



Dodge criticized for using King voiceover in Super Bowl ad



Some Super Bowl watchers were dismayed by the use of a Martin Luther King Jr. voiceover in the Dodge truck commercial. SCREEN SHOT/YOUTUBE.COM

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

“Everybody can be great,” Dr. King said in a speech in 1968, two months before he was murdered. “You only need a heart full of grace; soul generated by love.” The advertisement featured images of football players, cowboys, U.S. troops and first responders as a backdrop to King’s voiceover. The advertisement ended with an image of a soldier, a Dodge truck, and the words “Built to Serve.” The commercial for Dodge trucks provoked protest on social media shortly after it aired from many Super Bowl LII viewers. It also induced a reaction tweet from the The King Center and Bernice King, the daughter of the late civil rights leader.

“Neither @TheKingCenter nor @BerniceKing is the entity that approves the use of #MLK’s words or imagery for use in merchandise, entertainment (movies, music, artwork, etc) or advertisement, including tonight’s @Dodge #SuperBowl commercial,” The King Center tweet stated not long after the ad was broadcast.

April 4, 2018 was the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee, at the hands of James Earl Ray.

“The worst commercials are those that use icons like Martin Luther King Jr to sell things like a Dodge Ram truck,” tweeted

Dodge
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Black AIDS Institute launches new programs

Black AIDS Institute announces retirement of president and CEO Phill Wilson, new board members, new staff, new partnerships, new programs

By Freddie Allen
Editor-In-Chief, NNPA Newswire

As part of a new strategic plan to prepare for the next generation of Black HIV/AIDS response, the Black AIDS Institute announced several organizational changes, including the retirement of long-time president and CEO, Phill Wilson.

Wilson launched the Black AIDS Institute in 1999 with a clear mantra (“Our People, Our Problem, Our Solution”) and mission, “to stop the AIDS pandemic in black communities by engaging and mobilizing black leaders, institutions and individuals in efforts to confront HIV from a uniquely and unapologetically black point of view.

“In order for a movement to endure, there must be a plan for the future,” said Wilson, in a statement. “Stepping down as the president and CEO of the institute, where I have had the privilege of serving for the last 19 years, is bittersweet for me. I have been involved in this fight for almost my entire adult life.”

The statement continued: “In 1983, when I started doing this work, none of us could have imagined this mysterious new disease, first identified at U.C.L.A. Medical Center, would become the defining health issue of our generation. We are at a turning point. Are we going to build on the remarkable advances we have made over the last decade and continue to push forward and finally end of the HIV/AIDS epidemic or are we going to go back to the dark days of despair and death?”



Black AIDS Institute President and CEO Phill Wilson leaves the Institute well positioned to take on the challenges of future. BLACK AIDS INSTITUTE

In the statement Wilson said that the institute is committed to doing everything in its power to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, especially in black communities. “The time is right. The organization has the infrastructure and capacity to do the

changes set forth by the board to prepare for a new generation of capacity building, advocacy, mobilization and service delivery,”
AIDS
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Forward Lookers Federated Club continues its long standing tradition

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

For more than 30 years, the ladies of the Forward Lookers Federated Club has hosted an annual heritage luncheon during Black History Month. This year was no different, as this marked 32 years of service for these leading and linked ladies.

On the morning of Feb. 3, the Jackson State University Center ballrooms were transformed into an oasis of purple and blue, signifying loyalty and wisdom as hundreds of ladies and men gathered for this annual celebration.

During the luncheon two \$1500 scholarships were presented by Carol Cooper, immediate past president of the Forward Lookers Federated Club. The recipients of the scholarships were Javon Allen Cross of Tougaloo College and Rachel Lewis of Mississippi Valley State University.

Cross is a 2013 graduate of Greenwood High School in Greenwood, Miss. He attended Holmes Community College



Members of the Forward Lookers Federated Club

where he earned an associate arts degree in pre-occupational therapy. He is an elementary education major.

Lewis is a graduate of John L. McLaurin High School in Little Rock, Ark. She was recruited by MVSU in 2016 because of her leadership skills, community involvement and musical talents. She is also an elementary education major.

The highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of three prestigious awards by Evelyn Legette, also a former president of the Forward Lookers Feder-

ated Club.

Violet Estell Williams was the recipient of the Uplift Award. During the 60’s Williams was actively involved in the Civil Rights Movement. She participated in the March on Washington, the Mississippi March and was among the attendees of the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She also worked with the Young Freedom Riders from the East. She graduated from Tougaloo College Daniel Hand Prep High School and continued her education at Jackson College where she received a bach-

elor of science degree. In 1968 she was the first woman of color employed by the Jackson Public School District. In her first three years she was awarded “Teacher of the Year.”

John Perkins was the recipient of the Heritage Award. He is a civil rights legend, well known for being an advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves. Perkins is a minister and an author of a plethora of books. He is a victim of abuse that has survived and thrived without becoming bitter. He received limited formal education but is the

recipient of 13 honorary doctorate degrees.

Audrey Bernice Wiley has been described as the epitome of service. Whether it is in the community providing comfort and professionalism to grieving families, cooking and serving a delicious meal at special events, or giving of her time, talent and treasure through community and church events, Wiley believes in living out the words of the hymn “If I Can Help Somebody as I Pass Along.” Wiley is a graduate of Jackson State University with degrees in education and busi-

ness. Wiley, a local entrepreneur, is co-owner of Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home.

Pastor C. J. Rhodes was the guest speaker. In his speech he said, “I will submit to you that the way this federation will sustain its’ work is by doing the very thing that is in your name, by continuing to look ‘forward.’”

He gave the analogy of driving a car or truck. “You have three primary pieces of glass: the rear view mirror, side mirror and the windshield. He said the rear and side mirrors are important but they are smaller for a reason, and one should not look through those mirrors very long. He said, “You have to keep your eyes on the road in front of you.”

He said it is good to look back from time to time so that you will know what can derail you; but if you only look back, you may wreck your vehicle. “Therefore, Rhodes stated, “one must continue to make present day history, otherwise, there is a risk of wrecking the successes and progresses of the journey.

See photos on page 16.

Links Day At The Capital 2018



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February 1, 2018

PHOTOS BY JAYJOHNSON



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AIDS

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said Wilson. “I am very proud of the work we have done over the last 19 years and of the organization’s commitment to new leadership. That commitment is more important now than ever before.”

Pursuing new executive leadership is a part of a larger effort on the part of the Institute to prepare for the next generation of HIV/AIDS response in Black communities.

Ahead of the Curve

From the African-American HIV University (AAHU) and Black Treatment Advocates Network, to the ground-breaking State of AIDS in Black America reports and acknowledgements of black excellence at the annual Heroes in The Struggle Awards Gala, the institute has been relentless in its focus on black communities.

The organization enlisted traditional black institutions, such as the NAACP, black fraternities and sororities, black journalists in mainstream media and black-owned publications, and others, to commit to raising awareness, fighting stigma, increasing HIV/AIDS literacy and mobilizing black people. It launched the Black Hollywood Task Force on HIV, currently co-chaired by Jussie Smollett, star of the FOX musical drama “Empire,” and veteran actress and humanitarian Vanessa Williams, to leverage the power of celebrity to amplify messages about prevention, testing, treatment and ending stigma.

“We have always been ahead of the curve in understanding HIV/AIDS and how it relates to the black community,” says institute board chair, Grazell Howard. “This change is a continuation of that legacy. The search for new executive leadership is a part of a new strategic plan. We have brought on new board members like Representative Donna M. Christensen (retired), Dr. David Cook, David Munar and Gina Brown to help us with expand our policy work, our clinical services and add black-women programs, respectively. We’ve also re-energized our Black Hollywood Task Force on AIDS with new ambassadors and supporters like Ledisi, Karamo Brown, Taraji P. Henson, Alfre Woodward and Van Jones.”

Board member David Munar, the president and CEO of the Howard Brown Health Center in Chicago, says “almost every milestone in the fight against AIDS domestically, and in some cases internationally, has been paved by the Black AIDS Institute, and that’s a credit to the institution and its many supporters and affiliates across the country.”

Codifying Wilson’s Vision

Wilson leaves the Institute well positioned to take on the challenges of future.

The organization is staffed by the next generation of HIV/AIDS activists and organizers, whose work embodies the Institute’s commitment to helping black communities save themselves through their lived experience. “Every day

is Black AIDS Awareness day at the Black AIDS Institute” says Raniyah Copeland, the institute’s director of programs. “Our staff are of the communities we serve. We are black men and women. We are black people living with HIV/AIDS or at high risk of infection. We live, work, pray and play in the communities we serve. We don’t need to do ‘outreach’ because we are there 24/7.”

The institute has recently brought on new staff to strengthen their capacity, like Maxx Boykin (previously with AIDS Foundation of Chicago) to work on a new advocacy and policy initiative, Maya Merriweather to work on mobilization, and Saron Selassie to strengthen the Institute’s monitoring and evaluation work. On World AIDS Day, the Institute launched a new website and a redesigned Black AIDS Weekly, the organization’s electronic newsletter, to more effectively reach people who use smartphones to access health information.

Jesse Milan, president and CEO of AIDS United and chair emeritus of the institute’s board, notes that the institute has also been developing programs to help end the epidemic through its Los Angeles-based direct service efforts. “On February 7, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Institute, in partnership with St. John’s Well Child & Family Center, a federally-qualified, community health center in Los Angeles, launched the first black PrEP clinic in Los Angeles. Later this spring, the partnership will open a black men’s primary care clinic in the Leimert Park area of L.A. A black gay men’s drop-in center will launch in Compton during the fall. “The PrEP clinic, the men’s primary care clinic and the black gay men’s drop-in center will help us achieve a new dimension of our mission,” Milan says.

