


WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba and First Lady Ebony Lumumba are proud to announce the birth of their second daughter, Nubia Ngozi (Beautiful Blessing) Lumumba to the world. Nubia was born Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 8:09 a.m., weighing 8 lbs and 1 ounce. Both mom and baby are doing well.



Sorority member Mitzi Dease Paige named South Eastern regional director



Paige

Paige elected to historic international sorority position

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, is proud to announce that Mitzi Dease Paige will serve as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated's next South Eastern regional director. Soror Paige, a life member of the sorority and member of Beta Delta Omega (BDO) Chapter, was elected March 3, 2018, during the 86th South Eastern Regional Conference held in Nashville, Tennessee.

The South Eastern Region is comprised of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Paige, a third generation member of the sorority, was initiated in 1982 into Mu Pi Chapter at Spelman College. She has served at the local, cluster, regional and international levels during her initiation. Most recently, Paige served as the South Eastern representative to the International Membership Committee. She also served as president of BDO Chapter 1997 and 1998.

Professionally, Paige is an assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the South-



ern District of Mississippi. In 2015, she completed a four-year term as president of the Jackson MS Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated. She is also a past president and current treasurer of the Mississippi Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College. She is a member of Pearl Street A.M.E. Church.

Soror Paige joins three other sorority members who have served as South Eastern regional directors from the BDO chapter. In July, she will officially assume the role of South Eastern regional director during the 68th annual convention in Houston, Texas.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was founded on the cam-

Paige
Continued on page 3

Nissan Canton celebrated 4-million milestone in vehicle production



Phil Calhoun, senior director, Manufacturing Operations, Nissan Canton; Heath Holtz, senior vice president, Manufacturing Supply Chain Management and Purchasing, Nissan North America; Steve Marsh, vice president, Manufacturing, Canton Vehicle Assembly; Dr. William Truly, mayor of Canton; Shervetta Leflore, executive director, Our Daily Bread Ministries; State Rep. Corey Wilson; Morris Poynter, 35-year employee Nissan North America

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Nissan North America celebrated production of four million vehicles at its Canton assembly plant Monday, and announced the addition of a second shift that will create or retain 250 hourly jobs to support increasing demand for the NV Commercial Vans. This announcement comes on the heels of the vehicle manufacturing plant celebrating 15 years of

being in Mississippi.

To commemorate the celebration, Nissan presented the vehicle – a 2018 NV Cargo – to Our Daily Bread Ministries, a Madison County nonprofit organization with a mission to bring awareness to healthy eating and aid in hunger relief in the community.

“Adding a second shift for NV Van production underscores our employees’ hard

work and dedication to building world class, quality vehicles for our customers,” said Steve Marsh, vice president, Manufacturing, Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant. “Supporting community organizations like Our Daily Bread Ministries is extremely important to Nissan and our investment in Central Mississippi, and we are delighted to include this donation in the celebration

of our 4 millionth vehicle.”

Nissan has grown the Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant from a regional manufacturing facility to a global one, investing \$3.4 billion in the facility since its opening in 2003. Nissan employs 6,400 at the Canton plant, with more than 1,500 jobs added since 2013. With an annual capacity of 450,000 ve-

Nissan
Continued on page 3

Juanita Sims Doty receives the Dred Scott Freedom Award in St. Louis for National Service to Youth

The Mississippi Link Newswire

On March 18, 2018, the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation held its 2nd Dred Scott Freedom Awards Dinner honoring Harriet and Dred Scott for their bravery, conviction and actions which ultimately contributed to freedom for the African race. This event was also in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which overturned the Dred Scott decision.

During this awards program, Juanita Sims Doty received the Dred Scott Freedom Award for National Service to Youth. She is chairman of the Board of the Juanita Sims Doty Foundation (JSDF).

In addition to her national service work with many organizations, she was honored for her work with the Ambassadors of the Evers Academy for African-American Males (A-TEAM) initiative – a mentoring program for middle school males of color. This leadership and charac-



Juanita Sims Doty (3rd from left) received the Dred Scott Freedom Award for her work with the A-TEAM initiative.

ter development program is in partnership with the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute which has provided mentors for over 500 males of color across the country.

In addition to six sites in Canton, Jackson and Meridian, Miss., there are 12 additional sites located in Houston, San Antonio, E. St. Louis, Cincinnati, Chicago, Raleigh and Louisville, Ky.

The Top Ladies of Distinc-

tion (TLOD) National Service organization partners with the JSD Foundation to implement A-TEAM TLOD.

During the awards ceremony, one of the ambassadors from the A-TEAM TLOD E. St. Louis chapter accompanied Doty to accept the National Service Award.

Ambassador Gregory Lawary has written an essay to be included in a hard bound book that will be released in June. A

total of 130 ambassadors from across the country have written essays to be included in this book: I!CAN Imagine: Voices of A-TEAM Young Authors-2nd Edition. These 130 ambassadors will become Young Authors during the A-TEAM National Youth Leadership Summit which will be held June 8-10, 2018 at the Westin, celebrating the 5th year anniversary of

Doty
Continued on page 3



Is Head Start still relevant? What is the impact of it in Mississippi? How can you help? Answers to these questions and more next week: Inside Mississippi's Head Start Program

Book Review:
All the Women
in My Family
Sing



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MINACT with a nationwide footprint

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi's premiere African American owned business with a nationwide footprint – MINACT, INC. was honored by the Mississippi Senate March 20, with presentation of Senate Concurrent Resolution 694 that highlighted the company's successes over 40 years in which it has excelled beyond beliefs, thanks to the vision, hard work and dedication of founder and President Booker T. Jones, who incorporated the company in 1978 and was inducted into the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame in May 2007.

Regarding MINACT's revenue, the company generated \$109 million in contracts in fiscal 2016, and earned \$1.1 billion

since 2007. It was incorporated in 1978.

MINACT, INC.'s emergence as a force in government procurements and the Jackson, Mississippi community was confirmed by the following awards: United States Department of Labor's "Outstanding Minority Contractor of the Year, 1989"; Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce's "Outstanding Business" awardee, 1991; National Job Corps Coalition, "Member of the Year"; 1997; Jackson Public Schools' "Golden Achievement Award" for outstanding partnership with Green Elementary School, 2002; Adopt-a-School Program; and Respect Our Black Dollar's "Sankofa Employer of the Year" Award, 2017.



MINACT INC., Founder and President Booker T. Jones holds Senate Concurrent Resolution 694 as employees, friends and associates stand with him. Supporters from left include: Senator Juan Barnett, Senators Hillman T. Frazier, Willie Simmons, Albert Butler and Robert L. Jackson, former Supreme Court Justice Reuben Anderson, retired Adjutant General Leon Collins, Senator John Horhn, primary author of the resolution, Senator David L. Jordan and Senator Sollie B. Norwood.

Miss. Southern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction COGIC Inaugural Banquet honoring Bishop Daniel Littleton

Hilton Hotel • Jackson, Miss. • Feb. 24, 2018

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



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Paige

Continued from page 1



Sorors of Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

pus of Howard University January 15, 1908. It remains committed to “Service to All Mankind” by providing community outreach to neighboring communities under the umbrella “Launching New Dimensions of Service.”

Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, international president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. developed a broad international program which focuses on educational enrichment, health pro-

motion, family strengthening, environmental ownership and global impact.

Chartered in 1934, Beta Delta Omega Chapter continues to make history with commitment, dedicated service and exceptional programming. It is through “service to all mankind” that the sorority will prosper and be an ever-present light in the community.

Doty

Continued from page 1

the A-TEAAM and Commemorating the 55th anniversary of the assassination of Medgar Evers. Myrlie Evers wrote the foreword for this Book.

Doty accepted this award on behalf of the many mentors and organizations who give of their time and talents to work with these middle school males. She also accepted the award on behalf of

the more than 500 ambassadors who have been a part of the A-TEAAM.

Lynne Jackson, great-great granddaughter of Dred Scott serves as president of the Dred Scott Foundation and Peggy Lewis LeCompte served as the Dred Scott Awards chairman.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Perella and Jarvis Smith and their son Jarrell were married Saturday March, 3, 2018 at Castle Hill Pavallion in Florence, Miss.

Nissan

Continued from page 1



NV Cargo Van

hicles, the plant currently builds the Nissan Altima, Murano, TITAN and TITAN XD, Frontier, NV Cargo Van and NV Passenger Van.

“The City of Canton congratulates Nissan on this outstanding achievement,” said Dr. William Truly, mayor of the City of Canton. “Milestones like these are not easily achieved, and we applaud the hardworking men and women of this facility who build great vehicles for the citizens of Canton and customers around the world.”

NV Commercial Vans

For 2018, both the NV Cargo and NV Passenger are available with a 375-horsepower 5.6-liter Endurance® V8 gasoline engine with a heavy-duty 7-speed automatic transmission. Both models are also offered with a fuel-efficient 261-horsepower 4.0-liter V6 with 5-speed automatic transmission.

Enhancements for 2018 include standard RearView Monitor, along with standard 5.0-inch color display audio, Bluetooth® Hands-free Phone System, Streaming Audio via Bluetooth®, Hands-

free Text Messaging Assistant and USB connection port for iPod interface and other compatible devices, for all models and grades.

All 2018 NV Cargo and NV Passenger models come with America’s Best Commercial Van Warranty – featuring bumper-to-bumper coverage of 5 years/100,000 miles, whichever comes first.

About Nissan North America

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

More information on Nissan in North America and the complete line of Nissan and Infiniti vehicles can be found online at www.nissanusa.com and www.infiniti-usa.com, or visit the U.S. media sites nissannews.com and infinitinews.com.

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North Ward Alderman Michael Mayfield, Sr.
South Ward Alderman Alex Monsour, Jr.

