Vol. 24, No. 19 March 1 - 7, 2018 50¢

Civil Rights notables land in Mississippi for Grand Celebration



Civil Rights honorees Mississippi Congressman Bennie Thompson, Ruby Nell Bridges, Georgia Congressman John Lewis and former State Rep. Robert Clark РНОТОЅ ВҮ ЈАҮ ЈОНNSON

By Othor Cain Editor

1961 was a pivotal year. It was then that former president Barack Obama was born. It was then that a young John Lewis, a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, would get arrested in Jackson.

This past weekend, Lewis, an iconic civil rights leader and Georgia statesman stood just blocks away from the jail cell he was housed in

and proclaimed, "As long as I have breath in my body, I will speak up and speak out and I will find a way to get in trouble. Good trouble. Necessary trouble," he said.

Lewis, 78, took the stage along with United States Senator Cory Booker, Mississippi's most admired Congressman, Bennie Thompson, Louisiana Congressman and chair of the United States Black Caucus Cedric Richmond, NAACP President

Derrick Johnson, and a host of others over the course of a two-day weekend, focused on the treasure known as the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

The official opening of the museum in December 2017 was marred in controversy when President Donald Trump accepted an invitation from Governor Phil Bryant and the headlines became more about who wasn't there than who was. Notably missing was Lewis, the Georgia congressman whose 1961 jail mugshot hangs in a gallery of the museum devoted to the Freedom Riders.

Booker, only the fourth African American elected to the United States Senate rocked the crowd Saturday with an impassioned speech that many equated to a presidential

Lewis
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Corning's Division Quality Systems manager warns seniors about 'dream killers'

Holmes Co. native returns to keynote CSLC's 8th annual scholarship awards banquet

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Seven of the eight Holmes County Central High School seniors who vied for first, second and third place in the Community Students Learning Center's (CSLC) Eighth Annual Scholarship Awards were duly warned Saturday night to "stay away from dream killers!"

Keynote speaker Eric L. Simmons, Division Quality System manager, AMER and APAC for Corning Optical Communications Optical Connectivity Solutions Division, told the college-bound seniors that dream killers are in many places.

"For example, if you are in a public office and you've been there for a while, and you have not done anything to bring economic development, to me, that's a dream killer," said Simmons as the audience burst into applause. "If you're in education and you're a teacher and you are not doing all you can to encourage kids and put them in position where they can further their education, you're a



Seated L-R: Kordel Carter (first place), Jon'na Bailey (second place), Sundea Sample (third place); standing, L-R: Tanisha Kirkwood, Kila Anderson, Danielle Gibson and Cianna Hooker. Not pictured is Deshun Hairston. PHOTO BY GAIL BROWN

dream killer."

The Holmes County native even warned of dream killers in the church. "Being in a church...having

faith does not mean that you have to become intellectually lazy," Simmons stressed. "Faith without works [isn't anything] but wishful thinking. You're wishing when you need to be

Holmes
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Those who do nothing on gun control fail our children



Helena Ramsay, 17, was one of 17 who died at the Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

By Jesse Jackson TriceEdneyWire.com

The United States is failing in what surely is the first duty of government – protecting our children from threats that they cannot deal with themselves. Voters and politicians are failing our children.

After 17 students and teachers were killed and a dozen wounded on Valentine's Day by an unbalanced 19-year-old firing an AR-15 rifle at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., the students vowed no more as they buried their friends. Police arrested and charged 19-year-old former student Nikolas Cruz for the Feb. 14 shooting.

Young organizers are reaching out to students across the country to enlist them in a national drive to force action on sensible gun laws. As a first step, they've called for a national demonstration in Washington on March 24 called March for Our Lives.

More demonstrations across the country will come. "We want this to stop. We need this to stop. We are protecting guns more than people," said Emma Gonzalez, 18, one of five core organizers, as reported in The New York Times. "We are not trying to take people's guns away; we are trying to make sure we have gun safety." Gonzalez, a student at the Florida school, invited politicians from any party to join, but she warned: "We don't want anybody who is funded by the NRA. We want people who are going to be on the right side of history."

In a stunning opinion piece in The New York Times, Christine Yared, 15, a freshman at the school who huddled in a closet when the shooting broke out, wrote that her parents settled in Parkland because the school had a "stellar reputation and because we thought that it was a safe place to live."

She called on people to "work together beyond political parties to make sure this never happens again."

She argued sensibly: "If a person is not old enough to be able to rent a car or buy a beer, then he should not be able to legally purchase a weapon of mass destruction. This could have been prevented. If the killer had been properly treated for his mental illness, maybe this would not have happened. If there were proper background checks, then those who should not have guns would not have them."

A recent study using data from the World Health Organization and the global Human Mortality Database, found that America is now "the most dangerous of wealthy nations for a child to be born into." Higher infant mortality – high particularly among the poor in states that refused to expand Medicaid – accounts for some of that. Gun violence accounts for much of it.

The U.S. suffers 21,000 "excess deaths" – deaths above the average – for children under 19 every year. As one writer noted, think of that as three Sandy Hook or three Stoneman Douglas shootings a day, every day of every year. We have failed our children.

Yet, President Donald Trump responded to the latest school shooting with "prayers and condolences," never mentioning the word gun. After he was elected, he went to the National

Guns
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2018 JSU & Big House Games



Book Review: Grandma's Purse



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Project SOAR Resource Fair comes to Hinds Co.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

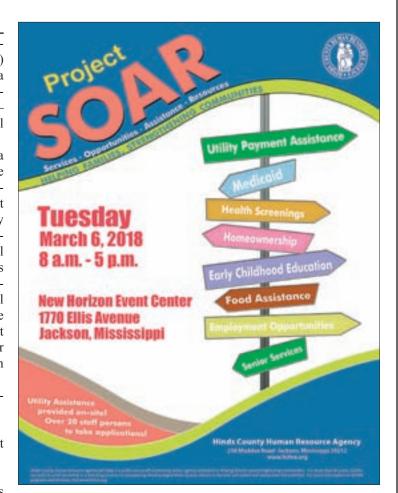
Hinds County Human Resource Agency (HCHRA) is hosting Project SOAR - a Services, Opportunities, Assistance and Resources fair -Tuesday, March 6, 2018, for all of Hinds County.

Project SOAR is going to be a huge event. HCHRA will have over 20 case managers available to provide utility payment assistance on the spot. Not only will energy assistance be provided on this day, but there will be several community partners on site to provide health, financial, medical, education, social and safety services – all in one spot. The event will be held at the New Horizon Event Center located at 1770 Ellis Avenue in Jackson from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be health screenings and information on:

- SNAP benefits
- How to improve your credit
- Healthy food incentives
- Mental health screenings
- available for children • Healthy weight and healthy
- Voter education
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Medicare · Medicaid
- HCHRA job opportunities,
- Head Start enrollment, rural transportation services, rental assistance and senior services.

There will be presentations throughout the day on the following topics:



- The Basics of Financial Lit-
- How to Apply for a Habitat
- How to Access Legal Ser-
- How to Avoid Foreclosure
- Diabetes: Signs, Symptoms and Treatment
- Keep Your Money in Your Pocket. Get Your Taxes Done
 - Mental Illness Awareness
- Safety Tips for Children, Women and Seniors
- Voting Matters
- · Medicaid and Medicare: What Are the Options?

Attendees are asked to bring all of the required documents to apply for utility payment assistance. No appointment is necessary, but you must be a resident of Hinds County and meet certain requirements.

A list of required documents can be found at hchra.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/02/Required-Documents-Checklist.

Celebrating with "10 for 10"

The Mississippi Link Newswire

As a kick-off project to celebrate their beginning, the women of the Madison County (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will provide 10 simultaneous services to 10 organizations in Madison County Saturday, March 3, from 10 a.m. – noon.

The local chapter, which was chartered ten years ago, April 26, 2008, by a select group of women across Madison County, made a commitment to the citizens of the communities in which they live and/or work. The commitment remains – to offer services to in-need residents of Madison County.

Labelled as "10 for 10," sorority sisters will band together in various locations to work for and with community organizations to provide the best outreach possible. Several of the services will reflect on projects that have been completed in the past and programs the local chapter will continue to do in Madison County.

Some "10 for 10" activities and partnering organizations include: a free ACT prep session for at-risk youth, a free clothing drive with Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., clean-up at Canton area parks and volunteerism at G. A. Carmichael Family Health Center, Madison County Nursing Home, Sunnybrook Children's Home, MadCAAP and the Waterford Assisted Living Facility.

The chapter chartered with 50 members and is now the home of 170 members. Its service areas include Camden, Canton, Farmhaven, Flora, Gluckstadt, Madison, Ridgeland and

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world. A sisterhood of more than 250,000 college educated women, the sorority currently has over 900 chapters located in the United States, England, Japan (Tokyo and Okinawa), Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Republic of Korea.

The major programs of the sorority are based upon the organization's Five Point Programmatic Thrust: • Economic Development • Educational Development • International Aware-





ness and Involvement • Physical and Mental Health • Political Awareness and Involvement.

The Sorority was founded in 1913 by 22 students at Howard University. These young women wanted to use their collective strength to promote academic excellence; to provide scholarships; to provide support to the underserved; to educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy; and to highlight issues and provide solutions for problems in their communities.

For the entire list of activities, organizations, and locations, please call or e-mail Jennifer Riley at 601-201-0346 / jmageerey@ gmail.com.



Lewis

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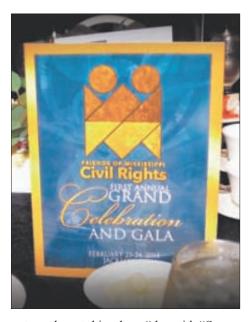
candidate stomp speech. "This is not a Mississippi museum. This is America's museum. This is essential for our country to advance because you cannot advance as a nation if you aren't willing to air the truth. Expose it to light," Booker said.

Booker in his 35-minute delivery, touched on voter disenfranchisement; declining environmental protections; unequally applied drug laws; existing segregation; wage deflation and the unemployment rate. He sent the crowd into a frinzy when he wrapped his speech up with the word LOVE. "When love is shown, you don't have to explain it," he said as the capacity crowd jumped to their feet. "Unconditional love is a servant's heart," Booker said as he described his admiration for Lewis.

Thompson, who was only 13 when Lewis first came to Jackson, also boycotted the museum's opening in December. "We didn't want to be a part of a photo opportunity...we were not going to put ourselves in a position where we reduced the sacrifices and lives lost for a photo," Thompson said

Thompson, who represents Mississippi's only majority African-American district, has made a significant imprint on the fabric of the civil rights movement. One of the most notable acts was when he filed a lawsuit to increase funding at Mississippi's historically black colleges and universities. The suit led to a \$503 million settlement split between Jackson State, Alcorn State and Mississippi Valley State Universities over a 17-year period.

"The fight isn't over, we must continue to challenge all elected officials, especially black ones who sit in a majority of leadership on various boards, specifically the Hinds County Board of Supervisors yet they continue to not employ our people," he said. "I'm not telling you who to hire, but it stands to reason that our children are going to school, getting degrees, getting trained and specializing in various fields...



yet we do not hire them," he said. "Something is wrong with that picture."

The two-day weekend celebration was co-chaired by State Representative Sonya Williams-Barnes, who also chairs the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus and Municipal Judge Carlos Moore. "We wanted to celebrate the excellence housed in this museum, we wanted this weekend to be teachable, enjoyable and celebratory," Williams-Barnes said. "I think we accomplished that.

The weekend included a very festive gala Friday night where five individuals who made significant contributions to civil rights in the deep south and across the country were honored. Former State Representative Robert Clark was one of them.

Clark was the first African American elected to the Mississippi House since Reconstruction. Elected in 1967, Clark took his seat in January 1968. He rose from a freshman lawmaker to president pro-tem, the second highest position in the House. Clark retired in 2003 after 35 years in the Legislature. His son, Bryant Clark, took his place in the House.

See photos page 19.

Holmes

Continued from page 1

about doing something."

The son of retired educators Henry and Jimmie Simpson, Simmons emphasized the importance of work. "One of the things I took with me from Holmes County was a good work ethic," the Dallas-Fort Worth area resident said. When I was growing up, people in Holmes County worked. They worked all day. That work ethic travels with me wherever I go." His career travels are global.

