




Dorothy Vaughan



Katherine Johnson



Mary Jackson

Three brilliant African-American women at NASA -- Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson -- served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race and galvanized the world.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

JSU graduate appointed to College Board



Gov. Bryant (third left) named Steven Cunningham, Jeanne Luckey, Bruce Martin and Powell Ogletree (not pictured) to IHL Board

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Gov. Phil Bryant announced recently he has made four appointments to the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. Dr. Steven Cunningham, Jeanne Luckey, Bruce Martin and Powell “Gee” Ogletree Jr., will begin their 9-year terms May 8. Rotating off the Board are trustees Alan W. Perry, Christy Pickering, Dr. Doug W. Rouse and Board President C.D. Smith.

“As the governing authority for our public institutions of higher learning, the College Board serves a critical role in Mississippi,” Governor Bryant said. “I am grateful these four highly qualified individuals have agreed to take on that responsibility by accepting these appointments.”

Cunningham, who will represent the Second Supreme Court District, practices radiology in Hattiesburg, where he serves as president of Comprehensive Radiology Services. He is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Forrest General Hospital and Merit Health Wesley. Cunningham received a bachelor’s degree in biology from Jackson State University and his medical degree from University of Tennessee Health Science Center. He did his internship and residency in diagnostic radiology at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, Mich.

Cunningham is a deacon at West Point Baptist Church and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He serves on the board for the Forrest General Hospital Foundation and on The First Bank’s Community Advisory Board.

“It’s an honor to be appointed to this position by Governor Bryant,” Cunningham said.

“Higher education is a priority in my family and an expectation my wife Lakeisha and I have of our daughters. I realize how important our universities are to their alumni, their surrounding communities and the future of our state. I look forward to working with my fellow trustees to make sure that all of our institutions continue to flourish.”

Luckey, who will also represent the Second Supreme Court District, resides in Ocean Springs, where she is the owner of JCL LLC, a real estate holding company, and Magnolia State Development Group. Active in her community, Luckey has served on the Board of Directors of the Gulf Coast Debutante Society for 12 years, is a member of the Advisory Board of the Gulf Coast Salvation Army and the Coastal America Insurance Company Board of Directors. She has held leadership positions in the Junior Auxiliary, Children’s House School Board, Walter Anderson Museum Board and the Gulf Coast YMCA.

She is married to her high school sweetheart, Alwyn, and is the proud mother of two daughters, Laurel and Taylor. Luckey graduated from the University of Mississippi with a degree in special education and received her masters in special education from the University of Southern Mississippi.

“I am honored Governor Bryant has chosen to nominate me to the Board of Trustees of the IHL,” Luckey said. “Education has long been considered to be one of the most important factors in the success and quality of life for a state

Appointment
Continued on page 3

Northington named Mississippi Economic Council Chief Operating Officer

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Cathy L. Northington has been named chief operating officer of the Mississippi Economic Council, the State Chamber of Commerce. She previously served as senior vice president and chief administrative officer.

Northington began at MEC more than a decade ago as a part-time employee and has continued to work her way up, managing a variety of key projects and programs. Since 2007, she has directed Leadership Mississippi, the nation’s second-oldest leadership program. She has also managed MEC’s three major meetings: The MEC Annual Meeting, Hobnob Mississippi and MEC Capital Day, each with over 1,500 business and community leaders and elected officials attending.

“Cathy is an invaluable asset to our team and has excelled in helping ensure MEC serves as the voice of business in Mississippi,” said Scott Waller, president & CEO of MEC. “Cathy is a true success story. I look forward to seeing what she will accomplish in her new leadership role and the positive impact it will have on our organization and the state of Mississippi.”

The Jackson native studied marketing at Mississippi College and enjoys giving



back to the community through her volunteer work as a member of the Junior League of Jackson and American Heart Association’s Circle of Red. A mother of three, Northington is also a member of the Madison Ridgeland Rotary Club and a board member of R.E.A.L. Christian Foundation.

Northington has been chosen as the Our Mississippi Magazine 2018 Business Women of the Year. She was named the 2017 Young Gifted and Empowered Leader of the Year, was a 2012 recipient of the Mississippi Business Journal Top 40



Northington

Under 40 award, and was a member of the Mississippi Business Journal’s 50 Leading Business Women in Mississippi for 2014.

Vying for Miss Sweetheart 2018

By Davetta Lee
Chair/Sweetheart Ball

The Jackson MS Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated hosted its 15th Biennial Sweetheart Ball, February 3. at the Jackson Convention Complex. Sixteen outstanding young ladies were presented to the Jackson community during the black-tie debutante event.

Jordyn Davis was crowned Miss Sweetheart 2018. Jordyn, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Davis, and is a junior at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School where she is an honor student and serves as manager of the basketball team. She attends Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church and plans to attend Xavier University of Louisiana and major in biology. Ultimately, she aspires to become a cardiologist. Jordyn volunteers with Operation Shoestrings and the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Jordyn was crowned by Kaitlyn Watson, Miss Sweetheart 2016. Kaitlyn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Watson II, and is a freshman at Xavier University of Louisiana where she serves as freshman class vice president and St. Katherine Drexel Hall Council vice president. She is an active volunteer on campus and is an ambassador for the university. Kaitlyn is a psychology/pre-law major, and plans to become an attorney and represent those who are mentally challenged.

Isabella Fraser was crowned Second Runner Up. Isabella is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Fraser, and is a junior at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School where she is an honor student and a member of the varsity dance and softball teams. Isabella volunteers with Jack and Jill of America and the

Jack and Jill
Continued on page 3

PHOTOS BY JACK PATTERSON

 <div>Mayanna Siemen</div>	 <div>Cailynn Gregory</div>	 <div>Kamryn Davis</div>	 <div>Jordyn Davis</div>
 <div>Kayla Crossley</div>	 <div>Ariel Cox</div>	 <div>Zuri Williams</div>	 <div>Alaysia Ware</div>
 <div>Kennedy O'Quinn</div>	 <div>Jaylen Sanders</div>	 <div>Kenya Wilson</div>	 <div>Kellyn Paige</div>
 <div>Amber Paige</div>	 <div>Isabella Fraser</div>	 <div>Lia Teeuwissen</div>	 <div>Taelor Walker</div>

New Hope Christian School celebrates 35 years of excellence

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The New Hope Christian School Board, administrators, faculty and alumni have planned a 35th anniversary banquet to commemorate the stellar success of our staff and students. The theme is “35 Years of Excellence - Educating, Equipping, & Empowering Young Minds.”

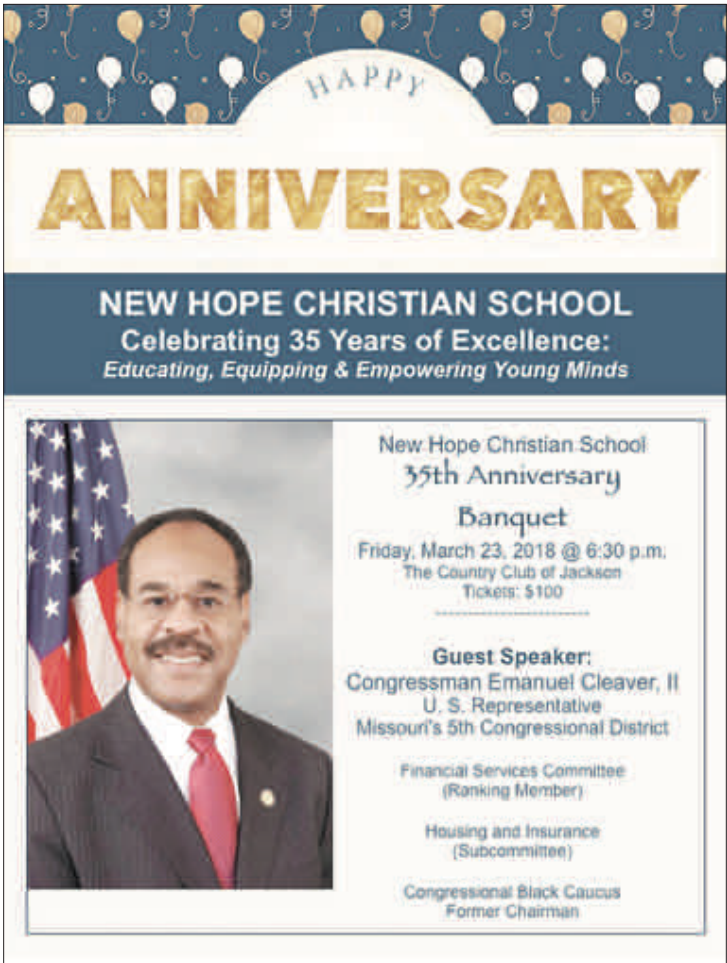
The banquet will take place Friday, March 23, 2018, 6:30 p.m., with an invitation only VIP reception beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the Country Club of Jackson, 345 St. Andrews Drive, Jackson, MS 39211.

Our Keynote speaker is The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver II, a United States Representative from Missouri’s 5th Congressional District.

Cleaver is the ranking member who serves on the Financial Services Committee and the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance. He is the senior whip of the Democratic Caucus and former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Tickets for the banquet can be purchased on eventbrite.com or by calling 601-362-0912.

New Hope Christian School (NHCS), a ministry of New Hope Baptist Church, was founded in 1982 under the leadership of Dr. Jerry Young, with a vision to provide high quality education infused



with Godly principles to assist Christian parents in fulfilling their God-given responsibilities.

NHCS began as a nursery school and has expanded through the years, now serving approximately 300 students annually, infants through sixth grade. NHCS’s curriculum is a comprehensive course of study designed to develop the whole

child – spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally.

NHCS is one of a few Christian schools in the state of Mississippi to achieve full accreditation from the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), and is also accredited by AdvancED (formerly SACS), equipping NHCS with dual accreditation.

LeFleur’s Bluff Chapter of The Links ITS Facet International Women’s Day Celebration

The Mississippi Link Newswire

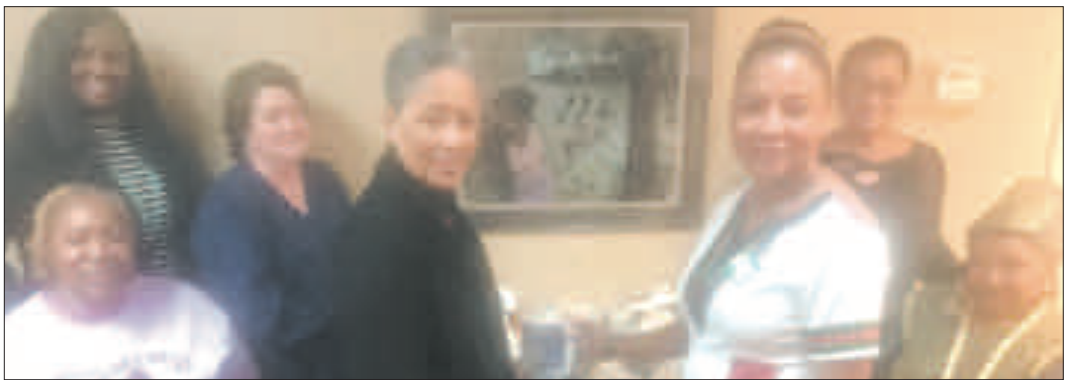
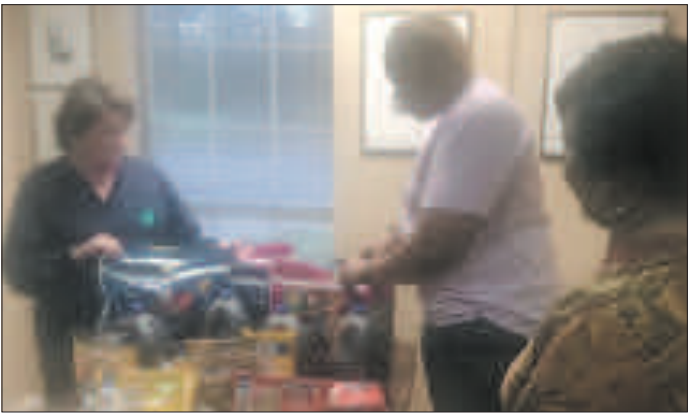
LeFleur’s Bluff Chapter of The Links, Incorporated’s International Trends and Services Facet Committee and its chapter members celebrated International Women’s Day March 8.