For more information, visit us at:
www.vicksburg.org/
www.facebook.com/CityofVicksburg/
livevicksburg.com/

Jim Hill High School Concert Choir Spring Benefit Concert



March 31, 2018
4:00p.m.

Lynch Street C.M.E. Church
2175 J.R. Lynch Street
Jackson, MS

Rev. Dr. Curtis L. West, Jr., Pastor

Donation: \$5

Flonzie “Goodloe” Brown-Wright honored

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Civil Rights trailblazer Flonzie “Goodloe” Brown-Wright of Farmhaven and Canton, was honored by the Mississippi Senate March 20, with presentation of Senate Concurrent 550 that commended her historic contributions, which include being the first African-American female elected to public office in Mississippi since Reconstruction. She was elected election commissioner in 1968. Concurrent 550 also commended her advocacy and contributions to humanity.



Flonzie Goodloe Brown-Wright accepts Senate Concurrent 550 from Senator John Horhn, primary author of the resolution while family and friends looked on. PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





**2018 Susan G. Komen
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APRIL 14, 2018 • Renaissance at Colony Park • 8:00 am
Register @ www.komenmemphis.org

DID YOU KNOW

African American women are diagnosed more often at later stages of breast cancer due in part to lack of resources? Join the fight and help women in your family and community. Register a team and fundraise now! 100% of funds raised from this event goes to breast health services, free mammograms, treatment and support services.



   /KomenCentralMS

To volunteer or register, call 866-475-6636 or visit us online at komenmemphis.org

Race for the Cure will offer a 5K and 10K (optional timing), kids fun run, space jumps, kids activities, komen village, a special survivor breakfast and music. This event is family friendly and gives you a chance to give back to your community.

Tougaloo College Convocation

Speaker Pam Junior • March 7, 2018

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Hajah Bell Ubadi: Port Gibson's top customer service queen

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
Contributing Writer

When the charming, charismatic, respectful and kind manager of Uncle Jacks/B.C. Corner, Jack Ubadi, passed away a few years ago; several residents of Port Gibson lamented the loss of this amiable business strategist and humanist, with extensive passion and compassion.

Today, another admirable manager and sales leader, Hajah Bell Ubadi has replaced the legend. She works hard, assists clients and inspires them to come back. She is a marvelous personality and an exceptional sales agent.

The beautiful and dutiful lady infuses a new lease of life into the business. Over the past two months, she has built a loyal clientele who flock into the store for basic needs. They come to meet, chat, listen to and learn from this customer service maestro.

An articulate communicator and linguist, she speaks fluent Arabic, Spanish and English.

Her cordial attitude, appreciation of clients, and over the top enthusiasm to serve attracts customers to revisit Uncle Jacks.

Born in Yemen, like the rest of her family, she grew up in California. She graduated from Delano High School in Delano, California. She also attended Bakersfield College where she studied criminal justice. She is an Alcoholic and Narcotics (NAA/NA) counselor.



Hajah Bell Ubadi with her children.

Bell is the daughter of the late Jack and Kamelah Ubadi. Married to Mansour Zokari, they are parents of Kaid, Layla and Jannah. She also has six sisters and four brothers.

Bell says her major objective is to fulfill customers' demands. "As soon as any shopper enters the store, I welcome them, and strive to satisfy and encourage them so that they leave the premises with a broad smile. My intention is to assist them efficiently so that they will always come back. This is their store. I want them to feel as if my dad is still present because he loved the people of Port Gibson."

Bell says, "Port Gibson is a great city with kind and

friendly people. It is one of the best cities in America where people are thoughtful and helpful. Many people are pleasant and hard working."

Her goal is to make the store one of the best in the entire state and even country, through excellent service. She welcomes all clients who patronize the store and wants them to always feel welcomed.

Her co-workers are Nagi, Kita and Dre. The store which is also a bus station, offers soft drinks, juices, coffee, hot chocolate, tea, biscuits, candies, baked goods cards and cigarettes. It sells newspapers, notably, *The Reveille*, *Vicksburg Post* and *Clarion Ledger*.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

Hinds County School District hosts annual awards and appreciation breakfast!

The HCSD hosted its second annual awards and appreciation breakfast for its employees recently. The recognition event is designed to recognize and award those employees with five, ten, fifteen, twenty and twenty five years of services to the HCSD.



Jackie Clark, administrative assistant / GRE and Superintendent Delescia Martin




Rosie Griffin, purchasing and travel specialist / Central Office and Superintendent Delescia Martin



Board President Linda Laws speaking



Employees from across the district attend the event.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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- Civil/Criminal Filings of Circuit and County Court
- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

VOTER INFORMATION

- You must be registered to vote thirty (30) days before an election.
- Verify and/or Update your Voter Registration Today

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$22.00 CASH ONLY
 - o Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
 - o Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

JPS Job Fair

Jackson Public Schools is hosting a Districtwide Job Fair Saturday, March 24, 2018, from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. at Cardozo Middle School located at 3180 McDowell Road Ext.

Signing bonuses of \$2,500 will be paid to secondary teachers with a one-year commitment to teach in core subject areas (English, math, science and social studies.) Bonuses are subject to the availability of funds.

Positions are also available in food service, facilities and transportation.

To apply for vacancies, visit www.jackson.k12.ms.us/Employment or contact the Office of Human Resources at (601) 960–8745.

2018 Athletic Signing Day

Asst. coach Antoine Bourne, signee Kristopher Bateaste and head coach Wade Calcote

Head coach Korian Padget and senior athlete Destinie Jackson

Head coach Michael Ashford and signees Jermichael Howard, Isaac Gibson and Jacoby Walker

Head coach Tangela Banks and signee Nya Irvin

JPS partnerships honored with MAPE Governor's Awards

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Association of Partners in Education recognized Mississippi's top school-community partnerships at the 16th Annual Governor's Awards Luncheon held February 27. The luncheon is part of activities planned for the Mississippi Education Partnership Conference. The two-day conference agenda includes keynote speakers, exclusive workshops and partnership training.

MAPE awarded 18 school-community partnership programs that have produced outstanding results for students in K-12 public schools throughout Mississippi.

Three partnerships in Jackson Public Schools were recognized:

Elementary Governor's Awards

North Jackson Elementary with Pepsi Brown Bottling Group – Programs to support reading and math proficiency, honor roll achievement, attendance and citizenship.

Spann Elementary with Comcast, Junior League of Jackson, Bellwether Church, Jackson Rotary Club, Northminster Baptist and Raising Cane's #30 – "Project #Rise-Up" to improve technology and literacy resources.

District and Community-Wide Governor's Awards

Mississippi Community Symphonic Band / Mississippi Swing! Big Band and Siwell Middle, Northwest Jackson Middle, Chastain Middle and Davis Elementary and Pelahatchie High School (Rankin County School District) – Instrument drive for band students.

PREPS Value-Added Awards

Seven JPS schools were also recognized for educational performance on state tests. The Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools (PREPS, Inc.) presented these schools with 2018 Value-Added Awards.

MAPE presented the conference in partnership with Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools, Inc. (PREPS).

Governor's Award presentation to North Jackson Elementary and Pepsi Brown Bottling Group. MAPE President Maggie Stevens presented the awards.

Governor's Award presentation to Spann Elementary, Comcast, Junior League of Jackson, Bellwether Church, Jackson Rotary Club, Northminster Baptist and Raising Cane's

Governor's Award presentation to Mississippi Community Symphonic Band / Mississippi Swing! Big Band and Siwell Middle, Northwest Jackson Middle, Chastain Middle and Davis Elementary and Pelahatchie High School in the Rankin County School District

Presentation of PREPS Value Added Awards to Casey, Davis Magnet, Power APAC and McWillie Elementary Schools, Bailey APAC and Northwest Jackson Middle Schools and Murrah High School

David Miller (left) and Jeff Carter (right) of the Mississippi Community Symphonic Band / Mississippi Swing Band! present a donation of instruments to Kirksey assistant band director Clincy Harris.

The Mississippi Link™

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Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival, Ezra Jack Keats Awards Ceremony April 11-13 at Southern Miss

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Children’s literature author and artist Dav Pilkey will share his work with students attending Hattiesburg elementary schools April 11-13, when he is honored during the 51st annual Fay B.Kaigler Children’s Book Festival at The University of Southern Mississippi. The event is presented by the Southern Miss School of Library and Information Sciences.

Pilkey, whose award-winning series Captain Underpants has cemented his stature as one of children’s literature’s most beloved authors and artists, will be recognized for his achievements at the festival with its top award, the Southern Miss Medallion. During his visit to the Hattiesburg campus, Pilkey will make a presentation to local school children April 11, and is waiving his speaking fee to provide free copies of his books to them at the event.

Also during the festival April 12, The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, in partnership with the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection at Southern Miss, will



Fay B. Kaigler 51st annual Children's Book Festival Medallion recipient Dav Pilkey PHOTO BY KAI SUZUKI

recognize the winners of the 32nd annual Ezra Jack Keats Book Award. Each year a writer and an illustrator are recognized early in their careers for their outstanding work.

“I couldn’t be happier with Medallion Winner Dav Pilkey and his generous offer to us and our local students,” said Karen Rowell, coordinator for the festival. “We expect more than 2,000 school children will attend his session, and we’re honored to have him coming to

Hattiesburg and USM.

“The way his work connects with reluctant readers supports the efforts of teachers and school librarians everywhere to promote reading; his books show children who otherwise might not be motivated to read how much fun it can be.”

Teresa Poole, associate superintendent of the Hattiesburg Public School District, expressed her gratitude on behalf of the district’s students, teachers and administrators for USM and Pilkey’s

support of its efforts to promote literacy.

“We’re very appreciative of Karen and the Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science for partnering with us,” Poole said. “Mr. Pilkey’s books are very popular with our elementary grade students, and I know they will be thrilled to meet one of their favorite authors.”

