

Gun safety is about freedom

COMMENTARY

By Derrick Johnson
President and CEO, NAACP



Fear at school was something the Little Rock Nine knew all too well. Facing vitriol, racism and merciless violence, the Little Rock Nine were escorted, for their own safety, by federal troops to their high school classes. For those brave students selected to make the promises of the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision a reality, fear and terror were a normal part of the school-day routine.

Decades later, fear and terror still exist in our children's classrooms. Due to the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the politicians that support them, meaningful discourse on the issue of gun control is nearly impossible, and in that silence, school shootings from Sandy Hook to Parkland keep the classroom a battleground, not a place of learning.

Some African-American communities know all too well the potential danger associated with everyday activities, as gun violence spills into our communities from various angles. Yet, for the most part, schools have remained safe places for our young people.

Given the disproportionate damage gun violence is having on our communities, the NAACP has advocated for sane, sensible laws, to help eliminate or at least to decrease the damage and death caused by gun violence. Requiring universal background checks on all gun sales and transfers, banning military-style, semi-automatic assault guns, enacting tough, new criminal penalties for straw purchasers and gun traffickers, and allowing the Center for Disease Control to research gun violence as a major public health issue are just a few of the reasonable steps lawmakers could take to stem the tide of gun related deaths in neighborhoods across the nation.

Unfortunately, years of ridiculously easy access to guns and ammunition has yielded an epidemic with deadly consequences for all Americans, but has been particularly fatal for communities of color who are disproportionately impacted. Gun violence is the number one killer of African Americans ages 15 to 34. Though African Americans make up only 13 percent of the

Guns

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Hanging Moss Church of Christ Youth Black History Program celebrates BLACK EXCELLENCE in Mississippi

By Othor Cain
Editor

Wednesday, Feb. 28 brought a close to a month-long observance of Black History at the Hanging Moss Church of Christ. The celebration concluded with a youth focused and led program that celebrated Black Excellence.

Through dance, music and other forms of artistic expressions, the youth of Hanging Moss recognized and celebrated Mississippi. "We wanted to do something different this year...we wanted to celebrate Mississippi," said several members of the high school Wednesday Night Bible Class at Hanging Moss. "We thought about living history this year."

Living history was on full display. The honorees are known for breaking ground in a number of professions. Among those honored were Dr. Robert Smith for his work in medicine and starting the country's first community health clinic; Harvey Johnson who became Jackson's First African-American mayor in 1997; and Judge Tommie Green the first female judge to sit on the Hinds County Circuit bench.

Also honored was Robert Clark, the first African-American legislator since reconstruction; and in the media, William Dilday, the first African-American general manager of a television station in the U.S. who worked at WLBT; and Elayne Hayes Anthony, the first African-American female news anchor in Jackson.

The evening also included a magical performance by the award winning Murrah High School choir. "This was really a showcase of excellence," said Shelia Johnson a parent booster club member at Murrah. "I'm from Mississippi and didn't know some of the things I learned here."

Murrah's choir will spend spring



Kaylen Kitchens, Braedyn Noel and Mykell Rayford participate in a skit written by Noel. PHOTOS BY BRENDA COX



Choir director Miriam Smith, CJ Nicholas, Raven Doss and Caleb Smith perform "Glory" during program.

back in Italy. The choir received an invitation to perform in Italy after it received all superior ratings at the 2017 Festival of Gold in Los An-

geles. "At the close of the festival we received an invitation to travel internationally," said Pierrdro Gallion, director of choral activities at

Murrah.

The choir will participate in a

Hanging Moss

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Bill Cosby to change strategy in upcoming sexual assault trial

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA NewsWire Contributor

Bill Cosby is taking a no-holds barred approach in his sexual assault case in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The embattled comedian is set to ask Judge Steven O'Neill permission to unseal his decades-old civil settlement and payout to accuser Andrea Constand.

O'Neill was expected to rule on that and other pertinent matters this week in the Montgomery County Courthouse.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin Thursday, March 29 while the trial is on the calendar for Monday, April 2.

"[Cosby] submits that evidence of the civil settlement and of the underlying civil litigation with Constand may be admissible," Cosby's lawyers wrote in court filings ahead of the hearings. "Among other things, admissibility is warranted for impeachment of Con-

stand, in showing her financial motive to lie about the allegations she made against Cosby, or for any other purpose...including as may be warranted by the testimony of Constand or otherwise."

O'Neill declared a mistrial last summer in the original trial after jurors failed to reach a unanimous verdict. During that trial, the sealed civil settlement between Cosby and Constand was kept from jurors.

Constand claimed during a January 2004 visit to Cosby's Philadelphia area home, that he drugged and sexually assaulted her. She testified that she went to the TV star's home for advice.

When she told Cosby she had trouble sleeping and had a big decision to make, the comedian offered her what he described as a Benadryl tablet.

"These are what I use to help me to relax," he told Constand, according to a deposition read

in court.

Constand claimed the pills may have been Quaaludes and caused her to pass out.

She claimed Cosby forcibly groped her and, the next morning, he made her tea and gave her a muffin before seeing her out the door.

While Cosby has admitted to having an extra-marital affair with Constand, he has maintained that he never gave her Quaaludes and he never assaulted her.

Allowing the civil settlement, which was reached in 2006 after then District Attorney Bruce Castor told Constand that there wasn't evidence to proceed with a criminal case, promises to provide even more insight into Cosby's relationship with Constand, a former Temple University employee.

It also offers a stark contrast to Cosby's strategy, a year ago, when his defense successfully argued that jurors should



Bill Cosby appears in court this week. POOL PHOTO

not hear about the civil suit or the settlement, because "the value of the information is outweighed by the danger of unfair

prejudice." Cosby's spokesman Andrew Wyatt wasn't immediately available for comment.

A message left for District Attorney Kevin Steele also went unreturned.

Brandon Mitchell and S.W.A.P. drops sophomore album produced by AyRon Lewis

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Book Review: Black Fortunes

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The black girl magic of “A Wrinkle in Time”

By Ronda Rachia Penrice
Urban News Service

“Black cinema” and “blockbuster” are suddenly becoming synonymous. “Black Panther” is already nearing a billion dollars in global box office receipts and Jordan Peele just became the first African American to win an Oscar for best original screenplay for his surprise 2017 racially-tinged hit “Get Out.” And on March 9, Disney will release its highly anticipated film, “A Wrinkle in Time,” a \$100 million film with a black female director and young black female star.

Unlike “Black Panther” or “Get Out,” “Wrinkle” is a mainstream movie with an intentionally African-American face. Madeleine L’Engle’s 1962 science fantasy novel of the same title, from which it is adapted, centers on a middle school-aged white girl, Meg Murray, who is battling self-esteem issues. Through the help of three celestial guides – Mrs. Which, Mrs. Whatsit and Mrs. Who – she tries to find her missing scientist father, whom she mourns desperately, by traveling through other worlds with her brother Charles Wallace and her friend Calvin.

On the big screen, Meg is an African-American girl, with Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon and Mindy Kaling portraying the guides.

What viewers see on the screen is the result in large part by decisions made behind the camera by trailblazing director, Ava DuVernay. Prior to being tapped to direct “Wrinkle,” whose \$100 million budget is the largest ever for



Poster, Disney. PHOTO CREDIT: COURTESY OF DISNEY

a black female director in Hollywood, DuVernay was known for quiet films like “Middle of Nowhere,” which garnered her the Best Director Award at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, the first for an African-American woman. Before “Wrinkle,” “Selma” (2014) about the Voting Rights Act campaign led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was DuVernay’s biggest budget feature film at just \$20 million.

But DuVernay took the leap

only because of the opportunity provided by a black Disney executive.

“It wasn’t a likely marriage but when you have a brother inside, Tendo Nagenda, who said ‘I can see this happening’ and he imagined what it could be before I imagined what it could be,” DuVernay said of Disney’s executive vice president of production during her acceptance speech for the African American Film Critics Association (AAFC) Inno-



Storm Reid as Meg Murray in “A Wrinkle in Time.” PHOTO CREDIT: ATSUHI NISHIJIMA/COURTESY OF DISNEY



Nissan Multicultural Marketing Communications Manager Lanae Jackson with Visionary Filmmaker Challenge Winner Ciara Boniface. Photo Credit: Robin Lori

vator Award in February. “The thing I really remember is Tendo saying, ‘Ava imagine the worlds you can build.’”

That conversation she said “started to get me to ask questions about what I wanted to assert in that story and the real core of it was: who gets to be the hero? Because, right now, we’re in this space where we’re on the cusp of “Black Panther” and all its gloriousness and we get to re-imagine who is at the cen-

ter of the story. This story, our story, she’s not a superhero; she’s not royalty; she’s not a Disney princess. She’s just a girl with glasses in a plaid shirt who ends up saving herself and her family and the universe from darkness.”

The actress who plays that unlikely hero, Storm Reid, was familiar with the story but admits to not being personally invested in it until now. “I read the book in sixth grade for a book report and I never saw myself being

Meg, especially because she was written as a young Caucasian girl, so I just really never thought about it,” she said during an interview at a posh hotel in her native Atlanta last week. “But once I got the script, it all clicked and I thought it was just an amazing take on Meg.”

Even as young as she is, Reid, whose previous credits include “12 Years A Slave,” (2013), “American Girl: Lea to the Rescue” (2016) and “Sleight” (2017), has felt the sting of Hollywood limitations for actresses like her. “There were fewer roles meant for me and fewer lead roles meant for me,” she said.

That reality is why Reid especially cherishes her role as Meg. “I feel like it was so important for me to play Meg because I’m basically representing little girls that look like me and I’m representing them in the right way because you don’t really get to see a little African-American girl with glasses and curly hair save the world without superpowers,” she said.

Reid, who turns 15 in July, does see changes in Hollywood and hopes it will continue. “I feel like we are breaking barriers, slowly but surely, but there needs to be more representation. I don’t feel like diversity should just be a thing right now. I feel like it should be a normal thing.”

As for the “black girl magic” tag that’s now been extended to herself, but has long been attributed to “A Wrinkle in Time” director Ava DuVernay, Reid said, “I feel like people are just now recognizing our magic, but we’ve always been magic and it just recently became a hashtag.”

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Hanging Moss

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WorldStrides OnStage Festival Concert Tour, scheduled March 8-17, which includes visits to Milan, Florence, Rome and Venice. "The group will perform music from classical to gospel in a variety of settings from a cathedral to a community college," Gallion said.

Who would have thought to include comedy in a black history celebration? The youth of Hanging Moss did. "Our youth excel in every area and it is our job to ensure that they continue that trend," said one of the youth leaders at the church. "They wanted something different and they delivered."

Comedian Rita B used her 10 minute performance to acknowledge the black church experience. "I'm looking for a new church...I'm exploring a 'white' church, cause black folk have church too long," she said to laughs. "If this program is any indication as to the length of your service... guess what, your service is too long."