Chapter members met at DST Realty office for preparation and presentation.

Chapter activities included collecting and providing home and healthcare toiletries and meals to Butterflies by Grace and Designs, a local domestic abuse shelter providing care for women and children.

The shelter’s founder, Eva Jones, was very appreciative for the goods and meals for the women and children as part of their services.

The gathering of goods and services were made possible by collections and donations from Link sisters.



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JMAA introduces Via Air as newest airline coming to JAN



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority is excited to announce Via Airlines as the newest air service with nonstop jet service between Orlando Sanford International Airport (airport code SFB) and Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (airport code JAN) plus expanded service to Charlotte Douglas International Airport (airport code CLT).

“Via Airlines is proud to have made Central Florida its home. With offices in both Maitland and Sanford, our Central Florida operation employs over 70 and an additional 10 new employees will be joining us in the next month serving in guest relations and as ticketing agents,” said Irit Vizer, Via Airlines’ president.

Service between Sanford and Jackson begins June 11, 2018, with flights available Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Friday each week. Limited, introductory, discounted fares are available by visiting www.flyviaair.com or by calling 407-499-4992.

“We are very happy to have Via Airlines join the fine list of carriers providing service to the Jackson region. One of the goals of our Let’s Go National, Strategic Plan 2021 is focused on expanding air service options for the community and Via Airlines’ service to the Orlando market helps us achieve that goal,” said Carl D. Newman, chief executive officer.

“We are ecstatic Via Airlines chose Jack-

son, Mississippi,” said Pastor James L. Henley Jr., Jackson Municipal Airport Authority chairman. “We’re even more excited about the launch of new nonstop flights to Central Florida’s exciting attractions – just in time for summer travel.”

“Jackson has so much to offer both business and leisure travelers and we’re excited to bring our nonstop jet service to Mississippi as part of our 2018 expansion,” said Matthew Macri, Via Airlines vice president of operations. “Jackson is the latest in our calculated service expansion and we’re sure passengers will embrace Via Airlines in the Jackson market just as they have in Charlotte, Mobile, Montgomery and others. Via Airlines continues to invest in the success of Orlando Sanford International Airport, the city of Sanford, Seminole County and the entire Central Florida region,” continued Macri. “We’re firmly committed to providing superior value and service.”

According to Orlando Sanford International Airport President Diane Crews, “The expansion of Via Airlines is yet another positive growth indicator for Orlando Sanford International Airport (SFB). Via Airlines’ expansion is an exciting response to local demand and is keeping SFB among the fastest growing airports in North America. The Central Florida communities will welcome additional opportunities to fly out of SFB to both Mobile and Montgomery, Ala., and newest destination, Jackson, Miss.”



Evelyn Reed, JMAA commissioner; James Henley Jr., JMAA commissioner/chairman; Donald Bowman, Via Air; Mayor Lumumba; LTC(R) Lucius Wright, JMAA commissioner; Carl Newman, CEO, Jackson Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport; and Robert Graham, Hinds County Supervisor JMAA FACEBOOK PHOTOS



Liston Sage, JMAA Marketing and Air Service and Carl Newman



Appointment

Continued from page 1

and its citizens. I am looking forward to serving on the IHL Board with the other distinguished members and staff to ensure our Mississippi universities continue to make improvements to meet the needs of our diverse population.”

Martin, who will represent the First Supreme Court District, was appointed to the Mississippi Community College Board by former Gov. Haley Barbour in 2006. He received his bachelor’s degree in finance and insurance from Mississippi State University. Martin serves as the president of insurance firm Meyer & Rosenbaum, Inc., in Meridian. He is also on the Mississippi Manufacturing Association’s W. C. Advisory Board and is a board member of the MSU Insurance Department.

“I am honored and appreciative of Governor Bryant’s faith in my service to the IHL Board,” Martin said. “I look forward to this chance to serve the citizens of this great state as we work to provide more opportunity for the generations of the future.”

Ogletree joined the lawfirm of Adams and Reese in 1997. From the Jackson office, he coordinates

the firm’s real estate work throughout Mississippi. He practices primarily in the areas of real estate, title insurance, economic development, forestry, natural resources, zoning, environmental and business matters. Ogletree is the founding partner and leader of the firm-wide Forestry Team.

He received a bachelor’s of science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a juris doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law. He is admitted to practice law in Mississippi and Alabama.

“I am honored to be asked by Governor Bryant to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Institutions of Higher Learning in the State of Mississippi,” Ogletree said. “Our state’s eight distinct, mission-driven universities create a strong public university system designed to meet the higher education needs of Mississippians and enhance their quality of life. I look forward to working collaboratively with the board members and IHL staff in pursuing excellence in quality instruction, research and service as we continue to improve affordable higher education in Mississippi.”

Jack and Jill

Continued from page 1

University of Mississippi Medical Center Blair E. Batson Children’s Hospital. After graduation, she plans to begin her journey to becoming a neonatologist.

Amber Paige and Kellyn Paige tied for Second Runner Up. Amber and Kellyn are the twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. James Paige. They are juniors at St. Joseph Catholic School and attend Pearl Street A.M.E. Church. Amber is an active member of Youth Leadership Jackson and teen treasurer of the Jackson MS Chapter of Jack and Jill of America. She served as financial chair of the Mayor’s Youth Council, and is a graduate of the ASCEND Program sponsored by the Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Amber plans to attend a historically black college or university and ultimately become a dentist. Kellyn currently serves as teen vice president of the Jackson MS Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated and was selected to participate in Youth Leadership Jackson. She served as clerk of the Mayor’s Youth Council, and is a graduate of the ASCEND Program sponsored by the Beta Delta Omega Chap-

ter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Kellyn plans to attend a historically black college or university and ultimately become a pediatrician.


Kenya Wilson was crowned Miss Congeniality. Kenya is the daughter of Dr. Yolanda and Mr. Darryl Wilson, and is a junior at International Connections Academy. Kenya is an honor student, and volunteers with the Jackson MS Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated and the Mississippi Animal Rescue League. After graduation, she plans to attend New York University, Howard University, or Spelman College and major in psychology with a minor in Spanish. Her ultimate goal is to become a psychologist.

Other Sweetheart Ball participants were Ariel Cox, Kayla Crossley, Kamryn Davis, Cailynn Gregory, Kennedy O’Quinn, Jaylen Sanders, Mayanna Semien, Lia Teeuwissen, Taelor Walker, Alaysia Ware, Zuri Williams and Kenya Wilson.

The Jack and Jill Sweetheart Ball was chaired by Davetta Lee and co-chaired by KaShonda Day and Michelle Gibson. The Jackson MS Chapter is lead by President Lisa Gibson-McKee.

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Black and white teens to march 50 miles to Memphis to mark 50th anniversary of MLK assassination

‘Honor and hope’ inspire PEARSON Foundation’s commemorative March to Memphis by interracial group of young men

Mississippi Link Newswire

An interracial group of young men will be taking part in a journey of reconciliation to mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of civil rights champion Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Their 50-mile March to Memphis will take them from Dundee, Miss., to the city where Dr. King was killed April 4, 1968, to join in commemorative events.

Organized by The PEARSON Foundation (www.pearson39208.org), a faith-based mentoring and community service organization based in Pearl, Miss., the trek aims to teach participants more about civil rights and justice issues and model reconciliation and healthy racial relations.

“Our hope is to not only honor or all that Dr. King achieved, but to be part of continuing his work,” said PEARSON Foundation President Jarvis Ward. “We want to show how racial justice, economic justice and racial reconciliation can be advanced in and by the next generation.”

Setting out March 31, along the way the young men will discuss issues as they walk and also take part in evening community



meetings in places where they stay overnight at schools or churches.

Aged 14 through 19, the teen group will comprise members of PEARSON programs and peers from local schools. They will be accompanied by adult mentors with PEARSON, (People Employing Available Resources to Strengthen Our Neighborhoods.)

President of the foundation since 2014, Ward has long been involved in racial reconciliation initiatives. The first executive director of Mission Mississippi, he was also founder of the National City Impact Roundtable, and served as national facilitator of City/Community Ministries for Mission America for 16 years.

A native Memphian, Ward re-

members hearing of Dr. King’s death on the car radio while riding with his parents, as a boy. “I knew something was seriously wrong by their emotional reaction,” he recalls. “But as a four-year-old, I did not fully comprehend what it meant.”

The March to Memphis will also feature an “I Am A Man” emphasis discussing issues of adulthood and manhood. It

builds on the “I Am A Man” slogan used during the 1968 sanitation workers strike in Memphis, which Dr. King had traveled to support when he was killed.

Joining Ward and the others on the march will be his 91-year-old mother, Alice C. Ward, who will walk the last mile and a half of the march. Ron Forseth, a white colleague with whom Ward has worked on racial justice issues for 15 years, will also be on the march from start to finish.

On the final leg of their march, the PEARSON walkers will also be joined by family, friends and other supporters wishing to participate. Once in the city, they will join in a larger commemorative march planned and in activities at the National Civil Rights Museum, at the site of Dr. King’s killing.

The events are being organized by the city of Memphis and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The death of black AFSCME sanitation workers in February 1968 sparked the protests that drew Dr. King to Memphis that April.

“We will not be walking in

anger or protest,” said Ward. “We will be walking in honor and in hope, believing that Dr. King’s dream of racial justice, economic justice and racial reconciliation can yet one day be realized.”

The group will have a police escort over the entirety of their route provided by the Pearl Police Department, the Mississippi Highway Patrol and municipal and county law enforcement along the way.

Real-time updates on the progress of the march will be posted on the March to Memphis Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MarchtoMemphis.

More than 50 volunteers help run The PEARSON Foundation’s in-school, after-school and community service programs. They include tutoring, a summer reading institute, leadership retreats and a State of Mississippi “best practice” in-school and community-based mentoring program.

Anyone wishing to support the March to Memphis and the PEARSON Foundation may contribute at their Go Fund Me page at: <https://www.gofundme.com/MarchtoMemphis>.



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To volunteer or register, call 855-475-0656 or visit us online at www.komenmemphis.org



Hinds CC trustees approve moving forward with Metrocenter Mall proposal

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Hinds Community College Board of Trustees approved moving forward with a proposal for a Comprehensive One-Stop Center to house career-technical and workforce training and support services in Metrocenter Mall in south Jackson March 7.

Hinds Community College is working with 11 other partners on the proposed project. Hinds would administer the center on behalf of all the partners, said Hinds President Clyde Muse.

To bring the proposed project to fruition, the college is partnering with the Hinds County Board of Supervisors, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, with getting the project off the ground. He also expressed appreciation for the Hinds County Board of Supervisors, which is allocating .92 mills of taxes annually, or approximately \$1.6 million, for the college's share of the money to fund the operation. "The college has no additional money other than what the Hinds County Board of Supervisors has allocated to make it work. All the other partners are investing dollars and other resources to help us make it work," Muse said.

A formal signing ceremony with all the partners will be held at a later date.

The center will house high-tech classrooms for programs to train workers for the advanced manufacturing, transportation, and hospitality and tourism industries. It will offer a range of training opportunities, from basic employability skills to two-year technical degree classes.

"We have a tremendous number of people in our area, particularly in the city of Jackson, who do not have a high school diploma and need to upgrade their skills to get a job. We've got about 80,000 people in the Jackson metro area who could benefit from this kind of help," Muse said.

He said the Metrocenter Mall property is an ideal location for such a project. "It is centrally lo-



cated, accessible to Jatron transportation and accessible to two interstates and another major highway. You can't get anything more accessible than that," he said.

Muse credited Mary Powers, Workforce director at Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, with getting the project off the ground.

He also expressed appreciation for the Hinds County Board of Supervisors, which is allocating .92 mills of taxes annually, or approximately \$1.6 million, for the college's share of the money to fund the operation. "The college has no additional money other than what the Hinds County Board of Supervisors has allocated to make it work. All the other partners are investing dollars and other resources to help us make it work," Muse said.

"This is a game-changing opportunity that allows workforce partners to serve the people and respond to the growing workforce needs of business and industry in the 17 counties that make up the Southcentral Mississippi Works workforce network," said Chad Stocks, vice president for Career, Technical, Workforce and Adult Education. "This center will not only consolidate the workforce partners into one location, but it also allows us the opportunity to grow and expand offerings with cutting edge workforce training that will help fill the skills gap that industries talk about every day."