The festival will include many other prominent children’s literature authors and artists, who will make presentations about their work to the approximately 600 attendees expected at the event that will also feature workshops, exhibitors and vendors. A private showing of the Captain Underpants movie will also be held during the festival in the new Joe Paul Theater in the Thad Cochran Center, with Pilkey giving a special introduction for the movie.

For a complete schedule of events and other information about the 51st annual Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival, visit <https://www.usm.edu/childrens-book-festival> or contact Karen Rowell at karen.rowell@usm.edu.

Alcorn’s Extension Program, School of Agriculture set to host the Small Farmers Conference



The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Alcorn State University Extension Program, in conjunction with the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives’ Center for Cooperative Development, will host its annual Small Farmers Conference Monday, March 26 through Wednesday, March 28 at the Natchez Convention Center in Natchez, Mississippi.

This year’s event will focus on the theme, “Preserving Agriculture in the South: Innovating and Implementing Good Farming Practices.” The keynote speaker for the event will be M. Ray McKinne, dean and 1890 extension administrator for the College of Agriculture at Virginia State University.

According to Franklin Chukwuma, associate director for Extension, Alcorn State University School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, “The Conference is designed for both beginning and experienced farmers and ranchers, and will provide them with the latest information and research while offering opportunities to interface with experts.”

Participants will be exposed to new and innovative farming strategies and will attend sessions on common issues, marketing, financial resources, opportunities for women in business and much more.

Featured sessions will include “A Chat on the River” with Cornelius Blanding, executive director for the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Land Assistance Fund, and Jacqueline Davis-Slay, director of Public and Private Partnership, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The event will also feature mobile

learning sites at Alcorn State University’s Lorman campus, as well as at other local agricultural enterprises. An “Apollo on the Bluff” mixer will feature a networking experience with karaoke and cuisine.

A diversified group of stakeholders, state and federal professional service agencies, the University community, farmers and ranchers, women in business and various individuals from across the expanse of the agricultural industry will attend to spread their knowledge and expertise. According to Chukwuma, it’s all for a noble cause.

“Small farms are an important part of Mississippi’s economy. Through exposure to information, research and innovative strategies, this conference is poised to equip participants to develop, grow and sustain their agricultural enterprises.”

According to Gerald Jones, conference chair and director of county operations for the Alcorn State University Extension Program, the event is on track to be a huge success.

“This year, we are expecting attendance to exceed 325 people, up from 250 last year. We have received so many positive comments regarding this year’s conference, particularly related to our engaging plenaries and breakout sessions, dynamic networking events, and new mobile learning sites. The speaker list is extensive, and each is qualified to add value to this noteworthy event.”

To learn more about the 2018 Small Farmers Conference, visit www.alcorn.edu/sfc2018. You may also contact Jones at (601) 857-0250 or gwjones@alcorn.edu.

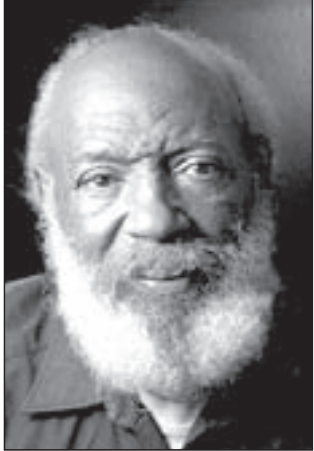
Meredith to keynote MVSU's 2018 Honors Convocation

The Mississippi Link Newswire

As Mississippi Valley State University pauses to highlight its outstanding academic scholars, the campus will also receive gems of knowledge from activist, author and entrepreneur James Meredith during the 2018 Honors Convocation Thursday, March 22.

Meredith will give keynote address during the annual convocation, which will be hosted at 11 a.m. in the Walter Roberts Auditorium of the H.G. Carpenter Building.

During the event, MVSU scholars will receive university-wide recognition for their hard work and dedication in the classroom. The students will receive awards in the following categories:



Meredith

President’s List (4.00 GPA), Distinguished Scholar (3.80-3.99 GPA), Honor Scholar (3.50-3.79 GPA) and Scholar (3.20-3.49 GPA).

MVSU will also recognize students receiving Outstanding Scholar awards and other

special academic awards during the event.

The celebration will include performances from the MVSU Symphonic Band and the Valley Singers. MVSU President Jerryl Briggs Sr., Vice President of Academic Affairs Constance Bland and Director of Academic Success and Student Development Heather Y. Tanner will conduct the award presentations.

A native of Kosciusko, Meredith gained national attention in 1961 after being denied admission into the University of Mississippi because of his race.

Meredith subsequently filed a lawsuit alleging discrimination, and although the state courts ruled against

him, the case made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in his favor.

When Meredith arrived at the university to register for classes September 20, 1962, he found the entrance blocked. Rioting soon erupted, and Attorney General Robert Kennedy sent 500 U.S. Marshals to the scene. Additionally, President John F. Kennedy sent military police, troops from the Mississippi National Guard and officials from the U.S. Border Patrol to keep the peace.

On October 1, 1962, James Meredith became the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. In 1963, Meredith graduated with a degree in political science.

MIBEST program at Hinds CC sets young lady on path to better life

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Still waters have always run deep for Jessica Spann, in school and in life.

Now quiet in nature and quick with a smile, Spann, 20, has come a long way in a short time when it comes to completing her education.

“I kept telling myself I had to do it and that working fast food and at gas stations wasn’t going to be a career,” Spann said. “I just wasn’t a fan of high school. I was an aggressive person for a while as I tried to figure myself out. And now I’m just so happy.”

In January, Spann, of Brandon, became the first student in the MIBEST program at Hinds Community College to earn her High School Equivalency certificate through the Competency-Based option. The track involves the recognition of industry credentials as well as academic standards. She earned a silver rating on the National Career Readiness Certificate exam, a nationally-

recognized career-readiness skills test, and in May will walk across the stage a Hinds graduate with a career certificate in medical data technology.

Spann credits the unique adult education and career-readiness program with honing her skills in more than just the basics.

“I speak up more in class when I’m not understanding something, instead of getting frustrated,” she said. “My attention span is better. I’m in accounting now. It’s hard, but I want to keep on learning about it.”

MIBEST is Mississippi’s version of the nationally recognized Integrating Basic Education and Skills Training program, or IBEST, and originated in Washington state. The program kicked off a few years ago with federal funds and allows adult students to train for a job skill while earning their GED high school equivalency certificate at the same time. In Mississippi, MIBEST was implemented at each state community

college in 2016 thanks to a \$6 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Students are prepared to be job-ready in six months to a year, train in high-demand areas and earn national certifications.

Spann landed in the program thanks to Angie Miles, who works in the program as a navigator, tasked with helping its students find solutions for “life issues” such as transportation, child care and financial aid so they can focus squarely on academics.

Miles knew Spann from when she was homeroom mother for her own daughter’s fifth grade class – a group that also included Jessica. Over the years, she became familiar of a tough family life when it came to completing her education.

Seeing Spann enter her MIBEST orientation classroom was a surprise, Miles said, one that has produced a level of achievement neither thought possible.

“I was so excited to see the beautiful young woman she had grown up to be,” Miles said. “I was even more thrilled that she was wanting to pursue her high school equivalency and take college classes at Hinds Community College.”

Kristi Johnson, an instructor in the program, has watched Spann blossom since last summer into a successful, career-ready student.

“At that time, I met a very distant young lady that put up a lot of walls around her,” Johnson said. “She was quick to get angry, from frustration, because she didn’t believe that she was smart or capable. However, over time, she began to trust those who want the best for her and to believe in herself. Today, she is an excellent student and a confident young woman.”

For more information on the MIBEST program at Hinds Community College Rankin Campus, contact Miles at 601-936-1834 or Johnson at 601-936-1850.



Spann

NAACP urging caution as serial bomber appeared to have targeted blacks in Austin, Texas

TriceEdneyWire.com

The NAACP is issuing a call for “vigilance, diligence and caution” to its members and communities in Austin, Texas after two men were killed and four injured by four bombs, two of which appeared to target the homes of black people.

Austin police reported Wednesday morning that the bombing suspect had been killed, apparently by suicide, after the police approached his vehicle. Police say he died by exploding a bomb inside his vehicle. They identified the suspect as Mark Anthony Conditt, a 24-year-old white male. Because the most recent bombings appearing to be random, police said his motive had become foggy. But the first three victims were people of color. Authorities are still urging citizens to be cautious in case there are other unexploded devices planted by him or in case there was someone working with him.

“Due to the horrible acts of domestic terrorism now occurring in Austin, this is a time to be cautious about any packages being left at homes,” said NAACP President Derrick Johnson during the hunt for the bomber. “We are asking our membership to be vigilant and to pay attention to anything out of the ordinary in their communities and avoiding picking up any unexpected packages left at their homes. We are working with our NAACP State President Gary Bledsoe and the NAACP Austin President



Mason

Nelson Linder to help communities stay aware of potential for danger during this uneasy time.”

Two Austin men, 39-year-old Anthony Stephan House, a senior project manager at Texas Quarries; and 17-year-old Draylen Mason, a bass player and student at the Butler School of Music at the University of Texas, were killed by the first two bombs, both of which arrived in packages. Mason’s mother was also in-

jured. House was killed by the first bomb March 2 after a package exploded on his front porch. Mason was killed and his mother injured in a similar incident March 12. A hispanic woman, Esperanza Herrera, 75, was also injured when a package bomb exploded March 12. The race of the first four victims prompted police to speculate the bombings could be racially motivated.

The fourth bombing injured two white males March 18.



House

Police say they came into contact with what appeared to be randomly placed trip wire, according to reports. On March 20, a bomb that exploded at a Fedex facility appeared to have been headed for Austin, the Washington Post reported. At first reports, there were no injuries in the Fedex blast.