Scholarship winners and others were encouraged by his candid-motivational message.

"....About dream killers, my reaction was, wow," said first-place winner Kordel Carter. "I've always felt the exact same way. It is imperative that we stay away from them [dream killers] at all cost. We must encourage each other and cultivate dreams."

Second-place winner Jon'na Bailey thought dream killers were just naysayers but now she understands that dream killers are much more than that. She also appreciated the four pearls of wisdom he advised them while young. "I felt that was food for the soul," Bailey said. "You only get one life and if you don't cherish that life and take care of yourself, then you are not living your life to the maximum capacity."

Third-place winner Sundea Sample said she "instantly took heed" to the dream-killers warning. She is also adding Simmons' four values to her everyday life. "I will always 1) take care of myself, 2) make time for the people who took care of me, 3) take responsibility for my own education, and 4) make and value memories that appreciate [not depreciate]," she said.

CSLC Founders Leslie and Beulah Greer said they appreciate Simmons for taking the time out



Simmons

of his busy schedule to give back to his community. "We are also thrilled to have had our former project director, Porche Frizell Dixon, as emcee, and wonderful entertainment by The King Edward Band of Jackson!" said Executive Director Beulah Greer.

They are grateful to their sponsors: Platinum – MyEcon, Inc. of Greater Atlanta, Ivey Stokes; Silver – Top Quality Computer Services, Antwan Clark; Bronze – Academic Technologies, Phillip Boyd; Jeanette Friar and Family; Major Design Studio, Ryan Ashford; Mallory Community Health Center, C. Rozell Chapman, CEO; and Nines Enterprises, Donald Meekey.

"We thank God and everyone who helped make this program a huge success," said Leslie Greer.

For more information about the programs and services of CSLC, call (662) 834-0905.

See photos page 5.

Guns

Continued from page 1

Rifle Association convention. The NRA had spent millions in support of his election.

"You came through for me," he pledged, "I will come through for you." There is no more brazen statement of the corruption of our politics.

Since 1968, America has lost more lives to gun violence than we have in all the wars of our nation's history from the Revolutionary War forward.

Our leaders are failing in their duty to protect our children. The NRA and the gun lobby reward politicians who block sensible reforms, and punish those who promote them.

A majority of Americans support sensible gun laws. Yet no progress is made. Politicians fear that they will risk their seats if they oppose the gun lobby. They choose their own political career over the duty to protect our children. After each mass shooting, there is outrage and tears, but no action.

Perhaps the young organizers from Parkland can break through. They can reach millions of their peers through social media. Their passion

is clear. It is not partisan, not liberal or conservative, but moral. At 18, they can register and vote in large numbers.

Even now, they can organize marches and dem-

onstrations, do research that exposes who is on the take and who is in the pocket of the gun lobby, run registration and voter education drives.

Our children are at risk. Now they are calling all

of us to account. Maybe they have the grit and the moral clarity to break through the icy indifference of those who claim to lead us.

Christine Yared wrote: "We need to expose the

truth about gun violence and the corruption around guns. Please. If you have any heart, or care about anyone or anything, you need to be an advocate for change. Don't let any more children suffer like we have. Don't continue this cycle. This may not seem relevant to you. But next time it could be your family, your friends, your neighbors. Next time, it could be you."

She and her classmates have witnessed the unbearable. Let us heed their call.

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MPB's Parent Academy makes huge difference in single mom's life

Mississippi Link Newswire

Valeria Haley, 39, of Jackson was an unemployed, stressed out single parent looking for relief before participating in Mississippi Public Broadcasting's first Parent Academy workshop in April 2015.

"That first class changed my entire life," Haley said. "The classes were phenomenal. I can't say it enough. All the questions I had on what to do next in life, they pretty much told me."

Haley's sons – Virgil and Jontue – now ages 12 and 8, respectively, have also reaped the benefits of the experience.

The Parent Academy workshop is offered by MPB's Education Department and Springboard To Opportunities, an MPB community partner that connects families living in affordable housing with resources and programs that help them advance in school, work and life.

Haley lives in Commonwealth Village Apartments, and the Parent Academy workshop, held one night a week for seven weeks, took place onsite. Parent Academy has since extended to Lincoln Gardens Apartments near Commonwealth Village.

"We started having Parent Academy to emphasize literacy and S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art and math) activities and to make sure families took books home each night," said Shelia Brown-Robinson, MPB's director of Early Childhood Education. "Our ultimate goal was to build



Valerie Haley in her home library

home libraries."

Parents from Commonwealth Village, which is near Dawson Elementary, were invited to MPB's Parent Academy. "We knew that reading scores at the school were not very high, so reading was chosen as an activity for the parents and kids. In order to get kids reading on grade level, we had to go to the homes," Brown-Robinson said.

During the workshops, MPB staff would assess the parents'

needs while reading and playing educational games with the kids. Parents were instructed on what to do at home to keep the learning going.

Haley began reading to Virgil and Jontue at night. To improve comprehension and make reading more fun, the boys would dress up and act out the characters in the books. Eventually, they had so many books, the "Haley Library" – a shelf full of books at their home – was

formed, and the boys began reading to their mom. Virgil even created a sign-out sheet to ensure books borrowed by residents were returned. Learning new words is now a joyful experience for the family.

Haley with sons Virgil and Jontue

"My sons are very excited about being in different programs with MPB. They don't miss MPB events if possible," Haley said. "With a lot of residents that have been in the MPB programs, we notice a

difference in ourselves. A lot of moms wanted to do better, but we didn't know where to start. There are now moms who are impatiently waiting to be a part of MPB's initiatives."

Parent Academy helped moms with not just academic skills but also parenting skills. They are very involved in their kids' lives now. They visit the school, not just when the teacher calls, but just to see how their kids are doing," Brown-Robinson said.

Dawson Elementary Principal Vicki Conley describes Haley as a "very supportive parent," and Conley couldn't be more pleased with the resources MPB's Education staff provides Dawson.

"It has been awesome, especially with the professional development for teachers along with activities for students," she said. "They provide tech time by bringing in iPads for students, afterschool activities on Fridays and incentives of celebration for students and staff. It has been really beneficial."

Springboard's CEO Aisha Nyandoro also notes the rewards of partnering with MPB.

"The hands-on learning instruction and modeling that this partnership provides to Springboard's families directly aids in helping parents become their child's first and best teacher," Nyandoro said. "Springboard actively works with individuals to help them accomplish the goals they have established for their life. Val is simply one example of a shining star that we have had an opportunity to assist."

For her efforts to recruit other moms and be an exceptional example of Parent Academy's success, Springboard offered Haley a part-time job as a community specialist in May 2016. Seven months later she became full-time and hopes to buy a home soon.

"Val's a testament to Parent Academy's great success," Brown-Robinson said.



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MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- o Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to
- o Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

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JPS announces 2018 **Administrator of the Year**

Mississippi Link Newswire

During a surprise visit to Davis Magnet Elementary, Jackson Public Schools announced its Administrator of the Year. Kathleen Grigsby, the principal of the top-ranked Davis Magnet, is the 2017-2018 honoree. JPS Assistant Superintendent Michelle King made the surprise announcement before an assembly of community partners, students and employees of the school, JPS administrators, the school's PTA Board and Grigsby's family and friends.

"JPS could not ask for a more qualified, inspiring and innovative principal as the 2018 Administrator of the Year," said Interim Superintendent Freddrick Murray. "I have watched Dr. Grigsby for several years grow into one of the best outof-the-box thinkers and educational leaders not only in the state but the nation. Her ability to lead teachers, motivate students and collaborate with parents and her school's community has made Davis Magnet a model school."

Barbara Hilliard, School Board secretary and former International Baccalaureate coordinator at Jim Hill, gave remarks on behalf of the JPS Board of Trustees.

"I can personally attest to what a great principal she is, because my granddaughter, who is now a seventh grader, attended this school," said Hilliard. "During my time working in the school system, Davis Magnet School has been recognized as one of the top ten elementary programs in the United States."

Besides thanking her husband and daughter, other family and colleagues, Grigsby credited the support of the Davis Magnet School for her achieving success and the Administrator of the Year award.

"Part of the reason I am here is due to my Davis IB family," said Grigsby. "To the staff members, you all had faith that I could step up



Grigsby

to the challenges to lead the school. You all truly embraced my out-ofthe-box thinking and nontraditional style of leadership. While we were an A last year, our students grew 100 accountability points. When you take that amount of talent and still continue to push and grow, I think this award speaks for itself. This award truly belongs to all of our teachers and staff."

Grigsby started her career in 1998 as an elementary school teacher. Since 2009 she has served as a building-level administrator. She has been the principal at Davis Magnet Elementary since 2014. In 2011, she completed her doctorate in educational leadership, becoming the first graduate from the Mississippi College doctoral program. She holds five AAAA certifications. She has developed a catalog of presentations on a wide range of topics from literacy to teacher coaching.

Grigsby's major community involvement includes serving as a commissioner on the Better Together Commission and AdvancED Review Committees. In these roles, she partners with citizens, organizations and institutions, education leaders and experts to help make



Celebrating with Grigsby are her JPS colleagues (from left) Michelle King, asst. supt; Linda Murray, principal, Barr Elem.; Chinelo Evans, exec. dir., School Improvement; Grigsby; Yavonka McGee, principal; Green Elem.; Kimberly Smith, principal North Jackson Elem.; Josie Blake, principal, Watkins Elem.; and LeKeisha Sutton, principal, Lake Elem.

decisions that positively impact all children.

As principal at Davis Magnet, she has led the school to top rankings in student proficiency every year. Under her leadership, the school has achieved an A rating accountability status with a growth rate of almost 100 points in 2017 leading to a No. 1 ranking in the state of Mississippi. Davis Magnet has also received the 2017 PREPS Value Added Award in MAP Math and the 2016 Highest Proficiency in MAP Reading. In 2015, the school received the PREPS Value Added Award for ELA and math.

"Educators must desire to teach and lead each child to his or her maximum potential through a whole child approach. Educators should balance the focus on academic achievement with an educational emphasis that promotes longterm development and success of all children. The result of such an approach is each student is healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged" said Grigsby.

As the JPS Administrator of the Year, Grigsby will be considered with other outstanding administrators across the state for the Mississippi Administrator of the Year.

Jackson Public Schools would like to thank our Administrator of the Year sponsors for these generous gifts to our honoree:

- · Personalized plaque, donated by the Junior League of Jackson.
- \$200 gift and floral arrangement, Davis Magnet PTA.
- · Complimentary spa services, Envy Salon and Spa.
- Two complimentary tickets to the play, "Sister Act," New Stage Theatre.
- Mobile Lab including 10 PBS Kids Playtime Pads and two free wireless hotspots, Mississippi Public Broadcasting.
- \$150 gift card to Bravo's, a gift certificate to Lee Michael's Jewel-
- · Specially designed mural in honor of renaming the school to Barack Obama Elementary, Greater Jackson Arts Council.

JPS Career Development Center students win app challenge



STEM Adventures Development Team: (from left) Gerald Aldridge, Myesha Wallace, CDC technology instructor, and Zion Blount. Team member D'Anthony Thompson is not pictured.

Mississippi Link Newswire

Several students enrolled in the Simulation and Animation Design Technology Program at the JPS Career Development Center have created a national award-winning app. The students, who are also members of the Technology Student Association, were among over 4,100 students across the nation who signed up to participate in the 2017 Congressional App Challenge. This challenge encourages students to learn how to code applications through annual competitions hosted by their members of Congress.

The winning app developed by the students at the Career Development Center is called STEM Adventures. The app is an interactive comic activity book designed to teach third through fifth grade students about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) occupations. Each adventure introduces an area of STEM. The Career Development Center's Simulation and Animation Design and Teacher Academy students collaborated on the concept.

The winners of this challenge have been invited to participate in #HouseOfCode April 11-13, in Washington, D.C. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in activities facilitated by representatives from some of the country's leading technology companies.