"Hinds Community College is excited to have the opportunity to take the lead on this

project. This project exemplifies the meaning of community, economic and workforce development at its best," Stocks said.

The center also will have classrooms for MI-BEST, a community college program that teaches adult students without a high school diploma both academic and technical skills so they will be job ready. The center's focus will also be on other workforce-related and support services for those students, such as job search, workshops, assistance with unemployment Insurance benefits, funding to pay for career tech training, On-the-Job Training opportunities, TANF/SNAP, Vocational Rehabilitation and others.

Muse said the college has a two-fold motivation for being involved in the proposed project.

"We're out of space for a lot of our career and technical programs. Our enrollment has been growing significantly in that area," he said.

"But, it will not only give us additional classrooms and labs to teach in, but it will give the citizens of our district a centralized convenient place where they can go to obtain the support services they need to get a job," Muse said.

The center would encompass 160,000 square feet of both floors of the southeast end of Metrocenter Mall, where McRae's or Belk was formerly located. The bottom floor will include an event area and programs for metal fab machining and welding. The top floor would include the bulk of the offices for all the partners and more classrooms, including those for mechatronics, robotics and 3D design.

The project renovation should only take about six months, Muse said. "Everything is already there – the infrastructure, heating and plumbing. They've just got to take down those walls," he said.

Madison County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Jackson, Miss.
March 3, 2018

COURTESY PHOTOS




ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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JPS Board hires firm to conduct search for a superintendent

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Board or Trustees approved a contract with McPherson and Jacobson LLC at its regular meeting March 6 to conduct the search for the next superintendent.

McPherson & Jacobson has been conducting national searches for boards of education since 1991. The Omaha, Nebraska based firm has designed a five-phase protocol allowing the board to concentrate on the most important segments: the interview and selection of the successful candidate.

McPherson & Jacobson, working in conjunction with the Board of Trustees and stakeholder groups the district identifies, will implement a systematic, comprehensive process culminating in the hiring of the most qualified candidate for the district.

Their comprehensive, transparent process is outlined below:

Phase I

Identify the desirable characteristics of the future superintendent.

Establish appropriate time-

lines.

Determine advertising venues.

Phase II

Meet with designated stakeholder groups.

Advertise the vacancy and develop promotional materials.

Send out, receive and catalog all application materials.

Actively recruit applicants.

Phase III

Read and evaluate all completed applicant files.

Conduct complete reference checks.

Assist the board members in selecting final candidates to be interviewed.

Phase IV

Prepare the board for the interview process.

Schedule and coordinate interviews.

Keep all candidates informed of their status in the selection process.

Phase V

Establish performance objectives for the superintendent.

Provide a GUARANTEE.

The board hopes to have a permanent superintendent employed by July 1, 2018.

Murrah student named 2018 JPS JROTC cadet of the year



C/COL Tonie Tarrio,
Callaway



C/MAJ Le'jaric Humphrey,
Forest Hill



C/MAJ Ruben Banks,
Jim Hill



C/LTC Alexis Smith,
Lanier



C/MAJ LaDarin Carter,
Provine



C/LTC Syporia Harris,
Wingfield

Mississippi Link Newswire

Cadet Lt. Col. Kelsee Ford of Murrah High School was named the 2018 Jackson Public Schools Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet of the Year.

The 14th Annual Cadet of the Year Awards dinner was held February 22, 2018, at the Mississippi eCenter at Jackson State University. The program was created to recognize and reward the district's most outstanding students.

Six other school-level Cadets of the Year were honored along with Ford. Awards were also presented to the LET Level Cadets and top Junior Cadet Corps (JCC) Cadets.

Cadet Ford is a graduating senior at Murrah. She is the Battalion Commander for the Murrah High School JROTC 2nd Battalion. On January 31 and February 8, she and her command staff led the unit to achieve a score of 99 percent and the status of Honor Unit with Distinction on the JROTC Program of Accreditation Assessments.

Ford is an advanced academics student enrolled in advanced placement courses at Murrah. She has maintained a grade point average of 4.24 on a 5.0 scale and achieved a class ranking of 42 out of 364 seniors. Ford has held key leadership positions in the Battalion throughout her four years



C/COL. Kelsee Ford

in high school, including executive officer and drill team commander. She has also participated in a majority of the activities and teams that Murrah's JROTC has to offer and has been heavily involved for her entire high school tenure.

This past summer, Ford attended the American Legion Girls State and spent the rest of her summer participating in the Youth Media Project.

Upon graduating with honors from Murrah High School, Ford plans to attend Jackson State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in criminology.

The seven Cadets of the Year from each high school endured a rigorous selection process involving a comprehensive portfolio demonstrating awards and honors, academic

performance, physical fitness and writing skills. Each cadet also appeared before a seven-person selection panel, where they delivered a timed oral presentation and responded to questions from each member of the panel.

"The Cadet of the Year program was implemented to recognize and reward the district's most outstanding students and to inspire others to strive for excellence in all their endeavors," said Col. Paul Willis, director of JROTC Programs.

2018 JPS JROTC LET Honorees

Leadership, Education, Training (LET 1, 2, and 3) cadets from all seven JROTC units and the top JCC cadets at the Powell Academy of Military Science were recognized. These students have excelled in academics, leadership, citizenship and all other aspects of the JCC and JROTC programs. Each of the cadets below was presented the LET Top Award for 2018:

Top JCC Cadets

Grade 6 – Cadet Cintara Parker
Grade 7 – Cadet Ralecia Robertson

Grade 8 – Cadet Xarius Howard

LET 1 Cadets

Callaway High School – Cadet PFC Charlicya Wilson
Forest Hill High School –

Cadet CPL Eliza Thomas

Jim Hill High School – Cadet CPL Terace Donaldson

Lanier High School – Cadet PFC Ashley R. Tillman

Murrah High School – Cadet PFC Alyssa Bell

Provine High School – Cadet PFC Samaria Bilbrew

Wingfield High School – Cadet CPL Ira Johnson

LET 2 Cadets

Callaway High School – Cadet SFC Shanyce Carter

Callaway High School – Cadet SSG Miaya Robins

Forest Hill High School – Cadet 1LT Talisha Brown

Lanier High School – Cadet Kaiyanna J. King

Jim Hill High School – Cadet 1LT Honesty Phillips

Murrah High School – Cadet SGT Matthew Jackson

Provine High School – Cadet 1LT Markese Lee

Wingfield High School – Cadet SSG Kendra Sutton

LET 3 Cadets

Callaway High School – Cadet CPT Jayla Crumb

Forest Hill High School – Cadet LTC Brittany Bradley

Jim Hill High School – Cadet MAJ Brianna Gunn

Lanier High School – Cadet CPT Daniel S. Wynn

Murrah High School – Cadet CSM Joseph Mitchell

Provine High School – Cadet 2LT Marlan Miley

Wingfield High School – Cadet MAJ Shamia Thompson

JPS Career Development Center students win App Challenge

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, 2018, in Washington, D.C. The 2017 Congressional App Challenge winners will be recognized and celebrated. 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, D.C.

The Mississippi Link™

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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton
Editor.....Othor Cain
Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson
Photographers.....Kevin Robinson & Jay Johnson
Contributing Writers.....Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Ayesha K. Mustafaia

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MSVU student researchers present during MS Academy of Sciences Meeting

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Two Mississippi Valley State University students recently presented research that explores the relationship between cybersecurity and homeland security during the Mississippi Academy of Sciences (MAS) meeting.

Hosted Feb. 22-23 at the University of Southern Mississippi's Thad Cochran Center, the annual meeting offered participants the opportunity to present addresses, symposia, workshops, scientific papers and exhibits of interest to members of the state-wide organization dedicated to reshaping and expanding the role of science and technology in the state.

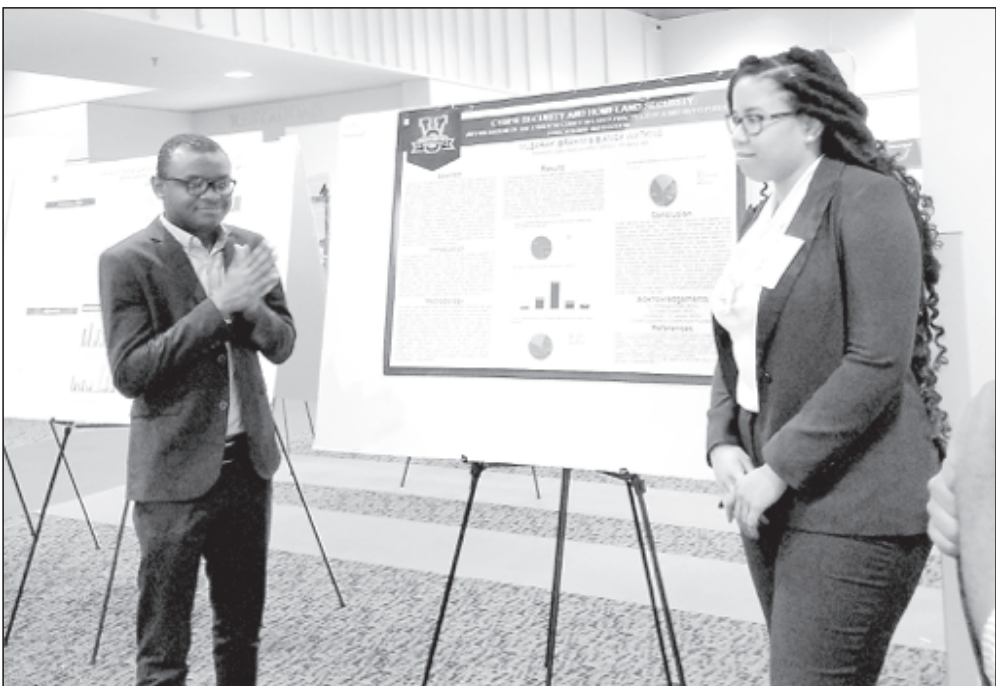
Among those presenting were MVSU criminal justice major Bianca Watkins of Plainfield, Ill., and mathematics, computer and information systems (MCIS) major Mubarak Ibrahim of Nigeria on the topic, "Why Cybersecurity is Essential to Homeland Security."

The students conducted the research with assistance from MVSU Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Alaba Oludare and instructor Christopher Lanclos of MVSU's MCIS Department and Cybersecurity Center.

The research was supported by funds awarded by the Charles Koch Foundation, under the direction of Emmanuel Amadi, chair of MVSU's Criminal Justice Department.

"The students performed well during their presentation," said Amadi. "The audience was very engaged and impressed by their findings."

In an effort to evaluate homeland security, the research team performed a case study on the MVSU



Pictured, from left, MVSU Mathematics, Computer, and Information Systems (MCIS) major Mubarak Ibrahim of Nigeria and Criminal Justice major Bianca Watkins of Plainfield, Ill., recently presented during the Mississippi Academy of Sciences (MAS) annual meeting on the topic, "Why Cybersecurity is Essential to Homeland Security".



Pictured, from left, are Christopher Lanclos of MVSU's MCIS Department and Cybersecurity Center; Criminal Justice major Bianca Watkins of Plainfield, Ill.; and Mathematics, Computer, and Information Systems (MCIS) major Mubarak Ibrahim of Nigeria.

community to assess awareness of cyber threats.

The findings of the survey were then compiled into a poster presentation showcased during the meeting. Watkins and Ibrahim were on-hand to provide addi-

tional insight of the findings to MAS members.

MAS sponsors include the University of Mississippi Medical Center, School of Health Related Professionals; The University of Southern Mississippi and

Millsaps College.

The annual meeting was sponsored by the Mississippi IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE).

To learn more about MAS, visit www.msacad.org

Mississippi Public Universities enhance film, tourism opportunities in state

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi is ready for her close-up. The state has served as a set location for numerous film productions and has an incentive program and office designed to attract even more. In addition to attracting the film industry, Mississippi is ready to invite visitors from across the country and around the world to see the state close up.

From special southern fare to beautiful landscapes and historic sites, the state has something to attract a wide variety of individuals with a wide variety of interests.

The Mississippi State University Extension Service recently held a workshop to help Mississippians from a wide variety of backgrounds to consider new ways to use landscapes and gardens to bring more profit and better value to agricultural enterprises and historic homes.