The drummers and dancers from Adhiambo School in Jackson delivered a riveting dance and musical piece and inserted nuggets of the history of drums and other cultural connections.

Black Excellence told through the arts, it was all there.



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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

Superintendent receives Drum Major Award!

On January 27, 2018 Little Bethel C. M. E. Church recognized and honored Delesicia Martin, superintendent of the Hinds County School District, with the MLK Drum Major Award. This award is a way to celebrate those who perform extraordinary everyday acts of service with reliability and commitment but seldom receive recognition.



Judge Clyde Chapman; Superintendent Delesicia Martin; Rev. James Lofton and George Smith



Superintendent Delesicia Martin and Geneva Reid, mother

Guns

Continued from page 1

U.S. population, we represent nearly 50 percent of all gun homicide victims. Over 80 percent of gun deaths of African Americans are homicides. Roughly speaking, 1 out of every 3 African-American males who die between the ages of 15 and 19 is killed by gun violence. African-American children and teens were less than 15 percent of the total child population in 2008 and 2009, but accounted for 45 percent of all child- and teen-related gun deaths. These numbers are tragic and intolerable, but most of all, they are preventable.

Critics might call such policy interventions naively ambitious in our current political climate. However, comprehensive, sustainable gun control is achievable. We know this because someone has done it.

Just look to Australia.

In the past 20 years, Australia has proven that sensible reform can prevail over partisan divides and high rates of gun ownership. In the spring of 1996, Australia faced the deadliest mass shooting in its history when a 28-year-old man opened fire at a tourist resort in Tasmania, killing 35 and wounding 23 with a semi-automatic rifle. Following the massacre, the party in power – the center-right Liberal coalition – surprised the country and world by joining with groups across the political spectrum to implement a radical intervention on gun violence. Over the course of mere months, the Australian government bought and destroyed over half a million firearms, banned automatic and semiautomatic weapons, created a national firearms registry and enforced a 28-day waiting period for gun purchases.

The results were both clear and staggering –

there has not been a single mass shooting in Australia since 1996. Additionally, data shows that in the ten years following the Tasmanian massacre, gun-related homicides and suicides dropped by 59 percent and 65 percent, respectively. While there is still room for improvement, the immediate and directly correlative impact of Australia's gun control reform demonstrates the potential of policy to promote peace.

Australia's gun control intervention was not achieved without encountering significant opposition. Like America, Australia holds a near fetish-like obsession for rugged individualism, which caused many to resent the government's action and to perceive it as an insult to gun owners and a breach of power. To be fair, a 28-day waiting period on gun purchases hardly fits the image of the reckless, rough-and-tumble Outback presented by media and movies. But, as President Obama praised in 2015, the Australian people ultimately united in favor of national safety and progress.

Australia's success story is an example for us all. America will remain a deadly nation for our children, its schools caught in the crossfire, unless we insist politicians and the NRA curb their lobbyist efforts and allow the creation of policy that acts in the best interests of public safety. The solution is simple. America needs sane and sensible gun safety laws. The NAACP has spoken out, delivering a loud and clear message, on the most urgent and impactful policies pending, and we will continue to push and monitor federal action on these proposals.

Hinds County District Attorney Robert Schuler Smith is set for trial in Rankin County

By Othor Cain
Editor

Rankin County Circuit Court Judge William Chapman declared Wednesday, that a March 19 trial for Hinds County District Attorney Robert Schuler Smith will take place in his court room.

"We will have a trial on the 19th with a case that isn't as complicated as some of you would want to make it," Chapman said. "This case is about what happened in Rankin County and not what did or did not happen in Hinds County."

Both sides appeared before Chapman in a pre-trial motion hearing Wednesday morning, March 7. "We have spent more time on pre-trial motions than what we will probably spend during the actual trial," Chapman declared. "We will get this done in a week as I have to be in Madison County the following week."



Smith

Chapman spent a little more than an hour Wednesday sorting through briefs and files submitted by both sides and entertaining what would or would not be allowed or permissible during the trial. "Some of this isn't necessary and while I would never attempt to tell anyone how to handle or present their cases, some of this will just not be tol-

erated," he said.

Chapman was assigned to the case in November 2017 when Rankin County Circuit Court Judge John Emfinger disclosed that his daughter had interned in the attorney general's office and that she sat in on a meeting between 2014 and 2016 involving Christopher Butler. Butler was at the center of a trial that Smith eventually was acquitted of in August 2017.

The current charges against Smith are based on a dispute that took place August 13, 2015 in Rankin County, when he [Smith], according to court documents, allegedly stalked, physically abused and brandished a gun at Christie Edwards.

Smith faces two misdemeanor counts of simple domestic violence and two felony counts of (1) aggravated stalking and (1) robbery. The robbery in question pertains to a handgun.

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Melvin Rankin Anderson

March 24, 1955 - February 22, 2018

Melvin Rankin Anderson was born March 24, 1955, to Genola Anderson. He was raised by his beloved grandmother, Leola Anderson, in D'Lo, Mississippi. Melvin peacefully stepped into God's light February 22, 2018.

He accepted Jesus Christ at an early age and joined St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church, where he remained during his formative years. It was here that, as a teenager, he began singing with choirs and local groups, developing that God-given voice that blessed so many throughout his lifetime. He later attended Voice of Calvary Fellowship Church where he sang in the choir alongside many of his childhood friends for many years. He subsequently joined New Hope Baptist Church, serving faithfully until his passing.

Melvin received his early education in the Simpson County School System, and after graduating from Mendenhall High School, he attended Jackson State University where he played on the football team and met his future wife.

Melvin was married to Thelma McLaurin Anderson December 30, 1978. They had four children, one of whom preceded him in death (Tasha), and two grandchildren.

Melvin served on the cutting edge of change, impacting many disciplines at the local, regional, state and national level in multiple sectors. In the public sector, he served with the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce as the director of the One to One Mentoring Initiative and he served as the director of Human and Cultural Services for the City of Jackson. In the nonprofit sector, he served as president of Voice of Calvary Ministries, where he led the organization to reach new heights in improving the quality of life for West Jackson residents during his tenure.

Some of the accomplishments under his leadership while president of Voice of Calvary Ministries include:

- Established relationship with Christian Children's Fund creating a sponsorship program for the children in and around the West Park area.
- Expanded the Jesus and Me Youth Program to include an all-day summer enrichment program and afterschool program.
- Expanded the Housing Program which included new homeownership for more than 40 families.
- Developed a relationship with First Baptist Church of Jackson to minister to the West



Park community.

- Organized Fellowship of Hope, a group of local churches working together to address crime, leadership development, homelessness and the creation of Hope Community Credit Union.
- Established the West Jackson Youth Baseball League

which served over 275 youth.

- Provided over 1200 free medical exams for poor children through the Vocational Health Clinic.
- Created a Cross Cultural tour for 40 youth leaders.

As he returned to the private sector, Melvin also returned to his roots in construction as a

skilled carpenter and entrepreneur, establishing Anderson Construction. As a businessman, he continued to serve his community by taking on weatherization projects for the elderly as well as rehabbing houses in inner city neighborhoods.

Melvin was a true citizen-servant of the greater Jackson community. As an active and committed member of the 100 Black Men of Jackson, he participated in mentoring projects, sips, and of course, cookouts for the group activities, where he was usually the grill-master.

He also served on numerous boards over the years. He was a member and soloist in the New Hope Baptist Church mass choir, gospel choir and ensemble and male choir.

Well known for his jovial attitude and entertaining personality, Melvin always brought smiles and laughter to the faces of friends, co-workers and acquaintances, whether in a meeting, rehearsal or at a tailgate. If he was present, his presence was known.

Melvin is preceded in death by his mother, Genola Anderson; his grandmother, Leola Anderson; and daughter, Tasha. He leaves to cherish his memories: his wife, Thelma;

daughters, Angela and Andrea; son, Melvin II; two grandchildren, Christopher and Deklan; sister, Virginia Galloway; two aunts, Cleo Lofton and Bobbie Nell Lofton of Magee, Mississippi; mother-in-law, Katie M. McLaurin of Byram, Mississippi; one sister-in-law, Joyce (Wendell) Paris of Byram, Mississippi; six brothers-in-law, John McLaurin of Greenville, Mississippi, Charles (Brenda) McLaurin of San Antonio, Texas, Harold (Feletia) McLaurin of San Antonio, Texas, Nathaniel (Reset) McLaurin of Byram, Mississippi, Cornell McLaurin of Atlanta, Georgia, and Roy (Michele) McLaurin of Clinton, Mississippi; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services were held March 3, 2018 at New Hope Baptist Church, 5202 Watkins Drive, Jackson, MS 39206, with Pastor Jerry Young officiating.

"I Love To Praise Him,
I Love To Praise His Name.
I Love To Praise Him,
I Love To Praise His Name.
I Love To Praise Him,
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(In the blessed voice of Melvin Rankin Anderson)

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JPS gifted students compete at Open Doors Chess tournament



Casey - Overall Elementary School Winner

Mississippi Link Newswire

More than 100 gifted students competed in the JPS Open Doors- Gifted Education Program Annual Chess Tournament held February 23. At the end of several rounds of play, Casey emerged as the overall elementary winner and Northwest Jackson as the overall middle school winner.

The top schools and individual players were recognized during an awards ceremony. First through third place winners received trophies and fourth through 10th place winners received medals. Team trophies were awarded to the top three overall elementary school winners and the overall middle school winner.

The annual chess tournament has become a highly anticipated annual event for parents, students and teachers. The tournament begins each year at the school level with Open Doors students in grades 3-6 vying for a chance to compete at the district level. The top three students in each



Northwest Jackson - Overall Middle School Winner

grade from each school advance to the districtwide tournament.

Gifted educators appreciate the educational benefits of competitive chess for students. The tournament gives students an opportunity to showcase analytical thinking and reasoning skills as they try to out-strategize their opponents.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for children to demonstrate their abilities to analyze, use critical thinking skills and to reflect,"

said Rosalind Thomas-McCreary, a gifted education teacher at Casey Elementary.

Open Doors and chess are made for each other. Chess is a fun way for gifted educators to build critical thinking, problem-solving and reasoning skills in students. The practice of playing chess carries over into all other academic subjects because it involves math, writing, comprehension and reflecting to become a better chess player.