“We are proud to build on Phill’s bold and unapologetic legacy through direct service, new policy, initiatives to address black women and HIV, and other efforts that will codify Phill’s vision of ending AIDS,” says Copeland.

Rather than resting on past successes, the Black AIDS Institute is “going where the epidemic’s trajectory is calling it to go,” says Munar, who calls the new initiatives “excellent examples” of how the organization is transforming in ways that will allow it to thrive without Wilson at the helm. “It’s exactly what every community needs to be doing. BAI wants to do it first in its own backyard, then help others across the country replicate similar strategies.”

“Such approaches are particularly important in the South,” National Capacity Building manager Leisha McKinley-Beach says. “The Institute has become one of the driving forces for ending the AIDS epidemic in America due in part to its work in southern states, where most blacks live, and

awareness-raising about what’s happening there. We have been on the frontline of training and capacity building in the South. I am particularly excited that we are going to be housing our policy and advocacy work in the south and looking forward to having Maxx join me in Atlanta.”

“We can’t achieve our goals in the HIV/AIDS epidemic nationally unless we work harder in the South to reduce new infections, bring more people into care and eliminate stigma and discrimination,” said Milan. “The statistics and reality in the South are dire, especially for African Americans and we must focus on them now.”

Passing the Mantle

“For those of us who have been doing the work and standing with Phill shoulder-to-shoulder for many years, it will be hard to imagine this work without him,” said Munar. “But this transition is not about Phill Wilson, it’s really about a mission, a vision, a commitment to mobilize a community, to leverage influence wherever we can, to eliminate AIDS and make this world a better place for people who are affected by HIV.”

“It is with great pride and role modeling that the Black AIDS Institute shows that you can have an organization that can grow a budget, have a vibrant and fully-engaged board of directors and be founded by a brilliant, courageous, creative man who knows when it is time to pass the mantle,” says Howard.

“This is an important moment,” says Munar. “Phill is passing the baton onto a newer generation. He’s leaving the organization on a strong footing so that it can continue to march forward.”

Freddie Allen is the editor-in-chief of the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. Allen is also a frequent contributor to the Black AIDS Weekly. You can follow him on Twitter @freddieallenjr.



Celebrate Black History Month at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum

AARP proudly acknowledges the legacy of the men and women who have worked to build a more equal and just society. During Black History Month and beyond, we affirm our commitment to supporting the work and achievement of the African American community.

Join us in commemorating this historic month. AARP Mississippi is offering free admission to the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

Saturday, February 10, 2018 | 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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AARP.org/blackcommunity



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Dodge

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Boston Globe Deputy Bureau Chief Matt Viser. He wasn’t the only one who noticed.

“So, Ram Truck appropriated Martin Luther King Jr. and used an all white cast + 1 token black to sell trucks to Trump supporters as if we’re back in the 1950s. #SuperBowl,” stated Lucy Amato on Twitter.

“Using a “Martin Luther King” speech and completely taking it OUT OF CONTEXT for a truck commercial is a disgrace,” another Twitter user reacted in a typical statement.

Super Bowl advertisements have become an annual obsession as the expensive and targeted marketing to a huge audience has become a place where products are debuted for the first time. Super Bowl ads have also

become an annual time to analyze and study the many marketing strategy, as well as the “hits and misses” of the ads seen during the game.

It’s likely that the ad featuring King’s voice and words will likely be the source of analysis over the coming days. The ad might also reignite discussion on some of the decisions being made by Dexter King and Martin Luther King III regarding the use of their father’s image and words.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist, political analyst and a frequent contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. She can be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.

‘Dr. Doom’ JSU legend, former Houston Oiler Brazile enters Pro Football Hall of Fame

Mississippi Link Newswire

Robert Brazile became the fourth Jackson State University Tiger to be voted to the Pro Football Hall of Fame Saturday – the eve of Super Bowl LII.

Brazile, who was nicknamed “Dr. Doom” during his pro playing days, was a senior nominee who was elected by the 47-member selection committee.

Brazile joins Walter Payton – his former JSU teammate and roommate; Lem Barney; and Jackie Slater as an official member of the pantheon of NFL greats.

Green Bay guard Jerry Kramer joins Brazile as the other senior nominee in the 2018 class. The five modern-era nominees include Ray Lewis, Terrell Owens, Randy Moss, Brian Urlacher and Brian Dawkins.

Brazile, who was recruited to Jackson State as a tight end, dominated the SWAC as a linebacker before going on to redefine the position with the Houston Oilers. He was the rare combination of size, speed, agility and an incredible football IQ.

In 1975, JSU had three players drafted in the first round of the NFL and NBA drafts (Brazile of the Houston Oilers; Eugene Short of the New York Knicks; and Payton of the Chicago Bears).

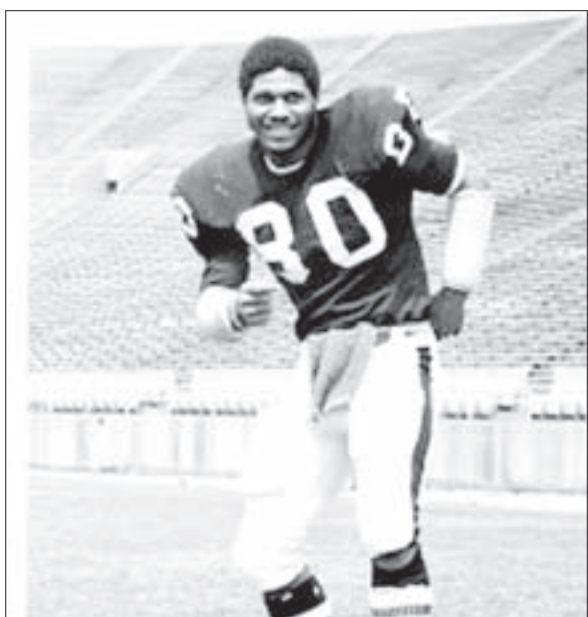
After a stellar career at JSU, Brazile was selected as the sixth overall pick in the 1975 draft by the Oilers. While with the Oilers, Brazile was selected as the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year in 1975.

For the next seven straight seasons he was named to the Pro Bowl, as well as making the All-Pro team for six straight years. During his 10-year career, he never missed a game. He was later named to the 1970s All-Decade Team.

Brazile ended his pro playing career with the second most tackles (1,281) in Oilers history.



Jackson State University alum Robert Brazile was a fierce defensive pass rusher known as “Dr. Doom.” The former Houston Oilers’ standout ended his career with 1,281 tackles and 13 interceptions.



Brazile

AARP Mississippi names Gwendolyn Spencer Prater new state president

Mississippi Link Newswire

Gwendolyn Spencer Prater, Ph.D. of Madison has been appointed as the new state president of AARP Mississippi. State president is AARP’s highest volunteer position in Mississippi, representing 285,000 AARP members in the state. In partnership with the state director, volunteers and staff, the state president helps the organization achieve its vision, mission and strategic priorities.

Prater previously served as a member of the AARP Mississippi Executive Council where she helped shape AARP’s strategic direction in the state.

She is dean emerita of the School of Social Work and College of Public Service at Jackson State University. She began her career as a social worker and started her teaching career at Jackson State University.

Prater became the founding dean of the School of Social Work in 1978. In 2003, she became the founding dean of the College of Public Service, which encompassed the School of Social Work, the School of Health Sciences and the School of Policy and Planning.

“We are delighted to have Dr. Prater serve as state president for AARP Mississippi,” said AARP Mississippi State Director Kimberly L. Campbell, Esq. “She brings extensive experience in policy, community development, advocacy and volunteer leadership. Dr. Prater has the expertise as well as passion to champion positive social change and enhance



Williams

the quality of life for all as we age.”

Prater earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Tougaloo College, Master of Social Work from The Ohio State University and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Southern California. She also is a licensed clinical social worker.

She has published extensively and spoken internationally on mental health, community development and leadership. She has served as a consultant for the Mississippi Council on Aging, the Uni-

versity of Mississippi Medical Center Geriatric Center, the Mississippi Public Health Institute, Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center, the Foundation for the Mid South and the Public Policy Center of Mississippi.

Prater is a native of Vicksburg. She is married to Dr. Wesley Prater, and they have two adult children and four grandchildren. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and The Links, Inc. Prater is a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson.

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Coalition of Black Organizations to hold United Nations protest against Trump insults February 15

Mississippi Link Newswire

#ProudAfricans, a coalition of African, Caribbean and African-American human rights and professional organizations, will lead a protest rally outside the United Nations Headquarters at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza Park in New York City Feb. 15 to denounce the recent racist and bigoted anti-Africa comments by U.S. President Donald Trump, according to the Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW), a member of the coalition.

The “Repudiating and Educating Trump” Protest Rally will take place at 11 a.m. on 47 Street between First and Second Avenues.

Recent insults from Trump, reportedly referring to Haiti and African nations as S**hole countries during and Oval Office meeting, have apparently sparked an uprising in which numerous other issues are being brought to the surface. Those issues include the relationship between Africa and the U. S. and the widespread mistreatment of nations of color.

“The rally will also highlight the past and continuing contributions by people of African descent to the creation of wealth and prosperity in the United States and other Western countries. In addition, the coalition will denounce the brutal exploitation of African migrants whose plight was highlighted in a recent CNN expose showing auctions of African migrants who have been enslaved in Libya,” states a release from IBW.

It continues, “At the UN rally, the coalition will raise public awareness of the thousands of young Africans who continue to drown during desperate voyages across the Mediterranean to seek employment in Europe because the economies of their own countries have been ravaged by policies imposed by

the World Bank and the IMF in collusion with corrupt regimes generally maintained in power by U.S. and European governments.”

IBW says the coalition aims to issue “a set of demands to the White House, the United Nations, and other International organizations to address the socio-economic and political marginalization of Africans and African descendants all over the world.”