The Congressional App Challenge is executed by the Congressional staff of each participating district and coordinated by the Congressional Internet Caucus and the non-governmental sponsor of the project, the Internet Education Foundation. Participating students code original applications for the chance to be selected for recognition by their Member of Congress. Additionally, they can win prizes and have their work displayed in the Capitol Building in Washington,

Murrah to participate in College Board AP Capstone Diploma Program

Mississippi Link Newswire

Murrah High School has been approved to pilot an AP CapstoneTM diploma program for the 2018-2019 school year. Murrah will be one of only 1,500 schools worldwide and will join only two other schools in the state of Mississippi to offer this innovative program of the College Board.

The AP Capstone Diploma Program focuses on collegelevel research, collaboration and teamwork skills that prepare high school students for

college and career success. Developed in partnership with the higher education community, the program complements other in-depth and subject-specific Advanced Placement® courses and exams.

Murrah's principal, Alvanette Buchanan, applied for the pro-

gram in the fall of 2017. "I believe this opportunity will allow current and future AP students to experience challenging coursework that will strengthen the reading, writing and analysis skills that they

have been developing in previous classes," said Buchanan. "AP Seminar and AP Research will be added to the 13 AP courses currently offered at Murrah High School."

Murrah had 10 juniors and seniors to earn the AP Scholar Award in 2017 with an average score of 3.26. The AP Scholar award is granted to students who receive scores of 3 or high-

er on 3 or more AP exams. How the AP Capstone Diploma Program Works

Students who earn scores

of 3 or higher on AP Seminar and AP Research assessments and on 4 additional AP Exams of their choosing will earn the AP Capstone DiplomaTM. This signifies their outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher on both AP Seminar and AP Research assessments only will earn the AP Seminar and Research CertificateTM.

Learn more about the AP CapstoneTM Diploma Program.



Murrah High School classroom

The Mississippi Link TM

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Mississippi agribusiness and forestry drive state economy, supplies world

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi agribusiness helps give the world food, clothing and shelter and even helps heal the sick. With 10 million farming acres and 19.5 million acres of forests in Mississippi, the state's top industry is agriculture and forestry. Working with farmers and foresters, Mississippi companies turn the food and forestry harvests into the products we buy. Mississippi public universities support Mississippi agribusiness through teaching, research and service.

The Mississippi Small Farm and Agribusiness Center (MS-FAC) at Alcorn State University was established in 1988 by an act of Mississippi State Legislation to promote, enhance and facilitate the development and growth of small farms and alternative agricultural enterprises. The State has approximately 37,500 small farms with annual gross farm revenue of \$50,000 or less. The Mississippi Small Farm and Agribusiness Center provides services directly to approximately 5,000 farmers and indirectly to several thousand through its website linking the center to farmers all over the State of Mississippi and beyond its borders.

The National Center for Natural Products Research at the University of Mississippi discovers and develops natural products for use as pharmaceuticals, dietary supplements and agrochemicals. Research focuses on the biological and chemical properties of medicinal plants as potential crops for Mississippi farmers.

NCNPR facilities include production greenhouses, demonstration garden beds, shade houses, field plots and biomass processing facilities. The USDA Agricultural Research Service Natural Products Utilization Research Unit is co-located with NCNPR in the Cochran Center on the university's Oxford campus.

At Mississippi State University student-led teams are leveraging a century's worth of renowned research and experience to lead the way in developing new agricultural technologies. Researchers in the MS Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station are growing better crops, creating alternative irrigation methods and devising innovative systems to move vital resources from farm to table.

Almost 50 universities worldwide have banded together to address the global issue of hunger and Mississippi State is leading the way. The university's expertise, from the laboratory, to the farm, to the market, to the table, place it in a unique position to address the world's needs today and into the future.

With the world's population expected to top 9.5 billion by 2050, food production will need to double to keep pace.

MSU students are helping prepare for the future by finding ways to use unmanned aerial vehicles to boost crop production, creating new water sources for developing countries, researching disease-resistant crops and developing safer and more effective ways to use pesticides



The Mississippi State University Extension Service hosted the Farm Fresh and Healthy Tour to show families how their food makes it from the farm to the local market. Sam Shafer of Starkville browses the colorful produce. PHOTOS BY MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY



Mississippi State University is advancing the use unmanned aerial vehicles to boost crop production, create new water sources for developing countries, research disease-resistant crops and develop safer and more effective ways to use pesticides and herbicides in crop protection.



Sean Meacham, a senior majoring in agricultural engineering technology at Mississippi State University, uses an octocopter as part of his studies. Through unmanned aircraft systems technology, students are attempting to solve major world problems such as hunger by using UAS to revolutionize farming techniques and improve crop yields through precision agriculture.

and herbicides in crop protec-

Mississippi State University is conducting a collaborative research program, in partnership with the USDA Agricultural Research Service, to enhance food safety and the quality of farmed products such as catfish, seafood and produce. The university's Global Center for Aquatic Food Security is providing a platform for students to discover solutions that ensure a safe, worldwide supply of seafood.

Student researchers are also helping eradicate food-borne pathogens and improve the health of cattle, leading to greater production and market

Community outreach and education is a key component of the university's work in agriculture. The Mississippi State University Extension Service recently hosted a mom's day out with a farm twist, giving a group of 15 mothers of school-aged children the opportunity to participate in a Farm Fresh and Healthy Tour in and around Starkville. The event included a tour of a local producer's farm, a visit to a livestock production facility and a cooking demonstration from Chef Jay

Yates from the Veranda restaurant. The purpose of the tour was to promote and support agricultural production through outreach and education, strengthen the connection between the farmers and local consumers and sustain the community farmers mar-

For more information view video on how Mississippi State University research is addressing world hunger: $https://youtu.be/KU_t2ET$ mY68. See FarmWeek episode highlighting the economic benefits of agritourism: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=x2imssxQav8

School Funding Committee substitute by Tollison in Senate guts even more

A new secret 350 page education funding bill to kill MAEP dropped in darkness recently, to a select few, to be voted on by committee. The new bill will be lethal for high-poverty districts, sports, STEM and teacher pay raises.

The realities of the new strike-all HB957 from the Senate are detailed below for educators and administra-

- 1. The base student costs of \$4800 and \$6240 are too low, and lower than current underfunding. The current expenditure per child in many districts is over \$10,000. The best private schools in the state charge anywhere from \$15,000-\$18,000 per child per year. With this bill, an increasing percentage of school budget will come from local sources by either raising taxes or cutting services and programs.
- 2. Huge difference about funding for high school seniors goes to zero dollars. The Senate version terminates all payments for a student once they have met qualifications for graduation, which many do at the end of 11th grade, or are attending programs after having dropped out.
- 3. Poverty calculations are completely flawed and will hurt poor districts the most. That is even noted on the Census Bureau's website. An example is that it says that the Oxford School District's low socio-econom-

COMMENTARY

ic percentage is around 20 percent. That is just false. Its real poverty numbers are more than double the amount that is listed. Taking an average from the last three years that are listed is not current and it is not an improvement.

- 4. Sports: Seniors who have already met their graduation requirement would actually have to pay to play a sport in their senior year.
- 5. Vocational and techincal program are completely missing as programs that shall be funded.
- 6. STEM is completely missing as a program that shall be funded.
- 7. ICT: completely missing as a program that shall be funded.
- 8. Teacher and teacher assistant pay raises are completely missing. I am continually amazed why so

many of us allow the legislature to punch us in the face with these kind of secret deals cut with big campaign donors - and then we send them back time after time. Maybe we need some understanding from Tina Turner!

It all starts with education. Please encourage your senator

to vote NO on the latest bill to kill MAEP - HB957

Jay Hughes State Representative District 12 Lafayette

MSU offers new program to improve health outcomes

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A new graduate certificate program at Mississippi State University is promoting healthier lifestyles and wellness for Mississippians.

The university's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Division of Student Affairs are collaborating on the new initiative, funded of Mississippi Foundation. The certificate program is pending formal approval by the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning.

The Graduate Certificate in Clinical Health Promotion and Wellness Coaching includes hands-on learning in the Longest Student Health Center and a field-based internship in a Blue Primary Care Home clinic in the re-

Blue Primary Care Home clinics deliver a best practice care model based upon a multidisciplinary healthcare team approach. Wellness coaches are a part of this team and add value in providing health education in support of patients and their health goals.

"Having a relationship with your primary healthcare provider can help you manage your health and health risks," said Sheila Grogan, executive director of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation. "An important feature of our Blue Primary Care Home clinics in Mississippi is the interdisciplinary healthcare team that helps patients make realistic and effective lifestyle choices and decisions about their healthcare. Wellness coaches are proving to be a valuable asset in the Blue Primary Care Home setting."

Will Evans, project director and MSU department head of food science, nutrition and health promotion, reiterates the value of wellness coaches in the primary care setting.

"These coaches work with patients to modify their behaviors in the direction of a healthier lifestyle to prevent and manage chronic disease, as well as add healthy years to life," he said. "Recent research has shown that wellness coaches improve preventive healthcare in rural communities."

The certificate program may be completed as part of the master's degree in food science, nutrition and health promotion with a concentration in health promotion or as a stand-alone certificate. The master's degree is available on campus and also through the university's Center for Distance Education. However, the certificate program will require classroom instruction on campus at the outset.

"The certificate features the latest in wellness coaching and will support a statewide initiative to place these professionals across the state," Evans said. "The certificate will require 21 hours of graduate study in the Departthrough the Blue Cross & Blue Shield ment of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion and will feature four existing courses and two new courses, a 3-credit hour health center practicum and a 6-hour, field-based

> The certificate includes three phases: classroom learning, in-clinic demonstration and wellness coach intern-

> During phase 1, students will attend classes in MSU's Longest Student Health Center. Phase 2 allows students to work alongside health professionals to observe wellness coaching sessions conducted with patients of the health center. After completion of these two phases, students then will intern at a Blue Primary Care Home to conduct wellness coaching.

Upon completion of the certificate program, students then will take steps to become certified as wellness coaches through an entity such as the International Consortium for Health and Wellness Coaching or Wellcoaches School of Coaching.

"We are thrilled to be part of a program that will improve the health outcomes for Mississippians," Evans said. "We are grateful to the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation for funding this initiative."

The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation is working to build a healthy Mississippi through targeted funding aimed at supporting schools, communities, colleges and universities. Learn more about these efforts at www.healthiermississippi.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Mississippi State offers undergraduate and graduate degrees to advance agriculture and livestock production, food safety and quality, environmental sustainability, community growth and development and healthy lifestyles. Learn more at www.cals. msstate.edu and follow on Facebook @MSUCALS, on Twitter @MSU_Ag and Instagram @MSUAg.

MSU is Mississippi's leading university, available online at www.ms-

Arts collective, OutSpoken, gives new members the courage to be creative

MARCH 1 - 7, 2018

By Rachel James-Terry jsumsnews.com

There was nervous laughter in the air as new members of OutSpoken, a student-led creative arts collective founded at Jackson State University, prepared for their New Member Showcase Feb. 20 inside Johnson Hall's Art Gallery.

In 2007, music majors Jamaal "Moving Testament" Bolden, Diandgy "Thiiird World" Georges and Tori "Scarlette" Thompson used their passion for spoken word poetry to create OutSpoken. Since then, the organization has grown to include singers, dancers, graphic designers, photographers, rappers, musicians and almost all things creative.

Every Sunday the collective meets to discuss group business and critique each other's work. Each fall, OutSpoken holds auditions for new members. After the selection process, individual interviews follow. The showcase gives "newbies" a chance to apply what they have learned since joining the organization.

Kenya Johnson, a junior, joined OutSpoken because she wanted to get more comfortable with performing in front of an audience.

"I'm not really too confident in my craft. But I feel this is a good opportunity for me to practice in front of people who I know won't judge me," said the big-voice songstress who belted out an acoustic version of Rihanna's "Diamonds in the Sky" and CeeLo Green's hit "Crazy."

Johnson said she chose the songs because they remind her of a relationship cycle. In the



The 25-member creative arts collective OutSpoken gather together in prayer before the New Member Show-case in Johnson Hall Feb. 20. PHOTO BY RACHEL JAMES-TERRY/JSU

beginning, things are perfect, but as time progresses, a loving couple can still make one another a little crazy, she explained.

"I'm in a relationship right now, and he drives me up the wall," Johnson said, then laughs.

When it comes to OutSpoken, Johnson suggests that other creative students should give the group a shot.