Annual Chess Tournament - Winners Elementary School Winners

Place	School
1	Casey Elementary School
2	McWille Elementary School
3	Davis Magnet School

3rd Grade - Elementary Division Winners

Place	Student's Name	School
1	Miles Hansen	Casey
2	Braylen Bass	Casey
3	Ahmed Elashrouby	McWille
4	Lynda Hoskins	Casey
5	John Thomas	Davis Magnet
6	Jeremiah Rufus	Green
7	Farah Burton	French
8	Frederick Moore-Evans	Lake
9	Caylen Hubbard	Davis Magnet
10	Bailey Adams	Davis Magnet

4th Grade - Elementary Division Winners

Place	Student's Name	School
1	Christopher Dishmon	Casey
2	Elijah Dorch	Casey
3	John Perry	Casey
4	Julius Fite	North Jackson
5	Jaden Love	North Jackson
6	Ryals Harris	McWille
7	Colby Palmer	Davis Magnet
8	Ella Jeffers	McWille
9	Harrison Martin	Power APAC
10	Nicholas Sivak	Power APAC

5th Grade - Elementary Division Winners

Place	Student's Name	School
1	Edward Chaney	Power APAC
2	Cohen Swissa	Davis Magnet
3	Gregory Van Buren	Casey
4	Asia Brown	Casey
5	Matthew Brumfield	Watkins
6	Derrick Bell	North Jackson
7	Nia Wilson	McWille
8	Samuel Watkins	McWille
9	Daniel Byrd	Davis Magnet
10	Anton Taylor	Spann

Overall Middle School Winner

Place	School
1	Northwest Jackson Middle School

6th Grade - Middle Division Winners

Place	Student's Name	School
1	Tyler Bledsoe	Northwest Jackson
2	Tobias Barnes	Bailey APAC
3	Kittrell Ouren	McWille
4	Richard Johnson	Chastain
5	William Merritt V	Northwest Jackson
6	Janay Perkins	Kirksey
7	Brayton Jackson	Bailey APAC
8	Joshua Bennett	Northwest Jackson
9	Benjamin Graham Toney III	McWille
10	Takara Champ	Chastain

JPS JROTC conducts 3rd Annual West Point LEADS Workshop

Mississippi Link Newswire

Cadet leaders from the JROTC units at all seven JPS high schools took part in the 3rd Annual West Point LEADS Workshop held February 16. LEADS stands for Leadership, Ethics, and Diversity in STEM. The goal of this annual workshop is to help students realize the key role ethical leadership and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) competence play in their becoming effective leaders. The cadet leaders who successfully completed the workshop received certificates and top student teams received awards.

The event was held on the campus of Jackson State University in the school's state-of-the-art Engineering Building.

More than 200 cadets and 30 educators from JPS joined cadets from Brookhaven, Neshoba Central and George County High Schools.

Gov. Phil Bryant gave remarks during the opening session. A slate of highly-accomplished guest speakers addressed students during the day. Among them was Maj. Gen. Janson Boyles, Adjutant General of Mississippi, and Doug Davis, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State. Debra Mays-Jackson, a former JPS administrator who was recently appointed chief of staff for the president at Jackson State, represented the host school. JPS Interim Superintendent Fredrick Murray also gave remarks. The day-long event was



Standing with select cadet leaders and instructors from JPS JROTC cadets are (center, from left) Debra Mays-Jackson, Chief of Staff, Jackson State; Gov. Phil Bryant; and JPS Interim Superintendent Fredrick Murray

packed with enriching activities for the select cadre of leaders. Cadets were divided into groups for breakout sessions that were facilitated by mentors from the West Point Military Academy, along with Army and Air Force ROTC cadets from Jackson State University.

One session introduced students to cyber coding. At the end of the training, the high school cadets tested their solutions to cyber scenarios against those of their peers.

In leadership and ethics training, West Point mentors guided discussions on various honor

codes. They addressed the distinction between ethics and morals. They also provided practical ways for cadet leaders to make better choices. The goal of the workshop was to provide attendees with a deeper understanding of the importance of ethics to leadership and to STEM vocations.

West Point Cadet Emily Rose McGowan delivered the keynote address during the opening ceremony. The theme of her motivational message to cadets was "Desire, Belief and Smart." She encouraged students to finish these last few months of school with drive and determination.

"It is on you to fight to the finish," said McGowan. "Focus on getting through the finish line. As you inch closer, the one

thing you can never do is slow down. Be smart these last few months."

McGowan is an honor graduate of Brandon High School. She was a standout high school athlete, excelling in track and field and soccer. She is completing her last year as a student of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Her major is systems design and management and her minor is in engineering.

This event is a collaborative effort of the West Point Society of Mississippi, the JPS JROTC, Jackson State University's Computational Chemistry Center and Departments of Engineering and Military Science and the West Point Diversity Inclusion and Equal Opportunity Office at West Point New York.

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Alcorn adds new Master of Liberal Arts degree program

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Alcorn State University remains persistent in its mission to provide opportunities for students to better themselves educationally and professionally.

The University now offers the Master of Liberal Arts (MLA) degree, which includes concentrations in criminal justice, English and literature, history, mass communications, music and political science.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Donzell Lee, is thrilled about the potential of the new program.

"We are extremely excited and believe the Alcorn Master of Liberal Arts program will be highly attractive and beneficial not only to our alumni but all those in the workforce looking to strengthen their marketability and career potential. I am proud of the team of faculty, staff and administrators who worked tirelessly to bring this degree to life."

The objectives of the Master of Liberal Arts Program are to provide both depth and breadth of study in the liberal arts. It is an interdisciplinary program, generally pulling together coursework from a number of disciplines such as behavioral sciences, humanities and social sciences designed to train students to think critically and contextually about their fields as well as a diverse range of issues.

Renardo Murray, interim chair for the Department of



Fine Arts, was the principal author and proposer of the program. Murray says he was compelled by the idea of the university exploring and expanding its academic graduate study programs, particularly on the arts side of the curriculum.

"We have designed the Master of Liberal Arts program as a graduate option for working professionals and students who desire to further their arts and sciences education," said Murray. "Traditionally, our undergraduate programs have been very

successful in terms of recruitment, retention and graduation. We are confident that the MLA degrees will offer similar, exceptional opportunities and results for students."

Julia Odom, communications coordinator and data manager in the Office of Graduate Studies, is confident in the program's ability to bring in students and enhance their abilities.

"The launching of the Master of Liberal Arts degree program is a very ambitious academic expansion," said Odom. "The innovative pro-

grams in the six concentrations will prove to be a positive enabler to boost graduate enrollment as well as enhance the skill sets of graduates in the offered concentrations."

Applications are now being accepted for Fall 2018 admission.

For more information on admissions and program requirements, visit the Master of Liberal Arts <<https://www.alcorn.edu/academics/graduate-studies/new-page/master-of-liberal-arts-program-description>> website.

MVSU's Mushi and Holston-Okae publish article

The Mississippi Link Newswire

A Mississippi Valley State University professor and alum are the researchers behind an article recently published in an internationally recognized journal.

Richard Mushi, associate professor and department chair of MVSU's Social Sciences department, and MVSU alumna Bettye L. Holston-Okae ('99) authored a research article featured in the International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences.

The study, entitled "Employee Turnover in the Hospitality Industry using Herzberg's Two-Factor Motivation-Hygiene Theory", is grounded in the motivation-hygiene theory and assesses the relationship between employee turnover intention and job satisfaction, employee compensation, employee engagement, employee motivation and work environment for hospitality employees from Western Georgia, Central Mississippi and North Central Texas.

Holston-Okae said she is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with her alma mater to provide insightful research.

"As a proud alumni of MVSU who has spent some of my career in the corporate world, I believe alumni-university research collaboration is an effective way to increase MVSU's reputation and propel it into a premier research institution that can harness opportunities brought by the corporate partnership," she said.

Mushi said he hopes the partnership will encourage other students and alum to perform research.

"We appreciate Dr. Holston-Okae's effort to spotlight research potentials that exist here at MVSU," he added. May this opportunity open many more doors of research collaboration between Valley scholars and alumni."

Mushi holds his master's and doctoral degrees in public policy and administration from Jackson State University.

Holston-Okae received a bache-



Holston-Okae



Mushi

lor's degree in environmental health from MVSU and holds a master's degrees from Jackson State University and Texas Women's University. She received a doctoral degree in business from Walden University's College of Management and Technology.

The International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences is an interdisciplinary, open-access, blind peer-reviewed refereed journal published by the Human Resource Management Academic Research Society that publishes significant contributory research in different fields of social sciences, business and education management.

Mississippi students shine in Nissan Resume Challenge

*Lioryn Love-Carter
Nissan Communications*

Black History Month was a time to honor and remember inspiring leaders from our past. For us at Nissan, it was also a time to support the next generation of change makers. In January and February, we partnered

with the 100 Black Men of Jackson on the Nissan Resume Challenge.

This annual competition gave local African-American high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to sharpen their resume building and interview skills through coaching from

Nissan employees and feedback from a panel of judges.


The Mississippi winners joined students from other 100 Black Men chapters for a leadership program at Nissan North America headquarters in Tennessee. Over two days, these outstanding students learned




about leadership, business and personal growth from Nissan employees, community leaders and Tennessee Titans players like Derrick Henry.

We also celebrated Black History Month inside the plant. On Fridays, team members wore the attire of their historically black fraternities and sororities.

Fifty lucky employees won tickets to the new Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History for themselves and their families.



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Coordinator of Instructional Support Spotlight

Canton High School Edward Dunigan



Edward Dunigan, the coordinator of instructional support at Canton High School, is the married, proud father of three children. This CPSD alumni, graduated from Canton High School in 1998. He received his B.S. degree in music education from Alcorn State University. Dunigan also received a Master's degree in music education from Jackson State University in May 2013.

Dunigan has received numerous awards including Teacher of the Year (2008-2009) 2012-2013), Outstanding Service Award and a Grammy nomination.

Dunigan was Canton Elementary School's "Mr. Music Man" and the Title I Teacher from 2003 to 2015. He was the leader and founder of the CES choir and the CES marching band.

Dunigan served on the Board of Directors for the Notre Dame Educational Center. He also served as instructional specialist at Goodloe Elementary School from 2015 to 2017.

Dunigan says he enjoys helping make a difference in the lives of children. He says he is excited about the opportunity and committed to giving back to his alma mater and his community.

Let's talk about sex(ual) assault with Student Diversity and Title IX Officer LaKesha Varnell

By Rachel James-Terry
jsuwnews.com

In October 2017, the "Me Too" movement went viral in efforts to draw attention to the rampant and prevalent sexual assault and harassment in workplaces. However, sexual assault and harassment are not limited to companies, organizations and businesses. It can occur anywhere at any time. With statistics showing that nearly one in five women suffers from sexual assault by the time they have graduated college, it is important that all people educate themselves on sexual assault and harassment.

LaKesha Varnell is the student diversity and Title IX coordinator at Jackson State University. She holds a master of public health in health education and promotion. She is trained in interpersonal violence, date safe prevention and domestic violence and sexual assault through various state and national entities. She has agreed to share her knowledge so that the men and women of the JSU community can protect themselves.

James-Terry: Please describe sexual assault.

Varnell: Sexual assault is any violation of a person in sexual connotations that could be verbiage, groping, harassment, online exploitation, voyeurism, etc.

James-Terry: Please explain how certain verbiage can constitute as sexual assault.

Varnell: Verbiage could be anything like catcalling or suggestive language related to sex because it has a sexual connotation that could be considered sexual harassment.

James-Terry: Is sexual harassment or sexual assault defined as any form of unwelcome advances?