Sandy Havard, Warren County agent with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, coordinated the Know Your Roots: Build Your Business daylong workshop. The event had four primary speakers, nine exhibits by Warren County Master Gardeners and a tour of the Heritage Demonstration Garden at the Vicksburg National Military Park.

The Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau was a generous sponsor of the short course and hosted events for conference participants.

Participants included Master Gardeners, agritourism business owners, mayors of two small towns, and bed and breakfast owners from Vicksburg, Natchez, Rolling Fork and beyond. The workshop exposed participants to a wide range of ways to add interest and value to agritourism enterprises. Master Gardener stations displayed container gardening, orchid growing, composting, glass etching, miniature succulent gardens and more.

Participants were encouraged to interact with each station and learn ways to add beauty or new activities for visitors at their enterprises.

Jim DelPrince, MSU Extension assistant professor of horticulture at the MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi, gave a floral design lesson to help participants learn how to turn their green thumbs into additional income through floral design. He demonstrated basics of floral design while encouraging participants to use the best products available, find better ways to market events beyond local venues, and consider all sources of flowers and greenery.

Gary Bachman, Extension horticulturist and host of Southern Gardening, urged owners of historic homes and agritourism enterprise to use pockets of color to beautify existing locations. Brent Fountain, MSU Extension nutritionist, discussed a variety of ways to eat locally, whether growing your own or buying produce that is grown nearby. Natasha Haynes, Rankin County Extension agent and host of The Food Factor, addressed ways to put a twist on existing foods to make them exciting and better tasting.

Rachel Carter, MSU Extension community planning specialist, explained the economics of running tourism businesses from historic homes. She gave participants formulas they could use to determine appropriate price points for goods and services they offer at their agritourism enterprises.

At the Heritage Demonstration Garden, visitors browsed a garden that combined vegetables, herbs

and flowers in a way that paid homage to gardens of the antebellum era while remaining fresh and modern.

The University of Southern Mississippi offers an Entertainment Industry major focusing on dynamic and creative endeavors in distinctive areas of the arts, including sound, video and film production. Each emphasis area in the Entertainment Industry major offers unique and in-depth insights into either sound, video or film production, all of which lead to careers in popular mass media entertainment.

The Recording Industry Management emphasis prepares students for a wide range of behind-the-scenes careers in the music and entertainment industries; while the Recording Industry Production emphasis is centered on in-studio audio recording and editing skills that prepare students for careers in live sound, audio for video, radio production and audio recording.

The Media Production emphasis offers opportunities that span across radio, television and film, teaching pre- and post-production work.

The Film emphasis introduces students to the study of motion picture production as a vibrant contemporary art form, dynamic international commercial industry and important cultural medium.

Entertainment Industry majors enjoy highly technical coursework that involves hands-on learning and creating. Each emphasis requires students to be involved in the actual work they will do after graduation to gain experience and develop a professional portfolio.

Recording Industry students have the opportunity to work with the WUSM Tailgate Concert Series and work at South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin, Texas, among other high-impact experiences. Film students complete at least two short films and write at least one feature-length screenplay during their program, and Media Production students aid in the production of weekly programs.

While some students are learning how to work behind the scenes, Jackson State University theater professor Yohance Myles shares his experiences being in front of the camera with his students. Myles is also a professional actor who has played many characters, including an impactful role as a father whose son witnesses the fatal shooting of an unarmed white college student by an African-American police officer in Fox's "Shots Fired." Having a professor with these experiences gives Jackson State students a rare behind-the-scenes view of film production.

Several programs at the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture help document and publicize areas of cultural interest and encourage tourism in the state. The Southern Foodways Alliance is dedicated to the documentation and celebration of the food cultures of the American South. Among its efforts is the Mississippi Delta Hot Tamale Trail, an online guide that takes visitors from Tunica to Vicksburg through photos and oral histories of tamale-making families.

The center publishes Living Blues magazine and sponsors the Blues Today Symposium each spring on the Ole Miss campus. This summer, the center also celebrated publication of the first-ever Mississippi Encyclopedia.

Video on *The University of Southern Mississippi's film program:* <https://youtu.be/B6QDj7507Vg>.

Eastside wins \$8,500 fitness grant from Discovery Education

*Lloryn Love-Carter
Nissan Communications*

Eastside Elementary is one of two schools nationwide to receive a Super Health, Super You grant this year from Discovery Education.

Eastside teacher Marcy McDonald said the grant application was student-led.

"A diverse group of 11 students met several times to discuss issues that surround physical activity and nutrition at our school and in the community," she said. "These children came up with a plan, presented it to the grant committee through essay questions, and were awarded \$8,500 to fund their ideas."

The grant funds will provide each hall at the fourth- and fifth-grade school a cart filled with exercise equipment for classroom use, exercise equipment that teachers can use and a family fun fitness log to involve families.

"Eastside's PE staff will also be able to be certified in CrossFit Kids to teach proper mechanics and movements to



Eastside students react to news that their school won a Super Health, Super You grant. Pictured are (from left): Konnor Griffin, Landyn Baker, Ella Barber, Makenzie Cooley, Jerusha Dasary, Lorelai Santos, Zoey Washington, Riley Parham, Manas Guduru, Anshpreet Kaur.

all children for better longevity and functionality," McDonald said.

One of the Clinton Public School District's top strategic plan goals is the health and wellness of students and staff. At Eastside, students participate in Walk to School Day each year in October.

In 2016, Eastside partnered with the city of Clinton to build an interactive walking trail around the campus that is available to the public to

use.

In 2011, the school received a \$10,000 grant from the NFL Fuel Up to Play 60 program to improve and enhance its fitness and wellness efforts.

Earlier this school year, Eastside expanded its playground in partnership with the PTO. On April 12 the school is planning a health fair and picnic open to all fourth- and fifth-graders and their families, as well as current third-

graders and families.

"We are so excited to get all our students, teachers and families moving in the direction of a more healthy lifestyle," said Principal Cindy Hamil. "This grant was student-led, and the kids and teachers are looking forward to having the fitness equipment on each hall."

For formation about the Super Health, Super You grant visit <https://goo.gl/mf-wGDD>.

Hinds CC a perfect place to take next step in healthcare careers

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The best examples of the rewards of a healthcare career can sometimes be found in one's own family tree.

"My mother graduated from Hinds in nursing, and my sister just graduated from here in surgical technology," said Olivia Taylor, of Crystal Springs, checking out the college's healthcare career offerings at the spring 2018 Nursing Allied Health Showcase held March 8 at Hinds Community College Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center.

"I want a career where I'm in a position to help people," Taylor said.

Destiny Erving and her cousin, Joanne Jones, made the trip to the showcase from Holmes County to help Erving make the jump from high school to college – and in the process complete the process of being a first-generation college student.

"Coming to school will open a lot of opportunities," Erving said as she and Jones, a director of nursing at a long-term care facility, toured each program's labs and spoke to faculty.

About 200 people attended this fall's event, which is held each semester at the Chadwick Drive complex. Prospective students and others toured the campus' learning labs, spoke with faculty, explored the college's 12 health-related and two short-term programs and got the latest on requirements and deadlines.

"Guests spoke with our faculty one-on-one to learn about our programs of study and the promising careers in healthcare that Hinds graduates obtain," said Kathryn Cole, district director of Enrollment Services.

Programs showcased included Associate Degree Nursing (RN), Dental Assisting Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Emergency Medical Science, Health Care Assistant, Health Information Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant, Practical Nursing, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care Technology, Surgical Technology, and two short-term programs, Nursing Assistant and Phlebotomy. "We are excited to offer nursing and allied health programs that provide excellent employment opportunities for our students," said Nursing and Allied Health Dean Libby Mahaffey. "Graduates of our programs are employed at rates of 90 to 100 percent within a year of graduation and consistently meet national benchmarks for licensure/registry pass rates."

Each semester, the event is a showcase that brings out healthcare professionals looking to build their credentials and pursue higher-paying jobs in the industry.

"I'm trying to move up the ladder from where I am in my career," said Varetta Gordon, a certified nursing assistant from Canton.

Others, such as private music teacher Jasmine Keys, of Brandon, looked to switch careers and gather information on the programs NAHC has to offer.

"I've thought before about coming to Hinds



to change careers," Keys said. "I'm doing it because I'm happy to help people."

Technical and associate degree programs at NAHC are nationally accredited by specialty accrediting organizations. The career programs meet state accreditation/approval

guidelines.

The Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center is at 1750 Chadwick Drive.

For more information on individual programs, call 601.376.4807 or visit <http://www.hindscc.edu>.

Miss. MVSU named among Ebony Magazine's Top Ten HBCU Campus Queens



Coats

The Mississippi Link Newswire

When Laderka Coats decided to vie for the title of Miss. Mississippi Valley State University 2017-18, she did so out of a desire to serve.

Little did she know, the opportunity would also land her photo in the pages of Ebony Magazine as one of the featured Top 10 HBCU Campus Queens.

The Belzoni native said she is humbled to be featured in such a prominent national publication and grateful to those who helped make it possible.

"I would like to thank the Mississippi Valley State community for all their support," she said. The faculty and staff and student body helped out tremendously. I would especially like to thank my family, friends and the Belzoni community for their love and support throughout the journey to become Miss. MVSU as well as an Ebony Campus Queen."

The announcement from Ebony marks the second consecutive year that an MVSU queen won a spot in Ebony's top ten. Miss MVSU 2016-17 Symone Daniels, who is also a Belzoni native and attended the same high school – Humphreys County – as Coats, earned the prestigious honor last year.

The EBONY HBCU Campus Queens program provides a platform to recognize young black women who are poised to affect significant change globally. The coveted title identifies collegiate women who have demonstrated the ability to inspire, lead and give back to their communities.

"The top 10 EBONY HBCU Campus Queens represent brilliant black women who exemplify intelligence, philanthropy, and leadership," said Linda Johnson Rice, CEO of EBONY Media Operations. In today's climate, it's more

important than ever to praise exceptional women who demonstrate fortitude in their everyday lives and remain unapologetically black."

Coats, who is a graduating senior, said that serving as Miss. MVSU has been a great learning opportunity. "Fulfilling the position as an HBCU queen is much more than just serving as the face of the university; serving in this capacity has extended me a platform to use my voice for progressive change," she said. Having the opportunity to address real issues that many college students encounter has been very rewarding."

She said she is thankful for the college experience she received at MVSU.

"I love our mantra, 'One Goal. One Team. One Valley ... In Motion', because it represents all facets of my university: One Goal – Student Centeredness; One Team – University and Community Working Together; One Valley – School Pride and Spirituality; Second to None; and In Motion – Continued Growth. This is why I love my HBCU, and, more importantly, why institutions like MVSU are indispensable," she shared.

The 2018 EBONY HBCU Campus Queens are chosen during a three-month online competition that allows users to vote for their favorite queens from 75 Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the nation.

This year's top 10 majesties are representative of a diverse group of women, all of whom carry their distinct qualities, backgrounds and focuses, but who all celebrate one thing: the beauty of being a black woman in America.

Be on the look out for Coats in Ebony's September 2018 issue.

Speakers at Mississippi College preach racial reconciliation

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Guest speakers made a strong appeal for racial reconciliation across America as they preached to hundreds of Mississippi College students.

It was a message that comes amid a lingering racial divide across the USA that dates back centuries.

Chuck Kelley Jr., the president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and a longtime Southern Baptist Convention leader, Ken Weathersby, delivered that message during an MC chapel program.

Taking that first step is always key. And Kelley encouraged students several times to "start" the process by "bringing Jesus into the conversations."

One of the practical tips to begin the process to share the Gospel, the speakers say, is for people to share with others what Christ has done in their lives.

Sharing the Gospel with friends, neighbors or strangers, is a good way to "break down walls," Kelley said. "We find conversations with people who are unlike us."

While people around the world come from different races, the church is "multi-ethnic," Weathersby noted. "God looks at the heart" rather than race, he said.

Kelley has served as president of the New Orleans-based seminary since 1996.



New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Chuck Kelley, Jr. joins Mississippi College graduate Ken Weathersby at MC's chapel program.

He's remained a professor of evangelism there since 1983.

A 1985 MC graduate, Weathersby has served as vice president for convention advancement with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee. He's working to increase ethnic participation within the SBC and assist young ministers at small churches. Ken is a member of the Baptist-affiliated university's Board of Trustees.