"We're like a family. Nobody will judge you, but you have to be able to take critiques," she said. "It's not to degrade you; it's to make you better. They see potential in me that I don't really see in myself, especially my friend Devin (Cousin). I say try it out."

The showcase is bittersweet for senior Tyler Harden, president of OutSpoken. Her impending graduation from the University in April serves as a reminder that this is her last year with the group.

"This is the first organization that I joined at Jackson State. I've been here since my freshmen year, and I've done everything that I could possibly do in OutSpoken, so I'm really going to miss it," she said.

Harden echoes the theme of family and explains that the faction also serves as a support system. She notes that to join, students do not have to be performance ready, but they must come to auditions with love for their art and an open heart.

"A lot of these people are my lifelong family and friends. This is my last New Members Showcase, so we want this one to be

the best one yet," she exclaimed.
Based on the crowd reaction,

Harden's request may have come true.

Rapper Justin Brown opened the show with a piece that

Rapper Justin Brown opened the show with a piece that seemed to describe the daily goings-on he encounters while "riding through my city." K.J. Roberts, freshmen class president at JSU, performed a metaphorical poem he wrote titled "Amnesia." And Ananda Collins closed her eyes as she sang Anita Baker's "I Apologize" in a sweet and airy voice.

Tierra Mister came to the showcase to support her friend Sydni Rose. Mister admits that she has seen a boost in Rose's confidence since joining Out-Spoken

"I'm really excited to see her I enjoyed everyone's differ-

perform in front of everyone. I'm ready to hear what she has to offer, and I think she's going to do great," said Mister.

Attendees could not help but to sing the catchy hook to Rose's spoken word piece "Vibin' and coolin," where she laments a summer fling turned sour.

A business management major, Rose composed the work over winter break, and explained that it was based on her personal experiences with a relationship.

"I wanted to get over it, so I wrote it out my system," she said.

After practicing the song in front of OutSpoken, she agreed that "Vibin' and Coolin'" would be better as a spoken word performance.

"I think I did really well. I wasn't as nervous as I thought I would be and it went smoothly. So, I'm really happy," she said.

Singer Teon Woods gave a stunning performance of "Love" by Musiq Soulchild that left the crowd imitating his melodic runs and ad-libs long after he finished singing. Photographer Ahmarey Stimley shared his emotion inducing flicks on a projection screen while reading a self-penned poem from his phone. And Robert Mack told listeners to "marinate on the beat for a second" before displaying witty wordplay in his rhymes.

Demetrius Young, a senior, also came to see his friend Timothy Young, a graphic designer who goes by the pseudonym Kxng [sic] Alex.

Kxng [sic] Alex.

"It was a great showcase.

I enjoyed everyone's differ-

ent talents. I also like the way it was presented. It was a very warm feeling, everyone was like a family sitting together enjoying the vibes as a whole," said the mass communication major.

Although he is not a member of OutSpoken, Young said he would recommend that creatives join the collective.

"You can learn so many things and also make connections." He points out, "When you're an upcoming artist, the more connections you have, the more outlets you have, the better chance you have of making it."

Seated in a chair, wearing a black and white striped dress Imani Taylor sang Beyonce's "Crazy in Love." But instead of the fast and frenzied original, Taylor treated spectators to the slow and seductive remix found on the "Fifty Shades of Gray" movie soundtrack.

Sieara DeLone and Thaerin Generette closed the show with a good-energy duet that began with spoken word and ended with rapping and singing that had everyone bobbing their heads.

vice president of OutSpoken, Andre Dyson, expressed his feelings of pride after observing the "newbies."

"It was dope to see them grow

Music education major and

and mature with their craft in a small amount of time. They were really attentive, receptive and willing to work," he said.

When asked who was his fa-

vorite performance of the night, he smiles slyly before saying, "Teon Woods, that boy can sang his derriere off."

Wicker, FCC address apprenticeships, skills gap to educators and corporate experts

By L.A. Warren

jsumsnews.com

Jackson State University President William B. Bynum Jr. hosted a forum Monday with Mississippi U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker, who has called for an expansion of rural access to broadband technology and apprenticeships to close a skills gap in the state.

Bynum and other JSU experts touted the HBCU as an Apple-Distinguished School in an age of a digital divide and shortage of skilled laborers. They were among dozens of educators and corporate tech experts weighing in on how to advance the state through collaboration and coordination of resources.

Wicker, joined by FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr, said, "We're here to start a dialogue among our educational institutions and telecommunications industry about the current state of workforce training and education."

He said rural broadband is a priority for him and the commissioner. "We want to expand rural access to the information super highway." Therefore, Wicker is promoting the Rural Wireless Access Act and the SPEED (Streamlining Permitting to Enable Efficient Deployment of Broadband infrastructure) Act.

"To get broadband in the community, we need to build the network. And, to build the network we need a trained workforce," said Wicker, urging dozens of panelists to consider the following:



A pensive JSU President William B. Bynum Jr. listens as Mississippi U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker, center, engages experts in a dialogue about the digital divide and a gap in Mississippi's qualified workforce. FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr participated in the forum in the Student Center Ballroom on Monday, Feb. 19. PHOTO BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU

- Review the current state of workforce training and education in telecommunications and technology
- Improve skills for employment in telecommunications and technology
- Examine workforce education and industry collaboration and coordination
- Study the role of government in supporting workforce development and training programs.
- Carr declares that broadband creates high-paying jobs and opportunities for millions of Americans. "It's especially important close the skills gap. Carr said he's hopeful that the creation of apprenticeship programs will help solve these issues. "We

as we transition to what's known as the fifth generation of wireless technology." He said the new technology is more than just faster speeds and 5GS capability with the potential to increase competition. He said the expansion also would allow internet access that can connect billions of new devices.

He said Wicker and his colleagues on Capitol Hill are striving to streamline federal, state and local processes that will close the skills gap. Carr said he's hopeful that the creation of apprenticeship programs will help solve these issues "We

need everyone to take an active role in supporting these programs so that every American has a fair shot at participating in this new economy."

Deborah Dent, chief information officer at JSU, was among the many participants calling for a skilled workforce. She said, "I am like a lot of telecommunications vendors here because we employ our students and other people in this area. Information Technology is critical, and one of the most critical things that we're concerned about is cybersecurity. So, we must make sure we can find students who

are qualified for such jobs. It's a growing area, and keeping those students locally is a challenge. We're really interested in an apprenticeship program."

Following Dent, Mississippi State University's Center for Cyber Innovation emphasized the demand and significance of certified cybersecurity programs.

Meanwhile, the Mississippi Coding Academies raised the alarm about firms leaving the state. The company reports that 1,100 coding jobs are currently available, and it is trying to help fill the gap by training young people right out of high school.

Academies co-founder Rich Sun said, "These kids don't just want to start jobs; they want to start companies. They're exceeding our expectations. ... We have pushed the average, underprivileged Mississippi youth.

... These students are hungry to prove themselves." He said there is a \$50,000 job opportunity for each of them but admits that many administrators and teachers have little to no awareness about the importance of coding.

Francis Tuluri, a JSU professor of Industrial Systems and Technology, said more internship opportunities would allow students to compete at a higher level and "take this industry more seriously." He, too, is pushing for more career opportunities through apprenticeship programs.

Among the many entities providing feedback on workforce

development:

- The Department of Education is targeting areas such as computer science, robotics and engineering
- The Skills Foundation of Mississippi aims to provide students with the necessary tools for achieving success, believing that young people will never pursue a career they don't know anything about
- The Global Teaching Project seeks to bring high-level instruction to students everywhere in the world
- C Spire vows to start early to help young people fill jobs in the technology sector
 AT&T is working to "reskill"
- band services to schoolsBase Camp is dedicated to teaching coding and app devel-

employees and deliver broad-

opment to young people

• The Mississippi Community
College Board has expanded
its apprenticeship opportunities and is working with a state
workforce investment board to
raise funding to develop oppor-

tunities for acquiring skills.

Overall, Wicker said he's encouraged by all the progress being made in Mississippi and believes apprenticeships and internships will expand and strengthen the workforce. He's even urging Jackson State University students to apply to become congressional interns in his office. "You don't have to be a Republican, Democrat or independent. Just take a little time from college to see how a senatorial office works."

Students across nation march for gun control

By Amiyah King TriceEdneyWire.com

Tens of thousands of high school students across America were marked with an unexcused absence Wednesday, but everyone knew where they

In the Washington area, high school students from D.C. Public Schools and from public schools in Maryland marched to the Capitol and then to the White House to demand Congress and the president institute gun control legislation that will keep them safe. The march was organized by students from Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville, Md., and Bethesda-Chevy Chase in Montgomery County, Md., in response to the recent shooting in Parkland, Fla.

It was exactly one week ago Wednesday that 19-yearolf Nikolas Cruz opened fire at Stoneman Douglas High School, killing 17 students and wounding dozens more. Cruz, who had been expelled from the school, was charged with 17 accounts of murder of his classmates, teachers and other school officials. The shooting was the 18th school shooting in the first two months of this

Student survivors at the school have launched a nationwide effort to focus attention on gun control in the wake of the shooting. Other student demonstrations were reported in Illinois, Florida and Texas.

Washington-area students walked out of their classes at 9:30 a.m. where they followed each other in procession to Union Station where they joined other protestors who took public transportation from Maryland. From Union Station, thousands of high schoolers marched to Capitol Hill and later participated in a sit-in demonstration outside

the White House.



Classmates, from left, Sally Egan, Emma McMillan and Avery Brooks display their signs seeking better gun control. There were similar student rallies across the nation, PHOTO BY AMIYAH KING/HOWARD UNI-VERSITY NEWS SERVICE

gathered in a semi-circle to hear leaders talk about why they were there.

"No more thoughts and prayers," said student leader Daniel Shepard. "If this isn't the last school shooting, we'll be out here every opportunity we get."

In response to the speakers, students shouted, "No more silence and gun violence. Hey, hey. Ho, ho. the NRA (National Rifle Association) has got to

Teachers and parents were mixed with the crowd of demonstrations either as chaperones or to provide support for their children and their cause.

"I don't think they need my help," said Mandi Mader, mother of three who attended the march in support of her children. "I'm just one more body to represent them here."

Most students said they were advocating for the implementation of gun control laws in Maine. Her father was in the Congress as a solution to the

Talia Fleischer, a sophomore During the sit-in, students at her high school, said she hopes to see "a sign that something will be done in Congress.'

"Countries like Australia and England have great gun control laws, and they have no mass shootings," she said.

In 1996, Australia passed the National Firearms Agreement after a mass shooting in Tasmania in April of that year. In that incident, a 28-year-old man, armed with a semi-automatic rifle, shot and killed 35 people, and injured 18 others in what was known as the Port Arthur Massacre. Under the 1996 law, Australia banned certain semi-automatic, selfloading rifles and shotguns and imposed stricter licensing and registration requirements.

Paul DeVries and his daughter, Brechje, were among the demonstrators. Brechje, 17, moved from the Netherlands to the United States a year ago and attends high school in U.S. for one of her sports activities in the Washington, and the two decided to attend the demonstration.

Brechje said mass shootings are almost unheard of in her country. Her country has experienced only one mass shooting in its history. She said she is stunned and frightened by their frequency in the United

"It's scary," she said. "There have been threats at schools near me, so it definitely comes close to me."

Her father said he is worried for his daughter.

"I feel the frustration," he said. "There are a lot of teenagers here and I think that speaks

Joseph Byler, a senior at his school, said the Florida shooting is what sparked him to at-

"[I hope] the inability of Congress to pass gun control policies disappears," Byler said. "I hope after today, we get universal background checks on gun purchases."

Since the shooting in Florida, President Trump has flirted with the idea of proposing restrictions to purchasing guns, from more intense background checks for gun purchasers to the elimination of bump stocks, the tool the Las Vegas shooter used to kill more than 50 people.

Via Twitter, Trump said, "Whether we are Republican or Democrat, we must now focus on strengthening Background Checks!"

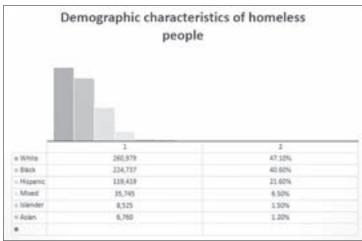
Trump, who received millions of dollars in support from the National Rifle Association in his run for presidency, until now has consistently backed away from any restrictions on

Student protestor Steven Vasquez said his school has armed security and students feel relatively safe.