Varnell: It's definitely unwanted, unwarranted or non-consensual.

James-Terry: What if a person is incapacitated? Please explain what incapacitated means.

Varnell: Incapacitated means when a person is unable to give consent due to being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, mental health, mental disorder, being asleep or being passed out.

James-Terry: Under the influence can mean more than alcohol. It can also mean pills like opioids, right?

Varnell: Yes, opioids (pain relievers), Ambien (sedative), Tylenol-Night Time, Nyquil (cold medications), if a person ingests any of these, depending on the amount, it can mean under the influence.

James-Terry: Does your experience find that in social gatherings, sexual assault or sexual harassment has the most potential to occur while a person is incapacitated or intoxicated and cannot consent?

Varnell: Usually, it's intoxication. Jackson State University has not had very many cases of incapacitated sexual assault. However, impaired, intoxicated and under the influence becomes an issue because we have to figure out where do we draw a line. A person can actually be under the influence, and still, however, have a sound mind and body to make a conscious decision to have or not to have sex. We see it as a concern that has to be further addressed and clarified through policies and outreach.

However, state law says that a person under the influence cannot give consent to sexual acts.



That puts students in a very dangerous situation because you look at how many students can go to jail or get expelled from school, based on that law. It's really on a case by case basis.

James-Terry: What should a student, male or female, do if sexually assaulted?

Varnell: There are two scenarios. If a student is assaulted, they should immediately call the police, try to preserve their clothing, and all the evidence that they can, or anything that they have drunk that night, and any text messages. If it happens on campus, students should call the Department of Public Safety.

James-Terry: Should a student, male or female, contact on-campus assistance if they are sexually assaulted off campus?

Varnell: Yes, even if it's off campus, they should contact the Office of the Dean of Students or the Department of Public Safety. They will forward the report to Title IX. In most cases, if the student seems anxious about the assault, they will take him to the Latasha Norman Counseling Center, which is good if the student appears to have a psychotic break.

James-Terry: Do you think there is a perception that men cannot be sexually assaulted and therefore, it is under-reported?

Varnell: I think because the face of rape is so heterosexual and dominant, a guy cannot see the other aspect or component of rape. In some cases, we have homosexual assault, at which point, they are kind of confused or embarrassed as to what happens.

So, we try to do educational outreach and presentations to let them know that assault is assault. Any non-consensual intercourse, fondling or groping is assault.

We are beginning to see an increase in reporting by men, and that's a good thing.

James-Terry: Do you think that men are believed when they come forward?

Varnell: I can say that they are due to the courage it takes for a man to say he was assaulted. It's very hard to want to go through that process if you don't have a valid reason.

James-Terry: Can women sexually assault men?

Varnell: Yes, women can sexually assault men.

James-Terry: What can a guy or girl do to deter the possibility of becoming a victim or victimizer? JSU supports and encourages affirmative consent, where beyond a shadow of a doubt, consent is given.

Varnell: One way to determine consent is to ask. We always get students that say: "Well, it's kind of weird in the mind of the moment to ask." But you would rather have a weird three seconds than being expelled from school and brought up on criminal charges. Don't go out after midnight. Go out with a friend. Don't

drink. Don't leave your drink unattended. Those are good tips. However, we should put more focus on what people should not do to commit the actual rape. Take two friends with you if you can't control yourself.

James-Terry: How important is body language when trying to determine consent?

Varnell: It is very important because body language can be misinterpreted. Historically and presently, we do read some body language as a red flag, a yellow light or a green light. But heavy breathing, panting, muscular contractions or moaning can be misconstrued as a girl or guy is into it. For an 18-year-old, in the heat of the moment, those signs may signal a green light. However, those are also signs of a panic attack.

James-Terry: What is date rape and why is that not an accurate description of sexual assault?

Varnell: Some of the words we use can mitigate what is actually happening because who goes on a date to get raped? So we have to be careful in the language that we use because we can deflect the seriousness of that crime and almost turn it into a sensitivity issue for the actual respondent. Rape is rape. It should not be mitigated by certain precursors such as date rape or acquaintance rape.

James-Terry: Does victim blaming discourage people from reporting?

Varnell: Yes, definitely. It's already a great deal of self-blame, guilt and shame involved in a rape. Compound those emotions with what culture and society think, and people just shut down.

James-Terry: What about the "Me Too" movement? There has been some debate about the length of time that has passed before a person shares their story. How do you feel about that?

Varnell: The fact is, there is no limitation on reporting. It is best to report as soon as it happens because more evidence can be preserved if it is reported quickly. However, we can't dictate how our minds process things. I might process it in two days. It may take another person two years. So we have to be fair and considerate of the amount of trauma that person has experienced.

James-Terry: Although a woman or man may experience an orgasm during a sexual assault, that does not mean it was consensual, right?

Varnell: Right. Our body has a defense mechanism, male or female, and that is part of that defense mechanism.

James-Terry: If a guy thinks that he is going to be accused of sexual assault after what he perceives to be consensual sex, what can he do to protect himself?

Varnell: Anyone, under Title IX, who has been accused has the right to tell their side of the story, to ask the witnesses to come forward, to present what-



Varnell

ever evidence that they have (whether it's a text message or email) to prove that it was consensual. However, consent can be withdrawn at any time. So a text message would not be a valid way of justifying consent because a person could withdraw their consent during the act.

James-Terry: So, at any time, a person can say no even if they are in the middle of the act?

Varnell: Yes. We try to do more prevention on the front end. We call it primary prevention, which includes the education which talks about the mystery of body language, miscommunication and then affirmative consent.

James-Terry: Do you think if "clear and concise" becomes the standard to prove sexual assault, it will make establishing sexual assault more difficult?

Varnell: Yes, it is going to make it more difficult. Because if we go on clear and concise, or if we move toward clear and concise, more often than not, the respondent will be found not responsible. It boils down to his word against hers or their word against their word. So clear and concise is very hard to prove.

James-Terry: What are the rights of a complainant and a respondent?

Varnell: You should know that we do effectively respond and investigate claims on campus and off campus. Even if you're at a school-sponsored event and you're assaulted, you still have the right to file a complaint through Title IX. I want to reiterate that you can file a Title IX complaint without filing a criminal complaint. However, if we do a legality assessment and find that the respondent is a danger to the campus, we will report this information to the Department of Public Safety.

James-Terry: If a criminal report is filed off campus, do they also need to do one with Title IX?

Varnell: Yes. Again, that's only to ensure the safety of the students and to make sure that any accommodation for a student is met. If they file a criminal complaint or charges, the department of safety will send us (Title IX) the report. We will ask the student – because they still have the option – whether or not they want to file a Title IX complaint. A Title IX complaint will not render a respondent guilty or innocent through the criminal system nor the university system. After the investigation, The Title IX office makes the recommendation to the judicial board whether or not an assault occurred.

James-Terry: Is guilt left up to the judicial board and police?

Varnell: It is left to the judicial board through the university. The judicial board is actually the adjudication board that is trained by the Title IX Office to identify different types of drugs, the behavior and the neurobiology of a victim.

"It was hard because I was in Mississippi by myself."

The Mississippi Link Newswire

"My major is accounting. I want to be a CPA, but I am also really passionate about financial literacy, especially in the black community."

I don't feel that we get the same resources, same education or same knowledge regarding our finances, budgeting, investing, entrepreneurship or retirement.

So I'm passionate about bringing more of that to the black community – tools of success as opposed to tools for failure.

We have so many (payday and title) loan businesses in the black community. You don't see those in other communities. So, I want to teach people more about what to do with their money and how to be successful.

I'm most proud of coming to college in Mississippi. That was a big thing for me. My older sister was the first person in our family to complete college, but she went to school in Virginia. We're from Maryland and Mississippi is 16 hours away. So it was a big adjustment.

My freshman year was really hard, but not because of academics. It was hard because I was in Mississippi by myself. I didn't know anyone here. My first time coming to Mississippi was during the freshman orientation.

But being here has forced me to meet people and get in-




Kyah

involved. It wasn't like I could go anywhere. I was always on campus. So I've met a lot of good friends. And their families have been very welcoming to me. A lot of professors on campus have also been really welcoming. They give you that mom-away-from-home feel.

Since being here, I have participated in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi. That has had a big impact on me because I was able to mentor a young girl, who maybe wasn't given all the opportunities I was. I was able to expose her to some things that she may not have had a chance to experience. And we built a relationship. She was really like my little sister. We talked all the time.

That really had an impact on me because I was able to give back to someone else. So, I'm glad I came."

Kyah, junior accounting major from Upper Marlboro, Maryland



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Howard University heads to Puerto Rico to help: Students give up Spring Break to help in recovery efforts

By Tatyana Hopkins
NMPA Special Correspondent

When Oluwakanyinsola Adebola signed up to do community service as part of Howard University's Alternative Spring Break, she knew she wouldn't be joining her classmates and thousands of other college students who use their week off to party and play in the sun and surf of Jamaica or Aruba or any of a half dozen other Caribbean locations.

Instead, Adebola would be part of the hundreds of Howard students who, each year for more than 20 years, have given up their traditional spring breaks to serve in communities in need in places like Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore, Memphis and New Orleans.

Ironically, Adebola will travel to a Caribbean island after all. She will be in Puerto Rico aiding the millions of U.S. citizens still struggling to recover from Hurricane Maria, which hit the island September 20.

The storm, which had 155 mph winds, caused at least \$90 billion in damage, destroying thousands of homes, killing at least 60 people and decimating the island's already deteriorating power grid. Currently, about 1,200 generators power some of homes, hospitals and schools while seven larger, more powerful energy centers, called microgrids, provide energy to key areas near important buildings like hospitals and schools.

Electricity, however remains a challenge. Recurring blackouts plague the island, and about 340,000 people are still without power. The blackouts have upset traffic and interrupted water service to dozens of neighborhoods, including the historic Old San Juan in the nation's capital.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration has been providing re-



Ivon Alcime, a graduate communications major, helps build a cement wall at the School of Good Samaritans as part of a previous Alternative Spring Break in Haiti after the country was struck by an earthquake that devastated much of the island. Justin D. Knight/Howard University

lief and rescue efforts, providing meals and water to residents.

Adebola and 47 other students, accompanied by two faculty advisors, land in Puerto Rico Friday, March 9, and begin a week of work on Monday, March 12. The ASB participants will paint schools and fix homes and churches in and around San Juan, the island's capital.

Howard students will also visit and assist in the daily activities at two Boys and Girls clubs in Las Margaritas and Bayamón about 20 minutes outside of San Juan. Students and faculty will be staying about an hour west of San Juan at a campsite in Arecibo, six people to a room.

This year, no students applying for ASB knew where they would be placed when they signed up for the annual service missions. Applicants selected a service preference ranging from "children/orphanages" to "prison rehabilitation." The luck of the draw would determine at which of this year's 15 service sites they

would be placed.