The NAACP Austin branch has been working very closely with the Austin Police Department, the FBI and ATF to “monitor these devastating and criminal acts,” the NAACP statement said. Austin Police, FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) had announced a \$100,000 reward for anyone providing information toward an arrest in the case.

“We are urging our members to pay attention in their communities and to exercise caution when around any packages, said Linder. “We are asking parents to inform their youth to stay away from anything left on their doorsteps or at their homes. This is a time for us to communicate and keep each other informed regarding any type of strange behavior in our neighborhoods.”

Trump’s budget would hurt black and brown people

By Rep. Cedric L. Richmond
TriceEdneyWire.com



If you want to know how a president feels about your community, then all you need to do is

look at his or her budget because it reflects their values – both what they value and what they don’t.

If you look at President Trump’s proposed FY 2019 budget, it’s clear he doesn’t value low-income and black and brown communities because he cuts programs that these communities disproportionately rely on, including the Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (the food stamp program), Medicaid, the Low-Income Heating Assistance Program and Community Development Block Grants, which provide funding for projects and programs including affordable housing, anti-poverty programs and infrastructure development that inner-city and rural communities need to survive.

One of the most disgusting examples of this is President Trump’s proposal for the food stamp program, a program that serves close to 44 million Americans, 26 percent of whom are black. In addition to proposing to cut the program by \$213 billion, which would leave four million low income people without these benefits, President Trump proposes to prevent families from choosing what type of food they buy for themselves.

He wants to send these families Blue Apron-style boxes of perishable and non-perishable food items, including items produced by American farmers. Although the administration has characterized this proposal as a cost-savings measure that would help low income communities eat more nutritious foods and American farmers make a profit, it is demeaning and disrespectful because it’s based on a notion that low income people can’t and shouldn’t think for themselves.

Under this proposal, SNAP beneficiaries wouldn’t be able to decide what they want to eat, including culturally appropriate foods for their family. And they wouldn’t know what foods they were getting, preventing them from planning meals for their family.

Additionally, there are logistical problems with the proposal. Families may not have a car and be unable to pick up the box of food at the designated location in their community. On top of that, providing an over-abundance of fresh

perishable foods to families where parents work two and three jobs and may not have time to cook them may make a bad situation worse.

These concerns and others make it unlikely that this plan will save the federal government \$130 billion over 10 years as predicted by the Trump administration.

The food stamp proposal isn’t the only issue with President Trump’s FY 2019 budget.

His budget cuts two critically important education programs for low-income students – GEAR UP, a grant program focused on increasing the number of low income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education, and Promise Neighborhoods, an Obama era grant program that provides cradle-to-college-to-career services for children living in low-income neighborhoods.

In addition, his budget would cut a number of programs that help workers, especially workers who belong to unions. For example, his budget would cut Occupational Safety and Health Administration training grants that the agency uses to help employers better enforce workforce health and safety requirements. His budget also targets labor unions, whose membership is 14 percent African-American, by investing in more union focused investigations.

President Trump’s budget also would insufficiently invest in our nation’s infrastructure, while also cutting grants that fund infrastructure development at the state and local level. President Trump proposes to invest \$200 billion in repairing America’s roads and bridges even though there’s trillions of dollars of infrastructure work to be done across the country, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.

This insufficient investment will force states to rely too much on the private sector for funding they need to start and finish projects; projects that will likely come with a cost for the very commuters they’re supposed to help: toll roads.

President Trump calls his budget “An American Budget.” But the Americans he has in mind aren’t those who are living paycheck to paycheck and aren’t those who are members of black and brown communities.

Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-La.), who represents Louisiana’s 2nd District in the U.S. House of Representatives, is chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

U. S. Secretary of State Tillerson fired, cutting short long-awaited Africa visit

TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN

An extended visit to Africa this month by the U.S. Secretary of State to mend fences after the President’s crude description of African and Caribbean countries was cut short this week by the dismissal of the embattled Secretary Rex Tillerson.

It was the first tour of the continent by the ex-Secretary who was the first high level U.S. representative to visit the continent since the President’s vulgar remarks. Tillerson has been replaced by the CIA director, Mike Pompeo.

The President – who has long clashed will Tillerson – claimed it was important to make the change now, as he prepares for talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, as well as upcoming trade negotiations, three White House officials said.

“(The President’s) statements shocked almost all Africans,” Chadian Foreign Minister Mahamat Zene Cherif said at a press conference seated next to Tillerson, but added, “We made efforts on either side to move ahead and look at the future with optimism.”

Quietly, however, Chadian President Idriss Déby made his anger known about his country being targeted in a Muslim travel ban despite close working relations between the two countries on anti-terrorism.

Other planned activities that were called off included the



Chadian Foreign Minister Mahamat Zene Cherif at a press conference with then Secretary of State Tillerson.

laying of a wreath at the memorial to victims of the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, and a working luncheon with Kenyan leaders.

A full day of meetings in Nigeria was reduced to a quick chat with President Muhammadu Buhari and his foreign minister before hopping a flight home.

Among the responses to the State Department’s visit was a published piece by visiting professor of international relations at South Africa’s University of the Witwatersrand, Joseph J. Stremlau, titled Three Reasons why Africa should treat the visit with scepticism.

The secretary was scheduled to visit just five of Africa’s 54 countries: Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria – the so-called “arc of instability,” noted Stremlau.

“Evidently, counter terrorism is America’s main Africa concern,” he wrote. “If Trump and Tillerson were seriously interested in issues of trade, public health and good governance, he would have at least included democratic South Africa on his agenda. Instead, Tillerson has prioritized repressive governments and ones under states of emergency.”

Stremlau’s second reason for skepticism is that the U.S. hasn’t shown much appetite for diplomatic engagement with Africa since Trump became president.

“By contrast, the U.S. military is already deeply engaged in the struggle against counter terrorism.”

“Neither Trump or Tillerson has announced an overarching Africa policy. No assistant secretary for Africa has been named, important embassies,

including in South Africa, lack ambassadors. This is in sharp contrast to the U.S.’s active engagement on the military front,” he pointed out.

“Finally, said Stremlau, “Tillerson has no credibility. He has been publicly criticized and even mocked by his commander-in-chief. Rumors persist that he will resign or be fired. And any claims that the government he represents means what it says is undermined by Trump’s own false or misleading statements.”

Stremlau congratulated African leaders for setting a dignified precedent when Trump compared African countries to dirty toilets.

Africans should also remind Tillerson of their appreciation of China’s increasing importance as their leading development partner, Stremlau urged.

He added: “It’s worth recalling that since the 1990s, Congress has consistently supported expanding economic and political partnerships with Africa.

“The reason for this is that congressmen have been pressed to do so by African Americans as well as other sympathetic elements in America’s diverse civil society, business and philanthropic sectors.

“Networks such as these, as well as close ties at state and local government level that stretch throughout Africa may indeed be more important in the long run.”

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Entergy Charitable Foundation awards \$68,500 to Mississippi organizations

ECF's 2017 Mississippi grants total \$142,500

The Mississippi Link Newswire

First- and second-graders in Jackson's public schools will get a little extra help learning how to read this year from middle and high school students who will serve as reading mentors. In exchange, the mentors will gain valuable leadership skills, earn community service hours and act as change agents in their communities. This is just one example of a community program funded with an Entergy Charitable Foundation grant.

In all, sixteen Mississippi organi-

zations will share \$68,500 in grants awarded in the second cycle of Foundation grant giving. These new awards bring the program's total 2017 contributions to \$142,500.

Other grant recipients include:

- Cleveland Music Foundation
- A.W. Watson Elementary School (Claiborne County)
- Christian Volunteer Service, Inc. (Claiborne County)
- City of Port Gibson
- Claiborne Public Schools
- Jobs for Mississippi Graduates

- Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi (DeSoto County)
 - Keep Jackson Beautiful
 - Quitman Elementary School
 - Quitman County Public Schools
 - Life Enhancement and Achievement Program, Inc. (Rankin County)
 - The Salvation Army (Warren County)
 - Vicksburg Little Theatre Guild
 - Mission Mississippi
 - SR1 (Madison County)
- "Investing in our communities is one of the most important ways we power

life and brighten futures," said Valarie Mabry, Entergy Mississippi public affairs analyst. "It supports our mission to add value to the communities we serve."

The Entergy Charitable Foundation awards grants twice a year. The Foundation is just one of many Entergy programs that support nonprofits in local communities. In total, Entergy Corporation supports more than 2,200 nonprofits annually with charitable contributions of approximately \$16 million.

Entergy Mississippi, Inc. provides electricity to approximately 445,000

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Students serve as pages at Mississippi Senate



Michael Marshall, (left), of Jackson recently served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff. Michael is pictured with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves and Senator Sally Doty, who sponsored his visit. Michael is the son of Michael and Emma Marshall and attends Forest Hill High School. Also pictured is fellow page Annalise Rome.

Mississippi law enforcement, military leaders call for early learning funding to boost public safety and national security

The Mississippi Link Newswire

After a morning reading to pre-k students at the Canton Early Learning Collaborative, Canton Police Chief Otha Brown, Brigadier General (Ret.) Roger Shields and Major General (Ret.) Erik Hearon called on state lawmakers to invest in and expand high-quality early learning programs to more children across the state of Mississippi.

Citing research that shows children who receive high-quality pre-k are more likely to succeed in school and life and less likely to engage in crime.

Brown said pre-k is not just an education issue, but a public safety one. "For many of those who commit offenses, the foundation for their life's trajectory started in the earliest years," Brown said. "If kids find the support and role-models they need when they are young, there's a much better chance they won't end up in handcuffs

or behind bars – and high-quality pre-k is one of the best tools for kids who otherwise might not find that support."