"But not right now," Vasquez said. "Hopefully our kids dying will help the government see that they need to do some-

Blacks comprise more than 40 percent of U.S. homeless population





By Frederick H. Lowe TriceEdneyWire.com

Although blacks comprise 12.5 percent of the nation's population, they are overrepresented among the nation's homeless as housing prices increase and because fewer units of affordable housing are being built. These two factors are compounded by existing housing discrimination and the black unemployment rate, which is always the nation's highest.

This constellation of factors often results in black people sleeping in the streets or in homeless shelters.

Last year, the United States' homeless population was 553,742. Of this number, 224,937 were homeless black men and women, accounting for 40.6 percent of the total homeless population, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The white homeless population was 260,797, accounting for 47.1 percent of the total homeless population.

The Hispanic homeless population was 119,419, accounting for 21.6 percent of the total homeless population.

HUD gathers its figures during a Point-in-Time estimate which is always taken during the last week of January. HUD's report to Congress concerning homelessness was released in December 2017. Last year's homeless count was a .7 percent increase over 2016 and a 13.1 percent decrease since 2010.

Among the homeless, men outnumber women. In 2017, 335,038, or 60.5 percent of the homeless population were men compared with 215, 709 or 39.0 percent women, according to HUD's 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress.

Individuals who are transgendered accounted for 2,092 or 0.4 percent of homeless people.

The count is made by tens of thousands of volunteers who visit 3,000 cities and counties where the homeless are known to be, including emergency shelters, transitional housing and unsheltered locations.

Transitional housing provides people a place to stay and some supportive services for up to 24 months. Unsheltered homeless includes people living on the

streets, in cars or in parks. HUD reported that homelessness in 30 states and the District of Columbia has declined, but in West Coast cities, including Los Angeles, there was nearly a 26 percent increase in overall homelessness since 2016, primarily among individuals living in unsheltered locations.

"In many high-cost areas of the country, especially along the West Coast, the severe shortage of affordable housing is manifesting itself on our streets," said Ben Carson, Secretary of HUD. "With rents rising faster than incomes, we need to bring everybody to the table to produce more affordable housing and ease the pressure that is forcing too many of our neighbors into our shelters and onto our streets."

While homelessness decreased, grew slightly among other racial and ethnic groups, homelessness among blacks increased 6 percent or 7,299 people in 2017, compared with a 2 percent increase or 2,856 people among whites.

A report titled "Study Investigates Connections Between Race, Homelessness" reports that race and discrimination are integral to addressing home-

"The lack of affordable housing and lack of adequate housing across the country falls more heavily on communities of color, but especially on the African-American community," wrote Eric Tars, a senior attorney for the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.

Homeless people of color are especially vulnerable to the effects of biased policing because living in public spaces creates opportunities for police intervention, Tars said.

Dr. Moser Jones wants policymakers to study long-ignored connections between decades of structural racial discrimination against African Americans and other black persons.

Jones, an assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Health, wrote, "Black persons' general elevated risk for becoming homeless as a result of long-standing discrimination and other factors have depleted black communities' resources."

Leading black legislator calls for economic unity, action

By Hazel Trice Edney TriceEdneyWire.com

The president of America's

largest organization of black legislators has called for unity behind economic development initiatives prioritized by Black Wealth 2020, a movement launched two years ago to forge progress for black-owned businesses, banks and homeowners. "Economic development is

the cornerstone for everything. It's kind of interesting to talk to you all because you're living it every day. You know what it takes," said Indiana Rep. Gregory W. Porter, president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL). He was speaking to Black Wealth 2020 founders, executives and associates at its second anniversary luncheon. "What it takes is for a community to get along. Also, we don't spend with our people like we should and we know that. The bottom line is this: We know the whereases. We know what the problems are. Therefore, what are we going to do? Jesse [Jackson] said years ago 'Can't nobody save us but us.'... That's what we're doing

right now, saving us." Backing from the NBCSL

adds significant momentum to Black Wealth 2020, founded two years ago by Ron Busby, president/CEO of the U.S. Black Chambers Inc.; Michael Grant, then president of the National Bankers Association; and Jim Winston, president of the National Organization of Black Owned Broadcasters. At least a dozen other major black organizations have either joined or expressed support for its economic initiatives.

"We own too little land. We have too lower median income than other Americans. We have much lower family wealth than our white brothers and sisters and we've got to make that change," Porter said to shouts of "Amen" and applause from the audience.

A strategy to unify with other organizations will be the key to success, said Porter, a Democrat serving his 13th term in the Indiana General Assembly.

"We're working with the NAACP, Urban League, other groups and national organizations because if we do that we'll be strong together. We can't continue to be silos. So, I know as we go forth, we will do it as a community. And so,

remember, you have 600 legislators, we represent 60 million people. We're in 45 states, plus U. S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. We have the means. It's up to all of us to come together and have the

Speaking to the luncheon gathering at HomeFree-USA, Porter listed a number of economic policies currently being pushed by NBCSL, which has a membership that blankets the nation; plus the U.S. Virgin Islands and Washington, D.C. "We represent about 60 million people in rural communities and we come together two or three times a year in an annual conference."

Pointing to long-held discussions about black wealth, Porter, ranking minority member on Indiana's Ways and Means Committee, stressed that the most important need now is less talk and more strategic action. "The bottom line is that we can talk all we want to, but we've got to have our independence in regards to economics," he said. As an example of action, he

said he and likeminded legislators have had to hold up certain projects in order to assure black participation.

"We're the super minority, so a lot of us are fighting to stay relevant in this whole process," he said. "They always go to the big company, but we've got to know how we're going to build our capacity by choosing minority companies. We've worked very hard in dealing with minority access for sustainable financial institutions through our resolutions. As Black Caucuses across the country, we're increasing our fair contracting opportunities and practices for economic parity. These are resolutions that we've passed."

Among key economic issues being dealt with in legislatures daily are homeowner protection, anti-predatory lending, home affordability resolutions, anti-discrimination and gentrification issues. Preparation for the 2020 Census and making sure African Americans are fully counted will also be key, he said. NCBSL's next legislative conference will be held Nov. 28 at which time they will "look at black wealth."

Unity Continued on page 12 10 • THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

MARCH 1 - 7, 2018

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Arts & Civil rights exhibition opens at Tougaloo College

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Museum of Art (the Museum) and Tougaloo College (the College) are pleased to announce Now: The Call and Look of Freedom, the inaugural exhibition in the Art and Civil Rights Initiative (the Initiative). The initiative, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, is a multi-layered, multi-year partnership that leverages the art collections of both institutions to foster community dialogue and interpretation about civil rights issues, past and present.

Now: The Call and Look of Freedom is on view at the Tougaloo College Art Gallery in The Bennie G. Thompson Academic & Civil Rights Research Center through May 15, 2018. It is the first in a series of four exhibitions over two years that pulls from the collections of Tougaloo College and the Mississippi Museum of Art, to be mounted alternatively at both institutions. The exhibition is curated by LaTanya Autry, curator of Art & Civil Rights, a joint position she holds with the College and the Museum.

"When many people think of black freedom, they recall documentary-style photography of black people at marches or black people being victimized by police or dogs," said Autry. "Now challenges these typical conceptions by highlighting a range of visual representations. Protest imagery is important of course. But freedom involves people enjoying their lives. We must always

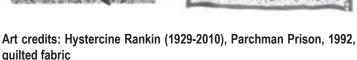


Romare Bearden (1914-1988), The Conversation, 1979, lithograph

also consider images of black people living and thriving when we discuss freedom."

In commemoration of the 1960s rally cry "Freedom Now" and the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Now: The Call and Look of Freedom spotlights the urgency, self-determination and hope of the African-American liberation movement through the visual arts. The exhibition underscores the interrelationship of past and current civil and human rights struggles. Now features works of art by leading figures whose careers have centered on the African-American experience, such as Elizabeth Catlett, Romare Bearden, Betye Saar and Ernest Withers, as well as expressions by younger artists.

"The Now exhibition provides a more holistic perspective of freedom, using a wide range of visual images," said Beverly Wade Hogan, president



of Tougaloo College. "It causes one to think deeply about the simple quest – not only of African Americans but of all people – to live freely in their reach for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Artworks from the Tougaloo Art Collection include Like I Am, a pen drawing by Benny Andrews from the 1967 publication I Am the Darker Brother; a Tracy Sugarman linocut depicting newly registered voters and protest signage in Cleveland, Mississippi in 1964; and an abstract expressionist painting by Alma Thomas titled Red Atmosphere. In conversation with these works are pieces from the collection of the Mississippi Museum of Art, including quilts by Gwendolyn Magee and Hystercine Rankin; an Ernest Withers gelatin silver print of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Lorraine Motel; and a contemporary portrait of Myrlie Evers – the widow of slain Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers

– painted by Jason Bouldin in 2013 to coincide with the fifty-year commemoration of the Evers assassination. Depictions of activist Fannie Lou Hamer, author Margaret Walker Alexander, and unnamed African Americans in postures of daily life offer further depth to the exhibition's thesis.

As the exhibition explores the abrupt yet protracted nature of this "now," it highlights issues of identity, power, and the profound desire to live freely. The exhibition wall text reads, in part, "These artists reveal how many of us have and continue to negotiate moments of crisis in order to, as author James Baldwin charged, 'make freedom real."

"This exhibition echoes the 1960s calls for 'Freedom Now' with an immediacy that reverberates into our contemporary moment," said Betsy Bradley, director of the Mississippi Museum of Art. "And these artworks



Art credit: Jason Bouldin (born 1965), Portrait of Myrlie Beasley Evers, 2013, oil on canvas

remind us that the pursuit of freedom is not only about collective protest, but about enduring self-discovery and self-expression. It is a fitting inauguration of the Art & Civil Rights Initiative, a partnership that embraces courageousness of the past to inspire collaboration for the future."

Now: The Call and Look of Freedom is free and open to the public. Gallery hours at Tougaloo College are Wednesday, 10 a.m. – noon; Thursday 3 - 5 p.m.; and by appointment for groups. For group visits, contact: LaTanya Autry, curator of Art & Civil Rights, at lautry@msmuseumart.org.

Super Bowl winning former Yazoo City High School and MSU standout Fletcher Cox honored

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Super Bowl winning Former Yazoo City High School and Mississippi State University standout defensive tackle Fletcher Cox of the Philadelphia Eagles was honored by the Mississippi Senate with Senate Concurrent Resolution 591 February 23.

In his first Super Bowl appearance, Cox anchored the defensive line as the Eagles earned their first Super Bowl Championship in franchise history.

The Yazoo City native is the 21st former Bulldog to earn a Super Bowl Ring and the first since Dillon Day and the Denver Broncos hoisted the Lombardi Trophy in 2016. In total, Mississippi State alums have



Cox

claimed 22 Super Bowl Rings.

The Eagles defeated the New England Patriots, 41-33, in Super Bowl 52 February 4 inside U.S. Bank Stadium in Minne-

apolis, Minnesota.

Cox was also honored by the House of Representatives. After the presentation Cox took photos and signed autographs.



Super Bowl winning Former Yazoo City High School and Mississippi State University standout defensive tackle Fletcher Cox of the Philadelphia Eagles was honored by the Mississippi Senate with Senate Concurrent Resolution 591 February 23, 2018 from Senator Briggs Hopson, while other senators look on. From left are Senators Willie Simmons, John Horhn, Derrick T. Simmons, and (right), Albert Butler.

The Mississippi Senate honored Derrick Johnson



Derrick Johnson, president and CEO of the NAACP, accepted Senate Concurrent Resolution 560 from Senator Tammy Witherspoon, as Johnson's family looks on along with (from left) Senators Sampson Jackson, Sollie B. Norwood, Derrick T. Simmons and Albert Butler.

Mr. and Miss JSU visited with Senator Sollie B. Norwood and Derrick T. Simmons



Mr. Jackson State University Deangelo D. Riddle, (right), Miss Jackson State University Comelia L. Walker, (left), and Alesha K. Russey, a lifetime member of the Jackson State University Alumni Association, visited with Senator Sollie B. Norwood, (left), and Derrick T. Simmons at the Capitol February 23, during Jackson State University Day.