Adebola, an ASB first-timer, said when she checked "recovery" on her application, she thought she would be going to Houston or Belle Glade, Fla., two U.S. cities that also were hit hard by hurricanes last fall. She said she never expected to be placed in Puerto Rico. "I'm really excited," she said.

A native of Nigeria, Adebola moved to the United States to learn mechanical engineering to further technological advancement in her country, which she said lacks proper waste disposal systems, consistent electricity and access to clean drinking water in many parts of the country.

She said old medical equipment failed to save her 13-year-old sister's diminishing eyesight, leaving her completely blind.

Adebola, who created a nonprofit organization at 13 to help Nigerian children, said that the goals of ASB align perfectly with hers.

"The purpose of ASB is to help people, and it gives

me something productive to do," she said.

More than 700 students will participate in ASB service missions to 14 other underserved areas and regions devastated by natural disaster this year, including St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Martin, Anguilla, Haiti and Ghana. Groups will also go to Chicago, New Orleans, Port Arthur and Beaumont in Texas, the Florida Keys and Flint, Mich.

"We decided to go to places hit hardest by the hurricane," said Puerto Rico site coordinator Kyliah Hughes, 20.

According to Hughes, ASB planners wanted to "make a statement" about their commitment to service by visiting places further than the usual domestic sites.

Dijon Stokes, 20, a team leader for Puerto Rico, agreed.

"We have to help beyond borders," Stokes said. "We go where we're needed, and we will visit those places devastated by the hurricane until we see real recovery."

Leading black legislator calls for economic unity, action as Black Wealth 2020 celebrates second year

TriceEdneyWire.com

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

"Economic development is the cornerstone for everything. It's kind of interesting to talk to you all because you're living it every day," said Indiana Rep. Gregory W. Porter, president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL). He was speaking to Black Wealth 2020 founders, executives and associates at its second anniversary luncheon.

"You know what it takes for a community to get along. Also, we don't spend with our people like we should and we know that. The bottom line is this: We know the whereases. We know what the problems are. Therefore, what are we going to do? Jesse [Jackson] said years ago 'Can't nobody save us but us'... That's what we're doing right now, saving us," said Porter.

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

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

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

"We're working with the NAACP, Urban League, other groups and national organizations because if we do that we'll be strong together. We can't continue to be silos. So, I know as we go forth, we will do it as a community. And so, remember, you have 600 legislators, we represent 60 million people. We're in 45 states, plus U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. We have the means. It's up to all of us to come together and have the will."

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

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

As an example of action, he said he and likeminded legislators have had to hold up certain projects in order to assure black participation. "We're the super minority, so a lot of us are fighting to stay relevant in this whole process," he said. "They always go to the big com-



Indiana Rep. Gregory Porter, president, National Black Caucus of State Legislators

pany, but we've got to know how we're going to build our capacity by choosing minority companies... We've worked very hard in dealing with minority access for sustainable financial institutions through our resolutions. As Black Caucuses across the country, we're increasing our fair contracting opportunities and practices for economic parity. These are resolutions that we've passed."

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

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

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

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

He suggested that constituents:

- Have their own kitchen cabinet and invite legislators to neighborhood and community meetings.
- Come to state houses, visit the representatives' offices.
- Attend and speak at public hearings.

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

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

Man cleared of murder after 16 years behind bars

TriceEdneyWire.com

A Connecticut judge has dismissed a 1991 murder indictment against Alfred Swinton who spent 16 years in prison until DNA and other evidence cleared him of the crime for which he maintained his innocence from the day police handcuffed him, according to the Innocence Project.

Swinton was arrested in 1991 for the murder of Carla Terry because he had been in the same bar the night she was murdered. A judge, however, tossed the case because he said there wasn't enough evidence linking Swinton to the crime.

Seven years later, police again arrested him after finding a bra in a box in the apartment building where



Albert Swinton raises his arms in triumph after murder charges are dismissed against him. INNOCENCE PROJECT PHOTO

Swinton lived at the time of the murder. A bite mark on the victim's breast reportedly linked Swinton's teeth marks to the crime. In 2001, he was convicted for Terry's murder and sentenced to 60

years. Terry's sister testified that she gave the bra to her to wear that night, but a 2015 DNA test - known as touch DNA - revealed that neither Swinton nor Terry's DNA

was on the bra. The state laboratory also conducted a second DNA test on the bite mark and the test determined that it didn't belong to Swinton.

Dr. Gus Karazulas, the chief forensic odontologist, now admits his testimony wasn't based on scientific evidence, reported the Innocence Project, which is based in New York City.

Swinton, who is 69 and walks with the assistance of a walker, is the 30th person since 2000 whose conviction was vacated in 2017 or dismissed based, at least in part, on bite-mark evidence, the Innocence Project reported.

Police are still hunting for Terry's killer and the killer of four other area women.

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month proclaimed in March

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) is joining thousands of people and organizations all across the country in celebrating the month of March as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

In recognition of this event, representatives of DMH, the Bureau of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (BIDD) Advisory Council and persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities joined with Governor Phil Bryant February 28 as he signed a proclamation declaring March as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the State of Mississippi.

"We encourage all citizens to support opportunities for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in our state that include full access to education, housing, employment and recreation," the proclamation reads. "Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities deserve total support, recognition and acceptance of all citizens of the State of Mississippi."

DMH has also joined with the BIDD Advisory Council to launch a campaign highlighting the connection between people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their communities. The campaign, titled "Celebrating Mississippians with Intellectual and Developmental Dis-



Representatives of DMH and the Bureau of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council with Governor Phil Bryant as he signs a proclamation declaring March as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. They are (L to R) Molly Porter with DMH, of Madison County; Wendy Bailey, with DMH of Rankin County; Shirley Miller and Micah Miller, of Hinds County; Renee Brett, director of the Bureau of IDD in DMH, of Madison County; Jessica Mathews with REM Mississippi and BIDD Advisory Council chair, of Rankin County; Matt Nalker with The Arc of Mississippi and BIDD Advisory Council vice chair, of Hinds County; Noah Duffy and Kim Duffy of Jackson County; DMH Executive Director Diana Mikula, of Rankin County; and Robert Landrum of Jones County, chair of the Board of Mental Health.

abilities," will feature videos, stories, posters and graphics about people with intellectual or developmental disabilities that are embracing choices and enriching their lives through employment, home ownership, social relationships and a variety of community activities.

The BIDD Advisory Council includes REM Mississippi, The Arc of

Mississippi, the Institute for Disability Studies at the University of Southern Mississippi, the Department of Education, Brandi's Hope, the Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities, the Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Division of Medicaid, Communicare, Disability Rights Mississippi, MIDD-West Industries, War-

ren-Yazoo Mental Health, consumers of disability services and their family members.

Celebrating Mississippians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities will be promoting awareness about IDD and illustrating that people with disabilities have the ability to contribute significantly to their schools, families, relationships, neigh-

borhoods, faith communities and the workforce, and they have the right to work, worship, learn and enjoy life wherever they choose.

The personal stories, videos and other information will be shared digitally on social media and through grassroots outreach throughout the state.

To view this information, visit the DMH web site at www.dmh.ms.gov.

SBA Mississippi will host 'Mississippi Meet the Lenders in the Golden Triangle'

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The U.S. Small Business Administration Mississippi District Office (SBA) will host Mississippi Meet the Lenders in the Golden Triangle: "A Small Business Borrower/Lender Match-Making Event." This event will provide small business owners and entrepreneurs the opportunity to meet one-on-one with banks, certified development companies, microlenders, alternative lenders and SBA to discuss the availability of SBA loans and other loan products in the marketplace.

Tuesday, March 20, 2018
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sign-In 9:00 a.m.
East Mississippi Community College
Lyceum Auditorium

8731 S. Frontage
Mayhew, MS 39753

A one-stop forum for business owners and entrepreneurs to:

- Pitch financing needs to top small business lenders in one-on-one meetings
- Learn what lenders look for in a winning loan proposal
- Understand the loan application process.

Come prepared with multiple copies of your business plan for distribution. SBA has a "Build a Business Plan" online tool that guides small business owners through the process of creating a basic, downloadable business plan. To locate your nearest counselor for assistance in preparing your business plan, please contact the following resources: Mississippi SBDC Network

1-800-725-7232, SCORE 769-208-3593, Women's Business Center (WBC) 601 376-9895 or the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) 662 325-4990. SBA's Learning Center hosts a variety of self-paced online training courses to help entrepreneurs explore and learn about the many aspects of business ownership. Local, regional and statewide resource partners will be available during this event.

The event is free.

To Pre-Register online, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sba-mississippi-meet-the-lenders-in-the-golden-triangle-tickets-42544158724>

If you have questions please, email Rosetta Harris at rosetta.harris@sba.gov or Deborah Dean at deborah.dean@sba.gov.

Mississippi State Hospital, Hudspeth Center honor Calhoun

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Supporters of Mississippi State Hospital and Hudspeth Regional Center recently hosted an appreciation luncheon for the state's legislators at Gallo-way United Methodist Church in Jackson.

Rep. Credell Calhoun, District 68, Hinds and Rankin Counties, was one of the honorees.

The legislative appreciation event is an annual program hosted by Friends of MSH and Friends of Hudspeth Center. The volunteer organizations are dedicated to raising funds and awareness for their respective programs and those Mississippians served through them.

Employees, volunteers, advocates and other members of the Friends groups hosted the event in order to thank lawmakers for their work in the legislature and for their continued



Pictured are (l to r) MSH Human Resources Director Kristi Finehout, Rep. Credell Calhoun and DMH Bureau of Mental Health Director Marc Lewis.

support of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it

serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety and supporting recovery.

The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

Mississippi Senate Pages at State Capitol



Bella Cole, (right), of Jackson recently served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff. Bella is pictured with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves and Senator John Horhn, who sponsored her visit. Bella is the daughter of Ryan and Jessica Cole and attends Jackson Preparatory School. When asked about the week, Bella said, "I had a great time being able to page for Senator Horhn." Also pictured are fellow pages, Tierra Sanders, (left), and David Cooper, (center).

Mississippi Senate Page at State Capitol



MarQuies K. Williams of Jackson recently served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff. MarQuies is pictured with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves who sponsored his visit. MarQuies is the son of MarQuita W. Lampkin and attends Murrah High School. When asked about the week, MarQuies said, "I really enjoyed paging this week. I learned a lot working in the Capitol."

Passion for the work of God

P A R T 3

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



A good salesman for the truth loves to talk to people about the truth. They want to be out there talking to people, dealing with them, praying with them and praying for them. What are we here for anyway, church? We are not here just to say we came to the services and enjoyed ourselves. One purpose of getting saved is to see others saved. The purpose of buying this truth is so that we can sell it to others.

A good salesman also loves his job. They love to talk to people about what he is trying to sell. They love and use the product themselves. A good salesman knows it will change people's lives for good. The Christian loves to tell about God and what God did for him. When we get saved, we want to tell the world about it;

we want others to be saved. A good salesman loves the truth, and they love to tell others whenever they can. They look for opportunities.