Brown's sentiments were echoed by Shields, who said poor school performance is one of three leading reasons, along with being overweight and a record of criminal behavior or drug use, why a majority of Americans ages 17 to 24 cannot qualify for military service. "76 percent of all young adults in Mississippi between the ages of 17 and 24 are unable to join the military," Shields said, noting that number is higher than the national rate of 71 percent.

To counter this problem, Hearon says more Mississippi children need to receive high-quality pre-k, like that provided by the Canton Early Learning Collaborative. Though these collaboratives are ranked in the country's top ten pre-k programs by the National Institute of Early Education Research,

only four percent of Mississippi's four-year-olds are served by them.

"Mississippi policymakers should continue to expand high-quality early learning collaboratives to ensure that all children are prepared in mind, body and character to succeed at whatever career they choose, including military service," Hearon said.

Brown is a member of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, an anti-crime organization composed of 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and violence survivors nationwide. Shields and Hearon are members of Mission: Readiness, an organization of more than 700 retired admirals and generals strengthening national security by ensuring kids stay in school, stay fit, and stay out of trouble. Both organizations are a part of the national non-profit Council for a Strong America.

To learn more, visit: www.strongnation.org



Shelby Nichole Carson, of Raymond, recently served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff. Shelby is pictured with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves who sponsored her visit. Shelby is the daughter of Fulton and Raquel Carson and attends Raymond High School. When asked about the week, Shelby said, "When there's a new opportunity ahead take the chance for a new learning experience."



Taylor Harris, (left), of Clinton, recently served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff. Taylor is pictured with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves and Senator Barbara Blackmon, who sponsored her visit. Taylor is the daughter of Stephanie Young and attends Clinton Jr. High. When asked about the week, Taylor said, "Paging has always been a great experience for me. I just love it so much!" Also pictured are fellow pages Jayden Hart, (center) and Karli-Brooklyn LeFlore, (right).



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Be steadfast

PART 2

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



The Word of God instructs us to be always abounding. In other words, we must continually grow and develop in the things of God. This is what God requires. It is impossible to hold our own. We are either going forward or going backward. We are either spiritual or less spiritual. The only way God is satisfied is when we are abounding and growing in the things of God. Child of God, can you look back on the past year and say without a doubt that you are more spiritual and closer to God now than you were when the year began or would you have to say that you have lost something. Today is a new opportunity! We can drive in the stake of determination that we are going to spend more time with God in prayer and in His Word. If we will do that, we will see God in a greater way than ever before. Every year that passes should find us more con-

cerned for the Lord's work. Secular work is in vain. You may say, "I am busy." The Apostle Paul wrote in First Timothy 6:7, these words, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." One of these days we will be gone, and someone else will spend our money, drive our automobile and live in our house. The only thing that will matter then is what you have done for God.

When we work for God, we are laying up treasures in Heaven. People work hard to lay up treasures here on the earth, but they are going to leave them. When we lay up treasures in Heaven day by day, they last for eternity.

How can we lay up treasures in Heaven? We must be saved, and then we must back the pastor and the saints and labor in the work of God. When we are working to build up the Church of God, we are laying up treasures in Heaven; treasures that one day we can draw on throughout the endless age of eternity.

My prayer is that we can

see the need of abounding more and more in the things of God and less in this old world. Saints, this old world should hold less value to us today than ever before. My mind is on the work of God and eternity.

Eternal things are everlasting. Paul wrote in Colossians 3:23 these words, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily." In other words, we must put our whole heart into the work of God. We should not do it because we think the pastor will like us better. When we see the light (truth), we should measure to it because it is right. We need to stand for the truth because it is right.

We are living in one of the greatest days of conflict. Why? Because the devil is throwing in everything he has to try to defeat the saints of God, but he cannot defeat us. We can stand and fight the good fight of faith. We may be few, but we are going to stay true to God.

We ought to ask ourselves these questions: How am I representing Christ? Is the world seeing Christ as God

wants them to see Him? Am I representing Christ as a true and living God to this lost and dying world? Do I desire to be true to souls regardless of the cost? Saints, we are here as ambassadors for Christ or to represent Christ. When we work according to God's purpose in Christ, then we are serving God.

To serve God, we have to follow and obey the Word; the Word is Christ. We cannot follow Him and also follow man. The real purpose of Christ's coming was to serve mankind. As a Child of God, our purpose in life is to be a servant: we must work for God to win souls. Paul encourages Timothy with these words: "Be diligent to present yourself approved by God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." (2 Timothy 2:15).

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 Surrendering all through consecration

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



A few years ago, I wrote about surrendering all to God. Since I wrote those words, God has continually challenged me to take surrender one step further and live a consecrated life.

What I've learned over the years is that the consecrated life isn't just one of continual fasting and prayer. I used to think that the consecrated life was like a surrendered life. However, I wanted to be clear what the connection was between surrender and consecration. So, I found an article on www.auburn.edu that explained it beautifully:

"Submission is a strong word; consecration, one still stronger. Surrender is cessation of resistance; consecration, a transfer of all we are and have to Christ for active service. It covers person and property, talents and opportunities and accepts Christ as leader, manager, friend and Savior – present, active and efficient in all the details of life."

After reading that explanation, I better understood the article's statement about the degrees of consecration and that it was progressive: "Consecration brings new relations, makes new demands, offers new privileges." We see this in the liturgical consecration services where leaders are elevated to offices of great spiritual authority like bishops. Consecration means that whatever is set apart goes from being common to being sacred.

During the 47-day holy season of Lent, many of us strive to sacrifice worldly pleasures to have a


more intimate relationship with God. Some also see Lent as setting apart our lives for service to God; it becomes a time when our focus is not just on personal sacrifice but seeking ways to give back to God. The biblical story of Hannah is a good example of this.

I Samuel 1 describes how a barren Hannah prayed earnestly for God to grant her a child. Once she had Samuel, she gave him back to God. Verse 26 says, "And she said to him, 'As surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD.'" Once he was born, she did just as she had prayed.

Surprisingly, once we get our miracle or breakthrough, many of us have barely thanked God before we're asking for another. Even as we focus on repentance, prayer and fasting during this season, we should also think about ways we can give back to God as part of the process of consecrating our miracles. One way we can give back to God is to pledge to return the miracles and blessings he gives to us back to him.

God can understand that we want to have "miracles of consecration" but he might just want us to do like Hannah and consecrate not just our miracles but also our lives.

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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Natalie Cofield: The Living Walker Legacy

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Nine years ago, when she was just 26, Natalie Cofield was looking for a mentor. A young woman with entrepreneurship hard-wired into her spirit, she was discouraged that many did not take her seriously and disheartened that she could not make the connections she needed to further her entrepreneurial mission. So she started reading biographies of businesswomen hoping to read up on the inspiration on the page that she could not find in real life.

Madame CJ Walker jumped off the page for Cofield, and she found a kindred spirit. Few names are more lauded in Black Women's History than that of Madame CJ Walker. She was the first African-American woman millionaire, it is said. The first to create a multi-level marketing platform. The woman who used herbs, hair knowledge and a hot comb to create an empire. The woman who funded civil rights activity, and also boldly admonished the men of her era for their exclusionary attitudes.

Because many dismissed her as a "mere" hairdresser, her business success did not get the attention it deserved. Thus, she disrupted Booker T. Washington's National Negro Business League Convention in 1912 by demanding the microphone. She boldly told the gathered men that she "promoted myself" from the washtub to the kitchen to manufacturing. "I have built my own factory on my own ground," she said. Cofield could not have found more fitting inspiration.

Cofield founded Walker's Legacy (<https://www.walkerslegacy.com>) to fill the gap for mentors and connections. It started as a quarterly lecture series and has evolved to a digital platform for the professional and entrepreneurial multicultural woman. "We exist to inspire, equip and engage through thought-provoking content, educational programming and a global community," she said.

The for-profit platform is the wave of the future, as imagined by a millennial businesswoman who is committed, in the words of the late Ron Brown, to "doing well and doing good."

Along the way, Cofield has attracted the strong support of established business leaders and thinkers, and especially the endorsement of A'lelia Bundles, the great-great-granddaughter of Madame C.J. Walker, her biographer and the keeper of the Walker flame. "Every step of the way she has impressed me with her ability to organize, ramp things up, create partnerships. Every step of the way as she has tried to expand, she has met my expectations," said Bundles.

Marie Johns, former deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration met Cofield when she was leading the Austin Black Chamber of Commerce. "Austin was hardly a hotbed of black business activity," said Johns, "but she impressed me with her energy and her acumen."

She was "a standout" as a Black Chamber exec, Johns recalls. She expects Cofield to be

a "transformative leader who will build the infrastructure to provide black businesswomen with their rightful place in the economy."

Like Bundles, Johns is an Indianapolis native who grew up appreciating Madame C.J. Walker's legacy. But like Cofield and Bundles, Johns places the legacy in a contemporary context. "Black women open businesses more rapidly than other groups," the Obama appointee shared. "We need the kinds of support that organizations like Walker's Legacy provides."

A quick peek at the Walker's Legacy website makes it clear that Cofield is building a black business women's community. The organization, which has grown from a one-person operation to four full-time employees, a number of consultants and directors in Atlanta, Detroit, Chicago, New York, Houston and other cities. The website gets around 40,000 unique views each month, and the number is growing. It's networking events sell out.

In addition, Cofield created the Walker's Legacy Foundation, providing entrepreneurial training to young girls, low-income women, and single moms. Last fall, the organization collected business suits for Howard University students to wear for job interviews. Cofield fully expects that the women who work with the Walker's Legacy Foundation will become members or supporters of Walker's Legacy.

"We are a go-to organization for women of color who are looking for motivation, connection, education, personal finance and career advice," says Cofield. With a growing membership base of highly educated (48 percent have a master's degree or more) enterprising young women (average age of 32), Cofield has her finger on the future of black women's entrepreneurship.

