorn State Braves square off for in-state bragging rights.

The 2018 season will culminate with the 4th annual Celebration Bowl in Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Saturday, Dec. 15.

The 2018 schedule can be found on JSU's official athletics website: gojsutigers.com.

For information on purchasing JSU football season tickets, call 601.979.2420.

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Sept.	Southern Miss	Hattlesburg, MS
Sept. 8	vs. Tenn. State	Memphis, TN
	(Southern Heritage Classic)	
Sept. 15	Florida A&M	Tallahassee, FL
Sept. 22	Open	
Sept. 29	*Alabama A&M	Jackson, MS
	(W.C. Gorden Classic)	
Oct. 6	* Arkanses-Pine Bluff	Pine Bluff, AR
Oct. 13	* Mississippi Valley State	Jackson, MS
	(Homecoming)	
Oct. 20	North Alabama	Jackson, MS
Oct. 27	*Southern	Baton Rouge, LA
Nov. 3	"Prairie View A&M	Jackson, MS
	(Senior Day)	
Nov. 10	* Alabema State	Montgomery, AL
Nov. 17	* Alcorn State	Lorman, MS

Peers help with career development during Conference of Women in Higher Education



At 'Real State of Our Union' Trump derided for 'white nationalist' conduct

By Barrington M. Salmon TriceEdneyWire.com

In stirring comments that were more sermon than speech, the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II derided the Trump administration Tuesday night during an "Alternate State of the Union" gathering.

As Trump delivered his first State of the Union Address at the U. S. Capital, Barber described him as the end-product of more than 100 years of attempts by white extremists to blunt any progress made by African Americans and progressives in the U.S.

"We're witnessing a fundamental changing of our demographics around the world," said Barber, a national activist, former president of the North Carolina NAACP and president and senior lecturer of Repairers of the Breach. "We see extremist policies in America today and it's driven by the growing blackening and browning of America and a fusion of every creed, color and class."

He continued, "Those who embrace the Make America Great Again slogan are willing to work hard and cheat to undermine what is evolving in America. This is white hegemony and white nationalism strengthened by enormous wealth."

Barber's analysis of Trump's cynical attacks on non-whites, Barber's deconstruction of America's racial malady and his exhortation for African Americans, progressives and other allies to join the movement against extremism, wrapped up a more than two-hour panel discussion involving leading political and Civil Rights activists, organizers educators and thinkers in the



Roland Martin hosts the 'Real State of Our Union.' PHOTO BY PAULETTE SIN-GLETON/TRICE EDNEY NEWS WIRE

erated by former NewsOne anchor and news personality Roland Martin, was co-sponsored by the NAACP and titled 'The Real State of Our Union.' It was one of dozens of progressive alternatives arranged around the country to counter Trump's first State of the Union before a joint session of Congress.

Barber, well known as an unapologetic voice of resistance to this administration's hard move to the right, told an audience of several hundred people at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. that America is in the midst of a Third Reconstruction.

"Our discussion aims to put a spotlight on a variety of issues that are vital to our community, and that we are sure will be overlooked in his State of the Union address," said Martin in a statement released to the press.

Hot topics ranged from attaining economic self-sufficiency, voter mobilization, the rightward tilt of judicial appointments, political and election strategy, organizing and the administration's attacks against

heterosexual and male.

"His words, actions and appointments and all we've seen is a policy of division," said Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. "He has taken us back decades. We've seen a spike in hate crimes, Charlottesville and his inability to condemn Neo-Nazis ... it's hard not to trace ugly hate and animus to this White House."

Clarke, Melanie Campbell of the Black Women's Roundtable, NAACP President Derrick Johnson and other panelists warned about the danger posed to African Americans, other people of color, the poor and the most vulnerable by Trump's judicial appointments. In his first year, Trump, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and the Republican leadership have rammed through nominations to federal, district and circuit courts after eight years of holding up or blocking former President Barack Obama's nominees.

"This is a huge issue," Clarke

judiciary has always mattered to black people because it is a place of last resort. Ninety-nine percent of cases are heard in federal and district courts. Ninetyone percent of those Trump is putting forward are white and male and they are the fringe. He's turning back the clock to the Jim Crow era."

BY PAULETTE SINGLETON/TRICE EDNEY NEWS WIRE

A panel of millennials spoke with great passion about the failings of the two-party system, their general disdain for both parties and their desire to build infrastructures and institutions for, with and about black

NAACP President Derrick Johnson set the table with his insistence that black people use their vote wisely. If 28,000 black voters had not skipped choosing one of the candidates at the top of the ballot, Trump would not have won the election, he said.

"We need to stop being emotional and focus on outcomes," Johnson said. "We need to understand the political landscape because we seem to have forgotten. In a democracy, the vote it within the rules of building nower"

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber locks arms with activists and audience members at the "Real State of Our Union." PHOTO

Dayvon Love, director of Research and Public Policy at Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, focused on the importance of developing opportunities and a pipeline into politics for African Americans and holding Democrats' feet to the fire to force them to do right by black people.

"We've had an exploitative relationship with Democrats," he said. "We need political infrastructures. If the political infrastructure is outside of your community, you're beholden to people outside."

Greg Carr, chair of Howard University's History Department, offered caustic comments about Trump and the environment that he and his administration have fostered.

"They're extremists, there's no such thing as the United States of America and Mike Pence is a Christian fundamentalist ... Mitch McConnell and Paul Ryan are wholly-owned subsidiaries of corporations and the Koch Brothers. Steven Miller has proposed cutting imgive a damn. We're appealing to a morality these people have never had."

Johnson and Campbell stressed the importance of black people flexing their electoral muscles in the upcoming midterms and the 2020 general elec-

"We have to increase our collective consciousness and lean in at least for the next five years," said Johnson. "There are 88 legislative bodies up for election and we have to vote in all these races. Redistricting and the midterms are on the horizon. Folks, we have to lean into our collective consciousness and turn out to vote. Nothing else matters."

Campbell agreed.

"We're mad as heck, but we're being more strategic with our politics," she said. "We will not have anyone take our vote for granted. We're seeing a power shift. Black women all over the country are starting political organizations, running and challenging the Democratic Party. More and more black people don't think the Democratic Par-

black and Latino communities. immigrants, the LGBTQ comexplained. There are 140 vais our currency. It's nation-The event, arranged and modbuilding time. We have to build munity and anyone not white, cancies in federal courts. The migration. These people don't ty represents their interests." NNPA Foundation chair and Sun-Reporter publisher Amelia Ashley-Ward talks about Breed in Calif. and the Black Press

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Contributor

The irony of a recent San Francisco Board of Supervisors' decision to appoint Mark Farrell, a white venture capitalist, as acting mayor, and how it played out, still rubs Amelia Ashley-Ward the wrong way.

The board's decision resulted in the removal of London Breed from that position, who was the first African American woman to serve in that post.

"Here we are in a city that's supposed to be so progressive and then you watch about fifty white progressives tell this young, black woman that they don't want her because she would have too much power and the advantage of running for mayor; that's B.S.," said Ashley-Ward, the new NNPA Foundation chair and publisher and owner of the San Francisco Sun-

"When did a black woman raised in public housing get an advantage over anyone? Breed isn't begging for handme-downs, but this is another reason that the Black Press will live forever and my newspaper will keep this on the front page and we are going to call it like we see it and no one else will

A single mother, Ashley-Ward raised her son, Evan, alone since he was seven years-old. His father died when Evan was 15, but Ashley-Ward's relentless push to keep her son from being just another statistic has helped him to become an Emmy Award-winning television newswriter.

Born in Magnolia, Miss., Ashley-Ward and her family moved to San Francisco, where her mother encouraged her to apply for a job at the San Francisco Sun-Reporter; that's where



Foundation, says that the Black Press tells the stories that don't get told anywhere else. AMELIA ASHLEY-WARD/SUN-REPORTER

she met the legendary Carlton Goodlett, who owned the newspaper.

"At that time, we were about bringing something back to the community and my mother used to always read the Sun-Reporter, so she said go and I went," Ashley-Ward said.

Goodlett promised her a permanent job once she obtained a college degree.

In 1979, she graduated with a degree in journalism from San Jose State University where she also studied photojournalism.

Goodlett hired Ashley-Ward fulltime after she graduated. "I had a flair for writing and I was

a photographer, who basically wrote with a camera," said Ashley-Ward. "I was sort of a two-for-one deal in that I could write and take pictures."

In five years, after many achievements and accolades, she earned a promotion of managing editor. A decade later, after Goodlett left the newspaper, Ward was promoted to publisher.