First Peter 3:15 says, "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." Have you ever been asked why you go to the Church of God? Are you ready to give an answer when they ask you? We need to tell them we have to ask: "Are you interested in buying it?" Likewise, there comes a time when we have to ask: "Are you willing to live for God?" There comes a time when we will want to invite people to church. Most people are not going to walk through the door without an invitation.

What kind of salesman are you? Do you have a passion for the work of the Lord? Can you inspire trust in individuals? Do you have the determination to press on? Do you love the truth enough to share

it? Have you been witnessing to souls as you ought? Do you have a burden for the lost and dying world? Do you need to improve on some of your abilities?

I wonder how many souls have died and gone to hell because somebody who was a Christian did not put forth an effort to talk to them. This is serious! It is up to us to lead them to Christ. We read in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." What kind of salesman are you?

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

P R E S E R V E D

Faith reaches forward

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



"It's a mild 45 degrees outside now but the high today will be close to 70 degrees."

As I listened to the morning television meteorologist finish the rest of his forecast recently, I wondered how in the world I would dress for a day like today.

It was not the first time I'd pondered this question. North Texas weather being what it is always gives the option of having two different seasons in a 24-hour day. On that day, it looked like we were going to have winter and spring in the same day.

After thinking about what I was going to wear for a few minutes, I decided to see what I had in my closet. Should I dress for what it would be like when I went to work in the morning or should I dress for what it would be like when I got off work in the afternoon? It really wasn't a hard decision but for some reason on days with a nearly 30-degree temperature spread, it always stumped me.

I didn't want to be overdressed (and burn up) or underdressed (and freeze). Unless it was really freezing outside, I usually dress in layers so that I'd be able to shed the extra clothes as the day warmed up.

As I stared blankly at the short and long-sleeved clothes in my closet, I thought how my decision on how to dress was like something I'd heard years ago

about tithes and offering. The minister said that you should not pay your tithes based on what you make now but based on what you'd like to make. The reason was that God would reward your faith and increase your finances. At first, I thought that was crazy advice...then I tried it, even though it was a sacrifice. Just like the minister said, God increased my finances to the level of the new tithes and offering amount.

Similar to wearing clothes based on the current or future temperature, the question is whether you plan your life for current circumstances or according to future and hoped for circumstances. Should you pray for where you are or for where you want to be? Should you worship based on your current situation or what you hope your future situation will be?

In Isaiah 46:10 God says, "I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'"

God is not limited by time, situation or circumstance. We should also not be limited by time and our present circumstances, but honestly acknowledge where we are. At the same time, we can reach forward with our faith with hopeful expectancy toward where we desire to be.

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

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Hope

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



Through all of the weird machinations of her boss, and members of his Administration, Hope Hicks has been labeled the 'glue' holding things together at the White House. But events have occurred that even she could no longer tolerate. Having lost Hope, no one seems to know what will happen at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. I, for one, am happy for Hope. Although she was paid well, it seems that her burden in dealing with 45 was just too great to continue running interference for him. Everyone has a breaking point.

Surprisingly, Attorney General Jeff Sessions' pushback against the unceasing public attacks directed at him by 45 seems to signal his breaking point against 45's many transgressions – real and suspected. As Sessions appears more willing to fully support and defend the 'rule of law,' hope increases that we may not have to endure this craziness much longer.

There is increasing hope for those of us who have grown weary of the series of guilty pleas, indictments and an almost daily confirmation of Russian meddling in our election processes. Hope emerges for those of us who're unwilling to wait an indeterminate period of time for responsible gun control.

While Robert Mueller's investigation forces ahead to its ultimate conclusion, students in Florida and across the nation are gearing up to pressure lawmakers to enact legislation that will provide for greater public safety. We've all heard 45's empty promises for positive change, but our youth are forcing politicians to reconsider the fixes that will result in real change.

There is renewed hope in the demonstrated corporate responsibility of Hertz, Dick's Sporting Goods, Spectrum, Delta and United Airlines and others who exert their influence upon the creation of effective gun control legislation.

45 may be feeling the pressure. In White House meetings, he has stunned the NRA and its phalanx of supporting politicians with proposals for change that can only be called unconventional or unbelievable for a Republican politician. I'm not convinced that 45 won't try to wiggle out of the changes he's vocally supported; but I'm convinced that thousands of students, organized for real change, will not waiver in their demand for sensible gun control. The NRA doesn't have enough money to erase the horror of Parkland's massacre from their memories.

Kenida Woods, a 17-year-old student from Missouri who helped organize the recent protests at her school said, "There is no reason a 19-year-old boy should've been able to purchase an AR-15," referring to the gun used by Nikolas Cruz, the suspect in the Parkland, Florida school massacre. Those murders have launched other walkouts across the country aimed at stricter gun control, and surely there'll be many more if politicians fail to act.

Good schools have taught students their rights, and they've chosen to exercise them. A small group of single-minded special interest types are hell-bent on silencing the protests of our youth. Reflecting their hope for the future (and to their credit) our youth assert that First Amendment Rights won't be subordinate to those of the Second.

Hope springs eternal as teachers and a public majority reject the notion of transforming teachers into in-school gun slingers. Most will acknowledge the extreme challenges of modern teaching. Short-sighted gun proponents like 45 and Florida Governor Scott only worsen prospects of school violence with their proposal to arm teachers for the reward of a "small bonus." I only hope that the Dalton, Georgia teacher who barricaded himself in a schoolroom and began shooting gives reason to reconsider this ill-devised plan.

Students pursue gun control today! Their awakening may result in a similar pursuit for women's rights, voting rights and immigrant rights tomorrow! 45 may have lost his Hope, but these students renew hope for us all!

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

Black (immigrant) lives matter

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



"As we move forward in dialogue and action, as we question the legitimacy of documents, policies and practices that render some bodies legal and others 'alien,' we must also push ourselves to acknowledge and address the intersections of immigrant identities. Over the past decade, as the immigrant rights movement in our country has expanded, our understanding of immigration has narrowed to the non-black, Latino experience." – Opal Tometi, Black Alliance for Just Immigration, "Why The Black Immigrant Experience is Central to Lasting Social Change," State of Black America 2017

We are long overdue for a discussion about immigration as it relates to black immigrants, particularly at this moment as the current presidential administration clamors to end legal protections for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, and congressional leaders lurch from one proposed bipartisan solution to another in search of a permanent legislative fix. To be sure, to live in this country as an undocumented person is to live a life

overshadowed by fear, but combine that fear with the harsh realities of race in our nation and you have a volatile mix.

The numbers are troubling and telling. Black immigrants make up a small percentage of DACA recipients. They are an estimated 12,000 of 700,000 recipients, and comprise less than 10 percent of all our nation's entire immigrant population, but at 21 percent, they are predictably overrepresented in deportation proceedings as a result of criminal convictions, and according to the deputy director of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, the same yawning disparity holds true for detention rates. BAJI's State of Black Immigrants report estimates that "one out of every five noncitizens facing deportation on criminal grounds before the Executive Office for Immigration Review is black."

While undocumented black immigrants share a universal story of migration, struggle and survival, they must also contend with the heightened risk of social vulnerability commonly tied to race in our nation. As we enter the proverbial ring to fight for the civil and human rights of those brought to this country as children, recognize no other home, and as President Obama once noted, are "Americans in their heart, in their minds, in every single way

but one: on paper," we must ensure that solutions that benefit one immigrant community do not derail the opportunities of another. Therefore, the stories and voices of black immigrants must remain top-of-mind and relevant throughout this debate.

The Trump administration recently left the fate of these 700,000 undocumented immigrants in the hands of the Supreme Court. A decision to allow the Trump administration to end the DACA program – which currently shields those young men and women from deportation – would have resulted in the near immediate loss of that protection. The added travesty for black immigrants is that over-policing in their communities and increased engagement with the criminal justice system would have increased their risk of deportation. But in a widely expected setback, the Supreme Court rejected the administration's request to hear the case. While the court's decision offers a timely lifeline to DACA recipients, who faced the imminent expiration of the program's legal protections, the reprieve is temporary.

The disturbing language said to come from the White House claiming that Nigerians live in huts, that all Haitians have AIDS, or that Africans should return to their slum-worthy countries, would evidence

a disdain for immigrants who come from majority black countries.

Various proposed congressional resolutions have highlighted the urgency of amplifying the experiences of black immigrants.

There are bipartisan proposals on the table that offer a permanent fix for DACA recipients and DREAMers (undocumented immigrants who are eligible, but have not applied for DACA), in exchange for ending established channels to legal immigration such as Temporary Protected Status (TPS), protections for immigrants who come from countries experiencing environmental or social upheaval, the VISA diversity lottery program, and family-based immigration programs – some of the very programs that created and create legal pathways for black immigration.

We are stronger together. The immigrants' rights movement needs to be inclusive and incorporate the realities of its diverse constituencies. Now is the time for rights groups, advocates and allies to begin to specifically look at and address the complicated needs and reality of black undocumented immigrants whose stories and voices are rarely heard above prevailing media narratives. It is time to affirm that their lives matter, too.

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

Remembering Lerone Bennett Jr., master journalist, master historian, master teacher

By A. Peter Bailey
TriceEdneyWire.com



Brilliant journalist/historian Lerone Bennett Jr., who died at age 89 February 14, 2018, in numerous Ebony magazine articles and books, made Black History come alive to millions of people in the United States and throughout the world. It is almost prophetic that the great historian died in the middle of Black History Month.

During my eight years working in Ebony's New York City office and at several conferences of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, I had an opportunity to personally talk to and closely listen to the wisdom that he abundantly provided. When it came to Black History, Lerone was a master teacher. He always spoke calmly but emphatically when exposing the outright lies that we had been told about American history, especially when it came to black folks. I know at least a dozen people who became history-lovers after reading one of Lerone's books or hearing him speak.

In the introductions or prefaces Lerone informs readers, the motivation for each of his books. They include the following:

1. Before the Mayflower: The History of the Negro in America (1962)
The quote is from the 1964 revised edition. "This is a history of the other

America' and what happened to them when they got here. The story begins in Africa with the great empires of the Sudan and Nile Valley and ends with the Second Reconstruction which Martin Luther King Jr. and the 'sit-in' generation are fashioning in the North and South...."

2. The Negro Mood (1964)
"In five essays organized around the general theme, the Negro Mood, I have attempted to dig beneath the surface and expose the psychic mechanisms of the black fury that is rolling across the land."

3. Confrontation: Black and White (1965)

"The Negro rebellion is a classic example of the confrontation of blacks and whites as symbols and as presences. This epochal event, which is beginning not ending, is unfolding on several levels...."

4. Black Power U.S.A.: The Human Side of Reconstruction 1867-1877 (1967)

"The history of this period has been a matter of extreme controversy for several decades. Until quite recently, most white historians denounced the 'Africanization' of the South as a 'soul-sickening spectacle' of 'military despotism,' 'graft' and 'inefficiency.' Woodrow Wilson, to cite only one example, was appalled by the whole era and wrote scathingly of the former slaves as a 'host of dusty children untimely out of school. Within recent years, modern scholars, following the lead of W.E.B.