"We must move out of our comfort zones," Weathersby advised the students. For some, it could be getting to know international students attending Mississippi College or reaching out to African Americans on the Clinton campus, he said.

In 1999, Weathersby was named the first African-American pastor to serve as a full-time associate professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Students listened intently to the discussions moderated by MC Vice President for Christian Development Eric Pratt at First Baptist Church Clinton. President Lee Royce joined professors and staff in the audience.

"I've really been enjoying the conversations," said MC junior T.J. Williams, a political science major from Gulfport. Both speakers offered a solid perspective on how people of all races are tied together through the Gospel, he explained.

"I like how they emphasized community," said MC freshman Gabby Howe of Long Beach minutes after the chapel program ended February 27.

"It was really encouraging – how to evangelize," added Mississippi College freshman Isaac Bowling, 18, of Mendenhall. "Our main focus is to share the Gospel."

For information about advertising in The Mississippi Link please call: 601-896-0084 or e-mail jlinskads@bellsouth.net

By L.A. Warren
jsumsnews.com

Now is the time to think about what activities are best for your child during the summer, and where more interest can be explored.

Spring Forward...Safely

Longer days, more time outdoors calls for safety awareness

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Love it or hate it, with daylight saving time come spring projects. Whether you take advantage of the extra sunshine to make home improvements, garden or enjoy some fresh air, now is a good time to brush up on your outdoor safety knowledge.

“Taking time to understand electrical safety and watching out for safety hazards is just as important for our customers at home as it is for our employees in the field,” said Robbin Jeter, Entergy Mississippi vice president of customer service. “We have tips, do-it-yourself advice and other resources available to help you accomplish your spring projects safely.”

Here are a few suggestions for how you can protect yourself and your home while sprucing up this spring:

- Keep an eye on your surroundings
- Look up and out for overhead power lines. Staying away from power lines

is one of the most important ways you can stay safe when you are outdoors. Overhead power lines carry thousands of volts of electricity and are not insulated, making them deadly to touch. If you come in contact with a power line through your body – or an object you are holding, like a tree limb, ladder or even a kite – you will become a path for the electricity to find the ground.

- Always assume power lines are electrified, even if they are down or underground and do not spark or hum. If you do see a downed line or a tree branch that is dangerously close to a power line, the safest thing to do is call 1-800-ENTERGY.

- Remember, water and electricity do not mix. Keep electrical appliances and power cords away from wet areas. And never touch electrical cords or appliances if you’re wet or standing in water.

Work with nature, not against it.

- Plant the right trees in the right place. When adding new trees to your landscaping, consider placement and tree height at maturity, and avoid planting trees that will grow tall under power lines or in an area where they could damage your home in a storm.

- Believe it or not, many power outages are caused by wildlife. Squirrels like to travel along power lines and tree limbs, which can give them access to make your attic their home sweet home and potentially short out transformers in the process. Do not invite them over; keep tree limbs trimmed away from power lines and buildings. Learn more about our tree trimming practices and when you should hire a professional at entergymississippi.com/your_home/.

Remember what you cannot see can hurt you.

- Call before you dig. It is important to know what is underground before you begin any project that requires dig-

ging. Hitting an electric line can shock or kill you and cause power outages. When you call 811, the local one-call utility locator service, they will mark the location of underground utilities so you can carry on with digging safely.

- Let the light shine. Make sure your outdoor lighting adequately illuminates walkways to prevent tripping hazards after dark and that your bulbs are intended for outdoor use. If you need to replace them, opt for energy efficient bulbs to help light the way to lower bills.

In addition to these outdoor safety reminders, the National Safety Council suggests that dates of time change are good dates to address indoor safety, such as replacing batteries in smoke detectors and covering your home emergency plans with family. Smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years and carbon monoxide detectors should be replaced every five years, but

batteries for both should be replaced every year.

More safety tips for painting, pool maintenance and other outdoor projects can be found at entergymississippi.com/your_home/ and entergy.com/save-money.

Entergy Mississippi, Inc. provides electricity to approximately 447,000 customers in 45 counties. Entergy Corporation is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations. Entergy owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, including nearly 9,000 megawatts of nuclear power.

Entergy delivers electricity to 2.9 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy has annual revenues of approximately \$10.8 billion and nearly 13,000 employees.

Gov. Bryant sets special election date for House District 30

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Gov. Phil Bryant has set May 8, 2018, as the special election date for House District 30.

The seat recently became vac-


ant when former Rep. Robert E. Huddleston retired.

The qualifying deadline is March 19. If no candidate receives a majority of votes on

May 8, a runoff will be held on May 29. District 30 encompasses parts of Bolivar, Quitman, Sunflower and Tallahatchie counties.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



WRIT OF ELECTION

TO THE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS
OF BOLIVAR, QUITMAN, SUNFLOWER,
AND TALLAHATCHIE COUNTIES, MISSISSIPPI:

A vacancy exists in District 30 of the Mississippi House of Representatives due to the resignation of Robert E. Huddleston on or about February 28, 2018.

Therefore, pursuant to Article 4, Section 77 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 and Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-851, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby issue this Writ of Election, and hereby declare that the special election to fill the vacancy in House of Representatives District 30, as such district existed for the 2015 legislative elections, shall be held on **May 8, 2018**. This special election shall be held and notice thereof shall be given in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 23-15-851 and 23-15-833.

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-851, the qualifying deadline shall be **March 19, 2018**. Candidates shall qualify pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-359(8).


If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in the special election, then a runoff election shall be held on **May 29, 2018**, in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-833.

All other relevant state laws not in conflict with the terms of this Writ of Election shall further apply.


The Election Commissioners of Bolivar, Quitman, Sunflower and Tallahatchie Counties shall govern themselves accordingly.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, this the 7th day of March, in the year of our Lord, two thousand eighteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.


PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR


C. DELBERT HOSEMAN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE

Parker, Sampson, Woodruff named Employees of the Year at MSH



Mississippi State Hospital 2017 Employees of the Year (left to right) LaMonica Sampson, Monica Woodruff and William Parker.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

William Parker, LaMonica Sampson and Monica Woodruff were named Mississippi State Hospital’s 2017 Employees of the Year at a special program held on campus Feb. 28.

Parker works in support services, Sampson in clinical service and Woodruff in direct care.

Parker, from Brandon, is a programmer analyst in the information management department. The Mississippi State graduate, with a degree in electrical engineering, has worked at MSH for 10 years.

Sampson, a Pinola native who now lives in Jackson, is a behavioral health specialist. She has a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from Jackson State University and has worked at MSH for 14 years.

Woodruff, a Pearl resident who was born in Canton, is a mental health technician. She has worked at MSH for more than 23 years.

The winners were chosen from among the 36 Employees of the Month from the past year. The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes staff who have made out-

standing contributions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc.

The keynote speaker at the EOY Program was Robert Landrum, a member of the Board of Mental Health.

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

Nigerian delegation visited Sen. Hillman Frazier

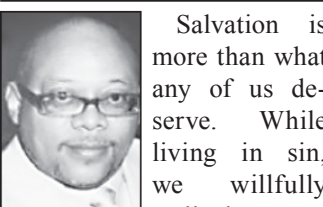


The delegation from the House of Assembly of the state of Katsina Nigeria, visited with Senator Hillman T. Frazier, (5th from left), at the Capitol recently for a discussion on politics and culture. Standing left to right are: Jude Offiah, Sani Lawal, Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly of the state of Katsina Nigeria Shehu Dalhatu, Hambali Faruk, Lawal Isa, Yahaya Nasir and AbdulJalaj Runka.

Be steadfast

PART I

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



Salvation is more than what any of us deserve. While living in sin, we willfully walked contrary to God’s way. We wanted the flesh to have its way, and because of that, when God gave us salvation it was more than we deserved.

My friend, when we give ourselves unreservedly to His service, our labor is not in vain. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my beloved brethren be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” If there was ever a time that we needed to be steadfast, it is the day and age in which we are living.

My sinner friend, God wants to save your soul today. He wants you to get a solid foundation and be steadfast

in the things of God so that people do not have to wonder where you stand. They will know where you stand if you are steadfast in the things of God.

God’s standard has never changed. What God said in the beginning is true yet today. We need to get hold of that, stand steadfastly upon it, and refuse to let anyone change you.

The old devil works through people the same as God works through people. Satan has set out to try to get every saint of God off the highway of holiness. Christian friends, we need to keep holding on. It will all be over one of these days, and we will go marching down Glory Avenue, praising God for what He has done.

We need to be unmovable in the things of God. We cannot let anyone take the Gospel away from us, and we cannot let anyone change us along the lines of truth. Truth has not changed; it is still the same today. I love the truth. It

is the only thing that will set us free. Without it, we would be in bondage.

Paul admonished us to always abound in the work of the Lord, and our labor will not be in vain. We each must give an account for everything that has been wasted. In the business world, books are kept and in those books there are accounts receivable, accounts payable, and an account of the cash balance on hand. The books have to be balance. If there is only a one cent difference, they do not have a balance. We cannot just put a penny in or take a penny out. That will not balance the books. We must go back and find that error and correct it.

We need to realize that God has given each of us a gift called time. Every minute that has been wasted, everything that has not been spent for the things of God must be accounted for to Him. We may say, “That is close.” Absolutely, but it is not any closer than the Gospel. We must

account for everything we do. We are living in a day when many people are not afraid to mistreat or speak against the saints of God. The day is coming when all will stand before the judgment bar of God, and the Book will be opened. If we are guilty of that, we will be found wanting.

I have worked with books enough to know that we cannot juggle the figures to make them look right. Also, I have been saved long enough to know that we cannot make excuses for what we have done and for how we have acted. God still has laws. It is not what we think that will judge us, but it is what God says. We will have to give an account at the judgment bar of God.

Next week “Be Steadfast” Part II

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

PRESERVED

Put down your brick!

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



We all have a story. Perhaps it’s the result of an experience where we learned more about ourselves or where we saw ourselves differently after doing something that we said we’d never, ever do. Or maybe the story comes from the joy of finally receiving the blessing that God promised.

“Everybody has a story but not everyone has to have a brick.” I made this statement speaking at an event in Atlanta nearly a decade ago as a part of Anointed Authors on Tour, the Christian women’s book tour. Even though it had been out for awhile, it was always a challenge for me to creatively describe what my book was about without simply stating “It’s about “getting over getting dumped.”

So not everyone has to have a brick. The “brick” is the thing we hold onto poised and ready to fling when we want to have the biggest impact. It’s not always a real brick (even though for some of us it might be depending on the situation).

In many instances, the “brick” is the past regrets that we hold onto either because we don’t know what to do with them or we’ve gotten used to holding onto. The “brick” can also be vindictively or self-righteously holding past mistakes against someone else.

Your brick may also be something a little more pleasurable: Watching television, shopping, eating, gossiping or anything else that keeps you from focusing 100 percent on God. Because

you like how it makes you feel, you don’t realize that your pleasure is also becoming a brick.


My “brick” was the years of feeling justified in holding onto negative feelings. I’ve realized after explaining to others how God healed me from those crippling emotions that I helped build the brick that weighed me down.

Exodus describes the children of Israel being forced to make their own bricks while in bondage in Egypt. Exodus 1:14 reminds us how difficult bricks are: “They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly.” We may not be forced to make bricks but we choose to do so when we don’t completely deal with and let go of those things that hurt us.

Eventually, however, those bricks also become burdensome on us. The time you spend talking about somebody (making that brick of character assassination) could be better spent praying for them and for yourself to have more grace in dealing with them.

I also heard Bishop Tony Alvarado in Atlanta, a few years ago, say that God doesn’t want you to forget the past; he wants you to redeem it. Putting down your brick is the first step in redeeming that past and being able to possibly write a story of amazing grace.

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



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Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m.
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Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.

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Lifting up new leaders: The Future of Black Women's History

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



All too often, our “history” month turns into a tribute to the past. And while the past is an important place to lift up, it is indeed a tributary, a stream that flows into the larger stream of an unbounded future. The future must always be greater than the present, or there has been no progress. And, in the words of Frederick Douglas, “progress concedes nothing without a demand.”

I spend much of Women’s History Month thinking of those who have come before me, the shoulders on whose I stand. I claim Women’s History Month for Black Women and love to call our roll of luminaries that, for me, includes Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander, the first black woman to get a Ph.D. in economics, Phyllis Ann Wallace, the first black woman to get a Ph.D. in economics from Yale, and the first to attain tenure at MIT. And there are more, but I also want to speculate about the future role of luminaries and reflect on that fact that many black women have made it possible for us to bask in a new generation of leadership. The past has laid a foundation, but the future is far more important than the past.