#ProudAfricans Coalition has been organized by the United African Congress (UAC), a New York-based organization representing African immigrants in the U.S. The UAC is led by Mohammed Nurhussein, chairman, and Sidique Wai, president and national spokesperson.

“We are Africans of diverse backgrounds from across the continent and the diaspora who are proud of our heritage, who have come together to denounce strongly, without stooping to his level of depravity, the vile and racist characterization of people of African descent by the current occupant of the House that enslaved Africans built,” states Nurhussein, a retired physician, in the release, which also quotes other leaders.

“As an Immigrant from Morocco and as a human rights activist and community organizer I also denounce the hateful words used to describe my beautiful motherland Africa,” said Souad Kirama founder and director of New Horizon Center for Advocacy and Development. “We are here in this wonderful newly founded coalition to say it loud and clear #ProudAfrican!”

IBW President/CEO Ron Daniels, a distinguished CUNY professor, is one of the chief organizers of the protest rally at the UN. “As president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century and convener of the Pan African Unity Dialogue, I

am proud to stand with our sisters and brothers in the diaspora in repudiating the foul-mouthed insults that spewed recently from the current occupant of the White House. We will not be disrespected,” Daniels stated.

Bourema Niambele, a leader of New York City-based African Diaspora Coalition for Justice, one of the protest organizers, says, “Donald Trump represents the kind of racism towards Africans and African immigrants that we see around the world today. As the world now knows from the recent CNN expose, Africans are even being auctioned into slavery in Libya. This is the 21st century and we will not stand for it.”

The rally is expected to draw large numbers of people from the continental African immigrant, African-American, Caribbean-American and Latino communities from the Tri-State area and across the nation.

The coalition’s priorities are anchored by the framework of “Protest, Policy, Power” and speakers will challenge the current socio-economic policies that negatively impact African communities at the local, national and international levels and will offer a number of solutions. In so doing, participating organizations will broaden and deepen their alliances for unified actions moving forward.

In addition to United African Congress (UAC) and IBW, the protest rally is endorsed by Give Them A Hand Foundation, African Diaspora Coalition for Justice, Nextmedia.tv, The Black Star News, African Women Solidarity Action for Development, African Hope Committee, African Commission of Newark, New Jersey, and the African Human Rights Commission.

For more information on the protest: 212-340-1975; info@nextmedia.tv; or Facebook: proudafricansempowerment.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

On February 24, 2018, Hinds County School District will host its annual job fair at Byram Middle School from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

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JPS showcases cadet excellence at 6th Annual JROTC Military Gala



Col. (Ret.) Paul Willis accompanied by his wife, Dorothea.



The annual Military Gala showcases the JROTC Program at all seven JPS high schools and Powell Academy of Military Science.



JPS Interim Superintendent Fredrick Murray and City of Jackson Chief Administrative Officer Robert Blaine

Mississippi Link Newswire

More than 900 JROTC cadets and guests participated in Jackson Public Schools 6th Annual JROTC Military Gala December 15, 2017. Cadets, instructors, parents and others attended the formal event held at the Jackson Convention Complex.

The annual program is an opportunity to celebrate the excellence, accomplishments and contributions of the JPS JROTC Program. The gala also exposes cadets to a formal military dining experience while encouraging camaraderie among the cadets and their instructors from all seven JPS high schools.

Col. (Ret.) Paul Willis is the director of the Jackson Public Schools JROTC Program.

Guest speakers were Rokeya

Jones, director of Commercial Software Engineering at Microsoft, and Joy Addison, a student at the University of Mississippi.

At Microsoft, Jones is responsible for early adoption among computer science universities across North America. She spends most of her time working with university students on the Microsoft platform and creating the developers of tomorrow. Her remarkable career has led to opportunities at Disney, State Farm and Verizon. Notably, Jones is a product of the JROTC Program of Roswell High School in Roswell, Georgia. As co-founder of the Tech World's Half Facebook community and an executive member of CloudGirls.org, she realizes her mission "to inspire and enable future innovative

leaders worldwide to break the corporate glass ceiling."

Addison is a senior double major in broadcast journalism and psychology at the University of Mississippi. She has competed twice in the Miss Mississippi Scholarship Pageant where her work for service men and women began. Her platform – SOS for Save our Servicemen – is a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) awareness campaign inspired by her father, a 90 percent disabled veteran who served three combat tours in Iraq. Last spring, she enlisted the support of the JPS JROTC Program to host a PTSD awareness event in Jackson.

JPS Interim Superintendent Fredrick Murray was in attendance and provided remarks.

"On behalf of our entire

board, I would like to salute you for the outstanding work that you do throughout the year," said Murray. "I especially want to commend the cadets for their exceptional performance in all of their endeavors. I encourage you to remain focused and continue to strive for excellence."

According to Murray and others, JROTC has many successes worth celebrating, including:

- A 95 percent graduation rate for JROTC cadets.
- A 94 percent acceptance rate to colleges and universities.
- An average of \$3.5 million in scholarship offers.
- More than 30,000 hours of community service in the Jackson metro area.

Additionally, JROTC high-

lighted its accomplishments with strategic partners, such as:

- Military Order of World Wars for sponsoring five cadets to attend the four-day Youth Leadership Conference in Huntsville, Alabama.
- Mississippi Army National Guard and Military Entrance Processing Station for sponsoring the Annual Cadet of the Year Awards where the top 30 cadets were formally recognized.
- West Point Society of Jackson, West Point Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Equal Opportunity and Jackson State University (multiple units) for sponsoring the Annual Leadership, Ethics, and Diversity Workshop for 200 JPS cadets and 50 educators.
- Innovative Learning Part-

ners, Ben Minnifield and Cynthia Skinner, for creating strategic initiatives benefitting hundreds of JPS cadets.

• Jackson State University's Interdisciplinary Nanotoxicity Summer Institute for hosting a six-week program focused on research in computational chemistry for 24 cadets a year.

• 100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc. for obtaining a \$100,000 grant from Hilton Corporation, enabling 100 JPS cadets to attend a six-day residential aviation program at Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida.

The agenda for the evening included gala toasts, a reading of the history of JROTC and recognition of fallen comrades.

JROTC cadet leaders from all seven JPS high schools conducted the program.

JPS students recognized for 'going above and beyond' to help a fellow athlete

Mississippi Link Newswire

State Superintendent Carey Wright and the State Board of Education recognized Joshua Dixon of Forrest Hill High and Bernard Duncan of Callaway High at their January 18 board meeting. The students were praised for going above and beyond to assist a fellow athlete. Dixon and Duncan helped a fellow student-athlete from Gautier High School cross the finish line after the student was injured while competing in a cross country race.

Kim Jordan was the grateful parent who shared her gratitude with Jackson Public Schools through an email. In her letter, she thanked the school district and the families of both of the JPS students. On Facebook, a post about the incident has received more than 23,000 responses and nearly 60,000 post clicks.



Participating in the certificate presentation are (from left) State School Board President Rosemary Aultman, Joshua Dixon, Bernard Duncan, State Superintendent Carey Wright.



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Hinds CC Raymond Campus preview day draws crowd

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Terry High School seniors Boyd Chase and Emerril Green hope to make it all add up for them as they transition soon into college from high school.

“My parents want me to go to either here or Mississippi State first,” Chase said, speaking to instructors in the mathematics department at Hinds Community College Raymond Campus Feb. 2 for Preview Day. “I’m looking at studying biomedical engineering.”

Chase and Green, who’s looking into Hinds’ multiple computer-related technology programs, were among more than 800 high school seniors and their parents who attended the event at the Mayo Gym. The annual exhibition features all the college’s academic and career-tech programs, activities and organizations Hinds has to offer.

Prospective students from high schools in and around Jackson and from Vicksburg toured the campus and interacted with students and faculty about admissions, scholarships, financial aid, majors, housing, student life and more.

For high schoolers, it’s a time to find out how Hinds’ programs of study can build a successful career.

“I found out about all the different projects and blueprints they can do in the Fab Lab,” said Del Money, a senior at Jim Hill High School who checked out the latest prototypes coming off the 3-D printers used in the college’s Engineering and Drafting Design program. “I want to try to be an architect.”



Career success in healthcare figures to run in several families present for the event.

“It’ll be nursing, since I like helping people,” said Tyra Wil-son, a Warren Central High School senior who attended Pre-view Day with her mother, Katie Guise, and sister, Jada Guise, also a Warren Central senior.

Upcoming similar events at Hinds locations include:

Utica Campus, Feb. 16, 9 a.m. to noon, “See Ya at the U” re-cruiting event

Kendall Agricultural Com-plex, Raymond Campus, Feb. 23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Ag Expo 2018

Vicksburg-Warren Campus,

March 2, 8 a.m. to noon, March Madness recruiting event

Jackson Campus-Nursing/Al-lied Health Center, March 8, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Nursing and Al-lied Health Spring Showcase

Rankin Campus College Day recruiting event, Muse Center, March 23, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center, April 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., College Carnival re-cruiting event

Vicksburg-Warren Campus, April 10, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Spring Sign-Up Day recruiting event

For more information about these special events, visit hub.hindscc.edu/events.

Gore Gallery at Mississippi College hosts new show

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Art lovers are invited to a new show at the Gore Gallery at Mississippi College that runs through February 23.

The MC Art Department is hosting the works of Mississippi artists Diane Williams and Kira Cummings. The show opened February 1 on the Clinton campus. It’s free and open to the public.

Williams is a talented quilter, storyteller and fiber artist. The Jackson resident has traveled across America telling many original stories in her own unique way. She weaves her tales from books, history, myths, legends and folktales. Williams uses silk yarns, beads, stones and vi-brant colors to make traditional quilts.

A 2011 Jackson State University graduate, Cummings received her bachelor’s degree in painting and minor in graphic design. The Jackson native is an oil painter whose works explore aspects of femininity. She often incor-porates flowers, fruits and vegetables into her paintings. She also does pyrography or wood-burning. Her artistic images include Pokémon, professional wrestlers, hip-hop artists and ani-mals, among other things.