Her awards included the 1980 Photojournalism Award from the NNPA; the 1981 NNPA Feature Writing

Award; and later, the 1998 NNPA Pub-

lisher of the Year. After taking over as owner and publisher in 1997, Ward received the Woman of the Year award from the San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce. In 2004, she received the Alumnus of the Year award from San Jose State University, and was the commencement speaker for the university's journalism department that same year.

In 2005, Ward was selected Woman of the Year by California State Senator Carole Migden and, in 2008, she was named one of the 49 Most Influential People in San Francisco by "7×7" magazine.

"My work was also published in magazines like People, Jet and Sepia," Ashley-Ward said.

She also started organizations like the Sun-Reporter Foundation and was founding president of the Young Adult Christian Movement.

Ward served on the boards of the NNPA and the San Francisco branch of the NAACP.

"I took on the job as chair of the NNPA Foundation because I'm good at event planning and fundraising and, with this being a 501(c3), I see it as a tool to get the donations that are necessary to keep the foundation running," Ward said. "I see the NNPA Foundation as a critical tool in our struggle for Black America. Keeping the doors open for up and coming black journalists is another main goals of the foun-

Ashley-Ward sees the Black Press as vital to African Americans and the NNPA will also be necessary "as long as we have racism and sexism in our country," she said. "We tell the stories

that don't get told anywhere else. The proud grandmother can always count on us to show that talented grandson who is an award-winning athlete or the granddaughter who is the track star."

While newspapers continue to adjust to the Web, Ashley-Ward said it's important that publishers don't lose sight of their bread and butter.

"I'm adapting to the Web and I feel that we are still a few years away from being totally profitable with digital," she said. "But, we must understand that we have an obligation to let our advertisers know that we are newspapers. We print newspapers and we can't afford to shut down what we've been doing that's kept the business go-

Finally, Ashley-Ward said she is most proud of her son, who also values

"My son is 25 and I'm blessed because Evan has received a solid education at Middle Tennessee State University and he now works for a local top market news station, where he's gotten air time and is part of a team that won an Emmy last year for coverage of the Ghost Ship fire in Oakland."

Retirement Media Release

Dr. Maurice James wishes to thank all his patients for their dedication, patronage, and loyalty over his past several decades of practice. His office located at St Dominic Medical Towers is now closed. The care of his patients has been transferred to Dr. Terrel Williams. Maurice James MD, Ophthalmology, P.A. Patient records may be obtained from the office of Dr. Terrel Williams. Please contact his office at (601) 981-1550. Or, patients may obtain their records by completing a 'medical release' form to Dr. Williams located at 3000 Old Canton Road, Suite 305, Jackson, MS 39216.

Mississippi Public **Universities partner** with K-12 community to improve education

The Mississippi Link Newswire

There is little doubt that education is one of Mississippi's most pressing problems and serves as the basis for many other problems in the state. However, it is a problem that cannot be solved by the teachers, principals and superintendents alone. In addition to training, the next generation of teachers, principals and superintendents, Mississippi Public Universities are helping to improve education in numerous

Alcorn State University has partnered with the Natchez-Adams School District to provide accelerated opportunities to young people. Through the Natchez Early College Academy, Alcorn is able to offer students the opportunity to take dual-enrollment courses that students typically take as freshmen, such as English composition and college algebra. Students receive credit toward both their high school diploma and their college degree, thereby lowering the time and cost to a degree for the students.

sippi's School of Education offers the Mississippi Teacher Corps program, an alternative route program that culminates in a master's degree for participants who commit to teaching in the state's critical needs districts. The School also offers the Principal Corps, which is a training program that helps outstanding teachers become K-12 leaders.

The University of Missis-

The Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program, or METP, is a joint effort by the School of Education at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) and the College of Education at Mississippi State University (MSU) and is funded by the Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation in Jackson. Designed to be the equivalent of an honors college for education majors, the rigorous program offers full cost of attendance scholarships to the best and brightest students around the nation. Success of this program reaches across the nation with students coming from more than 20 states with an average incoming composite ACT of 30. METP fellows

commit to teaching in Mississippi for a minimum of five years. The first METP graduates entered the teaching profession this fall.

The University of Mississippi utilizes a virtual reality teaching and learning environment that supports and fosters professional practice for teacher training in a variety of settings. Practice occurs by interacting with Avatars in realistic teaching environments. Our avatar teaching lab delivers customized virtual reality experiences that create the most demanding interpersonal challenges for educators. Real humans support and operate each avatar to create life-like interactions. This technology allows the learner to take risks from which they can learn how to improve their day-to-day performance. The University of Mississippi's School of Education has adopted this technology as a critical component for their undergraduate teacher education program. Each undergraduate is required to teach multiple lessons using the avatar classroom that includes children with special needs and children whose first language is not English.

The Office of Outreach and Innovation at Mississippi University for Women continues to improve teacher quality through professional development provided by the CHAMPS project. Creating High Achievement in Mathematics and Problem Solving (CHAMPS) began more than 12 years ago on The W's campus and continues to be one of the most highly regarded professional development programs for K-8 grade mathematics teachers in the state.

Throughout the 10-month program, participants will also earn a College and Career Ready Standards instructional certificate, engage in professional learning communities and participate in follow-up events throughout the year. Each component offered by CHAMPS is grounded in empirical research that demonstrates the importance of sustained professional development and the positive correlation between teacher quality and student achievement.

Recent additions to the CHAMPS program are several program components based in technology, a focus on STEM and formative assessment and a restructuring of the Summer Institute to include more time for content instruction and teaching strategies. CHAMPS is made possible due to a Mathematics and Science Partnership grant that originates with the U.S. Department of Education and is awarded by the Mississippi Department of Education.

The Professional Learning Academy offered through The W's Office of Outreach and Innovation offers online sixweek courses that allow teachers to earn continuing educa-

Mississippi Public Universities also assist with efforts to improve Pre-K. The Mississippi State University Extension Service and the Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Child Care Licensure have partnered to create a workshop series to provide training to child care providers and continuing education credit required for licensure. The Creating Healthy Indoor Child Care Environments workshop series is one aspect of the MSU Extension Healthy Homes Initiative, part of a national program designed to share information about common housing-based health and safety risks.

Workshop topics include hazardous household products, indoor air quality, integrated pest management, lead poisoning prevention, healthy indoor environments, asthma and allergies, mold and moisture control, safety and accessibility, and home safety and acces-

Last year, Mississippi Public Universities graduated 2,086 education majors. Five years after graduation, 72 percent of education graduates are working in Mississippi. Over the course of their careers, they will have a tremendous impact on the children and education achievement of Mississippi.

105 Mississippi students honored in Promote the **Vote Awards ceremony**

The Mississippi Link Newswire

One hundred and five of the thousands of K-12 students who participated in 2017 Promote the Vote activities were recognized at the Mississippi Capitol recently for high achievement in the arts and writing.

Promote the Vote is Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann's comprehensive K-12 voter education program. This year, in celebration of the State's 200year history, the annual Promote the Vote art and writing contests centered on "Mississippi's Bicentennial Birthday."

More than 1,200 students entered the art contest, which asked entrants to depict "My Mississippi," or an industry, person, landmark or other notable symbol from their region of the State.

For the essay contest, en-

trants were asked to write about "Moving Forward," by identifying an issue in their region of the State and proposing a way to address it. More than 200 students submitted essays for consideration.

For purposes of the contests, the State was divided into nine regions: the Coast, Lower River, Piney Woods, Capital Area, East Central, Delta, Clay Hills, Northeast Corner, and North. Seventy-three students won art awards and 32 students won essay awards.

"One of the most important things we can teach our children is about our past because learning about the past makes us more informed voters at the ballot box in the future," Secretary Hosemann said.

First-place winners will receive a \$100 savings account provided by sponsor banks across the State. The schools first-place winning students attend will also receive \$100. Additionally, winning students will receive free entry to the Mississippi Museum of History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, compliments of First Commercial Bank.

Free to participating schools, Promote the Vote began in 1996. In 2017, more than 350 schools and about 83,000 students participated in Promote the Vote activities. The 2018 Promote the Vote program will kick off in August with a mock election featuring Mississippi's

mote the Vote is available on the Secretary of State's web site.