Thus, Leah Daughtry (who managed the 2016 Democratic convention), Minyon Moore (who had a key role in the Clinton campaign), and Yolanda Caraway (an amazing political operative who has worked for Rev. Jesse Jackson, President Bill Clinton and candidate Hillary Clinton), put a footprint in the sand for future leadership with their Power Rising conference in Atlanta last month. They gathered more than a thousand black women from around the country to develop a “Black Women’s Agenda,” deliberately mixing up the seasoned with the sassy, established leaders with those who are eager to make their mark.

Symone Sanders, the CNN commentator who made her mark supporting Bernie Sanders, and who does not back down from a fight around principle and issues, led a panel of young women who spoke of the challenges in their work. Amanda Brown-Lierman, a new mom and the political director of the Democratic National Committee, was among those on another panel about life in politics. Others on that panel included LaDavia Drane, who led black outreach for Hillary Clinton and is now chief of staff for Congresswoman Yvette Clark (D-NY) and Boston City Councilor Ayanna Pressley, who is now running for Congress. These young women aren’t playing. They are calling out their elders, but also calling out the rules. They aren’t trying to toe a line, they are trying to make a difference.

Ayanna Pressley, as an example, is challenging an incumbent Democrat in a Congressional primary. Tired of being told to “wait her turn,” she has decided that now is her time. Even though she has always garnered support from Emily’s List, the fact that she is challenging a pro-choice Democratic man in Boston has not won her support from the political establishment. Yet the 42-year-old sister says she will not be constrained by rules. The Power Rising conference represented an example of that unfettered and passionate energy.

One of the most promising young leaders is Tamika Mallory, one of the four co-leaders of the Women’s March. Mallory is a protégée of Rev. Al Sharpton (her parents were among the founders of the National Action Network, and she served as its executive director for several years). Because of her amazing work, Mallory earned a Phoenix Award from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation in 2017. With appropriate humility, she accepted her award “for the people,” and the most important thing that one gets from Mallory is that she loves humanity, loves black people, and especially black women. She, like the others mentioned, is a leader for our future. She is the future of Black Women’s History. Because she is a leader, she will attract negative energy. And still, she rises, walking through life with her shoulders back, head held high, an unapologetic lover of her people.

The Akan (Ghanaian) word SANKOFA translates as “go back and get it.” It is associated with the proverb “Se wo were fi na wosankofa a yenkyi,” which means that “it is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten.” The Adinkra symbol for Sankofa is either that of a bird with its head turned backward carrying a precious egg in its mouth, or a stylized heart shape.

The precious egg is the history of our leadership, the women like Mary McLeod Bethune and Dorothy Height and Sadie Alexander and Phyllis Wallace. Even while looking backward, though, the Sankofa bird is moving forward, like Tamika Mallory, LaDavia Drane, Amanda Brown Lierman, and so many others. In the paraphrased words of the poet Mari Evans, “Look on them and be renewed.”

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

Talking “Woman to Woman” in Women’s History Month

By Angela Mae Kupenda
Mississippi College School of Law



As women, we certainly should celebrate our many accomplishments and successes. In workplaces and in society broadly, we have achieved a great measure of potential power. Yet, we still have a way to go for full equality; and, we continue to whisper about the continuing denials we suffer.

Some of us have a degree of power over other women and men from underrepresented groups. While we may justifiably whisper about how others and systematic racism and sexism are wronging us, individuals that we women have power over may be whispering about each of us who have some taste of power and about our participation in systems that oppress.

First: Let’s recognize we are all the same

I have suffered from nightmares every since I was a 6-year-old girl, black, economically struggling, chunky, what some called nappy haired, dark sinned, in Mississippi, attending all black then almost all white schools, and my existence seemingly just being a whisper in a place crowded with maleness and whiteness. Even as an adult I tuck myself in at bedtime and I hope for rest

but frequently the nightmares come...with a recurring message that I do not belong.

A few months ago I dreamt once again that I was a slave, trying to escape and getting away but finding no place of safety. In this most recent dream, there was a whole group of us – some white women, some black women and other women of color, some black men and other men of color, and a few white men who I could tell were one of us in some kind of kinship.

But while we varied, in the dream the symbol was that we were all the same...the whispered representation was that we were all black slaves. I woke puzzled...and it came to me...the vestiges of enslavement and persecution toward black men and women is what we all still suffer...we are all still in the same system that held some enslaved.

Even during Women’s History Month, women of all colors, including white women, still struggle because we are all still trying to excel within a supremacist structure. Until we figure out what we can do to reassemble the structure, we will all, though different, still struggle.

This is an important point even for black women. Some of us may think we are not affected by supremacy, because of our education or positions, or because we do not live in the city, or because we

see ourselves as better than some other blacks. But as the nightmare made the point – as black women we are still struggling within a supremacist structure.

Second: Going old school to better explain

I don’t have the language to tell you that we (even oppressed women) have become participants in a structure that minimizes deserving people who are also female, of color, or we perceive as being non-elite or lacking class. So I am going to explain it with the only option I have left. I am going to go old school.

Way back in the 1970s, classic soul music singer Shirley Brown sang a heart wrenching song called “Woman to Woman.” (Later today pull it up on your electronic devices and have a listen.) In that song one woman calls another on the phone and part of what she says is this:

“Hello, may I speak to Barbara

Barbara, this is Shirley

You might not know who I am

But the reason I am calling you is because

I was going through my old

man’s pockets this morning

And I just happened to find

your name and number

So woman to woman

I don’t think it’s being anymore

than fair

Then to call you and let you

know where I’m coming from

... it’s only fair that I let you

know

That the man you’re in love with, he’s mine”

What a song?! Now that man obviously did not belong to Shirley, nor did he belong to Barbara. But they fought over the pieces of him – one woman trying to outdo the other for his affection, neither winning him as his affection was fleeting.

So I want to talk to you for a minute here: woman to woman. The man we are fighting over is white male supremacy and it does not belong to any one of us. It does not belong to white women, black men, certainly not black women regardless of economic class, or poor white folks. The taste of power from momentarily feeling supreme over another is fleeting. Though a women’s position or authority may give her a glimpse or a high of supremacy for a second, she ultimately will lose out and join the rest of us in our whispers about our losses and oppression.

So woman to woman, what can we do? My recommendation is simple. As women we do have some power, but we must use it. Face ourselves and see our commonalities with all those that we may think we are better than. And, day by day relinquish the ongoing battle with each other to have fleeting moments of supremacy that keeps us living in whispers.

Trump-Kim Jong-un meeting could make war less likely

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



Donald Trump is taking a lot of heat for his snap decision to talk face to face with Kim Jong-un of North Korea. His aides caution that the meeting may never take place, that concrete conditions must be met for it to happen.

Conservative pundits and foreign policy pundits fret that Trump has given Kim recognition that North Korean dictators have sought for decades in exchange for a mere promise to pause missile and nuclear tests. Republican Sen. Corey Gardner calls for “concrete, verified steps towards denuclearization before this meeting occurs.”

Even Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren describes a face-to-face meeting as “a win for them. It legitimizes, in their view, their dictatorship and legitimizes their nuclear weapons program.” Admittedly, President Trump’s sudden agreement is a head-spinning reversal of direction from schoolyard taunts and threats of war to an agreement to meet and talk.

But I would rather Trump and Kim talk to each other than threaten each other with war and nuclear weapons. It may be that Kim craves the recognition and Trump the flattery, but these caricatures

are irrelevant. Whether they agree to agree or agree to disagree, their meeting can make war less likely. I have always believed that one can talk without conditions toward an agreement with concrete and verifiable conditions.

The notion that Kim will give up his nuclear weapons program as a precondition to any talk is a nonstarter, a recipe for increasing tensions and escalating crisis. It is time to get real. North Korea is a dictatorship and an impoverished country, crippled by a failed economic system and harsh international sanctions. It is also a nuclear power, in possession of 20 to 60 nuclear weapons. It has sustained its nuclear weapons program in the face of immense international pressure.

After George Bush named it part of the “axis of evil” with Iraq and Iran, North Korean leaders had every reason to believe that nuclear weapons – and their ability to destroy South Korea’s capital with conventional weapons – were essential to deter any attack on them. Kim no doubt noticed when the U.S. and its allies took out Libya’s Muammar Gaddafi after he got rid of his nuclear weapons.

There is no rational military “solution” to North Korea’s nuclear arsenal. An attack by the U.S. is unimaginable, with millions of lives in South Korea at risk. Threats and juvenile taunts

about having a bigger nuclear button only ratchet up tensions. Escalating and ever more aggressive military exercises only increase the possibility of a war by miscalculation. This opening comes from the initiative of South Korea’s president, Moon Jae-in, who has worked tirelessly to lessen tensions between North and South and to broker a meeting with U.S. and North Korean officials.

He embraced North Korea’s participation in the winter Olympics. Kim sent his sister with an invitation to a summit. While Vice President Mike Pence startled Koreans with his lack of manners and hard line at the Olympics, President Moon responded positively, dispatching envoys to North Korea to continue the talks and begin to arrange a summit. At that meeting, Kim stunned the diplomats by saying that he was open to talking with the Americans about his nuclear program, willing to suspend nuclear and missile testing to open the way for talks without insisting that the U.S. and South Korea suspend their joint military exercises that have always been a source of tension.

This caught the U.S. by surprise. We have no ambassador in South Korea. The State Department’s top diplomat in charge of North Korea policy, Joseph Yun, recently retired. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was essentially out of the loop when Trump made his

snap decision to agree to a meeting. Can the talks take us from the edge of co-annihilation to the possibility of co-existence? That’s surely unknown. The hermetic kingdom of North Korea is one of the most closed countries in the world. It is separated from the world by a wall, so it lives in the shadows, which allows propaganda, fear, lies and rumor to define reality. It will take more than one summit to resolve this crisis.

South Korea’s president will meet with Kim before Trump does. Trump and Moon would be wise to suspend this spring’s U.S.-South Korean military exercises unilaterally, as a gesture of good will before the talks. Any agreement will meet formidable obstacles.

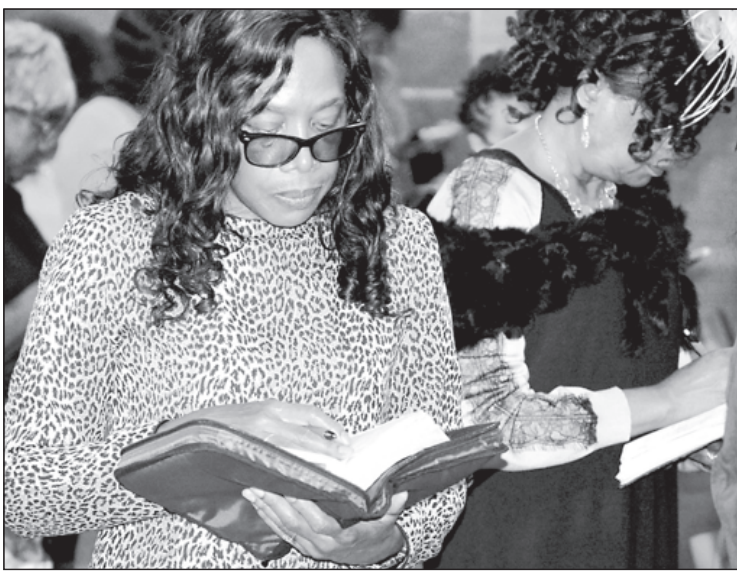
Could an agreement be verified, given North Korea’s fear of outside observers? Will the U.S. and its allies ease sanctions if Kim agrees to discontinue nuclear and missile tests, as a first step toward peaceful relations? What would be necessary to make North Korea confident that they won’t be attacked if they disarm?

One thing is clear. It is far better that Trump and Kim are moving toward talks rather than escalating threats. Negotiations are preferable to name calling and missile rattling. Trump’s decision to accept Kim’s offer was characteristically impulsive, abrupt and unbriefed.