The initial show runs at the Spagh Gal-leries inside the Gore Gallery. Mixed with the art show is music supplied by “Mack & Arm-strong,” or Nellie Mac and Caleb Armstrong.

On Feb. 2, the MC gallery hosted a brown bag lunch with Diane Williams to present a lec-ture titled “The Historic Journey of the African American Quilter.” The program was sponsored in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council. It’s free.



Williams

The Gore Gallery at 199 Monroe Street is located behind MC’s Leland Speed Library. Hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. It is open 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday eve-nings.

For more details, contact Gore Gallery di-rector Randy Jolly at 601-925-3880 or rjolly@mc.edu.

MDE announces mid-year lottery

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Education announced plans today for a lottery on Febru-ary 8 to award 90 Education Scholarship Accounts (ESA) for the 2017-18 school year

that have been made available by families who opted not to participate in the program.

Established by the Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act of 2015, the ESA program provides schol-

arships to parents of students with disabilities who want to remove their child from a pub-lic school to seek educational services elsewhere.

For the 2017-18 school year, the law provides for 435 ESA accounts. Though all 435 scholarships were awarded before the start of the school year, 90 scholarships have gone unused and will be redis-tributed.

All eligible applications re-ceived for the 2017-18 school year that have not yet been awarded will be included in the lottery. Only complete, eli-gible applications will qualify for the lottery. Letters will be mailed to awardees February 9.

Additional applicants who would like to be considered for 2017-18 school year lot-tery must submit an applica-tion by February 6. Any eli-gible applications received after February 6 will be considered for the 2018-19 school year.

ESAs for the 2017-18 school year are \$6,494. State law re-quires ESAs to adjust annually to proportional changes in the base student cost of MAEP, Mississippi’s public education funding formula.

Children with an active In-dividualized Education Pro-gram (IEP) within five years from the date of application are eligible to apply for the ESA program.

To participate in the pro-gram:

- the applicant must be a Mississippi resident;
- the student must have had an active Individualized Edu-cation Program (IEP) within five years of the date of appli-cation; and
- the parent must sign an agreement to adhere to the rules of participation.

Parents who are accepted into the program will be reim-bursed for expenses quarterly after submission of a reim-bursement request with proper documentation of expenses incurred. Funds can also be paid quarterly directly to an educational service provider if approved by the parent.

For more information, visit www.mde.k12.ms.us/OSE/ESA

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JSU professor honored by Igbo community

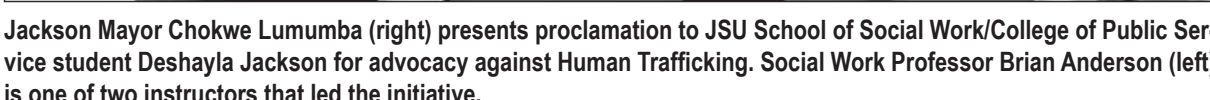


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For more information, contact Dr. Theresia Johnson-Ratliff, 601-979-8899, or Dr. Isiah Marshall Jr., 601-979-8896.

By L.A. Royalty Net
isumsnews.com

The four students were Jackson, Michael Peterson, Kamri Williams and Niasha Stewart. Leading the initiative were JSU professors Brian Anderson and Trenia Allen, both in the School of Social Work in the College of Public Service.



awareness of sexual slavery and human trafficking worldwide.

jsumsnews.com

The online college ranking evaluates qualitative measures and data from the National Center for Education Statistics. It also compares program offerings, efficacy, and affordability. Each school included is a not-for-profit, accredited institution that offers at least three fully-online programs.

To be considered for the 50 Best Online Colleges ranking on AffordableCollegesOnline.org, schools have to meet certain criteria. Ba-

The 50 Best Online Colleges ranking, as well as further information regarding this ranking's methodology, may be found via the following link: <https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/best-colleges-online/#4-year-best-college-ranking>



www.mississippilink.com

State delegation heads to Madison for Special Olympics USA Games Training Saturday



The Mississippi Link Newswire

The 2018 Special Olympics Mississippi (SOMS) Delegation will come together this Saturday at the Madison Healthplex Performance Center to begin training as a team for this summer's 2018 Special Olympics USA Games. The event will take place July 1-6 on the campus of the University of Washington in Seattle.

SOMS Sports Director Terry Shinall will lead this group as Head of Delegation. He's a veteran of 4 USA Games.

"It's wonderful to see these athletes being rewarded for their hard work. Bringing the team together for the first time is always exciting and to have access to this facility is incredible," said Shinall.

The Madison Healthplex Performance Center will host Special Olympics Mississippi Saturday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. in track & field, flag football, power lifting, bocce and swimming.

"We are honored to host this inspiring group," said Greg Centili, manager of the Madison Healthplex Performance Center. "We'll do whatever we can to help them succeed this summer in Seattle."

The Mississippi Delegation will also be measured for their uniforms and coaches will be educated on any rules changes as well as concussion protocol.

For more information about Special Olympics Mississippi, visit, specialolympicsms.org.



Legends of Motown: Celebrating the Supremes at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi March 3

By LaToya Hentz-Moore
jsumsnews.com

GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi will explore the enduring legacy and influence of Motown Records' premier recording artists with the unveiling of Legends Of Motown: Celebrating The Supremes March 3. "We are honored to showcase some of Mary Wilson's treasured memorabilia from her time with The Supremes. Celebrating the history of Mississippi artists is a necessary and important part of GRAMMY Museum®Mississippi," said Executive Director Emily Havens.

Curated by the GRAMMY Museum® in Los Angeles, the exhibit will offer visitors a unique look at the life and career of one of the most successful American singing groups of the '60s, the Supremes, through rare artifacts from the private collection of founding member Mary Wilson.

On display through Sept. 3, the exhibit features rare photographs from the personal collection of Wilson; concert posters; tour books, fan memorabilia; and an assortment of performance gowns, including:

"Primette Pristine" gowns worn in 1961, one of the earliest sets purchased by the Supremes when they were still known as the Primettes

"White De Mink" outfit worn on ABC's "The Hollywood Palace" in 1966

"Turquoise Freeze" dresses worn during a 1967 appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show"

"Red Hot" gown worn by Wilson on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1970 for the debut of the new Supremes lineup featuring Cindy Birdsong and Jean Terrell

And more

"The Mary Wilson 'Supreme' gown collection is a dream come true for me," said Wilson. "This collection is a gift that I give to all of those who have ever loved music and glamour. As you look at all of these wonderful treasures, please be reminded that three little black girls' dared to dream and made their dreams come true. Thank you, Motown, and the thousands of fans all over the world."

In conjunction with the exhibit

opening, Wilson and Tena Clark will be at the Museum for two programs March 9:

Women in Music: Mary Wilson and Tena Clark education program will begin at 11 a.m.

An Evening with Mary Wilson will begin at 7 p.m. and include a conversation moderated by Tena Clark

About The Supremes

Founded as the Primettes in Detroit, the Supremes became Motown's most consistent hitmakers and the most popular female group of the '60s, bridging the worlds of pop and soul with their polished singing style. Featuring original members Mary Wilson, Diana Ross and Florence Ballard, much of their success was a result of the tailor-made songs for them by Motown's in-house writing and production team comprising Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland. At the height of the British Invasion in June 1965, the group set a record for the most consecutive No. 1 hits by an American group when "Back in My Arms Again," "Baby Love," "Come See About Me," "Stop! In The Name Of Love" and "Where Did Our Love Go?" rose to the top of the Billboard singles chart.

By 1967 the trio had officially amended their name to Diana Ross and the Supremes, an acknowledgment of lead singer Ross' rising star. That same year, Ballard left the group and was replaced by Cindy Birdsong. Ross subsequently left the Supremes to launch a successful career as a solo recording artist and actress. She was replaced by Jean Terrell, and the Supremes' hitmaking streak continued with such songs as "Up the Ladder to the Roof" and "Stoned Love." The trio continued to perform and record into the '70s, with founding member Mary Wilson keeping the name and the music alive. Later members included Scherrie Payne (who replaced Jean Terrell) and Susaye Greene and Lynda Laurence (who took Cindy Birdsong's place).

The Supremes' final performance was at London's Drury Lane June 12, 1977, at which point Wilson disbanded the group and retired the name.

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.

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Sen. Derrick T. Simmons visited with Danielle Joyner, owner/operator of McDonald's at State Capitol



MVSU to host annual Black History convocation Feb. 8

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Valley State University will celebrate Black History Month with its annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Black History Convocation.

The event will be hosted at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, in the Walter Roberts Auditorium in the H.G. Carpenter Building. The general public is invited to attend.

This year's theme is "Heritage and Horizons: Embracing our Cultural History While Establishing Cultural Change."

The keynote speaker is The Honorable Judge Latrice A. Westbrooks of the Mississippi Court of Appeals.

A native of Memphis, Westbrooks received her law degree from the University of Detroit Mercy Law School. Upon graduation, she moved to Mississippi and set a historical precedent by becoming the first African-American woman to serve as assistant district attorney in the State of Mississippi's Second Circuit Court District.

Westbrooks later joined Attorney Isaac Byrd as a contributing member of the law firm Byrd and Associates where she successfully litigated various cases.

In December 2001, Westbrooks opened her law practice, servicing numerous clients in both criminal and civil matters. She successfully represented people charged with serious offenses by ensuring the protection of her client's constitutional



Westbrooks

rights, as guaranteed in both the United States and Mississippi Constitutions.

In 2013, Westbrooks joined the City of Jackson under the administrative leadership of the late Civil Rights icon, Mayor Chokwe Lumumba, as the interim-communications director. She then joined the city attorney's office as the legal counsel for the Jackson Police Department. After the passing of Lumumba in 2014, Westbrooks rejoined the private sector.