Art 4-6

1st Place - Brenley Moleski 2nd Place - Presiee Giveans 3rd Place - Breelyn Halley

1st Place - William Ascherl Holy Trinity Cetholic School 2nd Place - Lify Yonez 3rd Place - Eve Wittmann Art 7-9 1st Place - Devin Graham Our Lady Academy

2nd Place - Toylor Wypyski

3rd Place - Ella Taylor Art 10-12 1st Place - Kayla Treadway 2nd Place - Noomi Gorcia

Essay 7-9 1st Place - Suzie Brown Our Lady Academy 2nd Place - Medison Decoteo ner Michille School 3rd Place - Abigoil Wholey

Essay 10-12 1st Place - Christian Holland D'Overville Migh School 2nd Place - Aloney Dunton D'Oberville High School 3rd Place - Noomi Alexander Ocean Springs High School

Art 7-9 1st Place - Miracle Motor

2nd Place - Jokevilin Gilliam

3rd Place - Loilla Piges

Essay 7-9

1st Place - Johnsrian Evans W.A. Miggins Middle School

CLAY HILLS REGION Art K-3

1st Place - Riley Ray

outh Side Elementary School 2nd Place - Jermoine Taylor

3rd Place - Foith Tounton

Art 4-6 1st Place - Jackson Clanton

3rd Place - Aaron Davis

Art 7-9

2nd Place - Maris James

3rd Place - Moutoivious Edwards

Art 10-12

1st Place - Anna Kuhr Cremody High School

2nd Place - Katle Milms

3rd Place - Chosye Corley

Essay 7-9

1st Place - Morgaret Birks etion Catholic School

2nd Place - Grace Corcoron

3rd Place -Tyler Mims

1st Place - Mhert Sho

letten Catholic School 2nd Place - Emme Longston

on Catholic School

Contest Winners Art K-3

2017 Promote the Vote

2nd Place - Michael Colton Piper 3rd Place - Saniyah Lyons Art 7-9 1st Place - Ella Hayney Kimbrel

Essay 7-9 1st Place - Jocob Gozzo Essay 10-12 1st Place - Kiley Gazzo

2nd Place - Logon Boggett

CAPITAL AREA REGION Art K-3 1st Place - Mary Grace Latha

2nd Place - Loura Tuma Santos 3rd Place - Alex Mosley Art 4-6

1st Place - Daniel Balley Brandon Middle School 2nd Place - William Fugate 3rd Place - Notolio Elmore Art 7-9

1st Place - Annolee Lovelady Wonsley 2nd Place - Blair Breland 3rd Place - Baylor Holyfield

> Essay 10-12 1st Place - Lores Sharp 2nd Place - Stella Nichols 3rd Place - Jackson DiCirco

NORTHEAST CORNER REGION Art K-3 1st Place - McKendry Rooch

> 2nd Place - Audrey For 3rd Place - Nooh Latch Art 4-6 1st Place - John Holden Nickels

Carinth Elementary School 3rd Place - Presley Moss Art 7-9

1st Place - Ben Misse R.N. Long Middle School 2nd Place - Abrielle Corrothon 3rd Place - Bryson Austin Art 10-12

1st Place - Govin Williams selo Christian Preparatory School 2nd Place - Avery Boren 3rd Place - Steedmon D. Horrison IV

Essay 7-9

1st Place - Cloyton Rupert 2nd Place - Lize Lewis 3rd Place - Erin Mattos

Delbert Hosemann

congressional candidates. View a full list of winners More information about Pro-

Art 10-12 1st Place - Oliver Lynch 2nd Place - Modeline McElroy 3rd Place - Makiya Hunter Morgan May Essay 7-9

1st Place - Mollie Jones 2nd Place - Blair Smith 3rd Place - Mary Margaret White Essay 10-12

1st Place - Alexis Willinghom 2nd Place - Chior Steed Hortfield Academ 3rd Place - Jorod Weston

EAST CENTR

Art K-3 1st Place - Karli Fortenberry Leake Control Dismostory School 2nd Place - Benjamin Bell

Art 4-6 1st Place - Ciero Nicholson son Lipper Elementary School

DELTA REGION

1st Place - Allison Jones St. Francis of Assist School 2nd Place - Zuri Brown 3rd Place - Layloh Burnside

2nd Place - U'Rioyho Edmond

1st Place - Alexis Koonce 2nd Place - Stewart Samples Tupelo High School Travelo High School

Essay 10-12

Art K-3 1st Place - Honnoh Brown

2nd Place - Abby Adoms 3rd Place - Brandorrius Pride Art 4-6

1st Place - Allyson Turner 3rd Place - Caleb Trainer Art 7-9

1st Place - Elizabeth McElveen Center Hill Middle School 2nd Place - Isobella Kothrine Nettles 3rd Place - Addie White

Essay 7-9

1st Place - Allyson McDonold 2nd Place - Toylor C. Dovis 3rd Place - Sharon McClure

Assists at State Capitol



Ayani Cockrell, (back), of Terry, recently served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff. Ayani is pictured with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves and Senator David Blount who sponsored her visit. Ayani is the daughter of Charles and Debra Johnson-Cockrell and attends Terry High School. When asked about the week, Ayani said, "Everyday is a gift. How you choose to spend it is a blessing. I do what I want, you do what you can. YOLO." Also pictured are fellow junior pages, Kristen Brown, (left) and Austin Redmond (front).

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THE MISSISSIPPI LINK • 11

Lift your eyes above the circumstance

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



their own, as if to say, "I do not need God," until some great problem comes along; then they are

made to realize how much they need Him. God loves to hear us acknowledge our great need

of His help. Should He deny giving us the attention we need, we would be lost. There is no other source outside of God in Heaven that can provide the help we need. We need to just get ourselves to a place where we realize that we need God in a greater way than we have ever needed Him.

It is a shame that so many people walk around and do their own thing. God is last on their minds. God desires His church to have faith in

COLLEGE HILL

SUNDAY

Worship Services

10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

MONDAY

Intercessory Prayer 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

Classes: Children • Youth • Adult - 7:00p.m.

Our Scripture text says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). We also read in Jeremiah 10:23 these words, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps." With all our education and intelligence, we are not wise enough to direct our own path. We might be able to do lots of things on our own, but we cannot handle the really deep problems of life. We need that higher power bestowed upon us.

We need to seek God's face and plead for Him to help us, whether we need healing, financial help or grace to stand in the midst of persecution coming against us in the neighborhood, in our home, at work, or where ever the problem.

Sometimes people's faith is so weak because when they want something, they expect it immediately or they give up. We live in such an instant society that if we want something, we just go and buy it. However, God wants to see His people's faith grow. One way faith grows is when we are going through adversities totally beyond our control and yet we say: "Lord, I don't know what's going on and I don't see a way out, but I'm going to trust you. I know your Word tells me that You will never leave me nor forsake me. There is no temptation too great for me, but you will take care of it." God has promised to be our helper in every situation of life. The question is will you trust Him"

Psalm 37:23 says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delighteth in his way." When we talk about the Lord doing great things, He expects from there. God is ready to give us the divine direction that we need.

We are facing dark and perilous times in or world today, but only He has the capability of bringing us through with victory.

Let us not faint or fear those things that lay ahead of us. Let us allow God to reassure us of His divine ability, and take us through. Let us not be afraid. Let us strive to be more of what God wants

Next week, "Passion for

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, An-

us to do what we can do. He gives us a portion to do, and we are to do it. When we have gone as far as we can go, then He will take over

us to be as His Children.

the Work of God."

derson, Ind.



Michael T. Williams Pastor





Surviving Valentine's Day

By Shewanda Riley Columnist



"I hate Valentine's Day at my job. All the women get roses and I get nothing." "It's basically another Christmas

women." We either say or hear comments like these from men and women, single and married, about Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day is a tricky day for some. It's good for those who have someone to love. But for those who don't have someone at all or may not be with the one they love, it can be challenging but not impossible to enjoy.

One thing I've done that has made what used to be a stressful day much more joyful is that I make it a point to give to others instead of waiting on others to give to me. Thoughtful cards and candy turn out to be valuable to both the giver and the receiver.

I've also prayed the following prayer for a number of years and it continues to encourage me. I hope it does the same for you.

"Heavenly Father, I come to you first celebrating all that you have done in my life and all that you promise to do for me. I will do as it says in Psalm 18:1-2 and love you O Lord with my strength and put my trust in you. No longer will I be distracted by the unholy, ungodly and unhealthy relationship patterns of the past that have kept me from enjoying my life as you have ordained.

"I bind up all thoughts and attitudes that seek to place superficial intimacy and companionship

over the desire you have for me to have Godly intimacy with you and those you have specifically ordained to be a part of my life. I will not get ahead of you in any area of my life but will remain submitted to your will. I will embrace faith, your love and divine

"As I continue my walk with you, I look forward to the many opportunities that you give me to show your grace and mercy to others. I John 4:18 says "there is no fear in love; but perfect love casts our fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."

"I pray for you to increase my ability to hear you and to love you with my whole heart. I pray that your hand will continue to be on my life and all of my relationships.

"Let hope, not hurt, spring forth from my heart. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." Let your word fix the broken places and let your presence continue to fill me with peace. I praise you in advance for giving me wisdom and the right strategies as I choose to no longer be controlled by fear but to be guided by love. Most importantly, I will live with the passion of David, endurance of Joseph, obedience of Ruth, strength of Peter, the commitment of Paul and the mind of Christ. Amen.

Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends." Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

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Urban Leaguers are ready to fight for a fair and accurate 2020 Census

By Marc H. Morial President and CEO National Urban League



Earlier this week, Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin accused the Trump administration of attempting to sabotage the 2020 Census, and from all indications,

we have reason to be concerned. The Census Bureau has been without a

director since June and remains critically understaffed and underfunded.

The bureau plans to discontinue the practice of hiring non-citizens with legal work permits - who have been crucial in the past for communicating with hard-toreach non-English-speaking communi-

The administration has rejected requested changes that could improve the accuracy of the 2020 Census, declining to include a combined question format for collecting Hispanic origin and race, or a separate Middle Eastern or North African category on the Census form.

The administration's reported choice for deputy director, Thomas Brunell, is a hyper-partisan gerrymandering advocate with no political experience.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors this week warned in a letter to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, "We are troubled by the administration's reported intent to appoint a candidate for Census Bureau deputy director whose body of professional work largely centers around achieving partisan advantage in the use of census data."

Since census data is used to draw Congressional districts, the choice of Brunell seems a deliberate attempt to skew census data to give one party an unfair advantage in the 2022 elections.

The decennial census is among the most crucially-important undertakings, with far-ranging implications for legislative redistricting, civil rights laws and distribution of opportunities and resources. A fair and accurate census is of paramount importance.

The National Urban League has been a powerful advocate for accurate African-American representation in the census for generations. In 1970, then-executive director Whitney M. Young testified to Congress about the drastic undercount of African Americans, estimated at 15 percent.

As chair of the Census Bureau's 2010 Census Advisory Committee, I urged the Bureau to expand its paid advertising to areas that have high percentages of hardto-count residents, who often distrust government workers. I also pushed for more census funding specifically targeted at black communities.

Despite our efforts, the 2010 Census missed an estimated 1.5 million people of color. Unless the Census Bureau makes immediate, drastic changes, the results of the 2020 Census will be much worse.

The National Urban League has enlisted civic engagement expert Jeri Green, who will serve as a senior advisor for the 2020 Census. In her former position as senior advisor for Civic Engagement with the U.S. Census Bureau, Green educated diverse stakeholders on the benefits of census participation and engaged hardto-count communities to ascertain their unique challenges to obtaining an accurate count.

Politicizing the census, particularly at the expense of the nation's most vulnerable citizens, violates the foundational principles of representational democracy. The National Urban League will continue forcefully to advocate for a census that reflects the diversity of our nation.

Tax cut will widen the racial wage gap

By Monica Simpson Executive Director, SisterSong



President Donald Trump keeps boasting about the low black unemployment rate, although African Americans still suffer nearly twice

the unemployment rate as whites.

What Trump never mentions is the growing racial wealth gap: the economic disparity between whites and people of color that plagues this country. The statistics from the Federal Reserve are clear. Median black household net worth – what assets the black households in the middle have after subtracting debts – is \$17,600. That of the typical white household is nearly 10 times greater at \$171,000.

The reason for this shocking disparity is clear. As an economic letter from authors of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco notes, "For the past several decades, black workers have fared worse than white workers in the U.S. labor market. Despite government policies designed to reduce or eliminate racial disparities, black workers continue to experience lower wages and higher unemployment rates than whites. Black workers still earn less than their white counterparts in a worsening trend that holds true even after accounting for differences in age, education, job type and geography."

Trump is trumpeting rising wages but in the first year of the Trump administration, the median weekly earnings of African Americans went down, not up, when adjusted for inflation.

Forty-five percent of black families own homes, compared with 73 percent of white families. African Americans were the hardest hit by the financial collapse, in part because banks targeted the worst liar's loans to African American and Latino families, assuring them that they could refinance when the value of their homes rose. When the bottom fell out, the families found themselves underwater, and bankers, like current Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, then made big bucks foreclosing on the victims.

The measure of this, as the report Foreclosed details, can be seen in the fact that the wealth of African-American families had recovered to its precrash level by 2016 - not counting the value of their homes. But the average home equity for African Americans was still \$16,700 less. The very working and middle class families that reached to buy a home were still struggling to get back to where they were in 2007. Over the same period - from 2007 to 2016 - the average wealth of the top 1 percent increased by a mere \$4.9 million.

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is far from a perfect health care plan, but it did allow African Americans to lower the number of uninsured among the non-elderly by 1.8 million. Trump and Republican efforts to repeal Obamacare and to throw millions off Medicaid will disproportionately hurt African Americans and Latinos.

Inequality is still getting worse. As the Pew Research Center reports, the typical wealth of upper-income families was seven times that of middle income families in 2016, a gap that has doubled since 1983. Similarly, upper-income families have 75 times the wealth of lower-income families in 2016, compared with 28 times the wealth in 1983. And African-American and Latino families are disproportionately more likely to be among the low-income families.

Trump is not to blame for this disparity, just as he is not the reason for current low unemployment rates. The question is what will the administration do going forward?

This week, I will travel to New York where the Rainbow Push Wall Street project will convene bankers, religious and civil rights leaders, economists and union leaders to discuss the growing racial wealth gap. We will explore how the workers pension funds - from universities, from unions, from public employees, from churches – could be used safely to green line the neighborhoods that are too often red-lined. With federal guarantees, real investment could rebuild neighborhoods, seed small businesses, build affordable housing and create jobs.

With the tax cut projected to add more than \$1 trillion to the deficit over a decade, the Republican-led Congress is looking to slash, not expand, federal support for working and poor people and impoverished rural and urban communities. With federal guarantees and more independent pension fund management, new capital for vital investments might be

If Trump were serious about dealing with the wealth gap, he would be leading this discussion, not ignoring

Why President Donald Trump really wants a parade

By Julianne Malveaux NNPA News Wire Columnist



"45" wants a parade. He wants it in November, probably before the mid-term elections. Some see

it as move to mobilize his base and stroke his own ego; others actually believe that he wants to celebrate and honor members of the military. It's been reported that he wants the parade, because he saw a parade in Paris on Bastille Day. If he went to the zoo, would he want zebras and tigers roaming the lawn at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue next?

The last parade we had in Washington was in 1991, when we "won" the Gulf War. That parade cost \$14 million (\$21 million in today's dollars), and

drew 800,000 people. Given 45's propensity for wanting the biggest and "the huuuugest," he'd probably want to spend twice what George H.W. Bush spent in 1991.

That \$42 million represents less than a millionth of one percent of the nearly \$500 billion federal budget increase that the Senate proposed in bipartisan legislation February 7.

I am among the many who will look askance at the possible cost of a parade. There are lots of things we could do with \$42 million, like job creation, small Pell grant increases, or even more amenities for our armed forces. But in the scheme of things, some will argue that \$42 million is not that much money; they might suggest that a parade is more about symbolism than anything else.

What does a show of military might signal in these times? There has been no significant military victory, nothing to celebrate, except 45's alreadyinflated ego. France's Bastille Day parade is a response to the fact that France had been invaded twice, most devastatingly by the Germans in World War II. Their parade is as much a show of military might as it is of European unity. These days, troops from several countries, including Germany and the United States, participate in the parade. Some carry the flag of the European Union, even though the EU has no military. Would 45's parade include other countries, or is this exhibition just about

Instead of the show of unity that Bastille Day parade represents, 45's parade will likely be a reflection of his braggadocio. His button is bigger, so is his parade, and so is the U.S. military.

The president's parade sounds like a show of muscle, but to what end? Even the inhabitant of the world's smallest country must know that the U.S. has the world's "greatest" military. So, why do we need to show off? Because 45 is a show-off, a blowhard and an Electoral College-selected buffoon.

Meanwhile, consider the impact a parade might have on the District of Columbia, the usedto-be majority black city that is mostly occupied by Democrats. How will the streets survive huge tanks rolling down Pennsylvania Avenue, and who will pay for repairs? How extensive will this parade be, and will it happen on the weekend or a weekday? What will it mean

for workers, transportation and the district's infrastructure? The president could care less about any of it. He passed the hot potato of the parade to the Secretary of Defense, and now General Jim Mattis and his team are stuck with the task. Both Democrats and Republicans have verbalized opposition to the parade, and they are likely to be labeled "treasonous" by 45, since anyone who disagrees with him, or fails to clap (or bow) when he speaks is obviously a traitor. He is behaving like a despot like his rival, North Korea's "Supreme Leader" Kim Jong-un.

While 45 finds it convenient to idolize the military and insist that the rest of us do so, as well, he didn't find it convenient to serve in the military. He was excused from military service during the Vietnam era, because

he had flat feet or bone spurs or something like that. More than likely, he was excused from military service, because his family had money.