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Students, families devote spring break to learning and worship during Church of God in Christ 2018 “The Heart of Leadership” Conference and Workers Meeting



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Students and families from across Central Mississippi spent one day of spring break learning how to be effective leaders and advance their local communities. The Mississippi Southern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ (MSFEJ COGIC) hosted its annual Leadership Conference March 12 at the Mississippi e-Center at Jackson State University, 1230 Raymond Road, Jackson, Mississippi. The one-day seminar was designed to provide valuable

learning and networking opportunities for persons of all ages. “This year’s conference focused on feeding the entire body of Christ with an earnest and diligent passion to empower the Christian Lifestyle,” said Missionary Ada McGill, conference coordinator. “We talked about health, the importance of loving and caring for yourself, financial literacy and so much more. We provided our youth with a tour of the Mississippi History and Civil Rights Museums.” The conference speakers and their topics included: Plenary Speaker

- Freda M. Bush, MD, FA-COG, president, Medical Institute Plenary
- “A Healthy You” Concurrent Workshops
- Edward Clark III, IYD Collegiate Campus Ministry
- “Straight Talk with Millennials”
- Bishop Robert G. Rudolph Jr. Adjutant General, COGIC, Inc.
- “Protocol and Order”
- Elder Billy R. Brown, Pharm.D., director, MS Southern Christian Educational Ministry
- Key Note Speaker
- Concurrent Workshop

- John and Barbara Sanders, Life Coach
- “Leadership Essentials, Loving, Caring and Sharing” (1:30 pm)
- Josephus Shepherd, C.P.A., National Trustee Board Member, COGIC, Inc.
- “Leadership Financial Integrity”
- The conference was part of the MSFEJ COGIC’s 2018 Workers Meeting. The week-long meeting was held at Davis Temple COGIC, 1700 Dalton Street, Mississippi, and featured a musical along with both day and evening worship services.

Virginia College in Jackson to host Career Fair March 28

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Virginia College in Jackson will host a Career Fair Wednesday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the campus located at 5841 Ridgewood Road. The event is free and open to the public and will feature career development opportunities, refreshments, giveaways and a resume workshop.

Also, event attendees 18 and older can enter to win prizes such as a Chromebook or four \$25 gift cards. Members of the community planning to attend must register with the campus prior to the event by calling 601-977-0960.

The event is part of Virginia College parent company Education Corporation of America’s national Career Fair events being held at 69 other Brightwood College, Brightwood Career Institute, Golf Academy of America, Ecotech Institute and Virginia College locations throughout 19 states.

What: Virginia College Career Fair

When: Wednesday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Virginia College in Jackson - 5841 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

Phone: 601-977-0960

“Hosting a Career Fair presents such a valuable opportunity for students, local employers and community members,” says Campus President Milton Anderson. “In today’s job market, networking is becoming increasingly valuable, and we are eager to help facilitate these

professional connections. We are grateful for the opportunity to invest in our community and in the Jackson job market with this career development event.”

Community partners and local employers representing government agencies, HVAC employers, banks and healthcare businesses will be present at the Career Fair.

The event will also allow attendees to explore the programs offered through Virginia College, including: Business Administration, Cosmetology, Medical Assistant, Medical Billing and Coding, Medical Office Specialist, Network and System Administration, Network Support Technician, Pharmacy Technician, HVAC-R Technician and Surgical Technology.

For more information about Virginia College in Jackson, call 601-977-0960 or visit <https://vc.edu/jackson>.

About Virginia College and Education Corporation of America

Education Corporation of America (ECA) is a leader in the postsecondary career school market with 70 locations and a current enrollment of over 30,000 students. ECA holdings include Virginia College, Golf Academy of America, Ecotech Institute, Brightwood Career Institute and Brightwood College. Holdings also include the fully online New England College of Business which is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Mississippi State Board of Education changes March meeting date

WHO: The Mississippi State Board of Education

WHAT: The Board’s regularly scheduled meeting date and time for March has been changed.

WHEN: The new meeting date is Wednesday, March 21 at 10 a.m.

WHERE: Central High School Building, Board Room – 4th floor

Community Shred Days announced

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippians who need to shred sensitive documents should pack them up, as four cities across the state will soon hold the annual Community Shred Days.

Attorney General Jim Hood announced the 12th annual event, which is an opportunity for consumers to better protect themselves against identity theft. Shred Days coincides with National

Consumer Protection Week. The events will be held March 16 in Hattiesburg, and March 17 in D’Iberville at the locations below:

Friday, March 9th JACKSON The Home Depot 6325 I-55 North Starting at 7:30 am – 2:00 pm** TUPELO Wal-Mart Supercenter 3929 N. Gloster Street Starting at 8:00 a.m. – noon**
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Friday, March 16th HATTIESBURG Wal-Mart Supercenter 6072 US Hwy 98 Starting at 8:00 am – noon**	Saturday, March 17th D’IBERVILLE Wal-Mart Supercenter 3615 Sangani Boulevard Starting at 8:00 am – noon**
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**We will be onsite at each location’s start time until the truck at that location is full.

Participants may bring up to three bags or boxes of sensitive documents (paper only) to be shredded at no charge. This service is first-come, first-served, and it is not open to businesses. A shredding truck will remain at each location until the truck is full or the scheduled end time, whichever occurs first.

Hood reminds consumers that simple things, such as taking out the garbage, can expose them to identity theft. Consumers should shred receipts, pre-approved credit offers, or convenience checks that haven’t been used, as well as other documents that may

contain sensitive material. Additional partners include: AARP, BancorpSouth, Better Business Bureau, Brightview Federal Credit Union, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, EPL Inc., Eagle Express Federal Credit Union, The Home Depot, Iron Mountain, Jackson Area Federal Credit Union, Members Exchange Credit Union, Mississippi Credit Union Association, Mississippi Federal Credit Union, Mississippi Public Service Commission, Mississippi State University Extension Service, North Mississippi Rural Legal Services,

Premiere Shredding, Inc., Secretary of State’s Office, Statewide Federal Credit Union, Sunbelt Federal Credit Union, TAGMA, Triangle Federal Credit Union, Trustmark Bank, Wal-Mart and other Mississippi Consumer Partnership members. For more information about protecting your identity, visit www.agjimhood.com. Any questions or concerns can be addressed by the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division at 601-359-4230, toll free at 1-800-281-4418, or by email at aginfo@ago.state.ms.us



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LEGAL

City of Jackson/Office of Transportation Annual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal

In accordance with the regulations of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), 49 CFR Part26, the City of Jackson/Office of Transportation has created a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. It is the policy of the City of Jackson/Office of Transportation to create a level playing field on which DBEs can complete fairly for USDOT assisted contracts, as defined in Part 26. In accordance to the required process and the latest Census Data, the City of Jackson/Office of Transportation proposes an annual overall DBE participation goal of 3.99 percent (3.99%). The City of Jackson/Office of Transportation will also impose project goals where applicable. The proposed overall goal and its rationale are available for inspection from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday in the Office of Transportation for 30 days following the date of publication of this notice. Comments on the proposed annual goal will be accepted by the City of Jackson/Office of Transportation and USDOT's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Division 45 days from the date of publication of this notice. Comments should be directed to Christine F. Welch, Deputy Director of the Office of Transportation, at 1785 Highway 80 W, Jackson, MS 39204; the phone number is 601-960-1887.

3/8/18 3/15/18 3/22/18 3/29/18 4/5/18

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

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

1995 Chevrolet – 2GCEC19K8S1134253

Registered to Willams Bernard
Mid South Auto Sales of Canton, Financial, Lien Holder

Date of Sale: March 30, 2018

Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.

Time: 10:00 A.M.

3/8/18, 3/15/18, 03/22/18

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

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

2007 Merz L55 WDDDJ72X77A098875
Registered to Durr Meganr
Magnolia Federal Credit Union, Financial, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: March 16, 2018

Place of Sale:
Archie Towing Services;
6700 Medgar Evers Blvd.,
Jackson, MS 39213

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.

Time: 10:00 A.M.

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Three-Year Overall Goal & Goal Methodology for Federal Fiscal Years 2018-2020

This announcement will serve as notice of the City of Jackson's Office of Transportation Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Overall Goal of 3.99% for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – funded contracts. The overall goal is for a three-year period from October 1, 2017 (Federal Fiscal Year 2018) through September 30, 2020 (Federal Fiscal Year 2020). The City's Office of Transportation will achieve 3.99% of its overall goal utilizing race-conscious measures. The overall goal is expressed as a percentage of FTA funds that the City's Office of Transportation projects to expend for the triennial goal period. The goal methodology used is in accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) DBE Final Rule, 49 Code of Federal Regulation, Part 26. The triennial goal is established to achieve a "level playing field" for DBEs to participate in the Office of Transportation FTA-assisted contracting opportunities.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

A public consultation meeting will be held with stakeholders, which include minority and women business groups, community organizations, trade associations, and other officials or organizations that may have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged business and comments on the DBE overall goal and goal methodology.

Friday, March 16, 2018
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Warren A Hood Building
200 S President Street
Andrew Jackson Conference Room, 1st Floor
Jackson, MS 39201

Point of contact: Marilyn Guice, Transportation Planning Manager
City of Jackson – Office of Transportation
601-960-0864
mguice@jacksonms.gov

Upon request, foreign language translation, sign language interpretation, materials in alternative formats and other accommodations are available to the public for the City of Jackson, Office of Transportation sponsored meetings and events. All requests for reasonable accommodations must be made at least three working days (72 hours) in advance of the scheduled meeting date. Please telephone 601-960-0864 between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Individuals with hearing or speech impairment may use Mississippi Rely Service 711.

Notice Posted: March 1, 2018

3/8/18, 3/15/18

CLASSIFIED



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JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
FOR
CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES
IN CONNECTION WITH
THE UPPER TERMINAL ROADWAY REHABILITATION
AT THE
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JMAA
PROJECT NO. 011-17)

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") will receive sealed bids at the Jackson- Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN"), Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, in the City of Jackson, Rankin County, Mississippi, until 2:00 p.m. central time on April 20, 2018 (the "Bid Deadline"), for construction and related services in connection with the Upper Terminal Roadway Rehabilitation at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

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

The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the Bidder's company name and Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number and with the wording: "Upper Terminal Roadway Rehabilitation at JAN, JMAA Project No. 011-17." Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received by JMAA after the Bid Deadline will not be considered for any cause whatsoever. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

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

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

Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport
Suite 300, Main Terminal Building
100 International Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39208
Telephone: (601) 939-5631 ext. 662
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
AUTHORITY FOR CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED WORK IN
CONNECTION WITH TERMINAL UPGRADES FOR EAST AND WEST
CONCOURSES AT THE JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JMAA PROJECT NO. 002-17)

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") will receive sealed bids at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN"), Main Terminal Building, Suite 300, in the City of Jackson, Rankin County, Mississippi, until 2:00 p.m. central time on April 13, 2018 (the "Bid Deadline"), for construction and related Work in connection with the Terminal Upgrades for the East and West Concourses at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids at 2:05 p.m. central time on April 13, 2018 (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN.

The outside or exterior of each bid envelope or container of the bid must be marked with the Bidder's company name and Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number and with the wording: "Terminal Upgrades for East and West Concourses at JAN, JMAA Project No. 002-17." Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received by JMAA after the Bid Deadline will not be considered for any cause whatsoever. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

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

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

Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport
Suite 300, Main Terminal Building
100 International Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39208
Telephone: (601) 360-8661
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713
Attention: Deuntagus Herndon, Procurement Specialist

To receive a digital copy of the Bid Documents (including plans and technical specifications for the Work) at no cost, email amjenkins@ajaservices.com.

Attention: Deuntagus Herndon, Procurement Specialist

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

AJA Management & Technical Services, Inc. 912 North West Street
Jackson, MS 39202
Telephone: (601) 352-6800
Facsimile: (601) 352-6807 Email: ajenkins@ajaservices.com

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

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 2:00 p.m. central time on March 28, 2018 in the Community Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference.

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

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

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 22% for the Work solicited by this RFB. JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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

3/15/18 3/18/18

To receive a printed copy of the Bid Documents (including plans and specifications for the Work) may be obtained upon payment of a \$250.00 refundable fee per set. Bid documents must be returned to the printer in useable condition for purchase cost to be refunded. The Printer reserves the right to determine quality of plans upon return. Payment for the bid documents is to be in the form of a company or cashier's check made payable to AJA Management & Technical Work, Inc. The check may be presented upon pick-up of the Bid Documents at the following address or may be mailed to the following address:

AJA Management & Technical Work, Inc.
912 North West Street
Jackson, MS 39202
Telephone: (601) 352-6800
Facsimile: (601) 352-6807
Email: amjenkins@ajaservices.com

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

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 10:00 a.m. central time on March 21, 2018 in the Community Room, 314 Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting bids as a Prime Contractor for the Work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Contractor. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Contractors and Sub-Contractors, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Bid Conference; review of the plans and specifications; and a site visit of the area covered in the scope of work. No site visits will be scheduled other than the one provided during the Pre-Bid conference.