DuBois and other Negro historians, have proved conclusively that the works of Wilson and other conservative writers were white-oriented distortions of Reconstruction reality. I have attempted in this brief history to give wider currency to the findings of these scholars...."

5. Pioneers in Protest (1972)
Lerone didn't write a preface or introduction for this book but it includes the following: "For the modern pioneers and martyrs: Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Medgar Evers."

6. The Challenge of Blackness (1972)

"The words were written and spoken in a variety of contexts. What holds them together is a common concern with the challenge of blackness as expressed most concretely in the thrust of black people for political, economic and cultural power."

7. The Shaping of Black America (1975)

"This is an essay towards a new understanding of the long and continuing attempts of African and African descendants to possess themselves and the new land. This essay is historical reconstruction grows, organically and chronologically out of an earlier book, Before the Mayflower. First of all and most important of all, this is developmental history instead of chronological history...."

8. Great Moments in Black History: Waded in the Water (1979)

"This book is an attempt to answer questions about central events in the shaping of black-white America. It is an attempt to view history from the inside and it is based, whenever possible, on the response of participants and contemporary observers. The book explores fifteen dramatic turning points from the first black national convention to the March on Washington...."

9. Forced Into Glory: Abraham Lincoln's White Dream (2007)

"This is not a biography; this is a political study of the uses and abuses of biography and opinion and it suggests, among other things, that your identity, whatever your color, is based, at least in part, on what you think about Lincoln, the Civil War and slavery. Lincoln or somebody said once that you can't fool all of the people all of the time. By turning a racist who wanted to deport all blacks into a national symbol of integration and brotherhood, the Lincoln myth-makers have managed to prove Lincoln or whoever said it wrong. This is the story of how they fooled all of the people all of the time and why."

Finally, another major contribution of the master teacher is the article "Why Black History is Important to You" in the February 1981 Ebony. It includes the immortal observation that "the past is a bet that your fathers placed that you must now cover."

Say Amen somebody. Thanks Brother Lerone.

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www.mississippilink.com

Brandon Mitchell and S.W.A.P. drops sophomore album produced by AyRon Lewis



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Brandon Mitchell and Singers with a Purpose (S.W.A.P.) are set to drop their sophomore album with a live concert May 18, 2018 at Jackson Revival Center located at 4655 Terry Rd., Jackson, Mississippi at 7 p.m.

The anticipated album was produced by the extraordinarily talented AyRon Lewis, who is a Stellar Award nominated, musician, producer and composer. The album release concert will feature special guests, some who are featured on the album, including, Todd Galberth, Lena Byrd-Miles, C. Ashley Brown Lawrence, Michelle Prather and Lisa Knowles-Smith of the Brown Singers. Tickets are available at www.brandon-mitchellswap.com.

The group was established at Alcorn State University twelve years ago. Over the years, they established a name for themselves performing at events from churches to festivals around the country. They were the Ultimate Gospel Music Showcase winners in 2013, and Mitchell appeared on Larry Robinson's Show, Live on the Spot. Most recently they were the opening act for David and Tamela Mann at Thalia Mara Hall in Downtown Jackson.

The album is just as it is entitled, "Amazing!" It embodies the impeccable craftsmanship of musicians, producers and engineers found in Nashville, the "Music City," but brings it home to have that signature soul-stirring "Jackson, Mississippi" sound. Simple and complex lines accompanied by the horns of the infamous Lloyd Barry, with crisp amazing background vocals, highlights vocalist Mitchell on an outstanding album.

Mitchell built this group and his ministry on the strong foundational leadership of his father, a minister in the A.M.E. church and his mother, a God-fearing woman dedicated to service. He identifies with the privilege, as well as the blessings, he's had with two loving parents and doesn't take it for granted. He and wife Trinity continue to build on this foundation and use this platform to help the underserved.

Mitchell and S.W.A.P. would love your support for this project by attending the event and buying their album found on all

digital outlets. They also need your help with a service project associated with this album release. Backpacks and emergency items will be collected to donate to Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services. Most children removed from their homes and placed in child protective services are typically forced to place their belongings into a trash bag. This project will provide them with a bag filled with emergency items they can call their own, which is a small measure of love to give these children a sense of normalcy in a very traumatic experience.

About Brandon Mitchell
Gospel singer, songwriter, musician, Brandon Mitchell is a native of Benton, Miss. One of six children, he grew up in church. His father, an A.M.E. church pastor, co-founded The Benton Jubilees quartet, who have been singing for over 30 years. So ministry was always a part of his upbringing.

Mitchell went from church to church with his father's minis-

try singing and playing piano. He began to further his musical ability at Yazoo City High School under the direction of Rev. Steve Dennis, the school choral director. Mitchell sang tenor in the varsity choir all four years of high school and first tenor in the boy's quartet for three years. While in high school, he started the Yazoo City High School Gospel Chorus. This group allowed him to use his gift of music to minister to youth throughout the school and give other young people who weren't involved with church or other extracurricular activities an outlet. His musical abilities earned him scholarship offers to colleges all over the country, but he chose Alcorn State University.

At Alcorn State University, Mitchell majored in music performance and toured the country with the Alcorn State University Concert Choir singing at venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Church on The Hill in New York.

Mitchell was also a featured

vocalist at the Natchez Music Festival where he sang at their annual "Songs of the South" event, during their production of "Treemonisha" the opera, and multiple masses.

At Alcorn, Mitchell founded Singers with a Purpose (S.W.A.P.), a group of college friends on the campus. Since their conception, they have ministered throughout the country spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

They self-financed and recorded their debut album "I Feel A Move" in April of 2008. This album was released in July of 2010. The group's sophomore project is produced by AyRon Lewis.

Mitchell is vocal producer with J.S. Productions and currently serves as director of music at College Hill Baptist Church in Jackson Miss.

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E-Waste Day
MS Farmer's Market
929 High Street Jackson

Earth Day Poster Contest - 6th Graders

April 21st
Robinson Road (Ramp to Perimeter Central to Robinson)
1017 Robinson Rd

April 28th
Rosemont Baptist Church
3930 South Drive - Known as Officer Thomas Catchings Drive

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LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
FRANK BOSTON, DECEASED

CAUSE #2018-171

BY: LaTonya Lyles

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MABEL SEATON, DECEASED

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

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

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 2nd day of February, 2018.



Eddie Carr
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY
Mississippi

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

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MABEL SEATON, DECEASED

CAUSE #16-640

BY: Jennifer Lloyd

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MABEL SEATON, DECEASED

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

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

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 2nd day of February, 2018.



Eddie Carr
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY
Mississippi

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

LEGAL

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

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

CAUSE NO. 16-620

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Executor upon the Estate of Mabel Seaton Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 2nd day of February, 2018.

Jennifer Lloyd
Jennifer Lloyd

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

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF FRANK BOSTON JR., DECEASED
NAMED HEREIN

CAUSE NO. 2018-171

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Executor upon the Estate of Frank Boston Jr., Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 2nd day of February, 2018.

LaTonya Lyles
LaTonya Lyles

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

LEGAL

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF Hinds

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

Given under my hand this the 15th day of February, 2018.

LaTonya Lyles
Notary Public

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

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

LEGAL

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

In accordance with the regulations of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), 49 CFR Part26, the City of Jackson/Office of Transportation has created a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. It is the policy of the City of Jackson/Office of Transportation to create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete 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 Williams Bernard
Mid South Auto Sales of Canton, Financial, Lien Holder

Date of Sale: March 30, 2018

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

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

Time: 10:00 A.M.

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

LEGAL

Notice of Sale Abandoned Vehicle

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

2007 Merz L55 WDDJ2X77A098875

Registered to Durr Megan
Magnolia Federal Credit Union, Financial, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: March 16, 2018

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

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

Time: 10:00 A.M.

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

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

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CONNECTION WITH TERMINAL UPGRADES FOR EAST AND WEST
CONCOURSSES AT THE JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JMAA PROJECT
NO. 002-17)**

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

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

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

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

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

Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport
Suite 300, Main Terminal Building
100 International Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39208
Telephone: (601) 360-6661
Facsimile: (601) 930-3743
Attention: Deuntagius Herndon, Procurement Specialist

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LEGAL

goal and goal methodology.

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

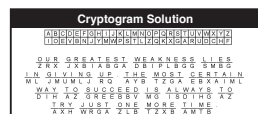
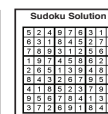
Point of contact: Marilyn Guice, Transportation Planning Manager
City of Jackson – Office of Transportation
601-960-0864
mguice@jacksonms.gov

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

Notice Posted: March 1, 2018

3/8/18, 3/15/18

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The Mississippi Link
please call: 601-896-0084
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3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
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104 Terry Rd
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RITE AID
114 E. McDowell Rd
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K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
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LOVE FOOD MART
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Week of March 04, 2018

SEC 4-Peat: Gamecocks snap Mississippi State's streak at 32

Associated Press

A'ja Wilson screamed, waved four fingers in the air and danced in front of the South Carolina pep band. Doing something nobody has ever done before deserves a mighty celebration.

Wilson scored 16 points as eighth-ranked South Carolina became the first Southeastern Conference women's program to win four straight tournament championships Sunday, snapping the nation's longest winning streak at 32 with a 62-51 upset of No. 2 Mississippi State.

And Wilson was on the court for each tournament victory in an unprecedented run in the SEC. Tennessee with its 17 tourney titles won three in 2010 and 2012, but the Lady Vols never made the final with a chance at a four-peat.

"It's a blessing and an honor," said Wilson with a net around her neck. "The SEC is a great conference and to make history like that, to be a team that's gone four times in a row to the championship and won it, it's a great feeling. I really can't even put into words the feeling I have."

The Gamecocks beat Mississippi State yet again with a title on the line. South Carolina beat the Bulldogs last April for the program's first national championship, and now the Game-



cocks (26-6) have their third straight SEC tournament title at Mississippi State's expense.

Mississippi State (32-1) had not lost since that national title game, coming into the SEC tournament final with the Bulldogs' first regular season championship and hoping a third try at the tournament title would be the charm.

The SEC's best 3-point shooters struggled outside the arc, and the Bulldogs couldn't overcome South Carolina's dominance in the paint with Teaira McCowan limited by foul trouble most of the first half. The Gamecocks held Mississippi State to its fewest points all season.

"Just wasn't our day offensively,"

Mississippi State coach Vic Schaefer said. "And it just was really frustrating from an offensive standpoint because it didn't matter what string we pulled, it just didn't work."

Tyasha Harris added 14 points for South Carolina, Mikiah Herbert Harrigan had 13 and Bianca Jackson 11.

Victoria Vivians led Mississippi State with 17 points, and Morgan Williams had 10. McCowan, who came in averaging 18.1 points per game, was limited to six points.