The president wants a parade to celebrate the military and glorify our country's military might. Next he will want to have someone crown him king. Yes, it is a good thing he doesn't go to the zoo, because we might end up with a menagerie in the backyard at 1600 Pennsylvania

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.juliannemalveaux.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlast-

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THE MISSISSIPPI LINK • 13

"Black Panther" stars and creators reflect on the superhero film's arrival

By Ronda Racha Penrice Urban News Service

Fans, who bought a record-setting number of advance tickets, weren't the only ones anticipating the Feb. 16 opening of "Black Panther," Marvel's historic first black superhero film.

"I've been waiting a long time. I was just so excited because this was a movie [where] we all felt a lot of ownership, that we thoroughly enjoyed making," said Oscar winner Lupita Nyong'o during the film's January 30 press conference at the Montage Beverly Hills the morning after its glitzy purple carpet premiere. Nyong'o plays Nakia, T'Challa/Black Panther's love interest.

Although T'Challa/Black Panther, whose superpowers include speed, strength, night vision, claws and more aided by his country's powerful metal, Vibranium, was first introduced in the "Fantastic Four" comic book series in 1966, months before the founding of the iconic freedom-fighting Black Panther Party, "Black Panther" is the character's first-ever live action film.

Reportedly Jack Kirby, who created T'Challa/Black Panther with Stan Lee, took the name from the all-black U.S. Army 761st Tank Battalion of World War II dubbed "the Black Panthers." Chadwick Boseman, well-known for his roles as such real-life heroes as Jackie Robinson and James Brown, is the first to ever play him on film, appearing in 2016's "Captain America: Civil War" to great enthusiasm. He returns in "Avengers: Infinity War" May 4.

"Black Panther" follows T'Challa/Black Panther's journey, in the aftermath of his father's death, to lead his technologically advanced nation, Wakanda, which the world believes is impoverished.

Featuring black actors from the United States, England and various parts of Africa, "Black Panther" is the first Marvel film set in a black-ruled nation. As such, the film challenges the negative stereotypes in which the world typically views African nations. It also raises larger questions about what a successful never colonialized African country might look like and what role it would play in today's global landscape.

The film's larger significance was clearly important to Nyong'o and her fellow cast members – who included Boseman, Michael B. Jordan (Erik Killmonger), Forest Whitaker (Zuri), Angela Bassett (T'Challa/Black Panther's stepmother Ramonda), "Get Out" Oscar nominee Daniel Kaluuya (W'Kabi) and more – during the Hollywood press conference where Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige and Ryan Coogler, the film's co-writer and director, were also present.

Jordan, who plays the main villain Erik Killmonger that challenges T'Challa/Black Panther's ascension as Wakanda's king, said he only truly grasped the film's importance after seeing it for the first time at the premiere.

"I couldn't describe that feeling before actually sitting down and watching that film and seeing yourself on screen, not just me personally, but people that look like me in power and having those socially relevant themes but in a movie that you want to sit down and watch and enjoy," Jordan said.

As someone from both the United States and Zimbabwe, Danai Gurira, who plays Okoye, leader of the female warriors known as the Dora Milaje who protect the king, had an even more positive response to the fictional Wakanda and its very real continent. Gurira shared that she appreciated the departure from the usual depictions of African countries as impoverished.

"You see the power and potential of where you're from, but you see how skewed it's viewed by the world and how misrepresented it is and how distorted it is or besieged by the world so often," she said. "["Black Panther" is] kind of a salve to those wounds to see this world brought to life this way and to see all the potential and



T'Challa/Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman) and Erik Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan) fight as the Dora Milaje look on. PHOTOS BY MATT KENNEDY..©MARVEL STUDIOS 2018



Okoye (Danai Gurira), Nakia (Lupita Nyong'o) and Ayo (Florence Kasumba) of the Dora Milaje



T'Challa/Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman)

power of all the different African culturalisms and aspects of our being that's actually celebrated," she said.

"Black Panther" is also noteworthy for its elevation of black women in the superhero genre, be they strong like Gurira's Okoye, humanitarian like Nyong'o's Nakia, royal like Angela Bassett's Ramonda or STEM geniuses like Letitia Wright's Shuri who is T'Challa/Black Panther's sister. That elevation was also present behind the scenes through the work of production designer Hannah Beachler, Oscar-nominated costume designer Ruth E. Carter and hair department head Camille Friend.

"How it was written is that the men are always behind the women as well so no one is undermined," said Wright of the film and her character. "The men are not like 'you shouldn't be in technology, you shouldn't be in math.' T'Challa is like 'go ahead sis, this is your department, this is your domain,

like kill it.'"

Boseman attributes that gender balance to the vision that is Wakanda. "The idea of the next generation being smarter, being better than you, is a concept that they would have evolved to," said Boseman. "So even though she's reared in the same generation, she's my younger sister, she benefits from whatever I have. So you want your sons and daughters to be better than you were. So that concept is a Wakandan concept."

Coogler, previously known for his independent social justice film "Fruitvale Station" and the latest installment of the Rocky franchise, "Creed," both starring Jordan, said he was cautious not to tamper too much with the "Black Panther" spirit so well established by the comic books in the script he wrote with Joe Robert Cole.

"You can go through our film and see something in there probably from every writer that has touched T'Challa's character and the "Black Panther" comics, from Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's initial runs to Don McGregor to Christopher Priest, Reginald Hudlin, Jonathan Hickman and Ta-Nehisi Coates," he said, naming most of the franchise writers. "The character has got a long history and such rich stuff to mine and each writer left their own mark."

When the film's radicalism was singled out, Feige reminded those in the room that "Black Panther" was born radical. "Stan Lee and Jack Kirby and the whole Marvel bullpen created Wakanda and created T'Challa and created Black Panther and made him a smarter, more accomplished character than any of the other white characters in the mid-1960s," he said.

That integrity, Feige continued, guided this Marvel team. "If they had the guts to do that in the mid-1960s," he said, "the least we [could] do is live up to that and allow this story to be told the way it needed to be told and not shy away from things that the Marvel founders didn't shy away from in the height of the Civil Rights era."

Biography comic books debut for Black History Month



The Mississippi Link Newswire

This month, TidalWave Comics celebrates Black History month by re-releasing some of its most popular nonfiction comic books featuring iconic black Americans in an exciting new print format.

Since 1976, every United States President has recognized February as Black History Month in order to recognize the pivotal role African Americans have played in our history. Noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent Americans left an indelible mark, creating a celebration and exploration of culture spanning Canada, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

To celebrate, TidalWave is re-releasing over thirty titles exploring the lives of influential African-Americans who shaped our culture, influenced our politics, and fought for equality and social justice. The comic books will have a spine, a cardstock cover, and feature the high-quality printing one would associate with a coffee table book rather than a flimsy "floppy" comic book found on the stands.

TidalWave formed a recent partnership with Ingram to print high-quality books on demand while assisting with eBook distribution and more. Ingram works across the full publishing spectrum, providing assistance to some of the largest names in the business to local indie authors.

The comic books will spotlight the lives of Barack and Michelle Obama, Whitney Houston, Condoleeza Rice, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jackson, Prince Rogers Nelson and many others.

Known for fiction titles such as "10th Muse," "The Legend of Isis," "Vincent Price Presents," and partnerships with Steve Harvey and other celebrity writers, the independent publisher made a mark in comic book fandom. In 2008, TidalWave's first foray into nonfiction told the backstories of Sarah Palin and Hillary Clinton, delving into a corner of the sequential art and story-

telling market that was largely untapped.

The biography comic form allows TidalWave's talented writers to delve into the history of newsworthy figures and explore the events that shaped them. Their line of biographical comic books has been featured on CNN, USA Today, NBC, ABC, BET, Politico, Billboard, Roll Call, Vanity Fair, The Today Show, FOX News and in Ebony, JET, People Magazine among thousands of others, engaging readers of all ages with a mix of

"As a reluctant reader, I found the comic book form easy to access, so I always believed comics could both entertain and teach," said publisher and creative force Darren Davis. "Celebrating Black History Month through graphic nonfiction is a great way to teach readers about the formation and heart of our nation."

information and entertainment.

Educators will find TidalWave's robust catalog of graphic and literary novels now fully accessible, providing teachable moments for their students. Libraries can order books designed to educate and entertain communities, while comic book stores can capitalize on the focus of the lives of famous – and infamous – while adding credibility to the graphic form by sharing true stories that shape our lives.

TidalWave is a multifaceted multimedia production company with the mission of delivering dynamic storytelling in a variety of forms by developing graphic and literary fiction and nonfiction, audio, film, and more. Their wide range of diverse titles is sure to delight your patrons by delivering dynamic visuals and creative and innovative storytelling available in high-quality print and electronic formats.