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

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

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 10% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
DATE: March 7, 2018
/s/ Carl D. Newman, A.A. E., Chief Executive Officer

3/8/18, 3/15/18

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1	5	2	4	7	9	3	6	8
6	7	9	5	3	8	4	2	1
2	8	3	6	9	7	5	1	4
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T H E O N L Y T I M E A W O M A N R E A L L Y

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3/8/2018, 3/15/2018, 3/23/2018, 3/29/2018

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DOLLAR GENERAL
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DOLLAR GENERAL
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DOLLAR GENERAL
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Week of March 11, 2018

Olive Branch’s D.J. Jeffries commits to Kentucky

chopsports

Fresh off his first state championship, D.J. Jeffries committed Monday night to the University of Kentucky. Jeffries had narrowed his college selections down to Kentucky, Alabama and Mississippi State. Many felt MSU was a long shot, but nonetheless, they were in the mix. Jeffries graduates in 2019.

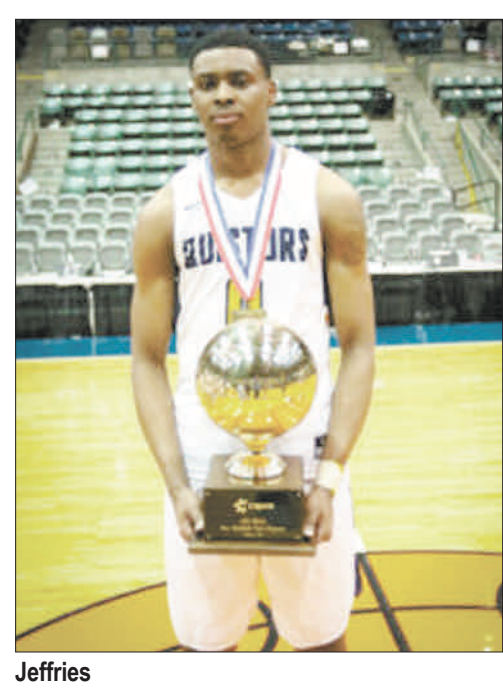
Committing early makes the transition to college smoother and takes the pressure off for a year. The 6’ 7” five star recruit is currently ranked #17 nationally by ESPN, #26 by 247 Sports, and has taken the reigns as the #1 player in Mississippi. Coach John Calipari came to the Mississippi Coliseum last week to

see him play. It is reportedly the second time coach Cal came this month.

Jeffries’ committing to UK early makes it easier for the coaching staff at UK to continue recruiting Jeffries AAU teammate, James Wiseman, the #1 overall player for 2019. Jeffries and Wiseman played on Penny Hardaway’s TEAM PENNY team that plays on the NIKE circuit.

Jeffries averaged 20.6 points, 7 rebounds, 2.6 blocks, and 3 assists per game during Olive Branch’s championship Big House run.

Olive Branch won the 3 games by at least 20 points, finishing the season with a 28-4 record.



Jeffries

New season, new coach, new trophy to add to the collection for Raymond



Shar'Darrion Allen lead the way with 29 points

chopsports

Hiring a new coach is tricky on all levels beginning from high school to the professional ranks. In high school new coaches may have to deal with seniors who may have been extremely loyal to their coach and do not want another coach. That’s typically the case if the coach was fired. When the coach leaves on his own, there is a sense of “What now?”



4A Boys State Championship with head coach Robert Green. Green is now the head coach for Clinton High School. That put Raymond in a position where it must defend its title with a new coach, not only a new coach, but a first time head coach.

Coach Tony Tadlock, was an assistant coach at Meridian

for over 5 years, including last year when Meridian won the 6A championship.

Coach Tadlock is a fiery, but strategic coach. There’s a method to the madness. Gaining the players’ respect had to be the first thing he did. Trust takes time, but over the course of the season, the team and coach began to gel.

Raymond ended the season on a 20 game win streak. Their defense and intensity and like their coach, their fiery but strategic demeanor helped them capture another gold ball.

It didn’t come easy. Corinth only trailed by 6 at the half and at the end of the third quarter, Corinth and Raymond were tied

at 38.

Fans cheered loudly as the 4th quarter began. Raymond turned up the defensive pressure. Teams traded baskets for a second, and then Raymond took the lead for good winning 64 to 52.

Coach Tadlock gets a personal back to back, one in Meridian last year and his first one as a

head coach this year.

The Raymond Rangers ended their season with 29 wins and 6 losses.

Shar'Darrion Allen also won back to back MVP awards. He scored 29 points to lead all scorers. Allen finished with 29 points and the Rangers finished with 29 wins. Seems rather fitting.

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

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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FILM REVIEW: “A WRINKLE IN TIME”

DAZZLING ADAPTATION OF BELOVED CHILDREN’S CLASSIC BROUGHT TO THE BIG SCREEN

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Madeleine L’Engle finished writing “A Wrinkle in Time” in 1960, but the escapist fantasy was rejected by over two dozen publishers before it finally captured the imagination of John Farrar, co-founder of Farrar, Straus and Giroux. In 1963, the groundbreaking, illustrated novel won the Newbery Medal for being the best children’s book of the year.

Four decades later, Disney eviscerated the magical masterpiece of its religious overtones in the process of turning it into a generic, made-for-TV kiddie movie devoid of allusions to Christianity. Even the author expressed her displeasure with the sanitized production, remarking, “I expected it to be bad, and it is.” You see, L’Engle, long-time writer-in-residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, had consciously laced the opus with lots of Biblical quotations.

Fast-forward 15 years, and we now find Disney mounting a big screen version of the beloved classic many consider unfilmable. That unenviable task fell to Ava DuVernay, director of Selma and the Oscar-nominated documentary, 13th.

DuVernay availed herself of state-of-the-art technology to create an eye-popping spectacular designed to enthrall young and old alike. She also cast the message movie in colorblind fashion.

The original ensemble only had a single, non-white member, Alfre Woodard. Compare that to the reboot which features an ethnic rainbow reflective of the direction in which the browning nation has been rapidly heading. Though the film has its spiritual moments, they are more universal in nature as opposed to pushing a Christian agenda.

The basic plotline sounds anything but faith-based. In 25 words or less, the story is about a brother

(Deric McCabe), sister (Storm Reid) and friend (Levi Miller) who time-travel to distant universes with the help of a trio of astral travelers played by Oprah, Mindy Kaling and Reese Witherspoon.

The kids are searching for the siblings’ scientist father (Chris Pine) who went missing several years earlier. Along the way, they learn some big life lessons about what really matters in life.

An overblown, intergalactic saga certain to tug on your heart-strings during unapologetically-sentimental breaks in the action.

Very Good (3 stars)

Rated PG for peril and mature themes

Running time: 109 minutes

Production Studios: Whitaker Entertainment / Walt Disney Pictures

Distributor: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

Sudoku

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

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

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Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by Natalie Wood

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

C Y N R W U Z C F S N P Q R S P W G N P U U Z
S M A O O N N D M S F W O Y P W J F W J P S P W
S F M Q Y N W Y N F M P L P L Z

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)

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BOOK REVIEW:

“DOWN THE RIVER
UNTO THE SEA”

BY WALTER MOSLEY

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ByTerri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Something’s wrong.

It may look just fine, but you know better. Call it intuition, call it plain-as-day, but there’s something off, something not-quite-right about a situation and it’s gotten under your skin. You can’t ignore it and you can’t let it be. As in the new novel, “Down the River Unto the Sea” by Walter Mosley, it’s time to set things right.

The last thing Joe King Oliver needed was that letter.

Joe was already skittish and uneasy in his own skin, and he

certainly didn’t trust very readily. That’s what happens when you’re wrongly accused of a crime but you spend ninety days in Riker’s anyway, in solitary confinement, listening to other men scream, waiting to be killed. Yes, though that all happened more than a decade ago, it still simmered in Joe Oliver’s soul.

But that letter.

It came from a woman who wrote that her name was Beatrice but she was Nathali Malcolm once, long ago, when she was coerced into setting him up...when her lies and accusations sent an innocent man to prison.

Through the years, Joe couldn’t figure out why it happened, let alone who’d done it. He left Riker’s broken, with a lost marriage, a lost NYPD job... just lost. Weeks after his release, his only friend stepped in quietly and helped Joe with a PI business, and that’s where Joe was when he read the letter.

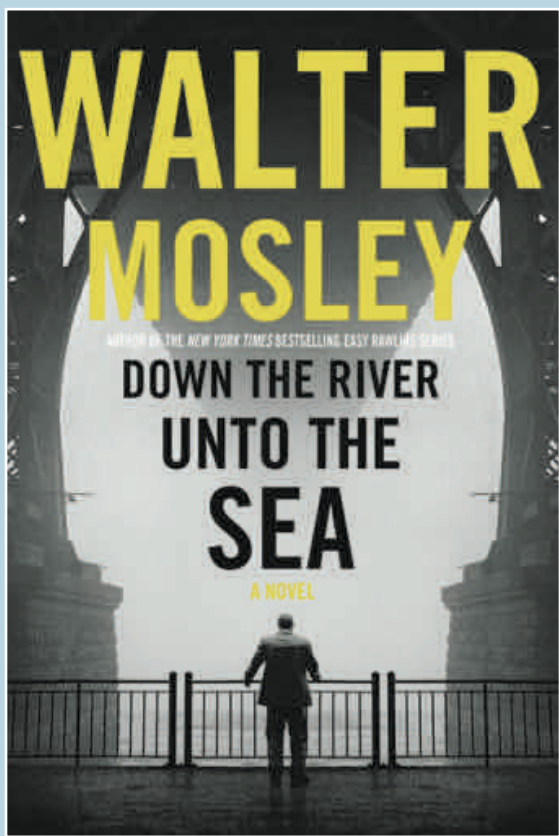
He didn’t want revenge – not completely, anyhow – but he did want his name cleared. This letter could do that, just as it could stir up a thousand bad dreams. So when a beautiful woman came to his office with a suitcase full of money and a story of an activist

who was railroaded straight to jail for a double-cop-homicide, the time seemed right to fix a few wrongs.

But the more Joe looked at his case and that of the activist, the more he saw similarities he couldn’t ignore. In solving one injustice, could he solve another? And was it safer to trust a real demon, than to live with the demons in his life?

Here’s the thing I love best about Walter Mosley novels: the main characters are solid. You feel like you could lean on them all day, and they’d never budge.

That’s Joe King Oliver, and



that’s “Down the River Unto the Sea.”

And yet, there’s wiggle room in this book: Mosley doesn’t destroy readers’ fun by telling who done it in this noir whodunit. Instead, we’re allowed the same dawning realization that Mosley’s Joe has, and that just sharpens the gasping you’ll do while reading. Add a swirl of street-darkness, a few soulless charac-

ters and some clueless ones, a bit of pure evil, and you’ll be turning pages far, far into the night.

This is one of those books that leaves you a little breathless – not only while you’re reading, but once the back cover’s closed, too.

For anyone who loves hard-bit-ten PI thrillers, reading “Down to the River Unto the Sea” couldn’t be more right.

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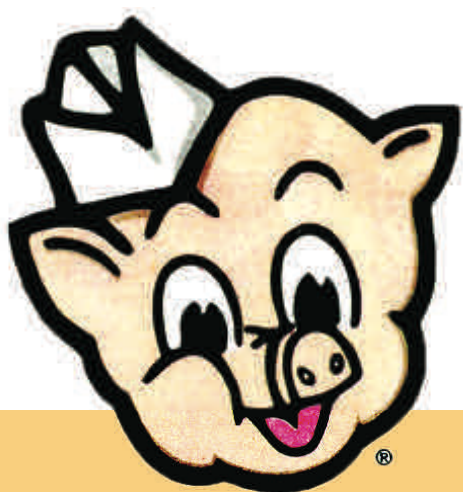
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