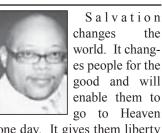
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THE MISSISSIPPI LINK • 11

Passion for the work of God

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



enable them to go to Heaven one day. It gives them liberty

here on earth so they do not have to give in to sin anymore. They have the victory in their hearts. When we witness to souls, people will change and we will receive a blessing from it. As Christians, our duty is to try to convince people to buy the truth. We want the world to buy the truth. We want them to have this glorious Gospel that God has entrusted to us through salvation. We want the world to be saved. We should not be ashamed of the Gospel. Nothing in this world is more valuable than the truth of God's Eternal Word. Nothing is more powerful than God's Eternal Word. We need to hold on to the truth and tell

COLLEGE HILL

SUNDAY

Worship Services

10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

MONDAY

Intercessory Prayer 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

others. We need to show people there is a better way to live.

We read in Matthew 13:45-46 these words: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." This man was a merchant, a businessman and a good businessman knows when he has found a good buy, so he does everything he can procure it. This man sold everything. When we got saved, we sold everything that we had for salvation. We gave up our worldly ways. This man was looking for a few goodly pearls, but he found that pearl of great price, symbolizing the truth. There are still people in the world today who are looking for truth. They are looking for the true Church that Jesus founded. Jesus Christ is the Truth that people are searching for today. We need to reach out to people and tell them about Jesus Christ.

We read in John 14:6 these words, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." This is the truth that we need to tell people to buy. To be able to buy something, there has to be a salesman, and as a Christian, we are the salesman. Matthew 28:19-20 tells us: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." The "Great Commission" has not change since the moment Jesus uttered it. Christians are to go and make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to obey. And they are to accomplish all of this by His power and for His sake, through His Spirit. When followers of Christ are slow to share their

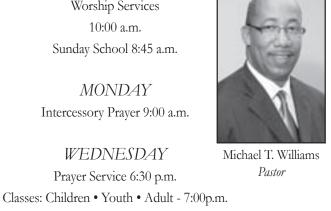
others, it is often because they do not really take Jesus at His Word: I am with you always.

We need to show others by example what Christ is in our lives. They want to see the product in action. want to see that we can live free from sin. They want to see that we do not have to listen to the devil. They want to see that God gives us the grace when we are going through hard times. We need to show them how God gives us the grace to face the trial, because trials are coming. People are watching us! It is up to us to show them by example. We read in Second Corinthians 3:2 these words: "We are known and read of all men."

Next week, 3-9-18, Part III, "Passion for the Work of God"

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.









Living by Plan G

By Shewanda Riley Columnist



"Have a Grace Day!" was a small word of encouragement that I texted to a friend a few weeks of ago.

I actually meant to send "Have a great day" but thought it was a "sign" when "great" autocorrected to "grace." However, I realize that having a "grace" day might mean not following my original plans.

I'll admit that I like things organized and am a planner. I always have a plan for my day with plan A (the best one) and plan B (the backup plan when plan A For example, I always fails). watch the traffic and weather on the news in the morning, so I can make sure I plan for the sun, cold, rain, etc. Plan B for me is to always keep an umbrella and jacket in my car just in case my plan A doesn't work out. It makes a lot of sense to my mind that likes to be prepared for just about anything. I'll admit it can sometimes be sometimes stressful planning so much, but it works for me...for now.

But what happens when Plans A and B don't work out? That's why there is plan G. The G stands for God's grace. Over the years, I have learned that sometimes plans A, B, C, etc. don't work and it's sometimes a good thing. Having to rely on plan G (God's Grace), means that I stop putting some much faith in my man-made (or woman made) plan and start relying more on the Grace of God. I've also learned over the years that even though we have the best intentions planning things out, sometimes planning things out leaves little room for God's wonderful grace to surprise us and allow things to happen in the way that He intended.

For example, I think the story of Ruth in the Old Testament is a good illustration of Plan G. Chapter 1 of Ruth describes how after Ruth was widowed and the original plan was for her to return to her family. However, Plan G went into effect and she was determined to stay with her mother in law Naomi. Staying with her mother in law seemed odd because Naomi did not have another son for Ruth to marry. But God had another plan and it was all about his grace showing up in Ruth's life. As the chapter continues, Ruth remarries Boaz, her wealthy kinsman redeemer, and gives birth to Naomi's grandchild who ends up being King David's grandfather, Obed.

This story reminds us of the truth in Hebrews 4:16 which encourages "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." This story also reminds us that letting go of our plans (and desire to control everything) means accepting and making room for Plan G (God's grace). This also allows us to trust in God's plan as well as receive unexpected blessings, protection and favor.

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

Crossroads Church of God

Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



Sunday Morning Sunday Sch: 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m. (Fellowship following worship service 1st

Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor 231-A John Day Road + Off Hwy 16 East + Canton, MS 39046

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Live Radio Broadcast WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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Before the Parkland massacre and now

By E. Faye Williams Trice Edney Newswire



What happened in Parkland, Fla. is too horrible to ignore. Yet we've tolerated too many of all kinds of evils, including murders. Too many did nothing to stop more destruction of Native Americans and theft

of their land, lynching and enslavement of black people, slaughtering of people at Pulse Nightclub and in Las Vegas and elsewhere. Too many soon forgot the murdering of our children at Columbine, Aurora, Sandy Hook.

Now there is Douglas High School. How much more do we have to endure before sensible gun regulations are passed? I'm proud of the young people doing what they can to drive home the message that something must be done to stop all horrific acts. We hear that the Parkland young people are articulate and courageous. But what is it that keeps elected officials from being articulate and coura-

As we again deal with tragedies and lament the horrific things happening to our people - especially with military style weapons - are we now ready to make gun regulation happen? After every tragedy, we hope something will be done, but nothing is done because money for re-election means more to too many of our leaders than the lives of human beings.

As we concern ourselves with what's happened in each of these cases, I want to include all people and what our ancestors went through to vote, to enjoy basic human rights, to live free and safe. I want us to remember the young people who worked on civil rights and faced skin piercing fire hoses, were bitten by snarling dogs and jailed while fighting for basic human rights. I want us to remember all the other articulate and courageous people who suffered when they took the right action.

Let's stop complaining about young people and what they do or don't do. We must be there for them – and tell all of their stories and what they've gone through. Too many parents in my community have buried too many of their children because of the easy access to all kinds of guns without even a simple background check. As we deal with this latest gun tragedy, let's include the good work and safety of all our people.

What's happening in Florida, makes the case why all of us should be concerned about human rights for all and not wait until problems directly impact us before we're ready to take action. Fannie Lou Hamer, Amelia Boynton, Jimmie Lee Jackson were articulate and courageous, too – even though they didn't have the right to the kind of education that many young people have today.

Let's strongly support the young people today. I'm crushed about what happened to their classmates and teachers. Many of us have worked to strengthen the rights of all to be safe. Like others, I've been burned by the unreasonableness of the NRA when I ran for Congress, but I'll never give up trying to make America safe and fair for all. I'll march. I'll protest. I'll resist evil, but let's pray that all involved now don't end the caring about all of us when the gun problem is resolved. Although we can never get back the lives lost, we can work together to save other lives.

Let's care about fair voting rights, women's rights, immigration justice, poverty and all the areas in which America still has work to do when it comes to love for the life and well-being of all human beings enough to work for their rights, too. As Al Green has said, "Let's Stay Together" until America is safe, fair and great for all of us. Let us truly be there for the current courageous people on gun regulations because that's an issue that affects all of us.

E. Faye Williams is national resident of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. *202/678-6788*. www.nationalcongressbw.

Toward a multiracial youth coalition

By Julianne Malveaux NNPA News Wire Columnist



One cannot help but be riveted by the outstanding response from the young survivors of the carnage at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

in Parkland, Florida, and their absolute audacity in confronting both Florida legislators and the President with their frustration at the absence of common sense gun control.

During a CNN Town Hall, student Cameron Kasky asked Senator Marco Rubio whether he would continue to take money from the National Rifle Association, the organization students have focused on as one of the reason there are no common sense gun laws. Rubio said he would continue to take money from the NRA (they own a \$3 million slice of his hide), but that he would agree to change laws so no one under 21 could purchase an automatic weapon, and that he would agree to outlaw the bump stocks that transform semi-automatic weapons to automatic weapons.

All of the students who have spoken up have been impressive, so much so that CNN commentator

Jack Kingston (former Georgia Republican congressman) and other of his ilk have asserted that these students are "crisis actors" who are being "manipulated" by "liberals" and "Democrats." All you have to do is listen to one of these young people, hear the tears trailing at the end of their voices, and hear their frustrated voices rising into yelling, to know they have not been coached. The emotion is too raw, the feelings are too real, and one young woman told a CNN reporter that she "resented" the notion of manipulation.

These young people are between 14 and 18, middle and upper-middle-class young people who have had the benefit of a civics education. They plan to March on Washington March 14, and have already attracted support from Oprah Winfrey, George and Amal Clooney, and others.

The Parkland young people have been savvy enough to note that their school was not shot up by an immigrant but by a homegrown terrorist. They have implicitly rejected the rhetoric that comes from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue about dangerous immigrants. Imagine that they actively reached out to some of the dreamers and encouraged

them to be part of the youth movement for common sense gun laws. Some dreamers will be vulnerable to being deported as early as March 6. If these youth can combine their movements with their demands, they could develop a very powerful movement.

Imagine further, that the young people who have been exposed to gun violence on the streets of cities like Chicago and Washington, D.C. joined the Parkland movement, and that a group of diverse young people came together to push politicians to do better on legislation that affects their generation. This includes gun laws, but may also include health care and access to education. Even though the Parkland young'uns come from middle-class backgrounds, they are surely aware of the narrowing of opportunities for the middle class. If these mostly white young people could join with youth of color, they could mirror the dream that Dr. Martin Luther King had when he talked about multiracial coalitions.

Perhaps I'm being overly optimistic about the possibility of a multiracial youth coalition. We have seen several young white men pick up automatic weapons and kill

multiple people. Dylan Roof was just 21 when he killed nine African Americans at Emanuel African American Episcopal Church. Nikolas Cruz, the killer in Parkland, is 19. Even as the Parkland students galvanize, there are forces that are also galvanizing young people. These are the neo-Nazis, the white supremacists and the downright racists who appeal to young white men who somehow feel that others have more opportunity than they do. These are the folks who listen to the siren call of 45's rhetoric and eagerly embrace his divisiveness.

Still, if we believe, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," then we must be optimistic about positive developments in the political arena. The young people who have risen up are a positive development. If they are able to join with young people of color to push politicians in the right direction, we will all be better off!

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.juliannemalveaux.com

Janus case is part of continuing attack on workers

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



On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in the case of Janus v. AFSCME; a ruling is expected in a few months.

The case is the culmination of a concerted right-wing attack on the unions of teachers, police officers, firefighters, nurses and other public sector workers. If successful, it will lower working family incomes across the country, in union and non-union households, in public sector and private sector alike. The question is fundamental.

No worker can be forced to belong to a union. Public sector unions, however, are required to negotiate and represent all workers in a workplace whether they belong to the union or not. Current law allows unions to collect "fair share fees" for the basic costs the union incurs for representing non-union members who benefit not only from the higher wages and benefits that the union negotiates but also from the representation – sometimes costly – the union provides in personal grievance proceedings and other contract disputes with the em-

member of the union, claims that paying fees for services he benefits from is somehow a violation of his right to free speech. The chances are good that the five right-wing activist judges on the Supreme Court may well overturn more than 40 years of precedents to support this bizarre argument.

The Janus case doesn't arise from widespread popular opposition to unions. It is part of a concerted, multifaceted assault on worker organization financed by zealous right-wing foundations like the Koch Institute, the Bradley Foundation, the Uihlein Foundation, the Walton Foundation and more. It is a central reason why the Republican Senate outrageously refused even to bring President Obama's Supreme Court nomination to a vote, essentially stealing a Supreme Court seat for the right. Reactionary employers - like Walmart and the Walton family - bitterly oppose unions for obvious reasons.