TidalWave offers its services as a fully realized art, design, and writing studio. Featuring over 15 years of longevity in the marketplace, their media design provides quality services for any multimedia project.

FEBRUARY 15 - 21, 2018

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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.

2012 Niss ALT 1N4AL2AP8CN495595

Registered to Chaffin Alisha Leshunda Santander Consumer USA, Lien Holder

Date of Sale: March 9, 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

2/8/2018, 2/15/2018, 2/22/2018

LEGAL

Legal Ad

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Lucila Quintana Aguilar, please contact Pastor Gilbert Garzia at 956-378-3558 of Parkway Church in Madison, MS regarding her appearance in court for a divorce hearing.

2/8/2018, 2/15/18

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

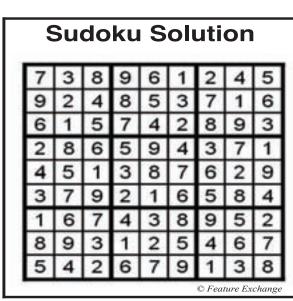
Advertisement for Bids

Bid 3065 Roof Replacement for Casey Elementary School Bid 3066 Roof Replacement for Isable Elementary School

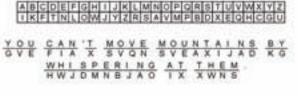
Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) March 23, 2018, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Casey Elementary School will be held at 2101 Lake Circle, Jackson, MS 39211, on March 1, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Isable Elementary School will be held at 1716 Isable Street, Jackson, MS 39204, on March 1, 2018 at 10:30 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www. durrelldesigngroupplans.com. A \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Durrell Design Group, PLLC, 500-G East Woodrow Wilson Ave., Jackson, MS 39216, Phone: 601-708-4788, Fax: 601-488-4717, Email: contact@durrelldesigngroup.com

2/15/2018, 2/22/2018



Cryptogram Solution



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS EAST METRO LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICE PHASE 1 BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY JMAA PROJECT NO. 6000-001-18 February 14, 2018

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") will receive sealed bids at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN"), Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, in the City of Jackson, Rankin County, Mississippi, until 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on March 23, 2018 (the "Bid Deadline"), for services in connection with the East Metro Lawn and Landscaping Service, Project No. 6000-001-18, at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 2:05 p.m. Central Standard Time on March 23, 2018 (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building, Suite 300 at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to attend the Bid Opening.

The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the wording: "East Metro Lawn and Landscaping Service Phase 1, JMAA PROJECT NO. 6000-001- 18." Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received by JMAA after the Bid Deadline will not be considered for any cause whatsoever.

JMAA will award the Work to the lowest most responsive and responsible bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Information for Bidders. The Information for Bidders contains, among other things, a copy of this Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders and an Agreement to be executed by JMAA and the lowest and best bidder. Any Addenda issued clarifying and/or changing plans and specifications; clarifying and/or changing instructions in the Instruction to Bidders; and/or answering questions in relation to the Instruction to Bidders, including plans and specifications, shall become part of the Information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered a part of the Agreement.

The Information for Bidders is on file and open for public inspection at JAN at the following address:

Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport 100 International Drive, Suite 300 Jackson, Mississippi 39208

Telephone: (601) 939-5631

Email Address: dherndon@jmaa.com Attention: Deuntagus Herndon. **Procurement Specialist**

Bid Documents may be picked up, shipped, or emailed to the person making the request.

The contact for all questions and submittal of Bids and required forms is Mr. Deuntagus Herndon, Procurement Specialist. Mr. Herndon can be contacted at dherndon@jmaa.com or 601-360- 8622.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 3:30 p.m. Central Standard Time on February 28, 2018, in the Community Room, 3rd Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly recommended for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid and to hold and examine bids for up to ninety (90) days before awarding the Contract.

If it becomes necessary to revise any aspect of this Request for Bids or to provide additional information to Bidders, JMAA will issue one or more Addenda by posting on JMAA's website (http://jmaa.com/rfqrfb-center/). JMAA will also endeavor to deliver a copy of each Addendum, to all persons on record with JMAA as receiving a copy of the Information for Bid-

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 15% for the Work solicited by this RFB. JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: February 14, 2018 /s/ Carl D. Newman, A.A. E. Carl D. Newman, A.A. E., Chief Executive Officer

2/8/2018, 2/15/2018

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS EAST METRO LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICE PHASE 2 BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 6000-002-18 FEBRUARY 14, 2018

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") will receive sealed bids at the Jackson- Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN"), Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, in the City of Jackson, Rankin County, Mississippi, until 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on March 23, 2018 (the "Bid Deadline"), for services in connection with the East Metro Lawn and Landscaping Service, JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 6000-002-18, at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 2:35 p.m. Central Standard Time on March 23, 2018 (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room. Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building. Suite 300 at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to attend the

The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the wording: "EAST METRO LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICE PHASE 2 1, JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 6000-002-18." Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received by JMAA after the Bid Deadline will not be considered for any cause what-

JMAA will award the Work to the lowest most responsive and responsible bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Information for Bidders. The Information for Bidders contains, among other things, a copy of this Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders and an Agreement to be executed by JMAA and the lowest and best bidder. Any Addenda issued clarifying and/or changing plans and specifications; clarifying and/or changing instructions in the Instruction to Bidders; and/or answering questions in relation to the Instruction to Bidders, including plans and specifications, shall become part of the Information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered a part of the Agreement.

The Information for Bidders is on file and open for public inspection at JAN at the following address:

Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport 100 International Drive, Suite 300 Jackson, Mississippi 39208 Telephone: (601) 939-5631

Email Address: dherndon@jmaa.com Attention: Deuntagus Herndon. Procurement Specialist

Bid Documents may be picked up, shipped, or emailed to the person making the request.

The contact for all questions and submittal of Bids and required forms is Mr. Deuntagus Herndon, Procurement Specialist. Mr. Herndon can be contacted at dherndon@jmaa.com or 601-360- 8622.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time

on February 28, 2018, in the Community Room, 3rd Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly recommended for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference.

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid and to hold and examine bids for up to ninety (90) days before awarding the Contract

If it becomes necessary to revise any aspect of this Request for Bids or to provide additional information to Bidders, JMAA will issue one or more Addenda by posting on JMAA's website (http://jmaa.com/rfqrfb-center/). JMAA will also endeavor to deliver a copy of each Addendum, to all persons on record with JMAA as receiving a copy of the Information for Bid-

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 15% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: February 14, 2018 /s/ Carl D. Newman, A.A. E. Carl D. Newman, A.A. E., Chief Executive Officer

2/15/2018, 2/22/2018

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY **FOR** CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH **1ST AND 5TH FLOOR RENOVATIONS** AT THE

JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JMAA PROJECT NO. 018-17)

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") will receive sealed bids at

the Jackson- Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN"), Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, in the City of Jackson, Rankin County, Mississippi, until 2:00 p.m. central time on March 20, 2018 (the "Bid Deadline"), for construction and renovations in connection with the 1st and 5th floor at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 2:05 p.m. central time on March 20, 2018 (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the Bidder's company name and Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number and with the wording: "1st and 5th Floor Renovations at JAN, JMAA Project No. 018-17." Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received by JMAA after the Bid Deadline will not be considered for any cause whatsoever. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

JMAA will award the Work to the Lowest and Best most responsive and responsible Bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Information for Bidders. The Information for Bidders contains, among other things, a copy of this Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders and an Agreement to be executed by JMAA and the lowest and most responsive and responsible Bidder. Any Addendums issued clarifying and/or changing plans and specifications; clarifying and/or changing instructions in the Instruction to Bidders; and/or answering questions in relation to the Instructions to Bidders, including plans and specifications, shall become part of the Information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered part of the Agreement.

The Information for Bidders, including plans and specifications, is on file and open for public inspection at JAN at the following address:

Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport Suite 300, Main Terminal Building 100 International Drive Jackson, Mississippi 39208 Telephone: (601) 939-5631 ext. 616

Facsimile: (601) 939-3713

Attention: Robin Byrd, Manager, Procurement

A copy of the Bid Documents (including plans and specifications for the Work) may be obtained upon payment of a \$250.00 refundable fee per set. Bid documents must be returned to the printer in useable condition no later than thirty (30) days after opening of Bids for purchase cost to be refunded. The Engineer for this Project reserves the right to determine quality of plans upon return. Payment for the bid documents is to be in the form of a company or cashier's check made payable to AJA Management & Technical Services, Inc. The check may be presented upon pick-up of the Bid Documents at the following address or may be mailed to the following address:

AJA Management & Technical Services, Inc. 912 North West Street Jackson, MS 39202 Telephone: (601) 352-6800

Facsimile: (601) 352-6807 Email: ajenkins@ajaservices.com

Bid Documents may be picked up or shipped to the person making the request. Documents will not be distributed or mailed, however, until payment

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 10:00 a.m. central time on February 21, 2018 in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference.