In January 2015, she was appointed to serve as the municipal judge for the City of Lexington and served in that capacity until her election to the Mississippi

Court of Appeals, Nov. 8, 2016.

Westbrooks is a member of the Mississippi Bar, the Magnolia Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the Capital Area Bar Association and the Metro Jackson Black Women Lawyers Association. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and a life member of the NAACP.

Last spring, Westbrooks was named Outstanding Woman Lawyer of 2017 by the Mississippi Women Lawyers' Association.

Westbrooks is a resident of Lexington, Miss. and a member of Cade Chapel M.B. Church.

Mississippi Arts Commission to host 2018 Governor's Arts Awards

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) will honor five outstanding contributors to Mississippi arts at the 30th annual Governor's Arts Awards. This event spotlights Mississippi's rich cultural resources and honors those who make a lasting impact on the state through their vision and creativity. This year's event will be especially notable, because it takes place during MAC's 50th anniversary.

The awards ceremony will take place at the Old Capitol Museum in downtown Jackson Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018, at 6 p.m., and a public reception at 4:30 p.m. will precede the ceremony. These events are free of charge and open to the public. Doors will open at 5 p.m. for public seating, which is limited.

The 2018 recipients and awards are as follows:

Steve Azar – Governor's Choice Award

David Keary – Leadership in Performing Arts

Joe Overstreet – Excellence in Visual Art

V. A. Patterson – Community Arts Leader

Yoknapatawpha Arts Council – Arts in Community

"These five recipients have not only experienced great success in their respective fields, but each recipient has, in their own way, worked to effect positive change, using the power of the arts to make our state and nation a more colorful, expressive and just place to live," said Malcolm White, executive director of the Mississippi Arts Commission. "We are excited to honor these worthy recipi-

ents in a milestone year for the arts in Mississippi, the 50th anniversary of MAC's founding and the 30th anniversary of the Governor's Arts Awards."

The awards are presented to individuals and organizations for outstanding work in visual, literary and performing arts, as well as community development through the arts and arts patronage. Recipients do not have to reside in Mississippi, but they must have significant ties to the state through some years of residency.

Each year's poster for the Governor's Arts Awards celebrates the artistic heritage of Mississippi. This year's poster features art by 2010 Gover-

nor's Arts Awards recipient, Wyatt Waters. State of the Art (2017) pays artful tribute to Mississippi's New State Capitol, where the Mississippi Arts Commission came into being half a century ago. Image use is courtesy of the Wyatt Waters Gallery in celebration of MAC's 50th anniversary.

The emcee for the ceremony will be Mississippi's Poet Laureate, acclaimed author, and Professor of English at the University of Mississippi, Beth Ann Fennelly of Oxford, Miss.

About the Recipients

Steve Azar is the official Music and Cultural Ambassador of Mississippi as well

as a hit songwriter, recording artist, music producer, golfer and philanthropist. Describing his music as "Delta Soul," the title track from his debut album Waitin' On Joe went to #1 on Country Music Television, and from the same album, the hit single "I Don't Have To Be Me ('Til Monday)" received three Million-Air awards from BMI. The single is one of the top five most played songs of the past decade on country radio. Azar is also founder of the Mighty Mississippi Music Festival, the Delta Soul Celebrity Golf Tournament and the Steve Azar St. Cecilia Foundation, a charitable corporation.

David Keary was the first

male dancer hired for the Jackson Ballet by Thalia Mara, founder of the USA International Ballet Competition. In 1978, Keary was invited to join the New York City Ballet where he danced professionally for many years and learned from the masters of American ballet. After returning to Jackson to pursue a law degree, Keary served on the board of Jackson Ballet, and in 1994, he became artistic director of the organization, now Ballet Mississippi. Since then, Keary has led the growth of Ballet Mississippi from 25 to more than 300 students, staged seasonal productions such as The Nutcracker, taught classes for USA International Ballet Competition competitors and watched former students go on to dance in prestigious programs around the nation.

Joe Overstreet is a painter, arts promoter and activist with an accomplished career spanning more than 60 years. Born in rural Conehatta, Miss., Overstreet has spent much of his life and career in New York and California. He is most recognized for his 1960's protest paintings such as Strange Fruit and The New Aunt Jemima, a piece which has been referred to as a national icon of the Civil Rights Movement. A series from his later work called Meridian Fields incorporates steel wire cloth and is based on his childhood experience of looking at the world through the screen door of his grandparent's house in Meridian, Miss. His piece The Basket Makers is now on display at the Mississippi Museum of Art as part of a bicentennial exhibition

Picturing Mississippi, 1817-2017: Land of Plenty, Pain and Promise.

V. A. Patterson is a Jackson, Miss., native and was the first curator for the Manship House museum, former executive director of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi and former executive director of Very Special Arts Mississippi. She worked for many years in the museum field and spent her entire career promoting the arts in Mississippi. Patterson continues to volunteer with many community and arts organizations today. As executive director for Very Special Arts Mississippi, she worked with artists with disabilities to master their skills. One of her major accomplishments was bringing artwork into schools where students would receive up to 12 hours of instruction with an artist.

Yoknapatawpha Arts Council has enriched the Oxford and Lafayette County community with arts events and programming for more than four decades. The council offers 320 days of arts programming annually, reaching 90,000 people each year. Its signature events include monthly "art crawls," the Art-er Limits Fringe Festival and the Fiber Festival. The council has also created a sculpture trail with 19 works as well as a program connecting artists with business professionals to help artists sustain, market and manage their craft as a business. In recognition of the effectiveness of its professional development program for artists, YAC received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2016.

Lift your eyes above the circumstance

PART 2

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



It is amazing how God takes care of us. We need to be wholehearted when seeking Christ for our great situation. To come to Him with a nonchalant attitude will be disappointing to Him. The Bible is God's will; it is His last will and testament. It is His will to help us and to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory. The question is will we really trust God to help us? We must reject the thought that it does not matter if this does not work out right.

My desire is that God's church be encouraged along the line of faith, not just for divine healing, but in every avenue of life. We need to see God bigger, greater and able. Too many people look at the surrounding circumstances. Many hearts are failing because of fear, as Luke said, of things coming

on this earth. God wants us to be encouraged. He wants us to see Him bigger than any problem and bigger than any situation.

With the present political system it seems totally impossible for God to turn this situation around. God has that power, but do we have the faith? We need total submission to God's will and His way. Many times people are not willing to submit to God's will and His way, yet they want Him to do something for them. They want to gain something from Him.

It is the same way with salvation. When we come to Christ, we have to totally unload sin, self and every possession, just as Zacchaeus did. He was willing to unload everything and totally submit.

If we hold the thought of going an alternate way, it will only spoil things. We should never be so foolish or so ignorant as to give God an ultimatum, "If you will, I will." We cannot get saved, healed or get our needs supplied by

offering God an ultimatum. If we tell God, "If you do not move in such-and-such a time or in such-and-such a way, I am going to take this matter into my own hands," He will let us do it and we will usually end up failing. Such an endeavor usually ends up being spoiled.

We read in Philippians 4:6, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." It is more beneficial to be willingly patient and to allow God to work in our lives as He sees fit. We must not forget that God operates on His time schedule, not on ours. Getting overly anxious only frustrates matters and brings unbelief. Proverbs 14:12 states, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Often as a human being, we may struggle to work out our own problems in life. We can become overconfident in ourselves, in our ability and

in our education. When we come to our wit's end and realize that we need help, it is then that we turn to God for the wisdom, the strength and the direction that only He can give.

Psalm 143:10 tells us, "Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy Spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness." When we truly believe and follow after that, then we are looking to find God's way and have Him lead us. We are acknowledging His greatness and letting Him know how much we are depleted. We are letting Him know how insufficient we are within ourselves, and we need to let Him know how desperately we need Him.

Next week, Part III, "Lift your eyes above the circumstance."

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

P R E S E R V E D

Loving without limits

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



A number of years ago, my church home hosted a national prayer conference with a few hundred prayer leaders from all over the nation in attendance. The focus of the conference was to strengthen those whose specific ministry is to pray for local, national and global church communities.

One of the speakers, Dana Olson, gave a very thought-provoking workshop on how to pray the scriptures. He said that many people who struggle in their prayer life should focus on reading the scripture then spend time praying for God to show what he wanted them to learn from the scripture. Olson also said that when you start praying God's word, you are less inclined to pray your fleshly desires.

However, according to Olson, praying scriptures is not simply reciting memorized prayers or praying your favorite biblical verse (i.e. Jesus wept). Praying scriptures is a disciplined way to reading and then reflecting on your scriptural passage. He added that it's about letting the scripture lead you into prayer and not the other way around. Most importantly, it's about going broader, higher and deeper in your intimate relationship with God.

A key part of being able to pray the scripture means that you know which one to go to or you have a way of finding out the scripture that might work for you.

Praying the scripture means that we strive not to get ahead of God in any area of our lives but remain submitted to his perfect

will. We will work to live out the truth found in Ephesians 3:17-19: "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."


Thinking about the connection between praying scripture and having a closer walk with God brings to mind numerous natural examples of this type of spiritual discipline.

Valentine's season is the most wonderful time of the year for some because flowers, chocolate and jewelry symbolize the depth of love and appreciation for others.

Whether you have someone, wish you had someone or wish you had a different someone, it's still a beautiful time to think about how to show genuine love to your significant other, co-workers, family and friends.

What does this have to do with praying the scripture? During this time of the year, many will go to great lengths to show how deep their love is because they value the impact it has on strengthening their relationship. In much the same way, praying the scriptures gives us the chance to show that we are willing to have the same sense of passion and devotion in building a stronger relationship with God.

Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.



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Intercessory Prayer 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.
Classes: Children • Youth • Adult - 7:00p.m.