If you want to enjoy Madame C.J. Walker's legacy, you can visit the Walker Legacy Center, the national landmark to which the Lily Foundation has just committed \$15 million to renovate the space that was part of the original Walker company office. Or, you can peruse the Walker papers, now donated to Indiana Historical Society.

Villa Lewaro, the Madame Walker estate, has been restored and is part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is a monument to the spirit and tenacity of black women's entrepreneurship.

You can also celebrate Madame Walker's life and legacy by simply checking out the Walker's Legacy website and joining the Walker's Legacy community. When asked what she is most proud of about her work, Cofield says that she is proud that she never gave up on her vision and that she put her whole heart into the work. She sounds like her mentor, Madame C.J. Walker, who said that steadfastness and persistence are the keys to success.

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.julianneomalveaux.com

Extraordinary sisters

By E. Faye Williams
TriceEdney Newswire



For the past 13 years, I've worked almost exclusively for black Women and their families which means I spend my time working for our entire community, including male spouses, brothers, fathers, sons, nephews, cousins. I know many black women who do just as much as I do or more. We're not always the first to be mentioned as worthy of honor during Black History Month.

More often than not, black men come to be rightly celebrated for their achievements – but what about black women?

We then come to Women's History Month and often hope for recognition of more of our sisters, but the first generally mentioned are white women. We endure that without bitterness, and we continue serving our causes as black people and as women. It's often left up to sisters to celebrate sisters (Black women, I mean).

A white male friend often says, "If you want to get a job done, give it to a woman; if you really want to get it done and done well, give it to a black woman." Most black women believe as Dr. George W. Carver did when he said, "It's not the kind of clothing we wear, nor the kind of car we drive, nor how much money we have in the bank. It is simply our service that measures our success." By that formula, black women deserve celebration not just in March, but every day. I, therefore, never fail to mention some black woman in every public speech I make. Dr. Dorothy Irene Height is one example. She said, "Black women don't always get to do what we want to do, but we always do what we have to do."

One of my favorite all time women begins with my mother, Mrs. Frances Lacour Williams-Johnson. She is nearly 96 years old now, still advising her children and grandchildren. She reared nine children without the benefit of our father being in our home at the time all of us were

under 12 years old. Yet, I never remember being hungry, without proper clothing or school gear, without getting to school every day – rain, shine, sleet or snow or without knowing that we were all loved. My mother is my most extraordinary sister!

From her, I learned to respect and appreciate other black women. Many of my heroes were neighbors, teachers, aunts and my own sisters by birth. These women were ordinary women who did extraordinary things.

Yes, there were, and still are, others from history that I cherish. Sojourner Truth worked not only for our rights as black people, but for the rights of all women. There is Harriet Tubman who loved her people so much that she forced some into freedom. Ida B. Wells-Barnett protected our brothers from lynching at great danger to herself.

Wednesday, March 21, at 10 a.m. Eastern Time, I started as a host on WPFW FM 89.3 Radio – the station for Jazz and Justice. I look forward to introducing many phenomenal women

to my readers through my program called "Wake Up and Stay Woke."

You'll hear more about radio personality Bev Smith, brilliant attorney Roz Ray, President/CEO of NAFEO Lezli Basketville, NAN-GDC Chapter President Nia 2X, NAACP – D.C. Chapter President Akosua Ali, Delaware Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, Dr. Theresa Buckson, United Food and Commercial Workers' VP Robin Williams, Anti Sexual Abuse Visionary/Survivor Lakisha Davis-Small, owner of JMA Solutions that provides jobs and a major donor in our community Jan Adams, an extraordinary journalist who had the courage to start a wire service to tell our stories Hazel Trice Edney, and many more.

Look around you and celebrate a black woman this month and every month hereafter. Black women are amazing!

E. Faye Williams, Esq., national president of the National Congress of Black Women, www.nationalcongressbw.org. 202/678-6788.

Razor-thin election results show the importance of voting

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



"Eight days after Bloody Sunday, President Lyndon Johnson spoke to a joint session of the Congress and made one of the most meaningful speeches any American president had made in modern time on the whole question of voting rights and introduced the Voting Rights Act. And at one point in the speech, before President Johnson concluded the speech, he said, 'and we shall overcome.' I looked at Dr. King. Tears came down his face. And we all cried a little to hear President Johnson say, 'and we shall overcome.' And he said to me and to others in the room, we will make it from Selma to Montgomery, and the Voting Rights Act will be passed." – U.S. Rep. John Lewis
As the nation this month

marks the 53rd anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights marches, the nation's attention was riveted to a special election to fill Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional district, widely seen as a bellweather for the upcoming Congressional elections in November.

The buzz around the Pennsylvania race centered on the possibility of a solidly-Republican district flipping into Democratic hands. But as a civil rights organization staunchly committed to defending voting rights, we were much more interested in the voter turnout.

In the last midterm election for Pennsylvania's 18th district, about 166 thousand people voted. In this year's special election, more than 228 thousand people voted – an increase of about 37 percent. And the margin of victory there was less than one half of one percentage point.

Pennsylvania was seen as one of three states where a razor-

thin margin decided the presidential race in 2016. It's also a state where a strict voter ID law, passed in 2012 as a deliberate effort to reduce turnout among people of color, was struck down by a federal court.

Despite the court's action, voters in Pennsylvania reported they were wrongly asked for photo identification by poll workers in the 2016 election.

With the future of the nation dependent upon extremely thin margins like those in Pennsylvania, communities of color must remain vigilant. In 2016, 14 states had new voting restrictions in place for the first time in a presidential election. In 2017, seven other states added even more restrictions.

The unexpected competitiveness in the Pennsylvania race is sure to spark interest in an upcoming special election in Arizona, in a district where one-party dominance was seen as so insurmountable, Democrats

didn't even field a candidate in the last two elections. Arizona does have a strict voter ID requirement in place and for years required proof of citizenship, until the Supreme Court struck down that provision.

The National Urban League is part of the national non-partisan Election Protection coalition, formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process.

Election Protection focuses on the voter – not on the political horse race – and provides guidance, information and help to any American, regardless of who that voter is casting a ballot for.

Deadlines to register to vote in this year's congressional elections are fast approaching. Call or log onto 866OURVOTE.org for help with registering, finding your polling place, voting by absentee ballot, or to volunteer.

Marc Morial is president/CEO of the National Urban League.

Trump-Kim Jong-Un meeting could make war less

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 le-

gitimizes 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 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.

“MVSU Day @ CCC” set for March 27

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Residents of Coahoma County and surrounding areas wanting to earn a bachelor's degree have an affordable and accessible option available right in their own backyard, and Mississippi Valley State University invites interested individuals to learn more about this unique opportunity during “MVSU Day @ CCC” Tuesday, March 27.

The 3rd annual event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in The Pinnacle, located on the campus of Coahoma Community College (CCC) in Clarksdale.

Themed “Valley in Motion at CCC,” it will provide CCC students, MVSU students residing in the Coahoma area as well as interested community members the opportunity to learn more about a partnership between the two institutions that has brought MVSU courses to CCC's campus.

Organizer Chresteen Seals, MVSU-CCC site coordinator, said the MVSU Distance Education program provides academic course offerings tailored to meet the needs of traditional as well as non-traditional students.

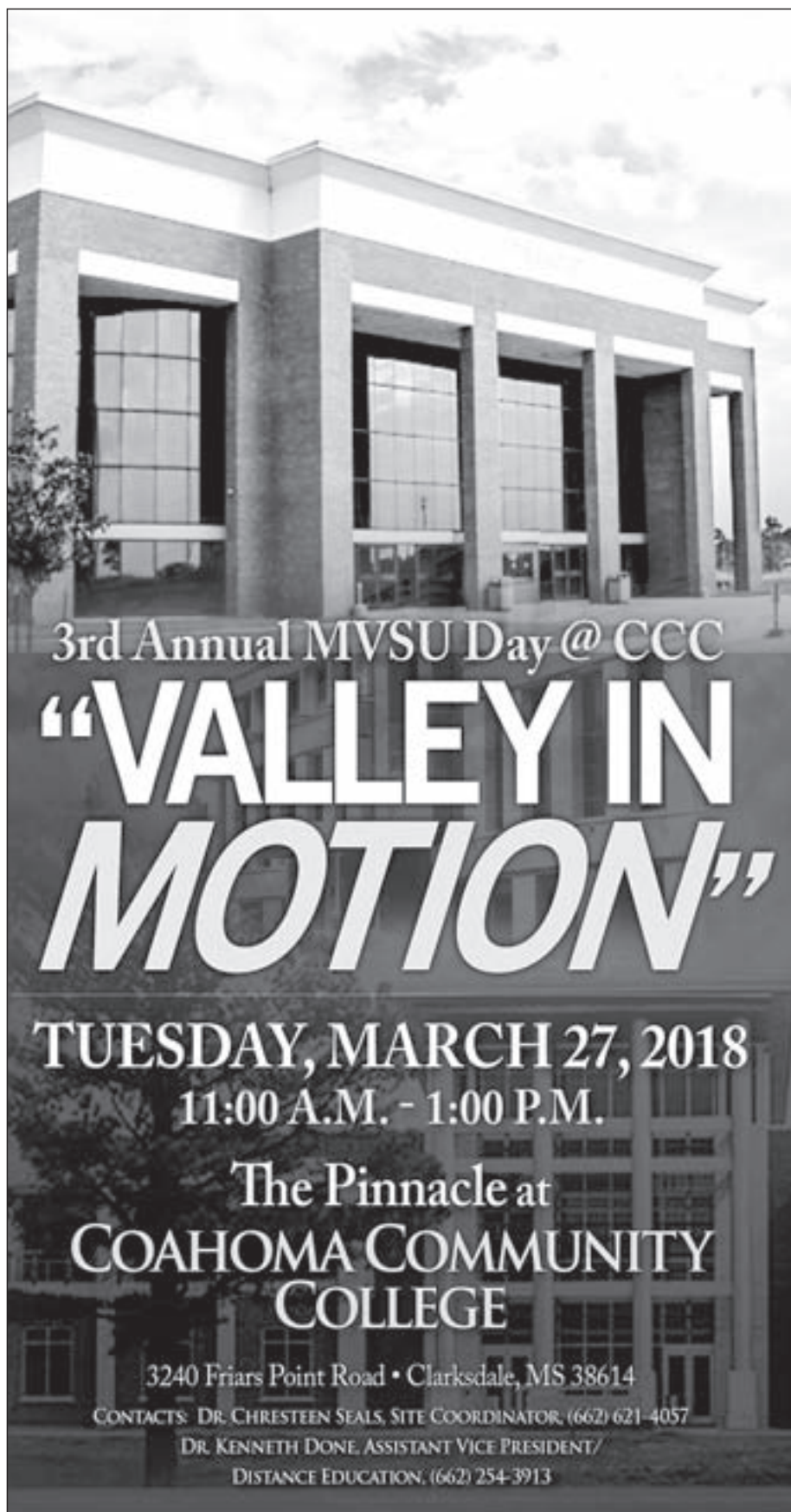
“We started this partnership with courses from six academic degree programs, but we're always expanding and changing our offerings,” she said. “We choose the courses we have available based on the demands of the students, so we encourage anyone interested in taking MVSU courses at CCC to let us know so that we can accommodate them.”