Unions empower workers to gain a fairer share of the profits and productivity that they help to generate. That

reduces the amount of money investors and owners can make off with. As a study by the Economic Policy In the Janus case, Mark Janus, a Institute shows, when unions were at social worker in Illinois who is not a the height of their membership – representing 33.4 percent of employees in 1945, the top 10 percent of America pocketed a generous 32.6 percent - about a third - of the nation's income. In 2015, with unions reduced to only 11.1 percent of the work force, the richest 10 percent pocketed 47.8 percent – nearly half – of the national income.

Ironically, principled conservatives ought to support unions, small-d democratic organizations mediating between the individual and the state and providing schools of democracy and citizenship. Today's right-wing, however, treats them as an archenemy, scorning them for supporting programs for the common good investment in schools, a higher minimum wage, a secure retirement, affordable health care - rather than benefits to entrenched interests and the rich.

So the right set out to crush unions, through legislation, litigation, disinformation campaigns and more. Taking off with Ronald Reagan, the campaign has been systematic and

unrelenting and increasingly successful. Workers wages have declined and inequality has grown more extreme as a direct result. With an anti-union ruling in Janus, the right hones that more and more employees will choose to be free riders, refusing to join the union while enjoying the benefits that the union negotiates for free.

Then, as a bill already introduced in Florida demonstrates, they will move to decertify unions whose dues -paying members constitute less than a majority of the workplace. This is a fundamental human rights issue. Dr. Martin Luther King was gunned down in Memphis, where he had gone to stand with sanitation workers seeking to form a union.

He understood that the right to organize and bargain collectively was vital not only to workers but to democracy. With the Janus case, that fundamental right is under assault at a time when we should all be working to strengthen the right to organize, not undermine it.

Now is the time for citizens of conscience to stand with the public employees that serve us – the teachers, police officers, firefighters, nurses and others. We will all pay the price if the right's attack goes unanswered.

Unity

Continued from page 9

Echoing the importance of unity in order to accomplish economic goals, HomeFree-USA President/ CEO Marcia Griffin appealed to those in the room to "be our ambassadors, our messengers, etc. because we need to reach thousands with a sense of understanding and get people to wrap their arms around our goals. ... We're from all sorts of different segments of the black community, but we've come together to work together to empower ourselves and empower our community and

empower our country."

Grant, now based in Nashville, where he is regional president of United Security Financial, a mortgage banking company, agreed with the appeal for harmony. "We're not trying to upstage anybody. We're not trying to compete with anybody. What we're trying to do is pull our strength together so that when we speak with one voice; they're looking at all of these organizations coming together and it's hard to say no to that kind of power."

Porter also underscored the importance of constituents holding lawmakers - including black legislators - accountable and not taking for granted that they will automatically push for economic inclusion. He suggested that constituents:

Have their own kitchen cabinet and invite legislators to neighborhood and community meetings.

Come to state houses, visit the representatives' offices.

Attend and speak at public hearings.

"You can't be the invisible," he said. "We've got to stay woke about economic development and the process that we have. We did build this country. We need to manage this

Expressing the importance of this year being the 50th anniversary of the beginning of Dr. King's Poor People's Movement, Porter said, "It does mean a lot to us...You've got to know where you came from to know where you're going."

THE MISSISSIPPI LINK • 13 www.mississippilink.com **MARCH 1 - 7, 2018**

Mississippi Children's Museum to host Dr. Seuss' **Silly Birthday Celebration**

The Mississippi Link Newswire

WHEN: Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

WHERE: Mississippi Children's Museum 2145 Museum Blvd. Jackson, MS 39202

WHAT: Dr. Seuss' Silly Birthday Celebration is Mississippi Children's Museums' most highly anticipated annual celebration!

Special guest readings of Dr. Seuss' beloved books, photo opportunities with the Cat in the Hat, and Thing 1 and Thing 2 will all be happening at the Mississippi Children's Muse-

Visitors will get to create their own Lorax moustache, create a whimsical Truffula Tree, and try our oobleck trea-



sure hunt. Come dressed as in our Seussical fun.

general admission (\$10 per peryour favorite character to join son) and museum membership. For more information, visit All activities are included in www.mschildrensmuseum.org.

City of Jackson Mayor's Summer Youth Job Fair

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The City of Jackson's Family and Youth Division is NOW accepting applications for the Mayor's Summer Youth Job Program. The application deadline is March 2.

On Monday, March 12, the Family and Youth Division will host the Annual Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Expo. The event will be held at the Jackson Police Training Academy located at 3000 St. Charles Street, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Mayor's Summer Youth Employment program seeks to create a more inclusive economy that employs more youth and young adults in career-building jobs. The City of Jackson is working

with employers to develop what we call 'impact hiring' – an innovative approach that enables employers to find better, more successful matches for entry-level positions from the youth talent pool; by encouraging data-driven employment strategies that can both unlock additional business value and expand employment opportunities for young adults in the Jackson area.

City of Jackson employment interviews will be conducted during the months of March and April

Youth Division at 601.960.0556, or email evah@

For more information contact the Family and

City of Jackson Municipal Court hosts month-long amnesty period

The Mississippi Link Newswire

City of Jackson Municipal Court will host a month-long amnesty period, beginning Monday, Feb. 26, running through Friday, March 30. During this period, citizens will have the opportunity to pay tickets with just the court-imposed fines and fees with the advantage of getting the warrant cancelled, the warrant and admin fee waived per each violation.

The amnesty hours will be Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Regular court hours will be maintained.

Citizens are encouraged to take advantage of amnesty. Unpaid traffic tickets can result in deficiencies on your driving record, additional

fees and penalties, as well as the potential of being arrested.

Traffic cases and misdemeanors – with the exception of DUI's, domestic violence and crimes involving weapons - can be resolved during the amnesty period.

Citizens must be prepared to pay fines in full in order to receive amnesty of late fees being waived. Please bring a driver's license or a picture ID, and a copy of the ticket if possible, as well as cash to Jackson Municipal Court, located on the first floor of the JPD Headquarters, 327 E. Pascagoula Street.

For more information contact (601) 960-1932 or (601) 960-1948.

Cade Chapel M. B. Church 1000 West Ridgeway St., Jackson

Annual Women's Day Celebration March 9 - 11, 2018

7 p.m. Friday, March 9 – Pearls of Faith Banquet honoring all past mission presidents \$25 per person/\$250 table of eight. All women are asked to wear pearls.

8 a.m. Saturday, March 10 – Prayer Breakfast, \$10 per person

11 a.m. Sunday, March 11 – Worship Service Speaker will be Attorney La'Verne Edney



Horses for Handicapped

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Horses for Handicapped (HFH) will run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., April 16-19, at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds. Over 1900 children and adults with mental or physical disabilities will enjoy horseback riding, wagon rides,

In its 37th year this all volunteer program has participants and volunteers from across the state.

games and a petting zoo.

Approximately 250 out-

standing volunteers come each day and generously give their time. We have students from junior highs, high schools and colleges plus in-

We are so thankful to those



individuals who bring their horses and we have from 5 to 6 wagon teams.

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Mississippi Head Start Association (MHSA) is staging a Press Conference @ the State Capitol

dividual volunteers.

When: Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Purpose: To send the message that Head Start is united, effective, alive and well!"

The goal for attendance is 1000. Each grantee is ask to invite/ bring at least 50 people.

MHSA also wants to thank Representative Greg Holloway again for his enthusiasm and support in organizing this effort.

Please give Dr. Hogan a call at (601) 321-0960 ext. 3002 for further discussion of the aforementioned.





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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

This the 13th day of February, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Chester Ray Jones-MSB #3191 Counsel and Attorney-At-Law Post Office Box 5141, Jackson, MS 39296

(601) 953-6491 chetjones4545@yahoo.com

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

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Advertisement for Bids

Bid 3067- Roof Replacement for Baker Elementary School Bid 3068 - Roof Replacement for Wilkins Elementary School

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) March 28, 2018, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Baker Elementary School will be held at 300 East Santa Clair Street, Jackson, MS 39212, on March 6, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Wilkins Elementary School will be held at 1970 Castle Hill Drive, Jackson, MS 39204, on March 6, 2018 at 10:30 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

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

2/22/2018 3/1/2018

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MABEL SEATON, DECEASED

CAUSE #:16-620

BY: Jennifer Lloyd

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

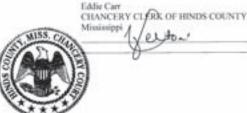
TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MABEL SEATON, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the sait filed in this Court by Jennifer Lloyd, Plaintiff, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Mabel Seaton.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9,00 o'clock a.m., on the 15th day of May, 2018, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds Courty, Mississippi, before Honorable Dewayne Thomas and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the scal of said Court, this the 2.1 day of February, 2018.



2/22/2018, 3/1/2018, 3/8/2018

LEGAL

RULE \$1 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FRANK BOSTON, DECEASED

CAUSE #:2018-1 T/1

BY: LaTonya Lyles

SUMMONS

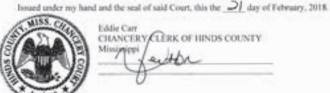
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HIJRS OF MABEL SEATON, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by LaTonya Lyles, Plaintiff, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Frank Boston.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock a.m., on the 15th day of May, 2018, in the Charcery Courtroom of Hinds County, Mississippi, before Honorable Dewayne Thomas and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.



2/22/2018, 3/1/2018, 3/8/2018

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MABEL SEATON DECEASED NAMED HEREIN

CAUSE NO. 16-620

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Minnissippi to the undersigned Executor upon the Entate of Mabel Seaton Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probation and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the

first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred

This the 19th day of February 2018.

2/22/2018, 3/1/2018, 3/8/2018

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Date of Sale: March 16, 2018

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Time: 10:00 A.M.

3/1/18, 3/8/18, 03/15/18

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HIDE'S

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, Jennifer Lloyd, Executor for the Estate of Mahel Seaton, deceased, who having been by me first duly awors, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.



2/22/2018, 3/1/2018, 3/8/2018

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2/22/2018, 3/1/2018, 3/8/2018

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

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16 • THE MISSISSIPPI LINK **MARCH 1 - 7, 2018** www.mississippilink.com

JPS heads into the Big House and JSU without a reigning champion for the first time in over a decade

By Tim Ward

Contributing Writer

High school basketball's Mecca is without a champion for the first time in over 10 years.

Heading into this year's tournament beginning Thursday, March 1, Jackson Public Schools has the opportunity to have a champion in 4A, 5A, and 6A. Lanier High School is the lone 4A representative. However, both the boys and girls have made it to the Elite 8.

The Lady Bulldogs coached by Jonas James, is a contender every year. His Lady Bulldogs' core group has been together since 9th grade. Injuries prevented a possible championship game appearance last year. Despite injuries, Lanier made it to the big house, but came up a little short. Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at Jackson State, Lanier (17-9) will battle with Byhalia (21-5).

Lanier boys rebounded from a disappointing season last year under first year head coach, Darein Hilliard, to reach the Elite 8. While their record won't mesmerize you, give the Bulldogs credit for getting hot at the right time of the season. Expect 833 Nation to be in full effect Thursday. Lanier (10-16) will attempt to knock off New Hope (22-7) at 5:30 p.m. at the Mississippi Coliseum.

Dropping down from 6A to 5A, Callaway and Forest Hill boys are the JPS schools competing for the 5A Crown. Armed with Dandy Dozen talent, experienced coaches and confidence, both schools would love nothing better than



to battle each other for the state title. Based on the brackets, that could happen. It won't be easy.

Olive Branch and Canton are serious contenders this year. Canton (28-3) defeated, Callaway, Olive Branch and Forest Hill once this season. Of their three losses, only one has been from a Mississippi team, and that was their arch rival Velma Jackson who won by three points.

But first things first, Callaway (24-5) faces Stone (24-5) Friday at 5:30 at the Mississippi Coliseum. Immediately following, Forest Hill (24-5) must contend with Saltillo (28-2) at 7 p.m. at the Mississippi Coliseum.

If JPS is to collect a gold ball from 6A, it's up to the Lady Mustangs of Murrah. Three-time champion head coach, Tangela Banks, has a strong girl's team at her disposal. Murrah has been ranked number 1 most of the season with a record of 27 wins and 2 losses. Those two losses however, have come at the hands of district rival Starkville who made it to the 6A championship game last year. Starkville has taken two of the three games they played against Murrah this year. All three games have been close. If there is a fourth game, it will be for



Lanier head coach Jonas James

the 6A championship. But there are two games, before the championship game that the Lady Mustangs must win first.