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

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Church: 601-859-2858

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State of the Union offers a ray of hope

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



“It turns out that advancing equal opportunity and economic empowerment is both morally right and good economics, because discrimination, poverty and ignorance restrict growth, while investments in education, infrastructure and scientific and technological research increase it, creating more good jobs and new wealth for all of us.” – President Bill Clinton

Since the presidential election last year, the Urban League Movement has been vocal in opposing those of the new administration’s policies which erode civil rights and opportunities for underserved communities. But we have remained optimistic that we could find common ground in the area of infrastructure development.

In his State of the Union address earlier this week, President Trump sounded a hopeful but vague note on rebuilding the nation’s crumbling infrastructure:

“Tonight, I am calling on the Congress to produce a bill that generates at least \$1.5 trillion for the new infrastructure investment we need. Every Federal dollar should be leveraged by partnering with state and local governments and, where appropriate, tapping into private sector investment – to permanently fix the infrastructure deficit ... Together, we can reclaim our building heritage. We will build gleaming new roads, bridges, highways, railways, and waterways across our land. And we will do it with American heart, American hands and American grit.”

Analysis of the administration’s plan has found it “light on federal funds and details.” Of the \$1.5 trillion, only \$200 billion would come from federal funds – which would be offset by unspecified budget cuts.

The National Urban League has a better and far more detailed plan.

The Main Street Marshall Plan, From Poverty to Shared Prosperity is a forward-leaning investment of \$4 trillion over 10 years – \$2 trillion for physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges and buildings, and \$2 trillion for human development, such as education, job training and health insurance. The Main Street

Marshall Plan is aimed not only at combating poverty but at promoting equality and eliminating disparities.

The plan calls for a comprehensive infrastructure initiative that rebuilds the nation’s roads, bridges, rails, water systems, parks, community facilities, affordable housing and broadband. While our plan, like the administration’s, would leverage private dollars create millions of jobs, it calls for a maximum public investment and a guarantee of business opportunities for American-based businesses both large and small. Such an infrastructure initiative should meet three conditions:

- Maximized opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses

- A workforce development and job training program to bring millions of youth and young adults into the construction industry for the first time

- Investments in schools, libraries, community centers, recreation facilities, parks, housing and broadband internet access.

A decade after the onset of the Great Recession, African Americans who were hardest hit have benefited least from the fragile economic recovery that followed. Despite laudable reductions in the black unemployment rate, it stubbornly remains double the rate for whites. Black Americans continue to lag behind in wealth, income and homeownership, and across all educational levels.

Just as the original Marshall Plan virtually wiped out widespread poverty across Europe following World War II, the Main Street Marshall Plan has the potential to transform urban America. We also took inspiration from Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who confronted the twin crises of massive unemployment and lagging infrastructure development with the New Deal Agencies.

The New Deal brought electricity to rural America. The Main Street Marshall Plan can bring high-speed broadband to urban America. The New Deal virtually eliminated widespread illiteracy. The Main Street Marshal Plan can eliminate the racial achievement gap.

We urgently ask Congress to work quickly to build on the foundation of the administration’s emerging infrastructure plan, and join us in the effort to transform America again.

2018: The year of the black woman

By Monica Simpson
Executive Director, SisterSong

There is a reckoning afoot in this country. On one side, Trump has emboldened and embodied a virulent and reckless hate that targets women, black people and immigrants (among many others). Each day brings a new outrage. On the other side, #MeToo has followed #BlackLivesMatter as a hashtag-turned-movement, led by courageous truth-tellers who are sick and tired of a violent and largely ignored status quo. The conversation about race and gender in this country has broken open, and now we must all contend with the truth of who we are as a nation.

While this may feel like scary and unfamiliar territory to some, in reality, the U.S. is just catching up to an understanding and analysis that black women in this country have had for a long time. Black women have never had the luxury of ignorance – not to police violence, not to the rampant sexual harassment and assault that women experience at home, school and work. In 2018, we should look to the work of black women to see the path forward for a troubled and divided nation. In a way, black women scholars and organizers have left breadcrumbs for us to follow to liberation, if we’ll only pay attention.

In 1989, legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term “intersectionality” in her paper for the University of Chicago Legal Forum to explain how black women’s oppression on the basis of gender combined with oppression on the basis of race to create something altogether new, an experience of discrimination did not match what either white women or black men experience. This concept would lay the groundwork for social justice organizing that now spans the globe, and provided a vocabulary for something black women experience on a daily basis. While intersectionality risks dilution as an increasingly popular buzzword, the analysis it provides is a crucial tool to cut through the noise and understand the Trump administration’s policies and their impact on different communities.

Take for instance the recent Jane Doe case, and similar cases, of the Trump administration blocking young immigrant women from getting reproductive healthcare. The mistreatment of the “Janes” (as they’ve come to be called) at the hands of the Trump administration targets them both as women and as immigrants, and the two identities cannot be pulled apart.



Monica Simpson, the executive director of SisterSong, says that the work of black women will help us understand and combat Trump’s agenda, with black women leading the fight

“Intersectionality” provides an analysis that explains why their treatment is so much more extreme, and its impact so severe.

Just five years after Crenshaw’s groundbreaking work, the reproductive justice movement was founded by black women who, like Crenshaw, saw that their perspectives and experiences were being, once again, left out of the equation. Reproductive justice brought intersectionality and a global human rights framework together with a nuanced understanding of U.S. policies of reproductive coercion. The founding mothers of reproductive justice rejected white feminism’s focus on the birth control and the legality of abortion as too narrow, and described a vision for a world, where we can all prevent pregnancy if we want to, end a pregnancy if we need to, and have and raise children in healthy environments and without fear of violence.

Reproductive justice broadened the lens of abortion rights to include low-income women and women of color “and” broadened the entire conversation to recognize the ways in which U.S. policies denied motherhood to some women even while forcing it on others against their will.

This framework is crucial to connect the dots among Trump’s reproductive policies. Trump wants to make birth control unaffordable, push abortion out of reach, and punish women for having children. What seems inconsistent on the surface is, in fact, all part of one agenda to coerce and control a woman’s decisions about pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting.

When Trump was first elected, black women were the least surprised. We saw Trump coming from a mile away and we already knew how deep this country’s anti-woman and anti-black sentiment ran. Now, more than a year later, the work of black women will help us understand and combat Trump’s agenda, with black women leading the fight.

Let 2018 be the year of the black woman.

Let 2018 be the year black women’s brilliance, leadership and analysis are heeded at last. Let 2018 mark the beginning of a new era of listening to, respecting, and trusting black women. Just stop for a moment and imagine what might happen if we actually made those words a reality.

The day after the Alabama Senate race, the hashtag #TrustBlackWomen was all over social media. And yes, we should trust black women voters, because they’ve kept us from the brink many times. But black women’s wisdom and contributions have so much more to teach us all – and we’re going to need to understand that if we hope to keep Trump from dragging us backward.

Like many other black women across the country, I was standing up in my living room cheering and clapping my hands as I watched Oprah deliver her passionate speech at the Golden Globes. The next day the media went wild with hopes for and critiques of a theoretical run for president – but they missed the point. While the thought of it made me smile, what I saw was an invitation.

How you can celebrate black history month

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Every year, the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History selects a theme for Black History Month. This year, the theme, African Americans in Times of War, is meant to commemorate the end of World War I, the war that supposedly made the world “safe for democracy.” It is a war that African Americans fought for the right to fight in, a war that saw African Americans go abroad to fight for democracy, only to come home and be oppressed by segregation. Undoubtedly, there will be many programs designed to lift up this theme, which ASALH sees as an opportunity to reflect on the African-American role in all wars, including the contemporary “war on terrorism.”

What will you do to celebrate Black History Month? Many will participate in programs at their schools or churches. Some will gather for lunches and dinners and reflect on African-American history. However, I wonder how many will simply let the month of February slide without doing anything to commemorate this month. Carter G. Woodson, the founder of ASALH and Black History Month (originally Negro History Week), would be spinning in his grave, if he knew how few of us celebrate this month. (Of course, black history is also American history, and we ought to celebrate black history every month of the year.)

Eugene Williams Sr. (a retired educator in the D.C. area) reached out to professional basketball teams to ask them to sing Lift Every Voice and Sing, the Negro National Anthem that was penned by James Weldon Johnson, at games in the month of

February. He has commitments from the Washington Wizards, the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Golden State Warriors and George Washington University. Other teams, including the LA Lakers and the Atlanta Hawks, are considering the effort as well. Williams isn’t representing an organization – he just had a great idea and started calling NBA team offices with his request.

What will you do to celebrate Black History Month? Will you mount an effort like Dr. Williams? His independent effort will have an impact and ensure that NBA games commemorate black history. What can you do? Here are a few ideas:

Join ASALH (www.asalh.org). Memberships range from \$45 for students to \$100 (or more for life memberships). What better way to celebrate Black History Month than by supporting the organization founded by the

man who made our celebration possible?

Register To Vote. The struggle for the right to vote is an integral part of our black history. Rev. Jesse Jackson once said, “The hands that picked peaches can now pick presidents.” There are lots of important races in 2018, and you honor Fannie Lou Hamer, Medgar Evers, Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and so many others with your vote.

Help Someone Make Black History. In Georgia, state legislator Stacey Abrams, is running for governor. She can win, too, if she can get the voter turnout and financial support that she needs. If you live in Georgia, you can help this woman become the first African American to be governor of a southern state. You can learn more about her and get involved in her campaign by checking her out at www.staceyabrams.com. Help this sister make history!

Make Learning Black History

A Family Game. An organization called Urban Intellectuals has developed two volumes of flashcards that explore aspects of Black History. You can check them out on Facebook, www.facebook.com/urban-intellectuals, order their cards, and learn more of our history.