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; and to hold and examine bids for up to ninety (90) days before awarding the Contract to perform the Work.

If it becomes necessary to revise any aspect of this Request for Bids or to provide additional information to Bidders, JMAA will issue one or more Addenda by posting on JMAA's website (http://jmaa.com/RFQrfb-center/). JMAA will also endeavor to deliver a copy of each Addendum, to all persons on record with JMAA as receiving a copy of the Information for Bidders, via

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 30% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: February 2, 2018

/s/ Carl D. Newman, A.A. E Carl D. Newman, A.A. E., Chief Executive Officer

2/8/2018, 2/15/2018

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DOROTHY TAYLOR, DECEASED STACY DAWSON AND DONNA McLAURIN, PETITIONERS CAUSE NO. P2018-43 T/1

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary on the Estate of DOROTHY TAYLOR, Deceased, having been granted to us on the 7th day of February, 2018, by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi, to Stacy Dawson and Donna McLaurin as Co-Executrix(s) of the Estate of DOROTHY TAYLOR, deceased, Notice is hereby given that all persons having claim(s) against said Estate to present such claim(s) to the Clerk of said Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days of the First Publication of this Notice, or they will be Forever barred.

This the 13th day of February, 2018.

Chester Ray Jones-MSB #3191

Respectfully submitted, Stacy Dawson and

Donna McLaurin, Co-Executrix(s) of the Estate of DOROTHY TAYLOR, deceased

Counsel and Attorney-At-Law Post Office Box 5141, Jackson, MS 39296 (601) 953-6491 chetjones4545@yahoo.com

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Week of February 11, 2018

2/15/2018 2/22/2018 3/1/2018

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FILM REVIEW: **MONSTER MEETS GIRL IN ROMANTIC SCI-FI FANTASY**

By Kam Williams

Columnist

The Shape of Water is the early favorite in this year's Oscar sweepstakes. The sci-fi fantasy about love across species lines was nominated for the most Academy Awards, 13, including in a half-dozen major categories: Best Picture, Director, Original Screenplay, Lead Actress (Sally Hawkins), Supporting Actress (Octavia Spencer) and Supporting Actor (Richard Jenkins).

Writer/director Guillermo del Toro was ostensibly inspired by Creature from the Black Lagoon, a classic horror flick from the Fifties which spawned a couple of sequels as well as a comedic spinoff. Abbott and Costello Meet the Creature from the Black Lagoon. This variation on the theme turns the scary merman from malevolent to merely misunderstood.

The story is set in Baltimore in 1962, and unfolds inside a top secret government laboratory. There, a half-fish/half-human (Doug Jones) is being kept under wraps in a giant vat of gelatinous, green soup by Colonel Richard Strickland (Michael Shannon) who dragged the primordial monster out of the muck in the Ama-

Strickland mistreats the savage since he lost two fingers trapping it, while marine biologist Dr. Hoffstetler (Michael Stuhlbarg) has been ordered to study its unusual lungs. The plot thickens when cleaning ladies Elisa (Hawkins) and Zelda (Spencer) discover the classified amphibian's vat.

For, Elisa is a lonely mute with nothing going on in her life. To her, a merman is better than no man at all. So, she starts communicating with him. Friendship blossoms into mutual attraction, and it gradually becomes a curious question of just how far can this forbidden romance be taken. The answer? Pretty far.

After all, anything can happen when you're dealing with magical realism. Some other examples of this otherworldly genre are Black Swan, Birdman and del Toro's own Pan's Labyrinth.

While this critic generally prefers pictures solidly grounded in reality, The Shape of Water certainly is sufficiently engaging and visually-captivating to recommend for open-minded fans of the supernatural.

Very Good (3 stars)

Rated R for violence, profanity, sexuality and frontal nudity

Running time: 123 minutes Production Studios: Double Dare You Productions / Bull Productions / TSG Entertainment

Distributor: Fox Searchlight To see a trailer for The Shape of Water, visit: https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=XFYWazblaUA



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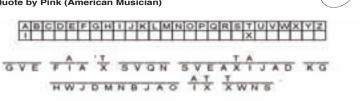
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 11552 Jackson, MS 39283



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 Pink (American Musician)





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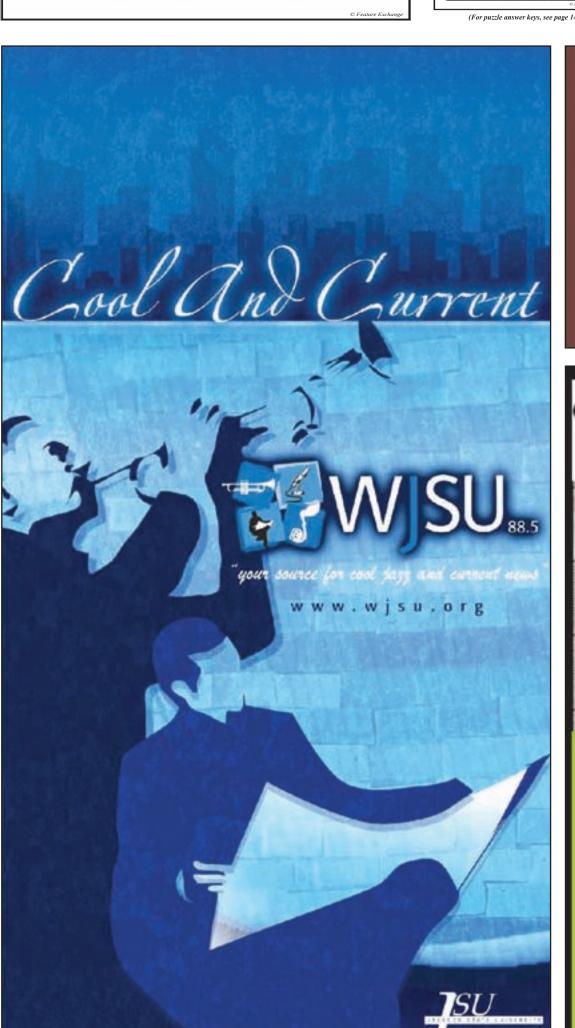
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BOOK REVIEW: "WHEN THEY CALL YOU A TERRORIST: A BLACK LIVES MATTER MEMOIR"

BYPATRISSE KHAN-CULLORS & ASHA BANDELE, WITH A FOREWORD BY ANGELA DAVIS C.2017, ST. MARTIN'S PRESS \$24.99 / \$32.50 CANADA • 257 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You can't look any longer.
Whatever it is, it's just too painful, too scary, so you hide your eyes and pretend that nothing's happening. You can't look any longer, so you don't...but after awhile, you notice it again. That's when you realize that you saw all along. That's when, as in the new book "When They Call You a Terrorist" by Patrisse Khan-Cullors & asha bandele, you realize that you never really

could look away.

Growing up as the third child in a family of four, Khan-Cullors lived with her mother and sib-

lings in a "multiracial" neighborhood near Sherman Oaks, Calif. The two places were "less than a mile" apart but, due to social, financial, and racial divides, they were separated by oceans, in Khan-Cullors' mind.

Despite that her mother worked all day and into the night, Khan-Cullors was reared in a loving atmosphere. The man who raised her wasn't always around, but she adored him; after she learned, at age 12, that he wasn't her biological father, her birth-father and his family became present on a regular basis.

Absent an adult, Khan-Cullors' Khan-Cullors came to undereldest brother acted as "man" of stand that she was queer. She be-

the house. This all complicated her young life, but she enjoyed this expanded, supportive family.

Khan-Cullors says that she was 12 years old, the first time she was arrested. By then, she'd witnessed her brothers being questioned by police for just hanging out with friends. She started truly noticing her surroundings.

Not long afterward, her father was imprisoned on drug charges, and she lost touch with much of his family. Then her older brother was imprisoned for attempted burglary and was diagnosed with a mental health disorder, and Khan-Cullors came to understand that the was guest. She had

gan to earnestly question things in her life.

At 16, she became an "organizer" and an activist. She doubled down on it after her brother was arrested and called a "terrorist" for yelling at a woman. She was driven to act when, following the death of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of George Zimmerman, she sent out a message to her friends. #BlackLivesMatter.

"I write," she says, "I hope it impacts more than we can ever imagine."