"Our kids were engaged and locked into the game plan," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. "They did not want to lose. I think they wanted to create their own history, which was

to win four SEC tournament championships. And they were determined to do it."

Wilson came off the bench for the third straight game, checking in with 6:27 left in the first quarter. The three-time SEC player of the year quickly scored and stole the ball to spark the Gamecocks to six quick points and the lead. Herbert Harrigan led the Gamecocks with 11 points.

Schaefer kept McCowan on the bench for all but four minutes of the first half with two fouls. Without her in the middle, Mississippi State hit only 1 of 11 shots overall and nothing after Jazzmun Holmes' jumper with 8:21 to go in the quarter.

The Gamecocks took advantage with nine straight points to push their lead out to 12 – the same lead they held Feb. 5 in Starkville before losing 67-53 to the Bulldogs. They led 30-19 at halftime.

Mississippi State shot much better in the third quarter but never got closer than five with Wilson scoring eight in the quarter.

The Bulldogs rallied from a 12-point deficit Feb. 5 to beat South Carolina 67-53 in Starkville. That day, they outscored South Carolina 28-9 in the fourth quarter. Not with this title on the line. Wilson capped six straight points

for the Gamecocks to give them a 56-42 lead with 5:34 left – the biggest margin Mississippi State has faced all season.

In the fourth, the Gamecocks didn't let Mississippi State get closer than eight.

Big Picture

South Carolina: The Gamecocks outrebounded the Bulldogs 38-23 and had a 36-20 edge scoring in the paint.

Mississippi State: The Bulldogs shot 39.8 percent outside the arc during the regular season, best in the SEC and ninth nationally. But they matched their season-low with three made 3s and had their worst shooting at 15.8 percent from 3.

Vertigo Woes

The Gamecocks came to Nashville not sure if Wilson would play, and she said she had a breakdown with her teammates in her room trying to help them understand what was going on. She credited them with building up her confidence and their trust in each other. "That's what it takes to win a championship," Wilson said.

Up Next

South Carolina: A likely No. 2 seed for the defending national champ when the NCAA Tournament bracket is announced March 12.

Mississippi State: A No. 1 seed.

Jackson State's men and women basketball teams open SWAC tournament on the road

chopsports

The first round of the SWAC tournament has lower seeded teams hosting higher seeds. Both JSU teams finished the season as the 5th seed making them both open up on the road today. The men travelled to Baton Rouge to tangle with Southern for a third time this season. The Lady Tigers travelled to battle Prairie View. During the season, in both cases, the home team won their games.

JSU's men jumped out to an undefeated start to the SWAC season vaulting them into the top spot. It became short lived once key players started getting hurt, missing games and forcing coach Wayne Brent to use some players out of their true position. Over the last 10 games, JSU's men have won three, lost seven, including losing their last two of the season.

Maurice (Mo) Rivers leads JSU in scoring collecting 13 points per game along with six rebounds. Paris Collins, who missed games due to injury is the team's third leading scorer with 11 points per game, six rebounds, and was named HoopsHD.com SWAC Defensive Player Of The Year.

Defensively, JSU is ranked #1 in most defensive categories, allowing only 67 points per game. Scoring is their problem. The Tigers yield 67 points but only score 62 per game themselves. The Tigers finished the regular season with a 12-19 record overall, 9-9 in SWAC play. The game is tonight at 7:30 pm. The winner of tonight's game will play the winner of Arkansas Pine Bluff vs Mississippi Valley State, Friday at 2:30 pm in Houston at Delmar Fieldhouse.

Fifth seeded JSU's Lady Tigers finished the regular season winning five of their last 10 games including the last two. Where the men lack scoring, the women lead the SWAC in scoring at just over 70 points per game. Prairie View is number two in scoring in the SWAC.

Despite losing their season finale, the Lady Panthers have won eight out of their last 10 games. Shala Dobbins leads the team in scoring with 21 points per game. Jhryah Cobb paces the boards for the Lady Panthers snatching seven rebounds per game.

At 13 points per game, Christina Ellis leads the Lady Tigers in scoring. Teammates Derica Wiggins and Mameisha Hamer both average 11 points a game. JSU's women missed the tournament last season, but bring in a 15-12 overall record and a 10-8 SWAC record to the tournament this year. Tonight's winner, game time is 6 p.m., will play the winner between Southern vs Arkansas Pine Bluff this Friday at noon at Delmar Fieldhouse in Houston.



Maurice Rivers averages 13 points per game.

MHSAA Semifinal Round and Championship Game Schedule



chopsports

Round 2 of the MHSAA Playoffs. Win or Go Home!

Monday Games

1a Girls

9:00 – Pine Grove (32-3) vs (19-8) East Marion

10:30 – McAdams (21-8) vs (22-8) Leake County

1a Boys

12:00 – Wheeler (30-2) vs (29-2) Okolona

1:30 – Ashland (22-11) vs (26-6) Houlika

4a Girls

4:00 – McComb (27-4) vs (28-3) Lawrence County

5:30 – Byhalia (22-5) vs (27-2) Louisville

4a Boys

7:00 – Corinth (22-9) vs (23-7) New Hope

8:30 – Raymond (27-6) vs (30-3) Indianola Gentry

Tuesday Games

2a Girls

9:00 – Ingomar (35-1) vs Coahoma County (28-4)

10:30 – New Site (23-10) vs

Leland (28-4)

2a Boys

12:00 – Bay Springs (25-3) vs South Delta (26-4)

1:30 – Leflore County (24-6) vs Coahoma County (27-4)

5a Girls

4:00 – Lafayette (24-6) vs Hattiesburg (24-6)

5:30 – West Jones (25-3) vs Ridgeland (23-5)

5a Boys

7:00 – Olive Branch (26-4) vs Callaway (25-5)

8:30 – Forest Hill (25-6) vs Canton (29-2)

Wednesday Games

3a Girls

9:00 – Choctaw Central (32-1) vs Jefferson Davis County (23-8)

10:30 – Independence (25-6) vs Hazlehurst (17-9)

3a Boys

12:00 – St Andrews (25-6) vs Tylertown (21-5)

1:30 – Holly Springs (21-9) vs Ruleville (23-9)

6a Girls

4:00 – Pearl (30-2) vs Starkville (26-2)

5:30 – Oak Grove (23-5) vs Murrah (28-2)

6a Boys

7:00 – Meridian (31-1) vs Greenville (23-6)

8:30 – Columbus (25-6) vs Starkville (25-3)

Championship Games

Thursday – March 8, 2018

1A Girls – 1:00 – Pine Grove vs McAdams

1A Boys – 3:00 – Okolona vs Ashland

4A Boys – 8:00 – Corinth vs Raymond

Friday

2A Girls – 1:00

2A Boys – 3:00

5A Girls – 6:00

5A Boys – 8:00

Saturday

3A Girls – 1:00

3A Boys – 3:00

6A Girls – 6:00

6A Boys – 8:00

An advertisement for Sal & Mookie's New York Pizza & Ice Cream Joint. The top section features the restaurant's logo, which consists of two cartoon characters with mustaches and chef hats, flanking a central emblem. Below the logo, the text "Sal & Mookie's" is written in a large, stylized font, with "NEW YORK PIZZA & ICE CREAM JOINT" in a smaller font underneath. The middle section shows a close-up of a large, round pizza with various toppings, including pepperoni and mushrooms, served on a wooden table. The bottom section has a solid green background with the text "NOW ON" in large white letters, followed by the Waitr logo (a stylized 'W' inside a square) and the word "WAITR" in white. At the very bottom, the text "— ORDER TODAY —" is written in white.

BOOK REVIEW: "BLACK FORTUNES"

BY SHOMARI WILLS

C.2018, AMISTAD

\$26.99 / \$33.50 CANADA • 301 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

A dollar doesn't buy as much as it used to.

Once upon a time, you could get a good steak and a drink for under ten bucks. You could buy a house for less than five figures, and it was big enough to raise a good-sized family in it. A dollar used to stretch farther, last longer, buy more, and in the new book "Black Fortunes" by Shomari Wills, it took fewer dollars to make someone rich.

Growing up, Shomari Wills heard many stories about his uncle, "the millionaire" son of a slave who became a rich man. Such a tale, says Wills, is an "overlooked subject" in American

history.

Strictly speaking, he says, the first black millionaire in America was William Alexander Leidesdorff, real-estate mogul, philanthropist, and friend to the powerful, who lived in San Francisco well before the Civil War.

But this book isn't about Leidesdorff.

It's about Mary Ellen Pleasant, who received an inheritance from her late first husband, and parlayed that "small fortune" into a much larger one that she used as an activist. It's about O.W. Gurley who bought land in Oklahoma and built a predominantly black town that was exceptionally prosperous—especially for Gurley.

It's about Annie Turnbo Malone

and her protégée, Sarah Breedlove. After Emancipation, Malone made it her mission to create hair and beauty products that worked specifically for black women. Once her business was successful, she hired salesladies—one of which was Sarah Breedlove, who married C.J. Walker and created her own product to rival her mentor.

It's about Robert Reed Church, former slave, favorite son of Memphis, and the richest black man of his time. Even now, more than a century after his death, his legacy can still be seen in his adopted home town.

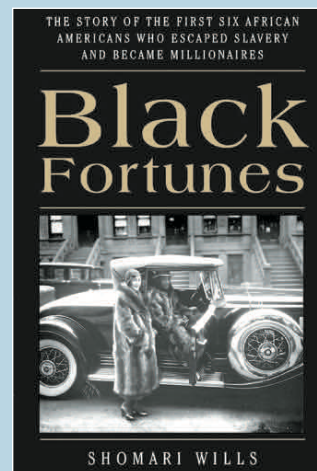
And it's about Hannah Elias, who spent most of her life in scandal and built her wealth with the

money of her lovers, then disappeared. To this day, says Wills, nobody knows where Elias landed—or how much of her ill-gotten fortune was intact.

"Black Fortunes" is a good idea in bad need of an editor.

Over and over, I found dates that didn't match, incorrect information, statements that conflicted with other statements, silly repetitions, and a lot of "huh???" moments. After awhile, these errors superseded any information I was gleaming.

Still, author Shomari Wills offers interesting, thoughtful tales that basically show readers how black entrepreneurs—some of whom could barely read or write—changed U.S. economics and



paved the way for later wealth-builders and, in some cases, for overall equality.

Wills admits in his introduction that he brought these stories forth, even though "few records exist" from his subjects' times, and diaries and letters were largely nonexistent.

That would explain the deep novelization of the tales, which is not the bigger distraction, lack of attention and a red pen are more the issue. Even so, with a dose of patience, this book is worth a look. Just be aware that "Black Fortunes" isn't what you may be used to.

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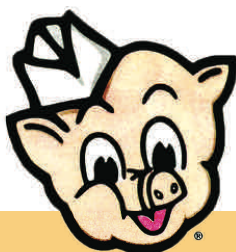
Hanging Moss Church of Christ
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PHOTOS BY BRENDA COX



March 7 - 13, 2018

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