Give A Child A Gift Of Black History Book. One of my favorites, Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis, by Jabari Asim, celebrates a contemporary hero, Congressman John Lewis. Another, Minty: The Story of a Young Harriet Tubman by Alan Schroeder, tells the story of the Maryland icon who helped dozens of enslaved people escape through the Underground Railroad (legend says it is hundreds, but at Harriet Tubman Museum (operated by the National Park Service in Church Creek, Maryland) researchers say some of the estimates are too high. The

Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist by Cynthia Levinson will motivate young people to activism. Sit In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down by Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney will also motivate young people to take on activist roles.

There are so many other things you might do to celebrate Black History Month. Encourage your friends, regardless of race, to learn more about the amazing story of African-American survival and resilience despite the racism that defines this country. May your Black History Month be exciting and enlightening!

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.julianne-malveaux.com



Macy's celebrates innovators and visionaries during Black History Month

The Mississippi Link Newswire

This February, Macy's (NYSE:M) celebrates Black History Month by welcoming a host of innovators in fashion, entertainment, art, music, literature and technology, who are pioneers in their industries.

Innovation is one of the cornerstones of black culture, helping to propel trends, widely influencing pop culture, and changing the face of history. From music to science, black culture has created a wave of change that has helped drive the country to new heights. With innovation comes an extraordinary opportunity to push boundaries, challenge the status quo, and make unprecedented waves.

This year, Macy's special guests will discuss how they blazed their own paths and how the connection to their heritage helped inspire their success. Macy's will also celebrate those making a difference and impacting their local communities, while helping to pave the way for future generations.

As part of Macy's Black History Month celebrations, actress, writer and producer Issa Rae will appear at Macy's Baldwin Hills in Los Angeles. Macy's will also welcome Emmy®-nominated actress and equal rights advocate, Laverne Cox, at Herald Square in New York City. Both will participate in moderated conversations about Black History, their inspirations and innovation in showbiz.

"These upcoming Black History events serve as wonderful opportunities for Macy's to bring bold, ground-breaking black innovators into our stores and to our communities," said Kristyn Doar-Page, Macy's vice president of Diversity & Inclusion Strategies. "As a retailer committed to celebrating trailblazers, Macy's is thrilled



Rae

to open a space where our community can engage with these artists as they share their life stories and inspirations."

Rae's rise from web series creator to one of Hollywood's It-girls is nothing less than remarkable. Rae's content has garnered millions of views online and two Golden Globe® nominations for Best Actress for her hit show, HBO's Insecure. Her web series, The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl was the recipient of the coveted Shorty Award for Best Web Show, and her first book, a collection of essays, is a New York Times Best Seller. Rae has graced the cover and pages of major national media outlets including Essence, The Hollywood Reporter, Vanity Fair, The New York Times, CNN, VOGUE and TIME with appearances on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, Good Morning America, The View,

and more.

"I am excited to be working with Macy's during Black History Month to celebrate those young and old whose innovation and talents are transforming American culture and making undeniable contributions to art and entertainment," said Rae.

Cox is a two-time Emmy-nominated actress and Emmy-winning producer best known for her work on the critically acclaimed Netflix original series Orange Is The New Black, where she plays the groundbreaking role of Sophia Burset. Her work as an actress and advocate landed her on the cover of TIME magazine as well as two Emmy nominations, back-to-back SAG Awards for "Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series," a Critic's Choice nomination, and consecutive NAACP Image Award nominations. Cox



Cox

is a renowned speaker and has taken her empowering message of moving beyond gender expectations to live more authentically all over the country. Her work as an advocate landed her a coveted spot as one of Glamour magazine's 2014 Women of the Year. She is the recipient of the Dorian Rising Star Award, the Courage Award from the Anti-Violence Project, The Community Leader Award from the LGBT Center of New York City, was named one of The Grio's 100 Most Influential African Americans, one of the Top 50 Trans Icons by the Huffington Post, one of Out magazine's Out 100, was ranked number 5 on the 2014 Root 100 list and is a part of Ebony's Power 100.

"I am grateful to be working with Macy's during Black History Month to contribute to powerful conversations about the transformative work being done by young innovators," said Cox. "There is never a better time to discuss the contributions made by the black community, and what an inspiration it is to be among those fighting for change."

At each of the Black History Month events, Macy's customers will have an opportunity to meet and greet with event special guests. For additional information on Macy's Black History Month festivities and special guests, please visit macys.com/celebrate.

Macy's Black History Month events will be held at the following stores:

Macy's Herald Square (New York City) – Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m.

Macy's Baldwin Hills (Los Angeles) – Saturday, Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. with Issa Rae

Macy's State Street (Chicago) – Thursday, Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Macy's Metro Center (Washington, D.C.) – Thursday, Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Macy's Culver City (Los Angeles) – Thursday, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.

Macy's Center City (Philadelphia) – Thursday, Feb. 22 at 5:30 p.m.

Macy's Herald Square (New York City) – Thursday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. with Laverne Cox

Macy's Union Square (San Francisco) – Thursday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m.

Macy's Lenox Square (Atlanta) – Thursday, Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Macy's Herald Square (New York City) – Saturday, Feb. 24 at 1 p.m.

Macy's Aventura (Aventura, FL) – Saturday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m.

Macy's Herald Square (New York City) – Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m.

Be a living monument. What do you stand for?

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Center for Art & Public Exchange (CAPE) at the Mississippi Museum of Art (the Museum) and OurGlass Media Group have partnered with photographers and communities across the city to produce a visual record of what individuals choose to stand for at this moment in the state's and city's history, giving voice and a platform to a diversity of Mississippi people and imagination.

A one-night pop up exhibition and event at the Mississippi Museum of Art's Museum After Hours program Thursday, February 15, from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. will display a selection of the more than 150 JXNStands portraits captured over the last month.

"JXNStands invites residents of and visitors to Mississippi's capital city to assume the role of monument; to stand proudly for whatever value, belief or idea they believe belongs in the public square," said Julian Rankin, managing director of the Center for Art & Public Exchange at the Mississippi Museum of Art. "This effort reinforces the purpose of CAPE to use visual art as an ignition point for community conversation. The fact that so many have collaborated



PHOTO BY CAROLYNE COLE.

in making the project possible is testament to the energy and willingness of Mississippi artists and community members to unite toward common goals."

At the JXNStands exhibition, the Museum will display approximately 20 photographic prints of portraits taken across the city, as well as digital light projections that will give life to the entirety of the JXNStands photo collection.

Projections are provided by Significant Development, an advancement strategies company founded by entrepreneur and community artist Daniel Johnson. Performing live during the event will be Isabel Elementary

School's concert choir, DJ Java, and singer and R&B artist Kerry Thomas. A cash bar and food will be available for purchase. The event is free and open to the public.

Beginning in early January, CAPE and OurGlass Media Group collaborated with local photographers to capture portraits at Jackson events and locations including Lucky Town Brewery and blues club Underground 119 during Jackson Indie Music Week; Tougaloo College at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast; Jackson State University; Foot Print Farms, the largest agricultural enterprise within the city limits;

Stewpot Community Services with clients of HeARTWorks art ministry; St. Phillip's Episcopal Church; and others.

Participating photographers, all represented in the exhibition, include Carolyn Cole, Talamieka Brice, Mark Geil, Imani Khayyam, T.J. Legler, George "Sky" Miles, and Melanie Thortis. Mark Geil, a photography professor at Jackson State University, has also enlisted his photography students to participate.

The JXNStands project is presented in conversation with Birmingham Stands (#bhamstands), a similar effort begun in August 2017 in Birmingham, Alabama. "Cities with a history



PHOTO BY MARK GEIL.

of intense conflict also contain a history of an even stronger fight for justice and equality," said Tim Majors of Birmingham Stands. "We hope that by showcasing the individuals and organizations fighting the good fight, we can inspire others around the nation."

The possibility of bringing the community engagement to Jackson emerged through conversations between Majors and Brad "Kamikaze" Franklin, owner of public relations, marketing, entertainment and consulting firm OurGlass Media Group. JXNStands became a reality when OurGlass Media Group and CAPE teamed up in late 2017.



PHOTO BY MELANIE THORTIS.

"#JXNStands is a grassroots effort to aid in reshaping the narrative of the capital city," said Franklin. "When I first came across this movement in Birmingham, I immediately knew that we could (and should) capture that energy in Jackson. Ultimately, it won't be grandiose development projects, hotels or politics that will innovate what we do here, but it is the people, and their ideas, beliefs and personal mantras that will tell Jackson's story. And that's what the hashtag is about!"

To see the ever-growing collection of JXNStands portraits, visit www.museumcape.org/jxnstands

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Bid 3064 Upgrades and Improvements at Hughes Field and South Jackson Field

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 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) March 07, 2018, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project will be held at South Jackson Field, on February 15, 2018, at 11:00 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. Bid documents are being made available via electronic copy. Plan holders are required to register for an account at www.m3aarchplans.com to view Bid Documents. Printed copies are not available through the Architect. Plan holders will be responsible for their own reproduction cost. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing at (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding plan clarifications or request for information should be directed to the architect as follows:

M3A Architecture PLLC/William L. McElroy AIA, NCARB
4880 McWillie Circle, Jackson, MS 39206
601-981-1227 – P
601-983-4444 – F
Attn: Preston McKay – Project Manager

2/8/2018, 2/15/2018

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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.

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Date of Sale: March 9, 2018

Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services;
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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

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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 is received.

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 email.