During the program, attendees will enjoy performances by MVSU's band, choir and other special guests. The event will also include presentations from MVSU academic departments. Lunch will be served.

“We're going to have chairs from each of our academic departments present, so we encourage prospective and current students to stop by to get detailed information regarding our programs,” Seals said.

According to Seals, the MVSU classes offered on CCC's campus are taught by adjunct instructors and are tailored to fit the needs of the students.

Those MVSU students attending classes through the CCC site are also eligible for financial aid and scholarship opportunities just as those students attending classes on Valley's main cam-



pus.

For questions or more information about MVSU's CCC site, contact Seals at (662) 621-4057 or visit her office, located on the first floor of CCC's Zee A.

Barron Student, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. each Monday and Tuesday.

For more information about MVSU's Distance Education programs, call (662) 254-3625.

Come on in! The door is open.

Stop by the St. Jude Dream Home Open House from March 24 – April 15, 2018 in Crossview Plantation in Brandon, MS

WHAT: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital® will host an open house showcasing the 2018 St. Jude Dream Home® Giveaway house in Jackson, MS. The ranch style house built by Deep South Custom Homes is estimated to be valued at \$475,000. Located in Crossview Plantation in Brandon, the approximately 2,800 square-foot home features 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, 3 car garage, kitchen with large island, living room with 12' ceiling and 42" masonry fireplace, master bedroom with sitting room and large walk-in closet, and much more.

After visiting the prestigious neighborhood and walking the floor plan to see its custom design, guests may reserve a \$100 ticket for the chance to win the dream home or other prizes, Artesso® SmartTouch® Technology Kitchen Faucet in Stainless, with soap dispenser, courtesy of Brizo®.

Proceeds from ticket sales for the 2018 St. Jude Dream Home Giveaway will help St. Jude Children's Research Hospital continue to lead the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other deadly diseases. St. Jude is working to drive the overall survival rate for childhood cancer to 90 percent, and we won't stop until no child dies from cancer.

This year's sponsors include WLBT, Deep South Custom Homes, Miss 103, and Miskelly Furniture as well as national sponsors Brizo, Shaw Floors, Trane and Bosch.

WHY: The St. Jude Dream Home Giveaway has become one of the largest single-event fundraisers for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital nationwide. This is the 16th house to be built in the Jackson community.

To date, over 460 houses have been awarded and the program has raised more than \$388 million for St. Jude. Because a majority of St. Jude funding comes from individual contributors through programs like this one, St. Jude has the freedom to focus on what matters most – saving kids regardless of their financial situation.

WHEN: The house will be open for tours every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. through April 15th.

WHERE: Crossview Plantation, 138 Crossview Place, Brandon, MS 39047

FAQ: For more information, call 1-800-371-6789 or visit dream-home.org.

Where: Goodloe Elementary School

When: March 24, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Currently Recruiting: Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Administrators, Cafeteria Workers, Maintenance Workers

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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

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Call Swift Today! 855-292-2945

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

Sudoku Solution

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

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Cryptogram Solution

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

MARRIED MEN LIVE LONGER THAN
EPICTICKS EKW LCXK LJWRKI MHPW
SINGLE MEN BUT MARRIED MEN
OCWRLK EKW QUM EPICTICKS EKW
ARE A LOT MORE WILLING TO
PIK P LJM EJK VCLLCWR MJ
DIE
SCK

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
FOR
CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES
IN CONNECTION WITH
THE RESTROOM IMPROVEMENTS
AT THE
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
(JMAA PROJECT NO. 007-17)

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 27, 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 27, 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: "Restroom Improvements at JAN, JMAA Project No. 007-17." 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
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 10:00 a.m. central time on April 4, 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/rfprfb-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 23% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: March 21, 2018 /s/ Carl D. Newman, A.A. E.
Carl D. Newman, A.A. E., Chief Executive Officer

3/22/18 3/29/18

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
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.

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

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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/rfprfb-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 3/22/18

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Week of March 18, 2018

What If?

chopsports

Last week, the NCAA men's basketball tournament had upset upon upset upon upset. After 136 games in tournament history, a 16th seeded team **finally** defeated a number 1 seeded team. Never in history had this happened.

The record going into last week was #1 seed (135-0) against #16 seed teams. University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) embarrassed the Virginia defeating them 74 to 54. A 20 point beat-down. No last second three pointer at the buzzer. No last second free throws granted by a bad referee call. No star player from Virginia getting injured during the game. None of that. Good old fashioned woodshed whupping, in front of the world. Cemented in history forever is UMBC.

UMBC's victory was the biggest upset of the tournament, but far from being the only upset this season. 16 teams remain from the field of 68. Those teams are #11 Loyola-Chicago, #11 Syracuse, #9 Florida State, #9 Kansas State, #7 Texas A&M, #7 Nevada, #5 West Virginia, #5 Clemson, #5 Kentucky, #4 Gonzaga, #3 Michigan, #3 Texas Tech, #2 Purdue, #2 Duke, #1 Villanova, #1 Kansas.

If the tournament played out according to plan, 9 of the 16 remaining teams would not be playing in the Sweet 16.

Historically dominant schools are having to work harder than ever to bring in top level guys. Over the years, assistant coaches from powerhouse schools have become head coaches at traditionally lower level schools. These coaches are recruiting top level players using their knowledge of bigger schools against them. No longer **must** you go to Duke, Kentucky, North Carolina, Michigan State, etc to be seen by NBA scouts. Winning makes



Malik Newman (foreground) won four straight state championships at Callaway High School.

everyone take notice. UMBC's twitter followers went from 5,000 to 40,000 following the historic win. Social media connects people in many ways now.

After the recent upsets in the NCAA men's tournament, I took the time to ponder something. What if top level Mississippi men's basketball players went to a school like Jackson State University instead of Mississippi State, Kansas, West Virginia, Kentucky, or Duke? Arguments can be made that players going to Mississippi State, have fared just as well as other Mississippi schools. 2009 was the last season that Mississippi State's men made it into the NCAA tournament. Mississippi Valley State University, in 2012,

was the last time a men's team from Mississippi made it into the NCAA tournament.

Top high school boys basketball players continuing their career in Mississippi tend to gravitate towards Mississippi State. However, two players have transferred out of MSU, sat an entire season, and had impactful junior seasons at their new schools.

Rodney Hood transferred to Duke in 2012, sat out 2013, had a breakout 2014 junior season with Duke, prompting him to enter the NBA draft. Hood was selected in the first round by the Utah Jazz. Hood was traded last month to Cleveland.

Malik Newman transferred to Kansas in 2016. He sat out the

2017 season and is having a good junior season. Kansas is a #1 seed in the NCAA tournament with Newman being one of their main players capturing MVP of the Big 12 tournament a couple of weeks ago.

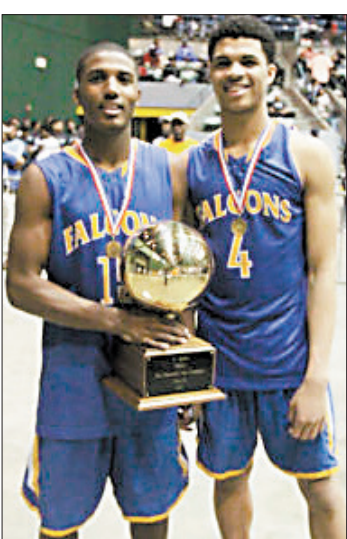
Players transferring in and out of schools is no shock and mentioning the Hood and Newman transfer is no knock on Mississippi State basketball. They played for two different coaches; the "fit" just wasn't right.

My point is this, what if, Newman, Quindary Weatherspoon, Devin Booker, Nick Weatherspoon, Wesley Harris, Maurice Dunlap, and other dandy dozen players from the past four years met up at a school like Jackson

State? And this team, which would be a #16 seed because of the way the SWAC is viewed, knocked off a #1 seed, how would that help them all? How would it help the school? That makes it easy for the next wave of top players to choose the same school.

UMBC received Steph Curry's newly released shoe, have been doing countless interviews, and enjoying **national** spotlight. The spotlight is one of the main recruitment tools of big programs.

This tournament has shown winning makes things happen no matter what seed you've been given. Players make the best choices based on facts and feelings at that time. Nothing is wrong with that. Sometimes it's just cool to ponder



Nick and Quindary Weatherspoon in 2015 capturing a state championship together.

things.