Murrah (27-2) will battle with Gulfport (18-8) at noon Saturday at Jackson State.

For those curious, Starkville (25-2) must contend with St. Martin (25-3) bright and early at 9 a.m. Saturday at Jackson State. St. Martin brings 6'5" center and Mississippi State signee Daphane White with them. White is averaging, according to MaxPreps, 25 points, 14 rebounds and 5 blocks per game. White received national recognition, scoring 69 points with 19 rebounds and seven blocks in a game, December 15, 2017, versus Pass Christian.

Expect good basketball action this season as tournament time starts Thurs-

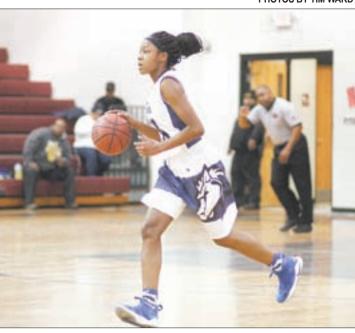
2018 JSU and Big House games

Well, it's that time of the year again, down to the final two weeks of the basketball season! Everyone's eyes are on the Gold Ball. In March Madness terms, we're at the Elite Eight portion of the tournament.

PHOTOS BY TIM WARD







1A & 4A Schedule

1A Boys - Thursday, March 1, 2018 - Coliseum

9 a.m. — Wheeler vs. Coffeeville

10:30 a.m. — Okolona vs. East Marion

12:00 p.m. — Ashland-Biggersville vs. Montgomery Coun-

1:30 p.m. — Houlka vs. Leake County

1A Girls – Thursday, March 1, 2018 – Jackson State

4 p.m. — Pine Grove vs. Durant

5:30 p.m. — Biggersville vs. East Marion

7 p.m. — Blue Mountain vs. McAdams

8:30 p.m. — Tremont vs. Leake County

4A Boys - Thursday, March 1, 2018 - Coliseum

4 p.m. — Corinth vs. Florence 5:30 p.m. — New Hope vs. Lanier

7 p.m. — Noxubee County vs. Raymond

8:30 p.m. — Indianola Gentry vs. South Pike

4A Girls – Thursday, March 1, 2018 – Jackson State

9 a.m. — Indianola Gentry vs. Lawrence County

10:30 a.m. — Ripley vs. McComb 12:00 p.m. — Louisville vs. Raymond 1:30 pm — Byhalia vs. Lanier

2A & 5A Schedule

2A Boys - Friday, March 2, 2018 - Coliseum

9 a.m. — Ingomar vs. Bay Springs

10:30 a.m. — South Delta vs. Collins

12:00 p.m. — Leflore County vs. Madison St. Joseph 1:30 p.m. — Coahoma County vs. Amite County

2A Girls – Friday, March 2, 2018 – Jackson State 4 p.m. — Ingomar vs. Pelahatchie

5:30 p.m. — Coahoma County vs. North Forrest

7 p.m. — New Site vs. Puckett

8:30 p.m. — Leland vs. Collins

5A Boys – Friday, March 2, 2018 – Coliseum

4 p.m. — Olive Branch vs. Wayne County

5:30 p.m. — Callaway vs. Stone 7 p.m. — Saltillo vs. Forest Hill

8:30 p.m. — Canton vs. Hattiesburg

5A Girls – Friday, March 2, 2018 – Jackson State

9 a.m. — Neshoba Central vs. Hattiesburg

10:30 a.m. — Lafayette vs. Brookhaven

12:00 p.m. — Ridgeland vs. North Pike 1:30 p.m. — Holmes Central vs. West Jones

3A & 6A Schedule

3A Boys - Saturday, March 3, 2018 - Coliseum

9 a.m. — North Panola-North Pontotoc vs. St. Andrew's 10:30 a.m. — Choctaw County-Amanda Elzy winner vs. **Tylertown**

12:00 p.m. — Holly Springs-Booneville winner vs. Crystal Springs

1:30 p.m. — Ruleville vs. Jefferson Davis County

3A Girls – Saturday, March 3, 2018 – Jackson State

4 p.m. — Belmont vs. Choctaw Central

5:30 p.m. — Choctaw County vs. Jefferson Davis County 7 p.m. — Independence vs. Velma Jackson

8:30 p.m. — Humphreys County vs. Hazlehurst

6A Boys - Saturday, March 3, 2018 - Coliseum

4 p.m. — Southaven-Madison Central winner vs. Meridian

5:30 p.m. — Greenville vs. Pascagoula 7 p.m. — Columbus vs. Terry

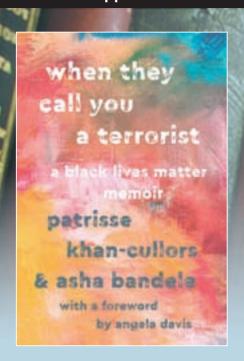
8:30 p.m. — Starkville vs. Harrison Central

6A Girls – Saturday, March 3, 2018 – Jackson State

9 a.m. — Starkville vs. St. Martin

10:30 a.m. — Warren Central vs. Pearl 12:00 p.m. — Murrah vs. Gulfport

1:30 p.m. — Tupelo vs. Oak Grove



N-THEY CALL

SSE KHAN-CULLORS WITH ASHA BANDELE WORD BY ANGELA DAVIS / ST. MARTIN'S PRESS COVER, \$24.99 • 272 PAGES

By Kam Williams

Columnist

"We have joined the rest of the country in protesting in order to get Trayvon Martin's killer charged. We have gone to meetings and held oneon-ones with community members. We have painted murals. We have wept.

We have said publicly that we are a people in mourning. We have demanded they stop killing us. But we have harmed not one single person nor advocated for it. They have no right to be here!"

And yet I was called a terrorist. The members of our movement are called terrorists. We -me, Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi – the three women who founded Black Lives Matter, are called terrorists...

We are not terrorists... I am not a terrorist... I am a survivor."

- Excerpted from pages 8 and 190 Patrisse Khan-Cullors is one of the last people you'd ever expect to be

a founder of the Black Lives Matter movement. It's not a question of her commitment to the cause but rather the host of personal issues that would have crippled the average person.

But this 5' 2" lesbian managed to survive a challenging childhood in a drug-infested ghetto where she and her siblings were raised by a singlemom who worked 16 hours a day to keep a roof over their heads. She didn't even meet her crackhead of a father until she was twelve, as he divided his time between rehab and prison.

One of her brothers not only smoked crack, but was schizophrenic to boot. Consequently, Patrisse became intimately familiar with both the mental health and criminal justice systems. Meanwhile, at school, she was routinely teased and physically attacked for being gay.

To paraphrase Langston Hughes, life for Patrisse ain't been no crystal stair. Nevertheless, when she learned

that Trayvon Martin's killer hadn't been arrested by the police, she was so outraged that she created the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter which soon exploded into a nationwide movement.

Although the African-American community appreciated her efforts, the same couldn't be said for the LAPD which labeled Patrisse a terrorist and fabricated a flimsy excuse to conduct a SWAT team raid of her apartment. All of the above is revisited in riveting fashion in When They Call You a Terrorist, a fascinating combination autobiography and blow-by-blow account of the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement.

A must-read memoir by a beleaguered grassroots organizer with greatness thrust upon her.

To order a copy of When They Call You a Terrorist, visit: https:// www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ ASIN/1250171083/ref%3dnosim/ thslfofire-20



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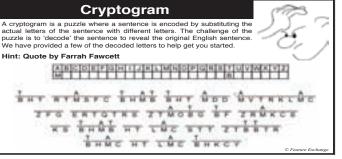
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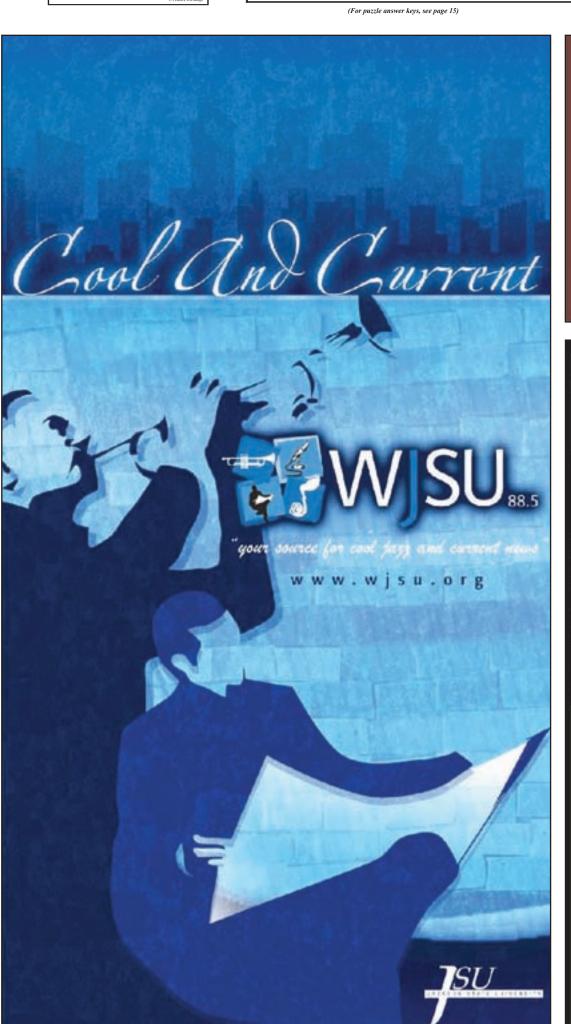
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IESSA BRANTLEY-NEWTON

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ByTerri Schlichenmeyer Columnist

What's in the bag?

It looks like it could be a surprise. Lots of things that come in a sack that size are good things. Maybe it's a doll or a truck or a bar of chocolate. Maybe it's a whistle or a puzzle. Or maybe, as in the new book "Grandma's Purse" by Vanessa Brantley-Newton, it's a whole lot more than that...

Here's some good news: Grandma Mimi is coming to

She gives the best hugs. She

always has "treasures" to share, and every one of them hides in the bottom of her purse. When she's around, you can barely stop looking at that purse. It's "full of some magical things." It's full of what makes Mimi,

Once you've gotten your hug and Mimi's comfortable on the sofa, you can ask politely to see what's inside that magical purse. It's going to be something great. Or maybe it'll be something useful. Or maybe something silly.

"You never know what you'll an overseas country far, far

want to have with you!" says

For instance, she keeps a mirror in there, and a lipstick so she's ready to leave kisses all over your cheeks. She needs her "smell-good," so you know she's been in your living room long after she leaves. Mimi always carries an second pair of earrings because any time might be time to look "extrafancy." There are hairpins in her purse, so she always looks put together, and a coin purse that Grandpa brought her from away. The coin purse reminds her of Grandpa. There's candy, because she never knows who might be hungry. Her phone and her glasses are there; so is a scarf to keep her warm and a long line of pictures protected in plastic. It's almost like Mimi carries everything!

Lucky for you that she sometimes doesn't mind if you play with her things. When you put on her lipstick, her "smellgood," her scarf, and her glasses, well, look at you: you could almost be Mimi.

But wait.

What's that in the bottom of tend-read it, she'll easily know Mimi's purse?

What could it be? Rare is the big girl who doesn't remember being a little girl with a fascination for an elder's handbag. All those memories will rush forth when you see what author-illustrator Vanessa Brantley-Newton has surprise-loving girls will apprein store for your little one in

"Grandma's Purse." cover, you know you're in for a book that tells a story by picchild picks up this book to pre-

what's going on by Brantley-Newton's artwork.

Even so, you'll want to read this one aloud. Not only is it a story of being silly, being surprised and being loved between generations, but it's also just generally one that purse-loving, ciate, no matter what their ages.

Surely, then, your child will Beginning with the joyous love "Grandma's Purse" almost as much as she loves to rummage through a handbag. For tures alone. Indeed, when your that 3-to-6-year-old and this book, the fun's in the bag.





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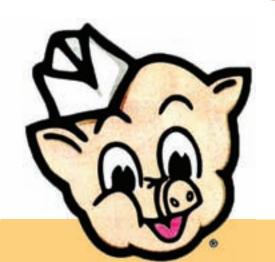
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