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

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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

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2/8/2018

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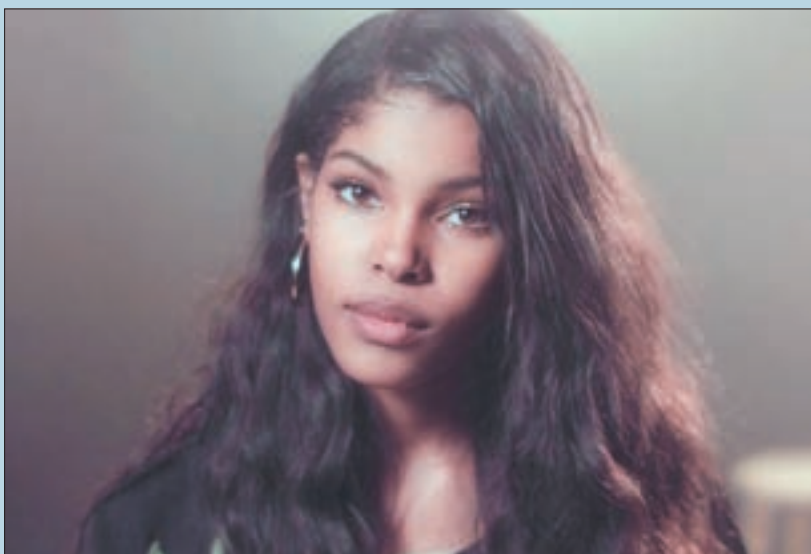
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DIAMOND WHITE PRECIOUS DIAMOND SURE DOES SHINE! THE “BOO 2! A MADEA HALLOWEEN” INTERVIEW



By **Kam Williams**
Columnist

Born in Detroit on New Year’s Day in 1999, Diamond White made a huge splash auditioning for Fox-TV’s “The X-Factor” at just 13 years of age. She stunned judges Simon Cowell and Britney Spears and wowed the crowd with an unforgettable rendition of “It’s a Man World.”

That launched the multi-talented ingenue’s singing and acting career marked by memorable voicework on some of today’s most-popular animated shows: “Transformers: Rescue Bots,” Disney’s “The Lion Guard” and “Pinky Malinky.” She’s also been making live-action movies and, here, talks about reprising the role of Tiffany in Tyler Perry’s Boo 2! A Madea Halloween.

Kam Williams: Hi Diamond, I’m honored to have this opportunity to speak with you.

Diamond White: My pleasure, Kam.

KW: I just finished watching your original audition for “The X-Factor.” It literally left me in tears.

DW: Really?

KW: Absolutely. It was especially moving because of Simon Cowell’s condescending tone towards you even before you started singing. It was like he was deliberately trying to make you nervous. I was touched that you

still had the composure and confidence to bring your A game in front of that huge audience.

DW: Well, thank you.

KW: Have you ever seen that video of James Brown and Luciano Pavarotti’s duet of “It’s a Man World?”

DW: I don’t think I have.

KW: You, of all people have to check it out. How did you come to try out for the show?

DW: I was dared to audition by one of my friends. So, when I went in, I wasn’t really worrying about whether the judges might be super-mean or super-intense. I was just there to have fun, and felt that whatever happened, happened.

KW: Speaking of fun, have you had fun doing Boo! and Boo 2!?

DW: Yeah. And I actually had more fun making the second one, because I was less nervous about working with [director/co-star] Tyler Perry.

KW: Was it hard working opposite so many comedians?

DW: Not really. Whenever I’m in a room with funny people, I kinda just play off of them. My role here wasn’t to be funny. It was just to give people a hard time which I do naturally. [Chuckles]

KW: Is a Boo 3! already in the works?

DW: I have no idea. I’m not in the loop when it comes to that.

KW: Which do you prefer, acting or singing?

DW: Acting and singing go hand-in-hand. Whenever you sing, you act out a story, especially in music videos. Acting is a muscle I like to use while singing. I’d say I’m definitely an artist first.

KW: Who have you been listening to lately?

DW: I’ve been watching alot of SWV [Sisters with Voices] and Aaliyah videos.

KW: What are you working on, musically?

DW: Tomorrow, I’m releasing the video for my song “Cleopatron.” And I’ll be dropping a new single every month until I go on tour later this year. They’re all written by me. No fake songs. So, I’m letting people inside my head.

KW: In terms of acting, do you prefer live-action or voiceover work?

DW: I’m a really big fan of cartoons, and I’ve been doing animation for awhile, but I’ve got to say live-action because there’s a lot more going on. And it’s more fun to be able to watch as well as listen to myself, even though sometimes I hate what I look like.

KW: And do you prefer doing TV or film?

DW: Film. I really want to get into indy films and play some riskier characters. It’s been a

dream of mine to do an action film where I get to kick some butt.

KW: Harriet Pakula-Teweles asks: With so many classic films being redone, is there a remake you’d like to star in?

DW: The Bodyguard.

KW: The Uduak Oduok question: Who is your favorite clothes designer?

DW: I really like Gucci, but not very expensive things that take away paychecks. Sorella’s really nice, too.

KW: Ling-Ju Yen asks: What is your earliest childhood memory?

DW: The day a classmate painted on my Juicy Couture blouse at school. That was the day I realized I was a bourgie kid. I was about five. My mom got mad and complained at the school like Madea.

KW: What is your favorite food to eat?

DW: I like really, really, really pastas. A good fettuccine Alfredo with chicken and shrimp is my go-to.

KW: The Viola Davis question: What’s the biggest difference between who you are at home as opposed to the person we see on the red carpet?

DW: That’s a very interesting question. At home, I’m really to myself. I can write in my journal and listen to music for hours. I like to be social, but some people are scary. So, I have to kinda pre-

pare myself mentally to be on the carpet. Once I’m in that frame of mind, red carpets are easy.

KW: When you look in the mirror, what do you see?

DW: I see a human who’s always changing. I never see the same person twice, because there’s always something different going on in my head. But I’ve always seen a strong black girl in the mirror since I was little.

KW: Has that strength served you well in your career?

DW: In the film industry and in the music business, you don’t see many dark-skinned females being shown in the light they deserve. I’m hoping to change that because how we’re represented is really important. That’s something I carry with me all the time.

KW: Do you have a generic question that I could ask other celebrities?

DW: I have a good one. Ask them to share a thought that they’ve never even put on paper?

KW: Is there any question no one ever asks you, that you wish someone would?

DW: It’s always the simple questions, like: How are you feeling today? No one ever asks: how are you actually doing?

KW: Well, how are you doing?

DW: I’m about to get my hair done. And I always feel really good after getting my hair done. [Giggles]

KW: Larry Greenberg asks: Do you have a favorite movie monster?

DW: The Demogorgon on Stranger Things.

KW: Judyth Piazza asks: What key quality do you believe all successful people share?

DW: I think anyone who’s creative is definitely a little crazy. It’s tough to be courageous enough to pursue a wild idea.

KW: What’s the craziest thing you’ve ever done?

DW: Auditioning for X-Factor. But I still do something crazy everyday.

KW: The Anthony Mackie question: Is there anything that you promised yourself you’d do if you became famous, that you still haven’t done yet?

DW: I hate using the word “famous.” I don’t think it means much anymore, because there are so many people all over the internet who are famous for no reason. I see myself as successful. It’s always been a goal of mine to buy my mom a house in L.A. that’s ten times better than our home in Detroit that burned down.

KW: What advice do you have for anyone who wants to follow in your footsteps?

DW: Have a goal, but don’t have a fixed plan on how to get there. Be flexible and make smart choices, because you don’t want to see yourself in a bad light.

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BOOK REVIEW:


“BLACK INK:

LITERARY LEGENDS ON THE PERIL, POWER, AND PLEASURE OF READING AND WRITING”

BYSTEPHANIE STOKES OLIVER

C.2018, 37 INK / ATRIA BOOKS

\$26.00 / \$35.00 CANADA • 245 PAGES



By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Read this. And that. Read what’s next to it, what’s above it, and the next page. Read it, because words soar. Read it because you can. As you’ll see in “Black Ink,” edited by Stephanie Stokes Oliver, it wasn’t always so.

For two hundred years of this country’s history, it was illegal for a person with black skin to read. Also illegal was writing in words that made sense; slaves who defied the law faced severe punishment, as did their teachers. Because of that, the story of “full literacy among African Americans has yet to be docu-

mented,” says Oliver, and this book helps “fill that void.”

When Frederick Douglass was a young man, for instance, he was owned by a “kind and tender-hearted woman” who taught him to read. Before he fully understood the process, however, she turned “evil,” but Douglass was undaunted. Seeing that which was started as a means to a better future, he used “various stratagems” and found unaware “poor white children” who helped him fill in the blanks.

Books helped Ta-Nehisi Coates to learn who he was, while Booker T. Washington saw a schoolroom as “paradise.” Zora Neale Hurston once claimed that

she was “supposed to write about the Race Problem” – problem was, that wasn’t her interest.

As one of the best students in his eighth grade class, Malcolm X dreamed of being a lawyer until a teacher put him down with words meant to “be realistic.” Instead, it lit a fire in young X’s spirit and drove him to be successful.

Maya Angelou was prodded to read by a neighbor who gave Angelou a voice. Toni Morrison looks at writing, in part, as “... awe and reverence and mystery and magic.” Stokely Carmichael was a bookworm (and was teased mercilessly for it). Jamaica Kincaid bemoans the loss of

a library in her hometown (since reconstructed). As a girl, Terry McMillan never even considered that black people could write books.

And, on the subject of diversity in children’s literature, Walter Dean Myers says, “In the middle of the night, I ask myself if anyone really cares.”

By virtue of reading this far here, you know you’re a reader. But what kind of meaning does the written word hold? For the twenty-seven African-American writers included in “Black Ink,” words are everything.

Beginning with slavery still fresh, and wrapping up with a former President’s thoughts,

Stephanie Stokes Oliver pulls together African-American literary giants who seem to make literacy something that should be in bold neon letters. Indeed, the essays you’ll find in here will make bookworms want to stand up and cheer.

Reading is a superpower, in Solomon Northup’s essay; and an old friend, with Roxane Gay.

Words feel playful, with Colson Whitehead; and like precious gems with Maya Angelou.

This is one of those books that you can browse, flip through, and consume at leisure, with essays of varied lengths and interests. If you are a reader or a writer, or both, “Black Ink” will be a delight.

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