And, of course, it did, and it will. Once you're finished with "When They Call You a Terrorist," you'll want to stand up, too.

when they
call you
a terrorist
a black lives matter
memoir
patrisse
khan-cullors
& asha bandele
with a foreword
by angela davis

You'll want to stand, even though author Patrisse Khan-Cullors (with asha bandele) doesn't tell stories here that haven't already been told. Indeed, many authors have shared similar tales of poverty, affluent white friends, outrage, prison and sadness. The shelves are full of such books – but this one is different because Khan-Cullors gives her story an urgent hear-

You'll want to stand, even me-now outrage. That "done ough author Patrisse Khan-playing" feeling is what readers ullors (with asha bandele) may come away with – a feeling besn't tell stories here that that underscores Khan-Cullors'

activism.

And that's what this book is about: it's a rallying cry wrapped in a memoir tied in a call to legal action of whatever sort. And so, if you're ready, "When They Call You a Terrorist" is worth a longer look.





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Tigers lose third straight, fall 63-58 in ot to PVAM

Associated Press

Dennis Jones had 22 points and Zachary Hamilton scored five of his 11 points in overtime to help Prairie View A&M beat Jackson State 63-58 Monday

Troy Thompson also scored 11 points and J.D. Wallace added seven to go with 14 rebounds for PVAMU (10-16, 7-5 Southwestern Athletic Conference).

The teams combined to miss the first 13 field-goal attempts in overtime, and finished 1 of 14. Hamilton opened the scoring in the extra period when he hit two free throws with 3:19 to play and it was scoreless until he made two more foul shots with 31 seconds left. Hamilton and Jones combined to make 3 of 4 free throws to make it 63-56 with 10 seconds remaining before a dunk by Paris Collins capped the scoring.



Final	1	2	ОТ	Т	
JACKSON ST. (10-16, 7-6)	30	26	2	58	
Prairie View A&M (10-16, 7-5)	28	28	7	63	

8-of-24 shooting for the Tigers Bozeman hit 4 of 5. (10-16, 7-6). Treshawn Boldeman added 10 points. Bolden combined to make 10 of 52

The teams, who came in en scored 16, including three tied for first in the conference 3-pointers, and Jeremiah Boz- in 3-point percentage (35.1),

Collins had 18 points on made 6 of 6 from the field and (19.2 percent) from beyond the arc and committed 40 total

> Jackson State has lost three in a row and six of its last seven.

Tigers lose third straight, fall 63-58 in ot to PVAM

Associated Press

The Jackson State women's basketball team looked to keep pace with the top three teams in the Southwestern Athletic Conference, remain in fourth place in the league standings and snap a two game losing streak by beating the Prairie View A&M Lady Panthers Monday night.

Unfortunately, the Lady Ti-

gers were not able accomplish their goals as they fell 85-73 to the Lady Panthers at the William J. Nicks Arena. With the loss JSU falls to fifth place in the conference standings with a 12-10 overall record and a 7-6 conference mark. With the win PVAM improves to 9-14 and 7-5, leapfrogging the Lady Tigers for the fourth spot in the standings.

The top four teams in the league will host the lower seeds on campus during the quarterfinal round of the SWAC Basketball Tournament. The SWAC Tournament semifinals will be held at the Delmar Fieldhouse from March 9-10 in Houston.



Score By Periods	1	2	3	4	ОТ	Final
Jackson State (12-10, 7-6)	12	17	25	19	-	73
Prairie View A&M (9-14, 7-5)	26	12	23	24	-	85

In the game, Marneisha Hamer led Jackson State with 16 points to go along with six rebounds. She went 6-17 from the field and 4-7 from the free throw line. Christina Ellis added 14 points, four rebounds and two steals. Derica Wiggins and Mariah Cauhryn-Smelser each contributed nine points and Sumer Williams scored eight points and pulled down five rebounds.

Shala Dobbins, the second leading scorer in the SWAC, finished with a game high 29 points. She went 8-11 from the field and 12-18 from the free throw line. Four other Lady Panthers also scored in double-digits.

JSU, which is the best rebounding team in the SWAC, was out rebounded 47-41 by the Lady Panthers. The Lady Tigers were held to .325 percent

shooting from the field, including making only .188 percent of their three-point attempts. PVAM shot a blistering .509 percent from the field and made .333 percent of its threes.

JSU returns to action Saturday, Feb. 17 when the Lady Tigers travel to Grambling, La. to face the Grambling State Lady Tigers in SWAC action.

Delta Devils drop overtime road game at Alcorn

By JaQuana Williams Mississippi Valley State

The Davey L. Whitney Complex was energetic and loud Saturday evening as the Delta Devils came into Alcorn's territory, and gave the Braves a run for their money. A game of numerous score ties eventually went into overtime where the Delta Devils fell 90-94.

Dante Scott was hot out the gate for the Delta Devils as he drained back-to-back three points to put points on the board, which gave Mississippi Valley an early 6-0 lead. After the halfway mark, Alcorn went on an 11-0 run that eventually gave them their first lead of the night. From that point, both teams kept within arm's reach of each other; ultimately tying the game at 37, going into halftime.

A.J. Mosby and Devon Brewer lead Alcorn with eight points each, but it was Dante Scott for the Delta Devils that was the talk of the first half. Scott scored 16 points on 62.5 percent from field, 66.7 percent from beyond the arc, and 100 percent from the charity stripe all within the 19 minutes he played in the first half.

As a team, the Delta Devils shot 38.4 percent from the field in the first half but managed to keep from going into halftime trailing. Valley outscored Alcorn in second chance points in the first half, and the bench accumulated 14 of the 37 points.

Arınze Anakwenze was the first to score to start the second half, which mimicked the first half. It wasn't until around the two-minute mark that the second half got interesting. At 2:08 the game was tied again at 78 then once again at 82 with 31 seconds

left in regulation. The crowd was even more engaged at that point to see if Alcorn would forgo overtime with a late made bucket; however, the Delta Devils' defense forced overtime. Most notably, Dante Scott picked up his third personal foul late in the second half and eventually fouled out with 39 seconds left in overtime.

Key factors of the game include the Delta Devils scoring 18 points off Alcorn's turnovers, scored 19 on second chance points, and outscored Alcorn 30-22 in the paint. The Delta Devils also took 14 offensive rebounds over Alcorn's nine in regulation.

Two minutes passed in overtime before either team scored, when Alcorn's Dante Sterling was sent to the line and made one of his free throws. That sparked a back and forth bucket trade between the Delta Devils and Braves. With time against them, the Delta Devils had to stop the clock and has a result Braves were sent to the charity stripe where they cashed in free throws to solidify their 94-90 win.

Once the Delta Devils entered a deficit they fought back with a Jordan Evans jumper to pull within two (87-89) then a Jordan Lewis three pointer to pull within two again (90-92) before A.J. Mosby was sent to the charity stripe to close the game out.

In the loss, Jordan Evans lead the team with 25 points and five rebounds, followed by 21 points and eight rebounds by Dante Scott. Kylan Phillips added 14 points, and Geemal Davis contributed seven points off the bench.

Tigers Fall 4-3 To Choctaws



Associated Press

The Jackson State men's tennis team fell 4-3 to the Mississippi College Choctaws Tuesday afternoon at the JSU Tennis Complex.

In singles action Federico Mendieta-Ruiz and Vishu Prasad both picked up wins for the Tigers. Mendieta-Ruiz beat Max Nilges 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 at No. 5 and Prasad beat Trey Randal 6-2,

The Tigers also picked up a pair of wins at No. 1 and No. 3 positions. Andre Alawi and Stylianos Gkontsaris beat Joan Valy and Marcos Rocca 6-4. Fritz Jacobs and Federico Mendieta-Ruiz beat Sanders Barrick and Rodrigo Gonza-

Singles competition

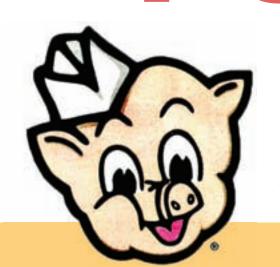
- 1. Joan Valy (MC) def. SANSON, Joan (JS) 6-0, 6-3
- 2. Lucio Menezes (MC) def. ALAWI, Andre (JS) 6-3, 6-4 3. Marcos Rocca (MC) def. JACOBS, Fritz (JS) 6-2, 6-2
- J. Rodrigo Gonzalez (MC) def. GKONTSARIS, Styliano (JS) 2-6, 7-6 (6-4), 6-1
- MENDIETA-RUIZ, Feder (JS) def. Max Nilges (MC) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 PRASAD, Vishu (JS) def. Trey Randall (MC) 6-2, 7-5

Doubles competition

- ALAWI, Andre/GKONTSARIS, Styliano (JS) def. Joan Valy/Marcos Rocca (MC) 6-4
- Lucio Menezes/Max Nilges (MC) def. PRASAD, Vishu/SANSON, Joan (JS) 6-2
- JACOBS, Fritz/MENDIETA-RUIZ, Feder (JS) def. Sanders Barrick/J. Rodrigo Gonzalez (MC) 6-4

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