Given the changing culture of college basketball, do not be surprised if you see guys "team up" and sign together at a "small" school and make some noise. Texas Southern, coached by Mike Davis, former head coach of Indiana University, has made the tournament four of the past five seasons. Davis has gotten quality players to either transfer to or sign with Texas Southern. Recently, they won their play in game in the NCAA tournament. They lost their next game to Xavier, a #1 seed but have earned some respect winning the game before and staying relatively close to Xavier until they pulled away to win by 19.

Mississippi State men's team under head coach Ben Howlin, won over 20 games this season with "Que" Weatherspoon, his brother Nick Weatherspoon, Xavien Stapelton, just to name a few Bulldog players. After beating Louisville 79 to 56, the Bulldogs have advance to the Final Four of the NIT Tournament in New York City.

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“The Raw Word” Interview

Michael Eric Dyson

Dr. Dyson discusses his new TV talk show

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Born and raised in Detroit, Michael Eric Dyson is a writer, sociologist and ordained Baptist minister. Known for his passion and a moral urgency in and out of the pulpit, Dyson has had a profound influence on American culture.

Dyson teaches sociology at Georgetown University, writes op-eds for The New York Times; appears on MSNBC as a political analyst; serves as a contributing editor at The New Republic; and hosts the Michael Eric Dyson Podcast featuring Dr. Dan Ratner.

The prolific public intellectual is the author of around 20 topical tomes, books covering such diverse subject matter as the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Nas’ debut album “Illmatic,” Tupac, Marvin Gaye and Hurricane Katrina’s devastating and long lasting effects.

Among many honors, Dyson has won a couple of NAACP Image awards for Outstanding Literary Work in Non-Fiction and the 2007 American Book Award for “Come Hell or High Water: Hurricane Katrina and the Color of Disaster.” Named one of the 40 most inspiring African Americans by Ebony magazine, he also landed on Ebony magazine’s annual list of the 100 Most Influential Black Americans.

Besides lecturing at colleges, he’s known for his thought-provoking, motivational speeches delivered at union halls, prisons, classrooms and churches across the country. Here, the loquacious luminary discusses his new TV talk show, “The Raw Word,” as well as his latest book, “Tears We Cannot Stop.”

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

Michael Eric Dyson: It’s a pleasure, Kam.

KW: I know you got your master’s and doctorate at Princeton, which is where I live. How did you enjoy the time you spent there?

MED: It was one of the most wonderful times I had in the acad-



emy. I went there straight from Carson-Newman College. Even though Princeton was considered the southernmost Ivy League school, I found it delightful and made the most of an opportunity to attain a world-class education.

KW: Yeah, Princeton has a shameful legacy in terms of slavery. Most of its students came from the South, and many brought servants with them to school. What interested you in The Raw Word?

MED: An opportunity to launch into daytime talk, and to bring both gravity and humor to bear upon subjects people across the country are interested in, from lighthearted topics like what’s in your belly or in your car, to what motivates us as a nation to act and behave in the ways we do. I look forward to weighing-in on all that stuff.

KW: How did you come to be paired with Claudia Jordan and Dr. Dan Ratner as co-hosts?

MED: Through our executive producer, Andre Jetmir. He worked his magic behind the scenes, bringing us all together.

KW: What makes your talk show unique?

MED: Well, you’ve got Dyson... you’ve got Ratner... and you’ve got Jordan. Each of us brings a significant following and some impressive credentials from our spheres of influence to this endeavor; Dan as a therapist, Claudia as an actress, talk show host and reality-TV star, and I’ve been a writer, professor and public intellectual for awhile. So, we offer a unique mix of gifts that I hope will appeal to members of the audience.

KW: Editor/Legist Patricia Turnier says: I am impressed by

your ability to write numerous excellent books. Most authors are not capable of following up a great opus with another best seller. What advice do you have for aspiring authors about consistently writing compelling, informative books?

MED: First, you definitely want to only take on projects you feel passionately about. Second, you want to conduct significant research on each subject. And third, you want your writing to be eloquent and reflect serious scholarship. The best writers are re-writers. So, stay at it, keep on top of your game, and continue to be curious about the world.

KW: Patricia would also like to hear your opinion of this quote from James Baldwin: “It is only in his music, which Americans are able to admire because a protective sentimentality limits their understanding of it, that the Negro in America has been able to tell his story.”

MED: He often talked about how music was where black people were able to be most honest and tell as much truth as the world could bear. At that level, they were eye-to-eye with truths that needed to be explored. He was giving love to jazz and the blues because he felt that they were simpatico with his ambition as a writer to tap the same wellspring of emotions, intelligence and reflection.

KW: I assume that mass killings will be a topic of discussion on the show. What do you see as the solution to the problem?

MED: We’ve already discussed this issue on the show, and we will discuss it again. The president meeting with the makers of video games isn’t going to solve the problem. There are so many other societies that aren’t filled with gun-owning citizens. America has an obsession with the gun and an almost worshipful belief in the 2nd Amendment. We should continue to push back against those who would defend the NRA, and we have to stand with those young people saying “Enough is enough!”



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.

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

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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 Johnny Carson

ATCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
EPTICKS ERW LEXK LJWKT WHW
DCWLK ERW GUM EPTICKS ERW
PTK LJW EPTK VELLOWW MJ
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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)

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BOOK REVIEW:

“ALL THE WOMEN IN MY FAMILY SING”

BY DEBORAH SANTANA

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ByTerri Schlichenmeyer

Columnist

Who are you?

Spoken or unspoken, serious or in jest, you get asked that question all the time. Where are you from? Who are your parents? Have you been here before, and what do you do? In “All The Women in My Family Sing,” edited by Deborah Santana, the questions stand: who are you and what is your story?

It’s a no-brainer: every day you spend in this world is different, socially, than it was last week, last year, in your mother’s time. Great-grandma might not

even recognize your world – and that’s especially so if you are women of color.

Take, for instance, home.

It’s a complicated world, to be sure. It means going back to where people love you, where your roots lie, even if your parents spent their lives leaving it. It might be the first place you experienced bullying. Maybe you wonder where “home” is – or you may already be there but you’re “just not sure how long [you’ll] stay.”

On racism: what would you say if, after learning about Rosa Parks, your child asks which

water fountain he would’ve had to choose, had he lived then? Or: what do you do when your school pays homage to the historical figure who stole your ancestors’ lands? Also: if you endured racism as a child, will there ever be a time when you’ve “stopped being eight years old?”

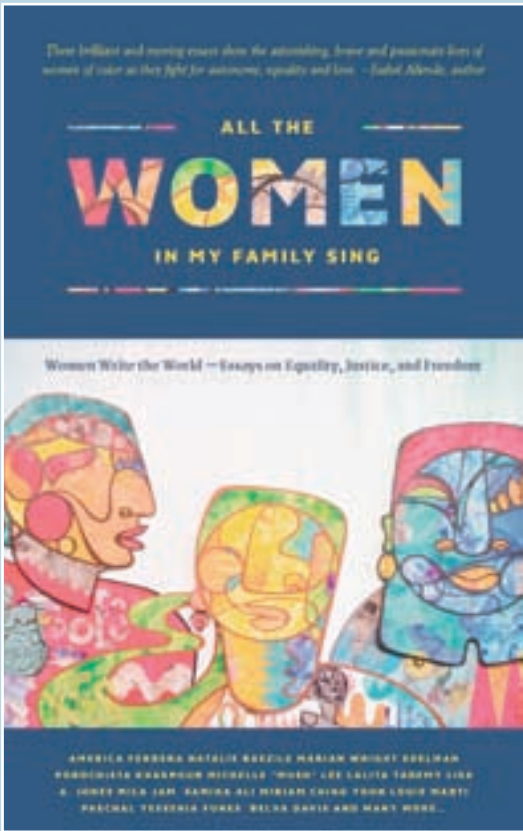
And then there’s the matter of identity.

What was it like to be raised in an all-white neighborhood, educated in an almost-all-white school, with mostly-white friends? Many of the authors know – and they honor the elders who taught them through

example what it was like to be a woman of color. Still, many write about being the “only:” the only black English teacher, the only Asian student, the only forty-something Latina in the mom-group...

Sometimes, you may “feel like part of no people and every people.” Your hair is curly. Your political beliefs are loud. The next generation is yours to raise, if you choose, and you’ve got things to tell them. You are beautiful, and you know that “Some scar tissue knits so tight that it shores you up like a bone.”

There’s something absolutely



compelling about the stories in “All the Women in My Family Sing.” They’re like an addiction.

Read one, and your eyes fly open. Turn to the middle and your heart sinks. Taste one at random and find a kindred spirit, then disagree with another that just doesn’t touch you right. That’s the appeal of this book: each of the essays in here – written by everyday women as well as those

with fame – are short enough to dip into quick, you can easily skip around, and they’ll all make you think and think and think.

Yes, “All the Women in My Family Sing” is for women. It’s more feminist than not. And yes, men can enjoy it, too, because reading it is like falling into a web of nourishing voices. This is a book to have, no matter who you are.

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College Hill Baptist Church Annual Heritage Banquet

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

The Sam Bailey Heritage Banquet and Awards program was held in the family life center of College Hill Baptist Church, February 24. The speaker was Verna A. Bailey, the first African-American woman to graduate from the University of Mississippi in 1968. She is also the daughter of Sam Bailey, a civil rights advocate who worked for racial equality in Mississippi.

Demosthenes Jones, a senior at Florence High School received the Sam Bailey \$2000 scholarship. Runners-up Treasure Fisher, Dekayla Hood and Forrest Davis received \$500 stipends.

The Black Achievers Award was presented to Frank Yates, retired director of Mississippi Association of Educators. Yates currently serves as president of the Deacon's Ministry at College Hill.



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